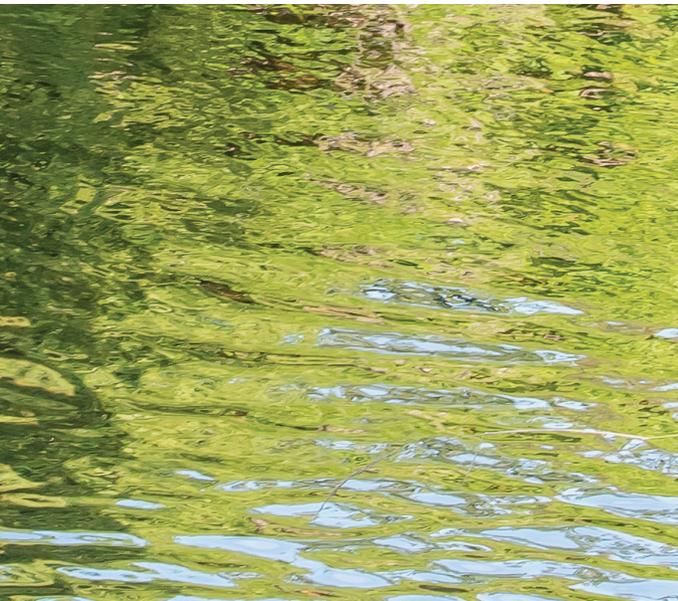




# CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN



CITY OF  
**ISSAQUAH**  
WASHINGTON

ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION 2018-12, JULY 16, 2018



*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*

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And other staff

## THE PUBLIC

*The quotes found throughout this document are resident and park user comments received during the public engagement phases of this planning effort.*



*image credit: Shubha Timmale Photography*

# YOUR PARKS / YOUR FUTURE

Issaquah is a very special place. In many ways, it is defined by the natural beauty that is within and around it. Parks, open space and trails play a critical role in the character and the livability of Issaquah. As a community, we are fortunate to have such an abundance of these public spaces; however, we know that we can do more with what we have.

The 2018 Parks Strategic Plan represents a new approach for Issaquah when it comes to planning for its parks, open space and trails system. This approach seeks to provide the broader vision for the city-wide system, while also identifying specific strategic projects that collectively will help us to achieve that vision.

This is a shared vision. It is the voices of Issaquah residents that helped shape and create this Plan. Through three phases of public engagement, including public meetings and online surveys, residents have shared their aspirations for the system, their specific needs and concerns, and also shared with us how they would prioritize projects and their investments into Issaquah's parks and trails system.

One phrase that continually resonated throughout the development of the Plan was “*potential opportunities*.” Issaquah residents agreed overwhelmingly that the parks and trails system was bursting with the potential to do so much more. The hard work, dedication and vision of Issaquah leaders over the past four decades has created a public system that has the amazing potential to be connected, enhanced and positioned to serve current and future residents in multiple ways. Issaquah's parks, open spaces and trails have a tremendous role to play in supporting the quality of life within all areas of Issaquah, in protecting our natural beauty and resources, and in creating economic development opportunities. This Plan seeks to position our park system to fulfill those roles.

The Parks Strategic Plan identified five themes from the public engagement feedback: ***Placemaking, Connectivity, Innovative Action, A Vital Environment and Active Lifestyles***. These core themes are the threads that weave throughout the document and have helped shape the strategic projects, goals and policies within this Plan.

How will we accomplish this vision? One project/ one bite at a time. This Plan will help to keep the big picture in mind as we accomplish the individual projects. Thus, helping to remind us how each project fits into the broader park system and is part of something even bigger. It is the goal of the Plan to serve as a road map that is actionable and usable, as well as a tool to help measure and prioritize future opportunities.

This is Your Parks Strategic Plan -  
***Your Parks / Your Future.***

Respectfully,

Jeff Watling *Parks and Recreation Director*



# THE 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

A SYSTEMWIDE VISION *for moving into the future and*  
STRATEGIC PROJECTS *to implement that vision one step at a time.*

## The Issaquah Parks and Recreation **VISION**

To connect residents and visitors to nature and each other through a vibrant parks and trails system within the city, neighborhoods and regional lands that provide recreation and outdoor activities for a balanced, healthy and inclusive mountain, lake and valley community.

## informs plan **THEMES**



*Placemaking*  
*Connectivity*  
*Innovative Action*  
*A Vital Environment*  
*Active Lifestyles*

## **CRITERIA**

IMPROVE PERFORMANCE  
SYSTEM DIVERSITY

SYSTEM BALANCE  
URGENCY/IMMEDIACY

LOW-HANGING FRUIT  
OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

that prioritize  
**STRATEGIC PROJECTS**  
in support and implementation of the vision.

This is a planning document that:

- Defines what we want Issaquah's park system to do for its residents and
- Outlines a method of projects and partnerships for achieving that goal.

This plan does not present specific funding sources, amounts, or recommendations, acknowledging that funding deserves a policy discussion and strategy in itself.

Instead this plan is a nimble, dynamic, and flexible document that can evolve with proposed projects & funding while ensuring focus on the Vision for the system.





# 1

# INTRODUCTION

The 2018 Parks Strategic Plan defines a clear vision for Issaquah's park system and a road map for achieving that vision. This guiding document, focused by public engagement and interdepartmental collaborations, addresses the system at both an overarching visionary level and a project-specific level, setting the stage for park system capital improvements.

This plan responds to the call following the “2015 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Plan” that a more clearly articulated community vision for the park system was needed to guide system priorities. The City of Issaquah has long recognized parks and recreation as an integral part of the city and essential to the quality of life of its citizens, a role emboldened by the unique proximity to dense urban areas and natural open space providing bountiful opportunities to recreate in and celebrate nature. As Issaquah grows, it faces challenges in balancing zoning, transportation, environmental preservation, and recreation; determining community desires for the city and various systems is critical to planning that balance.

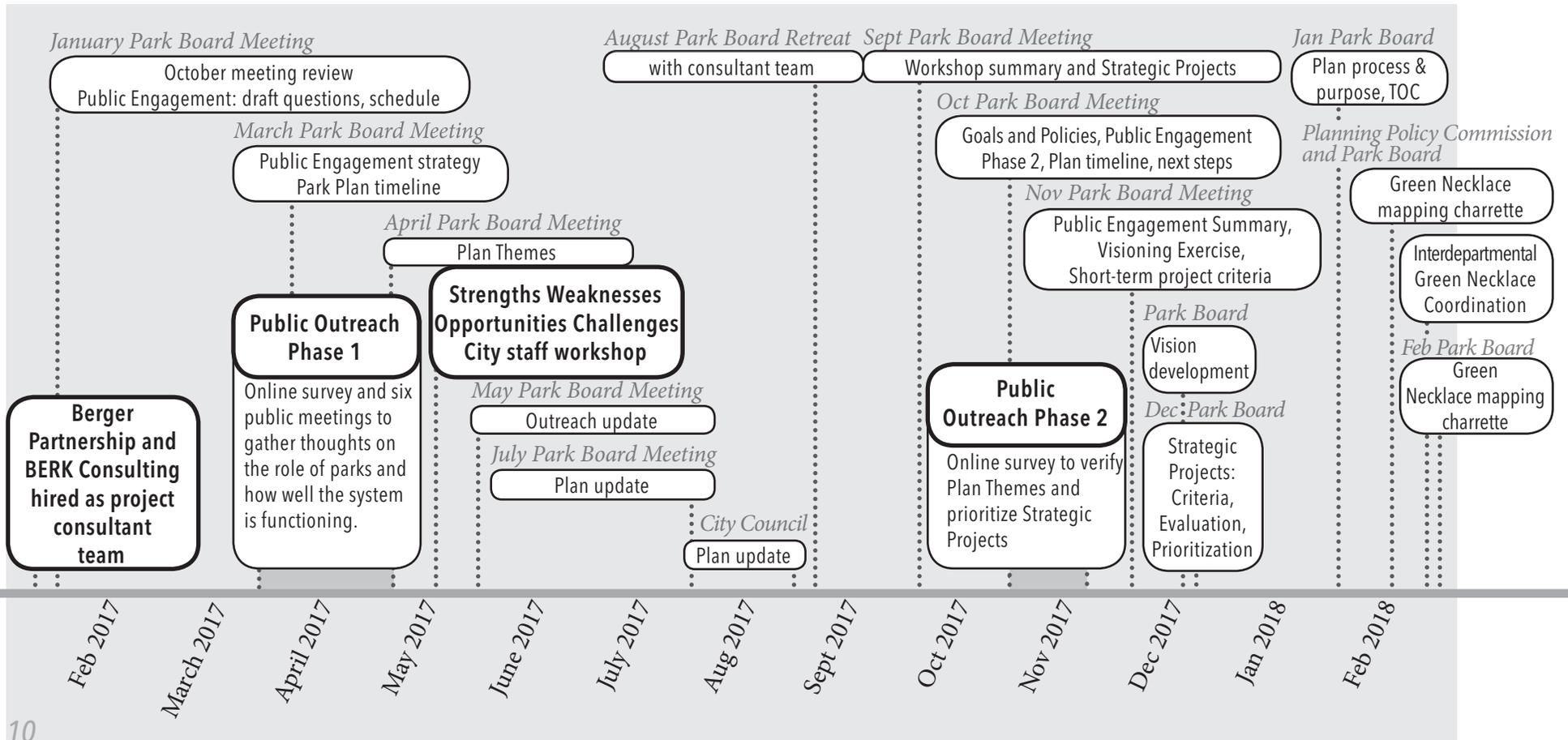
This Parks Strategic Planning process relied heavily on public engagement feedback. Through listening to residents, park users and partners, public input and input-derived themes directed selection of Strategic Projects and updates to policy language ensuring policy support of the big-picture park system vision.

The Parks Strategic Plan is intended to be a dynamic document periodically updated to reflect the community's changing needs and conditions. Updates will rely on public engagement and will allow the city to remain eligible for grants with the State of Washington's Recreation Conservation Office. Updates will provide important opportunities to measure steps toward plan success and reevaluation of relevance of projects and vision.

The 2018 Parks Strategic Plan would not have been possible without collective collaboration and the input of many—Issaquah's parks are your parks.

# PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

The Parks Strategic Plan establishes goals, strategies, actions and tools to help the city, residents, and partners to reach a healthier future and sustain a livable community. Only within information gathered through community engagement can the park system accurately reflect the community's needs and values as the city continues to grow and change. During the development of the Parks Strategic Plan, the public has been engaged through a series of surveys and public meetings, with the Park Board serving as the citizen steering committee. Engagements dates are as follows:



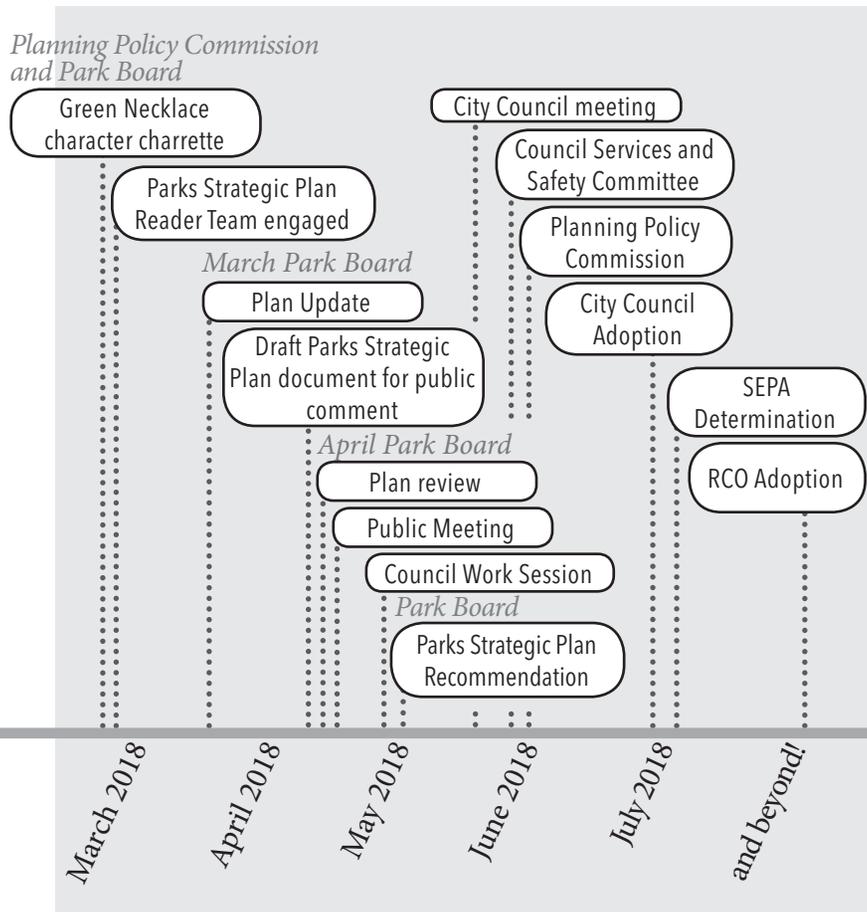


image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

To better understand community needs, the public was engaged through a number of events and activities. The public engagement strategy for Issaquah's 2018 Parks Strategic Plan included ongoing communication about the project and two targeted outreach phases.

Conducted between February and April 2017, Phase 1 outreach generated ideas and vision for the parks plan. Phase 2 outreach, completed in Fall 2017, prioritized parks system projects.

Public engagement efforts that have significant impacts on this Strategic Plan are discussed in this section. These efforts include:

- Public Engagement Phase 1, 2017
- Public Engagement Phase 2, 2017
- Statistically Valid Survey, 2015
- Park Element of the Comprehensive Plan, 2015
- Park Impact Fees, 2014

## *Public Engagement Phase 1 Findings*

The primary goal of Phase 1 was to listen to residents and park users. Goals for Phase 1 of the public engagement process included:

- *Gather ideas for subareas.*  
Participants brainstormed ideas and shared thoughts on the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities within city geographical subareas.
- *Gather public input on major issues to be addressed.*  
Participants identified community needs that the Strategic Plan should address and how the Parks and Recreation system can better respond to ongoing community trends.

Public engagement activities for Phase 1 included six Community Workshops, input via the online participation platform Peak Democracy, and social media. These public engagement opportunities were communicated to the public through a number of tools, including the project landing page on the city's website, project calling cards, email updates, social media, and engagement of the Park Board. More detail about each opportunity is provided in Appendix A, B, and C.



**Phase 1 Outreach Topics:**

Phase 1 participants were asked for their input on seven outreach topics:

1. Concerning our community’s existing parks and trails, how are we doing? What are the strengths? What needs to be improved?
2. What are your favorite parks and trails? Why?
3. What’s your vision for parks and trails in Issaquah? What words/phrases would you use to describe your ideal future park system? How important are parks and trails in your life?
4. Dream big! What’s on your wish list for Issaquah’s parks and trails? (Please list specific projects and/or priorities.) New parks? New amenities? Reimagine existing parks and trails?
5. How is access to Issaquah’s parks and trails system? How can we improve your park and trail system access from your area of the city?
6. What’s your relationship to Issaquah? In what area of the city do you live or work?
7. What other thoughts about Issaquah’s parks and trail system would you like to share with us?

Seven key themes were identified through Phase 1 Public Engagement, consistent with themes identified in interdepartmental collaborations.

**Seven Themes:**



Key needs were identified through Phase 1 Public Engagement. These needs informed the projects proposed in this Strategic Park Plan. Needs included:

- Develop multi-use spaces, especially in community/neighborhood parks.
- Integrate off-right-of-way trails as part of the transportation system.
- Additional interpretive signage and wayfinding to support:
  - » Stewardship and maintenance of the environment and natural resources.
  - » Navigation between parks, trails and open spaces in and around the city.
- Increase connections throughout the park system and among park system assets and other city facilities and destinations.
- Invest in a variety of activities that respond to multicultural and multi-generational needs.
- Improve maintenance of parks and trails, including through availability of trash cans and restrooms.
- Enhanced amenities to support all-weather use.
- Develop additional public-private partnerships.
- Increase capacity of athletic fields.
- Strengthen and formalize relationships with partners, including the Issaquah School District, King County, and Washington State, to improve intergovernmental collaboration.
- Improve safety in parks and on trails.
- Support regional tourism through enhancing access to regional parks and trail amenities that surround Issaquah.
- Develop additional strategies to manage unsanctioned park uses.

## Public Engagement Phase 2 Findings

Public Engagement Phase 2 verified Strategic Plan themes and assisted in identifying and prioritizing strategic projects for the parks system. This phase consisted of an online survey given between October 26 and November 17, 2017, hosted on the city’s Peak Democracy platform.

Priorities for future park development were determined through a budget allocation exercise identifying important project types, and multiple-choice questions prioritized specific parks and trails projects within each project type. Data collected informed specific capital projects and their priorities (these findings are available in Appendix D).

559 respondents participated in the survey. Participants were asked to provide limited demographic information about themselves to support survey analysis. This included age, gender, and location of residency. Of the 559 respondents, 301 indicated their residency. 116 respondents lived outside of Issaquah and 185 respondents lived within Issaquah. Due to meaningful differences between these responses and because not every respondent indicated their residency, we provided both overall results and results for respondents from both inside and outside Issaquah.

The budget exercise provided useful insight into residents’ priorities among Park System categories. Looking at overall respondents, the budgeting exercise shows a preference for athletic field capacity, followed by reinvestment in existing parks, and acquisition of open space. However, once we break down the results to look at the responses of Issaquah residents versus those living outside of Issaquah, it is clear that those living outside of Issaquah have heavily skewed the results toward investment in Athletic Fields.

**Survey Respondents’  
Hypothetical Parks Funding Allocation**

**We’re giving you \$100 in Parks Bucks to spend!  
How would you allocate the City of Issaquah’s limited dollars?**

	Overall Respondents	Issaquah Residents	Outside of Issaquah Respondents
Acquisition and Preservation of Natural Areas / Open Space	19 %	22 %	15 %
Additional Athletic Field Capacity	39 %	28 %	57 %
Connectivity	11 %	14 %	6 %
Development of New City Parks and Amenities	14 %	15 %	9 %
Reinvestment in Existing Parks	17 %	21 %	13 %

Issaquah residents’ priorities for spending limited parks capital dollars are more balanced toward investment in all areas, with a preference for athletic field capacity, followed by acquisition and preservation of natural areas and open space, and reinvestment in existing parks.



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography

*"A park needs to be a hub of activities and local events. A gathering place for all who wish to use them."*

*Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement*



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography

## *Statistically Valid Survey*

To identify current and future community recreational needs for parks, recreation, open space and trails within the city, the Parks and Recreation Department contracted with EMC Research, Inc., in 2015 to conduct a statistically valid public opinion telephone survey.

304 registered voters in Issaquah were surveyed (see Appendix E for further results). The goal of the survey and research was to identify the needs and desires for parks, recreation, trails and open space for the residents. The objectives to achieve this goal included but were not limited to:

- Identify community demand for parks, open space and recreational facilities in the City of Issaquah.
- Identify public priorities for improvements considered by the City of Issaquah.
- Identify reasons various park amenities are utilized, and characteristics of the population that utilizes them.

Four out of five respondents stated the City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation system played some role in their overall health and fitness and were highly satisfied with the quality of parks and recreational activities. High marks were given for the overall job the Parks and Recreation Department is doing.

### Priority Ranking

#### How important are the following projects and issues for the Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department to address over next 6-10 years?

Acquiring properties along creeks and preserving open space	90 %
Expanding the Community Center to offer more program & services	83 %
Additional Trails	79 %
Additional Playgrounds, swing sets, children's play areas	75 %
Additional Picnic shelters	72 %
Additional tennis and other sport courts for year-round play	72 %
Additional natural and artificial turf sports fields for year-round play	70 %
A dog park	68 %
A recreational pool including water slides and spray features	62 %
An outdoor spray park	47 %

Source: EMC Research, Inc., 2015

### Facility Usage and Satisfaction

Classification	Overall Usage	Regular Users	Net Satisfaction
Parks	90 %	42 %	94 %
Trails or Natural Spaces	88 %	42 %	
Additional Trails	62 %	13 %	83 %
Natural or artificial turf sport field	45 %	17 %	70 %
Julius Boehm Pool (prior to temporary closure)	42 %	6 %	42 %

Source: EMC Research, Inc., 2015

Respondents were asked about importance of projects; preserving open space and acquiring creekside properties ranked at the top, with other recreation projects fairly equally weighted. Facility usage was also a question; of the survey respondents, 78% had visited a city park in the last 12 months. The top reasons for visiting a city park were walking, playing or watching sports and taking children to play. Of the 37% of respondents with children in the household, the distances that they were willing to walk a child to a park were: one-quarter mile (22%), a half mile (37%), three-quarter mile (5%), one mile (28%), two miles or more (6%). Regular park users are more likely to have children and be less than 50 years of age.

The main reasons respondents used trails in Issaquah was for walking (50%) and hiking (25%), and trail users preferred gravel and natural soil trails (68%) more so than paved trails (27%).

Favorite parks and recreation activities were walking/walking trails/walking the dog (25%), hiking (20%), and playing/watching sports (soccer, tennis, baseball, lacrosse, football, etc.) (18%). Lower rated activities included: take children/grandchildren playing at playground, enjoy the park/open spaces/lake/nature, swimming/swimming in the lake, have a picnic/lunch/barbecue, biking/cycling, running/jogging, and shopping at the farmer's market.

Many survey respondents utilized the Community Center for various activities, and the farmer's market at Pickering Barn (Farm) received an overwhelming 85% net satisfaction with respondents. The Julius Boehm Pool, closed in late November 2014 for a \$5 million renovation funded by the voter-approved 2013 park bond, was utilized by 42% of respondents.

*“Issaquah has many quality parks and it is one of the redeeming qualities of our town.”*

*Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement*



Other major public engagement efforts that have significant impact on the Park System and this Strategic Plan are the outreach processes associated with the Park Element of the Comprehensive Plan and the Park Impact Fees Rate Study. The Comprehensive Plan dictates many of the funding allocation decisions for the city, while the Park Rate Study determines Park Impact Fees to be paid by developers for the funding of parks and other projects.

### *Park Element of the Comprehensive Plan*

A series of open public meetings were held to provide the public opportunities to comment on the Park Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The Park Element, Resolution 2016-01, was adopted by the Council on June 15, 2015 as part of the state-mandated periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan, and may be found on the city’s website at <http://issaquahwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1271>.

The 2018 Parks Strategic Plan will inform the next update of the Park Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

### *Park Impact Fees*

The Park Rate Study for the determination of Park Impact Fees went through an extensive public process in conjunction with transportation concurrency and other mitigation fees. The 2014 Rate Study for Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities Impact Fees (December 10, 2014), Ordinance 2733, may also be found on the city’s website at <https://issaquah.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=33434>.

The 2018 Parks Strategic Plan will inform the next update of the Park Rate Study.

# CITY DEPARTMENT ENGAGEMENT

## *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges – Workshop Summary*

Along with public engagement, the City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department convened an interdepartmental workshop to identify the park system's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges (refer to Appendix K for more information). During the workshop, participants rotated through three facilitated stations to discuss:

1. Strengths and Opportunities
2. Weaknesses
3. Challenges

Findings on each of these topics were organized around seven key themes, including:

- Community
- Nature and the Environment
- Active Lifestyles
- Safety and Health
- Access and Connectivity
- Facilities and Maintenance
- Administration

### ***Key needs identified as part of this assessment included:***

- Clear articulation of overall community vision for parks.
- Continue to work to understand community expectations around parks, including maintenance, programming and facilities, and level of service.
- Acquisition of additional open space before land becomes developed.
- Identify the Parks and Recreation Department's role in and desired community standards for maintaining street trees and city landscaping, and balancing conflicting expectations around "natural" and "manicured" spaces.
- Integrate active and passive uses to maximize facility usage.
- Develop additional strategies to manage unsanctioned park uses.
- Integrate off-right-of-way trails as part of the transportation system.
- Increase connections throughout the park system and among park system assets and other city facilities and destinations.
- Address park system development limitations from conservation easements.
- Develop and update park master and management plans.
- Strengthen and formalize relationships with partners, including the Issaquah School District, King County, and Washington State, to improve intergovernmental collaboration.
- Prioritize capital funding for parks and balance operational and capital funding to enhance park system.

## Citywide Plan Review

Actions for citywide improvement are presented through various plans authored by the city departments. These plans propose a variety of improvements including additional parks for placemaking and increased pedestrian and bicyclist connectivity via festival streets, trail improvements and overpasses. Interdepartmental collaborations will ensure that the efforts of each department are aligned. Refer to Appendix J for more information.

### ***Plans that may need coordination between departments include:***

- Comprehensive Plan
- Downtown Streetscape
- Walk + Roll Issaquah
- Sustainable Building Action Strategy
- Healthy Community Strategy
- Central Issaquah Plan
- Issaquah Community Needs Assessment
- Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program
- Arts & Culture in Issaquah

#### *Development Services Department / Economic Development*

- Olde Town Plan
- Front Street Plan
- Shoreline Master Program (2018 Update)
- Development Regulations Update
  - Central Issaquah Development Design Standards
  - Issaquah Municipal Code (IMC)
- Mall Street Master Plan
- Urban Park (acquisition)
- City Branding (2018)
- Downtown Parking

#### *Office of Sustainability*

- Recreation Facilities Plan and Green Building Strategy
- Pickering Barn / Community Garden(s)

#### *Public Works Engineering / Public Works Operations*

- Mountains to Sound Trail / Newport Improvements (corridor study)
- Gilman Boulevard (corridor study)
- Confluence Park, Berntsen Park and Salmon Run Nature Park / Holly Street Improvements
- Squak Valley Park(s) / Issaquah Hobart Road Study
- Veterans Memorial, Depot, Pedestrian Park / Front Street Improvements
- Harvey Manning Park / Future Talus Water Tower Improvements
- I-90 Crossings
  - Newport Way (corridor study)
  - Issaquah Hobart (corridor study)
- NW Sammamish Road Improvements
- Sounds Transit (future station / service line)
- Front Street/ I-90 Intersection Justification Report (IJR)





# WHO WE ARE

## THE CITY OF ISSAQUAH

Interwoven by salmon-bearing creeks and surrounded by forested mountains, the City of Issaquah boasts unique, direct connections to urban environs, lakes, and wooded Native Growth Protection Areas. Issaquah is surrounded by approximately 25,500 acres of natural open space known as the Issaquah Alps—Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Taylor Mountains and Grand Ridge. Within this natural open space, there are over 150 miles of trails that range from gentle to rugged. Within minutes, anyone in Issaquah can access these natural open spaces for a forest adventure. Enthusiasts of water sports and other outdoor activities can enjoy the nearby facilities at Lake Sammamish State Park.

The physical beauty of the area, characterized by steep wooded hillsides, clear creeks and streams, and contiguous wetland environments, draw people to choose Issaquah as their home. The resulting population growth and the subsequent decrease in available land challenges the balance of zoning, transportation, environmental preservation, and recreation preservation. This Strategic Plan sets a path for the city to actively plan for and support improvements to Issaquah's park and recreation facilities, programs, and natural open spaces for the benefit of current and future generations.



# RECREATIONAL TRENDS

In Washington State, outdoor recreation is hugely popular. The January 2015 Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State report prepared by The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office provides economic proof of this—annually, on public and private land, \$21.6 billion is spent on outdoor recreation trips and equipment in Washington, which includes over \$1 billion dollars spent on ball sports (including field sports), and almost \$6 billion dollars spent on other recreational uses (playgrounds, jogging, skateboarding, picnicking and walking). Over 200,000 jobs are related to outdoor recreation alone. King County spent over \$5.4 billion and had 50,000 jobs related to outdoor recreation. The full report may be found at:

<http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/ORTF/EconomicAnalysisOutdoorRec.pdf>

and the fact sheet at:

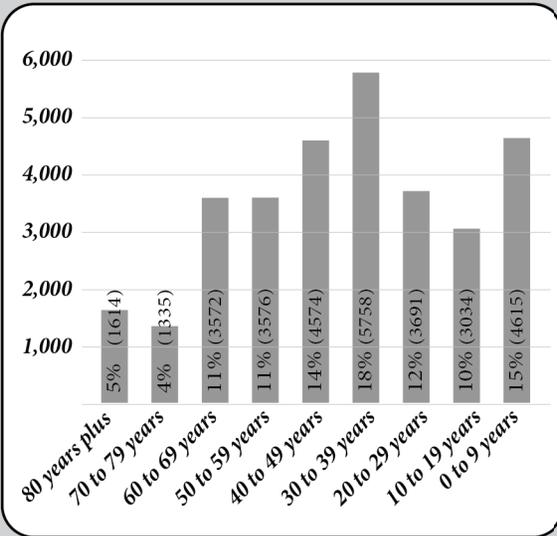
<http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/ORTF/OutdoorEconomicsFactSheet.pdf>.

The Pacific Northwest continues to draw outdoor enthusiasts that put demands on bicycling, walking, and hiking trails, and environmental stewardship. The observed increased pressure on trailheads within and surrounding Issaquah is only predicted to increase with the continued population growth of King County. Issaquah's proximity to dense urban centers while being imbued and surrounded by forested, trailed lands creates a unique destination for outdoor enthusiasts, drawing people to live and visit. Because of its regional draw, observing and predicting recreational trends for Issaquah must consider and balance the desires of Issaquah's residents and workforce, as well as residents across King County who access Issaquah's parks and trails.

