

# Poulsbo Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan 2016-2021

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## Chapter 1: Introduction

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan provides comprehensive guidance on the development and management of Poulsbo’s parks, recreation and open space system and the services provided by the City of Poulsbo Parks and Recreation Department. This plan has been regularly updated (2000, 2006, 2009) to remain relevant to Poulsbo as the city evolves

### Plan Purpose

Poulsbo updates its PROS Plan every six years, as required by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to maintain eligibility for federal and state grant programs. The PROS Plan is also meeting the Growth



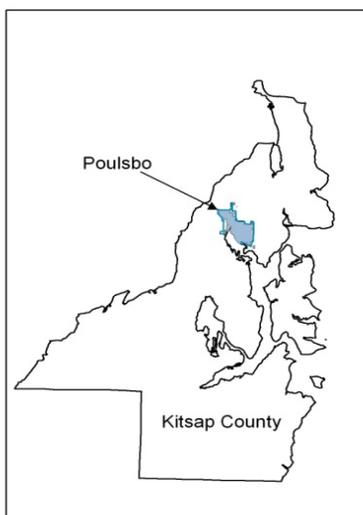
*Muriel Iverson Williams Waterfront Park*

Management (GMA) requirements, by identifying parks and open space goals

and policies, including a demand and needs analysis based upon the City’s assigned population allocation, and identifying future parkland acquisition and park development improvements which will be included in the City’s Capital Facilities Plan.

Parks, recreation facilities and open spaces serve as vital parts of Poulsbo’s character, providing recreation opportunities, visual relief from urban development and habitat for wildlife. This plan identifies Poulsbo’s

existing park and open space resources; outlines the City’s need for additional parks and open space; and incorporates a plan for acquisition and development that reflects the community’s needs and vision.



### Poulsbo’s Setting and Planning Area

The City of Poulsbo in Kitsap County, Washington, is known as “Viking City,” because of its Norwegian heritage. Centrally located in Northern Kitsap County, Poulsbo is served by three state highways: SR 3, SR 307 and SR 305. Poulsbo has a unique and spectacular natural setting: Encompassing 4.5 square miles, the city has numerous hills and valleys, forests, creeks, streams and shoreline along Liberty Bay, an inlet of Puget Sound. Its elevation ranges from sea level to 440 feet, with ridges running along the east and west sides of the bay that gradually

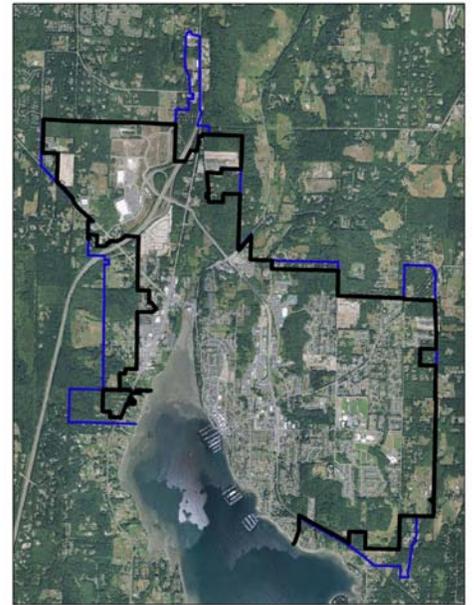
rise in height and merge to the north.

Liberty Bay and Liberty Bay Estuary are the two major bodies of water in Poulsbo. Relatively narrow and shallow, the bay serves as the receiving waters for Dogfish Creek, as well as a number of other streams at the edges of the city limits. Dogfish Creek is the largest stream system in Poulsbo and extends extensively outside of the city limits. The south fork of Dogfish Creek is completely within the city limits, on the east side of Poulsbo, generally along the SR 305 corridor.

The planning area in this plan is defined by the City’s Urban Growth Area (UGA), which include the city limits and unincorporated area. The 2015 UGA boundaries are consistent with the Poulsbo UGA adopted by Kitsap County, and provide sufficient land capacity for Poulsbo’s assigned population projections. In addition, this is the planning area that will be used in the City’s 2016 GMA required periodic Comprehensive Plan update.

**Planning Context**

Its natural beauty, combined with its location within commuting distance to Seattle and its proximity to military bases, attract a steady stream of new residents calling Poulsbo home. Since the PROS Plan was last updated in 2009, Poulsbo’s population has increased from 9,106 to 9,950, a growth of 844 persons or 9 percent. This trend is projected to continue through 2036, when the population is anticipated to reach 14,808.



*Poulsbo City Limits and Urban Growth Area*

**Table 1-1: Population Projection**

2015 OFM Annual Population*	Allocated Projected Population 2035**	Projected Growth 2015-2036
9,950	14,808	4,858

Source: \*OFM 2015 Population estimate; \*\*Kitsap Regional Countywide Planning Policy Appendix B

Demographic and contextual factors influence park acquisition and recreation priorities, and were evaluated during the PROS planning process. For Poulsbo’s planning purposes, a distinction between the city limits and unincorporated urban growth area is not made and the entire UGA will serve as the PROS Plan planning area.

## Chapter 2: Inventory of Existing Parks and Recreation Resources

The first step in the development of a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is the identification of existing parks, open space, and recreation programs, and review of challenges and opportunities presently facing the City’s park system.

### Inventory

The City of Poulsbo owns 20 parks ranging in size from .24 acre to over 36 acres. The parks fall into one or more of four categories based upon their size, facilities and intended use. (Two parks come under two categories).

**Table 2-1: Park Classification Summary**

Park Classification	Number of Sites	Total Acreage
Neighborhood Park	9	19.33
Community Park	2	27.07
Regional Park	4	12
Natural/Open Space	6	74.60
Trails	11	5.59 miles or 4.08 acres
<b>Total Parks</b>		<b>133 acres</b>
<b>Total Trails</b>		<b>137.08 acres including trails</b> <b>5.59 miles</b>

Collectively, these parks contain a variety of outdoor recreation facilities, including playgrounds, picnic areas, basketball courts, a recreation center, shoreline access, boat ramps, restrooms, off-leash dog runs, ball fields and natural open spaces with walking paths and trails.

**Neighborhood Parks** serve as recreational and social gathering places for individual neighborhoods. They are designed to serve a radius of less than ½ mile, and the parks themselves are small, averaging 2 acres in size. Neighborhood Parks are usually home to a combination of playground equipment, picnicking and outdoor activity areas. **Poulsbo has nine neighborhood parks totaling 19.33 acres.**

**Community Parks** serve a broader purpose and population than neighborhood parks. They are developed for both passive and active recreation. These parks may typically include athletic fields, sports courts, trails, playgrounds, open space and picnicking facilities. The service radius is usually ½ to 3 miles. **Poulsbo has two community parks totaling 27.07 acres.**

**Regional Parks** attract people to enjoy the park. These parks are often along shoreline and may be in the center of the tourist areas. **Poulsbo has four such parks totaling 12 acres.**

**Natural/Open Space Parks** are natural lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, open space and areas for aesthetics and buffering. These parks are often characterized by sensitive areas, and may include wetlands, slopes, significant natural vegetation or shorelines. **Poulsbo has six parks with natural/open space designation totaling 74.60 acres.**

**Trails** are provided in parks, along roads or in old road right-of-way. Most of Poulsbo’s trails do not connect, but by adding sidewalks and other rights-of-way, a walker can get from one place to another. Connectivity of Poulsbo parks is a priority and a major goal of the City.

**Poulsbo has 11 trails totaling 5.59 miles.** An inventory of these sites is included in Appendix A, and they are included as existing acres in the Demand and Needs assessment (Chapter 4). The City Parks system is depicted on Map 2-1. Table 2-2 identifies City owned parks and trails, their size, location and the existing amenities they offer.



*Driftwood fish artwork by Travis Foreman at Poulsbo’s Fish Park*



*Nelson Park*

**Table 2-2: Poulsbo Park, Recreation and Open Space Inventory**

Name of Park	Location	Acres	Park Classification	Existing Amenities
Austurbruin Park	Curt Rudolph Road	4.51	Neighborhood	Picnic area, playground, trails, wildlife habitat, open space
Betty Iverson Kiwanis Park	20255 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue	2.76	Neighborhood	Picnic area, playground, shelter/gazebo, grills
Forest Rock Hills Park	North end of 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	3.11	Neighborhood	Picnic area, playground, trails, grills, plants/wildlife viewing, open space
Lions Park	585 Matson Street	1.2	Neighborhood	Picnic area, playground, restrooms
Poulsbo Pump Track	20523 Little Valley Road	1.82	Neighborhood	undeveloped
Morrow Manor	SE corner of Noll/Mesford	1	Neighborhood	undeveloped
Nelson Park	20296 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue	4	Neighborhood	Picnic area, playgrounds, shelter/gazebo, grills, restrooms, trails, plants/wildlife viewing, open space
Net Shed Vista	18500 Fjord Drive	.69	Neighborhood	Picnic area
Oyster Plant Park	17881 Fjord Drive	.24	Neighborhood	Shoreline, small boats launch, picnic area, trails, wildlife viewing
<b>Total Neighborhood Parks</b>				<b>19.33 acres</b>
College MarketPlace	Reliance Street	6.07	Community	Undeveloped
Raab Park	18349 Caldart Avenue	21	Community	Picnic area, playgrounds, shelter/gazebo, grills, restrooms, trails, basketball court, off-leash dog run, community gardens/open space
<b>Total Community Parks</b>				<b>27.07 acres</b>
American Legion Park	Front Street	4.19	Regional	Shoreline, picnic area, playgrounds, restrooms, trails, plants/wildlife viewing
Poulsbo's Fish Park	288 NW Lindvig Way	4.53	Regional	Shoreline, picnic area, amphitheater, trails, plants/wildlife viewing, open space
Muriel Iverson Williams Waterfront Park	18809 Anderson Parkway	1.76	Regional	Shoreline, picnic area, shelter/gazebo, restrooms, boat ramp
Poulsbo Recreation Center	19545 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue	1.52	Regional	Basketball court, fitness center, gymnastics equipment, classrooms, , preschool
<b>Total Regional Parks</b>				<b>12 acres</b>
Centennial Park	7 <sup>th</sup> and Iverson Street	2.85	Natural/Open Space	Picnic area, trails, plants/wildlife viewing, open space
Hattaland Park	10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE	2.04	Natural/Open Space	Picnic area, trails, plants/wildlife viewing, open space
Indian Hills Park	Stenbom Lane	20	Natural/Open Space	Undeveloped, open space
Nelson Park	20296 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW	6.8	Natural/Open Space	Undeveloped, open Space
Poulsbo's Fish Park	288 NW Lindvig Way	32.17	Natural/Open Space	Trails, Plants/wildlife viewing, open

