

Chapter 7 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element

7.1 PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER

An element addressing the needs for parks, open space, and recreation is required by the Growth Management Act and capital acquisitions, including property and facilities, need to be included in the Capital Facilities Element (Chapter 9). This Element provides an inventory of the City's current park and recreation facilities and programs, analyzes the City's ability to provide adequate parks, open space, and recreation services to its citizens, sets standards for such services, and provides a strategy for providing additional services.

Preparation of this plan Element is guided by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). It is further guided by goals and policies established by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The RCO is a primary granting agency and author of Outdoor Recreation in Washington, The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

7.2 REGULATORY/POLICY BACKGROUND

Numerous federal, State, and local agencies and organizations have been setting the stage for park and recreation provision through development of policy, regulations, and advisory standards. The following is a listing of these agencies and organizations, and the direction they give.

Growth Management Act

General: "Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities. (RCW 36.70A.020)." Open space corridors are further referenced in the GMA requiring that land use plans include identification of "...open space corridors within and... between urban growth areas. They shall include lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection for critical areas as defined in RCW 36.70A.030" (RCW 36.70A.160).

Parks and Recreation: Capital improvements are included within the definition of "Public Facilities," RCW 36.70A.070.

Fees: Cities may impose impact fees for the provision of public facilities including publicly owned parks, open space, and recreation facilities (RCW 82.02.050). Impact fees must be based on demands on

existing facilities by new development, and additional improvements required to serve new development (RCW 82.02.050).

Concurrency: Reassess Land Use Element or levels of service if probable funding falls short of existing need.

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (RCO/SCORP)

General: Cities must provide plan components as outlined in *The Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan Development Workbook*. Plan demand assessment should incorporate SCORP assessment data.

More specifically, to be eligible for RCO funding, plans must include the following:

- Goals and Objectives.
- Description of Current Conditions.
- Demand and Need analysis.
- Description of Public Involvement.
- Public Opinion Survey.
- 6-year Capital Improvement Program.
- Evidence of official adoption by authority most appropriate to plan's scope.

This Element is designed to meet these requirements. The goals and objectives required by those guidelines are set forth in Chapter 3 of this Comprehensive Plan. The description of current conditions is discussed below. The discussion of park and recreation demand and needs analysis is also discussed below. The public opinion survey is described later. The 6-year Capital Improvement Program, also required by the RCO, documents these goals and projected needs, and schedules implementation of the facilities that will address those needs. The Capital Facilities Element (Chapter 9) contains that "schedule." Please see that section for a description of what specific projects are planned in the next few years.

To finalize all of the RCO requirements the City would need to show a discussion of the City's priorities and a description of how the decision was made by the city to implement the specific projects shown in the 6-year CIP. In other words, the plan needs to answer the questions, "What does the community want?" and "How do we know this to be true?"

National Recreation and Park Administration (NRPA)

General: The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) provides general park and recreation standards that communities may incorporate into the comprehensive planning process.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

A supplemental document, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, contains the master plans of each city owned park, including current conditions and plans for improvements, as well as the priorities from the Parks, Art and Recreation Committee (PARC).

7.3 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The following is an inventory of the parks, open space tracts, recreational facilities, and cultural programs and facilities found within the City and its vicinity. This inventory was not limited to just those within the City since citizens also use adjoining jurisdictions' facilities just as the citizens of other jurisdictions use the City's facilities. A map of the locations of these facilities is shown as Figure 2-10: Park and Recreation Facility Locations and Figure 2-18: Critical Areas, Open Space, & Restoration Projects. Figure 7-1 below shows acreage of parkland (excluding community parks) in each subarea, and Table 7-4 show the amount of acres of park divided by the acres of that subarea.

Public Parks

City Parks: The City owns roughly 257.1 acres of parks. (See Figure 2-10)

Community Parks: Community parks are those parks that offer something that would cause people to cross town to get to, i.e., something you can't find in your own neighborhood. This may be a special feature (such as a swimming area, boat launch, view or ball fields), size (allowing for more varied or specialized play), scheduled group activities, or whatever it is that would entice a family to walk, bike, or drive a farther distance than their own neighborhood. It should be noted that Twin Rivers Park, though owned by Snohomish County, is maintained and managed by the City through an Interlocal Agreement and thus in essence is a City park. There are 187 acres of community parks in the UGA. Please refer to

Table 7-2: Inventory of Existing Park & Recreation Facilities for a list of these parks and their attributes.