*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*

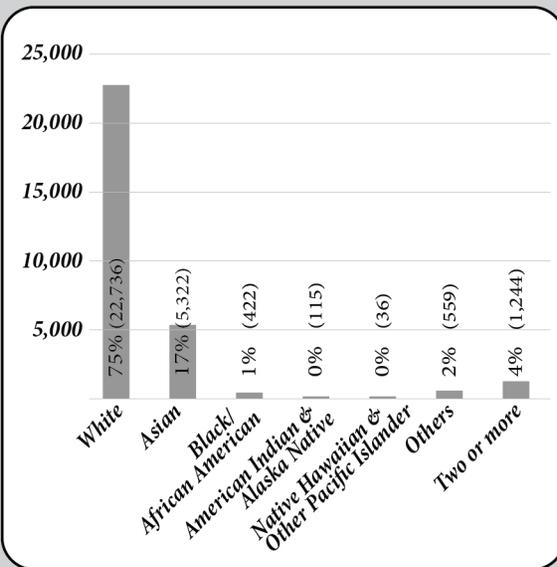
# DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Issaquah Population by Age, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Demographic Profile, 2010, and BERK Consulting, 2017

Issaquah Population by Race, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Demographic Profile, 2010, and BERK Consulting, 2017

Demographic elements such as increasing population and changes in diversity, age, and lifestyles greatly influence community needs and recreational trends. To better understand these needs and how they will inform the future of Issaquah’s park system, the demographics of the city’s residents and workforce were studied.

As of 2017, Issaquah was the 12th largest city in King County, with approximately 36,030 residents living in 15,431 households. Issaquah is a quickly urbanizing community. The Rate Study for Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities Impact Fees, last updated in 2014, projected population to grow 20% between 2014 and 2020, an addition of 12,191 residents (Issaquah Comprehensive Plan, Ord 2741, effective date: 6/30/15). It is predicted that by year 2031, the City will have grown to 44,660 persons, living in 19,337 households (Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Element, Ord 2810 effective date: 10/25/2017 ) and provide 37,395 jobs (Puget Sound Regional Council Covered Employment Estimates pulled from Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Washington State Employment Security Department, 2014).

A large proportion of Issaquah’s residents are middle age, with a median age of 38.6 years old. Issaquah is also home to many children, with approximately a quarter of residents under the age of 19, indicating a large number of young families living in the city. The average household size as of 2012, was approximately 2.17 people, and households live in an almost even mix of multifamily (48.9%) and single family (51.1%) housing.

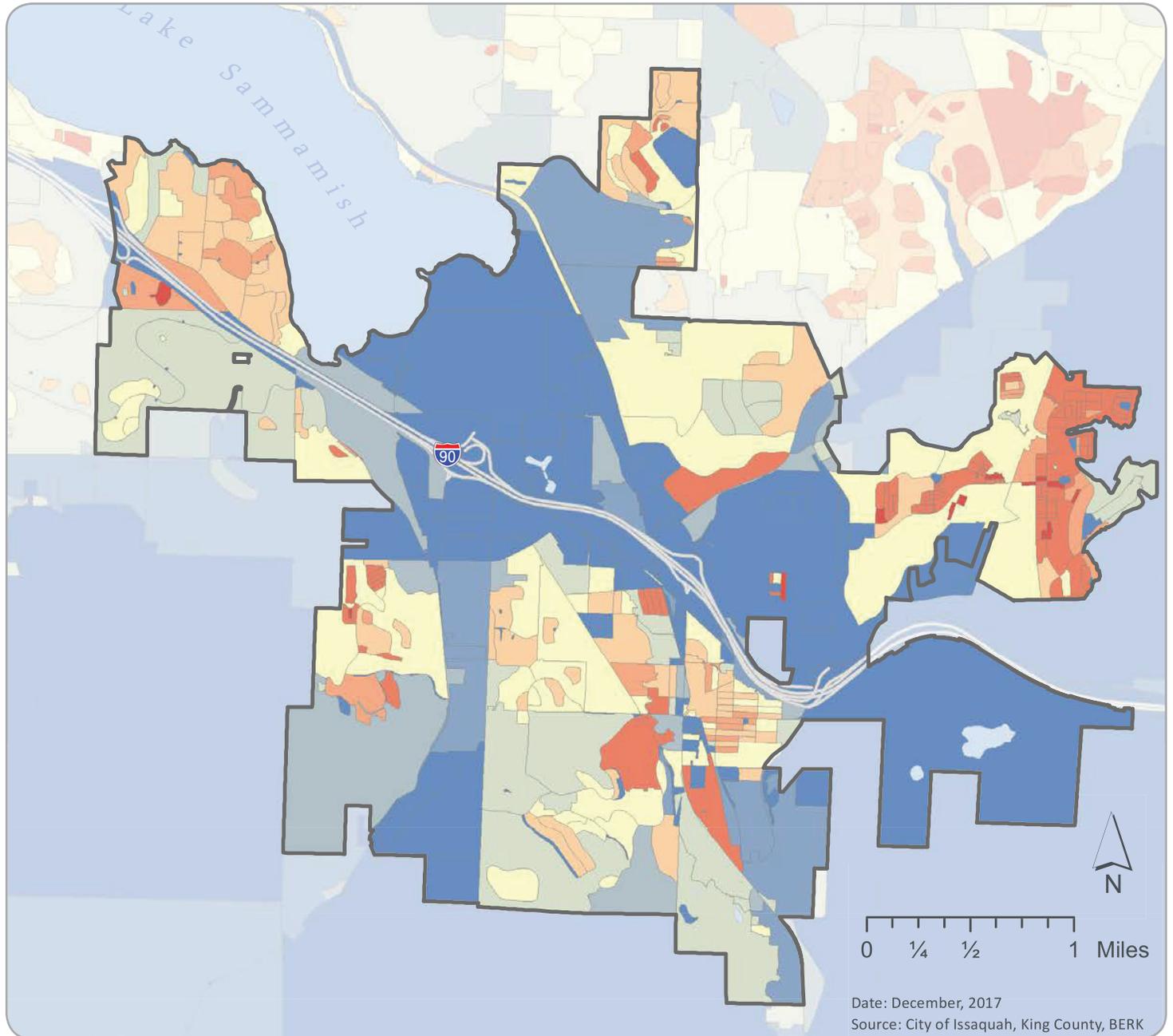
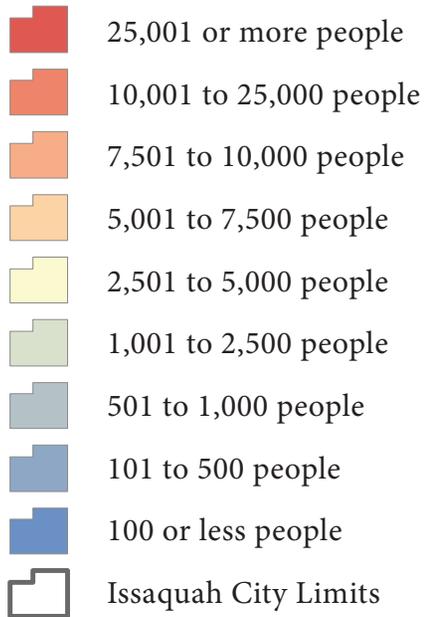
The City of Issaquah is predominantly white, with 75% of the population identifying as white alone. This is in contrast to the rest of King County, where only 62% of residents identify as white alone. While Issaquah was predominately white as of the last U.S. Census, it is trending toward becoming more diverse, and a significant share of its population (17%) identifies as Asian alone.

As of 2016, 23,752 people work in Issaquah in 1,388 home-occupation businesses and 1,512 other businesses. The Issaquah workforce participates in many industries but is primarily focused in services (64%) and retail (14%).

# CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

Population tends to be distributed in pockets around the city. Certain areas, such as North Central Issaquah, are expected to be the focus of population density growth in the upcoming years. These current and future identified population dense areas help guide strategic park planning.

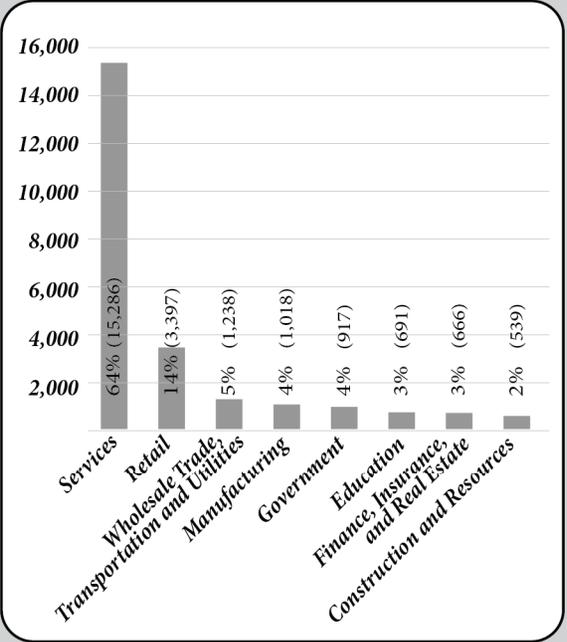
2010 Population Density  
(Pop per Square Mile by Census Block)



Date: December, 2017  
Source: City of Issaquah, King County, BERK



*Issaquah Workforce by Industry, 2010*



Source:  
U.S. Census Demographic Profile, 2010, and BERK Consulting, 2017

Issaquah’s workforce has an extremely high rate of educational attainment, with 96% of workers holding at least a high school diploma and 61% holding a Bachelor’s Degree or higher. Issaquah residents also have a higher median income than their King County peers overall, earning \$84,000 a year, approximately \$6,000 higher than the King County median income of \$78,030.

This demographic analysis shows an increasingly diverse and dense population that is family oriented and well-educated. Careful investment into the system must be done to accommodate this evolving population with awareness of desired lifestyle elements identified in recreation trends and public engagement. Diversified parks that accommodate multiple generations, cultures, and activities will be needed in a system that connects people to nature and each other.



# HOW DO PARKS RESPOND

Demographic analysis shows a large number of young families living in the city. Currently, there is an even mix of single-family and multifamily housing with a trend toward increased multifamily housing as the city continues to grow. Public engagement shows an active community that highly regards experiencing, viewing, and protecting nature, and an appreciation of the role parks play in accessing nature and supporting active lifestyles.

How does a park system live up to these challenges and expectations? Careful investment into the system must be done to accommodate an increasingly diverse and dense population, with awareness of desired lifestyle elements.

## ***Focused Investment:***

With the assistance of public engagement and discussion between city departments, five focused areas of parks investment identify the needs to assist Issaquah's park system into the future:



These areas of investment support:



The focused areas of investment must take into careful consideration facility and maintenance abilities, administrative needs, overall sustainability and implementation possibilities.

*“As the population increases, we need to provide all residents with a variety of parks (green space), recreational facilities, and associated amenities.”*

*Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement*

With these goals in mind, the system was studied to understand what we have to work with.



*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*





# 3

## THE STATE OF OUR SYSTEM

The City of Issaquah has a unique park system with abundant potential. Innately within this potential are many opportunities and obstacles that affect system function and service to the community. Some of these factors include changing community and recreational need, aging facilities, and finite funding. Use, the ultimate goal of any park system, provides wear and continued maintenance needs.

A park system is inherently an ever-evolving entity responding to many, sometimes opposing, pressures. It is through an honest look in the mirror that we can begin to identify our system strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges and begin to make thoughtful strides toward improvement.

Inventory analysis, interdepartmental meetings, demographic analysis, and public engagement created a picture of the park system's strengths, needs, and priorities.

*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*

# INVENTORY

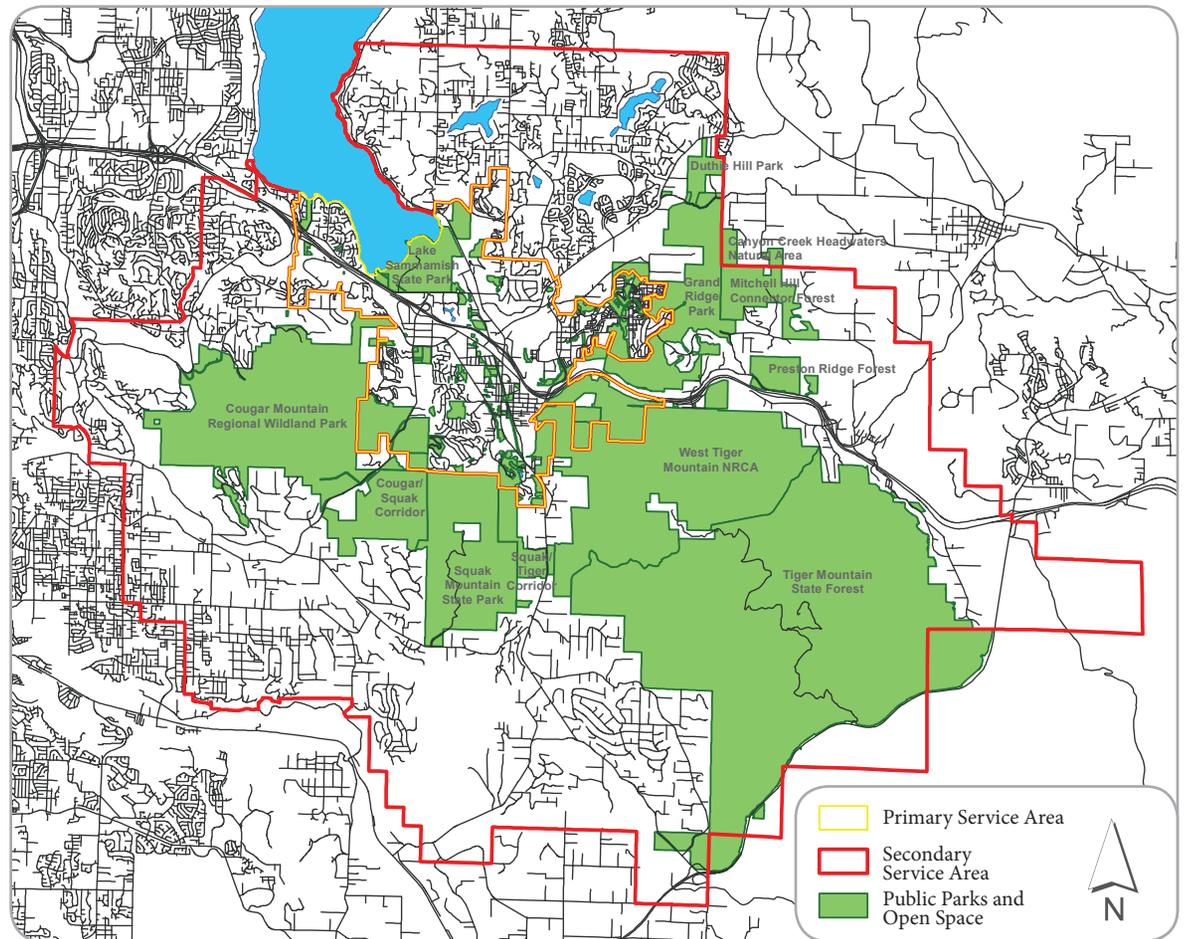
## *Parks and Recreation Service Area*

The city's Service Area is divided into two Parks and Recreation Service Areas:

- **The Primary Service Area**, which coincides with Issaquah's city limits.
- **The Secondary Service Area**, which coincides with the Issaquah School District Boundary, but excludes the portion of the school district that is located within the City of Bellevue.

To qualify for state grant funding, RCO requires local agencies to assess community needs within both the primary and secondary services areas. As communities and neighborhoods grow within the secondary service area, additional pressure will be applied to Issaquah's facilities, creating the need for the implementation of fees for using the Issaquah Community Center and recreational programming.

The City of Issaquah's secondary service area encompasses more than 75 square miles, although the city itself covers approximately 12.10 square miles. Forecasted growth within the city and the secondary service area will place more stress upon the parks and recreation system.



Date: March, 2018

## Park Classification and Size

The properties managed within the City of Issaquah's Parks and Recreation System have been categorized to reflect the diversity of parks and facilities.

In Issaquah's park inventory the largest share of city park land is classified as Natural Open Space. The second highest category of parks by acreage consists of Community Parks. Refer to Appendix G for more information.

### Issaquah Park Land and Improvements, 2017

<b>Community Park</b>	172 acres 172 assets	
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	4 acres 19 assets	
<b>Resource Park</b>	68 acres 25 assets	
<b>Natural Open Space</b>	1,360 acres 7 assets	
<b>Undeveloped Parks + Other</b>	5 acres 1 assets	
<b>Facility</b>	42 acres 46 assets	
<b>Total</b>	1,654 acres 287 assets	

Amount (miles/acres)  
 Assets/Amenities

Source: City of Issaquah, BERK Consulting, 2017

**Notes:**

Acres are rounded. Acres include Centennial Park / Rainier Trail Corridor at 3 acres; otherwise trails are reported in miles. Assets and amenities consist of any of the following: fields, courts, playgrounds, skateparks, picnic shelters and tables, community centers/gyms, roads, bathrooms, paths, and site furnishings. Sites have more than one feature.

#### **Community Park:**

May range from 1 to 50 acres and would be a destination park. Elements provided at a community park may be specialized playground equipment or uses such as a skatepark or sports fields. A community park may also provide opportunities for community gathering and could house various active or passive uses.

#### **Neighborhood Park:**

Smaller in size, typically less than 5 acres. These parks may be located within neighborhoods or alongside streets and offer passive/active activities such as tot lots, picnic areas, tennis or sports courts, and play fields. Due to the smaller size, these parks may also serve as quiet rest areas for users.

#### **Resource Park:**

A natural open space with limited development. Development in these resource parks is generally more passive, including items such as trails and interpretive signage. These parks may provide links to other natural open spaces. Resource parks shall preserve natural forested areas and support wildlife and habitat conservation.

#### **Natural Open Space:**

Native ground that is to remain relatively undeveloped for wildlife and habitat preservation. Soft-surface trails and minor site furniture are considered acceptable levels of development in natural open space areas.

#### **Undeveloped Parks + Other:**

These parks are recently acquired property that have not yet been funded or developed as parkland or recreational facilities, nor designated for other park uses, whether active or passive.

#### **Facility:**

A building that has public use for gathering space or specialized activities.

#### **Urban Trails:**

Typically paved and wider in construction. Urban trails allow for various methods of movement within the city. Linear parks can serve as part of the urban trail system.

#### **Natural Trails:**

Natural trails are less developed than urban trails. They are typically soft surface or gravel and meander through forested hillsides or along streambanks. In a rare circumstance, a paved trail may be found, but this is not the norm.



## Amenities

A main distinguishing feature between park classifications is the number and type of amenities.

Amenities include aspects such as picnic tables, shelters, playgrounds, sport courts, athletic fields, boat ramps, parking, benches, drinking fountains, restrooms, beaches, and lighting.

Community Parks contain the most league sports amenities, unscheduled picnic tables, and playgrounds. Community Parks have diamond baseball/softball fields and rectangular fields (multipurpose soccer, lacrosse/football) that are turfed, as well as tennis and basketball courts. Neighborhood and Resource Parks have some sports, playground, or picnic amenities but less than Community Parks.

### *Selected Scheduled and Unscheduled Amenities*

Classification	Diamond Fields	Regular Fields and Turf Fields	Sport Courts	Playgrounds	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelters
Community Park	11	4	12	9	28	5
Neighborhood Park	0	0	2	2	3	1
Resource Park	0	3	0	0	3	0
Natural Open Space	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undeveloped Park/ Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Facility	0	0	0	0	11	0
Urban Trail	0	0	0	0	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: City of Issaquah, BERK Consulting, 2017

## Trails

### Trail Type by Owner

Trail Type & Owner	City Trails (miles)	Greater Issaquah Area Trails (miles)	Urban Trails (miles)
<b>Natural</b>			
City of Issaquah	15.7	17.2	0.2
Other Public	11.1	137.3	
Private	5.8	7.4	
<b>Natural Total</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>161.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Regional</b>			
City of Issaquah	3.3	3.4	2.3
Other Public	4.0	12.9	
<b>Regional Total</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Urban - Pedestrian</b>			
City of Issaquah	7.4	7.4	2.8
Private	6.4	6.6	
<b>Urban-Pedestrian Total</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Urban - Shared</b>			
City of Issaquah	5.6	6.0	5.4
Other Public	1.6	1.6	0.4
Private	0.6	0.6	
<b>Urban-Shared Total</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>200.2</b>	<b>11.1</b>

Note: Private includes homeowners' associations, private business properties, and investor utilities.

Source: City of Issaquah, BERK Consulting, 2017

Trails are an important part of Issaquah's Park system. Not only do trails encourage non-motorized use within the city, but they are also our connection to nature and the surrounding environment. These connections within and throughout the city and to the outdoors reflects the community's identity and values. There are 11 miles of urban trails (including linear parks) within city parks alone; there are still more city-owned trails not within parks. Many regional and private properties within or surrounding Issaquah have trail systems that tie into and support the city system but are not maintained by the city. These extended systems add significant connectivity to Issaquah's system and are examples of partnerships with regional entities and private developments.

The Trail Type by Owner table shows a breakdown of all trail types that the city mapped: city owned, other public agency owned, and private. The miles are reported based on trail type and are located all over the city whether in parks or not, and in the connected lands beyond the city.

Most trails are classified as Natural, both in the city limits or Greater Issaquah Area. The City of Issaquah is a primary provider of trails in the city limits, followed by homeowners' associations, while the State of Washington is a primary provider of trails in the Greater Issaquah Area.

**“Go big – be Seattle’s trailhead.”**

*Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement*

**Issaquah's Primary and Secondary Service Area  
Role of Regional Cities and Entities by Amenity Count**

Regional Cities and Entities	Average	Number of Facilities	Flexible/ Informal Spaces		Sport Courts		Fields		
			Playground	Picnic Shelters	Paved Trails	Basketball	Tennis	Rectangular	Diamond
City of Bellevue	206	3	1	4	2	3	2	1	3
City of Issaquah	1,654	59	11	6	23	5	9	7	11
City of Sammamish	424	12	6	12	6	4	5	5	6
Issaquah School District		24	30		1	18	20	21	30
King County	5,454	6	4		1			4	1
WA State DNR	13,214	2							
WA State Parks	2,055	14	2	1	1			8	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23,006</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>53</b>

Role:  prime  moderate  minor

Note: Numbers represent the portion of Bellevue and Sammamish's park systems that provide easily accessible recreational services to Issaquah's residents.

Source: City of Issaquah, BERK Consulting, 2017

**Preliminary Comparison**

	Diamond Fields: Youth Baseball	Rectangular Fields: Youth Soccer Field	Tennis Courts	Playgrounds
Issaquah: 2017 Number of Residents Per Amenity	3,275	5,147	4,003	4,003
2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review: Median Number of Residents per Amenity	6,453	6,199	4,375	3,633

Source: BERK Consulting, 2017

## Parks Inventory Analysis

The City of Issaquah provides a wide array of park types both in the city limits (the primary service area) and in the Issaquah School District boundaries (the secondary service area). The Natural Open Space category comprises most of the city's park acres, supplemented by regional natural open spaces and trails.

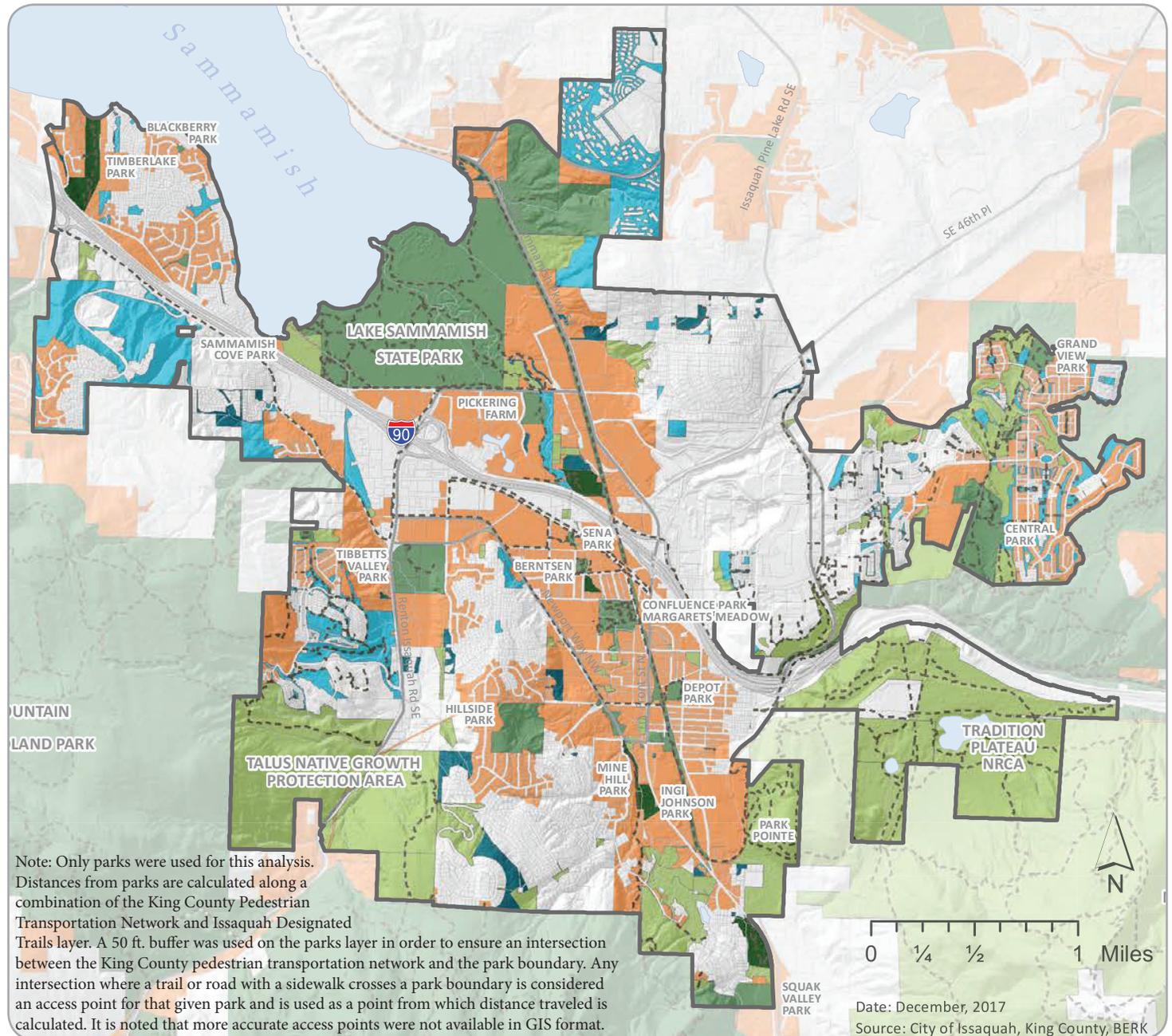
Amenities that are uniquely provided by Issaquah in the city limits include Community Centers & Community Gathering Spaces, Historic/Cultural Sites, and a Public Pool. The amenities provided by the city are bolstered by the Issaquah School District's open space, sports amenities, and playgrounds, which residents may use after hours as allowed by school policies. The facilities at Lake Sammamish State Park and those of the cities of Bellevue and Sammamish, easily accessible to Issaquah residents, provide additional services to the community, especially for Issaquah residents to the west and northeast. Developments provide additional non-city parks to the system.

One measurement of a park system's strength is an acres of park land per thousands of population comparison. In this measurement, the City of Issaquah is well above the national average for cities of comparable size. Another measurement is comparing population served by amenities with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standard. A partial review of selected sports amenities and playgrounds shows that Issaquah serves its population with more diamond and rectangular fields and tennis courts than the national median. Particularly strong are the numbers of youth baseball diamonds for Issaquah's population. For playground facilities, Issaquah serves its population with fewer facilities than the national median. The addition of future playgrounds may be in response to population growth, part of greater planning efforts or be a strategic plan project.

In analysis of the park system as a functioning whole, and individual park's roles within the system, a few key points come to light.

Portions of Central Issaquah have parks accessible by dedicated trail and sidewalk within one-quarter mile. Otherwise pedestrians rely on shoulders and shared trails to reach parks. Central Issaquah, West Issaquah, and the Highlands area tend to have trail and other pedestrian access to improved parks. Citywide, there is generally access to improved parks with trailheads and parking within a half mile to one mile of homes.