				space
Wilderness Park	Caldart Avenue and Hostmark Street	10.74	Natural/Open Space	Picnic area, trails, plants/wildlife viewing, open space
<b>Total Natural/Open Space</b>				<b>74.60 acres</b>
Boardwalk-American Legion Park Trail	Front Street	.30 mile	Trail	Boardwalk and paved
County Road 59	Shoreline at 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NW	.10 mile	Trail	Soft surface
Poulsbo's Fish Park Trails	288 NW Lindvig Way	1.5 miles	Trail	Soft surface
Fjord Drive Waterfront Trail	Fjord Drive, from 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue to city limits	2 miles	Trail	Paved shoulder
Forest Rock Hills	North end of 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	.25 mile	Trail	Soft surface
Lincoln Road Shared Use Path	Lincoln Road from Maranatha Lane to Noll Road roundabout	.36 mile	Trail	Paved (separate from street)
Moe Street Trail	Moe Street to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue	.10 mile	Trail	Soft surface
Noll Road Shared Use Path	Noll Road south of Hostmark	.20 mile	Trail	Paved (separate from street)
Raab Park Exercise Trail	18349 Caldart Ave.	.33 mile	Trail	Soft surface
Raab Park Nature Trail	18349 Caldart Ave.	.20 mile	Trail	Soft surface
Wilderness Park Trail	Caldart and Hostmark	.25 mile	Trail	Soft surface
<b>Total Trails</b>				<b>5.59 miles</b>

Source: Park acreage amount derived from 2015 Kitsap County Assessor data as accessed from Kitsapgov.com parcel search online data. American Legion Park and Muriel Iverson Williams Waterfront Park acreage amount was derived from Poulsbo Planning and Economic Development GIS analysis.

**Poulsbo City Parks Map Insert here**

## Other Properties

In addition to city-owned parks, recreation facilities and open space listed in Tables 2-1 and 2-2, the City has shared use agreements with the North Kitsap School district (NKSD) on fields at four schools. These fields are available for City-sponsored recreation programs and general public use. **NKSD shared-use fields total 43.22 acres.**

**Table 2-3: Shared Fields with NKSD**

School	Field Size
Vinland Elementary	3.4 acres
Strawberry Fields (Poulsbo Elementary)	8.34 acres
NK Middle School	20.4 acres
NK High School	11.08 acres
<b>Total Shared Fields with NKSD</b>	<b>43.22 acres</b>

Source: Poulsbo Planning and Economic Development Department GIS

## Recreation Programs

The Poulsbo Parks and Recreation Department provides a full-service recreation program, including, educational, personal enhancement, exercise, and art classes for youth, adults, seniors. It also sponsors a preschool, numerous sports activities and leagues, senior trips, a community garden, and many community special events. In 2014, the Parks and Recreation Department planned and implemented 700 classes, programs and activities, translating to 8,547 persons taking classes, participating in an outing, enrolled in preschool, exercising on a sports league, or running a road race.



*Community Garden at Frank Raab Park*

2014 was the first full year the City implemented online registration for its recreation programming. Nearly 20% of all programming registration and a third of the Department's 2014 revenue was from online transactions. The growth of online registration will continue to improve the department's efficiency, enabling the department to focus on generating more revenue through better customer service and marketing.

The Poulsbo Parks and Recreation Department benefits from a robust volunteer force for its youth basketball, volleyball and lacrosse leagues – approximately 1,000 youth were involved in these three programs in 2014. Special events, such as the Viking Fest Road Race, use volunteers to manage registration and the finish line for

900 runners. The Easter Candy Hunt is staffed by the Poulsbo Lions Club and teen volunteers every year. And finally, volunteers organize and staff a monthly dance for people with special needs.

The Learn and Grow Preschool offers two age-appropriate programs that encourage children to explore their world. Classes involve fun and interesting activities, including story time, art, science experiments, discovery time, music and movement.

The Department also has many partners and sponsors who support and offer additional programs, facilities and volunteers.



*Volunteers during work party at Poulsbo Fish Park*



*Viking Fest Road Race*

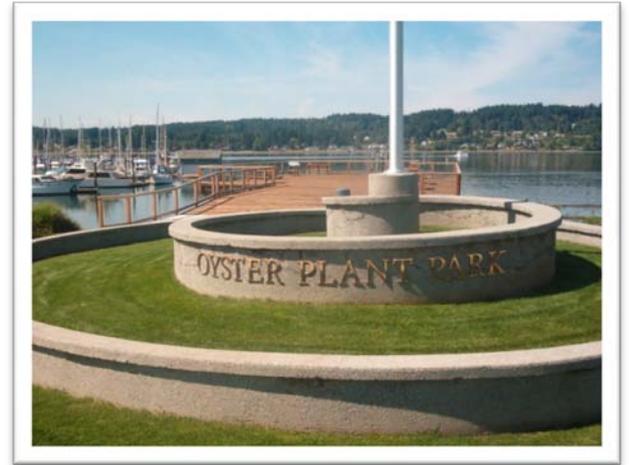
## Chapter 3: Public Involvement

Public involvement and input is vital to the park and recreation planning process. Decision makers must have a clear and accurate understanding of community needs and desires to make informed decisions and appropriately allocate resources. The PROS Plan needs to be re-evaluated periodically to determine if it still reflects the goals and priorities of city residents, and to address changes since the last update.

The 2015 update to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan included major contributions by the Poulsbo Parks and Recreation Commission, a public input survey, a community open house, and public comments submitted in writing or in person.

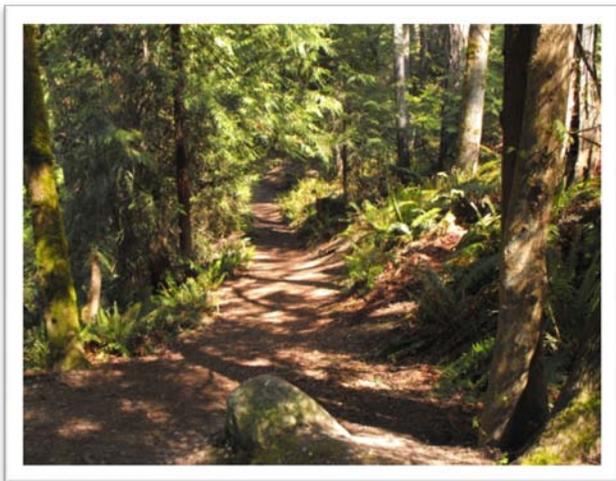
### Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission advises and make



*Oyster Plant Park*

recommendations to the Mayor and City Council regarding the development, maintenance, acquisition and renovation of parks, trails and other recreation facilities. The volunteers serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission contribute valuable insight into the parks system from a variety of user perspectives and collectively provide a public forum for discussion of parks, recreation and open space issues affecting the City's system. The Commission played a major role in development of the 2015 PROS Plan update, reviewing the results of the community input survey, hosting the community open house, reviewing and editing goals and policies, evaluating Level of Service standards, assessing the Demand and Needs Analysis, and establishing the land acquisition and



*Trail at Wilderness Park*

improvement plan.

### Poulsbo Parks, Recreation and Open Space Public Survey

The Parks and Recreation Department online survey was available from March through April 2015, and provided helpful and insightful public input on the current park system and desires for new parks or improvements. The survey garnered 274 total responses. The results of the community survey are found in Appendix B.

Over 90% of survey respondents were generally or very satisfied with the park and recreation services offered by the City. Over half of the survey takers live within the city limits, and 40% travel two miles or more to visit a City park. While there, most (75%) spend less than 2 hours at the park, with 45% spending one hour or less. The

primary reasons selected for visiting the City parks is to get outside for fresh air (75%), nature/wildlife viewing, access to shoreline and bringing children to play,. Exercising, walking the dog, spending time with friends/family and attending outdoor events were also listed as important reasons for visiting City of Poulsbo parks.

Poulsbo Fish Park is the most frequented park (65%), with Muriel Iverson Williams Waterfront Park (61%) in second, and Raab Park (59%) and Lions Park (56%) following. The most common activity while at City Parks is walking/sitting/reading (88%), with waterfront viewing (70%) coming in second.

When asked what the most important parks and recreation priority is for the City as it grows, respondents choose developing the City's existing

parks to their best potential (33%).

Other priorities include building more trails and acquiring more new shoreline parkland.

Concerning future needs, survey takers ranked their priorities as: 1) develop more trails (83%); 2) develop more active parks with playgrounds, trails, restrooms, ball fields (78%); acquire more shoreline properties (75%); acquire more active park property (68%); and acquire more open space (67%).

Adding walking/jogging trails received the highest vote for additional activities respondents would like the City to prioritize, with bike paths/road bicycling coming in second and third. Water/spray park (27%) and additional outdoor events/festivals (25%) rounded out the top priorities.