Neighborhood/Mini-Parks: Neighborhood or mini- parks are those parks that typically attract only those people who live within walking distance of the park. They may have such amenities as children's big toys, basketball hoops, picnic facilities, grassy play areas, etc., and attract neighbors and kids for informal play. Often they act as an informal neighborhood meeting place where people get to know their neighbors. Public school grounds can also be counted as neighborhood parks, as they are open to the public during non-school hours. The term neighborhood park is used to denote a public park, while mini-park denotes a privately owned park, usually owned by a Homeowners' Association. There are 12.1 acres of neighborhood parks and 13.1 acres of mini-parks in the UGA. Please refer to

Table 7-2: Inventory of Existing Park & Recreation Facilities, for a list of these park and their attributes.

County Parks

9.1.1.1.1 **Regional Parks:** Regional parks tend to be those parks that offer something that would cause people to drive from one community to another to get to, i.e., something you can't find in your own town. This may be a special feature (such as a marina, salt water access, tournament ball fields, unique natural features, camping, etc.). This special characteristic may also include size (allowing for more varied or specialized play), scheduled group activities, or another feature that would entice a family to drive from one part of the County to another. There are 457.3 acres of regional parks within a short driving distance from the UGA (all of them County-owned). Please refer to

9.1.1.1.2

9.1.1.1.3

Table 7-2: Inventory of Existing Park & Recreation Facilities, for a list of these park and their attributes.

School Facilities

School playfields and playgrounds, though not owned by the City, are nevertheless owned by a public agency and are generally open to the public during non-school hours. As schools are typically spread out across cities in residential neighborhoods, they function much the same as neighborhood parks and are herein counted as such. There are 59.3 acres of school playfields and playgrounds in the UGA. Please refer to

Table 7-2: Inventory of Existing Park & Recreation Facilities for a list of these school facilities and their attributes.

Trails

City Trails: The City has built or coordinated the construction of several trails over the past decade. The most notable is the City's portion of the Centennial Trail. The City's section of the trail runs from 172nd Street NE along 67th Avenue NE north to Haller Park.

There is also a 5.5-mile trail circumnavigating the Airport and other smaller trails in various neighborhoods and parks. There are 11.9 miles of City trails. Please refer to

Table 7-2: Inventory of Existing Park & Recreation Facilities for a list of these trails and their attributes.

County Trails: Snohomish County also has three regional trails in the Arlington area, totaling 57.6 miles. River Meadows Park contains 1.6 miles of trails. The Whitehorse Trail eventually will run 27

miles from Arlington to Darrington. Portions are currently usable, but others are scheduled for completion as funding becomes available. Snohomish County has completed the Centennial Trail from City of Snohomish to Skagit County Line, 29 paved miles. See

Table 7-2: Inventory of Existing Park & Recreation Facilities for a list of these trails.

Recreation Programs

The City of Arlington provides recreation programs for our citizens. Currently, the City provides a range of recreational programs by helping coordinate and publicize programs provided by individuals and groups, including adult and children's classes, coordination of softball leagues for adults as well as sports camps for children. The City also offers seasonal events (e.g. Arbor Day celebration, Easter Egg Hunt and Hometown Holiday, Outdoor Movies and Concerts).

Open Space

Open space comes in many forms, and can include such areas as:

- Natural or scenic areas.
- Water supply protection areas and natural drainage easements.
- Urban and rural landscaped areas, such as public or private golf courses, cemeteries and arboretums.
- Land areas that enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations or sanctuaries or other open space.
- Public/private low intensity park and recreation sites.
- Cultural, archaeological, geological and historical sites.
- Large reserve tracts, private parks, common ground, and buffer areas which result from planned residential or rural and urban land use development.
- Utility corridors.
- Major multi-functional river corridors.
- Water bodies.
- Trail corridors that may function as wildlife corridors.
- Agricultural land.
- Critical areas such as floodplains, habitat, streams, wetlands, steep slopes, etc.