-  Parcels within 1/4 Mile Walk of Park - Trails & Sidewalks
-  Issaquah Resource Park
-  Issaquah Area
-  Public Open Space
-  Native Growth Protection Easement
-  HOA Property
-  Issaquah City Limits
-  Trails

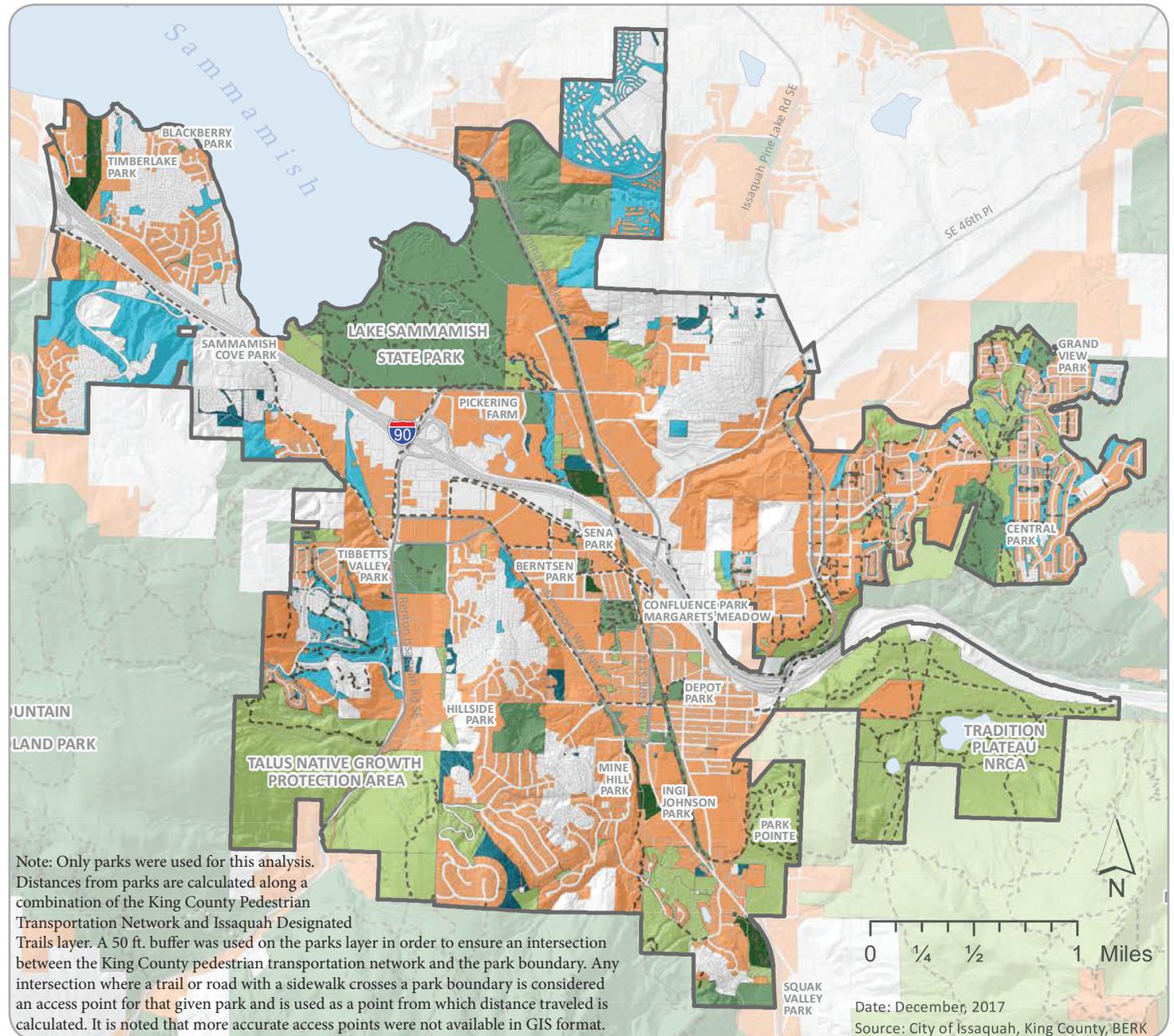


# CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

Many properties categorized as Open Space are readily accessible to pedestrians—if appropriately improved with amenities, these already owned lands can provide recreation resources to growing population centers.

North Central Issaquah is a notable exception, which appears to have gaps where parks with trailheads, potentially improvable Open Space, and improved parks are not readily accessible to residents. Currently there are moderate population densities in the gap areas, which may change as population grows.

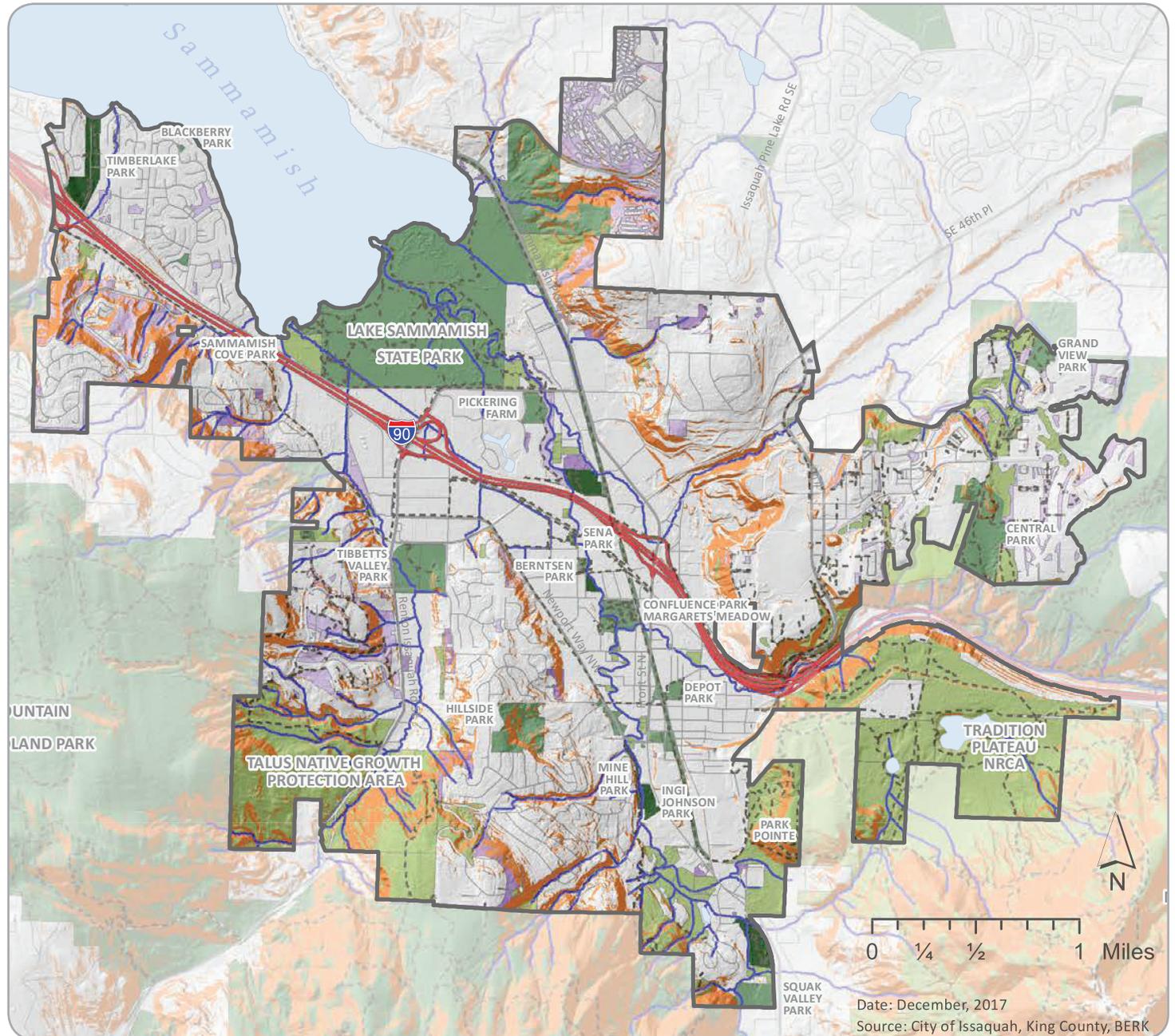
-  Parcels within 1/4 Mile Walk of Park or Open Space - Trails & Sidewalks
-  Issaquah Resource Park
-  Issaquah Area
-  Public Open Space
-  Native Growth Protection Easement
-  HOA Property
-  Issaquah City Limits
-  Trails



Issaquah has many barriers, such as slopes, streams and I-90, that provide challenges for park connectivity and development. Careful planning of project priorities and future park and trail master plans will consider these factors.

Access Barriers & Challenges

-  Slopes > 40%
-  Interstate 90
-  Streams
-  Issaquah Resource Park
-  Issaquah Area
-  Public Open Space
-  Native Growth Protection Easement
-  HOA Property
-  Issaquah City Limits
-  Trails



Date: December, 2017  
 Source: City of Issaquah, King County, BERK



# CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE

The Level of Service (LOS) is a measure of how well a specific system is serving its community. Issaquah’s park and recreation system LOS measures the overall parks *capital value per person*. Through this standard, the City of Issaquah ensures that each resident receives an equitable amount of parks and recreational facilities. The city provides this value through investment in parks and recreational facilities that are most appropriate for each site, responding to the changing needs and priorities tied to city growth and population demographic changes.

This metric gives the city flexibility in its investment into the park and recreation system to better serve the community. In contrast, a traditional acres of parkland per person metric focuses solely on land procurement.

The Rate Study for Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities Impact Fees is utilized in determining the LOS. The city’s rate study was updated in 2008 and again in December 2014; the 2018 Park Strategic Plan will inform the next update of the rate study. The Rate Study projected Issaquah’s population growth to be 12,191 for the period of the study (2014-2020 or six years). Assuming equal growth over this six-year period of time, equivalent population for each year can be calculated. Equivalent population will be utilized for LOS calculations throughout this document. Assessment for future growth will be reevaluated by the Development Services Department during the annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment process.

LOS is calculated for the primary service area (city limits) only. Issaquah’s secondary service area is not taken into account in the current LOS calculations, despite having a significant effect on recreation within the park system. Refer to the Inventory section for further discussion on the secondary service area.

The 2018 Parks Strategic Plan uses the same Level of Service metrics and data as the 2015 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Plan. Study of a performance-based LOS is recommended for the next Parks Plan update to better serve Issaquah’s future Park and Recreation system.

***Recommendation:  
Moving Toward a Performance-Based LOS***

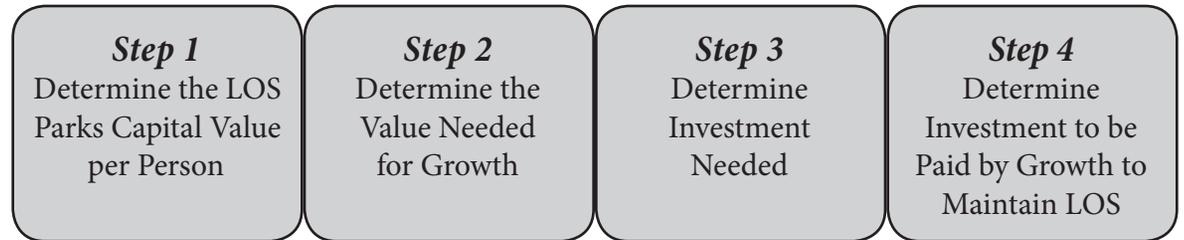
There are many ways of calculating a parks and open space system’s level of service. Typically, the calculation involves numbers of types of facilities or acres of parkland per person. This is a calculation that doesn’t account for the quality of facility or land, or necessarily how well it is providing for the community, and can create an unachievable metric when available land is dwindling.

Issaquah’s current calculation, value of facilities per population, takes a step closer to looking at the quality provided, assuming value invested in a facility equates to quality of service provided by a facility.

A performance-based LOS could rate a combination of various factors indicating the quality of service provided by a facility— aspects such as type of access, distance to facilities from population centers, function, safety, condition, and distribution of facilities. Inherently more complex and difficult to quantify, a performance-based LOS could assist in identifying and providing for areas that are underserved and better reflect the quality of the system.

## Calculating Level of Service

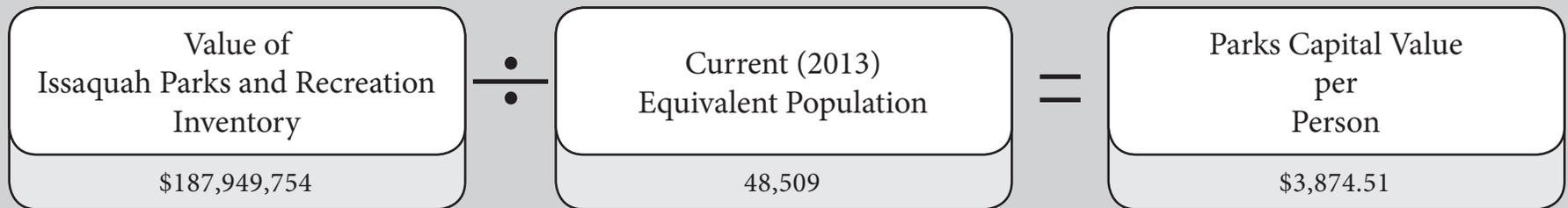
The calculation for determining the investment needed to maintain parks' Level of Service is a four-step process:



### Step 1: Determine the LOS - Parks Capital Value per Person

To determine the Parks Capital Value per Person, the total Value of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Inventory is divided by the Current Equivalent Population.

The capital value for each type of recreational facility, park land, and committed mitigation in the Parks and Recreation Inventory comes to a total of \$187,949,754. This total is divided by the equivalent population of 48,509 for the city and provides the current capital value per person of \$3,874.51.



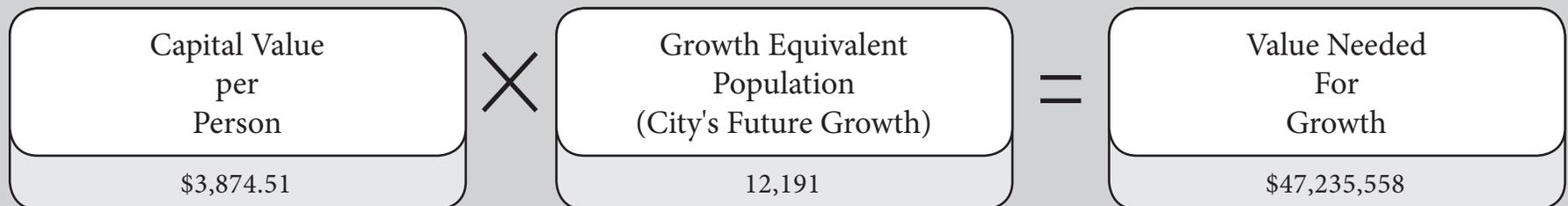
The current *Value of the Issaquah's Parks and Recreational Inventory* is the sum of *the value of each park and recreational facility*.

*Equivalent population* takes into account not only residents of Issaquah but those who work in Issaquah and visit Issaquah.

### Step 2: Determine the Value Needed for Growth

To calculate a value for future investment into parks and recreational facilities that will keep pace with the city's increasing population, the Capital Value per Person (Step 1) is multiplied by the city's future growth.

The forecast for population growth by 2020 is 12,191 additional equivalent people (Appendix H: 2014 Rate Study for Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities Impact Fees (12/10/14)). The value that is needed to serve the city's growth is \$47,235,558.



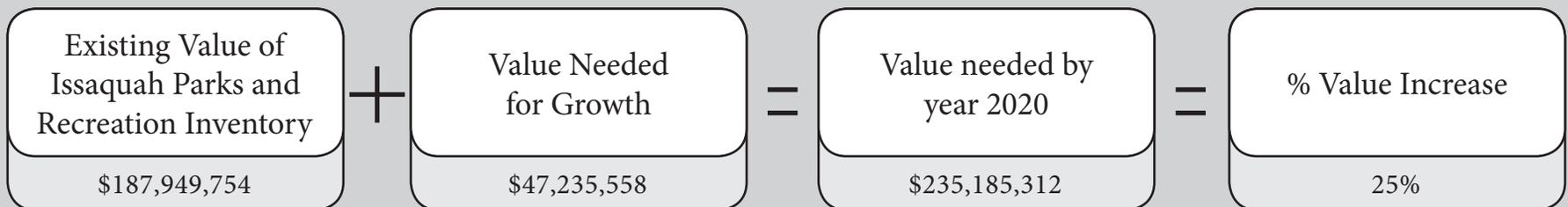
A 'Person' equates to  
'Equivalent Population'

'City's Future Growth' equates to  
'Growth Equivalent Population'

### Step 3: Determine Investment Needed in Parks for Growth

The city has no reserve capacity (Appendix H: 2014 Rate Study for Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities Impact Fees (12/10/14)) and therefore needs to invest the full \$47,235,558 in additional parks and recreational facilities to serve future growth.

The future investment in parks and recreational facilities to be paid by growth may be less than \$47,235,558 if the city seeks or designates other revenues to invest in parks and recreational facilities. Between 2014 and 2020 the park system capital value needs to increase by 25% to sustain the current Level of Service and keep pace with predicted population growth.



See Step 1

See Step 2

### *Step 4: Determine Investment to be Paid to Maintain LOS*

The last step is to determine the Investment to be Paid to Maintain LOS. This is calculated by subtracting the amount of revenues the City invests in parks and recreation infrastructure from the total Investment Needed in Parks for Growth.

The city's Revenue Investment totals \$17,194,447. When this is subtracted from the Investment Needed in Parks for Growth, the Investment to be Paid to Maintain LOS is determined to be \$30,041,111 to maintain the city's standards for future growth projected to 2020.



See Step 2

## *Park Impact Fees and the Relationship with Level of Service*



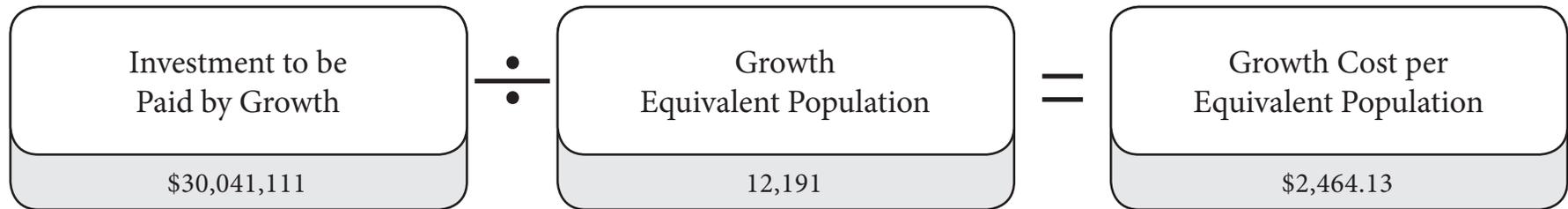
Impact fees are paid by new development to reimburse local government for impact that new growth (and its added population) has on the existing parks and recreation system. By state law, impact fees must be spent on capital projects specified in an adopted capital facilities/improvement plan, a plan that reflects parks and recreational facilities needed by the system. These capital projects must increase the capacity provided by the park and recreation system, in effect supporting the recreational demands of the added population. Fees may not be utilized for routine maintenance. The capital value per person metric used to calculate LOS is also used for park impact fees, allowing for flexibility in using the funds to provide the most equitable system for Issaquah's growing and changing population.

To establish an updated park impact fee, in January 2015 the city adopted Ordinance No. 2733 to add the Rate Study for Park and Recreation Facilities amending the Issaquah Municipal Code (IMC) Chapter 3.72. Impact fees are then regulated by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 82.02.050.

Impact fees are paid by the development at the time the city issues a permit allowing structures to be built (i.e., building permit). Impact fees may also be charged to a business with a change of use as identified in Ordinance No. 2733.

To determine the rate at which impact fees are charged to each new development unit, a few calculations are needed.

First, the Growth Cost per Equivalent Population must be determined. The Investment to be Paid to Maintain LOS (see LOS Step 4) becomes the Investment to be Paid by Growth. Divided by the forecasted Growth Equivalent Population (see LOS Step 2) the Growth Cost per Equivalent Population is determined.



The Growth Cost per Equivalent Population is multiplied with an Equivalent Population Coefficient (this is a number based on the associated development’s presumed population impact on the park system) to provide the Minimum required Investment to be paid by Growth per unit of development. The ultimate Park Impact Fee paid is updated annually in accordance with the Annual Index Adjustment.

Impact Fee chart at the time of rate study and its adjustment as of February 01, 2018, is:

Type of Development	Growth Cost per Equivalent Population	Equivalent Population Coefficient	Unit of Development	Minimum Investment to be Paid by Growth as of 12/10/14	Parks Impact Fee Update 2/1/2018
<b>Residential single family</b>	\$2,464.13	2.2968750	dwelling unit	\$5,659.81	\$6,147.06
<b>Residential multifamily</b>	\$2,464.13	1.9781250	dwelling unit	\$4,874.36	\$5,317.24
<b>Retail</b>	\$2,464.13	0.0020038	square foot	\$4.94	\$5.39
<b>Office</b>	\$2,464.13	0.0005056	square foot	\$1.25	\$1.36
<b>Manufacturing</b>	\$2,464.13	0.0005814	square foot	\$1.43	\$1.56
<b>Construction</b>	\$2,464.13	0.0001986	square foot	\$0.49	\$0.53

Note:  
 For further discussion on the equivalent population coefficients, refer to Appendix H: 2014 Rate Study for Parks, Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities Impact Fees (12/10/14)  
 Equivalent population coefficients include employees and visitors who work within the city and their equivalency of park system use. Impact fee rates are adjusted annually in accordance with the Annual Index Adjustment. Please contact the city’s Development Services Department for current year rates.



# 4

# WHERE WE ARE GOING

## *The City's Vision*

The City of Issaquah's vision is to become the best community to invest your future by providing:

- Environmental stewardship,
- Promoting a people-oriented society,
- Ensuring service excellence in decision making, and
- Fostering economic prosperity for its citizens.

The 2018 Parks Strategic Plan helps the city attain this vision.

*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*

## THE PARKS VISION

Issaquah's Parks and Recreation Vision is to connect residents and visitors to nature and each other through a vibrant parks and trails system within the city, neighborhoods and regional lands that provide recreation and outdoor activities for a balanced, healthy and inclusive mountain, lake and valley community.

### *Parks Core Values*

Embrace and enhance Issaquah's strength as an outdoor recreation hub and a gateway to the Issaquah Alps for residents and the region.

Support Issaquah's view that access to green is integral to quality of life and its identity as a city.

Improve the physical, social and emotional health of Issaquah's citizens.

Increase Issaquah's cultural unity through experiences that promote cultural understanding and celebrate diversity.

Attract and retain businesses, residents, and tourists.

Strengthen and embrace community image and sense of place.

Provide opportunities for citizens of all ages in the community.

Provide all-weather, adaptable recreation amenities.

Protect natural resources and habitat required for diverse native species and scenic and visual experiences (Appendix I).

# THEMES

The City of Issaquah's 2018 Parks Strategic Plan is organized around themes that together create a road map to achieve the vision for Issaquah's park system. These five themes were gleaned through public engagement, the park system evaluation, Park Board direction, and Council briefings and have shaped the proposed changes to the Goals and Policies. Issaquah's Department of Parks and Recreation employs:

*Placemaking, Connectivity, and Innovative Action, to provide for A Vital Environment to support passive and Active Lifestyles.*



## PLACEMAKING

Collaborate with the community to reimagine and reinvest in Issaquah's public spaces, parks and trails. Maximize value and strengthen the connection between people and the parks/trails they share.



## CONNECTIVITY

Connect our parks and public spaces to make a unified system that serves the entire city and beyond.



## INNOVATIVE ACTION

Use innovative thinking and planning to creatively maximize the park system and provide high-quality recreational opportunities for all Issaquah residents. Foster partnerships to achieve greater public good and financial sustainability.



## A VITAL ENVIRONMENT

Manage, steward, and celebrate our natural environment. Balance active and passive recreation without thinking of them as separate entities.



## ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

Promote various recreation opportunities by providing elements such as trailheads, dog parks, play spaces, and athletic fields.

# STRATEGIC PROJECTS

This plan proposes a current list of Strategic Projects for implementation to achieve Issaquah’s Park and Open Space Vision. These projects are the outcome of the public outreach process and, collectively, fulfill the vision for the Issaquah’s Park and Recreation system.

First the projects are organized by the main theme that each project supports. Studying them by theme shows how the projects work together to create the desired system. Most projects touch on more than one of the five themes; these secondary themes reveal the interrelatedness of the system. Within each theme’s project list, projects are organized by three buckets of priority presenting a road map to system implementation.

Projects are sorted into three priority buckets: near term, mid term, and long term. These buckets establish a road map to move forward. The near-term bucket informs the five-year capital improvement project list. Mid-term and long-term buckets reflect projects that may become more feasible as funding and partnerships progress.

Anticipated project cost is indicated for each project as a range from \$ to \$\$\$\$. Strategic projects that have potential partnership opportunities with other city plans and current projects are indicated by .

## *Project Prioritization*

Strategic Project priority determined from criteria developed through conversations with city entities and public outreach is not intended to be definitive, but to guide discussion during the annual capital improvement project process and as new projects arise. Criteria, discussed in length in The Toolkit section, include items such as utilization potential, system diversity, system balance, ease of implementation, operational sustainability, and strong community support.

A project that scores high in priority in many categories may show up in the mid-term bucket due to difficulty in implementation, lack of operational sustainability, or other challenges. The buckets provide a road map toward making the system vision a reality, project by project. The identified near-term priority projects, alongside other city capital improvements, will inform the five-year capital improvement project list. As new park system projects arise and other projects are accomplished, the capital improvement project list will be revisited and updated.

Projects are placed in a timeline-defined priority bucket according to the overall project score. However, some project features may occur outside its bucket’s timeline. For example, identifying site location and design work might take place years before construction is funded. Similarly, land acquisition may occur years before design. For realities of implementation, some projects are divided into smaller entities that focus on different themes and/or priority timelines.

### ***Implementation Reality Example: Central Park***

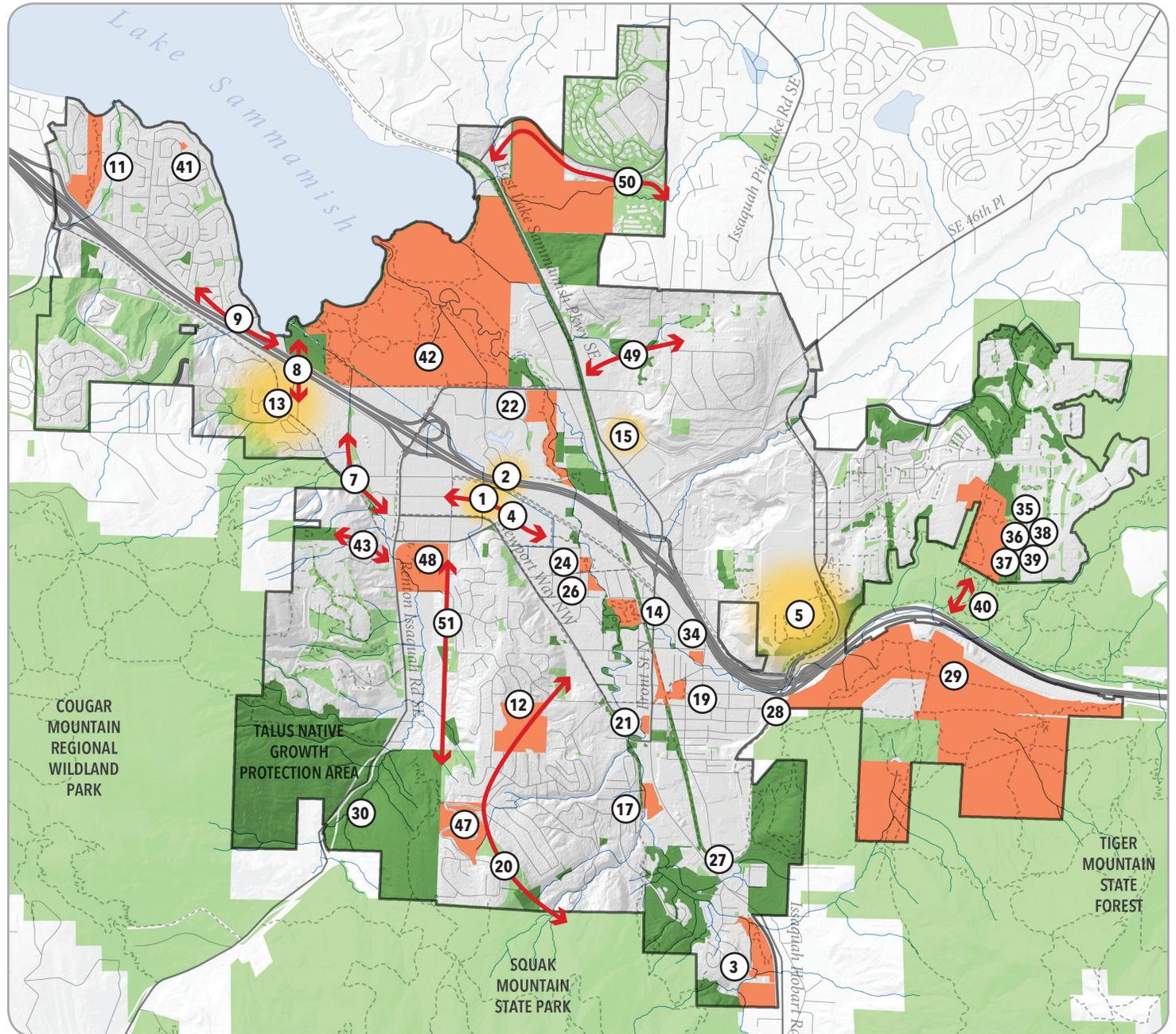
Central Park is a large property encompassing many themes. Six individual Central Park projects are proposed, each with its own primary theme and prioritization.

