

# 2017 Parks and Open Space Plan



**Seattle**  
Parks & Recreation



# Acknowledgements

## Seattle Parks and Recreation

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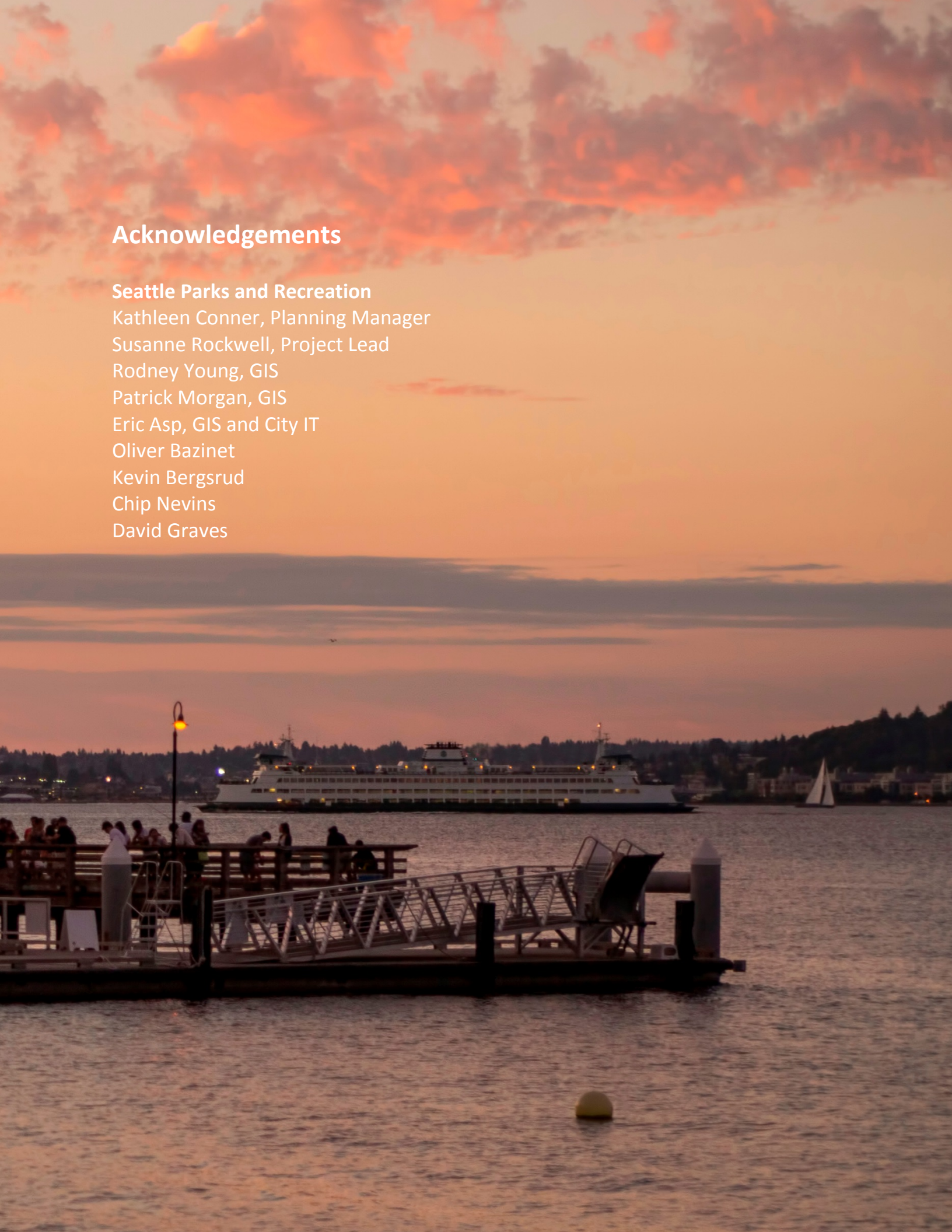
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## Table of Contents

Letter from the Superintendent.....	iv
Section 1: Background .....	1
Section 2: Goals and Policies.....	7
Section 3: Location and Demographics .....	13
Section 4: Inventory and System Overview .....	19
Section 5: Recreation Trends .....	35
Section 6: Needs Analysis.....	51
Section 7: Gap Analysis, Walkability Guidelines, and Mapping .....	55
Section 8: Public Engagement.....	67
Section 9: Key Capital Funding Sources and Projects They Fund .....	73
Section 10: Planning for the Future.....	79
Appendices: .....	89

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## Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Seattle residents,

I think it goes without saying that in a city, open spaces are not niceties, they are necessities. Open spaces bring us health, environmental and economic benefits. They help us get to know our neighbors and they make our communities more attractive. They give us places to have fun, to be inspired, and to get away from the bustle of the city. We are blessed with a wonderful park system that takes advantage of the magnificent views of water and mountains that surround us.



As our population continues to grow, more people make use of all our parks and open spaces. This growth means many good things for our parks—increased users, more supporters, and more volunteers. But like other expanding cities, it means that we must think differently about how we can create open space and grow our city's access to parks and recreation centers. The *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* provides an invaluable resource for future decision-making, uses Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping technology to illustrate Seattle Parks and Recreation's (SPR's) and the City's open space and recreational facilities, and lays out a 6-year vision for the future. The plan meets Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office requirements, allowing us to compete for state grants that augment our ability to acquire property and enhance recreation projects such as: increasing water access and aquatic facilities, urban park development, and wildlife preservation.

We are working hard to acquire property for the development of parks, and we are also working on innovative ways to expand capacity at existing parks and facilities. We are looking at activating and adding greenery to our alleyways, covering basketball and tennis courts to allow for play during inclement weather, converting grass fields to synthetic fields, expanding community center hours, adding play areas for 2-5 year olds at playgrounds, and other options, including working with King County Metro Transit to improve bus service to parks.

Through the Seattle Park District Greenways Initiative, we are also funding projects and programs to connect, enhance and activate links from Neighborhood Greenways to parks by improving access and amenities for pedestrians and cyclists.

SPR is committed to continuous growth and learning, especially when it comes to our efforts in leveraging innovative approaches and best practices to create new opportunities, new partnerships and new ways of doing business. By remaining flexible and relevant, I am confident that we will continue to grow our wonderful park system and to serve our growing population, including families, seniors, youth, adults, and special populations.

Sincerely,

*Jesús Aguirre*

Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation



# Letter from the Board of Park Commissioners

It is our pleasure to unanimously recommend approval and adoption of the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan*. We feel this Plan embodies the Commission's goals of innovation and engagement through the Plan's new walkability mapping layers, the focused long-term acquisition goals that emphasize public health and socioeconomic factors, and the ability of the technology to have real time data updates so that Seattle Parks and Recreation staff can respond more quickly to changing needs to ensure that our parks, recreation programs and open space are more inclusive and relevant to our changing population.

As a Board, we share the view that Seattle's park system must grow and change to meet the challenges posed by a rapidly growing population and increasing density. Our parks and recreation facilities are key elements in future city planning and community development. We are pleased to see this plan's alignment with the Seattle's 2035 Comprehensive Plan and support Park efforts to meet the city's climate neutral goals in its services, facility maintenance efforts, and capital project investments.

Seattle's world-class parks, recreation and green space system is essential civic infrastructure that contributes to the physiological, ecological, social and aesthetic quality of our city. Recent research confirms that Seattle's parks, recreation and green spaces are vital to our community's public health, economic competitiveness, sense of community, environmental stewardship and social cohesion.

Through Seattle Parks and Recreation facilities, shared spaces, activities, and events, we see the potential for increased understanding, acceptance, and appreciation between Seattle residents, and believe supporting complimentary park goals increases resilience, safety and unity in our communities.

Our sincere thanks to the people of Seattle for your contributions to the planning process, your passion and your critical oversight as demonstrated through community meetings, written correspondence and public testimony. We know you care deeply for our parks, open space and recreation facilities. Last, but not least, thank you to the staff of Seattle Parks and Recreation for their stewardship of Seattle's parks and open spaces, and for the hard work they do every day to create stronger communities, healthy ecosystems and equitable access for current residents and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

The Board of Park Commissioners

Tom Byers, Chair  
William Lowe, Vice Chair  
Andréa Akita  
Marty Bluewater  
Dennis Cook

Marlon Herrera  
Evan Hundley  
Kelly McCaffrey  
Barbara Wright







## Section 1: Background

*Seattle Parks and Recreation provides welcoming and safe opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community, and promotes responsible stewardship of the land. We promote healthy people, a healthy environment, and strong communities.*

### Mission Statement

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) manages a 6,414-acre park system of over 485 parks and extensive natural areas. SPR provides athletic fields, tennis courts, play areas, specialty gardens, and more than 25 miles of boulevards and 120 miles of trails. SPR also manages many facilities, including 27 community centers, eight indoor swimming pools, two outdoor (summer) swimming pools, four environmental education centers, two small craft centers, four golf courses, eleven skateparks, and much more. All told, this system comprises about 12% of Seattle's land area.



### PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* is a six-year plan that documents and describes SPR's facilities and lands, looks at Seattle's changing demographics, and lays out a vision for the future. The *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* is required by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to maintain the City of Seattle's eligibility for state grants and funding programs that will help realize outdoor recreation development and open space acquisition projects. This plan also guides SPR in addressing the future needs of the community and progress towards achieving our mission. The *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* works together with and is informed by other planning documents, including: *Seattle 2035* – the City of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan, *2014 Parks Legacy Plan*, the *2016 Seattle Recreation Demand Study*, the *2015 Community Center Strategic Plan* and other city plans.

The SPR's 6-year plan and gap analysis were originally created in 2000 and 2001 as two separate documents respectively, in response to the State's Growth Management Act (GMA) and the City's first GMA Comprehensive Plan. While both documents (Plan and Gap) were updated in 2006 and 2011, the

Level of Service (LOS) and mapping analysis methodology have not changed since the plans were originally created in 2000 and 2001. This document combines and updates the 6-year plan and gap analysis. Several key changes in content and context distinguish the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* from these prior plans including:

1. Creation of the Seattle Park District in 2014 with a dedicated fund source in the first 6-year financial plan for Major Maintenance projects;
2. Adoption of a new Parks and Open Space Element in the City's Comprehensive Plan, *Seattle 2035*, in 2016, with a planning horizon between 2015-2035;
3. Use of new mapping technology to inform SPR's Long-Term Acquisition Strategy; and,
4. Implementation of a new Asset Management and Work Order system (AMWO).

In 2014, voters in the City of Seattle approved Proposition 1, which created the Seattle Park District (a Metropolitan Park District); a major function of which is to improve parks, community centers, pools and other recreation facilities and programs. Property taxes collected by the Seattle Park District provide funding for City parks and recreation including maintaining parks and open space, facilities, operating community centers and recreation programs, and developing new neighborhood parks on previously acquired sites. The annual budget is \$48 million for the 6-year spending plan, which runs from 2015-2020. With this new dedicated funding source SPR can pursue an unprecedented level of major maintenance and infrastructure improvements with a major focus in the first 6-year financial plan on the "Fixing it First" funding initiative. In addition, SPR has \$2 million annually in Park District Funding for the acquisition of new parkland property that can be leveraged with King County Conservation Futures Funding for a total of up to \$4 million each year. The next round of 6-year funding allocations from the Park District will span years 2021-2026, thus overlapping with the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan*.

The GMA establishes planning requirements for cities in the state of Washington. Seattle's Comprehensive plan is updated on six-to-eight-year cycle, with the possibility for amendments on an annual basis. *Seattle 2035*, the City's most recent Comprehensive Plan passed in 2016, contains a new Parks and Open Space Element, which is a separate section of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan which contains overarching goals and policies that guide SPR. The *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* is a separate, but complementary document that is consistent with and elaborates on those goals and policies. The *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* defines SPR's future long-term acquisition priorities and capital investments consistently with the *Seattle 2035* Comprehensive Plan's policies; thus, providing continuity and consistency between the two documents.

A goal in the *Seattle 2035* Comprehensive Plan is to consider access to our parks by transit, bicycle, and on foot when acquiring, siting, and designing new park facilities, or improving existing ones. This goal aligns with the 2013 Climate Action Plan, in which the City has made a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050 to reduce the threat of climate change. Pursuing multi-modal access to parks and recreation facilities promotes access to a range of facilities and programming for all our residents, while also providing an interconnected system serving the broader city through community centers, pools, parks, trails, other facilities, and open space.

The [Gap Analysis](#) story mapping is a part of the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* and uses GIS mapping technology to illustrate SPR's and the City's open space and recreational facilities. This story mapping is



meant to be viewed on line, and informs SPR's Long-Term Acquisition Strategy toward achieving the goal of providing an interconnected, accessible system.

SPR routinely develops a variety of master plans for both programmatic and citywide planning efforts (Parks Legacy Plan, the Community Center Strategic Plan, the Golf Master Plan, the Citywide Skatepark Plan) and site-specific project plans.

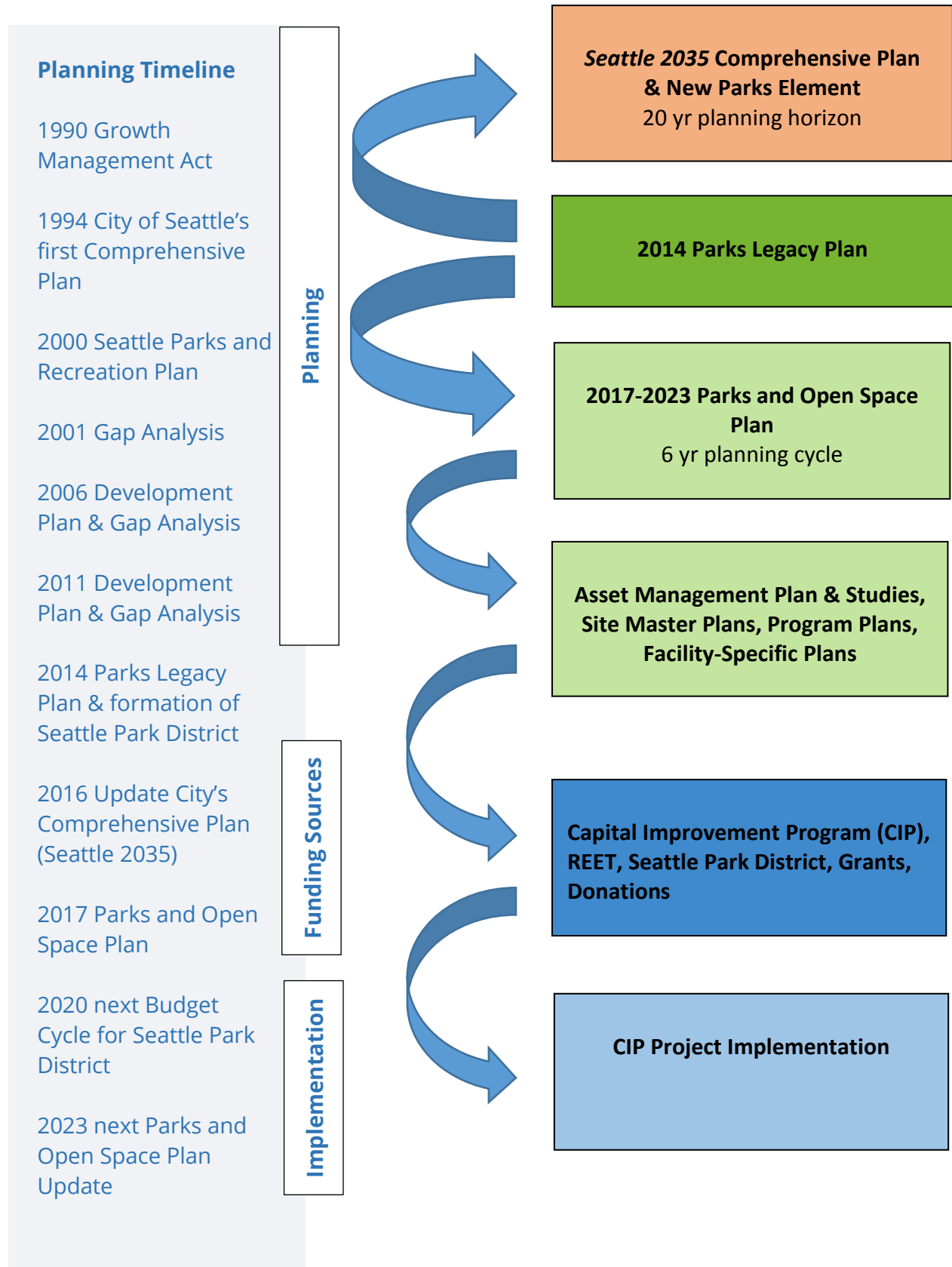
Since the initiation of the Seattle Park District, SPR has implemented a new Asset Management and Work Order system. This system is designed to protect Seattle's investment in the preservation of parks and facilities by using a common inventory and record source for facilities and grounds maintenance activities as well as capital planning. Having a single system in which to record data on work order activity, asset condition, and project requests will greatly improve SPR's ability to identify, track, employ life cycles for assets, and prioritize the need for major maintenance projects, while ensuring an equitable distribution of services.

*"Intuitively we all know that a hike in the woods or gazing at the stars is relaxing and restorative, but did you know that there is a wealth of science that proves spending time in nature can have serious benefits for your health? From reducing depression and high blood pressure, to accelerating recovery from surgery or illness, spending more time in nature is a simple and effective way to improve your mental and physical wellbeing."*

*— Jesús Aguirre,  
Superintendent,  
Seattle Parks and  
Recreation*



## 2017 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FLOW CHART





## DESIRED OUTCOMES

This plan is meant to look forward and provide usable tools for future planning by examining parks and recreation resources from the lens of accessibility and equity. The new mapping approach, laid out in **Section 7**, is intended to portray a realistic and accurate picture of how people access parks and open space. SPR is using race, equity and health, poverty and income, and population density mapping, along with consideration for public open space features such as P-patch gardens, publicly accessible street-ends, and other City-owned property to help identify priority areas for the Long-Term Acquisition Strategy.

The results portray an accurate picture of access by measuring how people walk to a park or facility. We are calling this “walkability.”

We believe that this approach will lead us to:

1. An approach to open space and recreation facility distribution that is based upon access, opportunity, and equity.
2. A user-friendly data interface, with real time data, that the public can access via story mapping and other modern technology tools.
3. Identify opportunities to add capacity to existing facilities to meet anticipated recreation demands (e.g., public private partnership for open space, incentive zoning, grant opportunities, programmatic partnership).
4. Long-term strategies that look to acquire more parkland to add to the network over time.
5. Increase the capacity of existing facilities to allow expanded use where feasible (e.g., converting grass fields to synthetic turf fields or adding a walking path in a park).

*“We need to make investments in park facilities and programs to reduce health disparities by providing access to open space and recreational activities for all Seattle residents, especially marginalized populations, seniors, and children.”*

*– Seattle City Council,  
‘News from the Mayor’s  
Office’ 2016*







## Section 2: Goals and Policies

There are many citywide plans that directly relate to recreation, community and environmental goals and inform the goals and policies in the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan*. The *2011 Development Plan* and the *2014 Parks Legacy Plan* (PLP) developed goal statements to embody the values of access, opportunity, and sustainability. Seattle's Climate Action Plan provides a framework for meeting Seattle's climate protection goals, such as the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050, and urban forest restoration goals are outlined in the Green Seattle Partnership Strategic Plan.

The goals and policies listed in this section were selected in part from the Parks and Open Space Element of the *Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan* and the *2011 Development Plan*, and serve as a guide for the future direction of the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan*.

Actions Steps implementing these goals and policies in keeping with the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plans'* Desired Outcomes are identified in **Section 10: Planning for the Future**, of this report.



*"It's not enough just to have some nature in an urban environment, inaccessible to people; or accessible only visually (or only to a few people). With all of our senses, everyone within Seattle needs to interact with diverse forms of nature."*

*- Public Comment,  
2017 Parks and Open Space  
Plan*



## **GOAL 1: *PROVIDE A VARIETY OF OUTDOOR AND INDOOR SPACES THROUGHOUT THE CITY FOR ALL PEOPLE TO PLAY, LEARN, CONTEMPLATE, AND BUILD COMMUNITY.***

### **Why this is important**

Safety, affordability, interconnectedness, and vibrancy, along with access to parks and open space are all ingredients that help make a city livable. As Seattle rapidly evolves and grows, SPR is playing an important role in contributing to a livable city for our diverse community.

As Seattle grows it is imperative that SPR look at innovative ways to increase recreational capacity. Having sports fields that can accommodate a variety of activities, partnering with other agencies to provide water access and habitat continuity, and identifying improvements that link our facilities to other infrastructure in the community are examples of capacity building and strategies toward achieving this goal.

### **Supporting Policies**

- Continue to expand the City's park holdings, facilities, and open space opportunities; with special emphasis on serving urban centers and urban villages that are home to marginalized populations and areas that have been traditionally underserved.
- Provide urban trails, green streets, and boulevards in public rights-of-way as recreation and transportation options and as ways to connect open spaces and parks to each other, to urban centers and villages, and to the regional open space system.
- Provide areas to preserve important natural or ecological features in public ownership, and allow people access to these spaces.
- Use cooperative agreements with Seattle Public Schools and other public agencies to provide access to open spaces they control.
- Create healthy places for children and adults to play, as well as areas for more passive strolling, viewing, and picnicking.
- Accommodate a variety of active and passive recreational uses to increase capacity to meet demands, as appropriate.
- Engage with community members to design and develop parks and facilities based on the specific needs and cultures of the communities that the park is intended to serve.

## **GOAL 2: CONTINUE TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE ACROSS SEATTLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**

### **Why this is important**

As Seattle's population changes, we are working to ensure that our programs and facilities meet the evolving needs of all the people that live in Seattle. We focus on meeting the needs of unserved and underserved people and communities, including communities with limited access to recreation alternatives.

There is increasing scientific evidence that people need to interact with nature for their physical and psychological well-being. The research literature shows, for example, that interaction with nature can reduce stress, depression, aggression, crime, and ADHD symptoms, while improving immune function, eyesight, mental health, and social connectedness within a community.

### **Supporting Policies**

- Develop a long-term strategic plan that accounts for citywide and neighborhood demographics, as well as the demand for various active and passive recreation activities.
- Provide athletic fields that can serve as places where people of diverse ages, backgrounds, and interests can engage in a variety of sports.
- Offer fun and safe water experiences through a diverse range of healthy and accessible aquatic programs at outdoor and indoor venues throughout the city.
- Make investments in park facilities and programs to reduce health disparities by providing access to open space and recreational activities for all Seattle, especially marginalized populations, seniors and children.
- Develop partnerships with public and private organizations to supplement programming to increase capacity and support community needs and interests.

### **GOAL 3: *MANAGE THE CITY’S PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES TO PROVIDE SAFE AND WELCOMING PLACES.***

#### **Why this is important**

The Seattle Park District 6-year financial plan identified a “Fix It First” initiative aimed at tackling SPR’s major maintenance backlog. This investment initiative will allow us to preserve our system for use well into the future. While boiler replacements and roof repairs are not always the most compelling of projects, one surely appreciates them when it’s cold outside and the rain is pouring down.

In addition to our built environments and facilities, Seattle’s Urban Forest is one of our vast treasures. Not only from a health perspective, but economically, environmentally, and psychologically. As a city, we are committed to being carbon neutral by 2050 and the urban forest plays an important role in carbon sequestration. The Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) program is well on its way to restoring the remaining 1,200 acres of Seattle’s natural areas within urban parks and open space by 2025, while also continuing the long-term maintenance for the 2,500 acres of forested parkland and natural habitat by 2030.

#### **Supporting Policies**

- Maintain the long-term viability of park and recreation facilities by regularly addressing major maintenance needs.
- Look for innovative ways to approach construction and major maintenance activities to limit water and energy use and to maximize environmental sustainability.
- Enhance wildlife habitat by restoring forests and expanding the tree canopy on City-owned land.



## GOAL 4: PLAN AND MAINTAIN SEATTLE'S PARKS AND FACILITIES TO ACCOMMODATE PARK USERS AND VISITORS.

### Why this is important

Many of SPR's parks and open space contain historic areas or landmarked buildings, that contain magnificent views, and significant ecological features. They often provide recreational opportunities on a grand scale that would not be otherwise accessible to the public, and attract visitors from near and far.

As stewards of an Olmsted legacy, it is our responsibility to maintain the awareness of the park and recreation heritage and the Olmsted philosophy that guided the early development of Seattle's park system; a system that provides a framework for open space acquisition, park development, and the creation of new or improved boulevards and trails to serve as park connectors.

### Supporting Policies

- Develop plans for selected parks to take advantage of unique natural and cultural features in the city, enhance visitors' experiences, and nurture partnerships and other public agencies and private organizations.







## Section 3: Location and Demographics

The City of Seattle is located on the west coast of the United States at 47.61 latitude and 122.33 longitude, positioned between Puget Sound and Lake Washington, about 100 miles south of the Canadian border; it is the largest city in the state of Washington and the Pacific Northwest region of North America. The City sits within King County and has a maritime climate marked by cool rainy weather that persists from fall through early spring and warm summers. The Olympic Mountains to the west and the Cascade Mountains to the east shield the Puget Sound area from Pacific storms and the harsher weather of the nation's interior.