Some of these open spaces are usable to the public; others are best left protected in their natural state.

The City generally accepts dedication of the critical area open space tracts or easements so as to be able to better manage the resources that they protect. Usable open space, however, is generally left under the ownership of Homeowners' Associations. Currently the City has 220.0 acres of protected open space – 150.0 of these acres are public and 70.0 acres are privately owned. See Figure 2-18: Critical Areas, Open Space, & Restoration Projects for a map of these areas as well as

Table 7-2: Inventory of Existing Park & Recreation Facilities for more detail on these open spaces.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources include such things as museums, archaeological sites, historical sites, and other similar places. Currently there is a 16,000 square foot historical museum owned and operated by the Stillaguamish Pioneer Society. The Stillaguamish Tribe also claims that there are significant archaeological sites in various areas of the City, but such sites are not publicly revealed so as to prevent disturbance or desecration. The School District owns and operates the Byrnes Performing Arts Center.

Offices, Maintenance, Etc.

It take both staff and equipment to operate and maintain City parks and recreational facilities. Park and recreational facility operations are overseen by one staff member in the City's Administration Office. Maintenance is provided by the City's Maintenance and Operations Division. Park maintenance equipment is housed at the Maintenance and Operations Shop and accounts for approximately 8% of this 13,148 square foot facility. It is anticipated that as the recreation program expands or the number of parks increases, additional space would be needed to house the staff and equipment necessary to run these programs.

7.4 EXISTING LEVELS OF SERVICE

The City currently does not have an adopted LOS for open space. However, under the Land Use Code, each major residential plat must provide 5% of its land preserved as usable open space. This is in addition to any natural open space protected because of its status as a critical area. This 5% translates to an effective LOS of 3.0 acres per 1,000 people, or 0.008319 acres per dwelling unit.

Our existing adopted Levels of Service—and what we've actually attained—for the various park and recreational facilities are shown in

Table 7-5: Adopted Levels of Service for Parks

Facility Type	LOS (unit/1000)
Regional Parks	0.0
Community Parks	3.9
Ngghrd/Mini-Parks	1.7
Trails	1.4
Open Space	3.0
Cultural Resources	0.0

**Table 7-6: Acres Needed to Meet Level of Service
2035**

Facility Type	Current	Amount needed	2014 Deficit/ Surplus	2035 Amount needed
Regional Parks	457.3 acres	Not required	457.3acres	Not required
Community Parks	176.0 acres	71.4 acres	104.6 acres	97.3 acres
Neighborhood and Mini-Parks	27 acres	31.1 acres	-4.1 acres	42.4 acres
Trails-City	12.2 miles	25.6 miles	-13.4 miles	34.9 miles
Open Space	328.2 acres	54.9 acres	273.3 acres	74.8 acres
Cultural Resources	38,444 sq ft	Not required	38,444 sq ft	Not required

. The City has established levels of service for community, neighborhood/mini- parks, trails and office facilities. As the table shows, in all categories the City meets or exceeds the levels of service for each type of park and recreation facility currently.

Facility Type	Fee	Fee
	Single Unit	Apartment
Regional Parks	NA	NA
Community Parks	\$1,662	\$1,497
Neighborhood/Mini-Parks	\$484	\$436
Trails	NA	NA
Open Space	NA	NA
Cultural Resources	NA	NA
Total	\$1,484	\$1,086

7.5 Impact Fees

The City requires that new single and multi-family dwelling units pay an impact fee of \$1,662 per single family residential and \$1,497 per multi-family residential dwelling units.¹ This fee is applied towards purchase and construction of community parks. Neighborhood parks are required to be provided for residential developments having seven or more dwelling unit. For residential projects with less than seven units an in-lieu fee of \$484 (single family) and \$436 (multi-family) may be paid. Table 7-1: Current Impact Fees shows the current impact fees for single and multi-family residential dwelling units.

Table 7-2: Inventory of Existing Park & Recreation Facilities

Facility Type/Name	Subarea	Condition	Size
Parkland and School Recreation Land			719.6 acres
City Parks			188.1 acres
Community Parks			176.0 acres
Bill Quake Memorial Park	Airport/Industrial	Good	13.0 acres
Waldo E Evans Memorial Park	Airport/Industrial	Good	6.0 acres
Haller Park	OTBD	Good	3.0 .acres

¹ AMC §20.90.400.