- Park to Valley Trail*** (near term, Connectivity)
- Bike Skills/Pump Track*** (near term, Active Lifestyles)
- Pad 2*** (near term, Active Lifestyles)
- Pad 3 Turf Replacement*** (near term, Active Lifestyles)
- Pad 4 Development and the Pad 1 parking lot*** (mid term, Placemaking)
- Open Space*** (long term, A Vital Environment)

# CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

## Strategic Projects

-  Public Parks, Open Space, Conservation Properties
-  Parks and Open Space: Private and outside City Limits
-  Parks Strategic Projects
-  Parks Strategic Connections
-  Parks Strategic Areas Identified for future parks



## Strategic Project List

- 1 CENTRAL ISSAQUAH URBAN PARKS
- 2 SOUND TRANSIT STATION URBAN PLAZA/ PARK
- 3 SQUAK VALLEY PARK / SQUAK VALLEY PARK NORTH
- 4 MALL STREET TRAIL: *Green Necklace 4B*
- 5 WEST ISSAQUAH HIGHLANDS PARK
- 6 PLAYGROUNDS - 'PLAY PLAN': *no locations identified*
- 7 TIBBETTS CREEK TRAILS
- 8 I-90 CROSSING - NEWPORT TO LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK
- 9 NW SAMMAMISH ROAD (SOUTH COVE TO LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK TRAIL)
- 10 PICNIC SHELTERS: *no locations identified*
- 11 TIMBERLAKE PARK
- 12 HILLSIDE PARK
- 13 GATEWAY PARK / NEWPORT PARK
- 14 CONFLUENCE PARK
- 15 EAST LAKE PARK
- 16 VALLEY TRAIL / CREEKSIDE ACQUISITIONS: *refer to the Creek Corridor discussion*
- 17 INGI JOHNSON PARK
- 18 TRAIL CONNECTIONS (NORTH/CENTRAL/ SOUTH): *no locations identified*
- 19 VETERANS MEMORIAL FIELD / DEPOT PARK / PEDESTRIAN PARK
- 20 SQUAK MOUNTAIN TO VALLEY/ DOWNTOWN
- 21 FRONT STREET PARK (ISSAQUAH CREEK)
- 22 PICKERING BARN PARK
- 23 RAINIER TRAIL CORRIDOR: *refer to Systemwide Vision discussion*
- 24 SALMON RUN NATURE PARK
- 25 MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY CORRIDOR TRAIL: *refer to Systemwide Vision discussion*
- 26 BERNTSEN PARK
- 27 PSE / SOUTH 2ND / RAINIER TRAILHEAD
- 28 EAST SUNSET TRAILHEAD
- 29 LAKE TRADITION PLATEAU/PARK
- 30 SR 900 / COUGAR (BEAR RIDGE TRAILHEAD)
- 31 SPRAY PARK: *no location identified*
- 32 DOG PARK(S): *no location(s) identified*
- 33 COMMUNITY GARDEN: *no location identified*
- 34 CORRA PARK
- 35 CENTRAL PARK - PAD 2
- 36 CENTRAL PARK - PAD 3 TURF REPLACEMENT
- 37 CENTRAL PARK - PAD 4 DEVELOPMENT (including Pad 1 parking)
- 38 CENTRAL PARK BIKE SKILLS / PUMP TRACK
- 39 CENTRAL PARK OPEN SPACE
- 40 CENTRAL PARK TO VALLEY TRAIL
- 41 BLACKBERRY PARK
- 42 LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK - FIELD USE / TURF / IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP
- 43 TALUS TO TIBBETTS VALLEY PARK TRAIL
- 44 HILLSIDE ACQUISITIONS: *no locations identified*
- 45 I-90 CROSSING - LAKE TRADITION TO CENTRAL PARK: *no location identified*
- 46 ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT - FIELD USE / TURF / IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP: *no locations identified*
- 47 FOREST RIM TRAILHEAD
- 48 TIBBETTS VALLEY PARK
- 49 PARK HILL / N. ISSAQUAH TRAIL AREA
- 50 LAUGHING JACOBS CREEK TRAIL
- 51 TIBBETTS VALLEY PARK TO SQUAK TRAIL

## Operational Strategic Projects

Projects more operational in nature will be addressed administratively and will be worked into the annual operating, capital or project budgets as appropriate. These projects are not included in the project prioritization.

### RECREATION FACILITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Conduct a strategic planning effort on city indoor recreation facilities to evaluate current performance, needs and strategies for meeting growing community needs. Existing facilities would include the Issaquah Community Center, the Julius Boehm Pool, the Senior Center, Tibbetts Creek Manor, Pickering Barn, and other facilities. This planning effort will include extensive public outreach.

### INITIATE URBAN FOREST/GREEN ISSAQUAH PROGRAM

Create a management plan for Issaquah's natural resource lands and urban forest. This work will include an evaluation of current forest condition and an update of the City's tree canopy coverage. An ongoing stewardship plan will foster volunteer opportunities for residents and add capacity for this important work. A potential partner for this work could be Forterra or University of Washington Urban Ecology Research Laboratory.

### IMPROVED PARK SIGNAGE / TRAIL WAYFINDING

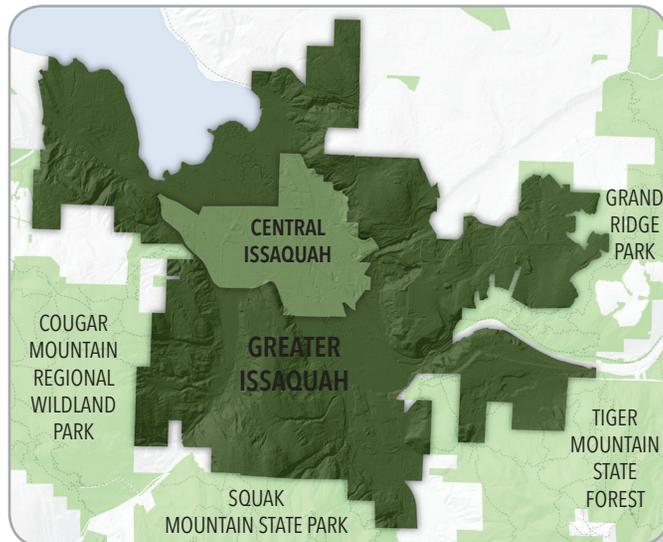
Through standardization of signage, park and trail users will easily identify public parks from other park spaces. This branding needs to be incorporated into park monument, wayfinding signs and informational signs throughout Issaquah's parks, trails and open spaces. This design process will include public engagement.

### INITIATE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK GRANT PROGRAM

Initiate a neighborhood improvement grant program where neighborhoods or owner's associations may apply to the city for matching funds to improve a public park property. These grants would be issued on an annual basis and can range in size depending upon the number of applicants in any given year and can address a multitude of park improvements. A neighborhood grant program fosters community, the community relationship, and interest in the public park system.

# SYSTEM WIDE CORRIDORS

Two anchor corridors become the connecting threads of the park and city system tying together city parks, green spaces, trails, Central Issaquah's Green Necklace vision, all the city neighborhoods, and regional connections beyond the city. The diversity and location of parks provides access and service to all residents, while the corridors provide further connection to nature and each other. Together, they create a unified vision for the park system and their connection points add strength which is to be celebrated. The framework of the connective corridors exist today.



## *The Creek Corridor*

The Creek Corridor is Issaquah's primary north-south corridor of parks and trails that serves as the anchor and primary feature of Issaquah's park system. This network is realized by connecting parks, trails, and properties along Issaquah Creek acquired for riparian habitat conservation. The Creek Corridor includes the Rainier Trail.

***The Rainier Trail Corridor:*** This urban trail is a rails-to-trails conversion that runs from the southeast end of town where Front Street intersects 2nd Avenue to the north at the Three Trails Crossing where Front Street, the Juniper-Gilman Boulevard intersection, and the East Lake Sammamish Trail meet. This trail is primarily off right-of-way, highly utilized, and is a valuable intracity conduit for connecting park elements.

## *The Mountains to Sound Corridor*

Primarily an urban trail, this corridor creates the primary east-west connection through the city and beyond, connecting to the north-south Creek Corridor and Rainier Trail Corridor in Central Issaquah. Parts of the trail exist as intuitive connections through and beyond the city—parts of the trail need partnerships for a continued intuitive experience.

***The Green Necklace:*** In early 2018, the Parks and Recreation Department collaborated with the Development Services Department, Long Range Planning, the Park Board, and the Planning Policy Commission to refine the Central Issaquah Green Necklace vision. The Green Necklace vision provides major public non-motorized connections that:

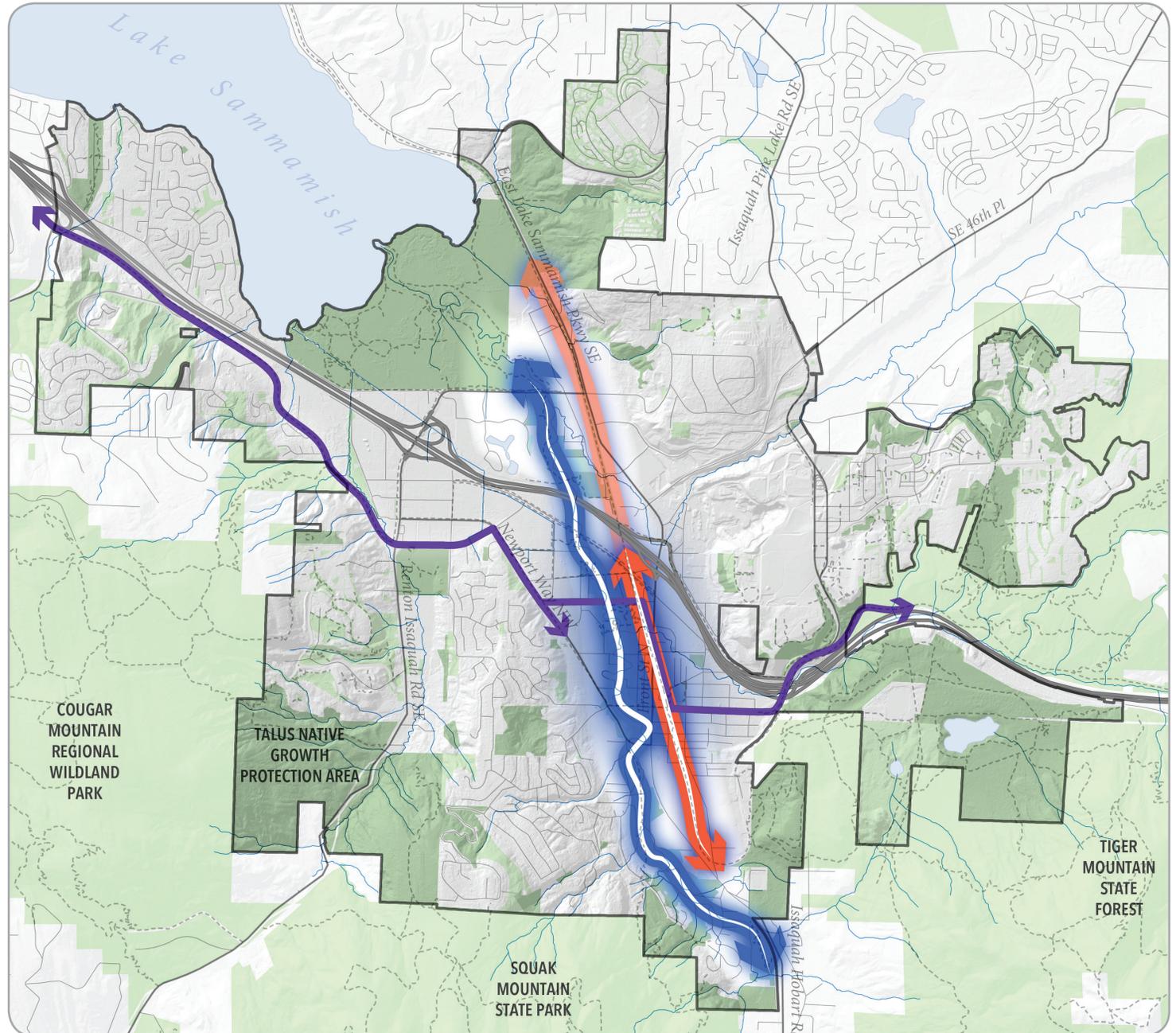
1. Define a public system that supports Central Issaquah redevelopment;
2. Serve and support broader Issaquah; and
3. Unify/connect both of those areas with the Issaquah Alps, to Lake Sammamish State Park, and other surrounding public lands.

*Anchor Corridors*

 The Creek Corridor is a north-south Creek Walk created by connecting parks, trails, and riparian habitat properties.

 The Rainier Trail Corridor is part of the Creek Corridor. An urban rails-to-trails path running north-south that continues north as the East Lake Sammamish Trail, this trail is a strong connecting conduit in the city.

 The Mountains to Sound Corridor is a strong east-west connection in Issaquah and beyond.



## *The Creek Corridor*

The Creek Corridor is Issaquah's north-south network of parks and trails that serves as the primary feature of Issaquah's park system. Traveling alongside Issaquah Creek, the Creek Corridor offers a compelling experience and unique placemaking within a vital environment providing a multitude of active lifestyle opportunities achieved through connecting our current public spaces and other innovative actions.

The Creek Corridor has been partially realized. The Parks and Recreation Department, through the Issaquah Creek Waterways Program, has been acquiring creekside properties for aquatic and riparian habitat conservation and wildlife corridors (refer to the Habitat Conservation Account, Appendix I). Connections between these properties become the Creek Corridor, providing public access to this beautiful resource. Historically a barrier, the creek becomes a point of connection between neighborhoods.

The Creek Corridor weaves through the valley floor for the entire length of the city, connecting city districts, neighborhoods and businesses and serving as a gateway to Issaquah's natural areas: Tiger Mountain and Squak Mountains to the south, Lake Sammamish to the north, and Issaquah Creek. As a vibrant public space, the Creek Corridor provides social, environmental and economic benefits to the community.

As this network of parks and trails is formalized and takes on its own identity with Issaquah residents, a new name may be determined.

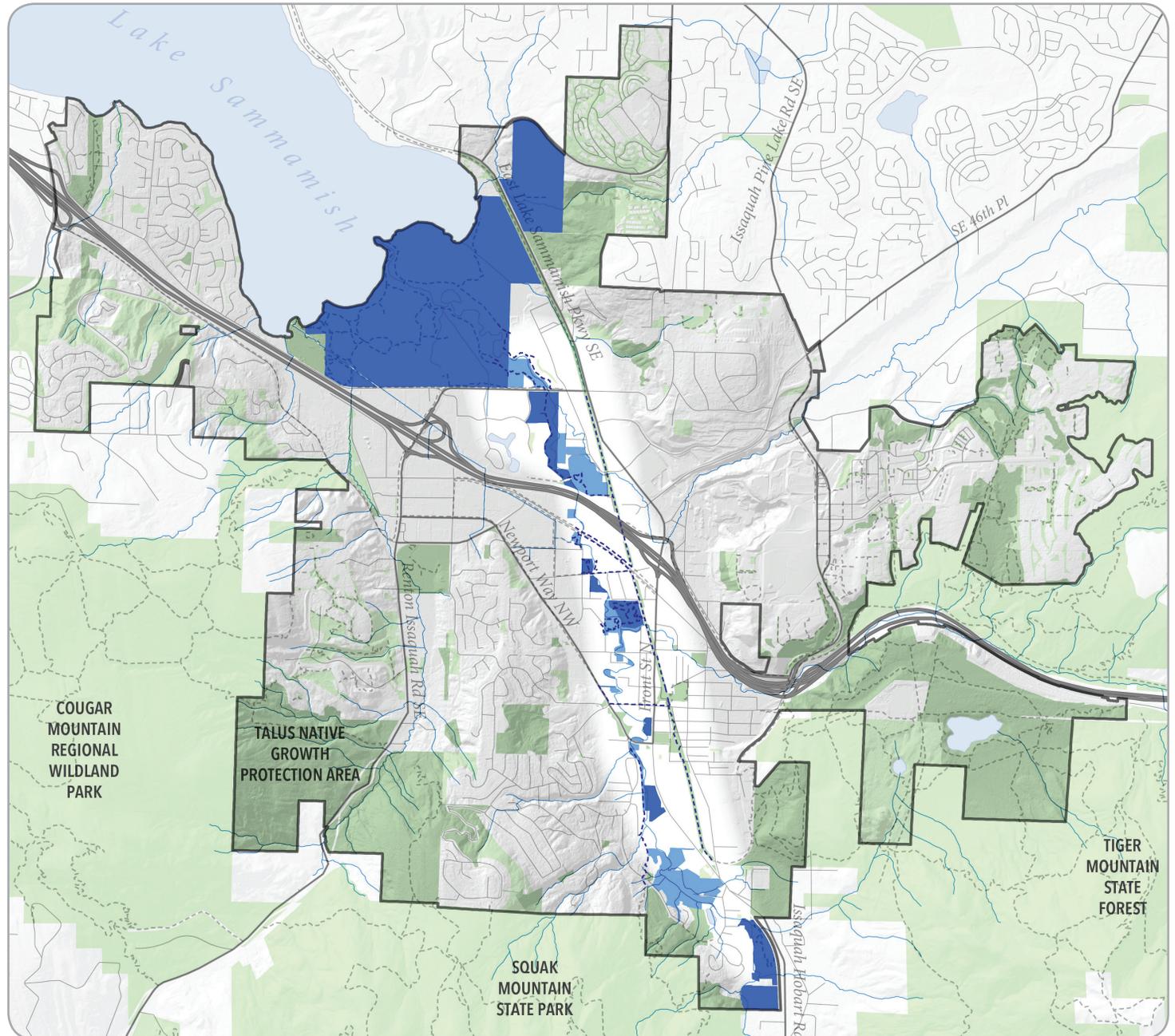
### ***Successful implementation of the Creek Corridor vision will require:***

- Annual investment in and prioritization of parks, open space and trail projects that are part of the Creek Corridor.
- Funding such as city funds, partnerships, grants, bonds and other innovative means for financing the completion of the Creek Corridor connections.
- Developing clear documentation of property ownership, easement and maintenance obligations for the various segments within the Creek Corridor.
- Continued coordination with new development in support of the Creek Corridor vision.
- Coordination and investment in the upkeep and maintenance needs of the Creek Corridor.
- Understanding of funding methods and sources that were utilized to purchase associated city property in order to identify any underlying development or use restrictions.
- Thoughtful acquisition of property and/or access routes that provide purposeful and needed connections.
- Development of a clear signage/kiosk/directional plan to foster effective circulation throughout the city.

*The Creek Corridor*

The Creek Corridor is created by connecting public parks, City Open Space, Conservation Properties, and existing trails.

-  Public Parks
-  City Open Space and Conservation Properties
-  Trails



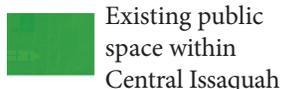
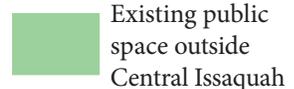
# The Green Necklace

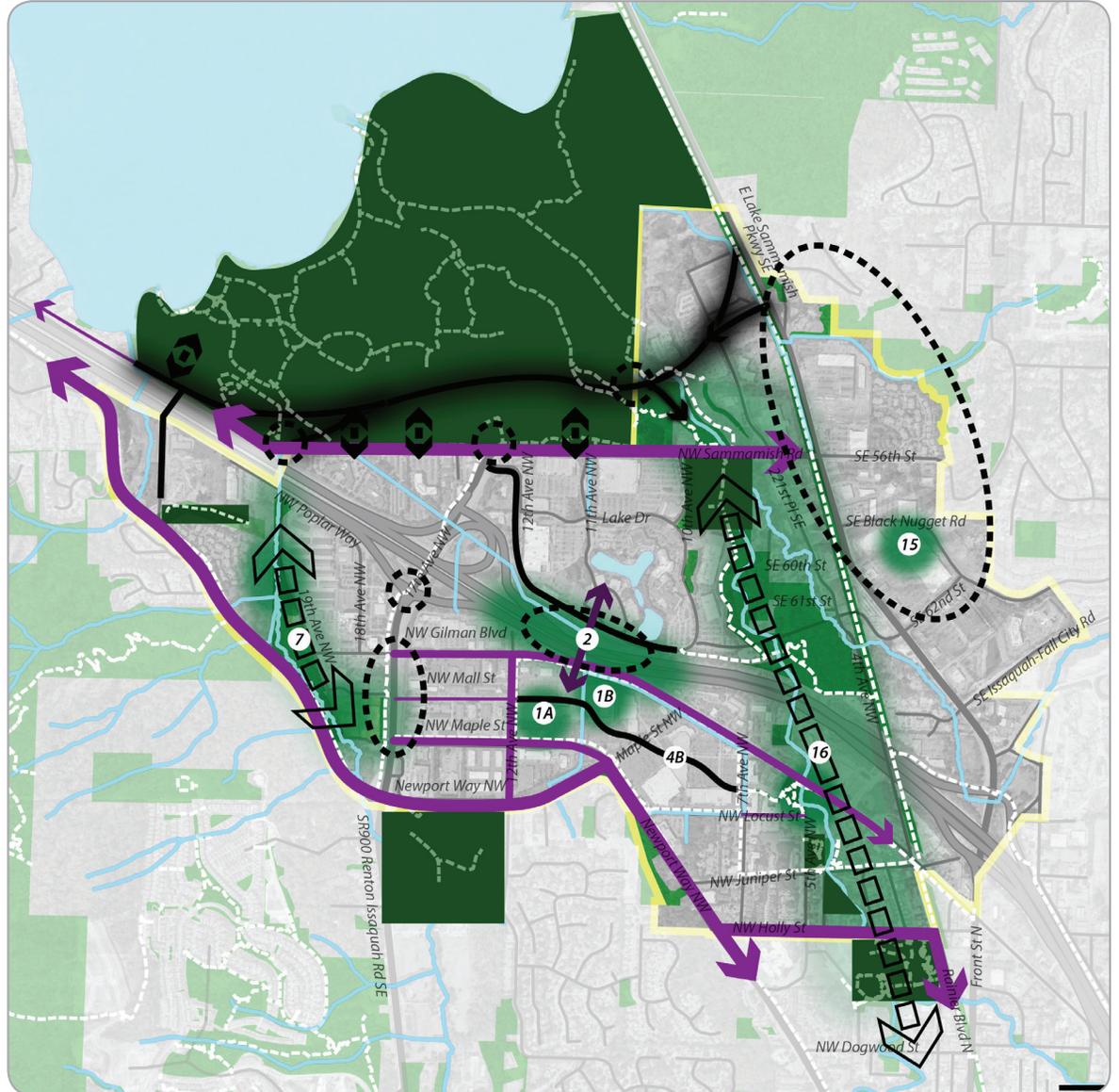
The Green Necklace designates a public vision of major connective and experiential opportunities for bikes, pedestrians, and vehicles, connecting within Central Issaquah and to the surrounding areas. The parks system wide vision and Strategic Project List integrate seamlessly with the Green Necklace vision. Parks Strategic Projects 1, 2, 4, 7, 15, and 16 (shown on the adjacent map) are reflected in Central Issaquah's Green Necklace; Project 16 is the Creek Corridor, while Newport and Holly are identified to complete the Mountains to Sound Corridor.

The Green Necklace and parks system wide vision work together to promote access throughout Issaquah and to the surrounding native mountainsides.

Refer to Chapter 7 for the full Green Necklace Plan and character elements.

**Legend (proposed connections):**

-  Pedestrian and bike proposed connection, no cars.
-  Pedestrian and bike proposed connections to cross major barrier.
-  Existing Trails  
Central Issaquah Boundary
-  Streets with multipurpose paths and sidewalks.
-  Streets that provide a 'linear urban park' experience.
-  Streets with a pedestrian and bike centric experience.
-  Existing major public space
-  Proposed major public space or connection.
-  Existing public space within Central Issaquah
-  Existing public space outside Central Issaquah





*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*

## *The Vision*

Connect residents and visitors to nature and each other through a vibrant parks and trails system within the city, neighborhoods and regional lands that provide recreation and outdoor activities for a balanced, healthy and inclusive mountain, lake and valley community.





# STRATEGIC PROJECTS PLACEMAKING

*Collaborate with the community to reimagine and reinvest in Issaquah's public spaces, parks and trails. Maximize value and strengthen the connection between people and the parks/trails they share.*



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography

near term

## DOG PARK(S) \$



Strategic Project 32: Create public off-leash dog park(s) within the city. Existing parks may be utilized or new land may be acquired for this specific use. The dog park location(s), size and amenities will be determined through a public engagement process.

## PICNIC SHELTERS / FURNITURE \$



Strategic Project 10: Encourage outdoor active and passive use through the addition of more picnic shelters, benches, tables, trash cans and other site furnishings such as bike racks, lighting, etc. Well-located picnic shelters are excellent community gathering spaces. Picnic shelter rental may generate additional revenue.

long facets

## VETERANS MEMORIAL FIELD / DEPOT PARK / PEDESTRIAN PARK \$\$\$



Strategic Project 19: These three adjoining parks are nestled in Olde Town (downtown) Issaquah. A comprehensive master plan is needed to collectively activate park spaces, create additional gathering spaces and expand recreational opportunities beyond the existing baseball diamond and playground. Redevelopment of these park spaces will better support residents needs and activity in downtown Issaquah and around the City Hall campus including the Senior Center. This combined park is a primary activity node along the Creek Corridor. Design and public outreach will be the first step in this process. Park construction may be phased and take place in future years (*long-term facet*).

Central Park is a large property with the potential to contribute strongly to each theme proposed in this parks plan. There are six individual projects proposed within Central Park, each with its own primary theme.



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography



mid term

BLACKBERRY PARK \$



Strategic Project 41: Upgrade this newly acquired neighborhood park to meet city standards and provide additional play opportunities and gathering space.

CENTRAL PARK - PAD 4 DEVELOPMENT (including Pad 1 parking) \$\$\$



Strategic Project 37: Improve, maximize, and activate existing undeveloped Pad 4 park land in accordance with the Central Park Master Site Development Plan updated in 2016. Public outreach demonstrated the community's desire to create an open grass lawn area with additional picnic shelters and education area. Pad 1 parking area construction should be included with Pad 4 development to achieve economy of scale benefits. Prior to construction, final design for the Pad 1 parking lot and the Pad 4 concept will need to be completed.

COMMUNITY GARDEN \$



Strategic Project 33: The creation of more community garden space throughout Issaquah's parks system for rental and seasonal use will support a growing community need and interest. The location of community gardens may vary depending upon need, availability of water, access and environmental conditions such as light. With the ability to grow food alongside fellow residents, healthy vibrant and sustainable communities can be built through gardening.

SPRAY PARK \$\$



Strategic Project 31: The creation of a new outdoor spray/water play park for persons of all ages and abilities. Summers in Issaquah are delightful and meant to be enjoyed. Though a location for this amenity is yet to be determined, the design should consider secondary off-season uses, sport court or gathering space. The inclusion of a splash park within one of the city's community parks or well-positioned along the Creek Corridor could serve as a vibrant gathering space and provide numerous community benefits.

*"I really enjoy using our parks with my family and am very hopeful to see existing city lands improved and expanded especially near our rivers. Please connect properties and add additional lands now while still possible."*

*Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement*



*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*

long term

### BERNTSEN PARK \$



Strategic Project 26: Reimagine and connect Berntsen Park as part of the greater Confluence Park area. Located just downstream of Confluence Park, Berntsen Park is underutilized and can better serve the community through activating the space. Potential improvements may include picnic tables, benches and restrooms. As part of the Creek Corridor, a broader Confluence Park master planning effort needs to be conducted to further develop ideas for connecting and activating this park with neighboring park properties.

mid near facets

### CONFLUENCE PARK \$\$\$



Strategic Project 14: Confluence Park offers nature's solitude for residents living in Central Issaquah's urban core and Olde Town neighborhoods. As a major park along the Creek Corridor, park visitors have access to Issaquah Creek and can watch salmon, bald eagles and deer, and children may play on a small playground near the community garden. Remaining master plan developments include the relocation of the City's Parks Maintenance Facilities and bridging the east fork of Issaquah Creek (**long-term facet**); restoration of the Ek House for public use, and lawn improvements including irrigation (**near-term facet**). Confluence Park may potentially be expanded by acquiring adjacent property, including a connection from 3rd Avenue to Dodd Fields. Future Holly Street improvements will provide more onsite parking (**near- to mid-term facet**).

### CORRA PARK \$\$\$



Strategic Project 34: Currently a life estate, this creekside property will require reinvestment to develop it into a city park. This park's location lends itself to easy connections to Veteran's Memorial Park, Confluence Park and Gilman Boulevard, as well as a vital node along the Creek Corridor.

*"Let's accelerate our investment in Parks and Open Spaces to reflect our community pride and recreational opportunities in this growing city."*

*Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement*



long term

EAST LAKE PARK \$\$



Strategic Project 15: This location is identified for a neighborhood park and/or plaza that celebrates views of Mount Rainier, surrounding nature and the sunset while integrating gathering, relaxing, and active spaces. Surrounding buildings will respond to and activate the park. If possible, locate with an amenity/vendor that will offer food/drinks to further enhance this public space.

SALMON RUN NATURE PARK \$



Strategic Project 24: Salmon Run Nature Park is considered part of the greater Confluence Park area. Located just downstream of Berntsen Park, Salmon Run Nature Park is underutilized and can better serve the community through activating the space. Potential improvements may include additional picnic tables, benches and restrooms. As part of the Creek Corridor, a broader Confluence Park master planning effort needs to be conducted to further develop ideas for connecting and activating this park with neighboring park properties.





# STRATEGIC PROJECTS CONNECTIVITY

*Connect our parks and public spaces to make a unified system that serves the entire city and beyond.*



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography

near term

## CENTRAL PARK TO VALLEY TRAIL \$\$



Strategic Project 40: Central Park is the Highlands trailhead. This project will provide a trail connection from Central Park in the Issaquah Highlands down to the Issaquah/Preston Trail and connect to the valley trail network. The project may use existing trails or require construction of new multi-use paved trails to connect Issaquah residents to the valley floor.

long facets

## MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY CORRIDOR TRAIL 🤝 \$\$\$



Strategic Project 25: Continue the vision of the regional east-west trail through Issaquah as it connects Seattle to the Cascades and Eastern Washington. Connection end points are the High Point Trail to the east and the City of Bellevue boundary along Newport Way to the west. The Mountains to Sound Greenway Corridor Trail may be both on and off right of way as it moves through the city offering opportunities for people to rest by the creek, eat food or shop. Integrated coordination with Public Works, Development Service Department, and other agencies is an essential part of this project becoming a reality. Identification and planning of the trail location will likely occur in the **near-term** prior to trail construction, which may likely take place in later years (**long-term facet**).

*“The ultimate goal should be a series of connected parks, where feasible, that can be accessed via walking or biking. Continue to emphasize and enhance access to the natural beauty of our wonderful mountains, valleys & streams.”*

Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography



near term

long facets

mid facets

NW SAMMAMISH ROAD (South Cove to Lake Sammamish State Park Trail) \$\$\$



Strategic Project 9: Work with Public Works Engineering to improve pedestrian access from the South Cove neighborhood into the Sammamish Cove Park and Lake Sammamish State Park. Providing this connection will promote pedestrian access to recreational features where currently no access exists. The location and type of pathway is yet to be determined. Design work is likely to occur in the *near-term*, while actual trail construction may take place in the *long-term*.

PICKERING BARN PARK \$\$



Strategic Project 22: Integrate the Pickering Barn and its park space with the neighboring Pickering Trail. Future improvements would include enhanced park and recreational experiences while promoting a community gathering space, including the Farmer's Market. A master plan will need to be created to enhance this critical piece of the Creek Corridor. Improvements will enhance the community experience through recreation, facility rental, and as a community gathering space.