Survey respondents tended to be avid users of city recreational programming; at least half indicated they or a family member had been or was a current participant. When asked which age groups should be priorities for new or expanded recreational programming, respondents collectively selected all age groups equally.

When asked how the City should finance new park and recreation acquisition or recreation facilities, grants and donations was the top selection (80%), with participation fees and bond issues as second choices (48%).



*Lions Park*



*Waterfront Park Boardwalk*

## Community Open House

The Park and Recreation Commission hosted a Community Open House on June 22, 2015, to gather input specifically on the PROS Plan update and the needs of the park system. Large- and small-scale maps of the existing City Park System and the previous PROS Plan's Land Acquisition and Development Maps were available to review and discuss; forms for written input were available to complete on-site or take home. Attendees of the open house also participated in a "sticky dot" exercise to vote for what Capital Improvement Projects were the most important to them. A summary of results from the community survey was also provided to open house attendees.

Input received from the open house attendees included a proposal by the Poulsbo Garden Club to participate in a long-term project in one of the City's Parks. A representative from the American Legion Post #245 was also in attendance and suggested a project in the City's American Legion Park as a memorial for veterans.

Another attendee expressed concerns about how land for trails was to be acquired and emphasized that the City should not take land from unwilling property owners for public trail access.



*Centennial Park*

## Chapter 4: Goals and Policies

### Community Key Goals – Parks, Recreation and Open Space

- Establish and maintain a network of trails, safe walkways, and open spaces throughout the Poulsbo community.
- Develop active and passive parks, recreation programs and facilities, and an open space system that benefits citizens of all ages, incomes and physical abilities.
- Provide opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreational activities and team sports in City parks.

#### Plan Context

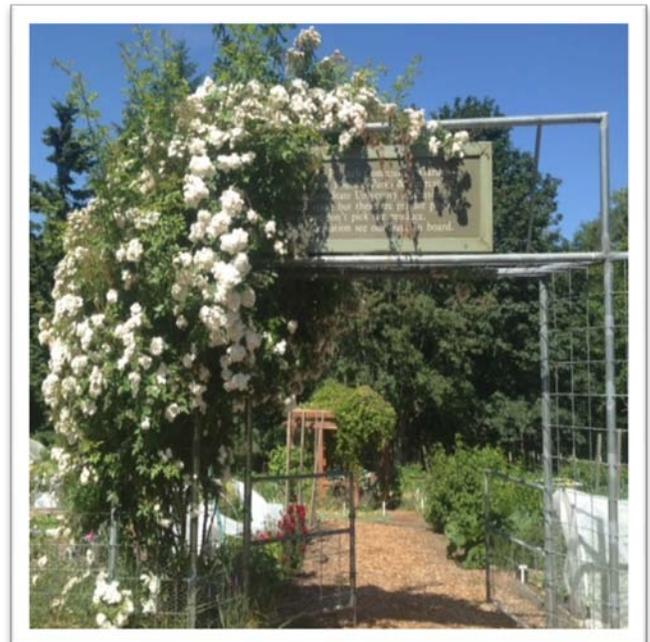
The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) addresses present and future park, recreation and open space issues for Poulsbo. The 2015 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan will be included in as Appendix B-5 to the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Urban Paths of Poulsbo Plan (Trails Plan) adopted by the City is included as Appendix B-6 of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

This Chapter includes policies related to:

- Parkland acquisition
- Parkland development
- Park stewardship
- Urban Paths of Poulsbo
- Community recreation and programs
- Implementation and funding of this plan

#### Vision, Goals and Policies

The richness of Poulsbo's natural setting has long been central to the city's quality of life. Surrounding Liberty Bay, the city enjoys a fjord setting and spectacular views of the Olympic Mountains. Within the city's boundaries are saltwater shorelines, urban forests, wetlands and streams that support a variety of wildlife. The City park system goals recognize the uniqueness of the natural setting and correspond to Poulsbo's active lifestyle.



*Entrance gate to Community Garden at Frank Raab Park*

The vision that guides these goals and policies is to enrich the lives of citizens in the greater Poulsbo area with quality recreation opportunities, facilities, special events, parks, trails and passive open space park areas; and to provide wise stewardship of the natural and cultural resources within Poulsbo's parks and open space.

A strong park system is vital to the Poulsbo community. As the city's population grows, demand and need for park facilities will continue to increase. It is important that the City anticipate and respond to the growing

demand on the City's park facilities, recreation programs, and open space resources in order to maintain the Quality and service for which it is known.

The key overarching goals reflected in this Plan are to:

- Continue to develop and enhance active and passive parks, recreation programs and facilities that benefit residents of all ages, incomes and physical abilities.
- Create a hybrid system of on-street facilities, off-street links, and shared-use paths to create a continuous and complete network for pedestrians and bicyclists that connects neighborhoods,



*Muriel Iverson Williams Waterfront Park  
and portion of Boardwalk*

commercial areas, schools, transit facilities, parks and open spaces, and the waterfront.

- Provide enhanced opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation activities and team sports in Poulsbo parks and recreational facilities.

#### **Parkland Acquisition**

Poulsbo is committed to building and improving its park system and utilizing various acquisition strategies to assure that land is available to meet the City's current and future park and open space needs. The City directs its acquisition efforts toward achieving a coordinated and connected system of parks and open space that provide land needed for public park-related facilities and activities, and protects significant environmental features. Property acquisition is driven by

availability and affordability. In order to be able to take advantage of opportunities as they arise, strong leadership and a variety of acquisition tools must be available.

The 2015 community survey results identified three parkland acquisition priorities:

- Acquire land along the shoreline of Liberty Bay and in the Dogfish Creek Corridors to provide shoreline access, preserve open space and provide nature trails.
- Acquire land in the geographically underserved areas where population is growing, primarily located on the edges of the city.
- Acquire land or recreational easements that can serve to link sections of a citywide trail system.

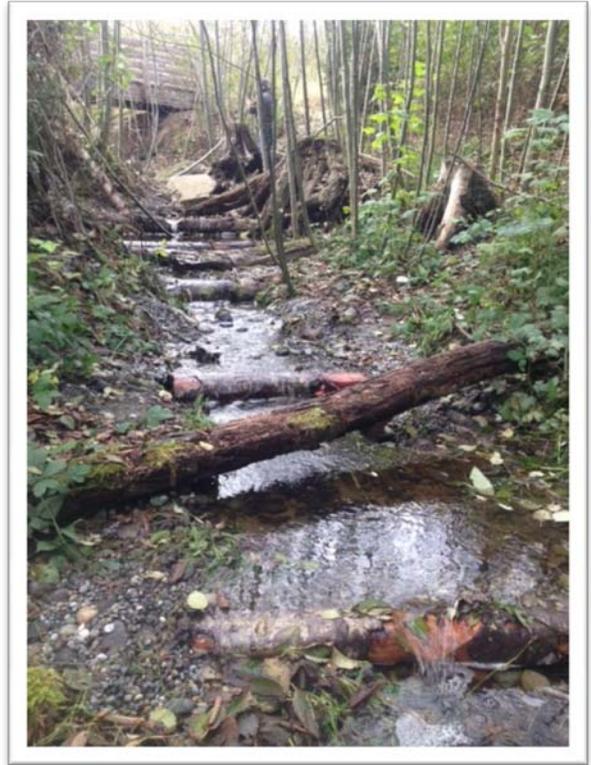
**GOAL PRO-1**

**Acquire land for public park use that provides a variety of recreational opportunities, and access to the City’s shorelines, preserves natural areas, and meets the City’s park needs based on adopted level of service standards.**

***Policy PRO-1.1***

*Identify and acquire a wide variety of lands for parks and public open space purposes. These shall be identified in the Parks’ Capital Facility Plan section and meet identified needs based on Level of Service standards:*

- *Natural areas and features with outstanding scenic or recreational value;*
- *Lands that provide public access to the Liberty Bay shoreline, the Dogfish Creek estuary, and other creeks located within the city;*
- *Lands with value for wildlife or watershed conservation, science, education, or that have other significant natural amenities;*
- *Lands that connect natural areas, or provide important links for trails, plant communities, or wildlife habitat;*
- *Lands valuable for active recreation, including playgrounds, athletic fields and facilities, trails, fishing, swimming or picnicking activities;*
- *Land that provide an appropriate setting and location for community center;*
- *Parkland that enhances the surrounding land uses;*
- *Land that preserves significant historical areas and features.*



*Stream restoration for SF Dogfish Creek at Poulsbo Fish Park*

***Policy PRO- 1.2***

*Community and neighborhood parks, recreation facilities and playfields should be as centrally located as possible within their service area and within walking distance of the population they serve.*

***Policy PRO-1.3***

*Publicly owned lands shall be examined and analyzed for their potential value as parkland, trail access or open space before being declared surplus and disposed of. Underutilized publicly owned properties should be evaluated for partnership or parkland improvement opportunities. Prior to City-owned parkland being disposed of, the City shall establish a public process that includes the Park and Recreation Commission, which will study its park potential and provide recommendations to the City Council.*

#### **Policy PRO-1.4**

*When a private developer is contemplating making a public benefit donation to the City, donations that help implement the Park's Capital Facility Plan or provide connectivity to other public parkland, open space and/or pedestrian access should be encouraged.*

#### **Parkland Development**

Poulsbo's parks are designed to meet active and passive recreation needs of their neighborhoods and communities at large and provide safe and healthy places for children to play and for people of all ages to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. Priorities should be given to completing existing parks, such as Nelson Park, Centennial Park and Poulsbo's Fish Park, as well as upgrading and renovating older parks, such as the Waterfront



*Austurbruin Park*

Park public bathrooms. Development of newly acquired parkland should also be a priority as funding becomes available. Development of all existing parks will be more successful when community partnerships are developed and maintained.