Facility Type/Name	Subarea	Condition	Size	
Legion Memorial Park	OTBD	Good	1.0	acres
Twin Rivers Park	Outside City Limits	Good	50.0	acres
Terrace Park	Old Town	Good	4.0	acres
Country Charm Park & Cons.	Old Town	Undev.	89.0	acres
Storm Water Wetland Park	Oldtown	Good	10.0	acres
Neighborhood Parks			12.1	acres
Centennial Park	OTBD	Good	1.0	acres
Wedgewood Park	Hilltop	Good	2.0	acres
Woodway Park	Hilltop	Good	.5	acres
Forest Trail Park	Hilltop	Good	2.0	acres
High Clover Park	Arlington Bluff	Good	2.0	acres
J Rudy York Memorial Park	West Arlington	Good	2.0	acres
Lebanon Park	OTBD	Good	0.5	acres
The Rockery	OTBD	Good	0.1	acres
Jensen Park	Kent Prairie	Good	2.0	acres
Mini-Parks			14.9	acres
Aspenwood Meadows	West Arlington	Fair	0.13	acres
Bovee Acres, Tract 997	Hilltop		0.40	acre
Brickwood	West Arlington	Fair	0.71	acres
Brickwood	West Arlington	Poor	0.24	acres
Claridge Court	Arlington Bluff		0.12	acres

Facility Type/Name	Subarea	Condition	Size	
Country Manor 1, Tract 996	West Arlington	Fair	0.11	acre
Country Manor 1, Tract 997	West Arlington	Fair	0.09	acre
Country Manor 2, Tract 995	West Arlington	Fair	0.09	acre
Crossing at Edgecomb vault	Hilltop		0.69	acres
Crossing at Edgecomb	Hilltop		0.28	acres
Crown Ridge 1	Hilltop	Good	0.41	acres
Crown Ridge 2	Hilltop	Fair	0.75	acres
Crown Ridge 3	Hilltop	Fair	3.00	acres
Crown Ridge 4	Hilltop	Fair	0.17	acres
Crown Ridge 5	Hilltop	Fair	0.37	acres
Dogwood Meadows	Hilltop		0.33	acre
Eagle Heights, 1 Tract 995	Hilltop		0.46	acre
Eagle Heights 1 Tract 998	Hilltop		0.01	acres
Eagle Heights 2 Tract 996	Hilltop		0.12	acre
Eagle Heights 2 Tract 998	Hilltop		0.10	Acre
Gleneagle 1	Hilltop	Fair	0.10	acres
Gleneagle 2	Hilltop	Good	0.04	acres
Gleneagle 3	Hilltop	Fair	0.07	acres
Heartland 1	Arlington Bluff	Fair	1.05	acres
Heartland 2	Arlington Bluff	Good	1.05	acres
High Clover	Arlington Bluff	Good	0.26	acres
Highland View Estates	Hilltop	Good	0.25	acres
Magnolia Estates, Tract 996	Hilltop		0.31	acre

Facility Type/Name	Subarea	Condition	Size	
Point Riley	West Arlington	Poor	0.14	acres
Rivercrest 1	Arlington Bluff	Good	0.25	acres
Rivercrest 2	Arlington Bluff	Good	0.21	acres
Rosecreek	Kent Prairie	Good	0.22	acres
Smokey Point Meadows	West Arlington	Poor	0.38	acres
Stoneway	West Arlington	Good	0.17	acres
Sweetwater, Tract 996	Arlington Bluff		0.32	acre
Terrah Marie, Tract 999	Arlington Bluff		0.22	acre
The Bluff	Arlington Bluff	Poor	0.03	acres
Trellis Court, Tract 996	West Arlington		0.08	acre
Twin Ponds 1	Kent Prairie	Good	0.15	acres
Twin Ponds 2	Kent Prairie	Fair	0.25	acres
Walnut Ridge 1	Arlington Bluff		0.14	acre
Whispering Breezes	Arlington Bluff		0.61	acres
County/Regional Parks			457.3	acres
Wenberg County Park	Outside UGA	Good	46.0	acres
Gissberg Twin Lakes	Outside UGA	Good	54.3	acres
Portage Creek Wildlife Area	Arlington Bluff		157.0	acres
River Meadows	Outside UGA	Good	200.0	Acres
Arlington Public School Facilities			59.3	acres
Arlington High School	Hilltop		16.5	acres
Post Middle	Old Town		8.2	acres