FIGURE 1 - WASHINGTON STATE, KING COUNTY, CITY OF SEATTLE

The *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* is arriving at a time of dramatic demographic changes in Seattle and the Region. The Puget Sound Regional Council reports that “the central Puget Sound region (King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties) reached 3,985,040 people in April of 2016 – this is the biggest population gain this century and the highest growth rate in the past 20 years.” Additionally, job growth continues to accelerate with an average increase in job growth of 3.2% since 2015.

*“Seattle is becoming more racially and culturally diverse. 2014 estimates from the American Community Survey indicate that almost a fifth of Seattle residents were born in another country and that close to a quarter of residents speak a language other than English at home.*

*The Seattle school district reports that 120 languages are spoken among its student body. The growing diversity in the city's population poses new challenges for City departments and other institutions as they strive to meet the needs of all residents. It also provides an opportunity to benefit from the cultures and skills of the people who make up these groups.”*

*Seattle 2035*

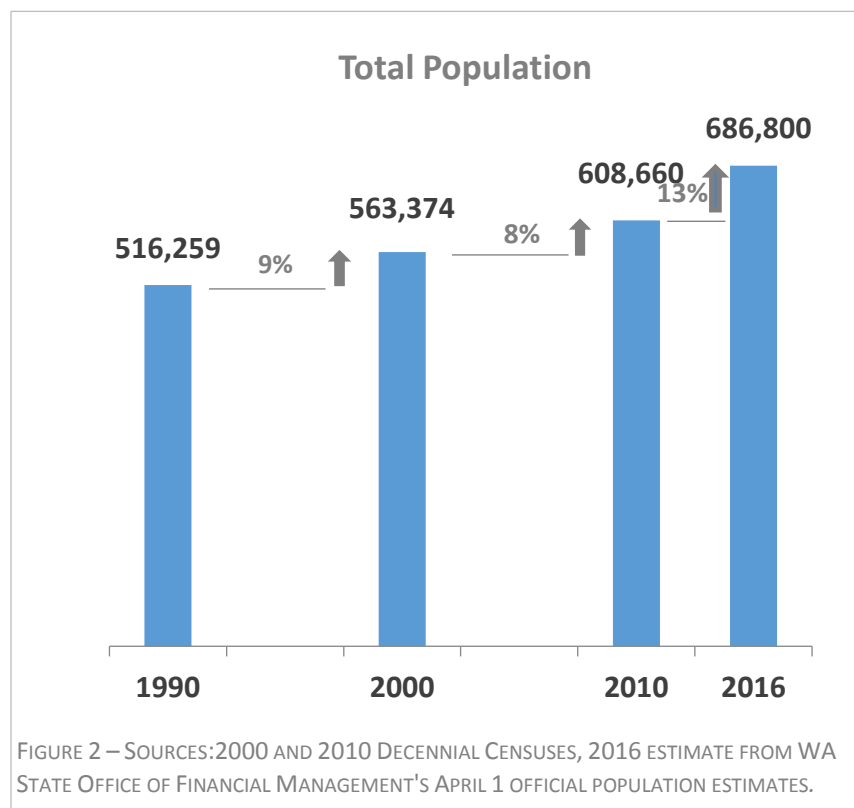


Over the past decade, the City of Seattle has grown rapidly, adding an average of about four thousand housing units and seven thousand people each year. In the years to come, Seattle expects to accommodate a significant share of the region's growth. In 2016 Seattle's population was estimated to be 686,800, with projections that growth over the next twenty years will add an estimated 120,000 people to the city.

## POPULATION SIZE AND GROWTH

Seattle has the largest population of cities in King County, the broader Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue Metro Area, and the state of Washington. Between the 2000 and 2010 decennial census counts, Seattle's population grew by 8 percent: slightly slower than in the 1990s, but a healthy rate of growth for a major U.S. city.

Seattle's population has grown at an especially rapid pace in the last few years. Per the Census Bureau's Population Estimate Program, Seattle's population rose so much between 2010 and 2015, that it went from being the 23<sup>rd</sup> largest city in the United States in 2010 to being the 18<sup>th</sup> largest in 2015. The Washington state Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimates that Seattle's population was 686,800 as of April 2016.

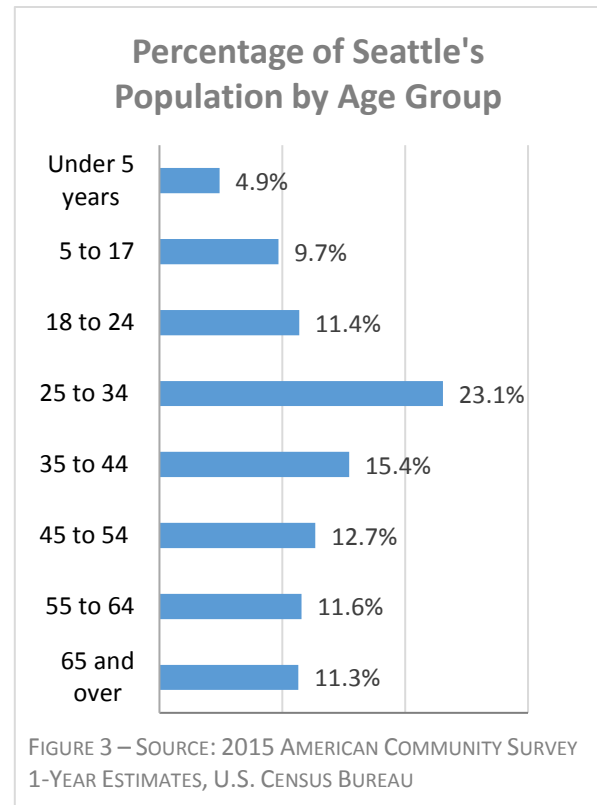


## AGE GROUPS

Nearly three-quarters of Seattle residents are adults between 18 and 64 years of age, with an especially high concentration of young adults age, 25 to 34.

The total number *and share* of Seattle's population who are in the 25 to 34 age group have increased significantly in recent years. The Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) estimates that as of 2015, about 23 percent (23%) of Seattleites are between the ages of 25 and 34; which is up 21 percent (21%) from 2010. This compares to 17 percent (17%) in King County and 14 percent (14%) in the U.S.

The share of the population who are ages 20 to 35 is markedly higher in Seattle than in King County, while the shares of residents in the youngest and oldest age groups are lower in Seattle than in the county.



## HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND COMPOSITION

After decades of decline nationally and locally, household sizes have risen. In 2010, the average number of people per household in Seattle was 2.06; by 2015, it had risen to 2.13. While the average number of people per household remains markedly lower in Seattle than in King County and the U.S. the drop in household size was bigger in Seattle.

Between 2010 and 2015, one-person households became slightly less prevalent in Seattle as married couples without children and roommate households became more common. One-person households are still the most common type of household the city, followed by married couples without children.



## RACE AND ETHNICITY

Estimates from the Census Bureau's 2015 ACS indicate that slightly more than one-third (34%) of Seattle's population are people of color. Persons of color include people of any race other than White alone, and include Hispanic/Latino persons of any race. The largest group of color is Asian (14%), followed by Black or African American (7%), and Hispanic or Latino (6%).

The racial and ethnic groups that grew most quickly in Seattle over the last decade and a half are Asians, multiracial persons (who are now roughly 6 percent of the city's population), and persons of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

While the share of Seattle's population who are people of color has continued to increase in the last decade and a half, this is occurring at a slower rate than in the past. The racial and ethnic distribution of the population in Seattle is generally similar to that of King County as a whole. However, the share of the population who are persons of color has been increasing much faster in King County as a whole than in Seattle. The most recent 1-year ACS suggest that the share of the population who are people of color in King County is currently about 38 percent (38%), which is 4 percent (4%) higher than the 34 percent (34%) share within the city of Seattle.

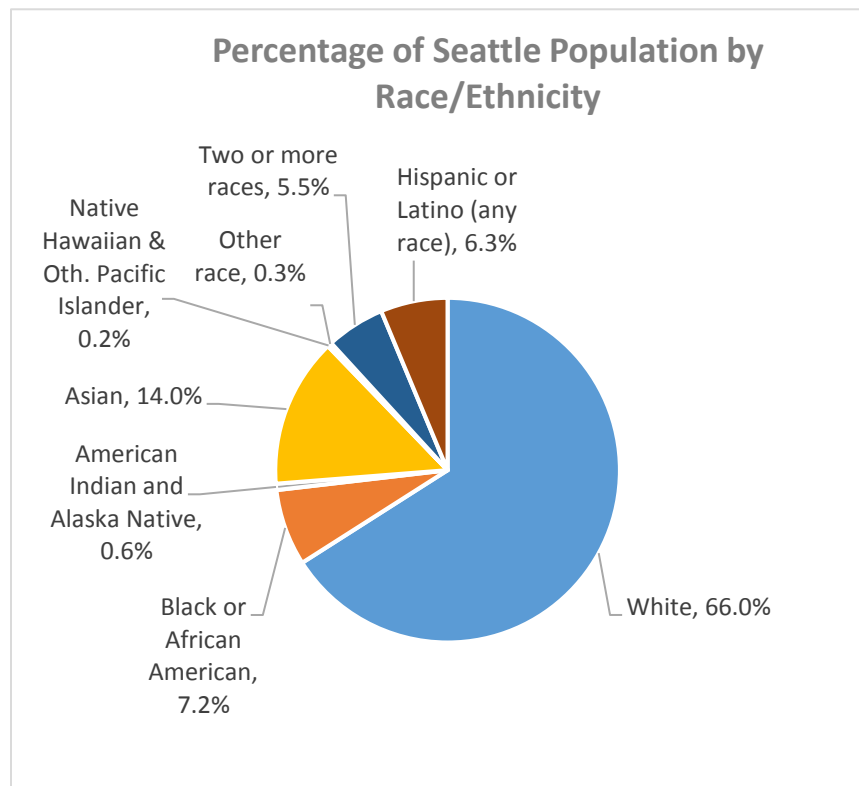


FIGURE 4 - SOURCE: 2015 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 1-YEAR ESTIMATES, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

## FORECASTED GROWTH

Since 2011, dedicated parkland in Seattle has increased by 214 acres through property purchases, donations, transfers, or lot boundary adjustments. Between 2010 and 2016 Seattle's population has increased by 78,140 individuals and is projected to increase by an additional 120,000 individuals by 2035, or approximately 38,000 individuals over the next six years planning horizon; with most growth occurring in the city's urban centers and villages.

Property acquisition is opportunity driven, but the gap areas identified in this analysis help define SPR's priorities and needs for future acquisition and development projects. With \$2 million available annually for acquisition in Park District funding and given the projected increase in population, consideration should be given to the acquisition and maintenance of new parkland, even if it cannot be developed immediately.









## Section 4: Inventory and System Overview

The purpose of this section is to provide an overview of SPR's facilities by type, their distribution citywide, and to highlight the categories and assets associated with the park classification policy. SPR's new asset management and work order system – AMWO serves as the system of record for these classifications, and the full spectrum of condition and asset management tracking for maintenance and operations. AMWO is therefore used to prioritize facilities that may need renovation or replacement.

SPR has over 720 recreation facilities in addition to numerous work structures such as: crew quarters, maintenance sheds, outbuildings, pump houses, storage facilities and administration offices.

*"The Olmsted Plan for Seattle's park system, renowned for its legacy of parks and boulevards, also included active recreation opportunities, with playgrounds, playfields, and field houses devoted to recreation. Hiawatha Field House (now the Hiawatha Community Center) opened in 1911 and was the first recreation center developed from the Olmsted Plan. Others soon followed, including a number of shelter houses designed for indoor recreation.*

*The next significant jump in the development of community centers occurred with the 1968 passage of the Forward Thrust bond issue which provided \$65 million for park acquisition and development and new community centers. In 1991 and 1999 Seattle voters approved levies for community center development, providing significant upgrades to many centers."*

2016 Community Center Strategic Plan

These facilities are classified in several ways that characterize aspects relating to use and maintenance.

The Park Classification categories – described at the end of this section, - are a fundamental classification scheme for properties included within AMWO's database.

*"Address changing the use and amenities within existing parks to better service a population that has changed dramatically since the park's inception. For example, Ballard Commons Park is in the heart of a very vibrant, high-density community that would benefit from a playground and a public restroom."*

- Public Comment,  
2016 Focus Group

SPR is focusing capital investments now on immediate facility improvements - major maintenance aspects, safety issues, American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, assessments, and asset management. Eight community centers and seven pools have gone through architectural and engineering assessments to identify major maintenance needs and subsequent capital projects. The assessments identify if systems are deficient and/or are at the end of their serviceable life, including assessing the condition of roofs, boiler systems, windows, heating, seismic and structural support.

Identified projects have been included in the 6-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and many are included in the "Highlights of Project Examples" in **Section 10: Planning for the Future**, of this report. In addition to the architectural and engineering assessments, facility projects are identified through demand and needs analysis, balancing the system citywide, scheduling demands, new and emerging sports, and Seattle's changing climate and demographics.

### TABLE OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES BY TYPE

The following chart highlights many of SPR's facilities, but is not meant to be exhaustive.

Number of Facilities	Facility Type
27	Community Centers
10	Swimming pools, including 2 outdoor pools
32	Wading Pools and Spray Parks
1	Aquarium
1	Zoo, including 45 major exhibits, 145 buildings and structures on 92 acres
1	Stadium
2	Indoor tennis centers
144	Outdoor tennis courts, 17 of which have lighting, plus two multi-use courts for dodgeball, bike polo and roller hockey, and up to 10 pilot sites for pickleball striping
207	Athletic fields, including 33 sites that are fully synthetic and 66 sites with lights
11	Skateparks, comprised of district parks, skateparks and skatedots
4	Golf courses, including 3 driving ranges and 1 pitch/putt facility
2	Rowing, Sailing, and Small Craft Centers
4	Environmental Learning Centers
6	Performing and visual art facilities
54	Landmarked buildings (there is some overlap since this category includes some Community Centers, the Asian Art Museum, concessions, a bathhouse and other structures)
123	94 Comfort stations, 29 Shelter Houses, with 5 comfort station sites attached to other buildings.
9	Bathhouses
47	Rentable Picnic shelters
20	Administrative offices, crew quarters and shops
2	Museums
5	Amphitheaters

## FACILITY DISTRIBUTION MAPS

The maps on the following pages show SPR recreation facility distribution citywide. Any new facility development will take into consideration demand, equity and health, income and poverty, density and opportunity. Some facilities are pilot project sites, and additional sites may be considered pending the success of the respective pilot programs.

For ease of reading, the maps have been divided up into ten sets:


1. Aquatics – Boating
  - a. Hand Launch Sites
2. Aquatics – Boating/Fishing
  - a. Small Craft Centers
  - b. Boat Ramps
  - c. Fishing Piers
3. Aquatics – Swimming
  - a. Swimming Beaches
  - b. Wading Pools/Spray Parks
  - c. Indoor and Outdoor Swimming Pools
4. Community Centers
  - a. Community Centers
  - b. Teen Life Centers
  - c. Environmental Education Centers
5. Dog Off-Leash Areas
6. Golf and Tennis Centers
  - a. Golf Courses
  - b. Tennis Centers
  - c. Lawn Bowling
7. Outdoor Sports Courts – some of these courts also double for bike polo, dodgeball, futsal and pickleball play.
  - a. Volleyball
  - b. Tennis
  - c. Bocce Ball
  - d. Basketball
8. Play Areas
9. Skateparks
10. Sports Fields – with and without lighting
  - a. Baseball
  - b. Soccer
  - c. Football
  - d. Track and Field