In carrying out upgrades and enhancements of existing parks and planning for new parks, particular attention should be given to the following: designing with environmental sustainability in mind (through water and energy conservation measures, for example), connecting paths and trails, seeking out opportunities to enhance wildlife habitat, and expanding access for children and adults with physical disabilities.

The City has identified a long-range parkland development program that is reflected in its "Park System Acquisition and Improvement Plans," found in Chapter 6. The development/renovation projects are also mapped in Figure PRO-2. Upon review of the long-range parkland development list, the priorities are:

- Complete master planned phased development of existing parks, such as Nelson Park, Centennial Park, Indian Hills Recreation Area, and Poulsbo's Fish Park.
- Construct or partner to develop multi-use fields at College Market Place.
- Develop trails along Liberty Bay shoreline and Dogfish Creek.
- Retrofit parks with barrier-free recreational equipment.
- Enhance playground facilities.
- Include adult outdoor exercise activities, such as disc golf and circuit equipment
- Develop North Kitsap Event Center, including ball fields.

**GOAL PRO-2**

**Develop the City’s public parks to their highest potential in order to offer a high quality and diversified park system that benefits citizens of all ages, incomes and physical abilities.**

***Policy PRO-2.1***

*Continue the City’s practice of preparing master park plans for acquired parkland, in order to guide the development of City parks in phases as funds and resources become available. New park designs shall include appropriate active recreation facilities for a variety of abilities and age groups. Utilize volunteer groups to help with park master planning and development as warranted.*

***Policy PRO-2.2***

*Provide barrier-free recreation opportunities throughout the Poulsbo Parks system. Consult social service agencies for technical and financial assistance in order to best provide opportunities where mentally and physically challenged individuals can accompany and interact with their families, friends or caregivers in selected City parks and on trails.*



*Arbor at Frank Raab Park*

***Policy PRO-2.3***

*Evaluate impacts on surrounding land uses when considering sites for acquisition and in developing park sites. Neighbors shall be consulted and considered in the design of new parks.*

***Policy PRO-2.5***

*Incorporate public art and cultural resources into park design features that highlight Poulsbo and Tribal history, traditions and natural resources.*

***Policy PRO-2.6***

*Incorporate into Fish Park and Nelson Park, and along the planned Liberty Bay/Dogfish Creek shoreline trail, interpretative stations and viewing areas to support the Kitsap Audubon Society’s designation of Liberty Bay and the Dogfish Creek estuary as the “Poulsbo Fjords Audubon Wildlife Viewing Area.”*

**Park Stewardship**

Poulsbo’s parks should balance resource protection with recreational activities and uses. This can be accomplished through careful and thoughtful management of our public lands.

**GOAL PRO-3**

**Provide wise stewardship of the resources within Poulsbo’s parks and recreation system.**

**Policy PRO-3.1**

*New park master plan designs should incorporate energy efficient facilities, plan for water conservation, protect wildlife habitat, encourage recycling, , and employ low-impact development techniques to handle storm water runoff.*

**Policy PRO-3.2**

*Ensure parks are adequately maintained by providing Public Works staff with the resources to operate and maintain the parks and facilities with the most cost effective methods and policies. Minimize or eliminate the need to use irrigation by incorporating native and/or drought-tolerant vegetation.*

**Policy PRO-3.3**

*Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides, artificial fertilizers or herbicides through the use of integrated pest management techniques in the maintenance of City parks.*

**Policy PRO-3.4**

*Seek opportunities to incorporate environmental education in parks and open spaces throughout Poulsbo to encourage stewardship by current and future generations.*

**Policy PRO-3.5**

*Encourage volunteer, business, school and civic groups to assist with capital improvements, park maintenance and litter clean-up activities, to maintain a watchful eye on our parks and open spaces, and help in general stewardship of public spaces.*

**Urban Paths of Poulsbo**

During the 2009 Comprehensive Plan update process, Poulsbo residents identified a citywide trail system as a top priority. Opportunities for walking and hiking continue to be very important to residents; this was reaffirmed in the City’s 2015 Parks and Recreation community survey, where developing more trails was identified as the highest priority for City park acquisition and development.



*Martinson House and Museum at Nelson Park*

Commencing in late 2008, the *Urban Paths of Poulsbo (UPP) Plan* was developed over several years, led by the Parks and Recreation Department and a Trails Committee composed of citizens, representatives of the City’s Tree Board and Parks and Recreation Commission, city council, city staff, and representatives from agencies and

organizations, including the Kitsap Health District and local land trusts. The group began the planning effort by establishing a vision:

*The Poulsbo trail system embodies the community spirit that distinguishes our city, linking the places we live, learn, work, play and find inspiration. Trails reconnect us to ourselves, and lead people of all ages and abilities to greater health and self-sufficiency. Our trails, like branches, support Poulsbo and reach out to connect neighbor to neighbor; land to water; people to nature; homes to businesses; city to countryside; and Poulsbo's history to our future.*

To realize the vision and goals of the UPP Plan, the trail network in Poulsbo will be a hybrid system of existing trails and infrastructure, and future on- and off-street improvements to link the network. A pedestrian may walk along sidewalks, trails, or a shared-use path along the way. A bicycle route may include streets with bicycle lanes, sharrows, or shared paths. The goal is to create continuous and complete routes.

The Urban Paths of Poulsbo Plan is incorporated in the City's Comprehensive Plan as Appendix B-6. It is the primary resource for trail goals, policies, implementation, and strategies for financing improvements. The plan includes implementation strategies and maps. This section is meant to provide a framework for establishing safe routes for walking, cycling and other forms of non-motorized transport. The City is committed to expanding

the trail system-through a variety of mechanisms by acquiring land and easements, partnering with private developers or with other organizations like the North Kitsap School District on properties it owns within the city.

The UPP Plan includes a Pedestrian Map and a Bicycle Route Map. Figure PRO-3 identifies the proposed network of pedestrian facilities, corresponding to the Pedestrian Map in the UPP Plan. A policy in the Transportation Element requires the Engineering Department to review the UPP Plan and maps to incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities into their Transportation Improvement Program and development standards, as appropriate.



*Trail connecting Nelson Park with Poulsbo Fish Park*

#### **GOAL PRO-4**

**Create a hybrid system of on-street facilities, off-street links, and shared-use paths to create a continuous and complete network for pedestrians and bicyclists that connects neighborhoods, commercial areas, schools, transit facilities, parks and open spaces, and the waterfront.**

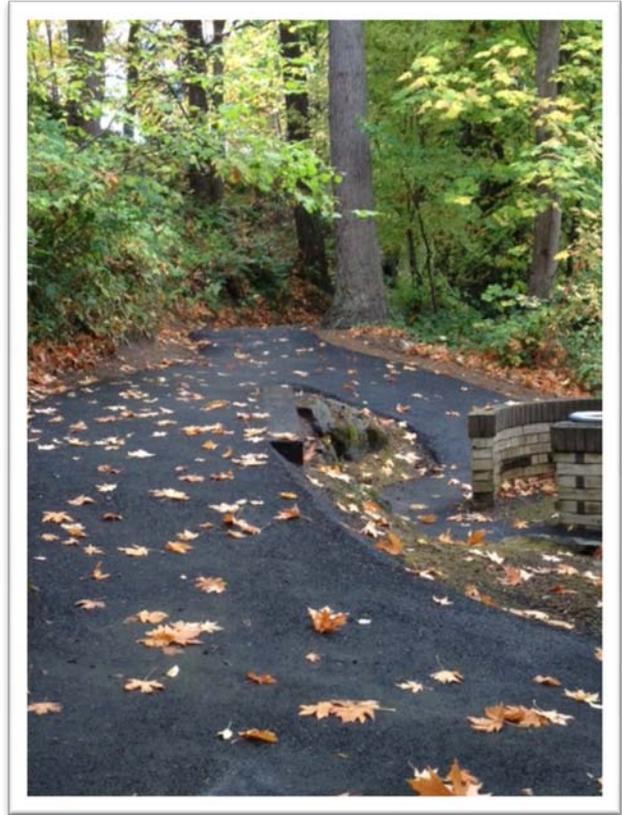
#### ***Policy PRO- 4.1***

*Use the Urban Paths of Poulsbo Plan and maps to identify and prioritize implementation strategies and key acquisition and development opportunities for connections supporting non-motorized travel. Prioritize these connections in the City's 6-Year Capital Improvement Program, which is reviewed annually.*

#### ***Policy PRO 4.2***

*Use a multi-faceted approach to implement the Urban Paths of Poulsbo Plan. As set forth in the UPP Plan, the implementation strategies should include:*

- Using the city's municipal code to incorporate standards for pedestrian and bicycle facilities, bicycle parking, and incentives for developers who provide connections for walking, cycling and other forms of non-motorized travel.
- Coordinating with the Planning Department to look for opportunities for non-motorized linkages during the development review process.
- Work with homeowners associations to identify prospective paths in their subdivisions to connect the neighborhood to outside routes.
- Seeking partnerships with other jurisdictions, private businesses, non-profit organizations, the development community, and citizens to realize the UPP vision.
- Working with the City Engineering Department to consider and evaluate the UPP plan, maps, and implementation list in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of roadway projects.
- Establishing maintenance standards and ensuring adequate funding is available for maintenance of trails in parks and on-street facilities.
- Reviewing existing policies for non-motorized users and coordinating with the Police Department to ensure adequate enforcement of public safety.