Facility Type/Name	Subarea	Condition	Size	
Haller Middle	Old Town		11.0	acres
Presidents Elementary	Old Town		6.5	acres
Eagle Creek Elementary	Southfork		8.4	acres
Kent Prairie Elementary	Kent Prairie		5.4	acres
Pioneer Elementary	Hilltop		3.3	acres
Trails			69.8	miles
City Trails			12.2	miles
Centennial Trail (City Portion)	Airport/Industrial, CBD	paved	2.7	miles
Airport Trail	Airport/Industrial	mixed	6.5	miles
Kruger –Portage Creek Trail	Kent Prairie	path	0.4	miles
Zimmerman Trail	Hilltop, Kent Prairie	stairs	0.2	miles
River Crest Trail	Arlington Bluff	Path	0.2	miles
Eagle Trail	Old Town	path	.7	mile
Stormwater Park Trail	Old Town	gravel	1.0	Mile
188 th Street Connector Trail	Airport Industrial	Paved	.5	mile
County Trails			57.6	miles
River Meadows Park Trails	Outside City Limits	Good	1.6	miles
Centennial Trail	Outside City Limits	Good	29.0	miles
Whitehorse Trail	Outside City Limits	Fair	27.0	miles
Open Space			328.2	acres
Public			109.0	acres

Facility Type/Name	Subarea	Condition	Size
Miscellaneous OS Tracts	Throughout City		10.0 acres
Country Charm Park habitat	Old Town		58.0 acres
Stormwater Wetland Park O.S.	Old Town		10.0 acres
Arlington Cemetery	Arlington Bluff		30.0 acres
Harwood Cemetery	Old Town		1.0 acre
Private			219.2 acres
Miscellaneous OS Tracts	Throughout City		acres
Maureen Udman Env'tl Center	Old Town		70.0 Acres
Pioneer School Env'tl area	Hilltop	Good	4.2 acres
Gleneagle Golf Course	Hilltop		135.0 acres
Stilly Valley Pioneer Park	Arlington Bluff		10.0 acres
Cultural Resources			38,444 sq ft
Pioneer Historical Museum	Arlington Bluff		16,000 sq ft
Arlington Art Walk	Old Town		
Byrnes Performing Arts Center	Hilltop		22,444 Sq ft
Indoor Recreation Facilities			
Arlington Boys & Girls Club	Airport/Industrial		
City Maint. Shop/Offices			13,148 sq ft
shop/office building #1	Airport/Industrial	Fair	6,840 sq ft
storage building #2		Poor	1,104 sq ft
equipment storage shed #3		Good	2,832 sq ft
storage building #4		Fair	2,372 sq ft