RAINIER TRAIL CORRIDOR \$\$



Strategic Project 23: Utilize and enhance the existing Rainier Trail Corridor to create a more intuitive trail connection as it enters Central Issaquah. This project includes demolishing and repurposing the old skate park location. The Rainier Trail is mostly an off right-of-way trail and is the primary thoroughfare through Olde Town. Its intersection with the East Lake Sammamish Parkway Trail provides a regional connection and is a vital component of the Creek Corridor. Activity nodes along the Rainier Trail will offer new opportunities and/or revitalized amenities to trail users.

TIBBETTS CREEK TRAILS \$\$



Strategic Project 7: The Tibbetts Creek trail system will double as a public space for the city, providing areas for pausing or gathering (*mid-term facet*). These public trails are currently in progress via developer agreements (*near-term facet*).



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography

*“Connectivity of the regional trail system should be high on the list. Not only is this a great asset to the community, it will bring more spending from people outside our area who would come to enjoy it.”*

*Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement*

near term

VALLEY TRAIL / CREEKSIDE ACQUISITIONS  \$\$\$



Strategic Project 16: Acquire land and creekside properties in support of the Creek Corridor, the north-south network of parks and trails that serve as the compelling primary feature of Issaquah’s Park System. The Creek Corridor will promote habitat preservation, create a valley trail system and connect park properties. The connections will span from Squak Valley Park to Central Issaquah and Lake Sammamish State Park. As a vibrant public space, the Creek Corridor interacts with and supports many city districts, neighborhoods, businesses and properties by providing the community with essential social, environmental and economic benefits. Essential to integration and coordination of specific corridors and connections is the support of the Central Issaquah Plan and Green Necklace vision.

mid term

FRONT STREET PARK (Issaquah Creek)  \$\$\$



Strategic Project 21: Develop a master plan and eventually construct a viable park space for this unique creekside park. This park welcomes visitors from the south to Olde Town and offers a great potential for creekside enjoyment, recreational use, and economic development with its connection to Olde Town. As a part of the Creek Corridor, the Front Street Park with its connection to Veterans Memorial Field, Pedestrian Park, Depot Park, and the Julius Boehm Pool and Issaquah Community Center, collectively make this park a vital asset in the city's park system. Though a high priority for the community, *near-term* work including property preparation, additional acquisition and design will need to occur prior to construction which will likely occur in the *mid-term*.

near facets

INGI JOHNSON PARK \$\$



Strategic Project 17: Create recreational opportunities, improve natural habitat and create a neighborhood park that could serve nearby residents in the Valley and Squak Mountain neighborhoods. Currently under a conservation easement, uses of this incredible park space can better serve both residents on the valley floor and Squak Mountain neighborhoods.



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography



mid term

### LAUGHING JACOBS CREEK TRAIL \$\$



Strategic Project 50: Extend trail connection from Sammamish along the old railroad grade down to East Lake Sammamish Parkway. This trail will provide access to Providence Point, which currently is an isolated section of the city. Final alignment of this trail is yet to be determined. Coordination with the city of Sammamish, private and new development and potentially King County will be required to finalize this connection.

near long facets

### MALL STREET TRAIL \$\$



Strategic Project 4: NW Mall Street continues east as a pedestrian/bike only Mall Street Trail, connecting to trails at 7th Ave NW and creating a major east-west trail connection to the south of I-90. Planning is anticipated to be in the *near-term* with construction occurring in the *long-term*.

long facets

### SQUAK MOUNTAIN TO VALLEY / DOWNTOWN \$\$



Strategic Project 20: Provide a trail connection from Squak Mountain to the valley floor and downtown Issaquah. Preferred access routes are yet to be determined; however, the community will be engaged to determine preferred route(s). One preliminary link could potentially be through Hillside Park or other city open space.

### SQUAK VALLEY PARK / SQUAK VALLEY PARK NORTH \$\$



Strategic Project 3: Connection of the north park and south park will create a larger more vibrant destination park in southern Issaquah and will serve as a gateway park serving Squak Mountain (the southern end of the Creek Corridor). This park will not only serve various recreational needs (both passive and active), it will provide access to Issaquah Creek and will also serve as a trailhead for the Squak Mountain trail system. A future crossing of Issaquah Creek will be needed and barriers removed to allow for unhindered access throughout the park. Project initiation is anticipated to begin in the *mid-term* with completion in the *long-term*.



mid term

TALUS TO TIBBETTS VALLEY PARK TRAIL 🤝 \$\$



Strategic Project 43: Provide a trail connection from the Talus neighborhood to Tibbetts Valley Park and adjacent transit center. Alignment of this trail is yet to be determined; however, it will provide a critical connection for a large segment of Issaquah's community.

long term

PARK HILL / NORTH ISSAQUAH TRAIL AREA 🤝 \$\$



Strategic Project 49: This project would connect the existing trails from the neighborhoods above Fred Meyer (south of 48th Street), through the Park Hill open space down to the valley floor along East Lake Sammamish Boulevard. Location of this trail connection has yet to be determined, and its design may take place in the *near to mid term*.

near

SOUND TRANSIT STATION URBAN PLAZA / PARK 🤝 \$\$\$



Strategic Project 2: This potential location for the future Sound Transit station could connect over or under I-90. This over/under connection will provide an urban plaza and/or park space.

TIBBETTS VALLEY PARK TO SQUAK TRAIL \$\$



Strategic Project 51: The Green Necklace identifies a non-motorized trail connection along 12th Avenue to Tibbetts Valley Park. The continuation of this trail connection to existing city open space will fulfill a longstanding goal to connect King County Land and the Cedar River Trail on Squak Mountain.



# STRATEGIC PROJECTS INNOVATIVE ACTION

*Use innovative thinking and planning to creatively maximize the park system and provide high-quality recreational opportunities for all Issaquah residents. Foster partnerships to achieve greater public good and financial sustainability.*



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography

near term

## GATEWAY PARK / NEWPORT PARK \$\$\$



Strategic Project 13: Create/provide a city park for residents in this area of the city and provide access to Newport Way. This park will provide public park recreational opportunities in an area of town where currently, none exist. A defined shared-use route will provide off-right-of way access. As this park is developed, the surrounding community will be engaged in the design process.

long facets  
mid

## TRAIL CONNECTIONS (NORTH / CENTRAL / SOUTH) \$\$\$



Strategic Project 18: In order to accomplish the complete vision of the Creek Corridor, implementation will need to occur in phases. Improvements may logically be broken up into three major sections (north, central and south), with each section being developed in phases. Concentrated improvements along the Creek Corridor will demonstrate its connectivity value and improve livability. Design and public outreach is likely to occur in the **near-term** with construction following in the **mid to long term**.

mid term  
near

## ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT \$\$\$ FIELD USE / TURF / IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP



Strategic Project 46: Seek partnerships with the Issaquah School District to create community sports fields that benefit school and community use to balance demand and needs throughout Issaquah. Design and community outreach is a **near-term facet** of this project.



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography



mid term

near facets

long near facets

long term

near

near facets

mid

LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK \$\$\$  
FIELD USE / TURF / IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP



Strategic Project 42: Seek partnership with Lake Sammamish State Park to improve year-round sports field use and increase capacity. Various field locations throughout the park could be explored as part of the Environmental Impact Study process that the city and state parks are partnering on in 2018. Design and community outreach is a *near-term facet* of this project. In addition, use of adjacent city lands will be a consideration.

PLAYGROUNDS - 'PLAY PLAN' (New Play Areas) \$



Strategic Project 6: Develop and create new, innovative and modern play spaces throughout our park system in order to provide unique and diversified opportunities for various ages and abilities. Location of these play features will be determined during the development of the Play Plan. Some potential examples are a climbing wall, outdoor music stations, adventure play, an all-access playground or an outdoor workout stations. Aspects of this project may occur in both the *near and long term*.

CENTRAL ISSAQUAH URBAN PARKS  \$\$\$



Strategic Project 1: Acquire/develop property for two public scale urban parks and/or plazas within Central Issaquah to promote community gathering and activities. This vibrant public space will provide opportunities for day and night activities, community events, and serve as a primary feature within Central Issaquah's "Green Necklace." Acquisition of property requires *near-term* action whereas development is *long term*.

I-90 CROSSING LAKE TRADITION TO CENTRAL PARK  \$\$\$



Strategic Project 45: The I-90 crossing from Tradition Plateau to Central Park will be driven by a greater transportation improvement project due to the magnitude and complexity of this crossing. Likely future project partners are the Washington Department of Transportation, Sound Transit, and the city's Public Works Engineering. *Near- to mid-term* planning, design, and coordination work is likely.

*“Parks should 'double down' on property acquisition around/adjacent to the creek to simultaneously restore the creek and its buffer and provide a shared-use trail connecting people, bicyclists, and salmon. This celebrated water body is the heartbeat of our city and should be highlighted as a means to pull the community together to recreate, connect, learn, and enjoy our streams and natural places as an inspired example of urban ecology...”*

*Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement*

long term  
near

### I-90 CROSSING NEWPORT TO LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK



Strategic Project 8: The I-90 crossing from Newport Way to Lake Sammamish State Park will be driven by a greater transportation improvement project due to the magnitude and complexity of this crossing. Likely future project partners are the Washington Department of Transportation, Sound Transit, and the city's Public Works Engineering. *Near- to mid-term* planning, design and coordination work is likely.

### WEST ISSAQUAH HIGHLANDS PARK \$\$\$



Strategic Project 5: As the Issaquah Highlands neighborhoods to the west of Highlands Drive develop, a new public park will need to support Issaquah residents in this area. The city will need to acquire and/or develop land in order to provide and develop this public park space. Amenities included in this park will be determined through a public engagement and a master planning process.



*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*



# STRATEGIC PROJECTS A VITAL ENVIRONMENT

*Manage, steward, and celebrate our natural environment. Balance active and passive recreation without thinking of them as separate entities.*



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography

*"Issaquah's unique geography and natural treasures are priceless."*

Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement

near term	<p><b>HILLSIDE ACQUISITIONS</b>  \$\$\$</p> <p>    Strategic Project 44: Acquire forest hillside land to preserve Issaquah's character, protect the native environment, and provide recreational opportunities. Properties which provide connection to or link adjacent park properties are to be considered a priority.</p>
mid facets	<p><b>HILLSIDE PARK</b> \$\$</p> <p>   Strategic Project 12: Improve recreational opportunities and experiences provided at Hillside Park with the addition of unique natural play opportunities, improved trail connectivity through the property and other site furnishings and amenities. Currently this park is walk-in only. Improve city-wide access by improving pedestrian access (sidewalk and trail) and possibly providing parking. A master plan with public engagement will be the first step in this work. Full site master planning will be a <i>near term</i> project, while the cemetery, park, trail connectivity, and other neighborhood infrastructure needs may be <i>mid to long term</i>.</p>
mid term	<p><b>LAKE TRADITION PLATEAU/PARK</b> \$\$\$</p> <p>    Strategic Project 29: Improve outdoor, trail and lake recreational opportunities while improving the overall trailhead experience. Provision of fishing piers and enhancement of fishing opportunities, picnicking, environmental education, additional parking, trail and connections and enhancements will improve the overall experience to access both Washington State lands and Issaquah's valley floor. Opportunities for habitat restoration within the Tradition Plateau are plentiful. As one of the state's most heavily used trailheads, Tradition Plateau is the gateway to outdoor recreation. A collaborative master planning effort with Washington State Department of Natural Resources and King County Parks is a first step in this work being achieved and likely to occur in the <i>near term</i>.</p>
near facets	

*“The Issaquah area has great natural beauty, but without careful stewardship the views, trees and wetlands that we treasure could be put at risk.”*

*Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement*



*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*

mid term

**TIMBERLAKE PARK \$\$\$**

Strategic Project 11: Located along the Lake-to-Locks Trail and with almost 400 lineal feet of shoreline along Lake Sammamish, Timberlake Park is in the perfect location to increase beach access and other recreational opportunities within the park. Currently the park is restricted to passive use due to a conservation easement. However, day uses such as kayaking and picnicking needs could easily enhance park use and activity. A master plan with public engagement will be the first step in this work.

long term

**CENTRAL PARK OPEN SPACE \$**

Strategic Project 39: Improve, maximize, and activate existing adjacent open space in accordance with the Central Park Master Site Development Plan. Additional trails, improvements, and activities may be introduced into this space to increase accessibility while conserving natural resources.





# STRATEGIC PROJECTS ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

*Promote various recreation opportunities by providing elements such as trailheads, dog parks, play spaces, and athletic fields.*



*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*

***“Convert our baseball fields to turf fields. This is the Pacific Northwest so it rains from October to June...”***

*Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement*

near term

## CENTRAL PARK BIKE SKILLS / PUMP TRACK \$



Strategic Project 38: Create a youth skills bike park and pump track in accordance with Issaquah Highland developer support for this project. Location has been determined, yet the design has not. The local youth biking community will be integral in the design of this project. Partnerships with local biking communities will be sought to help facilitate project success and longevity.

## CENTRAL PARK - PAD 2 \$\$\$



Strategic Project 35: Improve and maximize the existing Pad #2 baseball/softball fields to accommodate more age groups and increased play. Converting fields to artificial turf will promote year-round use. Improvements may also include further amenities.

## CENTRAL PARK - PAD 3 TURF REPLACEMENT \$\$\$



Strategic Project 36: Replace the aging Pad #3 turf and complete improvements (playground, shelter, seating, etc.) in accordance with the Central Park Master Site Development Plan.

## PSE / SOUTH 2ND / RAINIER TRAILHEAD \$



Strategic Project 27: Work with PSE to enhance and formalize the South 2nd Avenue and Rainier Trail intersection to encourage trailhead functionality and access to Tiger Mountain and the valley floor. Coordinate this project in conjunction with associated Public Works projects.



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography



PLACEMAKING CONNECTIVITY INNOVATIVE ACTION A VITAL ENVIRONMENT ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

near term

mid facets

mid

long term

mid facets

TIBBETTS VALLEY PARK \$\$\$



Strategic Project 48: Located just south of Central Issaquah's urban core, Tibbetts Valley Park is uniquely positioned as a 30-acre community park serving as a primary park within Issaquah's park system. Redevelopment of Tibbetts Valley Park will maximize field functionality by providing year-round playability for multiple sport use and regional activities. Additionally, new gathering spaces and unique park experiences will create welcoming spaces for Issaquah residents and park users. Its adjacency to the transit center also provides regional access, allowing the park to serve as a trailhead to access city trails and the regional trail system. A master plan update with public engagement will be in the *near term* of this redevelopment effort. Park reconstruction may be phased and fall into *mid or long term* phases.

FOREST RIM TRAILHEAD \$\$



Strategic Project 47: Provide a developed trailhead and formalized access at Forest Rim to the Squak/Cougar region. Access at this point may alleviate other localized trailhead pressures.

EAST SUNSET TRAILHEAD (expansion, enhancements) \$\$\$



Strategic Project 28: Expand and formalize the East Sunset Trailhead to improve functionality including the provision of amenities such as water and a restroom.

SR 900 / COUGAR (BEAR RIDGE TRAILHEAD) \$\$



Strategic Project 30: Proposed trailhead would provide a regional trailhead opportunity and would provide safe parking and access to Bear Ridge Trail, Talus Native Growth protection Area, and King County's Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. Master planning work would need to be completed prior to this trailhead becoming a major Cougar Mountain access point. This trailhead will eventually be connected to the future SR 900 trail system. Future coordination with Public Works Engineering will be required to allow for on right-of-way trail improvements along SR 900. Design and coordination work may occur in the *mid-term*.

# Strategic Projects by Priority:

## AT A GLANCE

This plan proposes prioritized Strategic Projects to achieve the Issaquah Park and Open Space Vision. This matrix groups projects by near-, mid-, and long-term priority as determined by the Project Prioritization Tool available in the Toolkit section of this document. Park system balance promoted throughout Strategic Project implementation is visualized with projects' themes. Most projects inherently embody multiple themes; a project's primary theme is highlighted with a ring. Approximate project cost and projects with potential city partnerships are indicated.

		APPROXIMATE COST	PARTNERSHIP	PLACEMAKING	CONNECTIVITY	INNOVATIVE ACTION	A VITAL ENVIRONMENT	ACTIVE LIFESTYLES
<i>near term</i>	CENTRAL PARK - PAD 2	35	\$\$\$\$		●			●
	CENTRAL PARK - PAD 3	36	\$\$\$\$		●			●
	TURF REPLACEMENT	38	\$\$\$\$		●			●
	CENTRAL PARK BIKE SKILLS / PUMP TRACK	38	\$		●			●
	CENTRAL PARK TO VALLEY TRAIL	40	\$\$			●	●	
	DOG PARK(S)	32	\$		●			●
	GATEWAY PARK/NEWPORT PARK	13	\$\$\$\$			●	●	●
	HILLSIDE ACQUISITIONS	44	\$\$\$\$	●		●	●	●
	HILLSIDE PARK	12	\$\$		●		●	●
	MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY CORRIDOR TRAIL	25	\$\$\$\$	●		●	●	●
	NW SAMMAMISH ROAD	9	\$\$\$\$	●		●		●
	PICKERING BARN PARK	22	\$\$	●		●		●
	PICNIC SHELTERS/FURNITURE	10	\$		●			●
	PSE/SOUTH 2ND/RAINIER TRAILHEAD	27	\$			●		●
	RAINIER TRAIL CORRIDOR	23	\$\$	●		●		●
	TIBBETTS CREEK TRAILS	7	\$\$	●		●	●	
	TIBBETTS VALLEY PARK	48	\$\$\$\$		●		●	●
	TRAIL CONNECTIONS (NORTH/CENTRAL/SOUTH)	18	\$\$\$\$	●		●	●	
	VALLEY TRAIL / CREEKSIDE ACQUISITIONS	16	\$\$\$\$	●		●	●	
	VETERANS MEMORIAL FIELD / DEPOT PARK/PEDESTRIAN PARK	19	\$\$\$\$		●		●	

<i>mid term</i>	BLACKBERRY PARK	41	\$			●		●
	CENTRAL PARK - PAD 4 DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING PAD 1 PARKING)	37	\$\$\$\$			●		●
	COMMUNITY GARDEN	33	\$			●		
	FOREST RIM TRAILHEAD	47	\$\$					●
	FRONT STREET PARK	21	\$\$\$\$	●		●	●	
	INGI JOHNSON PARK	17	\$\$			●	●	
	ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT - FIELD/IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP	46	\$\$\$\$				●	●
	LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK - FIELD/IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP	42	\$\$\$\$				●	●
	LAKE TRADITION PLATEAU / PARK	29	\$\$\$\$			●	●	●
	LAUGHING JACOBS CREEK TRAIL	50	\$\$			●		
	MALL STREET TRAIL	4	\$\$			●		
	PLAYGROUNDS - 'PLAY PLAN' (NEW PLAY AREAS)	6	\$			●	●	
	SPRAY PARK	31	\$\$			●		●
	SQUAK MOUNTAIN TO VALLEY / DOWNTOWN	20	\$\$	●			●	●
	SQUAK VALLEY PARK / SQUAK VALLEY PARK NORTH	3	\$\$			●	●	●
	TALUS TO TIBBETTS VALLEY PARK TRAIL	43	\$\$	●			●	●
	TIMBERLAKE PARK	11	\$\$\$\$			●	●	
<i>long term</i>	BERNTSEN PARK	26	\$			●		●
	CENTRAL ISSAQUAH URBAN PARKS	1	\$\$\$\$	●			●	
	CENTRAL PARK OPEN SPACE	39	\$			●		●
	CONFLUENCE PARK	14	\$\$\$\$	●			●	
	CORRA PARK	34	\$\$			●	●	
	EAST LAKE PARK	15	\$\$			●		
	EAST SUNSET TRAILHEAD	28	\$\$\$\$				●	●
	I-90 CROSSING - LAKE TRADITION TO CENTRAL PARK	45	\$\$\$\$	●			●	
	I-90 CROSSING - NEWPORT TO LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK	8	\$\$\$\$	●			●	
	PARK HILL / NORTH ISSAQUAH TRAIL AREA	49	\$\$	●		●		●
	SALMON RUN NATURE PARK	24	\$			●		●
	SOUND TRANSIT STATION URBAN PLAZA/PARK	2	\$\$\$\$	●			●	
	SR 900 / COUGAR (BEAR RIDGE TRAILHEAD)	30	\$\$			●		●
	TIBBETTS VALLEY PARK TO SQUAK TRAIL	51	\$\$				●	●
	WEST ISSAQUAH HIGHLANDS PARK	5	\$\$\$\$				●	





# 5

# HOW WE WILL GET THERE

The Parks Strategic Plan sets a project-based road map for achieving the vision of a connected and vibrant mountain, lake and valley community. This road map will need many facets of support to become a reality, including policy support of the big-picture vision for the park system, partnerships with public and private entities, and innovative funding strategies. In support of the vision, this chapter proposes Goals and Policies, and various potential partnerships and funding sources.

A Toolkit to keep the vision on track tests project suitability, priority, and success. These tools will assist the Parks Strategic Plan in being a dynamic document that measures steps toward plan success and reevaluates relevance of projects and vision to reflect the community's changing needs and conditions.

*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*

# GOALS AND POLICIES

The goals and policies listed herein have been modified from the 2015 Park Element of the Comprehensive Plan to more effectively guide and support of the vision for Issaquah’s park system. The public feedback received throughout the strategic planning process directly informed updates to goals and policies to ensure policy support of the big-picture vision for the park system. The next periodic update of the Park Element of the Comprehensive Plan will include these goals and policies.

## 5.1.1 Parks for Today and Future Generations

### P GOAL A

Enhance, diversify, and expand Issaquah’s parks, trails, recreation, and open space system for the Issaquah community today and for future generations.

#### **P Policy A1**

**Re-invest in our current parks, trails and public spaces.** Reinvestment improves system performance via financial investment, renovation, revisioning and maintenance.

##### **P Policy A1.1**

**Activate Park Spaces.** Further activate park spaces with additional opportunities and amenities that respond to recreation needs and trends. Where feasible and appropriate, enhance each park property to its fullest potential while honoring all property, deed and natural restrictions to provide users with maximum park and recreational opportunities and benefits.

##### **P Policy A1.2**

**Effectively Manage Open Space and Natural Resource Lands.**

Manage resource lands in a manner that protects the environment while enhancing opportunities for people to experience and enjoy these lands.

#### **P Policy A1.3**

**Athletic Fields.** Meet year-round athletic field capacity needs through maximizing current athletic fields within our parks and partnering with the Issaquah School District (ISD), Washington State Parks (Lake Sammamish State Park) and other opportunities.

#### **P Policy A1.4**

**Placemaking.** As parks and public spaces are redesigned or added, seek to apply “placemaking” principles ensuring parks and public spaces are accessible, activities engage people, the space is comfortable and there are spaces are provided for social gathering.

#### **P Policy A2**

Build on the legacy of Issaquah’s park, recreation, trail, and open space system. Expand the system to respond to growth and opportunities to complete and connect it.

##### **P Policy A2.1**

**A Connected Trail Experience.** Work locally and with regional partners to complete a connected trail system offering walkability to parks and trails within the city, as well as connections to the regional trail system that surround Issaquah. This trail system will provide valley to mountain connections.

##### **P Policy A2.2**

**Trailheads.** Smartly connect Issaquah’s city park system to the public lands and outdoor recreation opportunities that surrounds the community. Prioritize and incorporate Issaquah’s current and future network of trails and trailheads into the city park system to improve trail access for Issaquah residents and visitors.

##### **P Policy A2.3**

**Create a focused vision and strategy for the Creek Corridor.**

Provide a compelling north-south off-road valley trail network, connecting people to quality public park spaces along a vibrant corridor that extends along Issaquah Creek, from Squak Valley Park to Lake Sammamish State Park which also includes the Rainier Trail. The Creek Corridor interacts with and supports many city districts, neighborhoods, businesses and properties providing the community essential social, environmental and economic benefits. The Creek Corridor will serve as the primary feature of Issaquah’s Parks System.

**P Policy A2.4****Support the implementation of the Green Necklace.**

Create and activate non-motorized connections (on and off right-of-way), parks, plazas, and land to provide connection and experience opportunities as envisioned through the Central Issaquah Green Necklace collaborative planning effort.

**P Policy A2.5****Community and Neighborhood Park/Recreational Corridor**

**Distribution and Connection.** Locate Neighborhood and Community parks or trail connections to such parks within ½ mile of each residence. This service area is encouraged to be free of any major road or other physical barriers.

**P Policy A2.6**

**Secondary connections.** Encourage secondary trail connections to further connect neighborhood and development to the City's primary trail system as defined through the Parks Strategic Plan and the Green Necklace. Such connections include: off right-of-way trails, connector trails and spur trails.

**P Policy A2.7**

**Park Land Acquisition.** Acquire suitable park, trail, open space, and natural resource lands when available, to enhance the park and recreation system. Acquisition criteria include:

- a. The acquisition's support of the Issaquah Park System Vision.
- b. The acquisition responds to growth or maximizes the function of existing park property and facilities. Examples of maximizing existing facilities include:
  1. Connection to an identified trail or recreational corridor.
  2. Addition property to an existing park that improves overall property management.
  3. Advance a planned open space network.
- c. The City is the best provider of the service or facility.
- d. The acquisition improves the equity of parks and recreation services to underserved areas or populations.
- e. The acquisition provides a benefit in relation to its cost,

recognizing parks as a public good.

- f. For open space, the land may or may not be required to be protected through regulations.
- g. Partnership options will be evaluated in relation to the potential acquisition.
- h. Supportive maintenance and operating funds have been dedicated or are available.

**P Policy A2.8**

**Potential Annexation Areas and Subareas.** Consider and designate, when possible, locations for City owned parks when annexing property or preparing subarea plans.

**P Policy A2.9**

**Trail Characteristics.** A minimum trail width of 12 feet shall be the standard width for the Creek Corridor and Mountains to Sound Trail unless other restrictions/constraints exists. Variations shall be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department. Trail surfacing shall support universal access.

**P Policy A3**

When siting park and recreation assets and amenities, guiding principles include:

**P Policy A3.1**

**Park Amenities.** Proposed amenities not already identified in the Park Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Plan Capital Facilities Element, annual Capital Improvement Program, or individual park master plans should be evaluated for addition to the park system. Considerations include whether the amenity is:

- a. Consistent with the Park Strategic Plan Vision.
- b. Appropriate to address identified community needs or gaps in the system.
- c. Consistent with the park classification.
- d. Viable based on the site plan and stewardship plan.
- e. Compatible with existing park uses.
- f. Usable in multiple seasons.

## CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

- g. Within projected funding resources of the City, is grant-eligible, presents a partnership opportunity, or is a viable entrepreneurial opportunity.
- h. Feasible to maintain over the long-term with available or projected resources.

### **P Policy A3.2**

**Amenity Location.** Amenities that are expected to draw users from multiple neighborhoods or communitywide, should be located at Community Parks, which are larger in scale and have more supporting facilities such as parking and restrooms. Examples include community gathering spaces, spray parks, tournament sports, and others.

### **P Policy A3.3**

**Community and Neighborhood Park Amenity.** Amenities designed to serve the local neighborhood may be located at either Neighborhood Parks or Community Parks, such as play fields, play grounds, and sport courts. These may or may not have a restroom depending upon location.

### **P Policy A3.4**

**Resource Park, Open Space and Trail Amenity.** Assets and amenities to be added to Natural Open Space, Resource Parks, or Urban Trails allow active and passive enjoyment consistent with environmental conditions and design policies in section 5.1.3.

## 5.1.2 Balance Needs within the Park System

### **P GOAL B**

Seek to achieve balance within the entire city park system. Provide equitable opportunities throughout the park system, by blending of active and passive experiences. Provide for the diverse needs/interests of Issaquah residents within the City's park system, while celebrating the natural environment the City is blessed with.

### **P Policy B1**

The City shall promote and protect environmental quality, open space, wildlife habitat, multi-use recreational opportunities, recreational programming, arts and cultural experiences.

#### **P Policy B1.1**

**Access and Education.** Provide access to and educational information within the park system about Issaquah's natural environment, the arts and diverse cultural heritage when feasible.

#### **P Policy B1.2**

**Cultural Heritage.** Preserve and protect the natural integrity of the environment as well as resources and artifacts of significance to the City's cultural heritage.

#### **P Policy B1.3**

**Connectivity.** Strive to promote connectivity of natural and built environments. Connectivity promotes the health, sustainability, interaction, wayfinding and mobility of the natural environment (wildlife and habitat).

#### **P Policy B1.4**

**Recreation and Habitat Interface.** When providing recreational facilities, ensure that these facilities are consistent with and enhance the park environment, while conserving and protecting natural habitat and resources.

#### **P Policy B1.5**

**Universal Access.** Strive to provide universal access to park and recreational land and opportunities within acceptable and appropriate context at each facility to serve all ages and abilities. Retrofit facilities in accordance to long-term planning goals. Engage outdoor recreational standards where feasible.

#### **P Policy B1.6**

**Balanced Park and Recreational Experience.** Strive to balance passive and active recreational and sensory opportunities, programming, native environments, wildlife, forested hillsides, visual relief, arts and facilities within the City of Issaquah's park system as the population grows and as user needs change.

### 5.1.3 Design Process and Considerations

#### P GOAL C

Master plan major parks, trails, and open space facilities, and engage the community in designing them.

##### **P Policy C1**

Ensure that parks are designed utilizing a thoughtful planning process that considers its unique cohesiveness as well as its cohesiveness throughout the entire park system.

##### **P Policy C1.1**

**Planning Coordination.** Coordinate collective planning efforts to create a cohesive, balanced, encompassing, sustainable, educational and vibrant park and recreational inventory. Embrace the integration of design elements contained within the Central Issaquah Plan, Mobility Action Plan, Olde Town, Transportation Plan, Open Space Stewardship Management Plans and other land use, public infrastructure based plans, visions and projects, documents into the park system. No change of use within park shall occur without Parks coordination/assessment of impacts and any mitigation measures completed.