*Trail at American Legion Park providing shoreline access*

**Policy PRO-4.3**

*A key priority for trails planning in Poulsbo is to link citizens with the shoreline. Therefore, the City should emphasize acquisition of land and/or conservation easements along the shoreline of Liberty Bay to connect, enhance, and lengthen the existing, but limited, shoreline pedestrian trail. All shoreline development is subject to the requirements of the City's Shoreline Master Program.*

**Policy PRO-4.4**

*Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions to connect the city's trail system with theirs and participate in county, regional and statewide efforts to plan and implement a statewide trail, where connection through Poulsbo provides a vital link to the Olympic Peninsula.*

**Policy PRO-4.5**

*Use the trail standards identified in the Urban Paths of Poulsbo functional plan as a guide for trail construction, unless another standard is required by a funding agency. If modification to a trail standard is necessary due to topography or is not physically or technically feasible, an alternative trail standard shall be used if acceptable to the City Engineer and Parks and Recreation Director.*

**Policy PRO-4.6**

*Make trails accessible to people with disabilities as much as possible.*

**Policy PRO-4.7**

*Utility easements should be considered for possible trail easements. Working only with willing property owners, the City should work to encourage multi-purpose easements that allow for public access where is identified or supported by the Urban Paths of Poulsbo Plan.*

**Policy PRO-4.8**

*The City intends to develop the Urban Paths of Poulsbo Plan primarily through (1) continued construction of sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and shared-use paths in conjunction with new roadway projects; (2) through multi-purpose easements as described in Policy PRO-4.7; and (3) through the development of trails with willing and cooperative property owners going through the development review process, including but not limited to subdivisions, Planned Residential Developments, and commercial site plans. The City will engage only with willing property owners in the implementation of the UPP Plan.*

**Policy PRO-4.9**

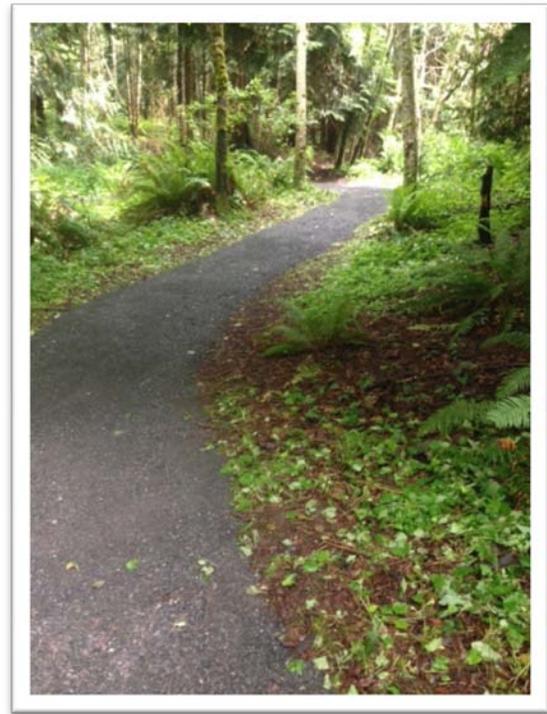
*When a public trail is designed to be located within a regulated critical area, the City shall engage professional consultants or other experts to ensure appropriate mitigation of any potential conflicts between path construction and wildlife habitat.*

**Policy PRO-4.10**

*Install way-finding and route signs and provide maps of the city’s pedestrian and bicycle network. Coordinate with schools and agencies to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety through educational programs and events. Collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions to develop regional trail maps. Expand “adopt-a-park” programs to include an “adopt-a-trail” component.*

**Policy PRO-4.11**

*Proposed routes shown in the UPP Plan and Figure PRO-3 are conceptual. Actual alignment may vary based on topography, property ownership and willingness of property owners, and other variables that may be identified at the time of pathway construction. The City will involve only willing property owners. If a connection is not feasible, an alternative alignment and/or connection that meet the intent of the UPP Plan and Figure PRO-3 will, when possible, be identified.*



*Trail at Forest Rock Hills Park*

**Community Recreation and Programs**

Poulsbo offers a wide variety of services and programs intended to provide all people with opportunities for lifelong learning and enjoyment, including access to activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Developing strong partnerships with other service providers throughout the community is a key factor in meeting the City’s services and programming goals. The City’s partnership with North Kitsap School District, for instance, is a key to providing active recreation facilities and full utilization of school athletic fields. Other ongoing partnerships that enable the City to expand its offerings include those with Western Washington University Poulsbo, Washington State University Kitsap Extension Office, Port of Poulsbo, the Kitsap Audubon Society, Poulsbo Marine Science Center, Kitsap Public Facilities District, Poulsbo Farmer’s Market, Poulsbo Garden Club and others.

The City offers extensive and high-quality recreational opportunities and enrichment programs throughout the year. From the Learn and Grow preschool classes to sailing instruction on Liberty Bay, Viking Fest Road Race and Summer Nights on the Bay concerts, to arts and crafts and foreign language classes, the City’s varied offerings provide exceptional life-long learning and recreational opportunities for city and county residents.

**GOAL PRO-5**

**Continue to offer high quality recreation, education and enrichment programs for all ages, interests and abilities.**

**Policy PRO-5.1**

*Provide a variety of enrichment programs such as arts and crafts, language, music and dance, physical conditioning and special interest classes. Provide adult and youth programs, recreational sports for all ages and skill levels, senior activities and excursions, and other activities for a diversity of cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in the community.*

**Policy PRO-5.2**

*Share resources with Kitsap County, WWU Poulsbo, Olympic College, Kitsap Regional Library and North Kitsap School District, and other parks and recreation agencies throughout the county to encourage cooperative use of facilities, and develop a combined program guide and website on recreational, educational and park offerings.*

**Policy PRO-5.3**

*Provide areas within the park system for “P-Patches” or community agriculture plots to allow urban residents the opportunity to garden and grow their own vegetables.*

**Policy PRO-5.4**

*Seek locations and funding sources for a full-service Recreation Center in Poulsbo. The City has identified several options for a Poulsbo Recreation Center: 1) enhance the current recreation center; 2) coordinate with the North Kitsap Regional Event Center partners and approved master plan to place a recreation facility near North Kitsap High School; or 3) utilize other properties within the city.*

**Implementation and Funding**

Implementing the PROS Plan relates specifically to capital improvements for acquisition, development and redevelopment projects, and depends on both opportunity and funding availability. As competing demands escalate for City resource dollars, creative solutions are needed to fund park-related projects. It is clear that completion of the City’s park system will take time and will need a sound and realistic financial strategy.

Development and redevelopment are equally important to provide citizens a variety of passive and active recreation opportunities. Renovation of facilities plays a role in ensuring a safe, functional and well-maintained park system. There must be a strong commitment to maintain and redevelop, as necessary, existing parks if the city is to maximize its open space and recreation potential.

Partnerships with state and local government agencies, Poulsbo’s active civic clubs and community groups, North Kitsap School District, and local land trusts, assist the City in the provision of parkland and the development of those parks. Continuing these relationships is a primary goal of the City.

Funding for park projects must come from a variety of means – City budget, park impact fees, federal and state grants, and in-kind donations, are the most common sources. Park projects that have been placed on the City’s 6-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) have received a funding commitment, usually through a combination of grant funding, city budget, impact fees and in-kind donations.

## **GOAL PRO-6**

**Develop a funding strategy and financing plan to meet the City's Parks capital facility needs identified in the Parks Capital Improvement Program.**

### ***Policy PRO-6.1***

*Utilize the City's Park Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as the short-term budgetary prioritization of park development. Identify projects on the CIP that are the City's top park development priorities for funding and completion within the six-year timeframe. The CIP shall be reviewed annually and updated on a two-year cycle by the Poulsbo Parks and Recreation Commission.*



*Boardwalk along Liberty Bay shoreline*

### ***Policy PRO-6.2***

*Use any authority granted to the City under state law to require mitigation of new development impacts on the City's park system. The City will impose park impact fees through its adopted impact fee ordinance, as set forth in the Growth Management Act.*

### ***Policy PRO-6.3***

*Maximize every possible funding source for park capital improvements. Funding sources available to the City include: City's annual budget – general fund and park reserves; impact fees; state and federal grants; conservation easements; donations; partnerships; in-kind donations of materials and labor; and voter approved bonds. The City shall consider ongoing dedicated funding for park and recreation improvements.*

### ***Policy PRO-6.4***

*Maintain dialog with Kitsap County, North Kitsap School District, the Kitsap Public Facilities District, and other interested parties to study alternative means of financing parks and recreation, including a Metropolitan Park District or regional approach to funding major recreation facilities, such as swimming pools and major event facilities.*

### ***Policy PRO-6.5***

*Ensure that individuals who wish to support Poulsbo Parks and Recreation through financial or property donations, conservation easements, or bequests are able to do so by providing easily accessible information and promote giving opportunities. Encourage donations that help implement the Park's Capital Facility Plan.*

### ***Policy PRO-6.6***

*Identify and develop partnership opportunities with interested individuals, groups, neighborhoods and clubs to develop Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Trail programs.*

**Policy PRO-6.7**

*Foster partnerships with local government agencies, private individuals, civic clubs and community groups, to assist with the provision and development of public parks. Many agencies and groups have and will continue to partner with the City to provide quality parks and recreation facilities, such as:*

- North Kitsap School District
- Poulsbo’s service and civic clubs
- Ports of Poulsbo and Kingston
- Suquamish Tribe
- Kitsap County
- Housing Kitsap
- Kitsap Public Facilities District
- Kitsap Audubon Society
- Greater Peninsula Conservancy
- Poulsbo Farmers Market
- Poulsbo Marine Science Foundation
- Western Washington University – Poulsbo
- Washington State University – Kitsap Extension Office
- Kitsap Regional Library



Betty Iverson Kiwanis Park

**GOAL 7**

**Comprehensively plan the City Park’s capital facility needs, evaluate Level of Service standards, and ensure quality park facilities continue to be available to Poulsbo residents.**

**Policy PRO-7.1**

*Provide a Parks and Recreation planning program to identify and manage the acquisition and development of parkland, trails, and open space to satisfy the recreation program needs of the community. The Mayor shall appoint a Parks and Recreation Commission to provide recommendations to the City Council. Conduct regular evaluation of the public’s use of City parks, facilities and recreational programming, incorporating citizen input, to ensure that user needs are being met, and to maintain ongoing communication with City residents.*

**Policy PRO-7.2**

*The City Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and the Urban Paths of Poulsbo Plan shall serve as the City’s functional plans for park and trail facilities. To ensure consistency, updates to the Parks functional plans shall be incorporated as appropriate into the Comprehensive Plan through the City’s annual review process.*

**Policy PRO-7.3**

*Utilize the City’s GIS mapping capabilities to meet the requirements of the Growth Management Act and to serve as important long-range planning tools. Open space corridors and lands useful for recreation as defined by RCW*

36.70A.160, are depicted on Figure PRO-1 and Figure PRO-3. The City's long-term Park Capital Facility Plan project list that identifies capital improvement projects necessary to provide the adopted level of service are depicted on Figure PRO-2. These maps shall be updated during the six-year review and update of the City's Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan.