Figure 7-1: Acres of Park per Subarea

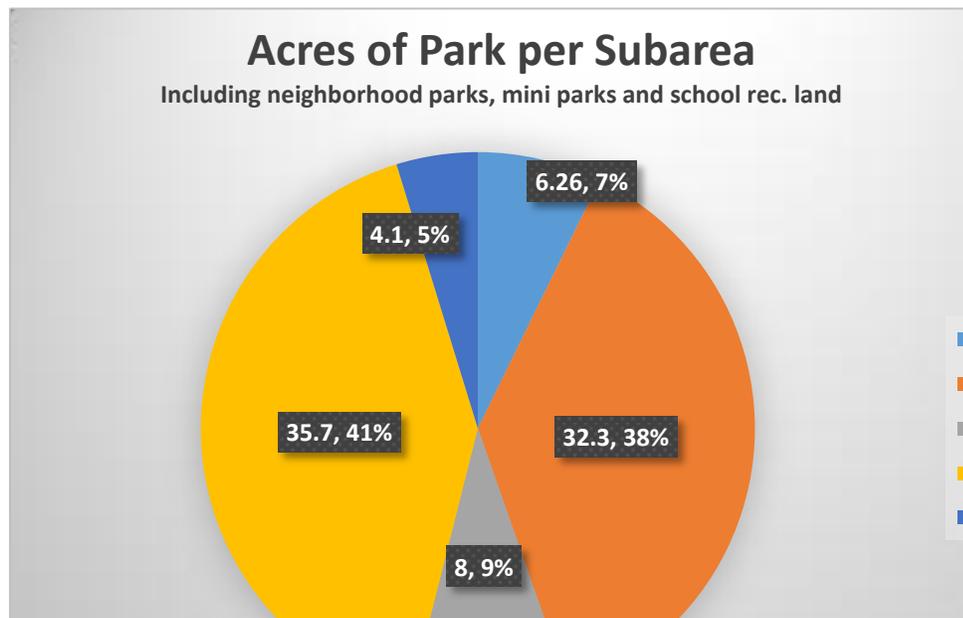


Table 7-4: Acres of Park per Acres of Subarea

Subarea	Acres of Subarea	Park Acres in Subarea	Acre of Park per Acre of Subarea
Arlington Bluff	450.9	6.26	0.01
Hilltop	1199.6	32.3	0.03
Kent Prairie	353.2	8	0.02
Old Town	714.9	35.7	0.05
West Arlington	1005.4	4.1	0.004
Totals	3724	86.36	0.02

7.6 PROJECTED NEEDS

Public Parks:

As population increases so will our need for parkland. The rules are set up so that those new residents moving to Arlington provide the new parks they will need (either through having them built as a part of

Table 7-5: Adopted Levels of Service for Parks

Facility Type	LOS (unit/1000)
Regional Parks	0.0
Community Parks	3.9
Neighborhood/Mini-Parks	1.7
Trails	1.4
Open Space	3.0
Cultural Resources	0.0

**Table 7-6: Acres Needed to Meet Level of Service
2035**

Facility Type	Current	Amount needed	2014 Deficit/ Surplus	2035 Amount needed
Regional Parks	457.3 acres	Not required	457.3 acres	Not required
Community Parks	176.0 acres	71.4 acres	104.6 acres	97.3 acres
Neighborhood and Mini-Parks	27 acres	31.1 acres	-4.1 acres	42.4 acres
Trails-City	12.2 miles	25.6 miles	-13.4 miles	34.9 miles
Open Space	328.2 acres	54.9 acres	273.3 acres	74.8 acres
Cultural Resources	38,444 sq ft	Not required	38,444 sq ft	Not required

the development project, as with neighborhood parks, or paid for through a park impact fee, as with our community parks). So, since we know that we will get a particular population but we do not necessarily know which year (even though fairly accurate guesses are made), rather than calculating the number of acres needed for a particular year it is easier just to say how many acres will be needed for any

particular population. Below is calculated our park needs based on the recommended LOS for the various park and recreation facilities.

The growth in population will increase the demand for all types of parks and recreational facilities.

Community Parks: Our current adopted community parks LOS is 3.9 acres per 1,000 people. Assuming that we keep this LOS, by 2035, with projected population of 24,937 (26,002 total UGA population), we will need 97.3 acres of community parks. As we already have 176 acres, we would have a surplus of 78.7 acres were we to not obtain any more community parks.

This overall number doesn't take into account geographic equity amongst our planning subareas, nor does this overall number prevent future inequities in those areas that come into the UGA in the future. Thus, a policy ought to be developed that causes new community parks to be developed in new planning subareas and those currently "under parked."

Neighborhood/Mini Parks: Though the 1995 Comprehensive Plan adopted an LOS of 1.2 acres of neighborhood/mini- parks per 1,000 people, the subsequent Unified Development Code adopted a standard of 1.7 acres per 1,000 people. Therefore, it is assumed that this is the standard Council would like to continue using. This translates to an LOS of 0.004794 acres per SFR dwelling unit and 0.004318 acres per MFR dwelling unit. Assuming that we keep this LOS, we will need this much more neighborhood parkland for each new dwelling unit built. Note that through the code, an in lieu impact fee is only allowed in certain circumstances; in most cases the park(s) must be provided. The goal is that all residential areas have such parks that people can walk to.

