



Chapter 8.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

8.1 PLAN CONTEXT

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) addresses present and future park, recreation, and open space issues for Poulsbo. The 2021 PROS Plan is included in as Appendix B-5 to the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Urban Paths of Poulsbo Plan (UPP) Trails Plan) is included as Appendix B-6 of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Refer to those appendices for full narrative regarding Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Urban Paths.



8.2 GOALS AND POLICIES

Park Land Acquisition

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 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 linkages for trails, plant communities, or wildlife habitat;*
- *Lands valuable for active recreation, including playgrounds, athletic fields and facilities, trails, fishing, swimming, or picnicking activities;*
- *Lands that provide an appropriate setting and location for a community center;*
- *Parkland that enhances the surrounding land uses;*
- *Land that preserves significant historical areas and features.*

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 being disposed of. Underutilized publicly owned properties should be evaluated for partnership or parkland improvement opportunities. Prior to city owned park land being disposed of, the city shall establish a public process that includes the Park and Recreation Commission, to 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 park land, open space and/or pedestrian access should be encouraged, including the use of stormwater vaults as public parks.

Park Land Development

GOAL PRO-2

Develop the City's public parks to their highest potential in order to offer a high quality, inclusive, and equitable 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 park land, in order to guide the development of city parks through a phased process 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 in selected city parks and on trails.

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-2.4

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

Policy PRO-2.5

Continue to incorporate interpretative stations and viewing areas in city parks that educate the community and support the Kitsap Audubon Society's designation of Liberty Bay, the ancestral history of Poulsbo, and the Dogfish Creek estuary as the "Poulsbo Fjords Audubon Wildlife Viewing Area."

Policy PRO-2.6

Evaluate the future use of the land formerly owned by Kitsap County and the Department of Natural Resources for park and recreation purposes.

Park Stewardship

GOAL PRO-3

Provide wise stewardship of the resources existing within Poulsbo's parks and recreation programs.

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

Continue to develop partnerships with volunteers, businesses, schools, and civic groups to assist with capital improvements, and general park maintenance activities. Through fostering these relationships, we can better maintain a watchful eye on our parks and open spaces and help generate community stewardship of public spaces.



Urban Paths of Poulsbo

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 UPP 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-4.3

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

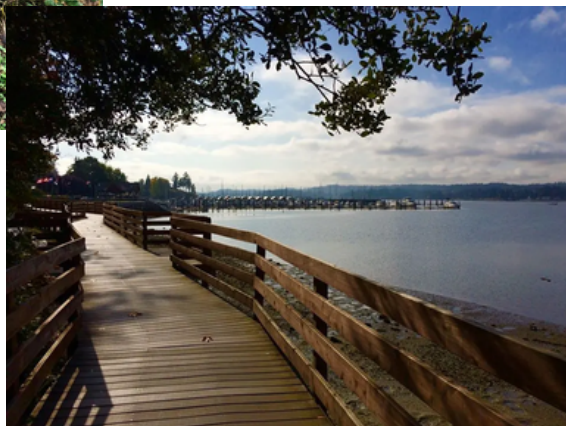
Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions to connect the city’s trail system with theirs and participate in county, regional and statewide efforts to plan and implement a statewide trail, where connection through Poulsbo provides a vital link to the Olympic Peninsula.

Policy PRO-4.5

Use the trail standards identified in the Urban Paths of Poulsbo functional plan as a guide for trail construction unless a specific 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 as acceptable to the City Engineer and Parks and Recreation Director.

Policy PRO-4.6

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 it is identified or supported by the Urban Paths of Poulsbo Plan.



Policy PRO-4.7

The city intends to develop the Urban Paths of Poulsbo (UPP) 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-4.8

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-4.9

Install wayfinding and route signs and provide maps to guide users through the city's pedestrian and bicycle network. Coordinate with schools and agencies to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety through educational programs and events. Develop local trail maps and collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions to develop regional trail maps. Expand "adopt-a-park" programs to include an "adopt-a-trail" component.

Policy PRO-4.10

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 meets the intent of the UPP Plan and Figure PRO-3 will, when possible, be determined.

Community Recreation and Programs

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 work toward the development of 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

Continue to seek funding sources for the Poulsbo Events and Recreation Center (PERC). The city has identified several options for the PERC and will continue to explore the feasibility of this project and the various options.

Implementation and Funding

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.

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
- Suquamish Tribe
- Port Gamble/S'Klallam Tribe
- Kitsap County
- Housing Kitsap
- Kitsap Public Facilities District
- Kitsap Audubon Society
- Greater Peninsula Conservancy
- Poulsbo Farmers Market
- SEA Discovery Center and Western Washington University - Poulsbo
- Olympic College

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 Park and Recreation planning program to identify and manage the acquisition and development of park land, trails, and open space to satisfy the recreation program needs of the community. The mayor shall appoint a Park and Recreation Commission to provide recommendations to the City Council. Conduct regular evaluation of the public’s use of the 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 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.