**Policy PRO-7.4**

Figures PRO-1 and PRO-3 map open space corridors required to be identified under RCW 36.70A.160. Lands useful for recreation have been identified by mapping public parks, publicly owned open space, privately owned open space and recreational amenities within subdivisions; wildlife habitat by mapping critical area ordinance designated Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas; trails by mapping existing and planned public trails; and connections of critical areas by mapping Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas within the city limits, Poulsbo Urban Growth Area, and extending into unincorporated Kitsap County. Regulation of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas is as provided in the applicable jurisdiction's critical areas ordinance.

**Figure PRO-1**

**Citywide Park and Open Space Map**

## Chapter 5: Demand and Need Analysis

The need for park and recreation land can be estimated using a ratio of acreage to a standard unit of population, such as 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 population or 3 acres of athletic fields per 1,000 residents. The ratio method is relatively simple to compute and can be easily compared with other agency standards. These ratios can be used to express Level of Service (LOS) standards for park and recreation facilities in Poulsbo.

In preparing the 2015 PROS Plan, the Poulsbo Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed LOS standards from a number of sources, including the National Recreation and Park Association, and LOS standards from the cities of Bremerton, Port Orchard, Bainbridge Island, Gig Harbor, Port Townsend, Snohomish, Newcastle, Woodinville, Snoqualmie, Covington, Oak Harbor, Edmonds and Redmond, and Kitsap County. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission considered the City of Poulsbo's Existing LOS as well as its planned LOS from its 2009 PROS plan.

The Park and Recreation Commission considered modifications to Level of Service standards, but decided to keep the planned LOS standards the same because the Commission found that Poulsbo's LOS was reasonable, relative to the other communities whose LOS's were reviewed. The planned LOS standards are as follows:

Neighborhood Park	2 acres per 1,000 population
Community Park	3.5 acres per 1,000 population
Regional Park	1.5 acres per 1,000 population
Open Space Park	6 acres per 1,000 population
Trails	1 mile or .73 acre per 1,000 population
<b>Overall Citywide LOS</b>	<b>13.73 acres per 1,000 population</b>

These planned LOS standards can be applied to Poulsbo's 2015 population (9,950) and projected year 2036 population (14,808) to determine current parkland shortfalls and projected year 2036 park needs in each of these park classifications. Table 4-1 shows existing park acreages and levels of service and projected needs

**Table 4-1: 2036 Park Need based on Planned LOS**

Park Type	2015 Existing Acres	2015 Existing Level of Service Acres per 1,000 population	2036 Planned Level of Service Acres per 1,000 population	2036 Acreage Need based on PLOS**	2036 Park Acreage Needs***
Neighborhood Park	19.33	1.94/1,000	2 /1,000.	29.62	10.29
Community Park	27.07	2.72	3.5	51.83	24.76
Regional Park	12	1.21	1.5	22.21	10.21
Open Space Park	74.60	7.50	6	88.85	14.25
Trails	5.59 miles or 4.08 acres*	.56 mile or .41 acres	1 mile or .73 acre	14.81 miles or 10.81 acres	9.22 miles or 6.73 acres
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137.08 acres</b>	<b>13.78 acres/1,000 population</b>	<b>13.73 acres/1,000 population</b>	<b>203.32 acres</b>	<b>66.24 acres</b>

\* Trail miles are converted into acreage by assuming a 6' wide trail x 1 mile = .73 acre

\*\* City's 2036 population of 14,808 was used to calculate total 2036 acreage needed.

\*\*\* 2036 Park acreage needs calculated by subtracting 2015 existing acres from 2036 acreage need based on PLOS.

Table 4-1 shows an existing inventory of parkland of 137.08 acres and a need of 203.32 acres by the year 2036, reflecting a deficit of 66.24 acres. The greatest need is for Community Parks, followed by Open Space Parks.

**Credits from Non-City Parkland/Facilities and Anticipated Parkland donation**

Two types of public parkland have been identified as being available for the City to consider and credit in its demand and need analysis - North Kitsap School district fields (as discussed in Chapter 2) and Washington State Department of Transportation SR 305 wetland mitigation open space land. Each is addressed below:

Partnership with North Kitsap School District

The City has formed a partnership with the North Kitsap School District (NKSD) through shared-use agreements for fields at four schools. These fields are available for City-sponsored recreation programs, as well as for the general public use.

**Table 4-2: Shared Fields with NKSD**

NKSD Schools with Shared Use Agreement	Field Size
Vinland Elementary	3.4 acres
Strawberry Fields (Poulsbo Elementary)	8.34 acres
NK Middle School	20.4 acres
NK High School	11.08 acres
<b>Total Shared Fields with NKSD</b>	<b>43.22 acres</b>

Source: Poulsbo Planning and Economic Development Department GIS

The NKSD shared fields’ total acreage is not available for City recreational programming or general public use all the time. Field use is reserved for schools weekdays generally between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. during the school year. Middle school and high school facilities are less available for community use due to sports and activities conducted by NKSD. Overall, the annual community and public use is assumed at an average 40% annually. Based upon the public availability of the shared fields, the City can apply a credit of 40% of the shared field acreage, which adds in 17.288 acres to the city inventory, and is applied to Community Park acreage need.

SR 305 Wetland Mitigation Acreage

As part of the SR 305 widening project in 2008-2009, WSDOT was required to establish a wetland mitigation site. This site is 13.69 acres, adjacent to SR 305 (near the Bond Road intersection), and is near the City’s Betty Iverson – Kiwanis Park. An agreement between the City and WSDOT has the ownership of this land transferring to the City in approximately five years. This acreage should be credited as Open Space parkland, as the transference of ownership is assured.

**Table 4-3: 2036 Adjusted Project Park Need**

Park Type	2036 Park Acreage Needs	Credit to 2036 Needed Acres	Adjusted 2036 Park Acreage Needs
Neighborhood Park	10.29 acres		10.29 acres
Community Park	24.76 acres	- 17.288 acres (NKSD Shared fields)	7.47 acres
Regional Park	10.21 acres		10.21 acres
Open Space Park	14.25 acres	- 13.69 acres (WSDOT Wetland Mitigation)	.56 acres
Trails	9.22 miles or 6.73 acres		9.22 miles or 6.73 acres
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66.24 acres</b>	<b>30.98 acres</b>	<b>35.26 acres</b>

When the NKSD fields acreage and the SR 305 Wetland Mitigation acreage is credited, the needs in Community Park and Open Space Parks decrease, and bring the overall citywide 2036 Park Need to 35.26 acres. With these two adjustments, Neighborhood Parks becomes the highest priority park type for acquisition during the planning

period, with Regional Parks a close second. The WSDOT Wetland Mitigation acreage almost entirely meets the 2036 Open Space Park needs.

### **Demand and Needs Analysis Summary**

When reviewing the Demand and Need Analysis, there should be a correlation between the Goals and Policies (Chapter 4) and the Park System Acquisition and Improvements (Chapter 6), and desires of the community as expressed from the public outreach efforts. When reviewed together, City priorities will become clear. The focus during the planning period should be on 1) acquiring additional neighborhood parkland for the City's growing residential neighborhoods, 2) increasing Regional Parkland, primarily as additional shoreline acquisition and access, and 3) increasing trails.

## Chapter 6: Park System Acquisition and Improvements Plan

The City has identified several specific needs for the growth of its park system. These are based upon the Demand and Needs analysis, Chapter 4's goals and policies, public input, and budgeting availability and priorities. Common themes running through the list of projects are a desire to increase ownership and access along Liberty Bay and Dogfish Creek, connecting trails/walkways throughout the city, improving existing parks, and acquiring new land for neighborhood parks.

The following identifies Parkland Acquisition, Parkland Improvement, Recreation Development and Trail Acquisition and Development for the 2036 Planning Period. Figure PRO-2 maps each of the City's 2036 Park System Acquisition and Improvement projects; Figure PRO-3 maps the Urban Paths of Poulsbo trails vision.

### Parkland Acquisition

**Parcels near County Road 59:** Acquisition of four contiguous parcels totaling 3.86 acres adjacent to County Road 59 could expand the existing shoreline trail located at the county road right-of-way, enhance shoreline access and provide a neighborhood park. Acquisition and development could be in conjunction with regional stormwater improvements. This property is identified as #1 on Figure PRO-2. (*Priorities: Shoreline access, trail connectivity, new neighborhood park*).

**Centennial Park Expansion:** Acquisition of the Public Works Department's two sites and two small residential properties will add approximately 3 acres to Centennial Park. In addition to allowing for restoration activities to South Fork Dogfish Creek and parkland expansion, the acquisition of these sites will enable the city to better manage storm water in the flood-prone area.. A partner like the Poulsbo Farmers Market could operate in the expanded area. This property is identified as #2 on Figure PRO-2. (*Priorities: improve existing park, provide additional community or regional parkland*).