By 2035 we will need approximately 42.4 acres of neighborhood parkland. As we already have 27 acres, we would have a deficit of 15.4 acres were we to not obtain any more neighborhood/mini parks.

And again, this overall number does not account for neighborhood inequities or new neighborhoods. The City's policy, as implemented in AMC Title 20, is that all new residential developments need to provide their own neighborhood/mini parks.

City regulations require that new residential plats greater than ten lots provide neighborhood/mini parks. This requirement helps ensure that mini-park space is provided as residential development occurs. Proposed residential plats with fewer than ten lots pay a fee-in-lieu for mini-parks.

Regional Parks: Regional parks are provided by Snohomish County, not the City.

School Facilities

It is anticipated that the Arlington and Lakewood School Districts will continue to provide school playfields and playgrounds at the LOS they set for themselves as the population grows. Those

playfields and playgrounds would continue to address some of the demand for recreation in the City through 2017. Because the City is not the provider of these facilities, however, this LOS is not formally adopted nor would the City implement it.

Trails

Our current adopted trails LOS is 1.4 miles per 1,000 people, which works out to 0.003894 miles per single-family dwelling unit or 0.003556 miles per multi-family dwelling unit. Assuming that we keep this LOS, we will need a total of 34.9 miles of trails in 2035, 22.7 more miles of trail than currently exists.

Currently there is no adopted impact fee specifically for trails. Given this information, the Council could adopt an impact fee specifically for trails, or trails could be funded by the Community Park impact fee. Another approach that the City should consider is the implementation of a Multimodal Level of Service (LOS) that addresses all modes of transportation, including trails. This would allow for traffic mitigation fees to be utilized for alternative modes of travel, including pedestrian, bicycle and transit infrastructure and not just auto oriented improvements.

Recreation Programs

As the community grows there will be increased demand for recreational programs and facilities over and above the current programs. In particular there would be a need for additional sports fields and indoor recreation facilities, including a community center, a gym, a pool, a youth center and a facility for large community events.

The Arlington Boys and Girls Club have outgrown their facility. They are currently applying for funding to expand the indoor facility space, to include an additional gym, teen center, and computer lab. The Club uses Kinney field adjacent to their facility for their outdoor sports program. The Club has outgrown this space and could use additional field space and double the amount of existing parking.

Open Space

Overall, the City has an ample supply of locally available open space. Even if no additional open space were dedicated, the City would have a surplus of 208.3 acres of open space in 2035, based on the recommended LOS. It is the City's desire to also have open space spread evenly throughout the City, as it adds to our quality of life, helps in managing stormwater, and helps maintain wildlife populations, including endangered salmonids.²

² One of the strategies of our Endangered Species Act plan is to maintain a 10% forested cover within the UGA.

Therefore, the City will continue to require that all residential projects of 25 dwelling units or larger to dedicate 5% of the total area for open space so that new neighborhoods have adequate access to their own local open space.

Cultural Resources

The City has no formally adopted LOS for cultural resources. Yet providing cultural resources for the whole community is a priority. In 2004 the City dedicated \$500,000 towards the Arlington School District's performing arts center. This is consistent with city goals to enhance cultural opportunities and diversity in choices for the residents.³ It is consistent, also, with its commitment to partner with other agencies in meeting the community's needs and to create a good economic climate through improving the quality of life. In the next 20 years meeting the community's demand for cultural resources would continue to be a City priority because of these and other goals and policies.

Offices, Maintenance, Etc.

The Capital Facilities and Public Services Element discuss the need for building space as the community grows. Please see Chapter 9 for a more detailed analysis of the need for park and recreation offices and maintenance facilities.

7.7 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS AMONG SUBAREAS

How well parkland is distributed geographically is a way to measure the degree to which parks are meeting the needs of the community. Figure 7-1: Acres of Park per Subarea shows the number of acres of parkland in each subarea. Figure 7-1 shows the Acres of Park per Acres of Subarea. Community Parks are not included. Figure 2-10: Park and Recreation Facility Locations shows the location of parks throughout the UGA.