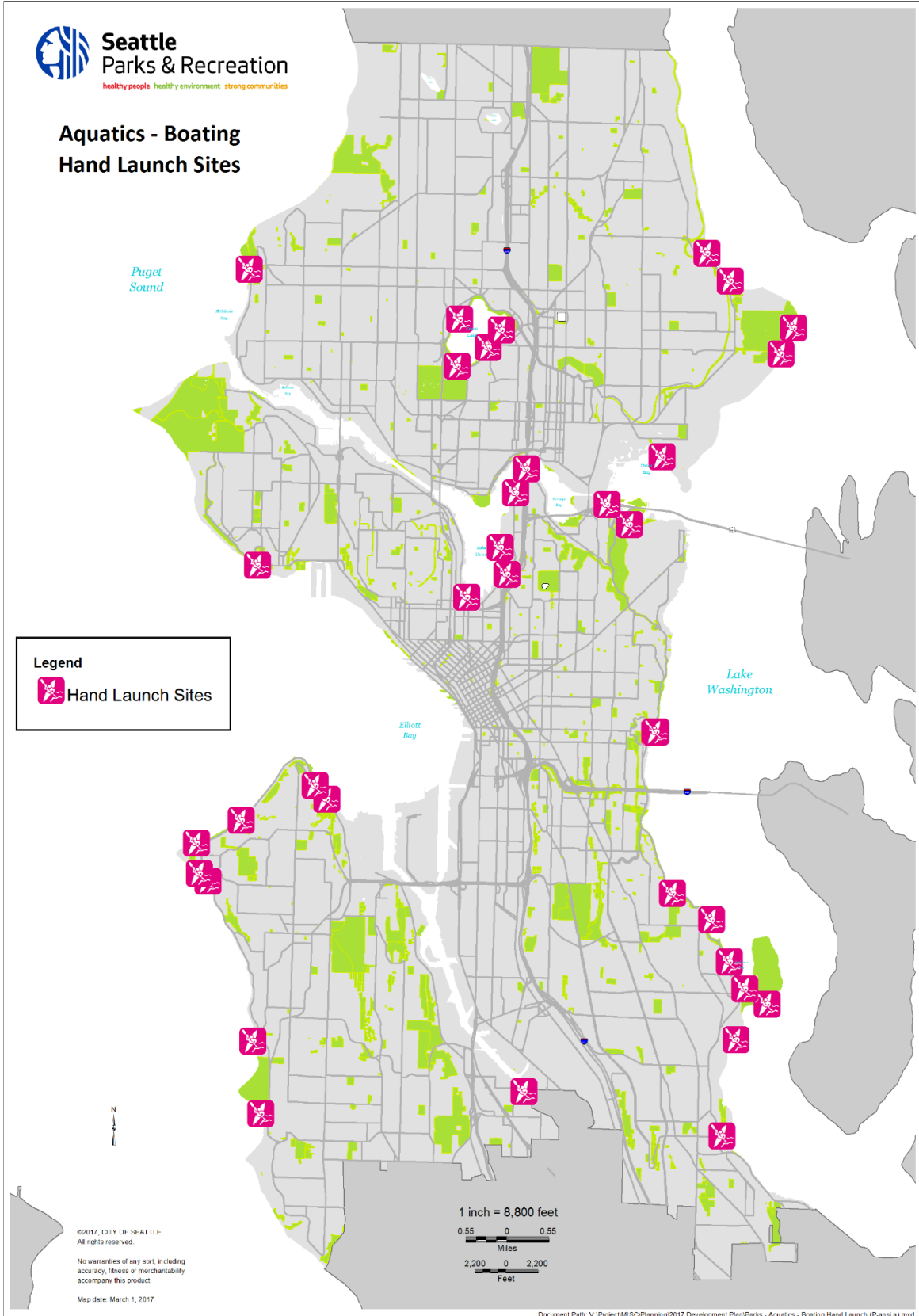




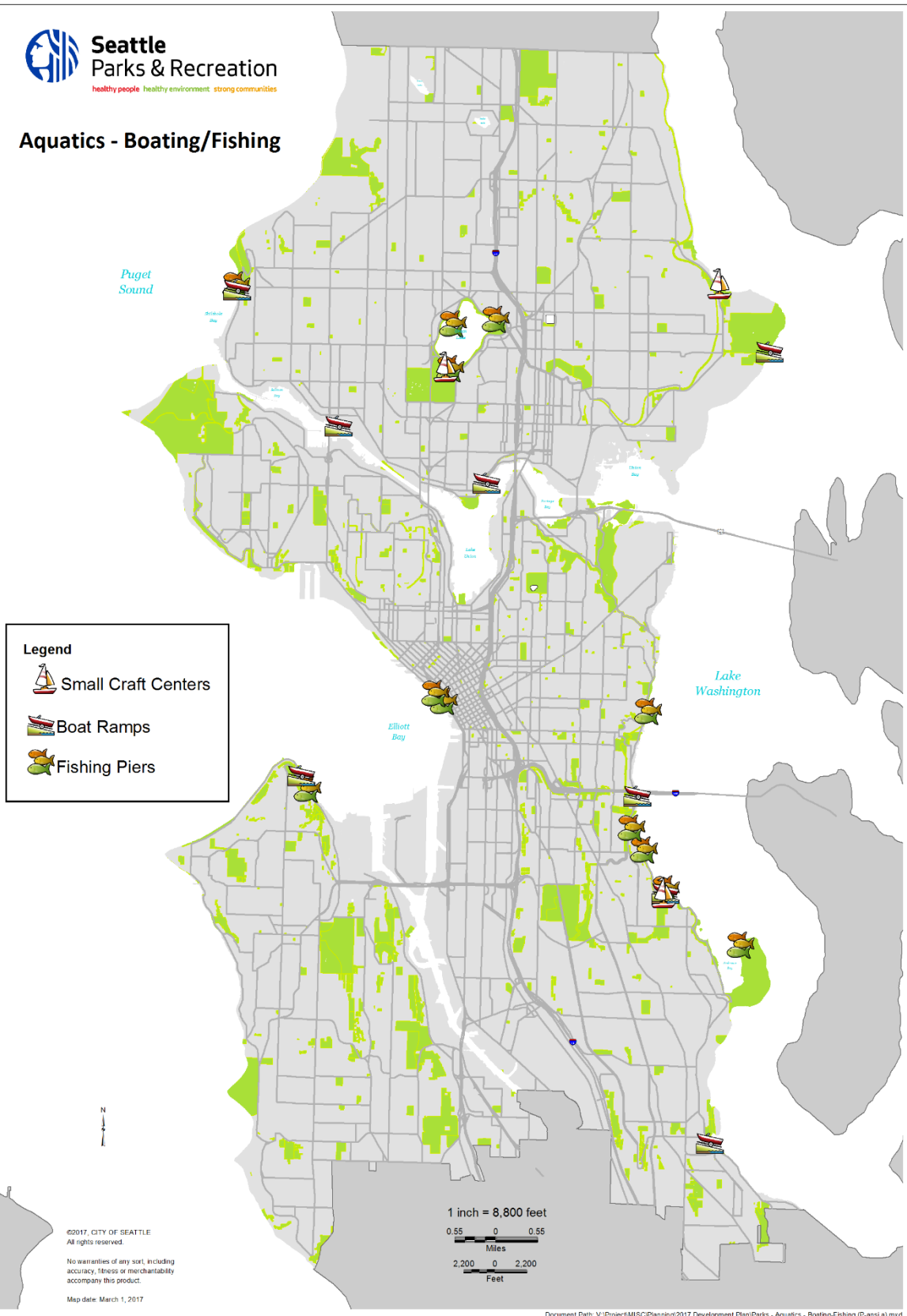
## Aquatics - Boating Hand Launch Sites

**Legend**

 Hand Launch Sites






## Aquatics - Boating/Fishing

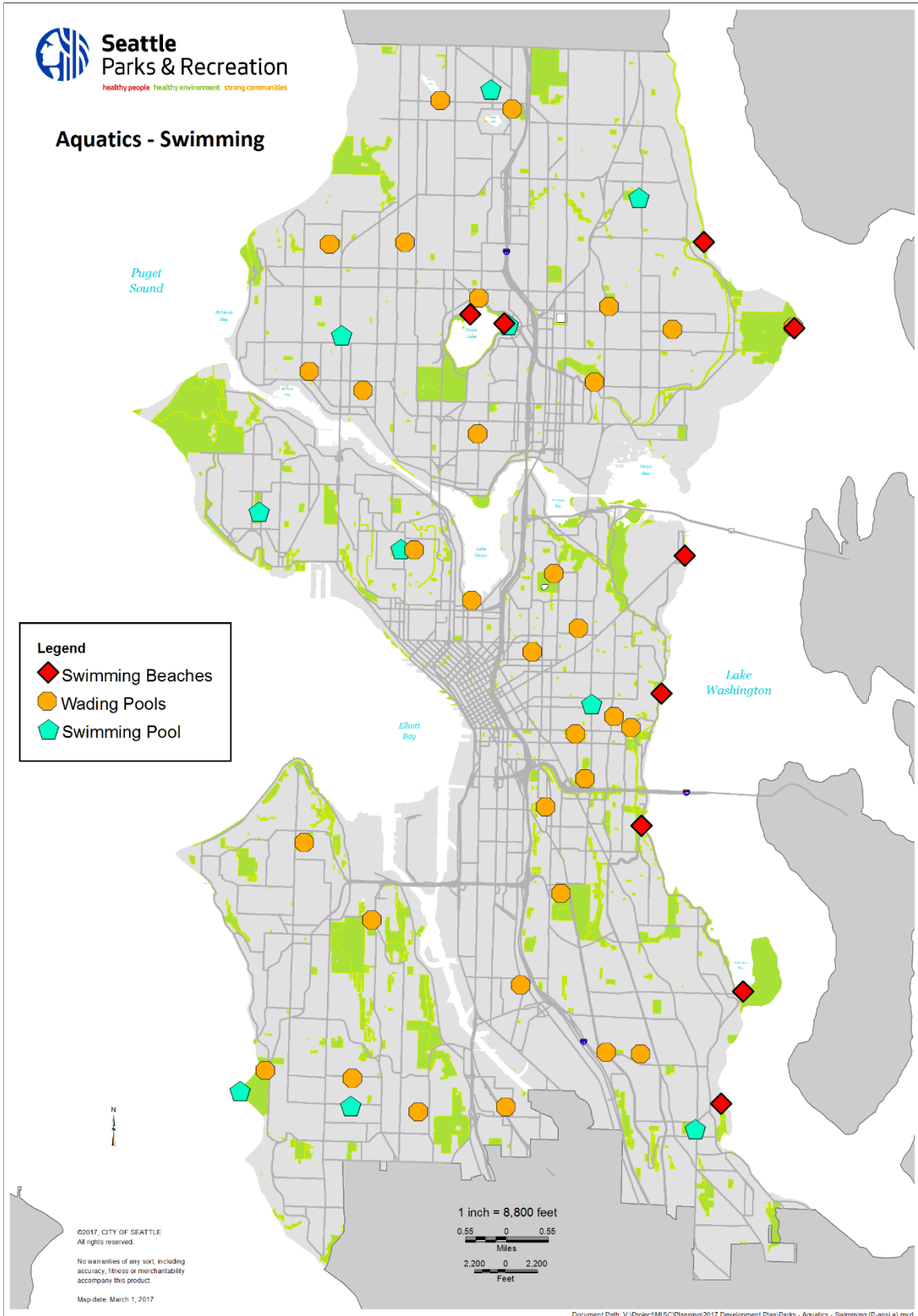




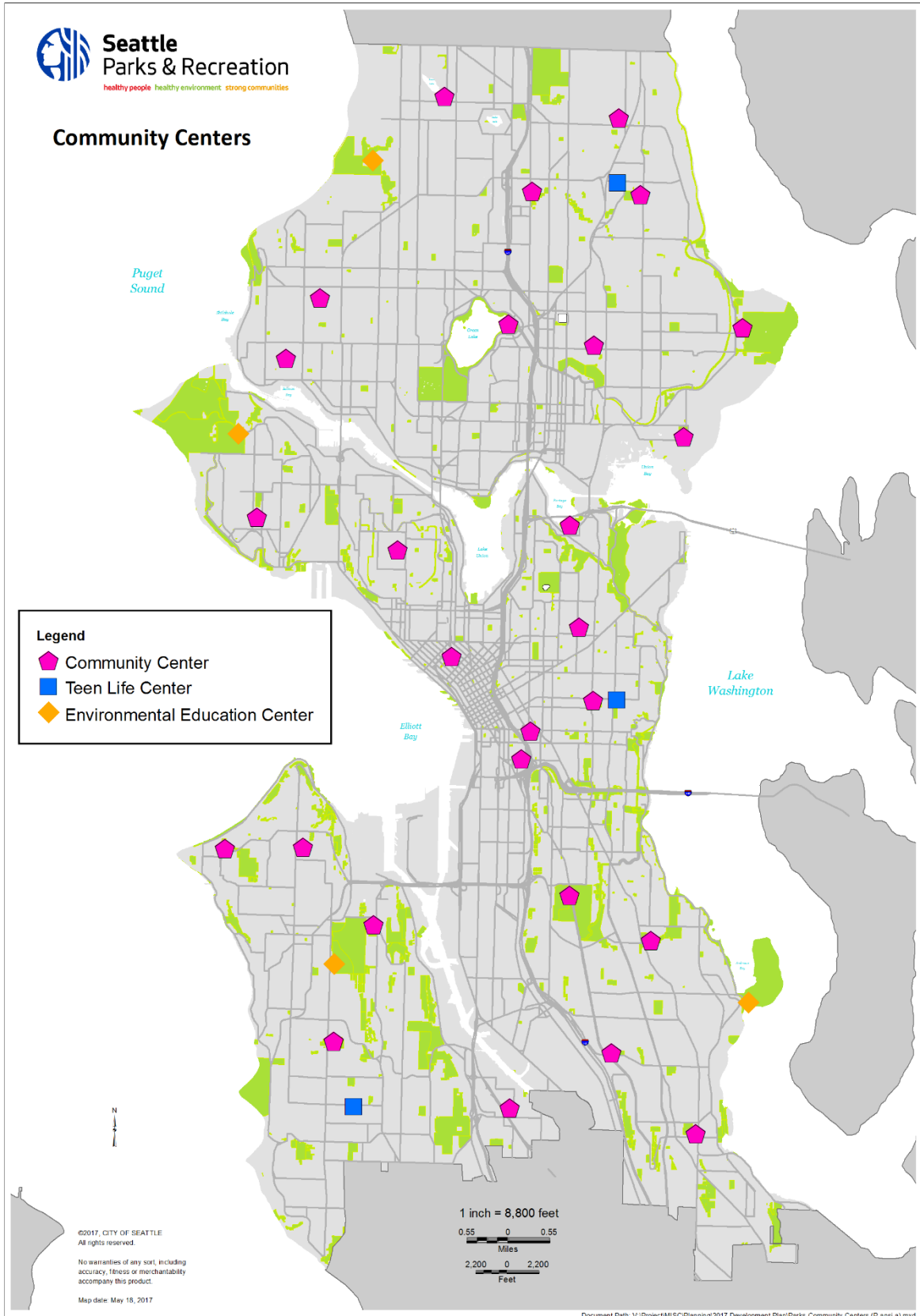
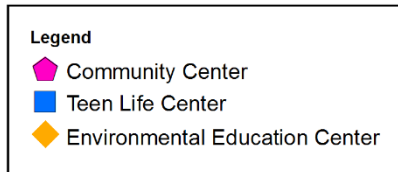
## Aquatics - Swimming

**Legend**

-  Swimming Beaches
-  Wading Pools
-  Swimming Pool

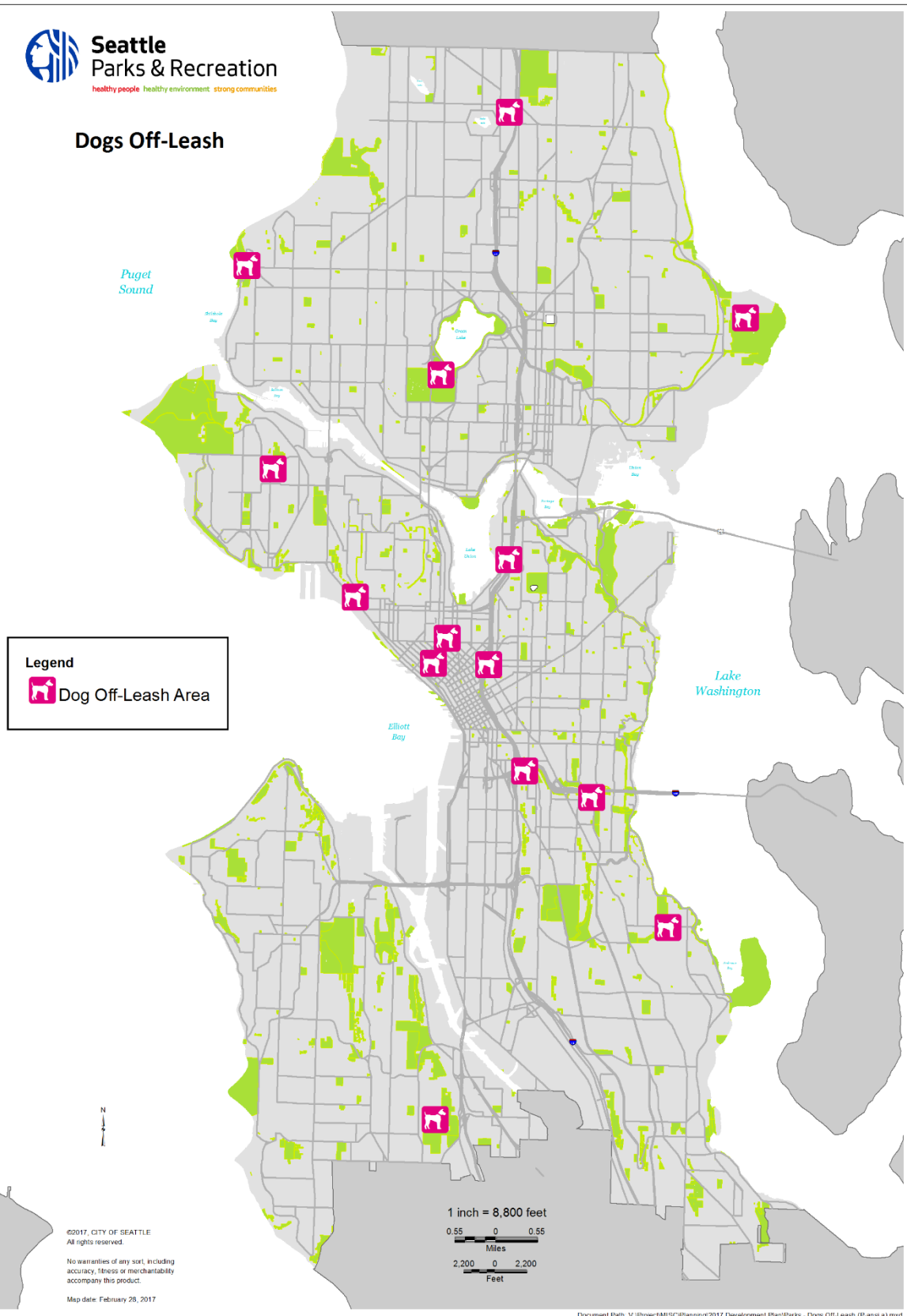


## Community Centers





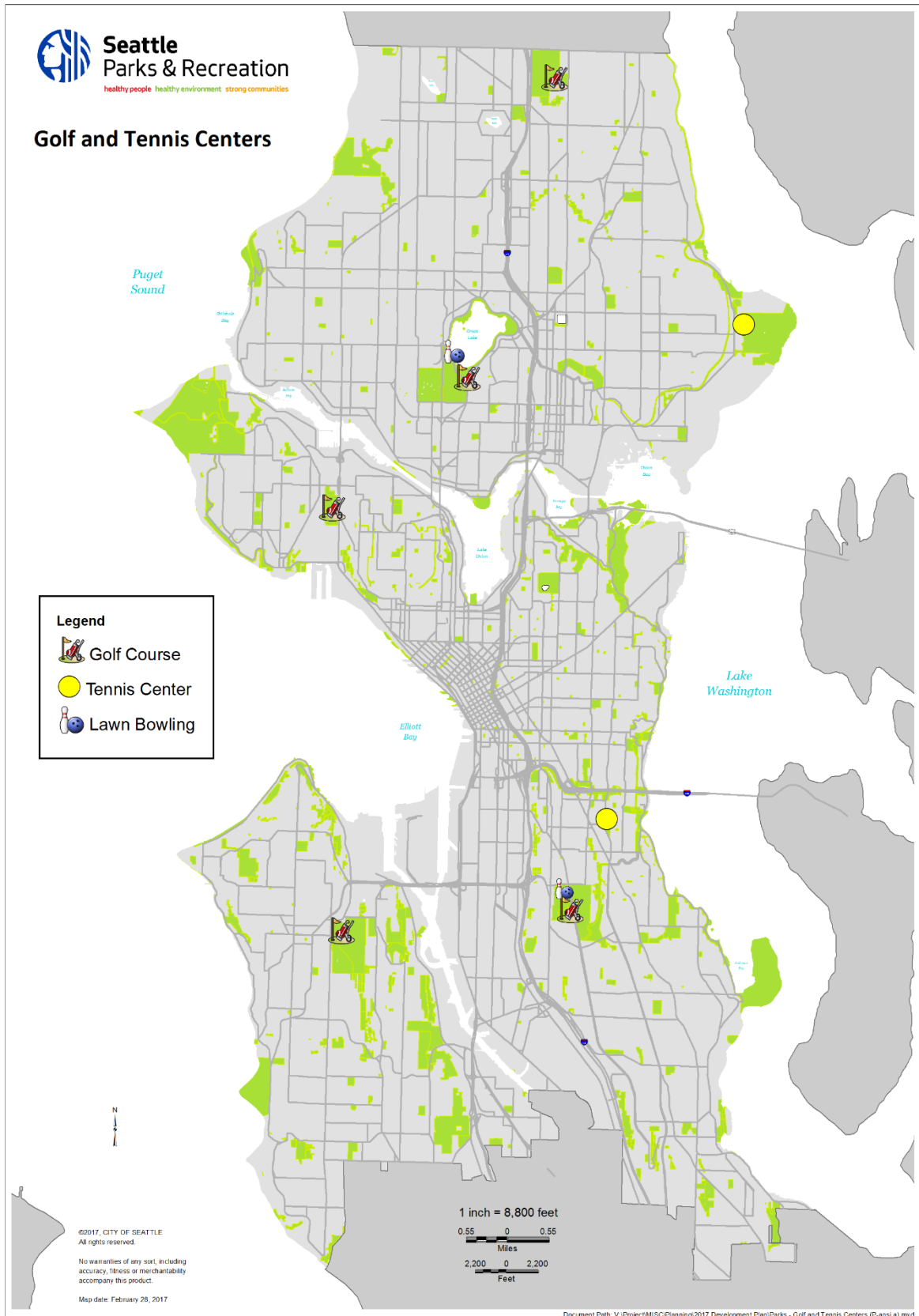
## Dogs Off-Leash



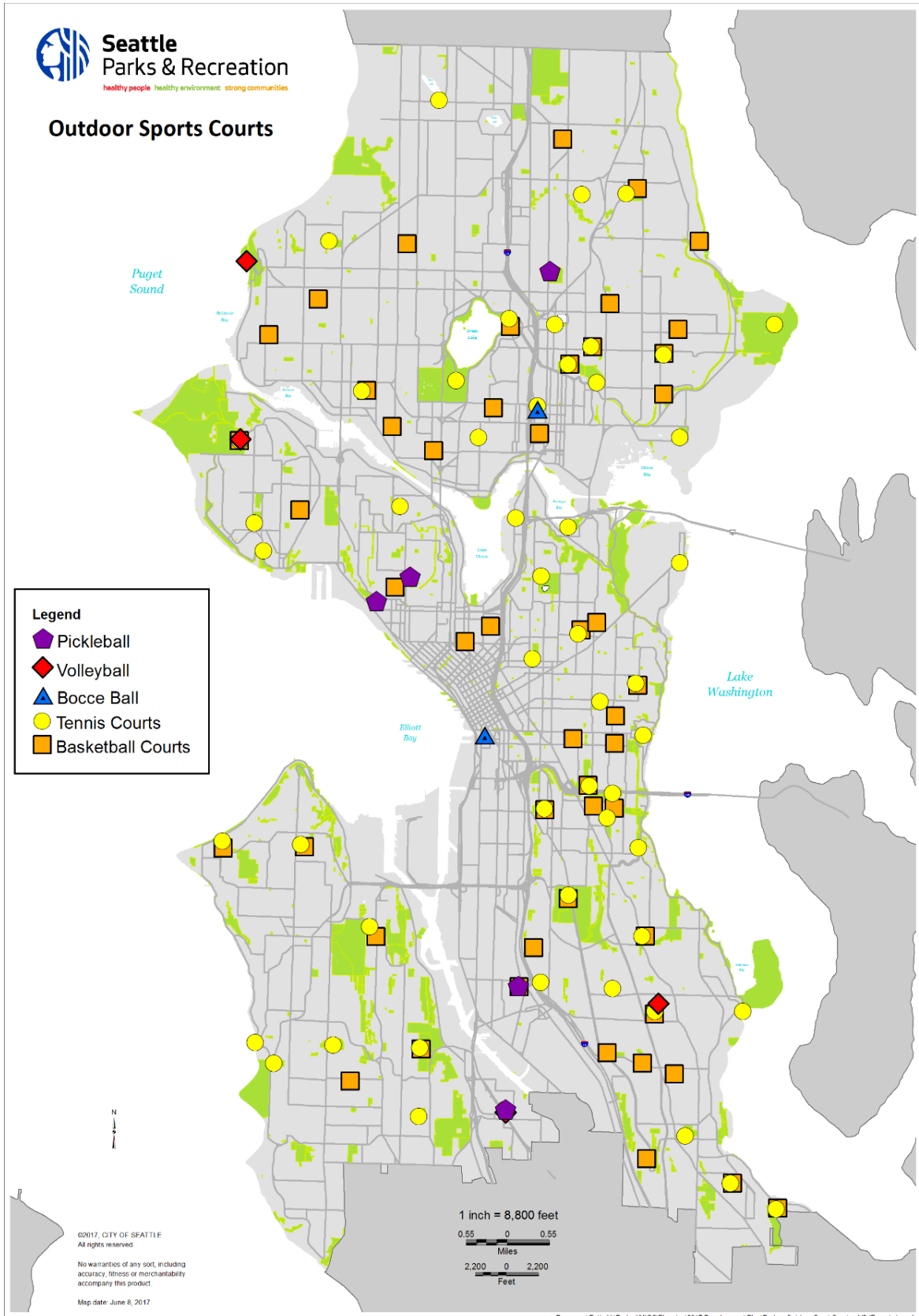
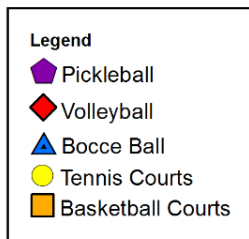
## Golf and Tennis Centers

### Legend

-  Golf Course
-  Tennis Center
-  Lawn Bowling



## Outdoor Sports Courts








**Seattle  
Parks & Recreation**  
healthy people healthy environment strong communities

## Play Areas

### Legend

 Play Areas



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accompany this product.

Map date: March 1, 2017

1 inch = 8,800 feet

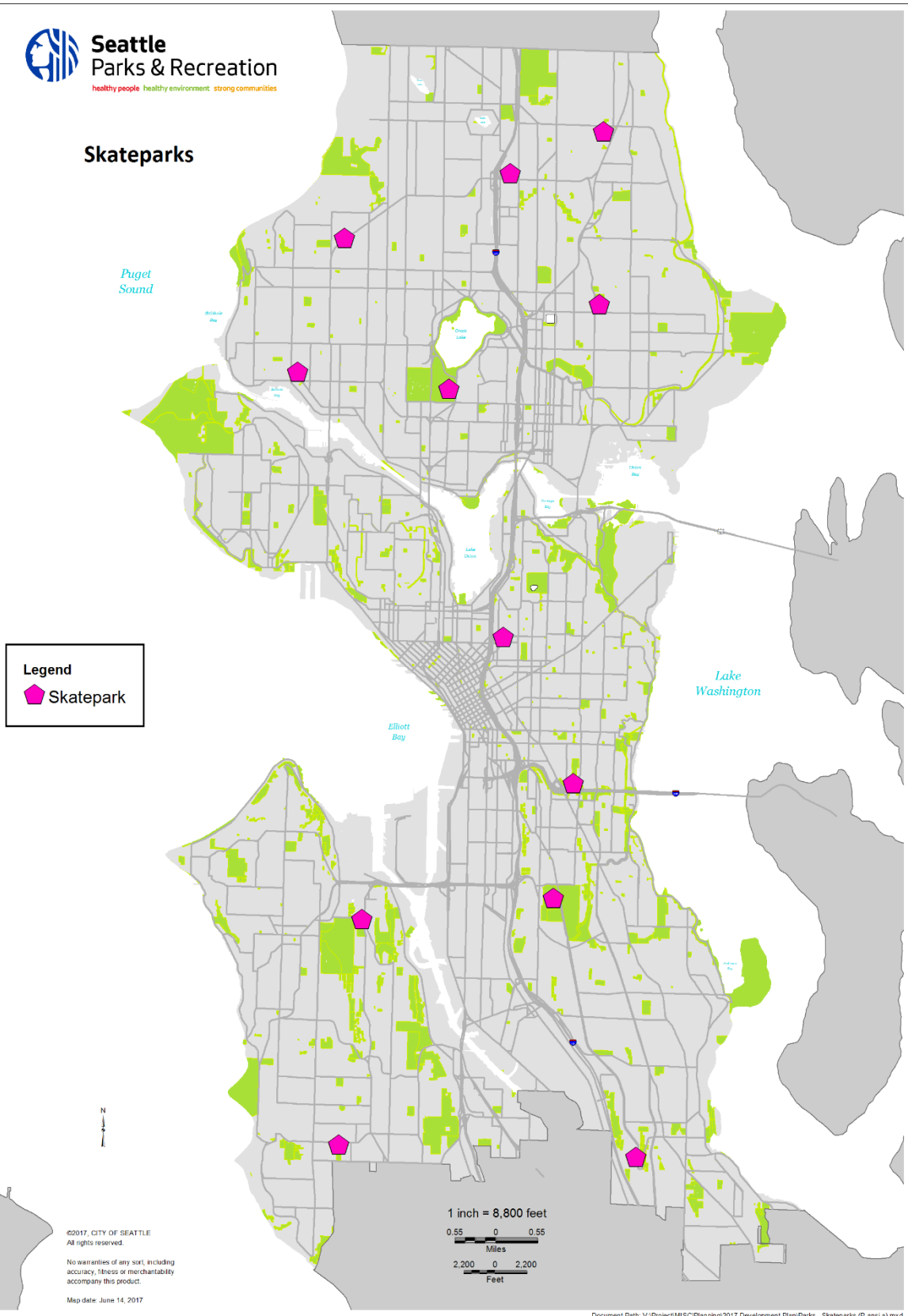
0.55 0 0.55  
Miles  
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Feet

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**Seattle  
Parks & Recreation**  
healthy people healthy environment strong communities

## Skateparks





**Sports Fields -  
Baseball, Soccer,  
Football, Track  
and Field**

*Puget  
Sound*

**Legend**

**Sports Fields**

**Lights**

-  No
-  Yes

*Lake  
Washington*

*Elliott  
Bay*



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Map date: February 28, 2017

1 inch = 8,800 feet

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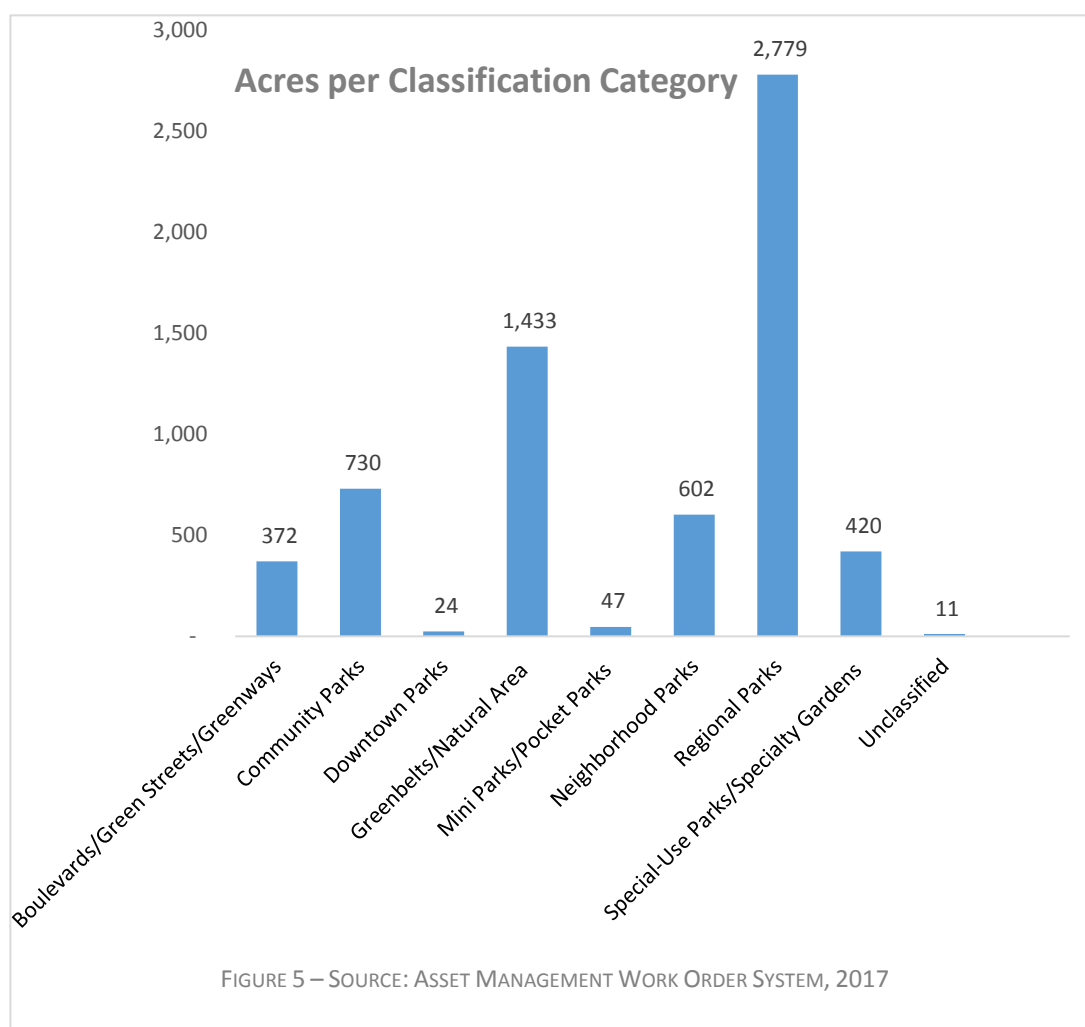
## PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The purpose of the Park Classification System Policy is to establish a method for classifying the parks in SPR's ownership. The classification categories are driven by park use, purpose, general size, attributes, natural assets, and physical environment. Below is a short summary of the Park Classification categories, the full policy and detailed descriptions for each can be found in **APPENDIX B**.