**Additional land adjacent to Fish Park:** The City wishes to continue acquiring additional parcels as they become available along Dogfish Creek and its estuary for the purpose of habitat restoration and salmon rearing. Existing partnerships with the Suquamish Tribe and various organizations and non-profits will continue to benefit this project. This project is identified as #3 on Figure PRO-2. (*Priorities: shoreline access, additional trails*).

**West Poulsbo:** Available residentially zoned land in the western city limits will most likely develop during the planning period and would benefit from a new Neighborhood Park. The park should be 2 to 5 acres in size. No specific parcel has been identified at this time. This project is identified as #4 on Figure PRO-2. (*Priority: new neighborhood park*).

**East Poulsbo:** A number of future residential developments are expected to develop within the eastern city limits and would benefit from two new Neighborhood Parks. They should be 2 to 5 acres in size. No specific parcel has been identified for the parks. This project is identified as #5 on Figure PRO-2. (*Priorities: new neighborhood parks*).

**Hamilton Field:** This 2.2 acre parcel is located on Hamilton Court and is currently owned by the North Kitsap Pee Wees Association. If acquired, the property could provide the City with a lighted soccer/football field, which includes a clubhouse/storage building. A partnership ownership opportunity may exist for this property. Access, parking and drainage issues will need to be addressed to make this a viable community asset. This parcel is identified as #6 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priority: new community park).*

**East Liberty Bay Shoreline Property:** Acquisition of parcels located along Fjord Drive to provide beach access and shoreline trail connections. This project is identified as #7 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priorities: shoreline access, trail connection)*

**Johnson Creek Wildlife Corridor:** Acquisition of undeveloped parcels along the Johnson Creek corridor and within the city limits. This project would acquire property or easements for future trail connections along the corridor. This project is identified as #8 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priority: trail connections)*

**Shoreline property north Front Street:** Acquisition of .69 acres of steep shoreline property just south of Liberty Bay Auto to add to Liberty Bay Waterfront Trail. This property is identified as #9 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priority: shoreline access, trail connection)*

**Vista Park:** Acquisition of undeveloped tracts, easements and/or parcels of land along the ridge in College Market Place, in order to take advantage of surrounding views and enhance pedestrian access. This property is identified as #10 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priorities: new community park, trail connection)*

### **Parkland Improvement**

**Fish Park Improvements:** Continue to improve Poulsbo Fish Park, with trails, interpretative areas, restoration of the estuary, and wildlife viewing areas. An environmental education learning center may be appropriate at this park. This project is identified as #11 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priorities: shoreline access, trail connections, improve existing regional park).*

**College Market Place Athletic Fields:** The City is deficient in the number of fields it owns,. The plan for this project is the development of two multi-use fields and parking on the 6.07 acre site. The project is identified as #12 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priority: improving existing community park).*

**Centennial Park Development:** Continue to restore, renovate and protect the natural resources existing on and around the 2.5 acre park located on the South Fork of Dogfish Creek, while providing public access opportunities. The project includes trails, creek overlook, two pedestrian bridges, restoration and wildlife habitat improvements around the creek, tree plantings, limited demonstration gardens, benches and picnic tables. This project is identified as #13 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priority: Improving existing park, trail improvement).*

**Nelson Park Phase 2:** Nelson Park encompasses approximately 11 acres in west Poulsbo, and includes shorelines, wetlands, wooded and vegetated areas; a 4-acre portion of the park is developed with a restroom, picnic shelter, playground, parking and some trails. The second phase of park improvement includes extending trails throughout the property and providing shoreline access. This project is identified as #14 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priority: trail and shoreline access improvement).*

**Indian Hills Recreation Area:** The 20-acre parcel is a city landfill that was closed in 1976, located just south of the city limits. The City and the Kitsap Public Health District continue to monitor the site for any environmental concerns, but the plan is that it can be developed in the future as an Open Space Park. This project is identified as #15 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priority: improving and enhancing existing parkland).*

**Net Shed Park:** This park has a vista setting on Liberty Bay high-bank waterfront, and includes benches and picnic facilities. Improvement plans include beach access and shoreline trails. This project is identified as #16 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priorities: shoreline access and trail improvement).*

**Hattaland Park:** This 2-acre open space park is primarily undeveloped; improvement plans include trails to views of the adjacent South Fork Dogfish Creek and associated wetlands, as well as benches and picnic facilities. This project is identified as #17 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priorities: trail improvement, improving and enhancing existing parkland).*

**Vista Park:** Development of trails and benches to enhance pedestrian access along the ridge at College Market Place, to take advantage of views of Mount Rainier. . This project is identified as #18 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priorities: trail improvement, new community park).*

**Morrow Manor:** Development of a 1-acre park donated to the City. Improvement plans include sitting benches, playground equipment and shared-use path. This project is identified as #19 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priority: new neighborhood park).*

### **Recreation Development**

**Poulsbo Recreation Center:** A multi-purpose building that would ideally include two full-size gyms with hardwood floors, fitness room, classrooms, and two meeting rooms. This building could serve as a new regional recreation center. Acquisition of new property or incorporating the project onto property already owned by the City or another public entity is desirable. This project could be completed in partnership with North Kitsap School District, Kitsap County Public Facilities District, or partnership non-profit organization. This project is identified as #20 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priority: new regional park facility).*

**North Kitsap Regional Events Center:** The NK Regional Events Center is a potential project identified through partnerships between the City, Kitsap County, the Public Facilities District, and North Kitsap School District. The NK school campus in Poulsbo has been identified as the site the regional events center. The partnership project includes field improvements, theater renovations, and the development of a Special Events/Recreation Center. This project is identified as #21 on Figure PRO-2. *(Priority: new regional park facility).*

### **Trail Acquisition and Development**

The Urban Paths of Poulsbo serves as the City's vision for establishing trails for non-motorized travel within the city. Figure PRO-3 maps the network of trails and other connections that make up the Urban Paths of Poulsbo Plan vision. The UPP Plan also includes a detailed implementation table. Trail acquisition and development projects will be prioritized during the City's annual budget Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process. *(Priority: trail acquisition and improvement).*

## **Park Funding Strategy**

The funding for park projects comes from a variety of means – City budget park reserves, park impact fees, federal and state grants, and in-kind donations - usually through the contribution of community groups' labor and donated materials. Park projects that are placed on the 6-year CIP have received a funding commitment, usually through a combination of grants , city park reserves or impact fees, and in-kind donations.

The following is a summary of the variety of funding sources available to implement the Park Acquisition and Improvement list of projects:

### **City Park and Recreation Funding**

The Parks and Recreation Department has two primary sources of funding from the City budget. The first fund contains the mitigation or impact fees that the City has collected from developers. The second, the Park Reserve fund, amounts to 5% of annual property taxes. In addition, the City Council can approve the use of ¼ of one-percent real estate excise tax for any park capital improvement project.

### **Impact Fees**

The City has collected mitigation fees for park facilities through the authority of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for nearly 20 years. In October 2011, the Poulsbo City Council voted to approve an ordinance imposing park impact fees on new development under the Growth Management Act (GMA) as authorized by RCW 82.02, consistent with identified Level of Service standards. This impact fee will ensure that new development pays its proportionate share of the cost of park, open space and recreation facilities within the city.

### **Grants**

A number of state agencies provide a variety of grant programs for outdoor recreation and conservation. The amount of money available for grants statewide varies from year to year and most funding sources require that monies be used for specific purposes. Grants awarded to state and local agencies are on a highly competitive basis, with agencies generally required to provide matching funds for any project proposal. In the past, Poulsbo has been very successful in receiving state and federal grants for the acquisition and development of many of its parklands.

### **Conservation Futures**

Kitsap County instituted a levy in 1991 that established the Conservation Futures Fund, setting aside property taxes to purchase and annually maintain open space. The \$4 million fund was augmented by \$3 million bond in 1999. Nominated properties are ranked according to their open space value and given higher ranking for outside financial support and partial donations. This program, which deals with willing sellers, is a potential source of funding for the purchase and long-term maintenance of open space in Poulsbo.

### **Conservation Easements**

A conservation easement is placed on property when a landowner agrees to severely restrict or exclude its development in perpetuity. Conservation easements are an attractive alternative to fee-simple purchase because the land is protected from adverse development without a large outlay of public money.

### **Donations**

Occasionally, landowners who wish to preserve their property donate their land to local government or a land trust with clear instructions on its future use. Owners can also donate part of the purchase price of a piece of property they sell to the City.

### **Partnerships**

Through interlocal agreements, interagency cooperation, civic organization, non-profit, and other types of partnerships, the City has been very successful in providing and developing city parkland. The cost of planning, development of a site, or creating recreational programs can be accomplished through partnerships. Under state law, local service organizations and associations can supply plans, provide improvements to parks, install equipment, or provide maintenance services. These can come from individuals, organizations or businesses, and the donors benefit from tax deductions and publicity.

### **Voter Approved Bonds**

Voter-approved general obligation bonds can be sold to acquire or develop parks, and are typically repaid through an annual "excess" property tax levy through the maturity period of the bonds, normally for a period of 15 to 20 years. Broad consensus support is needed for passage, as a 60% "yes" vote is required. A validation requirement also exists wherein the total number of votes cast must be at least 40% of the number of votes in the preceding general election.

### **Metropolitan Park District**

A discussion throughout the community regarding the formation of a Metropolitan Park District (MPD) for Poulsbo and North Kitsap has been occurring with varying degrees of support and interest over many years. The rationale for a Metropolitan Park District in North Kitsap is that many citizens who use and enjoy the City Parks and Recreation programs do not live within the city limits. According to RCW 35.61.010 as "A MPD may be created for the management, control, improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of parks, parkways, boulevards, and recreational facilities. A metropolitan park district may include territory located in portions or all of one or more cities or counties, or one or more cities or counties, when created or enlarged as provided by this chapter." Funding through a MPD could provide a more stable funding structure and source for parks and recreation programs and facilities.