##### **P Policy C1.2**

**Sense of Place.** Create a park-system which provides a sense-of-place through the integration of landscape, art, buffers, waterways, corridors, trails, parks, courtyards, and plazas.

##### **P Policy C1.3**

**Multi-Seasonal.** Provide a wide variety of recreational and park experiences throughout the year for maximum benefit and enjoyment.

##### **P Policy C2**

Ensure that park elements throughout the system are designed to encourage play and wise use of vegetation.

##### **P Policy C2.1**

**Native Vegetation.** Within the City's designated open space natural areas, including Native Growth Protection Areas, restoration, enhancement, and stewardship projects shall use vegetative species native to the State of Washington and as appropriate for the project site's plant community.

##### **P Policy C2.2**

**Native and Drought Tolerant Vegetation.** Within the City's parks and streetscapes, encourage the use of native and drought tolerant plant species as appropriate for the project site and as approved by City permitting and development. Plant material should be used to provide visual interest, create atmosphere and enhance the sense of place.

##### **P Policy C2.3**

**Play Areas.** Play areas designed for a variety of ages, activities fine and gross motor skills. Natural, creative play elements for free and/or structured play shall be provided.

##### **P Policy C2.4**

**Signage.** Incorporate the use of signage where appropriate to direct, inform and educate all park and recreational users. Signage should be strategically located ensure it is seen by users as a wayfinding method. The use of signage shall be limited in order to preserve the visual integrity and natural character of all parks, recreational area, trails and open spaces and facilities. Signage shall be consistent with park and/or city-wide branding.

##### **P Policy C3**

Preserve and enhance the beauty of the City of Issaquah through the parks and open spaces that make up the City's park system.

##### **P Policy C3.1**

**Visual Relief and Tranquility.** Bring visual relief and tranquility to the urban environment to mitigate the impacts of development by including street trees, gardens, lawns, woods, and water throughout the park system.

**P Policy C3.2**

**Native Environment.** Promote retention and replication of the area's natural beauty and ecology (mountains, plantings, water etc.), sounds and vistas in the park system.

**P Policy C3.3**

**Boulevard Landscaping.** Create a sense of place along main access corridors and/or boulevards (streets and thoroughfares) by utilizing unifying design features such as plantings, site furniture and wayfinding cues.

**P Policy C3.4**

**Scenic Visual Resources.** Preserve the quality of surrounding scenic and visual resources provided by the natural open space areas, such as the forested hillsides of the "Issaquah Alps." Encourage orienting park development such that and facilities and activities preserve these picturesque vistas for all to enjoy.

**P Policy C4**

Create a highly accessible vibrant park system and programming for Issaquah residents.

**P Policy C4.1**

**Active and Passive Park Facilities.** Provide active and passive park and recreational facilities to as many persons as possible. Where appropriate, provide multi-use active recreational opportunities within park facilities consistent with the intended use of the particular park facilities.

**P Policy C4.2**

**Healthy Living.** Foster the development of recreational scholarships programs which encourage healthy living and active recreation for Issaquah's underserved, aged and special needs populations. The park system should strive to offer a variety of recreational programming and facilities which provide positive alternatives and encourages healthy living for all users and abilities.

## 5.1.4 System Maintenance and Management

### P GOAL D

Ensure system stewardship and sustainability through effective maintenance and resource management practices.

**P Policy D1**

Ensure Issaquah's park facilities are safe and well managed while providing all segments of the community with quality park and recreational facilities and services.

**P Policy D1.1**

**Stewardship.** Promote stewardship projects located within and along the Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks, including their tributaries, corridors and upland natural open space areas. Uphold existing open space stewardship plans for areas and create new stewardship plans for acquired property when needed. Encourage various stewardship projects in cooperation with outside groups, agencies and volunteers. Preserve and protect the City's natural resources through the provision of resource management.

**P Policy D1.2**

**Park Programs.** Offer a wide variety of recreational programs, services and classes to meet the community's diverse needs. Continue to grow, diversify and expand recreational experiences offered. All programs, services and classes are to be administered in a quality, caring and efficient manner.

**P Policy D1.3**

**Safety.** Promote the opportunity for use and minimize conflict potential, through the provision of safe and well-managed park facilities, including open space and active recreation facilities. Anticipate user security and safety concerns and design parks and recreational programs with these concerns in mind. Ensure proper staffing levels for the safety of recreational activities in facilities and fields. Partner with police services in the prevention and management of safety issues through all park and recreational facilities. Proactively address all safety concerns in an effective and appropriate manner.

**P Policy D1.4**

**Citizen Involvement.** Utilize citizen involvement and participation in planning, developing, operating, stewarding and maintaining the City of Issaquah's park system. Encourage public process in the consideration of park and recreation development when appropriate. Embrace the volunteers who serve on committees, partner with outside agencies and special interest groups and support the Parks and Recreation Department.

**P Policy D1.5**

**Resource Management.** Best management practices will be utilized in the management of Issaquah's parks and recreation system. Protect forested lands through sustainable management practices that encourage wildlife and habitat species diversity. Preserve and protect the City's natural resources through the provision of resource management (open space and wildlife) and through the implementation of other environmental programs, stewardship plans, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) or Maintenance and Operation Manuals.

**P Policy D1.6**

**Facility Management.** Design, develop, construct, maintain and operate facilities in a resource efficient and sustainable manner when feasible which minimizes impacts to and improves the quality of the environment, community and economy. Perform routine inspections of facilities and equipment to ensure public safety. Utilize maintenance and operations manuals, and other standard operating procedures to ensure public safety.

**P Policy D1.7**

**Best Management Practice.** Utilize existing management documents including but not limited to; the Integrated Pest Management Plan and Open Space Management Plan, standardize operating procedures, and best management practices in the management of the park system.

**5.1.5 Local Partnerships and Regional Coordination****P GOAL E**

Foster partnerships with local, state, federal and regional agencies to provide and support Issaquah's park system. Embrace local partnerships with the Issaquah School District, businesses, developers, non-profit organizations, tribal community, and other various user groups to provide and assist in the management and maintenance of a complex park system consisting of parks, recreation, trails and open space.

**P Policy E1**

Continue or create, where beneficial to the public, partnerships with local, state, federal and regional agencies. Partner with the Issaquah School District, businesses, developers, non-profit organizations, user groups and neighborhood groups in order to provide and to assist in the management and maintenance of parks, open space, recreation facilities, services and security.

**P Policy E1.1**

**Interlocal-Agreement.** Honor the partnership with the Issaquah School District as a significant component of the City's park system. Work together to improve and maintain safe and vibrant recreational facilities, fields and opportunities for school children and the park system.

**P Policy E1.2**

**Partnerships with Developers.** Developers shall mitigate or offset the impacts of their new development by providing parkland and park facilities, and/or payment of impact fees in lieu of such land or facilities, through the process established by the City.

**P Policy E1.2.1**

Impact fees shall be used to address the impacts of development on the park system and improvements that serve the community at large.

**P Policy E1.2.2**

Additional on-site project-level design requirements are also appropriate for larger subdivisions and multifamily developments.

**P Policy E1.2.3**

In the commercial areas of the City, developers shall mitigate by providing public spaces and facilities such as plazas, courtyards, and pedestrian connections on-site through Land Use Code development requirements and/or incentives. When private development is required to provide a public space, such as urban plazas, parks and/or trails, they are to remain as part of the public realm and should remain accessible and function as if publicly owned. Area wide improvement districts are also supported to address the needs for commercial area park facilities.

**P Policy E1.3**

**Neighborhood and Business Partnerships.** Encourage partnerships with neighborhoods and existing businesses to provide land or facilities for parks including, but not limited to: cost sharing for acquisition and development, furnishing materials or equipment, or providing maintenance or security. Promote partnerships with non-profit, special-interest and service organizations. These groups provide increased expertise, interest, volunteers, and/or funding for a particular facility or program provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.

**P Policy E1.4**

**Teamwork.** Encourage interdepartmental planning, communication and information sharing to optimize the development and the experiences provided within Issaquah's park system.

**P Policy E2**

Participate in coordination, cooperation and partnership with local, state, and federal agencies on a regional basis in order to provide an effective and efficient regional natural open space and park system, thus providing improved recreational opportunities, services, and facilities for people living in the greater Issaquah area.

**P Policy E2.1**

**Cooperative Planning Efforts.** Participate in the cooperative regional planning efforts among agencies and jurisdictions in order to provide recreational opportunities and facilities on inter-jurisdictional public lands. Key agencies include but are not limited to, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Department of Ecology, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and the United States Forest Service. The City shall also work together with these jurisdictions and organizations to identify jurisdictional roles and responsibilities in contributing to regional needs, and identify, establish, protect and steward urban and rural open space corridors of regional significance.

**P Policy E2.2**

**Specific Partnerships.** Due to the local benefit of regional public open space lands, the City shall strive to continue its coordination as a valued partner and participation in the Issaquah Alps and Upper Snoqualmie Valley Interagency Committee, the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Trust, Issaquah Alps Trail Club, F.I.S.H. (Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery), other non-profit groups and local tribal community.

**P Policy E2.3**

**Funding Sources.** Continue to seek funding sources in the form of grants, park bonds, levies, partnerships and donations to enhance the City's park system. Funding sources are to supplement the City's contributions to the park system.

## 5.1.6 Implementation

### P GOAL F

Measure the effectiveness and success of the Comprehensive Plan in achieving community visions, goals and policies.

**P Policy F1**

Ensure Comprehensive Plan goals and policies are accompanied by related and required implementing actions and associated resources, including but not limited to those listed in the Implementation Strategy (Issaquah Comprehensive Plan, Appendix B, Ord 2741, effective date: 6/30/15).

**P Policy F2**

It is the intent of the Parks Strategic Plan to create actionable projects. Implementation of each project shall conform to the measurable metrics for success as identified in the Parks Strategic Plan. All of these elements must support the vision for the Parks and Recreation System.

**P Policy F3**

Create and implement a performance-based level of service policy that is a companion to the investment per capita level of service. The performance-based level of service should address overall asset conditions, recreation value, availability, and accessibility to the community.

**P Policy F4**

Continue to employ sound fiscal management of parks and recreation capital and operating funds. Develop guidelines and strategies to allocate funding across investment types such as reinvestment in existing parks, trail and park system connectivity, and protecting open space networks.



# PARTNERSHIPS



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography

The Parks Strategic Plan will need the support and commitment from many entities including the community, city staff, and public and private groups. The projects and strategic actions of this plan will require ongoing coordination and collaboration to achieve success.

## *Public Art*

Investing in and integrating public art into parks capital projects is a priority for the Parks and Recreation Department. A critical placemaking aspect of many projects, arts collaboration is supported by Issaquah's city ordinance requiring one-half of one percent of parks capital projects to be allocated to public art. "When properly integrated, public art and design enhance the environment, create a sense of place, express a community's values and identity, and can bring people together to find solutions to a community's infrastructure and social challenges" (The Cultural Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan).

Two examples of art integration constructed in 2017 are the Confluence Park pedestrian bridge and the Tibbetts Valley Park skatepark.

## *Interdepartmental Partnerships*

Many city departments are focused on improving the quality of life within the city, and many departmental plans are working simultaneously toward that goal. Working in tandem, the various city entities can provide a strength that no department can do alone, ensuring an equitable city that provides for all its citizens. The many city departments working to improve the quality of life within the city include: City Administration, Development Services Department, Economic Development, Public Works Engineering, Public Works Operations, Parks and Recreation Operations, Office of Sustainability, and Permit Services.



## *Issaquah School District Partnership*

The schools within the Issaquah School District offer a wide variety of fields, gymnasiums, and other amenities that are used by the Parks and Recreation Department to offer recreational programs. The city and Issaquah School District signed an “Interlocal Agreement Regarding the Joint Use, Development and Maintenance of City and District Properties” for the shared use of school and Parks and Recreation Department facilities. The interlocal agreement generally states that the Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department may schedule recreational programs, such as the youth basketball program, at local schools (Appendix L).

The City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department has primary use of school facilities for recreational programs and services located within the city limits (the primary service area). For the schools located outside city limits but within the school district, the City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department has secondary claim for the use of the schools. For example, the City of Sammamish has first claim on the use of schools located within their city limits. As part of the agreement, the Issaquah School District may use the Issaquah Community Center and the Julius Boehm Pool for school programs.

***“Enhance partnerships to leverage action and funding.”***

*Response from Park Strategic Plan Engagement*



## *Public Agency Partnerships*

In addition to partnering with schools in neighboring cities, Issaquah recognizes connection to the approximately 25,500 acres of neighboring publicly owned rural open space, commonly known as the Issaquah Alps. The Alps are composed of King County's Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park; State Park's Squak Mountain State Park; State Dept. of Natural Resources Tiger Mountain State Forest; City of Issaquah Tradition Plateau Natural Resources Conservation Area; King County's Taylor Mountain Forest; and, King County's Grand Ridge Park. These public lands are managed as natural open space parks and as a state forest that contains a natural resources conservation area as well as working forest lands.

These public lands are further connected to county, state and federal agency managed public lands located east of the Issaquah Alps to Snoqualmie Pass. Because of the similar issues that face these public land management agencies, the land managers including the City of Issaquah formed the Issaquah Alps and Upper Snoqualmie River Valley Interagency Committee. The committee works cooperatively to form a consistent planning effort and management approach for the inter-jurisdictional agency lands. This management includes recreational uses, stewardship, and active working forest lands.



## *Private Partnerships*

Partnerships with private entities can be achieved through development agreements or the city's Development Services Department review process. In lieu of park impact fees, some developers can construct parks and amenities and dedicate them to the city. Other private entities may provide public spaces, plazas, trails and other pedestrian connections that link with the city's trail system as long as public access is provided. These private partnerships can help achieve the city's vision and supply parks in areas where land may be hard to come by. To ensure projects align with city goals, development standards require dedicated park land to have high recreational value and not be leftover or steeply sloped land. More information about park impact fees may be found in the LOS section of this document.



## *Other Partnerships*

Neighborhood and business group partnerships can provide land or facilities for parks and recreation for the city. This might include cost sharing for acquisition and development, furnishing materials or equipment, or provision of maintenance and security. Public-private endeavors have the potential to increase recreational opportunities available within the park system and benefit the city by both reducing operational costs for a facility and providing a potential source of revenue.



Special interest groups are yet another rich source for partnering. Their willingness to donate time and materials to achieve a common goal and much-needed work within the parks and trail system is truly valuable. These contributions may be used as matching funds for some grants. Implementing agreements can help facilitate these relationships and project success.

*image credit: Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*

# FUNDING



*image credit: Brian Oevermann*

This Plan proposes a list of Strategic Projects in support of the Parks Vision of a connected, vibrant, inclusive community. To achieve this vision, substantial tactical financial commitment is required. The second phase of public engagement contained a budget module which asked respondents how they would allocate \$100 across five major, strikingly different, project types. Feedback reflected a desire for balanced investment in all areas, supporting the need for a funding strategy that allows for making a broad range of investments. Please refer to discussion of Phase 2 public outreach budget module discussion in the public outreach section of this document.

Many aspects need consideration in studying revenue options. Funding sources are not equal in size, reliability, associated restrictions, implementation needs (for example, vote requirements) or level of effort needed to obtain. Funding sources may be limited to certain purposes or types of projects—for instance, some sources are focused on operating costs (care of existing elements), some on capital projects (implementation of new parks elements). All aspects need acknowledgment in pursuing capital funding of projects, and many sources of funding will be needed to implement the projects identified in this Strategic Plan.

Moving forward, the cost of the Strategic Project list will need to be established. It is expected that cost of implementing the project list may exceed the revenues historically available to fund parks operational and capital projects. Project prioritization reflected in this document will help direct strategic implementation of funds. Additional funding and financing options, and potential reallocation within existing funding sources, are discussed below.

The following, not an exhaustive list, notes primary types of opportunities historically and potentially available for funding parks capital projects. Creating a funding strategy to support the Park Strategic Plan is a future policy discussion. This chapter is intended to set the stage to inform this future policy discussion and identifies potential revenue sources for funding parks, trails, and open space.

# City Funding

## Parks Impact Fees:

Impact fees are directly related to the rate of development in the city. There is currently significant growth and development in Issaquah, which is expected to continue. Developments in the city can currently bypass this traditional impact fee through negotiated agreements with the Development Services Department without the input of the Parks and Recreation Department.

The City of Issaquah is currently under contract to revise its impact fee rates through an updated rate study in 2018. This process could include revisiting how development agreements are being negotiated to allow for inclusion of the Parks and Recreation Department in that decision-making process. It is possible that such a change could lead to increased impact fee revenues.

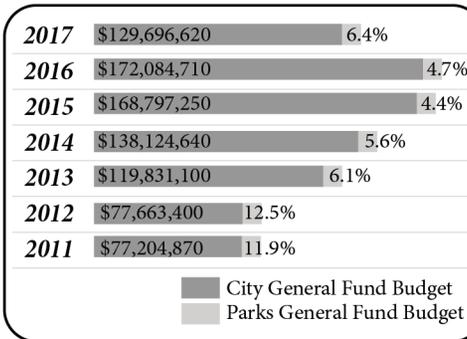
## The City General Fund:

This is the primary funding source for the City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department. It is mostly used for operating costs. Over the past seven years, the city has allocated between 4.4% and 12.5% (a yearly range of \$7,360,700-\$9,744,400) of the City General Fund to Parks and Rec operations (City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department, 2017, and BERK Consulting, 2017).

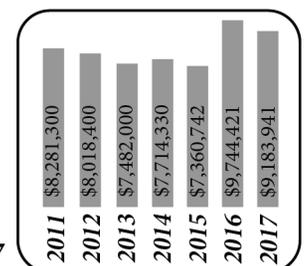
Some of these General Fund revenues are dedicated to Parks and Recreation. Substantial parks funding within the General Fund includes the King County Parks Levy.

**King County Parks Levy.** In 2013, King County voters renewed the King County Parks Levy (which replaced the previous King County Parks Levy and the Open Space and Trails Levy). Between 2014 and 2019 this levy will generate an estimated \$66 million per year through a Consumer Price Index (CPI)-indexed property tax levy lid lift (paid by property owners at \$0.1877 per \$1,000 assessed value). 7% of the monies collected through this levy are distributed to cities through a funding formula by which 50% is distributed on a per capita basis and 50% is distributed based on the assessed value of the parcels within the city. In 2017, Issaquah received \$97,305 in distributions from this levy. These funds can be used for parks and recreation capital purposes, including as a match for local, state, and federal grants. King County is also considering a proposal for a land conservation initiative to open space. Should this initiative come to fruition, this could be another potential funding source.

**Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department Operating Revenues as Share of City General Fund, 2011 to 2017**



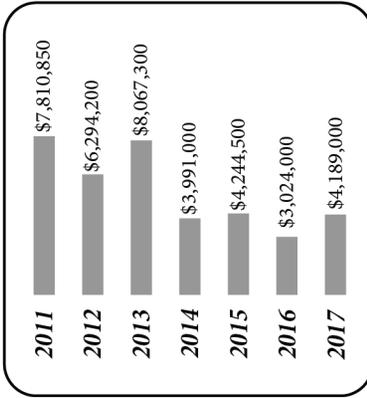
**Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department Operating Revenues, 2011 to 2017**



Source: City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department, 2017, and BERK Consulting, 2017

**Issaquah Capital Improvement Program Revenues, 2011 to 2017**

Source: City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department, 2017, and BERK Consulting, 2017



**Issaquah Capital Improvement Plan:**

A resource for Park and Recreation capital projects, one of the main strategies the City of Issaquah could use to increase capital funding for parks and trails is reallocation of capital assets from the Capital Projects Fund to parks and trail purposes. This could be done through dedication of one or more of the revenue sources funding the Capital Projects Fund or through a general increase in the overall allocation to parks and trails projects from the fund. In the past seven years the City of Issaquah dedicated an average of 20% of its Capital Improvement Plan resources to Parks and Recreation projects, ranging from \$3,024,000 to \$8,067,300 yearly (City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department, 2017, and BERK Consulting, 2017).

**Voter-Approved Levies:**

A levy is a tax that is collected and spent as accumulated. Unlike bonds, there is no debt involved. This Voter-approved levy could be Parks Property Tax Levy. Voters can opt to dedicate a portion of property tax to a parks levy.

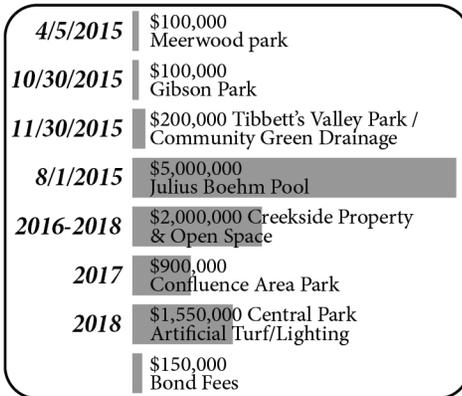
**Cost Recovery Policies:**

The Parks and Recreation Department could consider implementing more fees for using certain of their amenities or facilities. These fees could completely or partially offset expenditures related to the provided service, or could generate additional revenue.

**Bonds:** A bond is a debt to paid back with interest over several years. These funds may be used primarily for one-time capital costs (refer to Appendix M).

**City of Issaquah 2013 Park Bond**

Source: City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department, 2018



**Non-Voter-Approved Bonds - Limited Tax General Obligation (LTGO) Bonds.** LTGO Bonds are councilmanic bonds that must be repaid from existing resources, as there is no dedicated source of new revenue for debt service. These bonds can be issued by the City Council without going out to residents for a public vote.

**Voter-Approved Bonds - Unlimited Tax General Obligation (UTGO) Bonds.** UTGO Bonds are voted bonds that must be approved by a vote of the city's residents, and are paid off by a new city property tax levy. This type of bond issue is usually reserved for municipal improvements that are of general benefit to the public, such as arterial streets, bridges, lighting, municipal buildings, firefighting equipment, and parks.

## State, County, and Federal Funding

### Grants:

The City of Issaquah has successfully funded some of its parks capital projects through competitive grants. State grant programs can provide some funding from outside the region. Grant programs are extremely competitive; however, any grant funding that could be made available would significantly improve the funding feasibility of the Issaquah Parks Strategic Plan, since these funds would reduce the amount needed from local public sources. Federal grants tend to piggyback with other larger infrastructure projects. Please refer to Appendix M for further discussion.

**Conservation Futures Grants.** King County Conservation Futures tax levy (CFT) funds sponsor the annual grant program administered by King County Parks. The focus of this grant program is to purchase or preserve open space lands, including natural areas, passive-use parks, urban green spaces, wildlife habitat, trails, farms and forests in cities and unincorporated areas of King County.

**King County Conservation District Grant.** King Conservation District (KCD) Member Jurisdiction Grant Program supports natural resource improvement projects in partnership with local jurisdiction who are members of KCD. Grants are awarded for project that are consistent with KCD requirements and RCW 89.08.

**Washington Recreation Conservation Office Grants** are state programs that fall into four categories: Boating Facilities Program (BFP); Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); Non-Highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA); and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). With an adopted park plan, the city is eligible to submit grant applications and obtain grants from the RCO and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). These grants are to fund land protection and outdoor recreation, including park acquisition and development, habitat conservation, farmland and forestland preservation, and construction of outdoor recreation facilities. Local parks can receive up to \$1 million in acquisition or \$500,000 in development; a 50% match is required, with 10% of total cost from non-state and non-federal contributions.

**State Legislative Allocations:** Some discretionary infrastructure funding is allocated through the state budget process. These funds are limited and highly competitive.

## Private Sources and Fundraising

Private funding is possible through in-kind donations from volunteers and community partners, private donations, and crowdsourcing. These are typically small revenue sources in the context of the overall Strategic Park Plan but could be useful for specific projects or purposes.

Issaquah's 2018 Strategic Park Plan proposes a current list of Strategic Projects for implementation to enhance the park system. The following serve as tools to guide difficult decisions as current and future projects present themselves and compete for funding as Issaquah continues to develop.



# PHASE 1 CHECKLIST

## *Project Suitability*

The adjacent criteria represent the purpose of the themes. This list serves to test project need and promote conversation around current and future projects. Not all criteria will be met by each project. If a project does not check off any criteria, conversation should be had about the appropriateness of the project for the park and city systems.

	<input type="checkbox"/> Will this project maximize park utilization, opportunities and experiences? <input type="checkbox"/> Have project life-cycle and maintenance and operations costs been addressed? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this project stimulate other development activity or economic growth? <input type="checkbox"/> Will the project support quality over quantity?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Will this project promote intuitive bike and/or pedestrian connectivity citywide, or in an under-connected or not intuitively connected area? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this project have intuitive connections to trails around the city? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this action support the focused vision and strategy for the Creek Corridor? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this project support connectivity between built and natural environments? <input type="checkbox"/> Can this project be utilized as unofficial trailhead to access the city or the Issaquah Alps?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Will this project complement adjacent projects – existing and planned? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this project help fulfill city planning documents beyond the Strategic Park Plan? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this project balance needs throughout the park system? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this project provide programming for an underserved population or area within the city? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this project fulfill an identified need within the park system? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this project provide mutual benefit with other institutions, partnerships or groups? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this project support its social context?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Will this project support or improve its ecological context? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this action support stewardship and resource management? <input type="checkbox"/> Is this action sustainable (environmentally, socially, and economically) in both the short and long terms? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this action build advocacy and awareness and for the park system?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Will this action support the Parks and Recreation role in the community's health and well-being? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this action support facility or program improvements that encourage active lifestyles? <input type="checkbox"/> Will this project diversify recreational experiences citywide or a specific area?



# PHASE 2 CHECKLIST

## *Project Prioritization*

The Project Prioritization checklist is a ranking tool. Projects receive a number score based on how much a project will increase the system's performance, diversity, and balance. It considers the urgency of the timing of the project, ease of funding, if there are operational reasons for prioritization, and if there is community support for the project.

The Project Prioritization criteria, a list resulting from discussions with other city entities and public outreach, is applied to each individual project to determine the project's overall priority. The criterion addresses utilization potential, system diversification, balance, urgency/immediacy, low-hanging fruit and operational sustainability. Bonus points can be achieved for projects with a strong community survey response and for projects addressing Strategic Plan themes.

The criterion results in a percent favorability score that allows comparison against other projects. A project list is then broken into three timeline-defined buckets by their percent favorability: the near term (the most favorable projects), the mid term (moderately favorable projects), and the long term (least favorable projects). This prioritized list provides a road map to making Issaquah's Park and Open Space Vision a reality, project by project.

### *Items of note:*

- A project that scores high in priority in many categories may show up in the mid-term bucket due to difficulty in implementation, lack of operational sustainability, or other challenges.
- Facets and features to each project may occur outside its timeline-defined bucket's timeline. For example, site location identification and design work might take place years in advance of a project having funding for construction. Similarly, land acquisition may occur many years in advance of park design/construction.
- For realities of implementation, larger projects can be divided into smaller entities that focus on different priority timelines.

As projects, priorities, opportunities and community needs shift, so can the project favorability ranking. The Phase 2 checklist tool is not intended to provide a definitive answer, but meant to be universally applied to guide project prioritization during the annual capital improvement project process as new projects arise and other projects are completed.

**CRITERIA :**  
MAXIMUM SCORE OF 18 POINTS

- #1 Improve Performance
- #2 System Diversity
- #3 System Balance
- #4 Urgency / Immediacy
- #5 Low-Hanging Fruit
- #6 Operational Sustainability

**SCORING:**

- N/A = 0 POINTS
- LOW = 1 POINT
- MEDIUM = 2 POINTS
- HIGH = 3 POINTS

\_ /3

### #1 IMPROVE PERFORMANCE

What is the potential increase of use within existing parkland and public property?

**THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

- Increase opportunity and/or capacity building
- Expanding an existing park or trail

**HIGH SCORE:** A project that provides more layers of uses and opportunities for the system and area would score high.

**LOW SCORE:** A project that provides elements that are redundant to other elements in the system or area would score low.

\_ /3

### #2 SYSTEM DIVERSITY

Does the project provide variety in the assortment of uses or types of elements?

**THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

- Active / passive
- A new or diversified element for the system

**HIGH SCORE:** A project that greatly increases the diversity of uses in the park system or area.

**LOW SCORE:** A project that provides elements that are redundant to other elements present in the system or an area.

\_ /3

### #3 SYSTEM BALANCE

Does the project provide an increase in equity and/or access?  
Does the project provide benefits geographically?

**THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

- Equity – age / culture / access
- Geographic / need area / underserved

**HIGH SCORE:** A project that promotes equitable access—for geographic areas, proximity, age groups, underserved groups—across the system would score high.

**LOW SCORE:** A project that does not provide for increased equity would score low.

**CRITERIA :**

MAXIMUM SCORE OF 18 POINTS

#1 Improve Performance

#2 System Diversity

#3 System Balance

#4 Urgency / Immediacy

#5 Low-Hanging Fruit

#6 Operational Sustainability

**SCORING:**

N/A = 0 POINTS

LOW = 1 POINT

MEDIUM = 2 POINTS

HIGH = 3 POINTS

\_ /18

CRITERIA  
SUBTOTAL

\_ /3

**#4 URGENCY / IMMEDIACY**

Does the project have key timing and/or health and safety/regulatory elements?

**THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

- Leverage other resources/partners
- Timing degree of difficulty/complexity

**HIGH SCORE:** A high scoring project's success would rely on matters such as competition with developers and partnerships with timeline-sensitive projects. Provides compliance with standards or regulations.