**Boulevards, Green Streets, and Greenways** are established by a city ordinance and defined as an extension or expansion of a dedicated street which often continues to serve as a right-of-way as well as providing a recreation benefit. This category includes boulevards that are part of the Olmsted Plan.

**Community Parks** satisfy the recreational needs of multiple neighborhoods and may also preserve unique landscapes. Community parks commonly accommodate group activities and recreational facilities not available at neighborhood parks. Community parks range between 5 and 60 acres.

**Downtown Parks** are typically smaller, developed sites located in Seattle's center. These parks are often of historic significance, provide relief from street traffic and tend to contain more hardscape elements. Downtown parks are between 0.1 and 5 acres.





**Greenbelts and Natural Areas** are park sites established for the protection and stewardship of wildlife, habitat and other natural systems support functions. Some natural areas are accessible for low-impact use. Larger natural areas may have small sections developed to serve a community park function. Some Large Natural Area/Greenbelts may be divided into subareas based on vegetation, habitat, restoration status, wildlife area designation, recreation use area, etc. to better differentiate resource needs and use priorities

**Mini Parks and Pocket Parks** are small parks that provide a little green in dense areas. They often incorporate small, sometimes difficult spaces to activate and are typically under 0.25 acres.

**Neighborhood Parks** are substantially larger than pocket parks, and generally occupy an area equivalent to a city block. Typical park features include play areas, viewpoints, and picnic areas. Neighborhood parks are generally between 0.25 and 9 acres in size.

**Regional Parks** provide access to significant ecological, cultural, or historical features or unique facilities that attract visitors from throughout the entire region. These parks average over 100 acres in size and contain a variety of intensive indoor and outdoor active and passive recreation facilities, as well as areas maintained in a natural state. Regional parks range from 10 acres to over 485 acres.

**Special-Use Parks and Specialty Gardens** include stand-alone parks designed to serve one use. Examples include Woodland Park Zoo, West Seattle Stadium, and Kubota Gardens.









## Section 5: Recreation Trends

The purpose of this section is to quantify and describe the facility and recreational programming needs of the city. For SPR to plan for future recreational facilities and programming, it must understand the composition of neighborhoods, recreational desires versus actual needs, and recreation participation trends. The 2013-2018 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) documents recreational activities that have significantly increased or decreased in popularity over the last few years. This plan highlights two methodologies for identifying demand and need per RCO's Manual 2 - Planning Policies and Guidelines:

- Recreation Participation, and
- Community Satisfaction.

The following sections illustrate and compare sport participation at the national, state and local levels, recreation trends, and how Seattleites value the park system and individual facilities.

The analysis and comparisons incorporate statistically valid survey information gathered during the 2014 Parks Legacy Planning (PLP) process, along with scientifically valid survey information gathered in Seattle Parks and Recreation 2016 Survey, the 2016 Recreation Demand Study and the 2013-2018 SCORP. For the most part, this analysis focuses on trends in Washington State and Seattle. The SCORP includes many other recreation activities such as hunting, snowboarding, and ice hockey which are not included in this report.

National and State data include information on favorite outdoor activities by frequency, but these are not always applicable to City services. For example: car, backyard and RV camping or freshwater/saltwater fly fishing. For comparison purposes, the following figures show recreation activities that can be done or are available at SPR facilities.





## RECREATION DEMAND AND ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

Since 2013, SPR has completed three studies that included extensive citizen input either from public outreach or from targeted surveys. These studies guide SPR on how facilities are used and which future park facilities or programming are important to citizens. The plans referenced are as follows:

- *2014 Parks Legacy Plan* – includes statistically valid survey information gathered via Random Digital Dialing (RDD) and cell phone samples. Age, gender and geographic quotas matched Seattle’s demographic profile. Survey questions focused on need, satisfaction and use.
- *2016 Recreation Demand Study* – identifies future demand through three methods: RCO diary studies, distributional levels of service standards, and public surveys.
- *2016 Seattle Parks and Recreation Survey* – includes scientifically valid survey information conducted in late 2016 via random phone and online surveys, responses are weighted by key household demographics to best reflect Census and American Communities Survey (ACS) population estimates; with questions focused on frequency of participation, community satisfaction, and funding priorities.

In addition to these, the following sources have been used for comparison purposes:

- *The Outdoor Foundation – 2016 Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report* - The study is based on an online survey capturing responses from over 40,000 Americans ages six and older and covers 114 different activities. <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/research.participation.2016.topline.html>
- *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office - Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan - 2013-2018* - Over 3,000 Washingtonians participated in a large-scale scientific phone survey to assess their participation in recreation and future needs. [http://rco.wa.gov/doc\\_pages/strategy.shtml](http://rco.wa.gov/doc_pages/strategy.shtml)
- *Physical Activity Council – 2016 Participation Report* – The report from the Physical Activity Council, (PAC), is produced by a partnership of eight of the major trade associations in US sports, fitness, and leisure industries. A total of 32,658 online interviews were carried out with a nationwide sample of individuals and households. A total of 15,167 individual and 17,491 household surveys were completed. The total panel is maintained to be representative of the US population for people ages six and older. Over sampling of ethnic groups took place to boost responses from typically under responding groups. <http://www.physicalactivitycouncil.com/>

Participation analysis is based on how people use specific park facilities and how many times a year they use these facilities. The long-term need for each type of recreation/sports facility is calculated in relation to how people currently use facilities and any projected population changes. The quality of a facility is not usually weighted in how much a facility is used, although quality likely has an impact in identifying use. For example, if an athletic field has synthetic turf or field lighting, the length of season or number of players using a field can increase. The following figures highlight how many people over the age of six play or take part in specific recreation activities.

## NATIONAL AND STATE COMPARISONS

Figures 6 through 9 illustrate recreation participation rates at the national, state, county and city levels. In comparing the figures, walking, hiking, and jogging continue to be ranked high or relatively high with more than 60% of people taking part across all levels. Swimming in a pool was ranked relatively high at the national and state level but less than 30% of people swam at the city level. Visiting a natural area or wildlife viewing were both near 60% a participation rate at the state and city levels. The percent of people playing golf was similar at the state and city levels at approximately 15%. Lower on the scale, ultimate Frisbee, skateboarding, lacrosse and rugby were similar with less than three percent of people playing at the national and state levels.

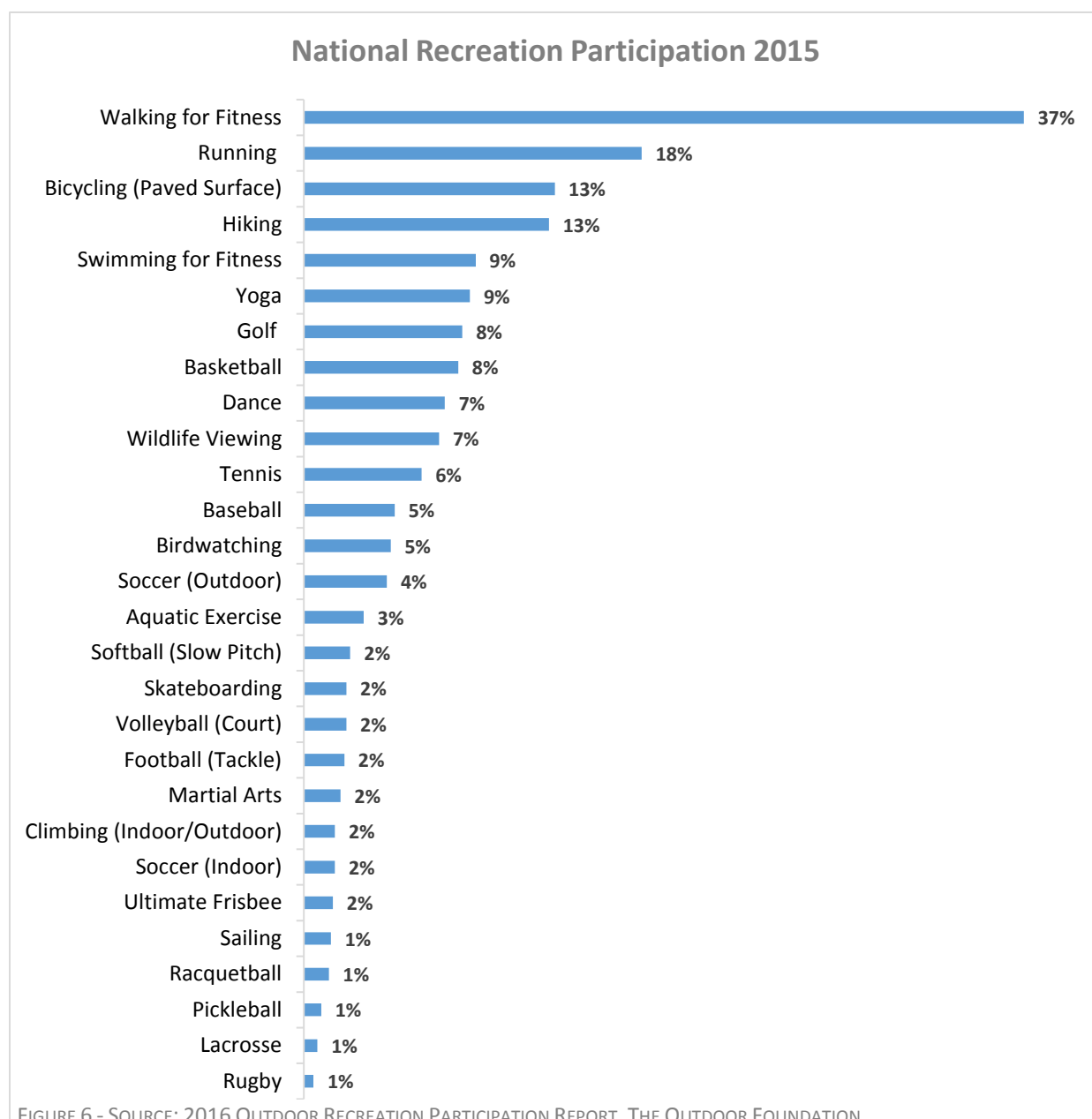


FIGURE 6 - SOURCE: 2016 OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION REPORT, THE OUTDOOR FOUNDATION

The Outdoor Foundation, Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report, reported that in 2015 approximately 142 million people or nearly half of all Americans, participated in at least one outdoor activity in 2015. Key findings from the report include the following in the three categories of Outdoor Participation, Youth, and Diversity.



FIGURE 7 - SOURCE: OUTDOOR RECREATION IN WASHINGTON. THE 2013-2018 STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN,



## OUTDOOR PARTICIPATION

- The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise.
- Walking for fitness was, by far, the most popular crossover activity. In 2015, half of all people recreating outdoors also walked.
- Running, including jogging and trail running, was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by both number of participants and by number of total annual outings.
- Twenty percent (20%) of outdoor enthusiasts did outdoor activities at least twice per week.
- While 10.8 million Americans started to do one or more of the outdoor activities measured, 9.8 million stopped. There was net gain of one million total participants and a churn rate of 9.8 %
- The percent of people doing outdoor recreation remained at 48.4 % from 2014 to 2015.

## YOUTH

- Young adults, ages 18 to 24, showed the biggest boost in outdoor recreation among the age groups, with a 5% increase from 2014 to 2015.
- Data shows that adults who were introduced to the outdoors as children were more likely to recreate outdoors during adulthood than those who were not exposed to the outdoors as children.
- 37% of adults who were introduced to the outdoors during childhood grew up to enjoy outdoor activities as adults.
- Only 16% of adults who do not currently participate in any outdoor activities had outdoor experiences as children.

## DIVERSITY

- Running was the most popular outdoor activity for all ethnic groups.
- While Hispanic Americans made up a small percentage of total people taking part in outdoor activities, those who did participate averaged the most annual outdoor outings per person.
- Consistent with previous years, minority populations lagged in recreating outdoors. In general, Caucasians had the highest participation rates and African Americans had the lowest.

## ON A LOCAL LEVEL

Figures 8 and 9 illustrate the frequency or number of times people participate in an activity or visit a facility. Figure 8 measures frequencies starting with more than two times per year and more than 10 times a year. Figure 9 measures varying degrees of frequency ranging from daily to yearly, and then from rarely to never visited.

The data was gathered approximately five years apart and is useful in illustrating if the frequency of activities or visits is consistent over time. Walking and jogging are consistently high with two or more times a year between 80% to 90%. Visiting a natural area frequency is similar between the two graphs with frequencies of more than 10 per year and with approximately 60% of respondents. The percentage of respondents for athletic fields, community centers, and picnic shelters are similar between the two graphs at less than 20%. Visiting a small neighborhood or community park continues to be high on the frequency of visitation for Seattle.

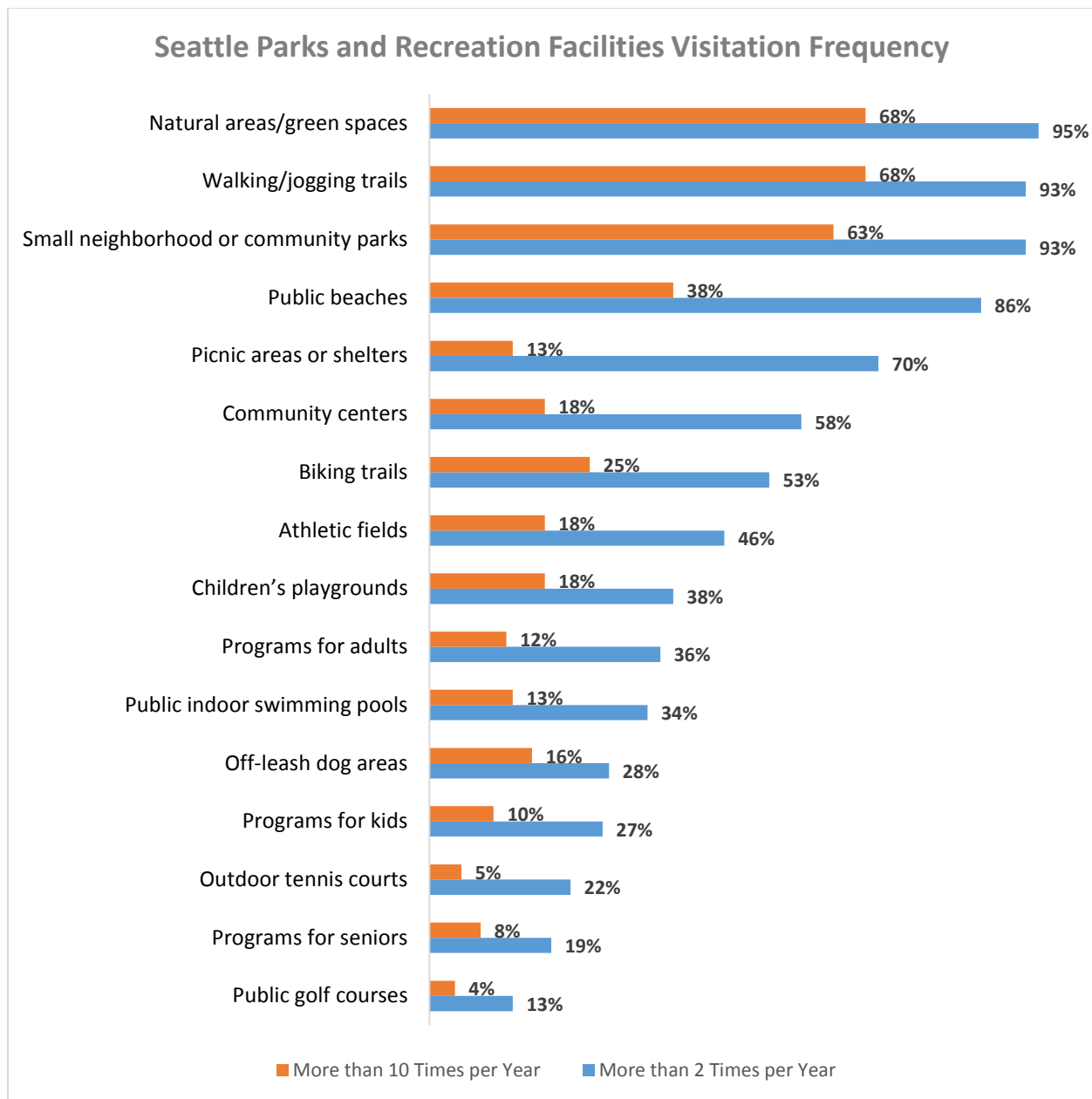


FIGURE 8 - SOURCE: SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY, FINAL REPORT – APRIL 2017, EMC RESEARCH

The term ‘recreation facilities’ in the context of this chapter section includes buildings, structures and assets such as community centers, ballfields, play areas, pools and outdoor sports courts.

## City of Seattle Frequency of Participation in Activities

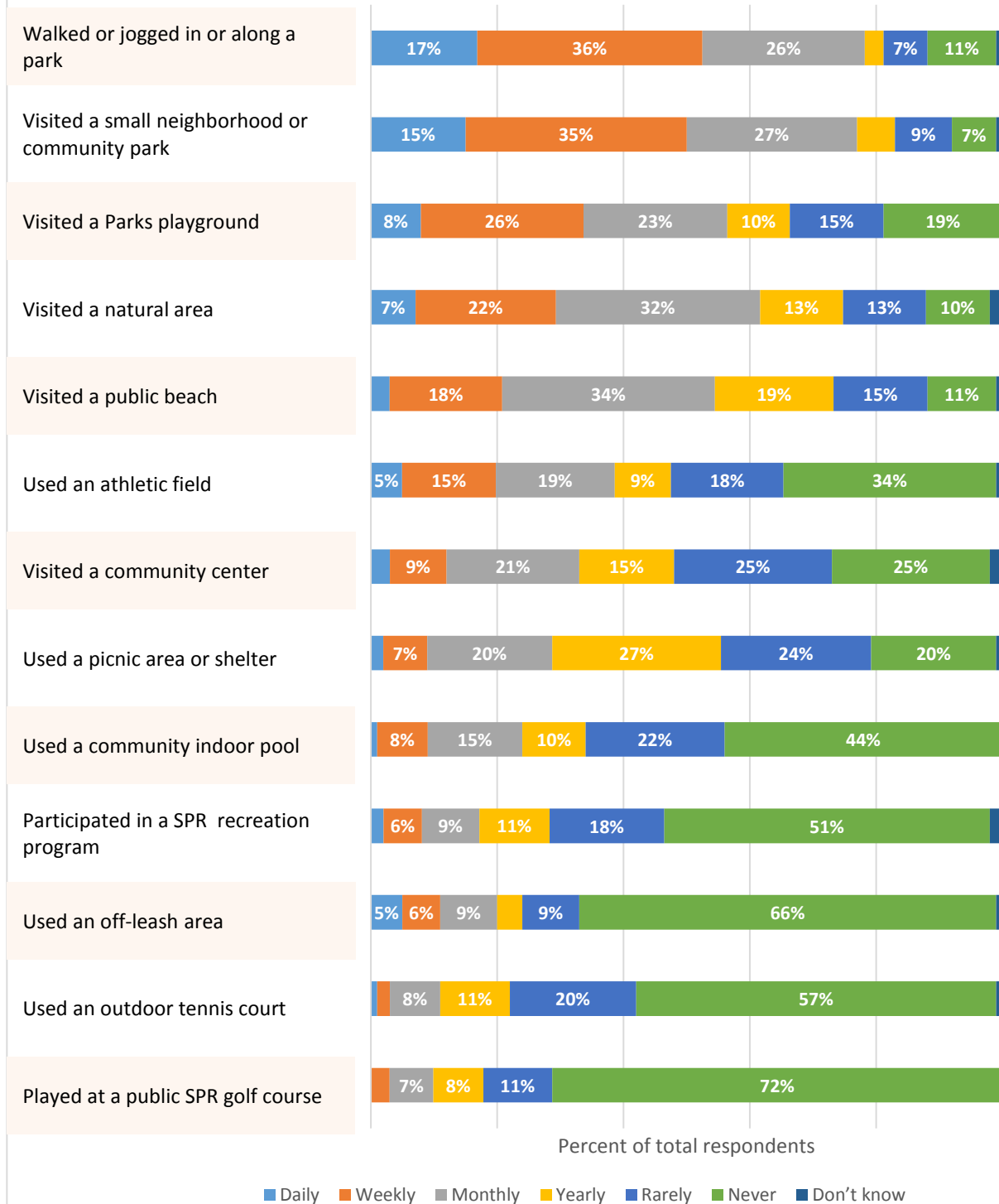


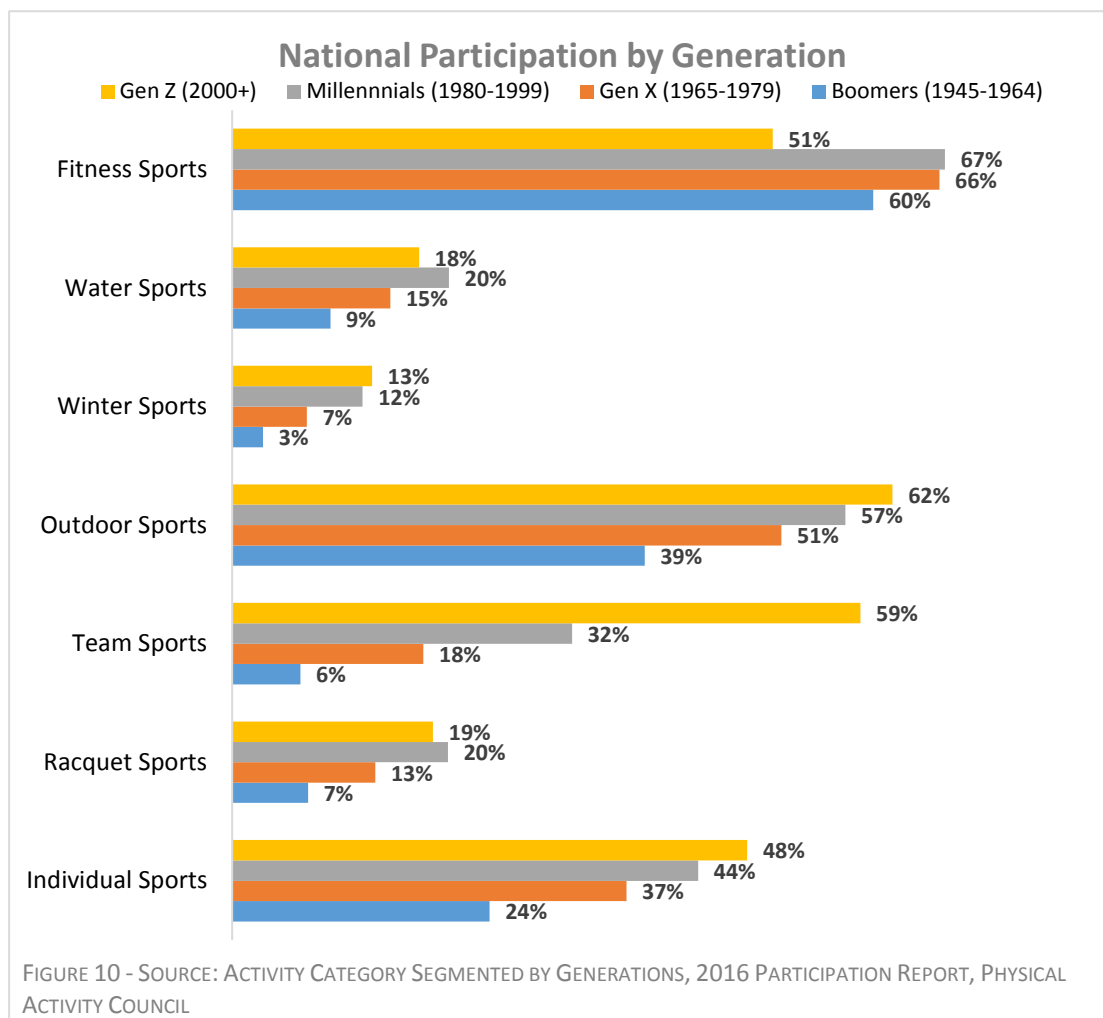
FIGURE 9 - SOURCE: 2014 PARKS LEGACY PLAN



## TRENDS

As presented in **Section 3: Location and Demographics**, Seattle is growing rapidly. While some cities may experience growth across all age groups, Seattle is seeing the most growth in the 25-34-year-old age group, which corresponds to older Millennials. Figures 10 and 11 illustrate national trends in recreation participation by age groups and generation, with data taken from the 2016 Physical Activity Council Participation Report and reformatted by SPR staff. Figure 10 illustrates the percent of participation by generation. Available data on who takes part in recreation activities and categorizes ages by generation generally include Gen Z (17 and under), Millennials or Gen Y (18-37), Gen X (38-52), and Baby Boomers (52 and older). Few organizations publish participation statistics for people who are at least 71 years old and older.

The highest percentage of people across generations are taking part in fitness sports and outdoor sports. The Physical Activity Council uses the term “fitness sports” when describing activities that increase muscle strength, cardio-vascular and endurance, such as swimming for fitness (vs. pleasure), working out with weights or weight machines, and bicycling for fitness (vs. pleasure). The lowest percent of people are taking part in water sports, winter sports, and racquet sports. Individual sports participation increases through lower age generational groups. It is worth noting the very large participation rate for team sports and in Generation Z.