These figures show several things. Each subarea has some parkland. Old Town (a combination of Central Business District and Old Town Neighborhoods) and Hilltop have a high number of acres of park and a high percentage of their land area in parks. Arlington Bluff is at the low end of the spectrum with only 1 percent or less of their land area in parks. West Arlington is very low with only .4 percent of land in parks. The Airport/Industrial subarea does not have neighborhood parks, but does have Quake and Evans Community Parks (community parks are not represented in the chart).

Another potential measure of the degree to which a population is served by parks is the distance that the majority must travel to get to a park. At this point 79% of the City's parks, including school facilities,

³ Goal OG-5

are clustered in the Old Town and Hilltop subareas. Residents in other subareas would have to travel further to get to a facility. To those residents, parks are generally less available.

Therefore, the City should seek to adopt a policy and implement regulations that adjusts the current inequity and prevents future inequities in new neighborhoods coming into the UGA.

7.8 PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

In addition to the above staff analysis of future needs based on our adopted levels of service and known requirements, a survey of Arlington's residents was performed to find their priorities. The survey was posted online on the City's website in August 2014 and was promoted through the City's e-newsletter, social media and mailed newsletter. Due to the low response rate of the survey, the feedback is not included here. The City will need to invest funds to conduct a survey that will produce more results.

7.9 WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE

Levels of Service: The Council has considered the recommendations of the Parks, Art and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, and the community and adopts the Levels of Service for parks and recreation facilities shown in Table 7-5.

New Parks: The analysis in Projected Needs, above, identifies the need for additional park facilities as well as recreation programs. There would be a need, for instance, for approximately 42.4 acres of neighborhood parks by the year 2035 with a projected population of 24,952. The City would need 97.3 acres of community parks and 34.9 miles of trails.

Priority should be given to establishing new parks in areas brought into the city and underserved areas. In addition, City staff and the Parks, Art and Recreation Committee have identified the need for a recreation facility.

Impact Fees: Impact fees are set by resolution of City Council and are reviewed annually.

7.10 LOCATIONAL CRITERIA FOR NEW PARKS

As new areas are annexed into the City, the demand for parks and recreational programs will increase. It would be important to ensure that no areas are accepted unless the City's LOS for parks could be maintained overall. This may require conditions that a community park be dedicated as part of such an

annexation..Requiring that parks be centrally located within a subarea, in addition, through use of standards established in this Element would address this issue as well as issues raised above.

7.11 TYPES OF FACILITIES NEEDED

The Parks, Art and Recreation Committee has identified the following new facilities as being needed in Arlington:

- An indoor recreation center, appropriate for all ages.
- A regional sports complex in the Arlington area, including soccer, softball, and baseball fields that can be used for tournaments.
- A BMX park.
- A river walk trail along the Stillaguamish.
- A large outdoor event venue.
- An outdoor fitness course.
- A campground at Country Charm property.
- A City center park in West Arlington.
- A spray park – In progress, to be completed in 2018.
- A boat ramp at Haller Park- Completed in 2015

Ball Fields: In addition to the specific types of facilities the PARC has identified as being needed, Council has decided in 2007 to specifically set an LOS for baseball fields within the context (and LOS) of community parks.

According to the Stilly Valley Little League Association they have had up to 350 players in 2015. They also estimated in 2007 that the total number of ball players in the Arlington area is roughly 1,500 (other leagues). These groups play on 19 fields, but could use one more at this point. Of those, half are outside the City limits. If we also assume that half of the players are non-City residents, then Arlington is providing roughly 50% of the facilities needed for 50% of the ball playing population. This translates to an existing LOS of 0.5 ball fields per 1,000 population, which seems to be adequate. This would mean that at a population of 24,000, we would need a total of 40 fields, and if the same ratios are assumed, half, , would be provided by the City and half would be provided by the County. Each field takes about 3.1 acres (field, spectator area, parking, etc), thus we need 1.55 acres per 1,000 people.

Obviously, this LOS would not provide all the ball fields necessary for the ball playing community. But as mentioned, about half are currently provided in the County and the City of Arlington expects the County to continue to provide this LOS. It would be our goal, in fact, to enter into a partnership to jointly provide a sports field complex, either in the City or adjacent to. Such a complex could be used for multiple tournaments (baseball, softball, soccer, football etc.) as well as other uses. Such use would help the facility be maintained through its own revenue generation.