**LOW SCORE:** A project where timeline does not matter for success would score low.

\_ /3

**#5 LOW-HANGING FRUIT**Does the project have identified funding and/or have a low relative cost?  
Is the project easily attainable or accomplished?**THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

- Leverage other resources/partners
- Timing degree of difficulty/complexity

**HIGH SCORE:** A project with less complexity, low cost, ease of implementation due to partnerships, or a project that has all needed aspects already present would score high. Time-sensitive funding. Project risks are shared through a partnership.

**LOW SCORE:** A project that is complex for any reason would score low.

\_ /3

**#6 OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY**What is the cost / benefit of the project?  
What is the current state of the element(s) in terms of life-cycle?**THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

- Maintenance (existing vs. new), location in life-cycle
- Operating costs
- Mobilization efficiency/connected to other elements of park system

**HIGH SCORE:** A park that does not provide additional maintenance and operation resource burden would score high.

**LOW SCORE:** A new park would score low in this category because there are no existing resources allocated to the project.

**BONUS POINTS : VISION ALIGNMENT**  
MAXIMUM SCORE OF 5 POINTS

#1 Project aligns with public desires  
(measured via survey)

#2 Project aligns with Strategic Plan Themes

\_/5

\_/5

\_/10 ÷ 2

\_/5

**BONUS POINTS  
SUBTOTAL**

**BONUS POINTS : VISION ALIGNMENT**

**BONUS #1 SURVEY RESPONSE STRENGTH**

**SCORING:** >60% = 5 points  
50%-59% = 4 points  
40%-49% = 3 points  
30%-39% = 2 points  
10%-29% = 1 point  
0%-9% = 0 points

**DEFINITION:** If a project received a 46.2% score in a question it would receive 3 points.  
A 53% score would receive 4 points.

**BONUS #2 THEME RESONANT / RELEVANT**

**SCORING:** A project receives a point for each Parks Strategic Plan theme that is inherent in the project.

*Placemaking*  
*Connectivity*  
*Innovative Action*  
*A Vital Environment*  
*Active Lifestyles*

\_\_\_/23

**TOTAL : CRITERIA SUBTOTAL + BONUS POINTS SUBTOTAL**

\_\_\_\_\_%

**PERCENT FAVORABILITY: (TOTAL ÷ 23) X 100**

# STATE REQUIREMENTS



## *Recreation and Conservation Office Requirements*

In order to remain eligible for grant funding, every six years the city submits a planning document to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB). This park plan addresses requirements set forth by the RCFB which include:

- Identification of goals and objectives.
- Inventory of existing recreational facilities, including developed and undeveloped facilities, within the city (primary service area) and nearby area (secondary service area).
- Hosting a public involvement process.
- Identifying and assessing the desired level of service and need for recreation, parks and facilities.
- A six-year Capital Improvement Program identifying strategies and recommendations for implementation.

The 2018 Parks Strategic Plan provides goals, policies, and strategic projects for the system to meet the city's current and future recreational requirements and the level of service the community desires and requires. With an adopted park plan, the city is eligible to submit grant applications and obtain grants from the RCO and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). RCO grant programs fall into four categories: Boating Facilities Program (BFP); Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); Non-Highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA); and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP).



image credit: Allie Johnson



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography



## *Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements*

The Washington State Legislature, in its Growth Management Act (or GMA), provides planning goals to “guide the development and adoption of a comprehensive plan and development regulations” (RCW 36.70A.020). The city’s comprehensive plan requires a park and recreation element which includes “estimates of park and recreation demand for a ten-year period, an evaluation of facilities and service needs, and evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand” (RCW 36.70A.070 (8)).

### *Comprehensive Plan*

A separate Parks and Open Space Plan is not a mandatory element under the GMA; despite this, the city has included a Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Element (known as the Park Element) within its Comprehensive Plan since 1995, the most recent Comprehensive Plan update adopted on June 15, 2015.

### *Parks Strategic Plan*

The goals, policies, and strategic projects of the 2018 Parks Strategic Plan coincide with GMA goals for the development of parks and recreational facilities. Those goals include providing parks and recreation opportunities to current and growing populations, retaining natural open space, preserving fish and wildlife habitat, and providing access points to waterways.

# RCO Defining and Measuring Success

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) provides local agencies with a self-evaluation tool to assist in measuring the success of their level of service. The marked squares in the below chart indicate the City of Issaquah’s overall self-evaluation score.

## Level of Service Summary Discussion:

**1. Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities:** Percent difference between existing quantity or per capita average of parks and recreation facilities and the desired quantity or per capita average.

The city’s level of service has been calculated to be \$3,874.51 per person (refer to the Level of Service section in this document). Per capita, the city serves its population with more diamond and rectangular fields serving youth than the national median. Also, the city provides tennis facilities at a slightly better ratio than the national median. The city's playground facilities serve more population than the national median.

**2. Facilities that Support Active Recreation Opportunities:** Percent of facilities that support or encourage active (muscle-powered) recreation opportunities.

The city has eleven parks, a skatepark and two facilities that encourage active (muscle-powered) recreational opportunities (the Issaquah Community Center and the Julius Boehm Pool). Of the 172 acres of community parks, roughly 72% have provisions for muscle-powered recreation. The city owns 27 miles of natural trails and 14 miles of urban trails that allow for walking and/or bicycling—a 100% provision of muscle-powered activity.

LEVEL OF SERVICE SUMMARY LOCAL AGENCIES					
INDICATORS AND CRITERIA FOR LOCAL AGENCIES	GRADE				
	A	B	C	D	E
<b>QUANTITY CRITERIA</b>					
<b>1. NUMBER OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES</b>	<10%	11%-20%	21%-30%	31%-40%	>41%
Percent difference between existing quantity or per capita average of parks and recreation facilities and the desired quantity or per capita average		X			
<b>2. FACILITIES THAT SUPPORT ACTIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES</b>	>60%	51%-60%	41%-50%	31%-40%	<30%
Percent of facilities that support or encourage active (muscle-powered) recreation opportunities		X			
<b>3. FACILITY CAPACITY</b>	>75%	61%-75%	46%-60%	30%-45%	<30%
Percent of demand met by existing facilities		X			

**3. Facility Capacity:** Percent of demand met by existing facilities

With the recent growth Issaquah has experienced, recreational facility capacity has not increased at the same rate. Two new artificial turf fields will open in 2018 which will address the need for year-round multipurpose sports fields. However, this does not fully address community needs. Some user needs are being met through creative outsourcing and sharing of facilities (for example, the Issaquah School District). Developing a facilities strategic plan can be the building block for determining the next steps, and short- and long-term facility needs. Many of the community and neighborhood parks have not been built to full capacity either.

**4. Agency-Based Assessment:** Percentage of facilities that are fully functional for their specific design and safety guidelines.

Issaquah takes great pride in managing its facilities and active recreation areas in an optimal state. Routine facility inspections are conducted to ensure public safety. Park and recreation facilities are fully functional and adhere to safety guidelines.

**5. Public Satisfaction:** Percentage of population satisfied with the condition, quantity, or distribution of existing active park and recreation facilities.

The March 2015 EMC Research park survey revealed that 86% of survey respondents were satisfied with the job the Parks and Recreation Department is doing overall (Appendix E). While there are some minor gaps within northcentral Issaquah and system improvements that need to be made, community feedback supports Issaquah's park system and is pleased with its improvements.

INDICATORS AND CRITERIA FOR LOCAL AGENCIES	GRADE				
	A	B	C	D	E
<b>QUALITY CRITERIA</b>					
<b>4. AGENCY-BASED ASSESSMENT</b>	>80%	61%-80%	41%-60%	20%-40%	<20%
Percentage of facilities that are fully functional for their specific design and safety guidelines	X				
<b>5. PUBLIC SATISFACTION</b>	>65%	51%-65%	36%-50%	25%-35%	<25%
Percentage of population satisfied with the condition, quantity, or distribution of existing active park and recreation facilities	X				
<b>DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS CRITERIA</b>					
<b>6. POPULATION WITHIN SERVICE AREAS</b>	>75%	61%-75%	46%-60%	30%-45%	<30%
Percentage of population within the following services areas (considering barriers to access): - 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park/trail - 5 miles of a community park/trail - 25 miles of a regional park/trail	X				
<b>7. ACCESS</b>	>80%	61%-80%	41%-60%	20%-40%	<20%
Percentage of parks and recreation facilities that may be accessed safely via foot, bicycle, or public transportation	X				



image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography

This is affirmed in the 2017 National Citizen Survey, Community Livability Report (Appendix F) that states 89% of respondents give a positive rating for city parks and 96% feel parks are an essential to Issaquah’s quality of life. The 2018 Parks Strategic Plan Public Engagement effort confirmed the public’s satisfaction with Issaquah’s park system.

**6. Population within Service Areas:** Percentage of population within the following services areas (considering barriers to access):

- 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park/trail
- 5 miles of a community park/trail
- 25 miles of a regional park/trail

There is generally good coverage (80%) of parks with trailheads or parking areas within a half mile to one mile of homes. Parks that are accessible within one-quarter mile by dedicated trails are in portions of Central Issaquah, but are otherwise not extensively available or connected. Including public open space, there are still gaps in northcentral Issaquah due to terrain, limited population and current development type. If Open Space parks are improved with amenities and assets (consistent with environmental conditions), they could serve as recreational resources in proximity to the current and future population.

100% of the city is within five miles of a community park/trail. This is due to the unique layout of the city and a benefit of the many features located within city limits. Though this requirement seems to be fulfilled, there is still a need to construct additional Community Parks and add additional trails (and/or shared-use routes) within the city.

100% of the city is within 25 miles of a regional park/trail. The city is traversed by the East Lake Sammamish Regional Trail and Lake Sammamish State Park.

**7. Access:** Percentage of parks and recreation facilities that may be accessed safely via foot, bicycle, or public transportation.

The city covers 12.10 miles and is traversed by the East Lake Sammamish Regional Trail, 14 miles of urban pedestrian trails, and 8 miles of urban shared-use trails. Within city limits there are also 27 miles of public natural trails. All parks are accessible by public transportation except for Squak Valley Park, Harvey Manning Park and Hillside Park. Squak Valley Park and Hillside Park do not have clearly defined on right-of-way routes for pedestrian and bicycle access.





# 6

# SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

Issaquah's Parks and Recreation Vision is to connect residents and visitors to nature and each other through a vibrant parks and trails system within the city, neighborhoods, and regional lands that provide recreation and outdoor activities for a balanced, healthy, and inclusive mountain, lake and valley community.

The Parks Strategic Plan provides a map that guides city officials, staff, partners and the public in integrating the park system and vision into:

- System plans (Comprehensive Plan, the five-year Capital Improvement Plan, and funding strategies)
- Annual budgets (both operating and capital improvement)
- Capital projects (including master plans, design and construction)

This integration will enable the growth of a connected, active, vital city through successful creation and completion of parks, trails, and open space projects. Project by project, the system vision is achieved.

*image credit: Shubha Tirumale Photography*

**Measuring Success:**

*A list of questions to visit in the future*

This plan is intended to be a dynamic document that readjusts and evolves with the changing city and region. The true measure of success of the plan is the sustained creation of a vibrant, healthy park system. In the future, the following questions will provide a measure of the success of the document and answer the question:

**Has the Park Strategic Plan proved actionable?**

- How well has the Parks Strategic Plan informed other city planning documents?
- How well has the Parks Strategic Plan responded to other documents?
- Has the Phase 1 Criteria proved actionable for determining Strategic Project relevance?
- Has the Phase 2 Prioritization Criteria proved actionable for an evolving Strategic Project list?
- As a big picture tool, how has the Park Strategic Plan's Strategic Projects filled identified park system voids?
- How well has the Park Strategic Plan informed Issaquah's five-year Capital Improvement Plan?
- Are we creating and sustaining a vibrant, healthy diverse park system?
- Are we achieving the vision for the park system?

**Next Steps:**

The success of the Vision and the Strategic Projects list is dependent on a number of funding, planning, and assessment tools. The following list reflects the next steps in implementing the Plan:

**Funding for Implementing Capital Improvements.** Assess funding needed to implement the Strategic Project List. Carefully consider, prioritize, and phase funding and funding sources for the broad range of Strategic Projects to achieve the Parks Vision of a connected, vibrant, inclusive community.

**Performance Based Level of Service.** Initiate and create an LOS metric that more fully studies and assesses the quality of the park system provided for Issaquah's residents.

**Five-year Capital Improvement Program.** Perform periodic updates incorporating strategic projects as defined by this planning effort.

**Park Impact Fee Update.** Perform periodic updates.

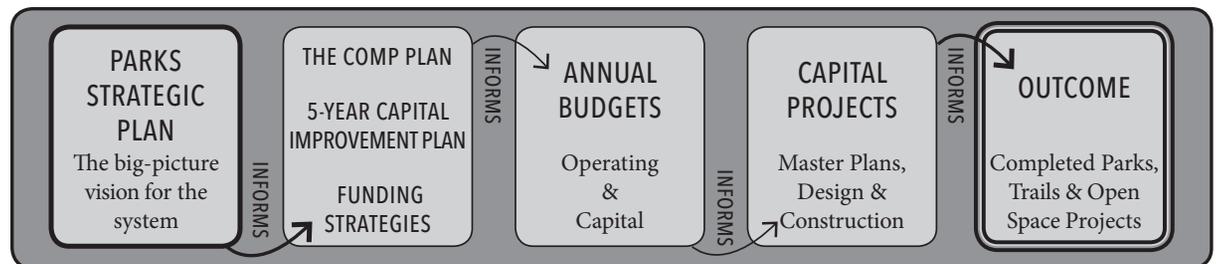
**Comprehensive Plan Park Element Update.** Perform periodic updates.

**Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan.** Initiate a strategic planning effort on city indoor recreation facilities to evaluate current performance, needs and strategies for meeting growing community needs.

**Strategic Capital Projects.** Kick off strategic capital projects specified in the strategic planning effort and initiate project-specific community engagement.

**What is the Role of the Parks Strategic Plan?**

The Parks Strategic Plan anchors, informs, and sets the stage for additional work.





Guided by the Vision, the Parks Strategic Plan is a dynamic document intended to be updated every six years to evolve with the changing needs and conditions of the community. Tools provided strengthen capacity to engage in decisions between competing demands and expectations; critical within this toolkit is the integration of ongoing coordination with other city planning efforts. One such effort is the Central Issaquah Plan, and more specifically the Green Necklace Vision that has long been part of the Central Issaquah Plan. The following chapter, Chapter 7, is the result of a collaborative effort to better align the Park Strategic Plan with the Central Issaquah Plan. It will take time, effort and effective communication with city departments and the public to achieve the Vision. Along the way, evaluation of the work accomplished will be a measure of the success of the Plan and provide a reassessment of the way forward to the Vision.

Once approved, the Parks Strategic Plan will guide investments and strategic priorities over the next six years. Each year progress on the Park Strategic Plan will be evaluated and a review provided to the Council. In five years, new public engagement efforts will begin for the next update of this dynamic visionary document.

As a component of the Park Strategic Plan, the next chapter titled "The Changing Valley Floor" highlights the Central Issaquah Plan. The plan creates a vision for a cohesive network of parks, trails and other open space corridors that best position Issaquah's public system to serve current and future residents as the Central Issaquah Valley redevelops.

## *Your parks your future*

None of this would be possible without your support. You identified the soul and themes that your parks system should embody, the shortlist of 51 strategic projects that will carry that soul forward, and guided the prioritization of projects within that list.

These truly are your parks—your future.



# 7

# THE CHANGING VALLEY FLOOR

## *The Central Issaquah Plan*

The Central Issaquah Plan provides a long-term vision for revitalization and redevelopment within a 1,000 acre area on Issaquah's valley floor. Central Issaquah is environmentally rich, vibrant and includes a prosperous community of neighborhoods where people live, work, play and learn. As a livable and vibrant center for our City, Central Issaquah will be comprised of thriving businesses and distinctive neighborhoods, served by a multi-modal transportation system connecting the subarea to the greater City and region.

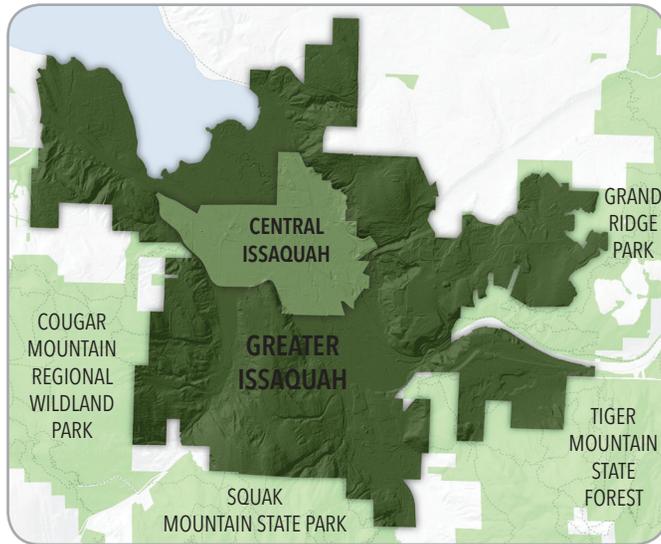
## THE GREEN NECKLACE PLAN

In January 2018 staff from Parks and Recreation Department, Development Services Department, and the Mayor's Office sought ways to best ensure that the 2018 Parks Strategic Plan and the Central Issaquah Plan were unified; particularly, as it relates to the Green Necklace and our city-wide network of public parks and trails.

To best do this, we embarked on an intensive and collaborative effort that brought together the Planning Policy Commission (PPC), the Park Board, the original Central Issaquah Task Force, interested residents and city staff from the Parks, Public Works Engineering, and Development Services Departments. This effort took the prior work from the Task Force, the work of the PPC, and the recent work of the Parks Strategic Plan, and collectively mapped them to better define the Green Necklace. With the expertise and experience of the Parks Strategic Plan consultant, Berger Partnership, a more defined vision for the Green Necklace emerged. The Green Necklace Plan (attached) is ready to be incorporated into both the Central Issaquah Visions and the Parks Strategic Plan.

This focused and intentional work kicked-off at a joint PPC and Park Board meeting on February 8, 2018. This meeting, as well as a second joint meeting on February 26, 2018, were formatted as charrettes to foster engagement from both Commissions/Boards and residents in attendance.

## CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN



One of the discussions at the February 8 meeting centered around the question, “What does success look like for the Green Necklace?” Overwhelmingly the feedback focused on two primary themes; connections and experience. It also was clear that connectivity within the Central Issaquah area needed to reach beyond the Central Issaquah boundary into the rest of Issaquah and continue into the public lands that surround Issaquah. A broader context map was shown at the March 8 joint meeting to highlight this important point. The map, shown to the right, identifies these three concentric circles of the Central Issaquah area, the rest of the City of Issaquah, and broader regional public spaces that surround the city.

This Green Necklace vision seeks to:

1. Define a public system that supports Central Issaquah redevelopment;
2. Serve and support broader Issaquah; and
3. Unify/connect both of those areas with the Issaquah Alps, to Lake Sammamish State Park, and other surrounding public lands.

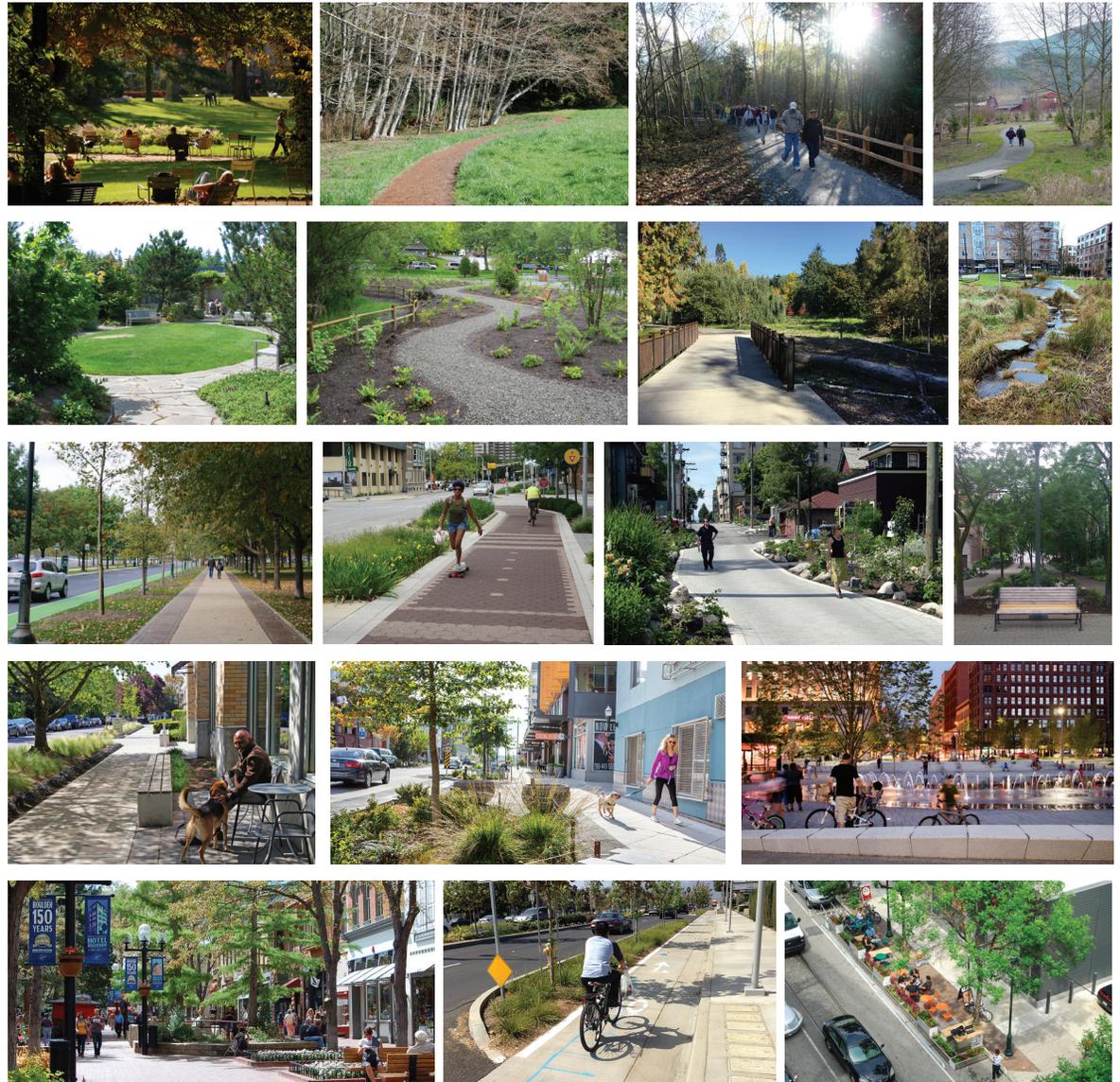
The elements of the Green Necklace are a combination of public properties, public streets and private property. As such it will take continued collaboration and many different future actions. The details of this vision will be accomplished through site specific Park and Trail planning and design, future Street/Corridor master plans (for example Gilman Blvd in 2018), as well as the development review process for specific private projects. As the Green Necklace Plan was developed, the Parks and Development Services Department reviewed and agreed that the Central Issaquah Development and Design Standards chapters 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 and 16 may require amendments to ensure future development occurs in the manner in which the Green Necklace is envisioned and depicted.

The Green Necklace will take years of hard work and perseverance to accomplish. In fact, the Green Necklace is only possible because of the decades of hard work and perseverance of many. Their work has provided Issaquah its public system and protected the natural beauty that is all around us. It is a tremendous opportunity to complete this cohesive and community-defining public parks and trails system. The Green Necklace Plan is a road map that will need review, assessment and updating as the years go by to ensure its success.

# GREEN NECKLACE CHARACTER

With the Planning Policy Commission, the Park Board, and the public, an image-based character exercise was conducted to identify character of the Green Necklace and its 17 elements. The most popular images indicate a desire for a natural, quiet, but formalized experience of nature. In the street realm, seating pockets and protected bike lanes are highly desired. In the urban realm, a pleasant pedestrian experience is desired - multi-use paths, pedestrian only streets, small areas of respite, sidewalks buffered from the street, and seating provided along sidewalks. For public spaces, the integration of wetlands is desired as are hardscaped urban plazas with water elements and trees.

The overarching character identified is reflected in the adjacent images.



# GREEN NECKLACE VISION

## *The Core Values*

### *Intuitive Connections*

Connect the city, region, major parks, schools, commercial/retail areas, and new neighborhoods.

### *Experience*

Create a hierarchy of experiences from urban to natural.

For connections that means using bike/pedestrian trails, pedestrian-centric shared streets, 'linear urban parks/plazas' next to streets, and streets with multi-use paths and sidewalks.

For spaces that means using green parks, open spaces, and urban plazas.

The Green Necklace designates a public vision of major connective and experiential opportunities that residents want preserved and enhanced as Central Issaquah redevelops. Connections are along City property which includes right of ways, parks, trails, and land. Additional acquisitions or easements will be needed to complete this system.

The Green Necklace celebrates Issaquah - it utilizes the creeks and the views, honors existing prized parks, proposes new ones, and embraces future density and future residents, creating a downtown that celebrates city and nature.

This map focuses on the publicly owned, managed, and maintained spaces.

Public/private spaces and partnerships are encouraged and anticipated to occur and are anticipated to further add to the system, yet are not dictated by this vision. These public/private elements will be guided by the Central Issaquah Development & Design Standards (Standards) and partnering planning works.

This vision is supported by and supports many other planning efforts, including the Mobility Master Plan, the Walk 'n' Roll Plan, and future transportation efforts. This Green Necklace vision will be revisited and evolved as other City planning efforts evolve.

This vision guides a hierarchy of intuitive public connections and spaces for bikes, pedestrians, and vehicles, connecting within Central Issaquah and the surrounding areas.

## *Green Necklace Elements*

Seventeen elements are identified as comprising the Green Necklace. The elements are:

①A ①B A SERIES OF MAJOR URBAN PLAZA/PARKS

② THE FUTURE SOUND TRANSIT STATION. THIS INCORPORATES AN OVER/UNDER CROSSING OF I-90 FOR BIKES, PEDESTRIANS, AND CARS, AND A URBAN PLAZA/PARK.

③ 12TH AVE NW IMPROVEMENTS

④A ④B NW MALL STREET IMPROVEMENTS, AND MALL STREET TRAIL

⑤A ⑤B ⑤C NW GILMAN BLVD, NW MAPLE ST, AND NEWPORT WAY NW IMPROVEMENTS.

⑥A ⑥B BIKE/PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AT SR-900

⑦ TIBBETTS CREEK TRAILS

⑧ A POTENTIAL I-90 BIKE/PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS

⑨ NW SAMMAMISH RD IMPROVEMENTS CONNECTING SOUTH COVE TO LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK

⑩ A BIKE/PEDESTRIAN EAST-WEST CONNECTION THROUGH LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK

⑪ LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS

⑫ NW SAMMAMISH RD IMPROVEMENTS

⑬ TRAIL ALONG LAKE DRIVE/ 12TH AVE NW

⑭ PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS TO THE EAST LAKE SAMMAMISH TRAIL AND FURTHER WEST

⑮ A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AND/OR PLAZA

⑯ THE CREEK CORRIDOR

⑰ NW HOLLY STREET IMPROVEMENTS

# THE GREEN NECKLACE MAP

**LEGEND:** Pedestrian and bike connection, no cars. Approximate location shown for intuitive, direct route. Developer and City collaboration needed for precise locations.

Pedestrian and bike connections, to cross major barrier (street, topography). Further study, developer and City collaboration needed for precise locations.

**TYPE 1 CONNECTION:** Multipurpose path on one side of the street accommodates pedestrians and bikes, sidewalk on other side of the street experience is a sidewalk or multipurpose path.

**TYPE 2 CONNECTION:** Street that provides a 'linear urban park' experience with wide sidewalks, a wide buffer from street, pockets for pedestrians to comfortably pause. Bike lanes provided, potentially separated from cars, potentially completely integrated into the 'linear urban park' experience.

**TYPE 3 CONNECTION:** Street with a pedestrian and bike centric experience.

Existing major public space, major connection point.