**Figure PRO-2**

**Park System Acquisition and Improvement Plan**

**Figure PRO-3**

**Urban Paths of Poulsbo Conceptual Trail Plan**

**Table 6-1          Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan**

## Chapter 7: Park Impact Fee Analysis

### Introduction

In 2011, the City Council adopted a park impact fee ordinance, establishing that the City would impose impact fees upon new development. The impact fees are intended to ensure that developments fueling growth contribute to the cost of new park facilities. The park impact fee went into effect November 2, 2011, with the fee established at \$1195 per residential unit.

The City had collected mitigation fees for park facilities through the authority of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for nearly 20 years prior to 2011. However, under the adopted impact fee ordinances, the authority for imposing impact fees is now under the state Growth Management Act (GMA) authorized method.

In support of the Park Impact Fee Ordinance, a “Park Impact Fees Technical Document” was prepared as an attachment to the ordinance. This Chapter will update the 2011 Technical Document, and will serve as the support for anticipated updates to the Park Impact Fee Ordinance and amount in early 2016.

### Impact Fees versus other Developer Contributions

Impact fees are charges paid by new development to reimburse local governments for the capital costs of public facilities that are needed to serve new development and the people who occupy or otherwise use the new development. Throughout this document, the term “developer” is used as a shorthand expression to describe anyone who is obligated to pay impact fees, including builders, owners or developers. The impact fees described in this study do not include other legal forms of developer contributions or exactions, such as mitigation or voluntary payments authorized by SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act, RCW 43.21C), local improvement districts or other special assessment districts.

### Developer Options

A developer who is responsible for impact fees has several options regarding payment of impact fees as set forth in the Park Impact Fee Ordinance (PMC 3.84):

- 1) Payment of fee as set forth in the Park Impact Fee Ordinance (Section 3.84.090).
- 2) Submit data and/or analysis to demonstrate that the impacts of the proposed development are less than the impact fees calculated by the City. (Section 3.84.130).
- 3) Appeal the impact fee calculation by the City of Poulsbo. (Section 3.84.150).
- 4) Obtain a refund if the development does not proceed and no impacts are created (Section 3.84.170).
- 5) Obtain a refund if the City of Poulsbo fails to expend the impact fees within the prescribed timeframe (Section 3.84.170).

**Authority for Impact Fees**

The Growth Management Act (GMA) as authorized by RCW 82.02 allows that jurisdictions may impose an impact fee consistent with adopted policies and Level of Service standards found with the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

**Park Impact Fee Factors and Formula**

The City’s Park Impact Fee is based upon the following factors:

2036 Park Needs based on LOS	<b>2036 Park Need</b>
Future Park Need multiplied by cost of parkland acquisition and development	<b>2036 Park Need Costs</b>
2036 Park Need Costs adjusted to account for anticipated City and other revenue sources	<b>2036 Park Need Costs to be Paid by New Development</b>
2036 Park Need Cost to be paid by new development divided by number of expected new dwelling units =	<b>Park Impact Fee</b>

Therefore the formula to calculate park impact fee is as follows:

2036 Park Need * Cost of parkland acquisition and development = 2036 Park Need Costs
2036 Park Need Costs – anticipated City and other revenue sources = 2036 Park Need Costs to be paid by new development
2036 Park Need Costs to be paid by new development/number of expected new dwelling units = PIF

**2036 Park Need**

The 2036 Park Need was calculated in Chapter 5 Demand and Need Analysis, and the final result is found in Table 4-3; the result is 35.26 acres are needed to meet the 2036 Planned Level of Service standards.

**2036 Park Need Costs**

The cost of meeting the 2036 Park Needs takes into account two contributors: parkland acquisition and parkland development.

Cost of Land Acquisition: The average parkland acquisition cost per acre is based on the 2015 average current assessed value of vacant land available in the City of Poulsbo, with these Assessor classification parameters: 1) vacant and undeveloped parcels between 1-3 acres in size; and 2) vacant, undeveloped and one single-family house 3 acres or larger in size. Do not include parcels that: 1) are in current use tax-exempt classification; 2) have a current preliminary plat, planned unit development, planned residential development, site plan review, or binding site plan approval from the City; and 3) have non-residential zoning (this is because the Parks 20-year land acquisition list from the CFP are primarily located in Residential (R) zones).

The Poulosbo staff used GIS to calculate the total acreage of those parcels fitting within these classifications, then calculated a total assessed value, which was then calculated into a total average value per acre. The result of this exercise is a 2015 average assessed value of \$57,546 per vacant or available acre in the city limits of Poulosbo. *(Note: This is a decrease in average assessed value per vacant or available acre from the 2010 assessed value park impact calculation. Since assessments are completed on a six-year cycle, it is presumed the lower assessed values is remnant from the economic recession, and property assessed values will increase to be more aligned with market value in the near future. For purposes of this calculation, the average assessed value will be utilized, with the caveat that the park impact fee calculation is reviewed on a regular basis as set forth in the ordinance).*

Cost of Land Development: The average parkland development cost can be difficult to estimate because the cost of developing parkland varies widely depending on the type of park, the size of the parcel, the facilities to be installed, and the general site clearing and infrastructure installation. When determining the parkland development costs, the City considers the five park types and determined an average development cost per acre for each of the park types. This average is based upon the city's most recent park development costs, typical amenities associated with the park, and feedback provided to the City from other municipalities.

*Neighborhood Park: average \$77,000 per acre  
(Typical amenities: playground, picnic area, lawn/sitting area, barbeque, trails, viewing area)*

*Community Park: average \$115,000 per acre  
(Typical amenities: playground, fields, picnic area/shelter, barbeque, trails/paths, lawn/sitting area, viewing areas, dog run, community gardens)*

*Regional Park: average \$130,000 per acre  
(Typical amenities: playground, picnic area, trails/paths, lawn/sitting area, multi-purpose fields, viewing areas, picnic shelter)*

*Open Space Park: average \$63,000 per acre  
(Typical amenities: trails and paths, viewing areas, viewing platforms, arboretum)*

*Trails: average \$35,000 per acre  
(Typical development: grading and gravel path)*

Parkland development costs can be calculated by applying the average cost per acre by park type to the 2036 Park Needed Acres, thereby generating a total estimated cost by park type. The total estimated cost by park type is then divided by the 2036 Park Need Acres of 35.26, to arrive at an average parkland development cost per acre.

**Table 7-1: Average Parkland Development Cost based on Park Type**

Park Type	2036 Park Acreage Needs	Average Cost of Development per acre	Estimated Cost by Park Type
Neighborhood Park	10.29 acres	\$77,000	\$792,330
Community Park	7.47 acres	\$115,000	\$859,050
Regional Park	10.21 acres	\$130,000	\$1,327,300
Open Space Park	.56 acres	\$63,000	\$35,280
Trails	6.73 acres	\$35,000	\$ 235,550
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35.26 acres</b>		<b>\$ 3,249,510</b>
<b>Average Parkland Development Cost per Acre</b>			<b>\$ 92,159</b>

Total 2036 Park Need Costs: When the average parkland acquisition and parkland development is combined, the result is \$149,705 to acquire and develop an acre of parkland. When applied to the 2036 Park Acre need of 35.26 acres, the 2036 Park Need Cost is \$ 5,278,598 million.

**2036 Park Need Costs to be Paid by New Development**

The total 2036 Park Need costs of \$ 5,278,598 must be shared between the City and new development. This is referred to as an “adjustment factor” and reflects the contribution public funds must make to future park development, as the financing system cannot rely solely on impact fees. The adjustment factor is based on the City’s evaluation of likely collection of payment (user fees, taxes) and the availability of public funds for future park capital improvements.

Predicted Public Funding Sources

The City anticipates contributing \$2.8 million through a variety of funding sources, including taxes, user fees, grants and donations over the 2036 planning period. This is based upon the City’s committed park general fund allocation, estimated state/federal grants and estimated donation of labor and supplies:

City General Fund Allocation <i>(\$85,000 per year for planning horizon)</i>	\$1.7M
City Estimate Federal/State Grants	\$800,000
Community donations of labor/supplies <i>(based on past community donations)</i>	\$300,000
<b>Total 2036 Estimated Public Funding:</b>	<b>\$2.8M</b>

Adjustment Factor

Based upon the City’s predicted public funding sources over the 2036 planning horizon of \$2.8M, the City anticipates financing 53% of the 2036 Parkland Cost of \$5,278.598. The remaining \$2,478,598 is then divided by the number of housing units anticipated to be built between now and 2036.

Expected New Housing Units

Table 1-1 presumes the expected 2036 population is 14,808, which translates into a growth of 4,858 new people based on 2015 population. Population is translated into new housing units by utilizing the average household size of 2.3 (which is the 2010 Census average household size for Poulsbo city limits). Therefore, the remaining new expected housing units is 2,112.

\$2,478,598/2112 new housing units = \$1,173.57 Park Impact Fee

*The resulting Park Impact Fee for new residential units is \$1,173.57*

GMA Impact Fee Calculation Summary

2036 Park Needs based on LOS	<b>35.26 acres</b> <b>2036 Park Need</b>
Future Park Need * Cost of parkland acquisition and development	<b>\$5,278,598</b> <b>2036 Park Need Costs</b>
2036 Park Need Costs adjusted to account for anticipated City and other revenue sources	<b>\$2,478,598</b> <b>2036 Park Need Costs to be Paid by New Development</b>
2036 Park Need Cost to be paid by new development/number of expected new dwelling units =	<b>\$1,173.57</b> <b>Park Impact Fee</b>

**Appendix A: Existing Park Inventory**

**Appendix B: 2015 Community Survey Results**