Relative to the Millennial generation, Figure 10 shows that Generation Z participate most in fitness sports followed by outdoor sports. They take part much less in water and winter sports. Over the 6-year time frame of the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* it appears that Team Sports could likely experience a significant participation increase due to current Generation Z rates.

Figure 11 shows aspirational recreation activities, or what people want to do, by generational groups. Due to how data was presented in the source graph, ages 45 and older were grouped together so Baby Boomers are not clearly identified. Thus, the percentages shown are skewed higher than the other groups.



Aspirational participation measures the interest of people who do not participate in specific outdoor recreation, sports, fitness and leisure activities. When comparing the types of activities that appeal to non-participants, many aspirational participants reported interests in outdoor recreation. Swimming for fitness and camping were the top aspirational recreation activities across generations. Bicycling came in second among ages 18 to 24, and third among nonparticipants, ages 6 to 12 and ages 13 to 27. Hiking and running/jogging were also activities that each age group wanted to try.

Generation Z, was most interested in swimming for fitness, bicycling, and running/jogging, followed by fishing. Millennials were most interested in camping, swimming for fitness, bicycling, and running/jogging, followed by hiking. Generation X were most interested in swimming for fitness, bicycling, hiking and running/jogging. It is interesting to note that for fishing and basketball both Generation Z and Generation X want to participate, skipping Millennials.

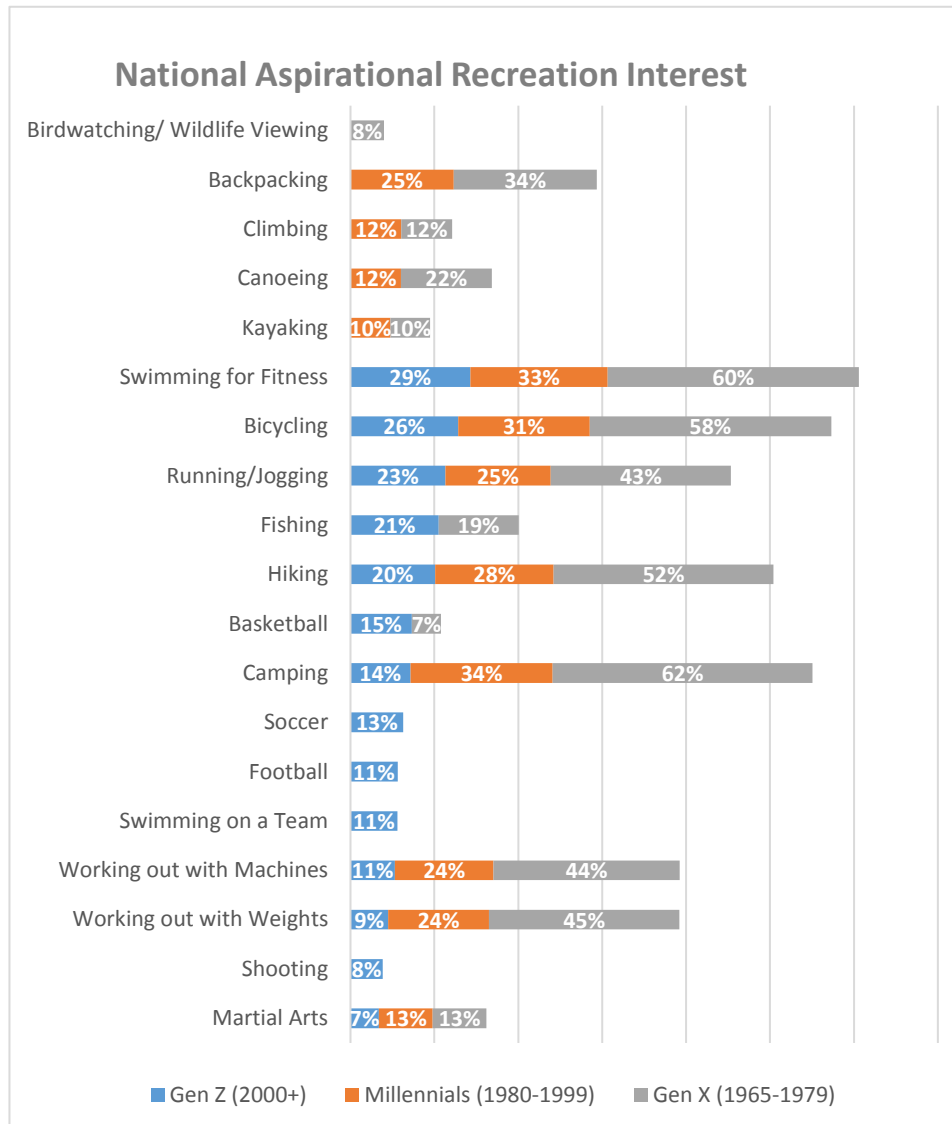


FIGURE 11 - SOURCE: OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION TOPLINE REPORT 2016, OUTDOOR FOUNDATION



## COMMUNITY SATISFACTION

Community satisfaction surveys are generally used either to measure needs/desires for programming or to measure performance metrics related to city services. SPR has conducted several surveys over the last decade which indicate satisfaction with the SPR system, while also including elements that can be improved. In measuring community satisfaction at this time, data from two different sources are used. First, Figure 12 shows the mean relative value from 1-10 (10 representing the highest) that people gave various recreation services and facilities.



## SPENDING PRIORITIES

For this section illustrating spending priorities, SPR is relying upon the most recent survey conducted in November and December 2016. People were asked to indicate whether they thought SPR should spend more, spend less, or that the right amount was being spent for the respective park types and facilities.

Figure 13 shows the percent of people who responded whether funding should be allocated toward each recreation service or facility type. The figures show that the top four facilities are generally outdoor facilities (natural areas, walking/jogging paths), and in some cases including natural areas or along public shorelines/beaches. Next in importance are community centers and programming and services primarily offered in these centers. People were asked to indicate whether SPR should spend more, spend less, or that the right amount was being spent for the respective park types and facilities.

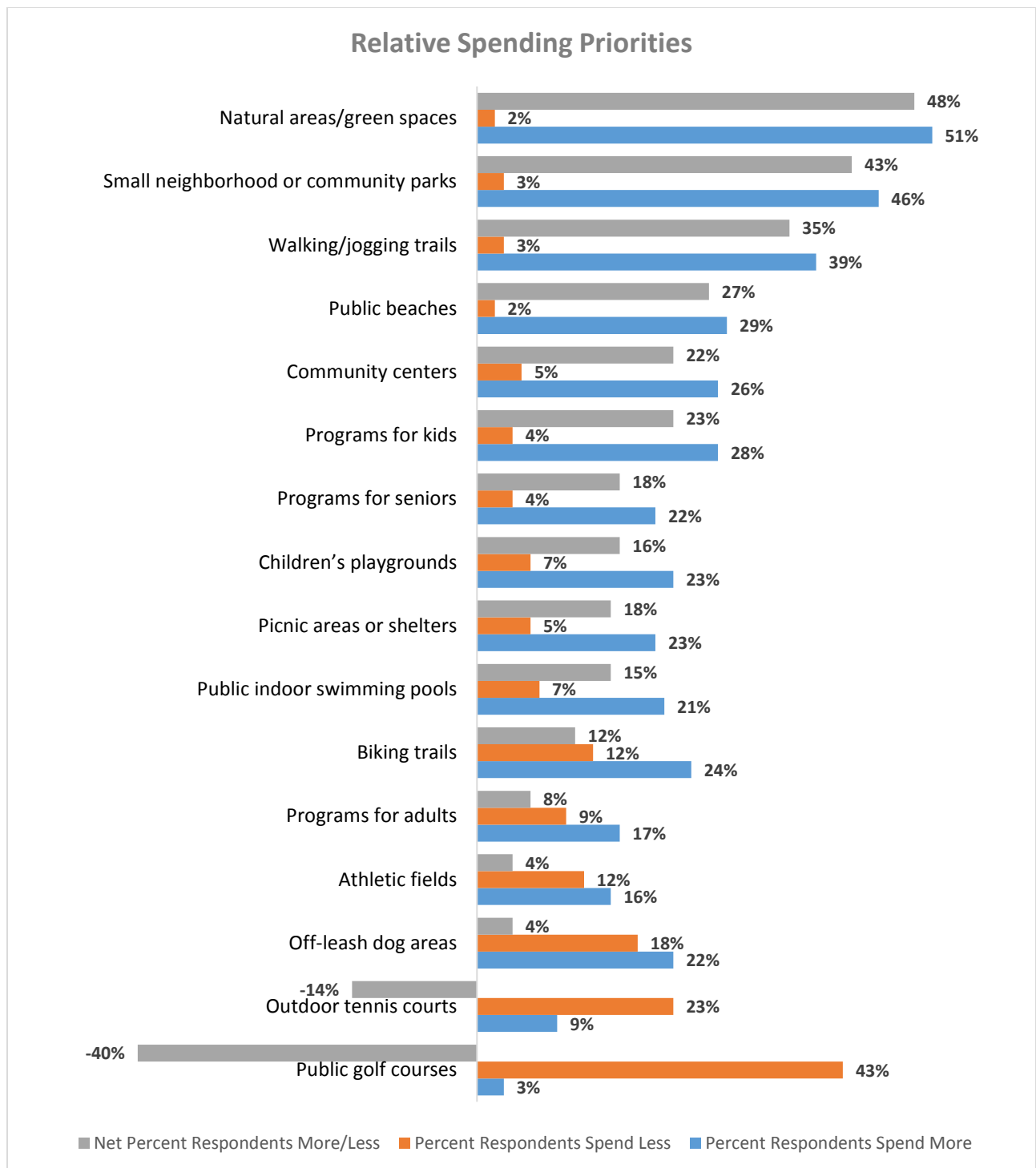


FIGURE 13 - SOURCE: SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY, FINAL REPORT – APRIL 2017, EMC RESEARCH

When asked to prioritize limited funding system wide over the next six-to-ten years, a majority felt that all six priority areas listed below are important to fund.

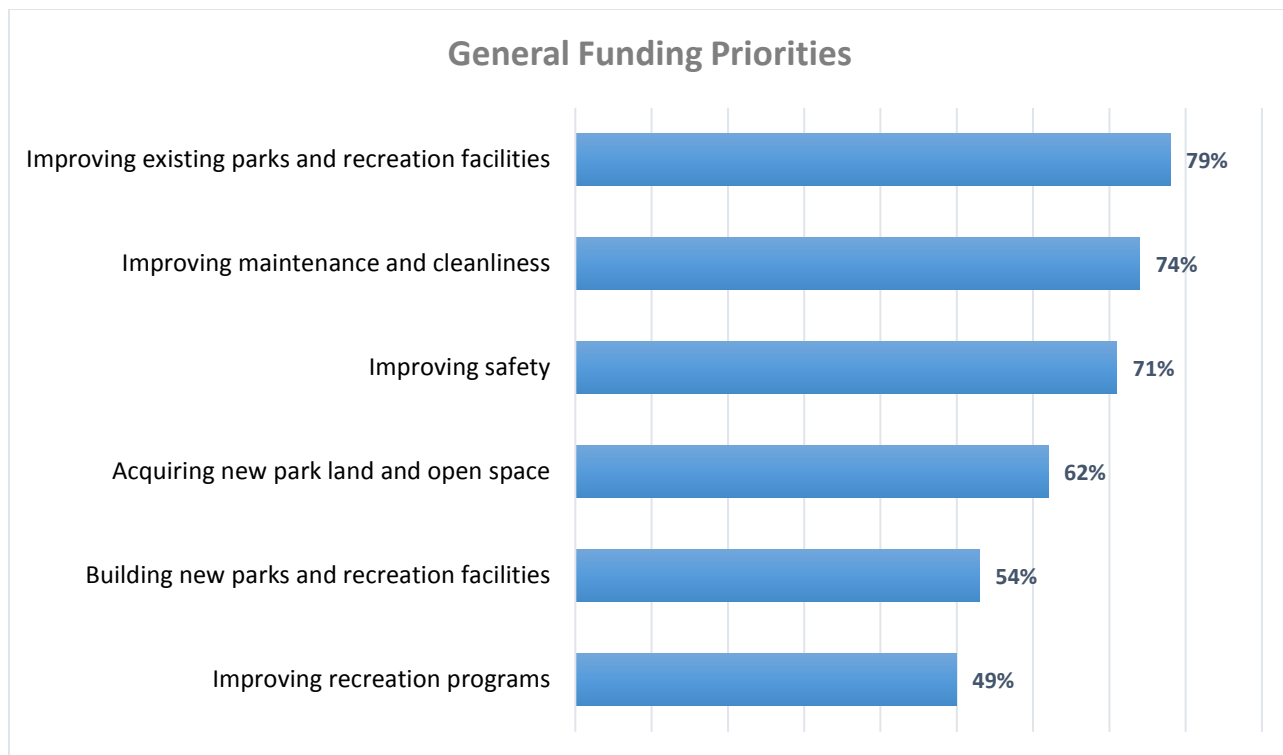


FIGURE 14 - SOURCE: SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY, FINAL REPORT – APRIL 2017, EMC RESEARCH

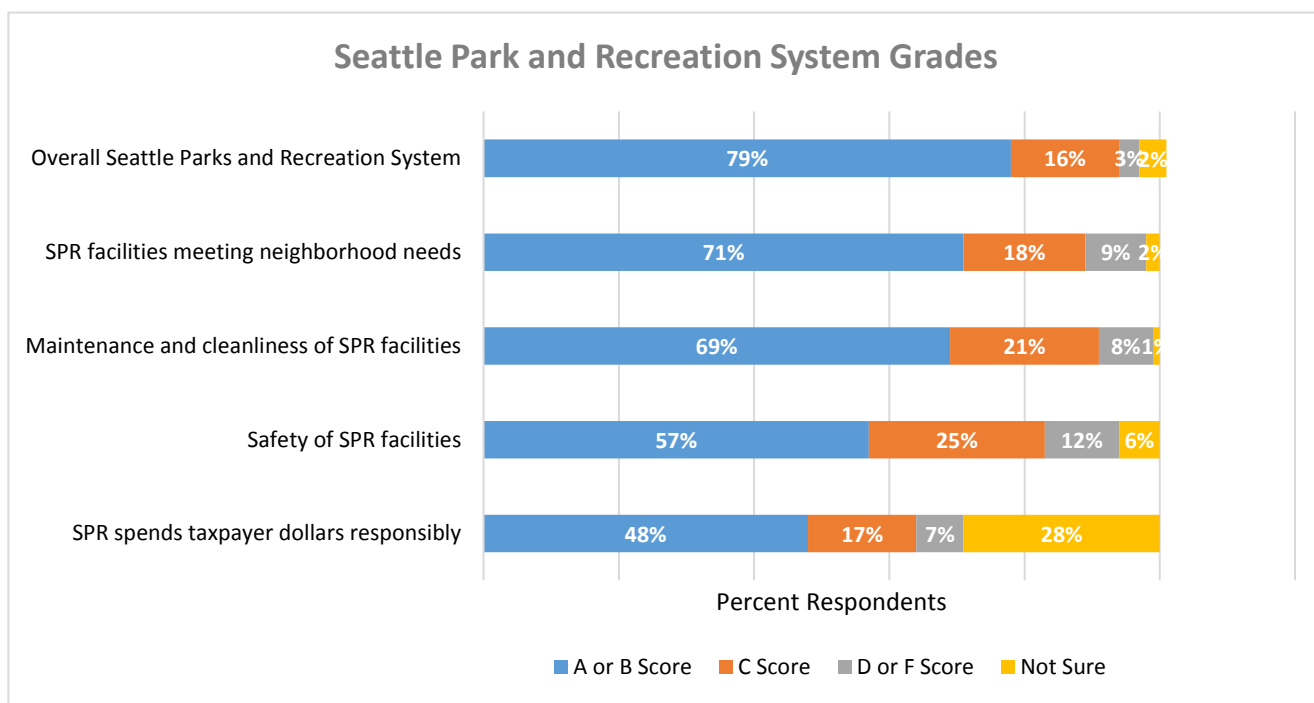


FIGURE 15 - SOURCE: SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY, FINAL REPORT – APRIL 2017, EMC RESEARCH

Figures 15 and 16, illustrate that people generally view the SPR system as meeting their recreation needs at an overall level and at a neighborhood level. In addition, a large majority of the public view SPR facilities as well-maintained and safe.



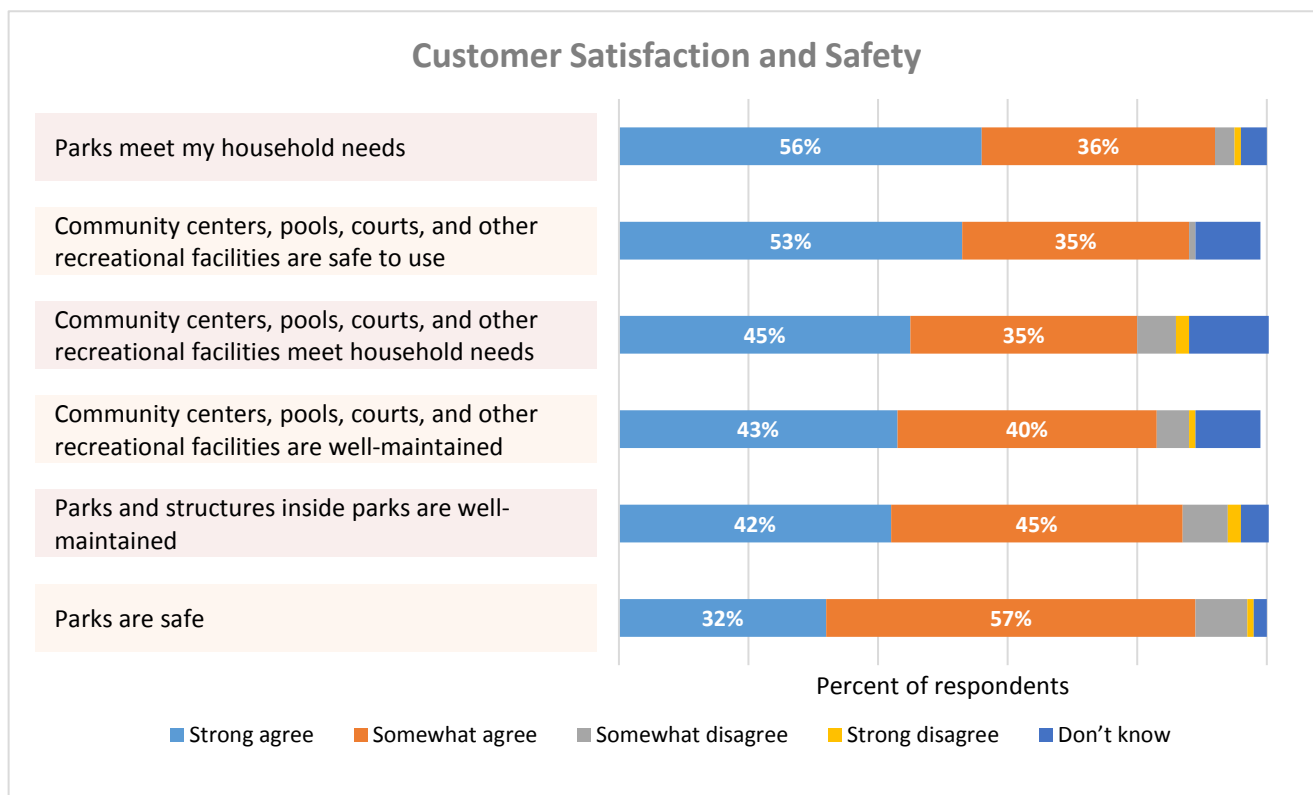


FIGURE 16 - SOURCE: PARKS LEGACY PLAN, 2014

## KEY FINDINGS

A high percentage of people on national, state and city levels use outdoor facilities ranging from natural areas, trails and beaches, to picnic shelters and community centers. This mirrors statewide participation rates where picnicking, walking with or without a pet, and hiking have high participation rates. In addition, outdoor sports generally have higher participation and aspirational rates across generational groups. Indoor facilities, such as community centers and swimming pools, are not used as much by people as outdoor facilities. This lower use was also mirrored in statewide rates. Team sports which are played on athletic fields show lower participation rates across generations and have less support at the city level for general funding priorities in the future. One interesting finding is that swimming for fitness or swimming in a pool shows higher participation rates than team sports and has very high aspirational rates across generations.

Eighty percent (80%) of those who participated in SPR's 2017 satisfaction survey rated Seattle's Parks and Recreation system positively (A or B). SPR gets high marks for "meeting the needs of the neighborhood" and "maintenance and cleanliness", but lower marks for "safety". Homelessness, drugs, and illegal activities are the leading top-of-mind reasons for lower safety ratings.

Walking with or without a pet, jogging, visiting playgrounds, natural areas, beaches, neighborhood and community parks remain consistently the top tier activities for people across all ages enjoying our parks and open space, and especially on a local level. The use of athletic fields, community centers, pools and picnic shelters continues to be high. As mentioned earlier in this section, we know that Seattle has an

especially high concentration of younger adults (age 25 to 34), who are interested in swimming for fitness, camping, hiking, jogging and bicycling.

From a demand perspective and based on input from our athletics scheduling team, we know that as the lead provider of sports fields for all ages, we need fields that can accommodate a variety of sports – football, soccer, baseball, softball, ultimate Frisbee, rugby, lacrosse and cricket; at a variety of times of day and seasons. We also know that requests for picnic shelter reservations exceed our current capacity. SPR anticipates that there will be increased demand in the future for open space, walking trails, adult outdoor fitness, play areas, pools, picnicking, sports fields, and community centers, among other needs.

From a funding perspective, a top priority for Seattleites is the continued acquisition of natural areas and greenbelts, along with improving and taking care of our current facilities, with community centers prioritized above picnic shelters and indoor swimming pools.









## Section 6: Needs Analysis

Since the mid-1980s agencies across the nation have been grappling with how to measure and quantify current and future need for the public to access parklands and participate in outdoor recreation. Starting in 2009 the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommended guidelines based upon park acres and facilities per population for largely suburban municipalities. Over the years, agencies have struggled with variations on this approach. In 2013 Washington state RCO proposed that agencies shift away from levels of service calculated by acres per thousand residents to a system-based approach.

The system-based approach to planning was developed by James D. Mertes and James R. Hall for the NRPA in 1995. This planning approach is a process of assessing the park, recreation, and open space needs of a community and translating that information into a framework for meeting the physical, spatial, and facility requirements to satisfy those needs.

Alternative ways to accomplish a system-based analysis are to:

- move towards a monetized system that puts a value on the assets per capita,
- measure the percentage of individuals that participate in one or more active outdoor activities,
- analyze walkable access to parks and open space.

With this *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan*, SPR is transitioning to a system-based approach, and while Seattle has not fully moved to a monetized system, components are in place with the expectation that this approach will be tenable by 2023.

### CITYWIDE GUIDELINES AND 2017 LEVEL OF SERVICE

As noted above, under the original guidelines recommending park acres and facilities based on population, the City adopted a minimum citywide guideline for open space of 1/3 acre per 100 residents (or approximately 3.33 acres per 1,000 residents) in the City's first GMA Comprehensive Plan (referred to as the "Citywide Open Space goal" or "Acceptable Open Space Guideline"). This is the total amount of open space available to residents citywide and includes all SPR property that is a minimum of 10,000 square feet in size. The City also adopted a citywide "desirable" open space goal that was 10 acres per 1,000 residents; however, the City acknowledged that this aspirational goal is largely unattainable in high-density developed American cities, in large part due to the high cost of land.

Since 2001, the City has not changed neither the acceptable nor the desirable goals for open space. With the passage of several parks levies containing robust acquisition priorities, SPR has maintained and *exceeded* the Acceptable Population-based Open Space Goal of 1/3 acre per 100 residents since 2001 to 2016.

While SPR currently manages 6,414 acres of parks and open space, which far exceeds the "Acceptable Guideline" adopted in 2001, given the immense value and benefit derived physically, psychologically and economically, and given the amount of projected growth to occur through the 2035 planning horizon, there is a continuing need for increasing capacity within our existing system and the desire to continue to acquire more parks and open space where feasible.

With growth projections anticipating 120,000 new residents in the next 17 years, the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* proposes to change the Citywide acceptable guideline of 3.33 acres per 1,000 residents to a new 8 acres per 1,000 residents “Level of Service” (LOS) that is needed to help provide recreational opportunities as we move forward.

#### Seattle’s Projected Population to Acres of Parkland comparison

Year	Seattle’s Population	Acres of Parkland	Acres/1,000 residents
<b>2016</b>	686,800	6,414 acres	9.34 acres/1,000 residents
<b>2023</b>	731,012 (projected)*	6,414 acres**	8.77 acres/1,000 residents
<b>2035</b>	806,800 (projected)*	6,454 acres (minimum)	8.00 acres/1,000 residents

\*Assumption is that Seattle’s population will increase by approximately 6,316 individuals annually.

\*\* This model assumes parkland levels stay at the current acreage for comparison purposes. As noted below land acquisition is often opportunity driven, however SPR anticipates the acquisition of additional parkland before 2023 based on its prior history of acquisition and ongoing negotiating on several potential sites.

As can be seen on the table above, the City currently has 6,414 acres of parkland, which is 9.34 acres of parks and open space for every 1,000 residents. For the life of this plan, which spans six years (through 2023), the projected population will increase to 731,012 residents and, even if SPR does not acquire any new parks or open space, the City will have 8.77 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents.