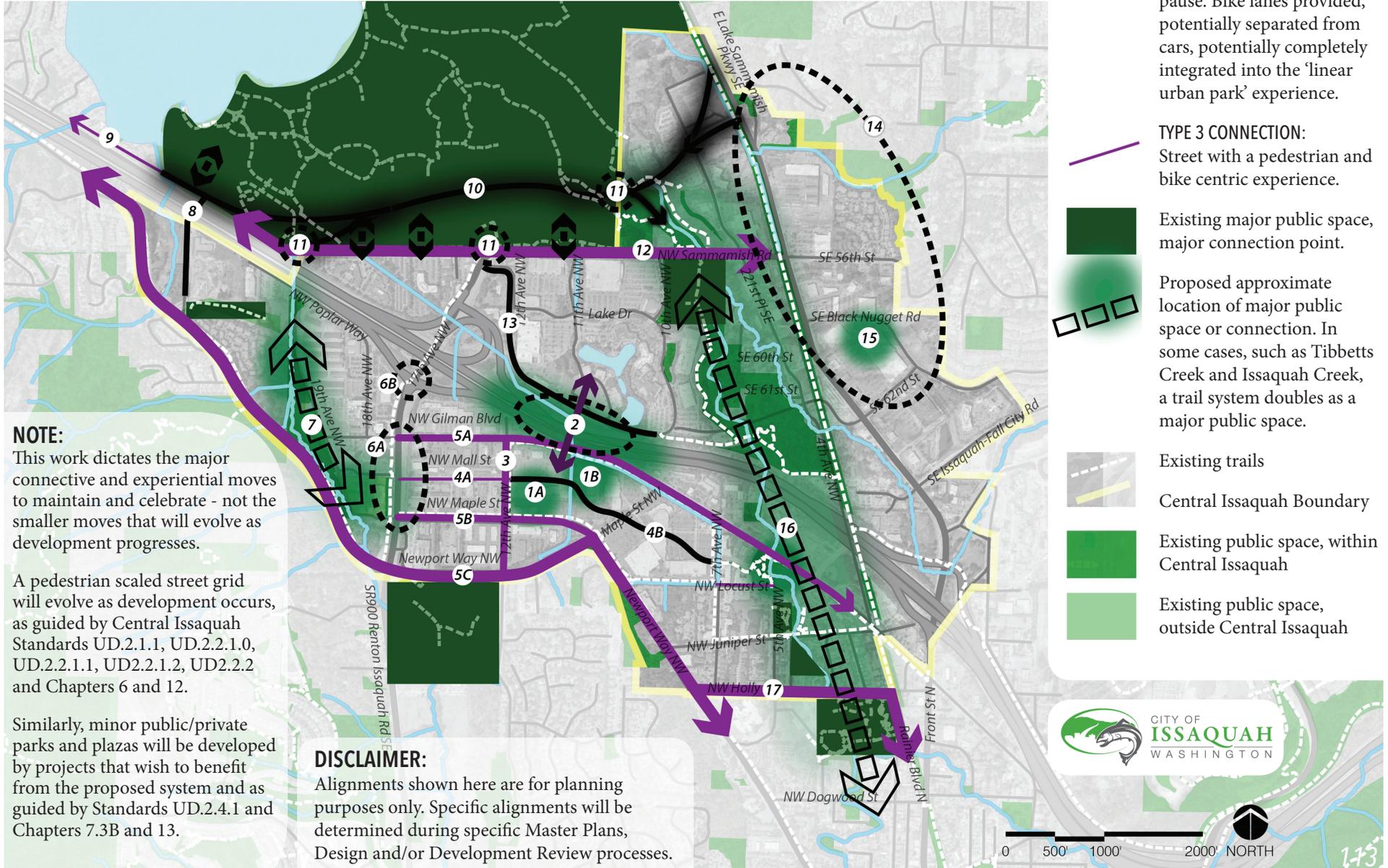
Proposed approximate location of major public space or connection. In some cases, such as Tibbetts Creek and Issaquah Creek, a trail system doubles as a major public space.

Existing trails

Central Issaquah Boundary

Existing public space, within Central Issaquah

Existing public space, outside Central Issaquah



**NOTE:** This work dictates the major connective and experiential moves to maintain and celebrate - not the smaller moves that will evolve as development progresses.

A pedestrian scaled street grid will evolve as development occurs, as guided by Central Issaquah Standards UD.2.1.1, UD.2.2.1.0, UD.2.2.1.1, UD.2.2.1.2, UD.2.2.2 and Chapters 6 and 12.

Similarly, minor public/private parks and plazas will be developed by projects that wish to benefit from the proposed system and as guided by Standards UD.2.4.1 and Chapters 7.3B and 13.

**DISCLAIMER:** Alignments shown here are for planning purposes only. Specific alignments will be determined during specific Master Plans, Design and/or Development Review processes.



① A series of major public spaces - a mix of urban plaza and park - that together become more than the sum of their parts. This series of spaces can be seen as multiple entities with individual character, yet also as a connected larger space. Adjacent buildings will face the park/plaza with windows, entrances, and active spaces. Streets will create view lines into and through the park to ensure park/plaza safety (see Standards UD.2.4.2., UD.2.4.3). Spaces will:

- provide flexible space to be used for a variety of activities and uses (see Standards UD.2.4.2., UD.2.4.3)
- connect the 12th Ave NW Type 2 Connection to the future Sound Transit station
- respond and directly connect to the Mall Street Trail
- integrate paved areas and seating with plantings
- allow areas for concerts, markets, public forums
- celebrate nature in various ways

①A Space 1A will integrate:

- an over-arching natural feeling, potentially with wetland aspects
- paved areas that facilitate small scale gathering
- paved areas to lean toward the curvilinear (versus rectangular)
- an interactive “natural” water element(s)
- large trees
- open (not canopied) areas
- copious integrated seating elements such as seat walls and/or benches
- integrated planting areas

**P** This element is a strategic project identified in the Parks Strategic Plan and is eligible for park impact fees.

①A Space 1A



Natural elements integrate with public space, circulation and seating. (Tanner Springs Park, Portland. GreenWorks PC.)



Integrate natural elements with circulation and seating.



Hardscape to be interspersed with planting and seating while allowing small-scale for gathering. (Top left image: Pearl Street Mall, Boulder.)



Hardscape and buildings create a focal point emphasizing natural elements. (Redmond Central Connector.)



Pedestrian circulation is emphasized with plantings and high quality paving treatments. (Vancouver, B.C. Image credit: Dan Burden.)

## CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

**1B** Space 1B will be an area that will facilitate many types of gathering and events, including large gatherings. This space will integrate:

- an interactive water element(s) that may metaphorically connect to 1A's water feature
- a more urban or manicured feeling than space 1A
- integrated seating elements

**P** This element is a strategic project identified in the Parks Strategic Plan and is eligible for park impact fees.

### **1B** Space 1B



*Hardscaped plaza space provides gathering and integrates water features used for both visual amenity and play. Plaza creates a mixing area for commerce and recreation. (Top image: McCoy Park, Portland. Murase Associates. Bottom image: Public Square, Cleveland. Field Operations.)*



*Space will provide area for large-scale gathering and events near the Sound Transit station.*



*Hardscaped spaces incorporate seating and are defined by planting.*

② A potential location for the future Sound Transit station could connect over or under I-90. A Type 2 Connection will accommodate bikes, pedestrians, and cars creating an intuitive connection North to Lake Sammamish State Park. By definition the Type 2 Connection will provide a pleasant linear park-like pedestrian and bike experience.

This over/under connection will also provide a urban plaza and/or park space that intuitively connects to the southern parks/plazas. This space will be an area that can facilitate large gatherings.

This space will integrate:

- a paved plaza
- pedestrian-oriented organic-feeling planted spaces
- celebration of view wherever possible
- public art
- facilities for those traveling by bike

**P** This element is a strategic project identified in the Parks Strategic Plan and is eligible for park impact fees.



Potentially an overpass lid integrating pedestrian and vehicular circulation, hardscape and planting. (520 lidded interchange. HBB Landscape Architecture. Image copyright Andrew Buchanan/SLP.)



Integrate bike parking and facilities for bicyclists. (Barcelona, Spain. Image credit: Ryan Snyder.)



Integrate iconic public artworks. (Spoonbridge and Cherry, Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. By Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen.)



Include organic-feeling spaces integrating greenery for pedestrians. (Bottom left image: Tanner Springs Park, Portland. GreenWorks PC. Bottom right image: Luxembourg Garden, Paris.)



Hardscaped public plaza at the station that can accommodate large-scale gatherings, vendors and food trucks. (Top image: McCoy Park, Portland. Murase Associates. Bottom image: Si View Park, North Bend.)



## CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

③ 12th Ave NW becomes a Type 2 Connection. This street will accommodate cars while also providing a pleasant pedestrian and bike 'linear urban park' experience, including:

- buffered and/or very wide bike lanes to protect from passing cars
- sidewalk buffered from the street with a wide planting strip, lushly planted, punctuated by street trees and groves of smaller trees where possible and as views to the North and South allow
- pedestrian realm designed to promote pausing with seating integrated along the sidewalks at least twice a block. Restaurants will provide outdoor dining spaces along this street

This street becomes a key connective piece of the city, connecting (and emphasizing connections to):

- the Type 2 Connections Gilman and Maple
- the Type 3 Connection Mall Street/ Mall Street trail, and thus the Sound Transit over/under I-90 crossing
- the Type 1 Connection Newport
- Tibbetts Valley Park
- Views to the South of the surrounding mountains and Mount Rainier
- Views to the North of Mount Baker and, if possible, Lake Sammamish

Contingent on Sound Transit location, 12th may continue north to Lake Sammamish State Park.



*Provide safe, buffered, wide bike lanes.*



*Pedestrian zone will be buffered from the street with planting and trees and provide seating pockets for pausing. (The Lyric Apartments, Seattle. Berger Partnership.)*



*Pedestrian zone will provide pleasant pockets for pausing and encourage developments to attach their spaces to this streetscape. (Top left image: Stackhouse, Seattle. Berger Partnership. Top right image: by Crandall Arambula.)*

④ NW Mall Street focuses on the pedestrian/bike experience. This street is to include:

- emphasis on pedestrian amenities with high quality materials, including but not limited to paving treatment, and color will be integrated
- specialty light fixtures
- pockets of planting of varying widths to add comfort for pedestrians and streetscape interest. Planting will provide a pollinator pathway mix of plant species.
- frequent trees with an emphasis on trees with a more open canopy

④A The existing block of NW Mall Street between 12th Ave NW and SR-900 becomes a Type 3 Connection. Seating pockets will be integrated some of which designed to double as small plaza spaces for performers/concerts. This block will have direct intuitive connections across 12th Ave NW to Mall Street Trail.

This section will follow Standard UD.2.1.1.2, Through-Block Mixed Mode Passage:

- “pedestrian and bike prioritized and the motor vehicle is the ‘guest’”, a woonerf
- 20’ minimum shared use/vehicular area
- 6’ minimum separation between shared use/vehicular area and building face
- traffic calming devices
- planting beds and trees
- pedestrian-scaled lighting, seating areas
- special, non-asphalt paving

④A NW Mall St between SR-900 and 12th Ave NW



Seating pockets and color will be an integral part of the streetscape. (Left image: pop up parklet, Philadelphia. Shiftspace. Right image: Bell Street Park, Seattle. MIG and SvR.)



Pockets of planting, trees, seating, and high quality materials will be an integral part of the streetscape. (Top left image: The Lyric Apartments, Seattle. Berger Partnership. Right image: Vera Katz Park, Portland. Bottom image: Bell Street Park, Seattle. MIG and SvR.)



## CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

4b) NW Mall Street continues east as a pedestrian/bike only Mall Street Trail, connecting to trails at 7th Ave NW and creating a major east-west trail connection to the south of I-90. Emergency and hour-specific business access will be allowed.

Trees, planting, specialty paving treatment, light fixtures, and color will be used to unify the Mall Street Trail to NW Mall Street. Frequent benches/seat walls will be integrated between shops, continuing the high quality materials and color along NW Mall Street. Retail and restaurants will be encouraged to face Mall Street Trail.

Developer pocket plazas that provide additional connections, respite, and seating, will be encouraged.

**P** This element is a strategic project identified in the Parks Strategic Plan and is eligible for park impact fees.

The Trail will directly connect to plazas 1A and 1B, and potentially expand into pocket plaza spaces. Developer pocket plazas may provide additional connections and amenity. (Top right image: Public Square, Cleveland. Field Operations. Bottom left image: YWCA Family Village, Issaquah. Bottom right image: Beekman Street Plazas, Manhattan. Field Operations.)

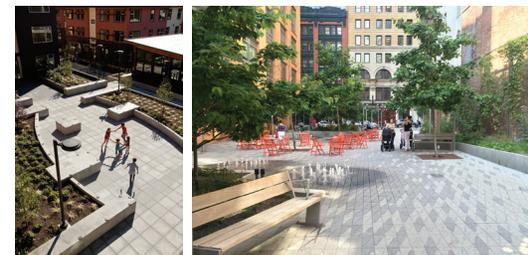
### 4B Mall Street Trail



Pedestrian only zone with benches between shops, high quality paving treatment, specialty lighting, and planting pockets. (Left image: Pearl Street Mall, Boulder. Right image: Kirkland Central Condominiums.)



This Trail will be a mix of an alley like feeling, a trail, and a plaza. The character may change along the Trail while unifying design elements will provide cohesion. (Left image: Stackhouse, Seattle. Berger Partnership. Right image by Crandall Arambula.)



5 NW Gilman Blvd, NW Mall Street, NW Maple St, and Newport Way NW are Symbiotic Corridors. They are four unique corridors that act as one entity, each corridor serving an individual purpose that balances and enhances the others by providing for multiple user groups.

NW Mall Street is pedestrian and bike centric. A Type 3 Connection west of 12th, Mall Street becomes pedestrian/bike only 7th to 12th. Refer to Element 4 for full discussion and character.

5A NW Gilman Blvd, a street currently in the master planning process of being re-imagined, is envisioned to become a Type 2 Connection providing a 'linear park' pedestrian and bike experience. This street must move traffic yet should be attractive to walking and outdoor dining. Retail, dining, and residences will be oriented towards the pedestrian sidewalk, activating the pedestrian realm (see Standards UD.2.3.2.2, UD.2.3.4.1, UD.2.3.2.1). Retail and restaurants will provide visual access from the street.

NW Gilman Blvd is to incorporate a bike facility. Separation from the street is preferred. Bike path to be intuitively separated from the pedestrian zone.



A bike path is buffered from the street and the pedestrian zone. Where possible provide planting and trees on both sides of the bike path. (Top right image: Indianapolis Cultural Trail. Bottom image: Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia.)

5A NW Gilman Blvd



Retail, dining, and residences are oriented toward the pedestrian sidewalk and activate the pedestrian realm. (Top left image: pop up parklet, Philadelphia.



Shiftspace. Top right and bottom left image by Crandall Arambula. Bottom right image: Kirkland Central Condominiums.)



A wide planting buffer provides space for plantings and trees. The pedestrian realm presents a linear park type feeling, well cared for and laid out with purpose. (Top left image: The Lyric Apartments, Seattle. Berger Partnership. Right image: Vera Katz Park, Portland.



Bottom image: Bell Street Park, Seattle. MIG and SvR.)

## CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

**5B** NW Maple Street is also a Type 2 Connection, ‘linear park’ pedestrian and bike experience. These linear park’s are distinctive; NW Maple Street has a lesser footprint than Gilman and the pedestrian realm will mostly be for moving through while providing a pleasant shopping and outdoor dining experience. Maple Street is to incorporate:

- a consistent street tree canopy
- restaurant related/other seating pockets to create a buffer for pedestrians from flow of vehicular traffic. Wide pockets of planting will enforce this buffer where possible - planting does not need to be continuous along the street, and should not block access from parked cars to the sidewalk
- retail and restaurants providing visual access from the street. Restaurants will provide outdoor dining opportunities (see Standards UD.2.3.2.2, UD.2.3.4.1)
- wide bike lanes either between parked and moving cars or parked cars and sidewalk

### **5B** NW Maple St



*Restaurants and retail will activate the pedestrian sidewalk. (Top left image: Shiftspace. Right image and bottom image by Crandall Arambula.)*



*Wide pockets of planting will enforce the buffer from the street. Planting does not need to be continuous along the street - planting should not block access from parked cars to the sidewalk. (Top left image: The Lyric Apartments, Seattle. Berger Partnership. Right image: Stackhouse, Seattle. Berger Partnership. Bottom image: Bell Street Park, Seattle. MIG and SvR.)*



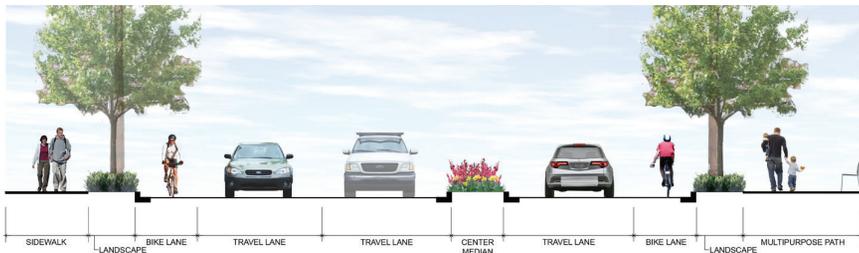
5C Newport Way NW incorporates a multipurpose path on one side of the street that accommodates pedestrians and bikes and a sidewalk on other side of the street.

Walking experience will be heightened with planted buffers and interesting planting. Street trees will provide a consistent rhythm along the corridor, and be as tall as view triangles, overhead lines, and other restrictions allow. Pavement and planting treatment will celebrate and emphasize trail and pathway connections that intersect Newport Way NW, and celebrate and emphasize connections to Tibbetts Valley Park.

5C Newport Way NW



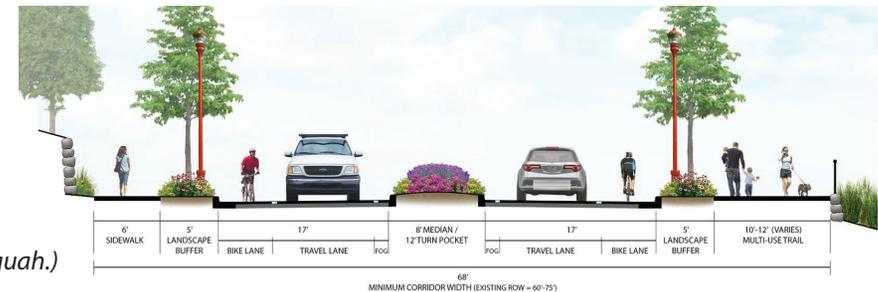
Walking experience is heightened with a wide planted buffer and interesting planting. Seating will provide areas to pause. (Top left image: Stackhouse, Seattle. Berger Partnership. Right image: The Lyric Apartments, Seattle. Berger Partnership. Bottom image: Bell Street Park, Seattle. MIG and SVR.)



Proposed Conditions (Looking North)

Newport Way NE between Maple St NW to W Sunset Way. Final design is underway as of April 2018. (Newport Way NW: Maple St NW to W Sunset Way Improvement Project. Council Infrastructure Committee Meeting, December 21, 2017. City of Issaquah.)

ADOPTED Newport Way NE between SE 54th St and SR 900 (Newport Way NW Design Report, November 17, 2017. City of Issaquah.)



- 6 Provide safe bike/pedestrian travel at SR-900. Study is needed for appropriate locations, and/or if over-street connections are appropriate or possible.
- 6A Connect the Gilman/Mall/Maple bike/pedestrian connections to the SR-900 boardwalks and the future Tibbetts Creek trails.
- 6B Continue safe bike/pedestrian passage along SR-900 at the I-90 off ramp. A bike lane separated from vehicular traffic is desired.

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⑦ The Tibbetts Creek trail system will serve as a public space and trail corridor, providing connectivity and areas for pausing or gathering. This element is an item within the current Rowley Development Agreement.

Major southeast connection may be contingent on the location of a safe bike/pedestrian connection over SR-900 connecting to Gilman/Mall/Maple (see element ⑥).

Major north connection is to Newport Way via Anthology (formerly Gateway). A potential I-90 bike/pedestrian overpass will provide future connection to Lake Sammamish State Park (see element ⑧) and, pending work on the NW Sammamish Rd pinch point, the South Cove neighborhood (see element ⑨).

Buildings adjacent to this area in the 'Natural Context Zone' (as identified in the Standards) will provide a setback that connect the buildings, uses, and activities to the natural area. Public access is required between regulated creeks/wetlands and building frontage (UD.2.3.2.3).

This trail system celebrates its context - both natural and built. This system will vary from very natural and loose to more defined and cultivated (such as the images with split rail fences and winding paths leading to development). This variation should respond to the surrounding built context. Bridges, benches, and fences should be made of natural elements - raw metal or wood. The trails should have a multitude of experiences, from open to more enclosed by trees, framing views of surrounding nature, or focusing on the creek itself. Trails will provide intuitive access to surrounding development while not focusing on the surrounding developments. Any planting done should have native wildlife in mind.

**P** This element is a strategic project identified in the Parks Strategic Plan and is eligible for park impact fees.



*Trail character is to vary. It may be overshadowed by canopy or open, edging the periphery of copses of trees, away from the creek or adjacent to the creek.*



*Trail character will respond to its context, potentially more formalized closer to developments. Materials will be natural - such as raw metal or wood. (Left image: Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle. Berger Partnership.)*

8 A potential I-90 bike/pedestrian overpass will provide future connection between the north and south sides of I-90. The Anthology (formerly Gateway) Development has provided a 'landing pad' for this future overpass.

The bridge is primarily to provide safe passage for pedestrians and bikes, however planting is to be integrated to provide as much wildlife connection as possible. Views of natural elements will be celebrated and defined by the bridge. From I-90 the bridge will create a portal into Issaquah. Stylistically for pedestrians, bikes, and cars traveling I-90, this bridge will recall alpine elements.



*Bridge integrating planting melds into man made spaces on either end.*

*(Left image: Olympic Sculpture Park, Seattle. Weiss/Manfredi. Image copyright Andrew Buchanan. Right image: Vancouver Land Bridge. KPFF and Jones and Jones.)*

*A landing at Lake Sammamish State Park might look similar to this. (Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle. Berger Partnership.)*

*Bridge will integrate view overlooks.*



9 The City of Issaquah is coordinating with WSDOT for additional access along NW Sammamish Rd to safely connect the South Cove neighborhood to Lake Sammamish State Park and Central Issaquah. Given space restrictions only a sidewalk may be possible at the narrowest point. Buffers and enhanced bike/pedestrian connections are to be introduced as soon as possible. Desired elements are:

- a bike lane separated from cars
- a pedestrian experience as removed from the road as possible that celebrates natural elements - as quiet as calm as possible
- integrated eye catching art that merges usefulness, art, and nature to provide a placemaking iconic element for bikes/pedestrians/cars

Once WSDOT has completed their work, the City will be responsible for designing/building the additional space for this connection.



*A buffered bike lane is desired.*



*Create a gateway into the core that merges usefulness, art, and nature. (Spoonbridge and Cherry, Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. By Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen.)*

*A quiet, reflective pedestrian experience is desired. Paved but natural. (Left image: Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle. Berger Partnership.)*



## CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

⑩ A bike/pedestrian east-west connection through Lake Sammamish State Park will serve as the intuitive non-motorized experience paralleling NW Sammamish Rd. This connection will link West to NW Sammamish Rd enhancements (see element ⑨) and East to existing Issaquah Creek Trails, the Creek Corridor, and to the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

This connection will be quiet, off-road, and of natural materials. The connection will travel through treed areas, fields, formalized gathering areas for festivals, and provide direct connections to the athletic fields and the new NW Sammamish Rd pedestrian access points and Central Issaquah beyond. This work is contingent on coordination with the State Park.



*This connection will emphasize quiet connect to nature. This will be an off-road, pedestrian emphasizing trail that allows for bicycles. (Bottom left image: Squak Valley Park, Issaquah.)*



*This connection will travel through treed areas, fields, and formalized gathering areas. (Left image: Luxembourg Garden, Paris. Right image: Si View Park, North Bend.)*

11 Major entries to Lake Sammamish State Park that promote pedestrian/bike access should be created and celebrated. Entries at the park will be emphasized with bike amenities. Entries will provide a formalized natural aesthetic, potentially including grassy lawn areas or native-based aesthetic plantings. Entries should provide direct access to amenities such as playgrounds and quiet, contemplative lawned areas, as well as the athletic fields.

In conjunction with this work, the entire edge along NW Sammamish Rd needs added pedestrian access points. This work is contingent on transportation projects and coordination with the State Park.



*Entries will provide a formalized natural aesthetic, groomed and well maintained, while providing a feeling of peaceful connection with nature. (Top right image: Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle. Berger Partnership.)*



*Entries will provide bike amenities. (Barcelona, Spain. Image credit: Ryan Snyder.)*



*Entries will provide direct access to park amenities such as playgrounds and athletic fields. (Veterans' Memorial Playground, Issaquah.)*

## CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

⑫ NW Sammamish Rd will provide a bike path and added pedestrian permeability into the park. Pedestrian access points into the park will merge city and natural characters; some connections may feel more urban, some more natural. A wide bike path, buffered from cars by planting, will be separated from the pedestrian sidewalk by a curb. Strong, safe pedestrian/bike crossings of NW Sammamish Rd need to be provided.

This work is contingent on transportation projects and coordination with the State Park.

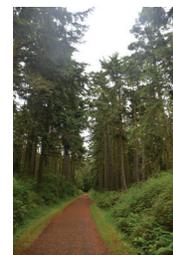


*Pedestrian access points into the park will merge city and natural characters; some connections may feel more urban, some more natural. (Left image: Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle. Berger Partnership.)*



*The streetscape will provide a separate bike path and pedestrian zone buffered from vehicular traffic. (Right image: Stackhouse, Seattle. Berger Partnership.)*

⑬ The existing 12th Ave NE and Lake Drive currently creates an unofficial bike route through this part of town. Celebrate this route and make an official bike/pedestrian trail separated from cars, potentially expanding on the existing trails in the area. This path would be integrated into the future Sound Transit connection over/under I-90. This path will travel through commercial areas as well as areas bordering natural areas, and the character should reflect that evolution.



*Character will reflect the evolution from more urban to more natural. (Top right image: Vancouver, B.C.. Image credit: Dan Burden.)*

14 As this area is developed, intuitive pedestrian connections need to be made down to the East Lake Sammamish Trail and further west. Multi-use paths and wide buffers from streets are desired for this area of town. Connected by these paths, gathering spaces, both lawned and hardscaped, are desired. Where possible, natural trails/connections through nature should be embraced.

These connections need to serve the area within Central Issaquah. Connections to the east and north need to be studied for feasibility and implemented where possible.

Safe passage for pedestrians and bikes across E Lake Sammamish Parkway SE needs study and implementation.



*Pedestrian connections that provide respite - either in more urban or more natural settings - are desired. (Right image: Stackhouse, Seattle. Berger Partnership.)*



*Gathering spaces will be part of these connections and provide areas. (Left image: Beekman Street Plazas, Manhattan. Field Operations.)*



*Buffered multi-use paths are needed for a variety of transportation modes. (Left image: Indianapolis Cultural Trail. Right image: Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia.)*

15 This location is identified for a neighborhood park and/or plaza that celebrates views of Mount Rainier, surrounding nature and the sunset and integrates gathering, relaxing, and active spaces. Surrounding buildings will respond to and activate the park.

If possible, locate with an amenity/vendor that will offer food/drinks to further enhance this public space.

**P** *This element is a strategic project identified in the Parks Strategic Plan and is eligible for park impact fees.*

*Park celebrates surrounding nature and provides active and passive recreation areas. (Left image: Si View Park, North Bend. Right image: Luxembourg Garden, Paris.)*



*Integrate gathering, relaxing, and active spaces. Surrounding buildings respond to and activate the park. (Jamison Square, Portland. PWP Landscape Architecture.)*

# CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

16 The Creek Corridor is Issaquah’s primary north-south corridor of parks and trails that serves as the anchor and primary feature of Issaquah’s park system. This trail corridor will ebb and flow through the natural and built environments. This network is realized by connecting parks, trails, and properties along Issaquah Creek acquired for riparian habitat conservation. The Creek Corridor includes the Rainier Trail.

Historically a barrier, the creek becomes a point of connection between neighborhoods. The Creek Corridor weaves through the valley floor for the entire length of the city, connecting city districts, neighborhoods and businesses and serving as a gateway to Issaquah’s natural areas: Tiger Mountain and Squak Mountains to the south, Lake Sammamish to the north, and Issaquah Creek.

*This element is a strategic project identified in the Parks Strategic Plan and is eligible for park impact fees.*

## Creek Corridor Trails

The Creek Corridor Trails, where along the creek and in existing ‘natural’ areas, will be kept as natural feeling as possible. Built elements might include overlooks over the creek, or places to celebrate quieter aspects of the creek.

Buildings adjacent to this area in the ‘Natural Context Zone’ (as noted in the Standards) will provide a setback that connect the building, uses, and activities to the natural area. Public access is required between regulated creeks/wetlands and building frontage (UD.2.3.2.3).

## Creek Corridor Trails



*These trails will provide space that is close to nature. Materials will be kept as natural as possible.*



*Where closer to developments, trails may take on a more manicured appearance.*



*Utilize overlooks to provide spaces close to yet not intruding on nature.*

*Celebrate quieter aspects of the creek. (Tanner Springs Park, Portland. GreenWorks PC.)*

**Creek Corridor Gathering Places**

The Creek Corridor will provide spots to pause and gather in nature for the surrounding urban area. Natural play elements and/or sculptures might be integrated in some areas, potentially as moments of surprise along the trail. Gathering areas should have low impact on nature.

**The Rainier Trail**

The Rainier Trail should continue being celebrated as a special element in the city, with special paving treatments and planted surroundings where they do not hinder high connectivity to this route.

Gathering areas should be placed along, respond to and integrate with this trail.

**Creek Corridor Gathering Places**



Provide areas to congregate in nature and where people can quietly walk in a visually appealing setting. (Left image: Luxembourg Garden, Paris.)



Integrate natural public art that doubles as interactive elements. (Bush Hill Park, Enfield.)

Integrate non-obtrusive ways to engage in nature. (Anchor Park, Malmo. SLA.)

Integrate art as a gathering focal point. (Spoonbridge and Cherry, Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. By Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen.)

**The Rainier Trail**



Celebrate the Rainier Trail with special paving and plantings, creating a space pleasant for many modes of transportation. (Left image: Indianapolis Cultural Trail. Right image: Bell Street Park, Seattle. MIG and SvR.)



Create gathering areas along the trail. (Right image: Si View Park, North Bend.)

Provide intuitive, attractive crossings. (Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle. Berger Partnership.)

## CITY OF ISSAQUAH 2018 PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

①⑦ NW Holly Street becomes a Type 1 Connection, part of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail. Pedestrian and bike centric, this street runs along Issaquah Valley Elementary School and Confluence Park, connecting Newport Way, the Mall Street Trail, the Rainier Trail/Creek Corridor and Front Street - a connection between Olde Town and Central Issaquah.

Create a street that provides strong, pleasant access for bikes and pedestrians, potentially a multi-use path separated from the street. Provide a wide planted or grassed buffer from the street, and plenty of trees. Clearly mark trail connections.

Integrate park-like elements that complement and add to neighboring Issaquah Valley Elementary and Confluence Park, such as playground areas. Celebrate natural areas where possible.



*A multiuse path separated from the street provides a strong, pleasant bike and pedestrian connection. (Left image: Indianapolis Cultural Trail. Right image: Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia.)*



*Provide park-like elements that complement and add to neighboring city elements. (Left image: Maple Leaf Reservoir Park, Seattle. Right image: Si View Park, North Bend.)*