In developing the proposed Citywide Level of Service (LOS), staff looked at population growth projections, the price of land, and the availability of property. The recommended baseline of 8 acres per 1,000 residents is the proposed minimum ratio of parkland the city would need to accommodate the projected 120,000 additional residents by 2035. This aspirational LOS assumes that growth projections are on target. If growth projections go up, then the amount of additional parkland needed would increase, or the Level of Service would have to be decreased.



For the City to meet the new Citywide LOS by 2035, however, SPR would need to acquire at least 40 acres of parkland. SPR fully anticipates being able to meet this LOS and will coordinate with the Office of Planning and Community Development to ensure that requirements are met in the land use element of the Comprehensive Plan. SPR may acquire parkland in the form of greenbelts and natural areas to provide both recreational opportunities and habitat for birds and wildlife. There is no penalty for acquiring more land than what is required to maintain the acceptable LOS.

The next section of this report will look at how Seattleites access facilities through a walkability network model. This will identify gap areas which will then allow SPR to develop an implementation strategy for the acquisition of property to meet the new Citywide LOS.







## Section 7: Gap Analysis, Walkability Guidelines, and Mapping

Our new mapping approach gives us a more realistic and accurate picture of how people access parklands and looks at city resources from the lens of accessibility and equity.

Using a variety of guidelines including race, equity and health, poverty and income, and population density as GIS mapping overlays, along with other considerations such as: P-patch gardens, publicly accessible street-ends, and other City-owned property, help SPR to identify priority areas to be acquired under our Long-Term Acquisition Strategy.

In addition, the GIS mapping can measure how people walk to a Seattle park or facility. Walkability is defined by the Trust for Public Land (TPL), National Park Service (NPS) and many major cities, to be a 10-minute walk or approximately ½ mile. TPL and NPS suggest using a 10-minute walk time as the national standard. The Long-Term Acquisition Strategy will be informed by walkability.

The [Gap Analysis](#) map application is a part of the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* and uses GIS mapping technology to illustrate SPR's and the City's open space and recreational facilities, and is a tool to help inform SPR's Long-Term Acquisition Strategy through the application of the walkability network analysis. Elements on the maps, such as the urban village boundaries and density levels, can be adjusted to reflect current configurations with available up to date information.

### NETWORK ANALYSIS APPROACH

Walkability is both an urban design concept and a measurement. As an urban design concept, it is how an area or neighborhood is designed to encourage walking, including factors such as sidewalks or pedestrian rights-of-way, safety, traffic, road conditions and other public amenities such as open space.

As a measurement, walkability for any one location represents the time it would take to travel to another location taking physical constraints into consideration. For our purposes, walkability for any point in the city is measured as the length of time that a person would need to walk using the street grid to

*"I think it makes sense to consider walkability and access, however most Seattleites are within a half mile of a park or greenspace. You can bike, bus or drive to most parks. I prefer waking. Sometimes I do a "bus" hike."*

*- Quote from a participant at the Bitter Lake meeting*

*“Seattle is a city where much of the population enjoys comfortable to very high incomes, yet roughly one out of seven Seattleites has an income below the poverty line. In Seattle, the poverty rate for people of color is more than two and a half times that for whites. High rates of poverty among single-parent families, disabled people, and other demographic groups reveal additional disparities in the well-being of Seattle residents.”*

*– Seattle 2035  
Comprehensive Plan*

access the nearest community center or park through a designated entry point.

To conduct an analysis to measure the walkability across the city, SPR’s GIS staff mapped over 1,000 park entry points and linked to Seattle Department of Transportation’s (SDOT) walking network map to develop the walkability areas. This walking network considers the street grid, major intersections, constraints such as barriers to access, and key pedestrian and bicycle routes. In addition to park property, there is information on Greenway projects, bicycle and walking trails, other considerations such as public school property, major institutions and universities, P-patch gardens, publicly accessible street-ends and other non-SPR owned property, such as Seattle Center or Hiram M. Chittenden Locks.

For the 2017 update, there are two walkability distances proposed: 5-minute walkability guideline to be applied within Urban Villages, 10-minute walkability guideline to be applied outside of Urban Villages.

The 5-minute guideline has been recommended in Urban Villages because they tend to be higher density locations where most of the growth is expected to occur, thus, closer proximity (5-minute walkability) and access to park facilities is important.

## **WALKABILITY STORY MAPPING**

The story mapping is a means to visually assist in the prioritization of development projects and the Long-Term Acquisition Strategy. Our hope and intention is that these story-maps will be used by project managers and planners in multiple city departments, not just SPR staff.

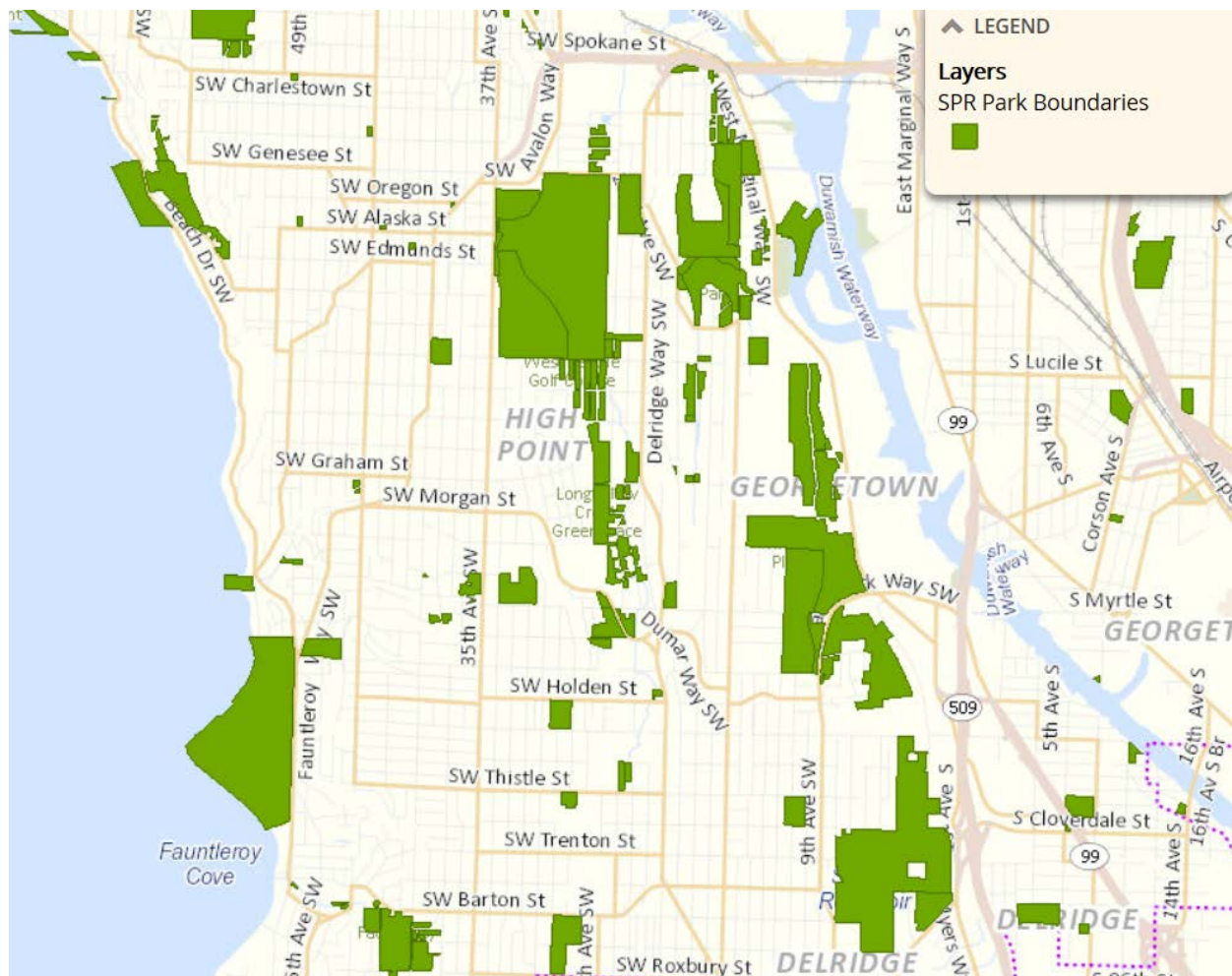
The images included in this document represent a snapshot in time as of the writing of this report. The data used is publicly available and is updated by various City departments periodically. No special program is needed to view the maps, just pull up the link on your smart phone, tablet, laptop or computer and zoom into the neighborhood you are most interested in.

Snapshots of the [walkability map](#) application highlighting various features of each map are included on the next few pages and focus on different parts of the City as examples; map images of the entire City can be found in **APPENDIX A – Citywide Story Maps**. SPR has used a variety of mapping tools gleaned from the federal census – predominantly the American Community Survey which tends to be the most up to date.



## SEATTLE'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The first layer in the [story mapping](#) is an inventory of all SPR parks and open space. This includes natural areas and greenbelts, regional parks, community and neighborhood parks, specialty gardens, and mini/pocket parks. Some of these parks and open space are developed, some have limited access, all are beneficial and contribute to the quality of life in Seattle, whether one is a bird-watcher, skateboarder or picnicker. For the purposes of our analysis, parks and open space that include facilities such as community centers, pools, golf courses, small craft centers and tennis centers are included.



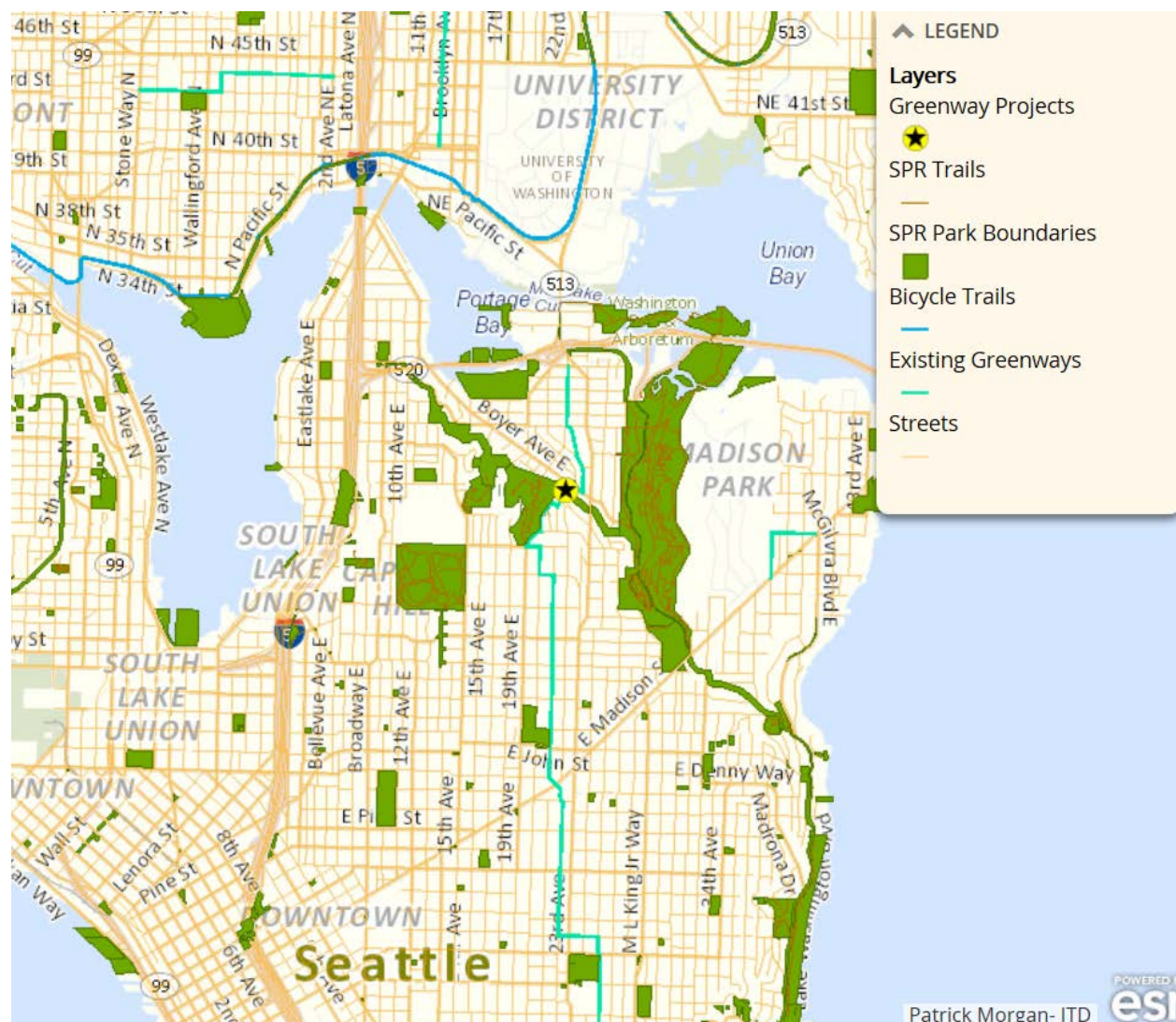
MAP 1: PARKS AND OPEN SPACE — THIS MAP ENLARGEMENT SHOWS PARKS AND OPEN SPACE IN SOUTHWEST SEATTLE, HIGH POINT, GEORGETOWN AND DELRIDGE NEIGHBORHOODS.

To access the most current story maps please [click here](http://arcg.is/2fiW39Q) or use the following link:  
<http://arcg.is/2fiW39Q>

## ACCESS

People in Seattle love to walk and bicycle, and there more than 25 miles of boulevards and 120 miles of trails contained within SPR parks and open space. [This map](#) shows the walking network, existing Greenways and SPR's Greenways Initiative projects in collaboration with SDOT. The Greenways Initiative provides projects and programs to connect, enhance and activate links from Greenways to parks by improving access and amenities for pedestrians and bicycles.

The walking network considers constraints such as the inability to cross a major arterial, or where there is no roadway. It does not factor in sidewalk conditions, bus and light rail connections, nor topography; these are important elements but beyond the scope of this story mapping effort. We have, however, included information on other sources that provide this information at the end of this section.



MAP 2: ACCESS -THIS MAP ENLARGEMENT SHOWS BICYCLE TRAILS, EXISTING GREENWAYS AND PARK TRAILS IN THE SOUTH LAKE UNION, CAPITOL HILL AND MADISON PARK NEIGHBORHOODS.



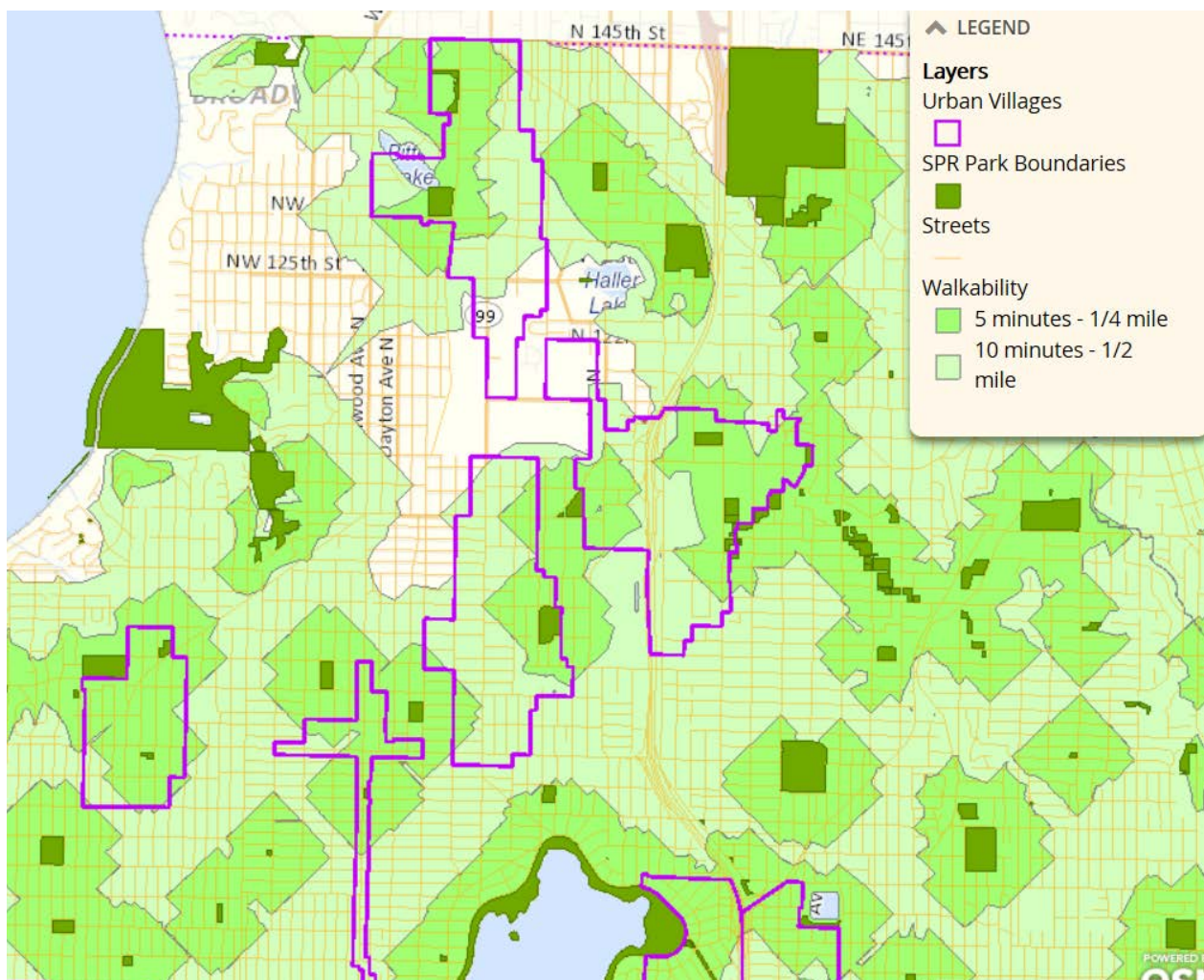
## WALKABILITY

When applying the [walkability network](#), a picture of where there are constraints and barriers to access is revealed. As outlined earlier in this section, walkability measures the distance in terms of travel time that a person would need to walk from any location at a pace of 3 miles per hour to the park or facility entrance(s). SPR's GIS staff mapped over 1000 park entry points and linked to SDOT's walking network layer to develop the walkability areas. This walking network considers the street grid, major intersections, barriers to access, and key pedestrian and bicycle routes.

This map shows what a 5-minute and a 10-minute walking distance (or walkability area) looks like from parks and open space that are greater than 10,000 square feet in size.

Here we see what two different levels of walkability look like:

- 5-minute walkability (approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile), and a
- 10-minute walkability (approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile)



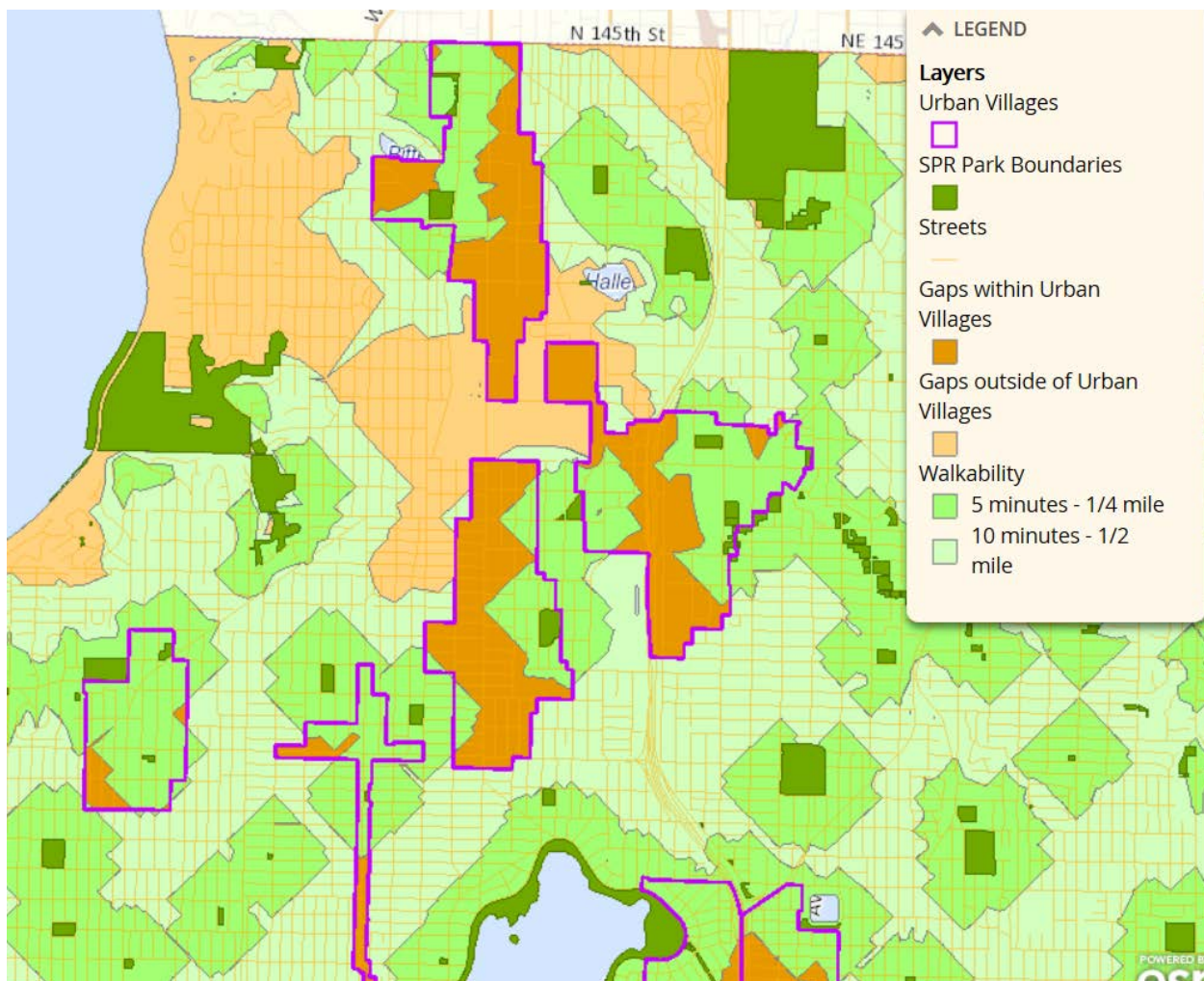
MAP 3: WALKABILITY – THIS MAP ENLARGEMENT SHOWS THE APPLICATION OF THE WALKABILITY NETWORK MAPPING IN THE BITTER LAKE, NORTHGATE AND AURORA LICTON-SPRINGS NEIGHBORHOODS.



## GAPS IN WALKABILITY

Parks, open space, recreation facilities, and programs contribute to Seattle's physical, mental, psychological and environmental health, and support the City's economic viability. While Seattle has a robust park system, our acquisition program is important to the maintaining the sustainability, vitality, and quality of life in our growing city. Property acquisition is often opportunity driven, but the [gap areas](#) identified in these maps help define SPR's Long-Term Acquisition Strategy, priorities and areas for future acquisition and development projects.

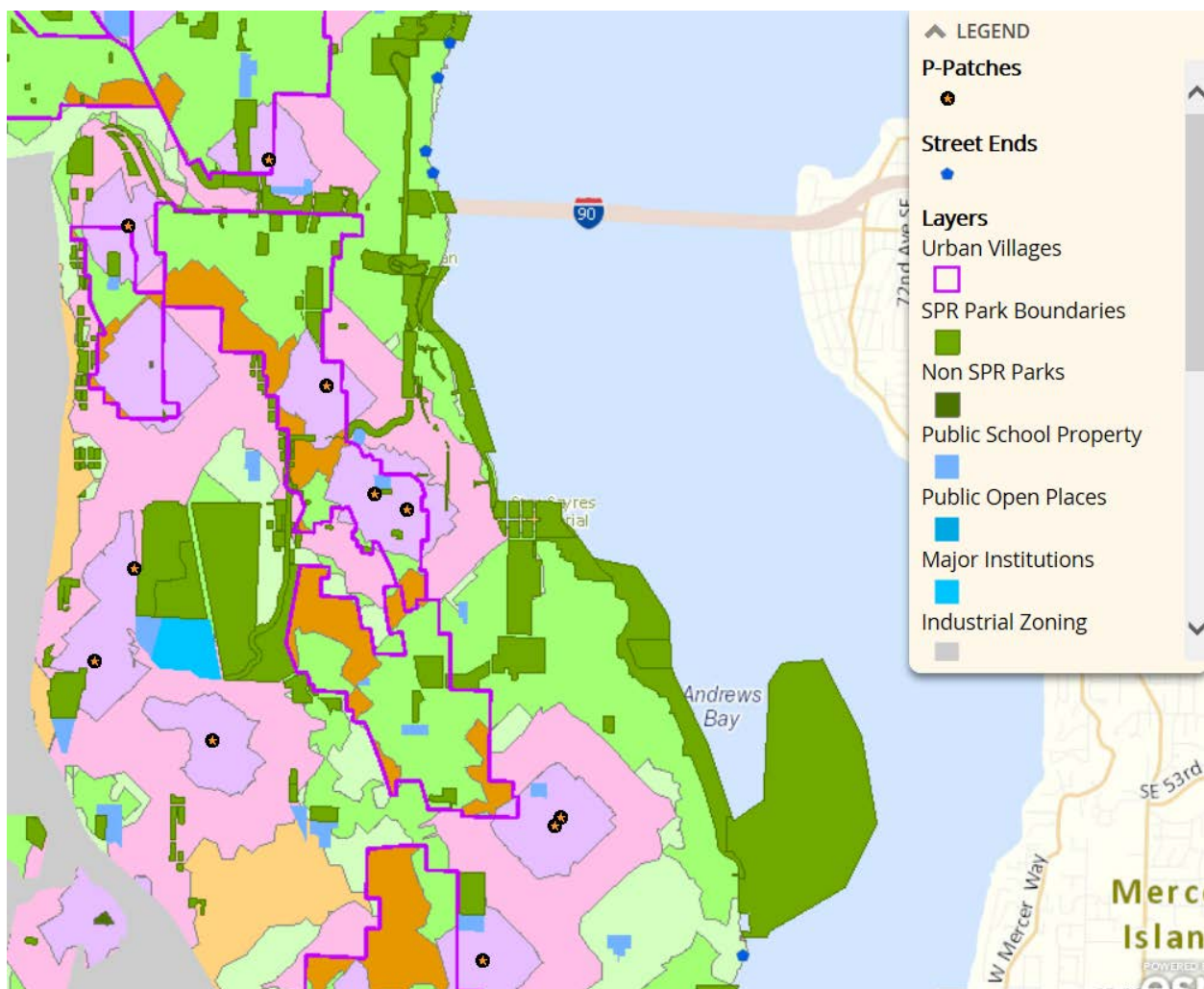
- a. 94% of Seattle's Housing Units are within a 10-minute walk (approximately ½ mile) to a SPR park.
- b. 77% of Seattle's Housing Units located within an Urban Village are within a 5-minute walk (approximately ¼ mile) to a SPR park.



MAP 4: GAPS IN WALKABILITY – THIS MAP ENLARGEMENT SHOWS AREAS WITHIN THE BITTER LAKE, NORTHGATE AND AURORA LICTON-SPRINGS URBAN VILLAGES WHICH ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN DARK ORANGE. AREAS IN LIGHT ORANGE ARE OUTSIDE OF THE URBAN VILLAGE BOUNDARIES.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Non-SPR owned open space, such as plazas in the downtown core, Seattle Public School property and colleges and university campuses can provide additional recreation and open space opportunities available to citizens and should be considered when evaluating areas to purchase Parkland. If we combine this with identifying areas where there might be constraints, such as industrial lands, port property or physical barriers such as state highways, then we gain a fuller picture of where SPR should focus its energy in trying to acquire SPR parklands. For the purposes of this [map layer](#), non-SPR owned open space include: Seattle Center, Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, Olympic Sculpture Park, portions of the Burke-Gilman Trail, P-patch gardens, publicly accessible street-ends, plazas in the downtown core, Seattle Public School property and major universities, such as the University of Washington, Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University.

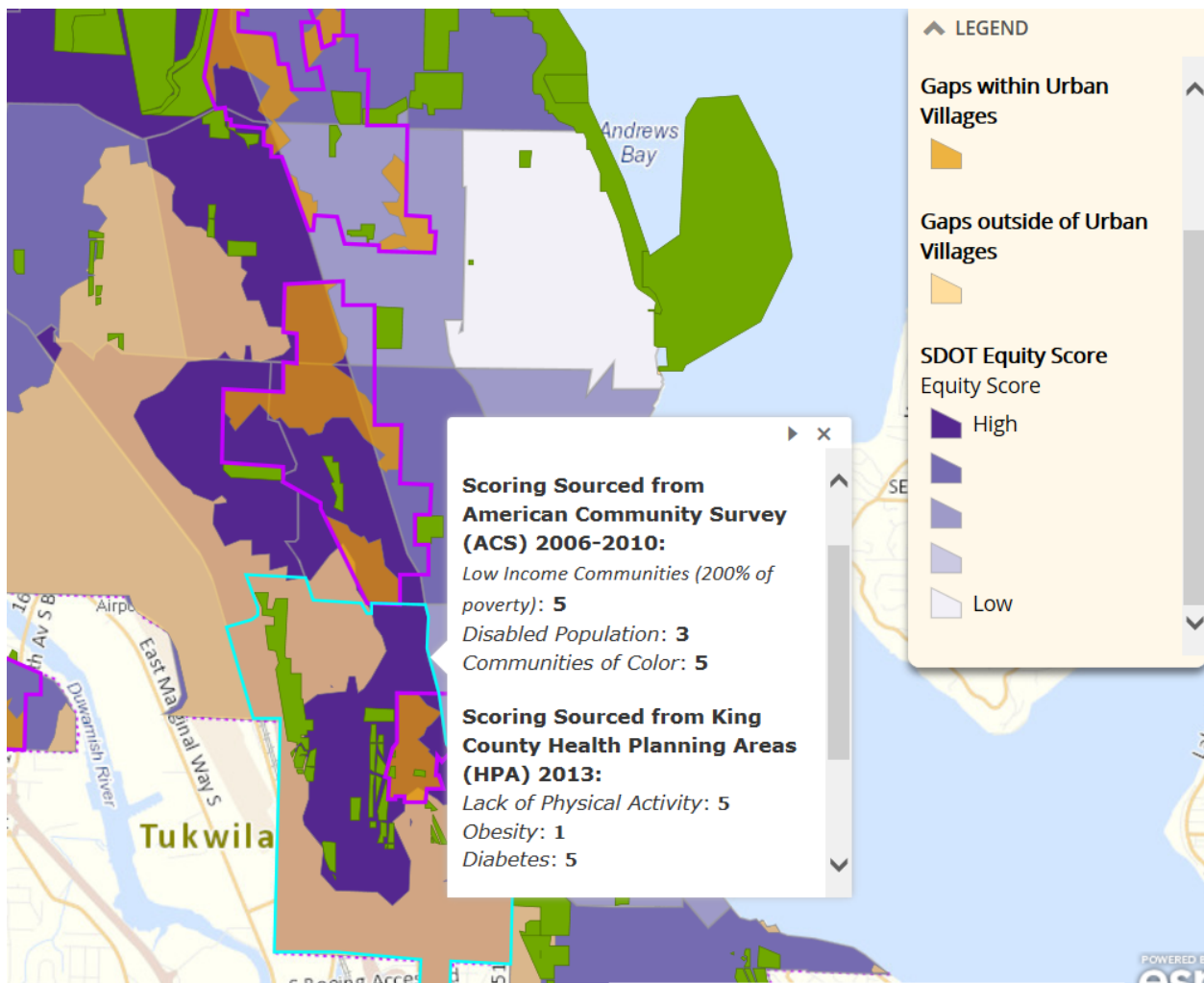


MAP 5: OTHER CONSIDERATIONS – THIS MAP ENLARGEMENT DEPICTS OTHER LAND USES, SUCH AS P-PATCH GARDENS, PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE STREET ENDS, LOCATIONS OF INDUSTRIAL LANDS, MAJOR INSTITUTIONS, AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY IN THE NORTH RAINIER, COLUMBIA CITY AND MOUNT BAKER NEIGHBORHOODS.

## EQUITY AND HEALTH

In keeping with SPR's priorities of encouraging healthy people and strong communities across the city, [this map](#) combines socioeconomic data with health level comparisons, including race data from the American Community Survey, and Public Health – Seattle and King County obesity and diabetes levels.

The equity and health analysis map assesses the socio-economic data (from the 2010- 2014 American Community Survey) and health data (from Public Health–Seattle & King County). The physical activity rates were self-reported. Scores for obesity and diabetes are based on a scale of 0-5 with 5 assigned to those in the top 20% of a category. “0” represents a low occurrence and “5” represents the highest occurrence levels. In the image below, the darker the color, the higher the percentage of people at risk.

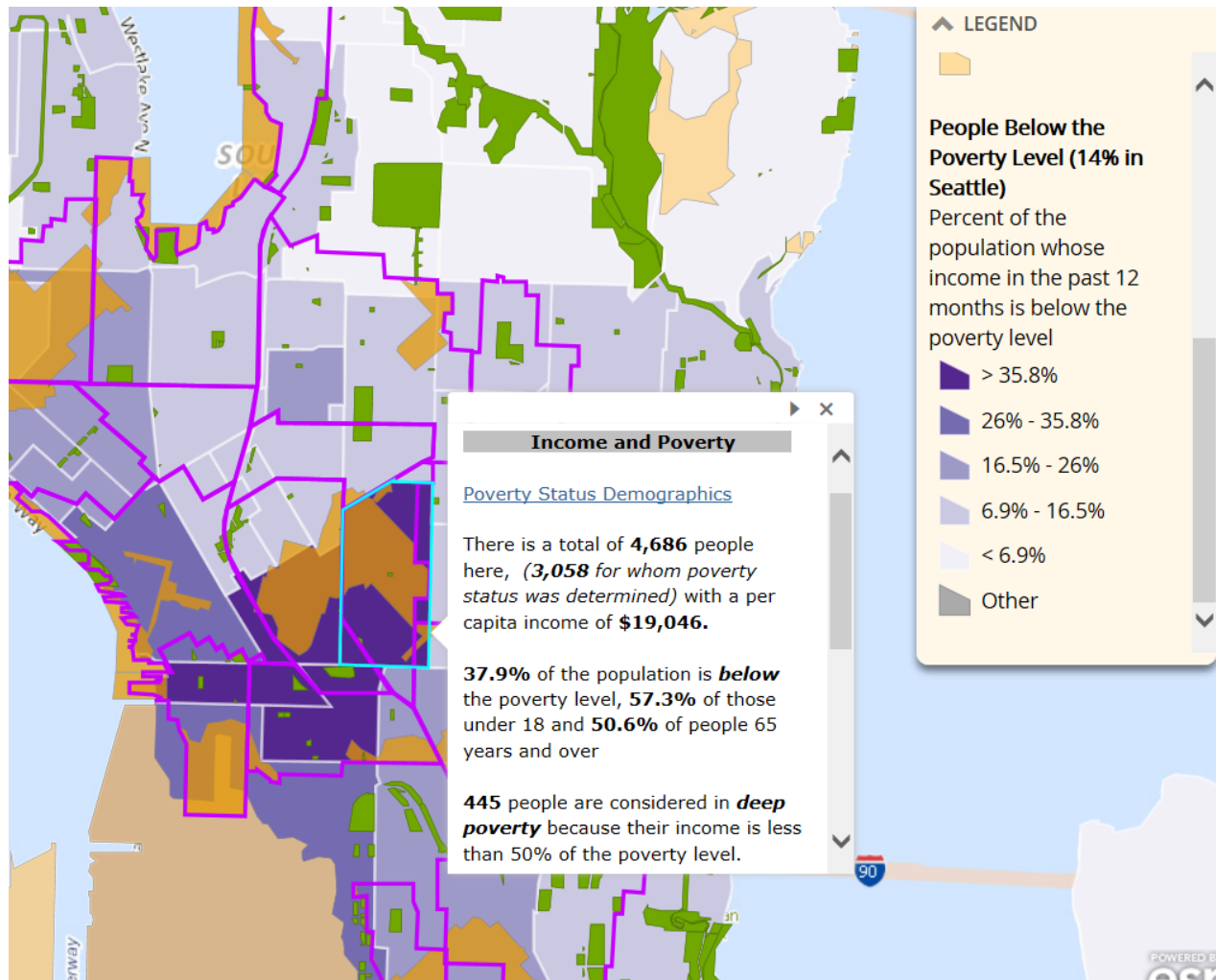


MAP 6: EQUITY AND HEALTH – THIS MAP ENLARGEMENT UTILIZES EQUITY SCORING BASED UPON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, INCOME LEVELS AND RATES OF OBESITY AND DIABETES, AND FOCUSES ON THE RAINIER BEACH, OTHELLO AND COLUMBIA CITY NEIGHBORHOODS.



## INCOME AND POVERTY

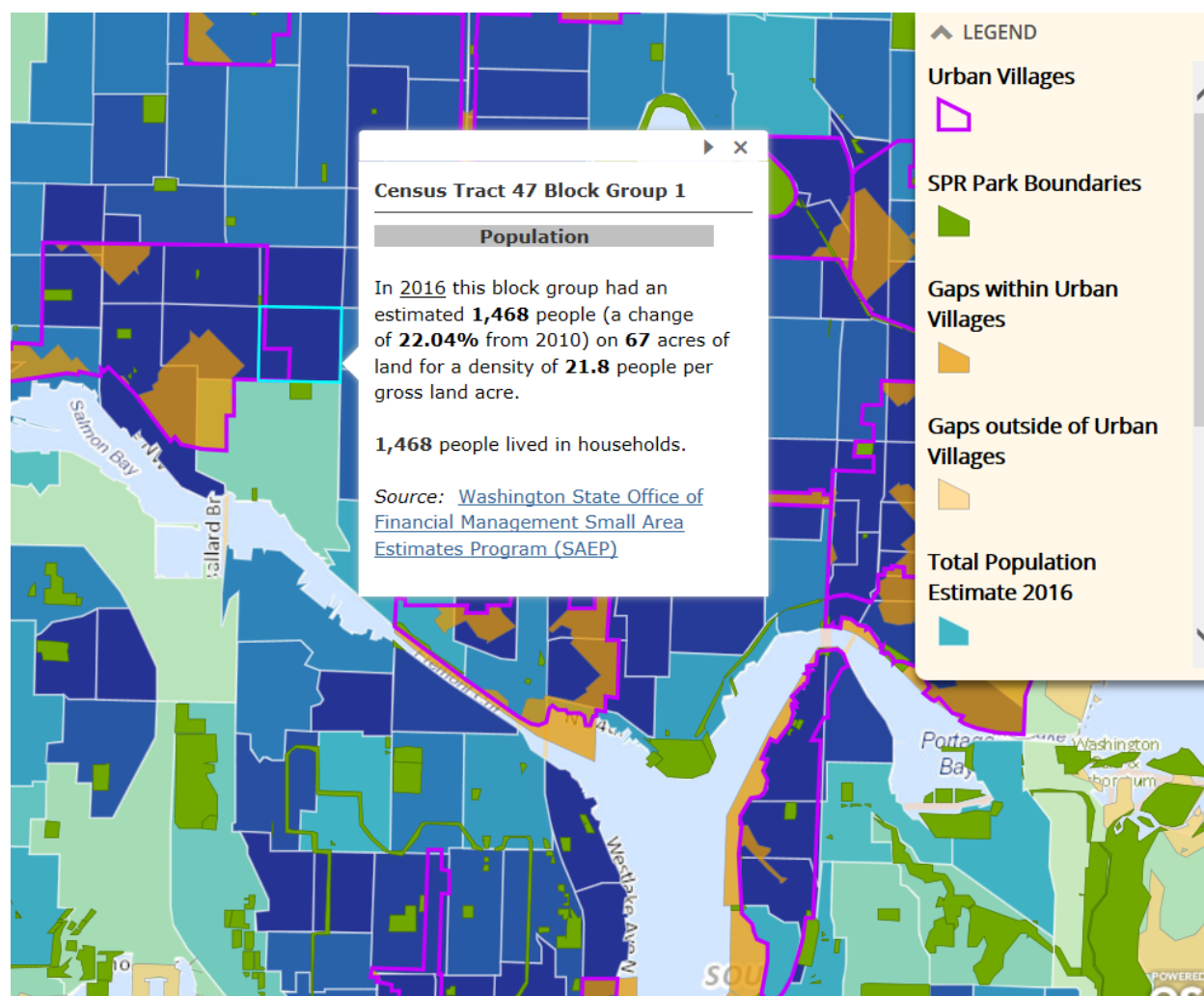
Using the City's [Income and Poverty](#) mapping layer allows us to consider priority areas for future parkland acquisition and/or facility development. In the image below, the darker the color, the higher the percentage of the population whose income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level.



MAP 7: INCOME AND POVERTY – THIS MAP ENLARGEMENT LOOKS AT THE PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION THAT IS BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL OF 14% IN SEATTLE, WITH THE HIGHLIGHT FROM THE 12<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE WE SEE THAT 37.9% OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL.

## DENSITY

Using the State's [Small area population](#) estimate, which is more up-to-date than the 2010 census and more robust than the American Community Survey population data, allows us to identify areas for consideration for future parkland acquisition and/or facility development. In the image below, the darker the color, the higher the percentage of population per acre in 2016. Another way to think of it is that the darker the color, the more density there is in that block group.

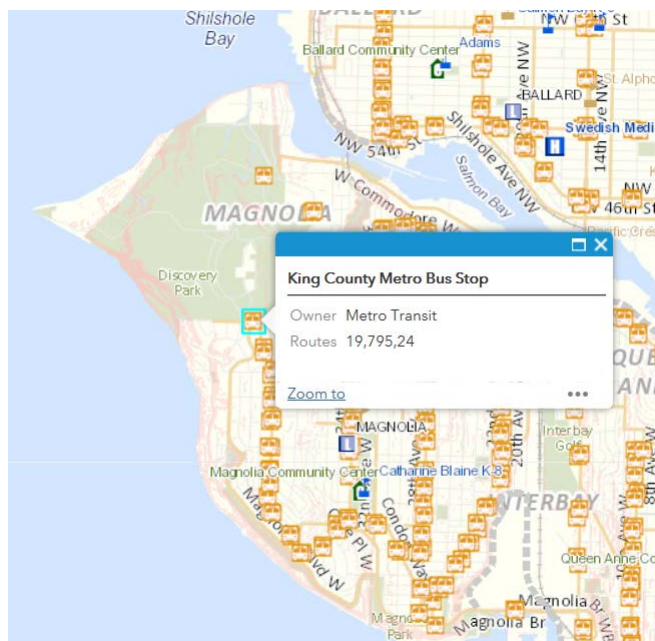


MAP 8: DENSITY – THIS MAP ENLARGEMENT LOOKS AT THE DENSITY LEVELS IN EACH BLOCK GROUP AS OF 2016. THE HIGHLIGHT SHOW THAT THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE BALLARD NEIGHBORHOOD HAD AN INCREASE IN DENSITY LEVELS OF 22% BETWEEN 2010 AND 2016.

## BUS AND TRANSIT SERVICE TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Per our public engagement and outreach effort, one of the things that constituents wanted to see in the walkability analysis was [bus routes, sidewalk conditions and topography](#). While those elements are outside of the purview of SPR, Seattle's Department of Transportation (SDOT) maps that information. The following images and link provide an interactive interface where one can find bus routes and light rail service to City parks and other amenities. SDOT's Curb Ramp Map and Accessible Route Planner mapping layer includes topography and accessible routes, in addition to public transportation options such as bus, light rail and street car.

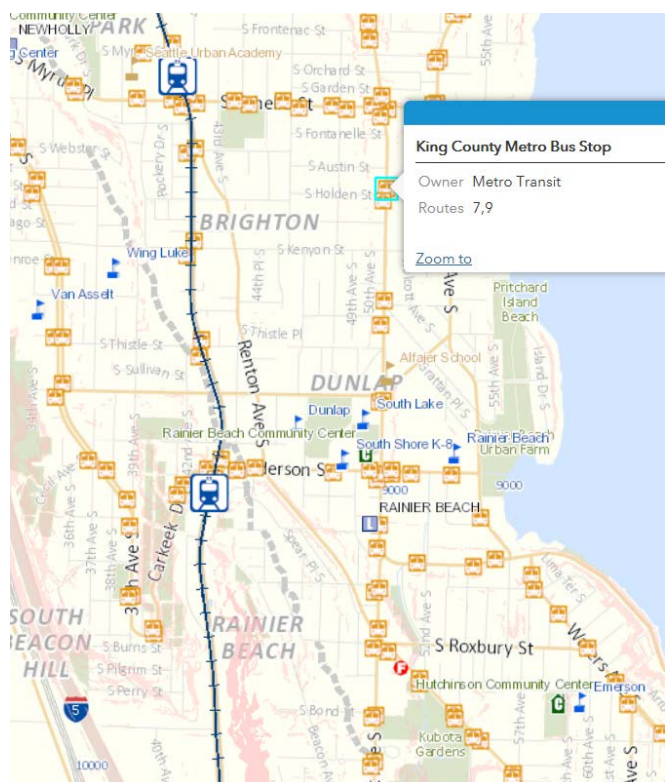
The map images show examples from SDOT's map layer.



MAP 9: SDOT'S CURB RAMP MAP AND ACCESSIBLE ROUTE PLANNER.

The full Curb Ramp Map and Accessible Route Planner map layer can be found at:

<http://seattlecitygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e67e66e698ab4dde8d026d0174e1f8dc>



MAP 10: SDOT'S CURB RAMP MAP AND ACCESSIBLE ROUTE PLANNER.







## Section 8: Public Engagement

SPR relied on a variety of public engagement processes and surveys to inform the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan*. The desire was to incorporate input received through the extensive citywide planning efforts of the Parks Legacy Planning process in 2014, the City's Comprehensive Planning process in 2015, SPR's Recreation Demand Study in 2015, 2016-2017 Citywide Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA) public meetings, and SPR's 2016 Survey.

Over a thirteen-month period SPR engaged with multiple City departments and agencies through interdepartmental meetings and collaborative efforts, special sessions, focus groups, briefings to the Board of Park Commissioners and the Planning Commission to gather input, collaborate with data assembly and analysis, and vet proposed methodologies and approaches.

*"trails can be pathways to play"*

- Focus Group Participant



## PUBLIC MEETINGS AND FOCUS GROUPS

During 2016-2017 SPR participated in the HALA meetings hosted by the Department of Neighborhoods. HALA has identified the need for affordable housing within the City in response to increasing density. With the increased density comes the need for an increase in services and amenities – the Livability component of HALA. It is likely that the increased density will be focused in the City's Urban Centers and Urban Villages. One of the focal points of SPR's *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* is to identify gaps in our open space network, both inside and outside of our Urban Centers and Urban Villages. Identification of the gaps is the first step in prioritizing our acquisition strategy. HALA provides another layer which helps us to prioritize areas for future acquisition.

The HALA meetings were held in six locations around the City, included representatives from multiple City departments, and drew strong participation with approximately 675 individuals attending the open houses. SPR staff engaged with roughly 180-235 individuals during the events, collecting comments and listening to concerns and support for the new walkability approach and development of the Long-Term Acquisition Strategy.



SPR invited representatives from a variety of organizations and neighborhoods to participate in Open Space Focus Group sessions to gather input on the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan*, [Gap Analysis](#) and Long-term Acquisition strategies for open space. Attendees represented a variety of organizations and community groups, including: Seattle Parks Foundation, Parks and Open Space Advocates (POSA), Groundswell NW, Forterra, Trust for Public Land, Seattle Green Spaces Coalition, Central Area and Lake City Neighborhoods. The Focus Group sessions showcased SPR's new walkability mapping approach, indicators to inform future land acquisition, and priority strategies for long-term acquisitions. A full summary of public comments received from the first round of public engagement can be found in **APPENDIX C**.



It should be noted that planning, and public involvement and engagement is a continuous activity for SPR. Actively engaging and building relationships with Seattle’s diverse population, other departments and agencies, and community-based organizations to bring together a range of perspectives and opportunities to respond to neighborhood and agency priorities is an ongoing process. Involving the public is what makes our parks great. Citizens are passionate about parklands and often push for progressive, innovative solutions in building and maintaining the park system. SPR is committed to listening to the citizens of Seattle and to use a variety of outreach tools to involve communities in decisions affecting the future of the parks and recreation system. All SPR’s capital projects and land banked site development projects include an extensive public engagement and participation process in the planning and design phases of the projects in keeping with SPR’s public engagement policy.



While major maintenance projects typically do not engender the same degree of community involvement, SPR assembles a proposed Major Maintenance Plan each biennium that is reviewed by the Board of Park Commissioners before it is completed, and before the proposed CIP is submitted for City Council review as part of the City’s budget process. The City Council typically holds hearings on the budget and CIP before they are adopted.

## COORDINATION WITH OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS, AND CITYWIDE PUBLIC MEETINGS

### Project Schedule

May – October 2016	Background analysis and development of walkability mapping
Monthly	Coordination meetings with OPCD and DON
October 19, 2016	Citywide IDT Walkability and Open Space – SPR hosted, attendees include: OPCD, SDOT, SPU, OSE, DON
Nov 2016 – May 2017	Public Engagement – participation with DON’s Citywide Public meetings, focus groups, other partners and City Departments (ongoing)
November 10, 2016	Public roll out and Briefing #1 to Board of Park Commissioners with some Planning Commissioners and staff in attendance
December 3, 2016	Citywide Public Meeting – Bitter Lake
December 7, 2016	Citywide Public Meeting – West Seattle
December 8, 2016	Briefing #1 to Planning Commission
December 9, 2016	Open Space Focus Group #1 – SPR hosted, attendees represented a variety of organizations and community groups, including: Seattle Parks Foundation, POSA, Groundswell NW, Forterra, Trust for Public Land, Seattle Green Spaces Coalition, Central Area and Lake City Neighborhoods
December 13, 2016	Citywide Public Meeting – Ravenna
January - May 2017	Analysis, Refinements, and Finalize Plan
January 10, 2017	Citywide Public Meeting – 1 <sup>st</sup> First Hill/Capitol Hill
January -February	SPR internal briefings – Trails, Recreation Division, Planning and Development, Horticulture
February 4, 2017	Citywide Public Meeting – Columbia City
May 16, 2017	Public Release of Draft Plan – sent electronically to Board of Park Commissioners and posted on the project webpage,
May 18, 2017	Focus Group #2 and Planning Commission Briefing #2
May 22, 2017	SEPA posted
May 25, 2017	Board of Park Commissioners – Briefing #2
June 8, 2017	Board of Park Commissioners - Public Hearing
June 12, 2017	Full Council Briefing #1
June 15, 2017	Public comment period closes for Draft Plan and SEPA
June 22, 2017	Board of Park Commissioners - Discussion and Recommendations
June - July 2017	Draft Legislation
July 20, 2017	PSCLW Committee Meeting – Summary of public comments and Councilmember input
August 3, 2017	PSCLW Committee Meeting – Discussion of changes and potential vote
September 7, 2017	PSCLW Committee Meeting – Discussion and final vote
September 11, 2017	Full Council Meeting – Final approval by full council
October 2017	Submit 2017 Parks and Open Space Plan to the State
November 17, 2017	2011 Development Plan expires

## KEY THEMES THAT WE HEARD

- Strong support for the walkability modeling for the Long-Term Acquisition Strategy, recognizing that there is a need for sidewalks that connect neighborhoods to parks and open space, and that there is a need for better transit service to city parks – especially regional parks.
- Desire for an interconnected system of parks and open space and linear street parks that provides a system for continuous habitat, climate change prevention/protection, and the desire for the ability to walk or use transit connections to get from one place for another.
- More money is needed for parkland acquisition given the land prices in Seattle and the desire for more open space.
- Emphasis should be placed on serving our urban centers and villages. However, given the constraints of a built city, we should be looking at other creative opportunities for providing open space and leveraging limited funds, such as: public school property, privately-owned open space, and smaller pocket parks.
- The City should look at different regulatory tools such as impact fees and incentive zoning for developers to augment open space in the downtown core.
- Use investments in park facilities and programs to reduce health disparities for all Seattle residents, especially marginalized populations, seniors and children. Priority should be focused on equity, access, and distribution of parks and facilities.
- Given the pressures of increasing population growth, special consideration should be given to the acquisition of large green spaces and natural area opportunists even if the walkability and access is low. There are many other benefits, including natural habitat and environment.







## Section 9: Key Capital Funding Sources and Projects They Fund

SPR's budget comes from the City's General Fund, various fees, charges, leases, the Park District and other sources. Generally, 10% of the City's General Fund is allocated to SPR. SPR has one of the largest capital improvement programs in the city. The department manages over 30 capital projects funded from a variety of sources including prior year-levies, the Cumulative Reserve Subfund Limited Tax General Obligation (LTGO bonds), King County grants, the new Seattle Park District, and many other special fund sources and private donations. A summary of the key funding sources and projects typically funded by them follows.

### SEATTLE PARK DISTRICT CAPITAL FUNDING

Starting in 2016, the Seattle Park District will provide approximately \$37 million annually for:

- Major maintenance projects (could include community center rehabilitation and ADA improvements-discussed in detail later)
- Community Center rehabilitation (could also be major maintenance)
- Land acquisitions
- Urban Forestry
- Development of land acquired with prior levy funds (land-banked sites)
- Opportunity fund for community partnered projects
- P-Patch rejuvenation
- Aquarium major maintenance
- Zoo major maintenance
- Major Projects Challenge Fund

### REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX (REET)

SPR counts on \$16-20 million in REET funding annually prioritized for:

- Debt service on prior year bond financed projects (approx. \$8 million)
- Ongoing programs (described later)
- Emergent needs or unplanned projects (e.g., roof membrane replacement at Victor Steinbrueck Park, bridge repairs at Lake Union Park)
- Projects that have regulatory or contractual obligations with outside partners (e.g., Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections' requirement to inspect piers with wood piling every five years)
- Synthetic turf replacements (each field replaced about every 10 years)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) ADA citations



## BOND FUNDS

Bond Funds have been used in the past to fund major projects, such as the Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool and the Golf Master Plan (repaid from Golf Revenue).

## LEVIES

The most recent levy was the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy which ended in 2014. It was a 6-year, \$146 million levy collected through 2014 with named projects and acquisitions.

## KING COUNTY

King County has a few large grant programs that provide funding for specific types of projects. The Conservation Future Fund grants are often used for acquisitions, including many of SPR's land-banked sites. The Youth Sports Facilities Grant program provides funding for capital projects on athletic facilities. Funding has also been provided from the King County Parks, Trails, and Open Space Replacement Levy for the renovation of play areas, comfort stations, and paved pathways. Occasionally King County will also provide funds directly through its budget, as they have in its 2017 budget for Building 47 (the Community Center) at Magnuson Park.





## OTHER REVENUE

Grants, donations, and facility-related revenue provide leverage for a very select group of CIP projects. These sources include Washington State RCO grants as well as Federal Community Development Block Group grants, revenue from field rentals (expected to receive \$600,000 beginning in 2018), and revenue from concession agreements. Private donations via the Seattle Parks Foundation, individuals, and others are also provided regularly.

## APPROACH TO CAPITAL PLANNING

SPR's annual capital budget includes hundreds of projects that fall mostly within four broad categories: Major Maintenance (Asset Preservation), Ongoing Programs, Levy Projects, and ADA Projects. There is a formal planning process for the major maintenance projects via the Asset Management Plan. Ongoing programs are the priority for REET annually. Grants such as Washington State RCO and King County Youth Grants also fund projects. ADA projects are prioritized based on the DOJ citation list and SPR-identified critical ADA priorities.

## MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS (PRIMARY FUND SOURCE: PARK DISTRICT REVENUES)

SPR plans to dedicate most of the capital Park District funding to major maintenance for its facilities and land. SPR uses the Asset Management Plan to address facility needs. Projects are identified through ongoing condition assessments, consultant studies, six-year facility plans, work order analyses (to identify key problem areas), and intradepartmental information sharing of facility maintenance issues and needs. Every two years, the Asset Management Plan is reviewed and updated. The annual CIP reflects the top ranked projects.

SPR analyzes and prioritizes projects generated in the identification stage using the priority ranking based on SPR management guidance and the City Council's "Basic Principles Underlying Strategic Capital Planning," policies established in Resolution 31203 (2010):

- Policy 1. Preserve and maintain existing Capital Assets. While building new Capital Projects is often seen as more glamorous, maintaining existing Capital Assets is critical to ensuring the continued function and protection of those assets.
- Policy 2. Support the goals of the City's plans. Capital Commitments will be targeted to support the goals of the Comprehensive Plan; recognized neighborhood plans; adopted facility, department, or sub-area Master Plans; and other adopted City functional plans.
- Policy 3. Support economic development. The City's ability to fund Asset Preservation Projects and other Capital Projects in the long run depends on the strength of the City's economy and tax base.

Projects in the Asset Management Plan are ranked per the extent they fulfill overarching criteria. SPR uses the following seven criteria (and weightings) to rank the projects:

- Code Requirements (100 points): The project brings a facility or element up to federal, state, and Seattle code requirements (such as ADA, water quality, and fire suppression), or meets other legal requirements.
- Life Safety (35 points): The project will eliminate a condition that poses an imminent threat of injury. Examples of safety hazards are lack of seismic elements, failing piling, outdated play equipment, emergency management elements, or a documented environmental health hazard.

- Facility Integrity (30 points): The project will help keep the facility operational and extend its life cycle by repairing, replacing, and renovating systems and elements of the facility including building envelope (roof, walls, windows), electrical, plumbing, storm and sewer line replacements, and synthetic turf replacement.
- Improve Operating Efficiency (25 points): The project will result in reduction of operating and maintenance costs, including energy and water savings.
- Equity (10 points): The project will preserve or enhance an asset which serves a population with fewer options for alternatives (to be applied in 2017 for projects planned for 2018 and beyond).
- Other (5 points): The project has a unique element (e.g. other leveraged funds), and/or specific need that does not fit the other priorities.

The application of these criteria on all projects results in a Capital Improvement Program that first addresses the critical needs of code compliance and life safety, but also considers factors that promote facility integrity, environmental sustainability, water and energy savings, and social equity.

## EXCEPTIONS

While the criteria and ranking system described above are used to create an initial ranking of projects, it is not unusual for the prioritization to be adjusted based on special circumstances. Reasons for such an adjustment may include: the availability of matching funds from a grant for construction within a specified window, an especially urgent facility integrity or life safety issue, or achieving a balanced distribution of projects across the city. There are also instances in which a project may be moved up in the list due to priorities of the Mayor, City Council or identification and selection by members of the community through the Major Projects Challenge Fund (described below).

## MAJOR PROJECTS CHALLENGE FUND (FUND SOURCE: PARK DISTRICT REVENUES)

The Major Projects Challenge Fund provides matching funds to leverage community-generated funding for significant improvements or renovations of parks and facilities where other City funding is unavailable. \$1.6 million is allocated annually for these community-initiated projects. Project proposals are reviewed by SPR staff and the Park District Oversight Committee, who make recommendations to the Superintendent for funding. Selected projects are then implemented by SPR planners and project managers.

## ONGOING PROGRAMS (PRIMARY FUND SOURCE: REET REVENUES)

The capital ongoing programs include many smaller/lower cost projects that affect the performance of individual assets, but are not large enough to rank as a high priority and be funded as a stand-alone project. Most of the projects require little design and many projects are done with in-house staff. The Ongoing Programs include small roofs, tennis and basketball courts, landscape and trail renovations, and irrigation and pavement repair, among others. These programs fund projects that extend the life cycle of assets with a low-cost renovation by deferring a more expensive capital project. SPR funds the ongoing programs with REET each year.

## LEVY PROJECTS (PRIMARY FUND SOURCE: PROPERTY TAX REVENUES)

Projects in this category are implemented essentially as described in the ballot measure. In most cases, the project scope and budget have been determined during the planning for the ballot measure

## ADA PROGRAM (FUND SOURCE: REET, CDBG, PARK DISTRICT REVENUES)

In 2006 the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) conducted an audit of many City facilities to assess compliance with ADA Guidelines and identified an extensive listing of deficiencies, including many park facilities. These include various parking, accessible route, and fixture installations that need to be modified to make our parks, community centers and swimming pools fully compliant with the federal guidelines.

In 2011, the DOJ conducted an audit of Seattle parks reviewing only 25% of the 485 parks in the system. This resulted in over 4,000 total ADA citations. Through negotiations between the City and DOJ, the number currently agreed upon for implementation is 2,206 citations. The others were listed in the “denied in part” or “denied in whole” categories.

In addition to the DOJ cited improvements, SPR also has ADA components to other capital projects that are not part of the DOJ citation list. The DOJ citations make up about 80% of the total identified ADA projects in the department, with the remaining 20% coming from the department’s own assessment of facilities. SPR generally uses annual REET and CDBG allocations to fund the DOJ citation work and plans to use Park District funds to fund the other 20% of the ADA work.







CLOVER

WINDMAKER

THE ELLIES



## Section 10: Planning for the Future

This is a six-year plan that takes SPR through 2023. We know that 94% of the housing units in Seattle are within a 10-minute walk to a park, and that 77% of the housing units within Urban Villages are within a 5-minute walk to a park. We also know that Seattle and its Urban Villages will continue to experience growth and will continue to become denser over time.

One of the questions facing us is, “how to maintain livability”?

We think of Livability as the sum of the factors that add up to a community’s quality of life:

- the built and natural environments,
- economic prosperity,
- social stability and equity,
- educational opportunity, and
- cultural and recreation opportunities.

### CITYWIDE LEVEL OF SERVICE

#### Acceptable Level of Service Standard - 8 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents

For the City to meet the new citywide LOS of 8 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents during the planning horizon, SPR will need to – and in fact, plans to acquire approximately 13.5 acres within the next six-years (through the life of this Plan). SPR plans to acquire an additional 13.5 acres within the following six-year period (2023-2029) and the final 13.5 acres within the following six-year period (2029-2035) for a total of at least 40 acres of parkland by 2035. There is no penalty for acquiring more than 40 acres.



## LONG-TERM ACQUISITION STRATEGY

While property acquisition is often opportunity driven, the gap areas identified in **Section 7: Gap Analysis, Walkability Guidelines, and Mapping**, help define SPR's Long-Term Acquisition Strategy, set priorities, and identify areas for future acquisition and possible development projects. To implement this plan, SPR has \$2 million per year through 2020 to acquire properties which will be augmented through grants such as RCO and King County Conservation Futures program that allows leveraging of the Park District funding.

The Long-Term Acquisition Strategy is threefold and will focus on 1.) the acquisition of parkland in the City's growing Urban Villages with identified gaps as outlined below, 2.) the acquisition of Natural Areas and Greenbelts that meet the prioritization criteria listed on the following page, and 3.) other communities of need with gaps that meet the criteria listed below. SPR will need to acquire approximately 13.5 acres within the next six years. SPR Property Management is pro-active, identifies opportunities, has established relationships over many years with potential property owners and currently has over 200 parcels that they are actively pursuing for natural area/greenbelt acquisition alone. SPR will continue to monitor and report on acres acquired annually. A recent example of this proactive approach was the acquisition of the Greenwood parcel adjacent to Greenwood Park.

### a. 5-minute walkability - Within Urban Villages

The general focus will be on Urban Center Villages outside of the City Center and Hub Urban Villages (excluding the downtown urban core), as they represent a balance between opportunity and need; however, other areas of the City may be prioritized based on the criteria below.

Acquisitions will be prioritized based on the following criteria:

- Equity and Health
- Income and Poverty
- Density
- Opportunity

When applying the walkability guidelines and taking into consideration the gaps identified in **Section 7**, and the criteria listed above, the following Urban Villages have been identified as being underserved in parklands as compared to other areas of the City. These areas include the Urban Villages of:

- Aurora-Licton Springs,
- Bitter Lake,
- Northgate,
- Ballard,
- First Hill,
- Fremont,
- 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue,
- North Rainier,
- North Beacon Hill,
- Columbia City,
- Othello,
- Rainier Beach,
- South Park,
- West Seattle Junction,
- Morgan Junction,
- Westwood-Highland Park

However, as noted above, an exception to this is in the downtown core, where acquisition will be difficult and infeasible. Seattle's land values continue to rise, with land in the downtown core fetching prices approximately five times higher than land in the far northern and southern edges of the city. Per the City's Open Space Nexus Report and Impact Fee Analysis, land sale data from 2013 to 2015 varies significantly across the City; prices per acre range from \$137-\$517 per square foot.



Property in the downtown urban core will not be prioritized for acquisition because of escalating costs. Given SPR's current acquisition budget levels, emphasis for the downtown core will be given to providing open space through public-private partnerships, privately owned public spaces and other creative solutions (incentive zoning, impact fees) rather than through acquisition.

#### b. Natural Area/Greenbelt Acquisition

The Long-Term Acquisition Strategy will continue to focus on Natural Area/Greenbelt acquisitions. SPR has an ongoing prioritized list of over 200 properties that are within the City's greenspaces. The goal is to acquire as many as possible over time to improve the integrity of the City's open space system.

Acquisition of these properties will be prioritized based on the following criteria:

- Inholdings that interfere with public access & SPR management,
- Gaps in existing SPR holdings,
- Best natural resource value,
- Availability of funds other than Park District funding,
- Other considerations, such as access to non SPR-owned open space, and
- Availability of land for purchase.

#### c. 10-minute walkability - Outside of Urban Villages

Gap areas outside of Urban Villages that have been traditionally underserved and are home to marginalized populations will also be included for consideration; the Georgetown neighborhood and Bitter Lake/Aurora area are examples of communities in need that would be considered for future acquisition.

### TARGET GOALS FOR HOW SPR CAN DELIVER EQUITABLE ACCESS TO KEY FACILITIES

SPR is evaluating how to increase capacity within the system, taking a strategic and cost effective approach to providing equitable access for all to key facilities rather than through the construction of new facilities. By shifting away from single source distributions based guidelines and focusing on access, satisfaction and need, we anticipate being able to expand the reach and capacity of existing facilities.

Target goals for facility distribution that are based on service areas or distances will take into consideration physical barriers to access and are only a starting point to analyze delivery of equitable access to facilities. The location of other similar providers or facilities must be considered, along with policies and priorities in the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan, if relevant. In general, priority for increased equitable access will go to adding park amenities in underserved areas of the City, thereby expanding the reach of those served.

Possible target goals may include:

<b>Community Centers</b>	Every household in Seattle should be within 1-2 miles of a Community Center.
<b>Aquatic Facilities</b>	Every household in Seattle should have access to a swimming pool or swimming beach within 4 miles.
<b>Outdoor Sports Courts and Facilities</b>	80% of all residents will rate their access to desired outdoor facilities, such as tennis and basketball courts, as Good or Excellent.
<b>Sports/Athletic Fields</b>	Every household in Seattle should have access to sports fields within 2 miles.
<b>Greenways</b>	Continue to coordinate with SDOT on preferred routes and connections to enhance access to parks and open space.
<b>Picnic Shelters</b>	All picnic shelters should be ADA accessible.
<b>Play Areas</b>	All play areas should include facilities for a range of age groups.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY CAPITAL PROJECTS OVER THE NEXT 6 YEARS (2017-2023)

The State requirement is to include a prioritized list of projects and/or programs (parks and open space acquisition, development, renovation and restoration projects), anticipated year of implementation, and financing plan and/or fund source. This section provides examples of capital projects that will be implemented over the next 6 years in the Action Steps and Highlights sections below (the full list of capital projects can be found in Appendix D).

The *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan* both draws from and informs the CIP. The plan identifies capital projects and programs that SPR will achieve over the 6-year timeframe of the plan, but the list is not meant to be exhaustive. The CIP is an on-going list that undergoes periodic updates and revisions depending on need. For example, if there is a structural emergency with a facility or some other unforeseen maintenance required for life and safety issues, those projects would move to the forefront to the list.

Please refer to **APPENDIX D** for more information and a full list of projects beyond those highlighted below - funding allocations listed in this plan are in keeping with the 2017-2022 Adopted Capital Improvement Program. A list of discretionary projects that do not currently have funding are also found on the last page in **APPENDIX D**. The goals listed in **Section 2: Goals and Policies** will be implemented with the following action steps.

### **GOAL 1: PROVIDE A VARIETY OF OUTDOOR AND INDOOR SPACES THROUGHOUT THE CITY FOR ALL PEOPLE TO PLAY, LEARN, CONTEMPLATE, AND BUILD COMMUNITY.**

#### Action Steps

- Work with Public Health - Seattle and King County to create a check list to ensure that places are healthy.
- Continue to collaborate with Seattle Public Schools (SPS) on preschool development at community centers.
- Continue to collaborate with SPS on the Joint Use Agreement for facility and play field use.
- Develop systems to evaluate new or proposed uses that increase capacity.
- Develop a citywide path, trails and connections master plan that coordinates with the City's pedestrian master plan.

- Work with SDOT on transfer of jurisdiction of undeveloped Rights-of-Way (ROW) in our parks and open space areas.

### Highlights of Planned Capital Projects

<b>Land Acquisition – Park District</b>	Implementation of the Long-Term Acquisition Strategy for Urban Villages and Natural Area/Greenbelts.
<b>Athletic Field Improvement Projects – CIP</b> -- Ballfield Lighting Replacement Program, Synthetic Turf Resurfacing, General Renovations	Delridge Playfield, Garfield Playfield, Georgetown Playfield, Genesee Playfield(s), Hiawatha Playfield, Jefferson Park, Lower Woodland Park Playfield(s), Magnuson Park Playfield(s) (new), Miller Playfield, Montlake Playfield, Soundview Playfield(s), Washington Park Playfield
<b>Community Center Rehabilitation and Development Program</b>	Jefferson Community Center Queen Anne Community Center
<b>Development of 14 New Parks at Land-Banked Sites</b>	Land-banked sites for development include: Christie Park expansion, Baker Park expansion, Greenwood Park expansion, North Rainer, Greenwood-Phinney Park, AB Ernst Park, West Seattle Junction, Wedgwood, Lake City, Denny Triangle, South Park Plaza, and Morgan Junction.
<b>Greenways projects – Park District</b> Implementation of enhancements for non-motorized access to parks and open spaces in collaboration with SDOT through park entrance enhancements, trail pavement improvements, and amenities for bicyclists and pedestrians.	Two to three sites annually.  Proposed 2018 sites include: Fairmount Playground, Freeway Park, Interlaken Park, and Soundview Playfield. Continue to coordinate with SDOT on preferred routes and connections to enhance parks for 2019-2023.
<b>Trails Renovation Program – Park District</b>	Burke-Gilman, Louisa Boren, SE Queen Anne GB/Trolley Hill, Viewlands Elementary and North Bluff Trail (Carkeek), Interlaken Park, Lincoln Park, Frink Park, Greg Davis Park, Wolf Tree Trail Boardwalks (Discovery Park), Madrona Woods, Trails Wayfaring Signs (Various Parks).



## GOAL 2: CONTINUE TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE ACROSS SEATTLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

### Action Steps

- Update the 2017 *Parks and Open Space Plan* every 6-years and maintain our eligibility for local, state and federal grants.
- Analyze programmatic needs in relation to capital investments.
- Partner with City and regional agencies to ensure good transit service to parks and open space.
- Include equity as a criterion in prioritizing major maintenance projects.

### Highlights of Planned Capital Projects

<b>Play Area Renovations and Safety Projects</b> – Goal is to improve seven sites on average per year – CIP	2018 renovation project locations include: TT Minor Playground, E. Lynn St (Washington Park Arboretum), B.F. Day Playground, Salmon Bay Park, Puget Ridge Playground, Alki Playground, Dearborn Park, and Lakeridge Park. Potential new at: Hubbard Homestead, Myrtle Edwards Park, Ballard Commons Park, Homer Harris Park
<b>Picnic Shelter Expansion Projects</b> - funding to be determined	Judkins Park, Magnuson Park, Alki Beach, Ravenna Park, Lincoln park and Pratt Park.
<b>Rejuvenate Our P-patches</b> – Top ten (10) sites, based upon improving accessibility, updating failing infrastructure, maximizing value of upgrades, improving safety, need, minimizing impact to the plots and growing season.	Estelle St, New Holly Power Garden, Angel Morgan, Thistle, Squire Park, Hawkins, Thomas St, Jackson Park, Ravenna, and Evanston.



### GOAL 3: *MANAGE THE CITY’S PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES TO PROVIDE SAFE AND WELCOMING PLACES.*

#### Action Steps

- Partner with Seattle City Light and other entities on energy conservation and innovative programs.
- Collaborate with Seattle Public Utilities, Office of Sustainability and Environment and other public agencies on conservation opportunities, exploring the benefits of increased nature and open space opportunities to Public Health.
- Continue to prioritize and implement the City’s forest restoration and wildlife habitat goals.
- Foster access to public lands and shorelines.
- Continue support for Green Seattle Partnership program and the 20-year restoration goals.
- Fund and maintain our facilities to ensure long-term sustainability and climate resiliency.
- Work to make parks, open space and facilities accessible to all ages and abilities.

#### Highlights of Planned Capital Projects

<b>Major Maintenance Projects – Park District, CIP, AMWO</b>	Please see <b>Appendix D</b> for a full list of projects.
<b>Pool Renovations – CIP</b> - Typical renovations include: roof renovations and vapor barriers, floor/bench/locker renovations, bulkhead renovations, and deck replacements.	Southwest Pool, Queen Anne Pool, Ballard Pool, Evers Pool, Madison Pool, and Meadowbrook.
<b>Utility and Conservation Program – CIP</b> - Implements energy conservation projects in collaboration with Seattle City Light and Puget Sound Energy.	Ongoing project resulting in energy savings and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.
<b>Irrigation Replacement and Outdoor Infrastructure Program</b> - CIP – replaces and upgrades irrigation systems - 350 irrigation systems	35% of the systems are greater than 25-years old. Replacement and upgrades are a key element of managing water efficiently, and include weather based scheduling and leak detection technologies, as well as automating manual systems.
<b>Green Seattle Partnership – CIP and Park District</b>	Eight-year focus is to restore the remaining 1,200 acres of Seattle’s urban parks and open space by 2025, and continuing the long-term maintenance of 2,500 acres of forested parks and open space.
<b>Comfort Station Renovations</b>	Renovations of two to three comfort stations annually, including Alki 57 <sup>th</sup> Street, Mt Baker Playground, Seward Park South, and Dahl Playfield.
<b>Park Upgrade Program</b>	Pratt Park,

#### GOAL 4: *PLAN AND MAINTAIN SEATTLE’S PARKS AND FACILITIES TO ACCOMMODATE PARK USERS AND VISITORS.*

##### Action Steps

- Begin discussions with partner organizations for facilities with identified needs.
- Work with Friends of Seattle’s Olmsted Parks to maintain the historic character of Seattle’s Park system.
- Engage Seattle’s diverse communities to provide culturally relevant programs and experiences in all our parks and facilities.
- Develop a plan and explore partnership opportunities for the improvement of comfort stations.

##### Highlights of Planned Capital Projects

<b>Major Projects Challenge Fund - Park District</b>	Kubota Gardens north wall and ADA pathway improvements, along with facility assessments at Madrona Bathhouse, Daybreak Star, Green Lake Small Craft Center and Magnuson Community Center.
<b>Olmsted or Landmarks Projects</b>	Gasworks Park, play area renovation, comfort station replacements and ADA improvements.





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## Appendices:

**APPENDIX A – CITYWIDE STORY MAPS**

**APPENDIX B – PARK CLASSIFICATION POLICY**

**APPENDIX C – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT NOTES**

**APPENDIX D – ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**





## APPENDIX A – Citywide Story Map



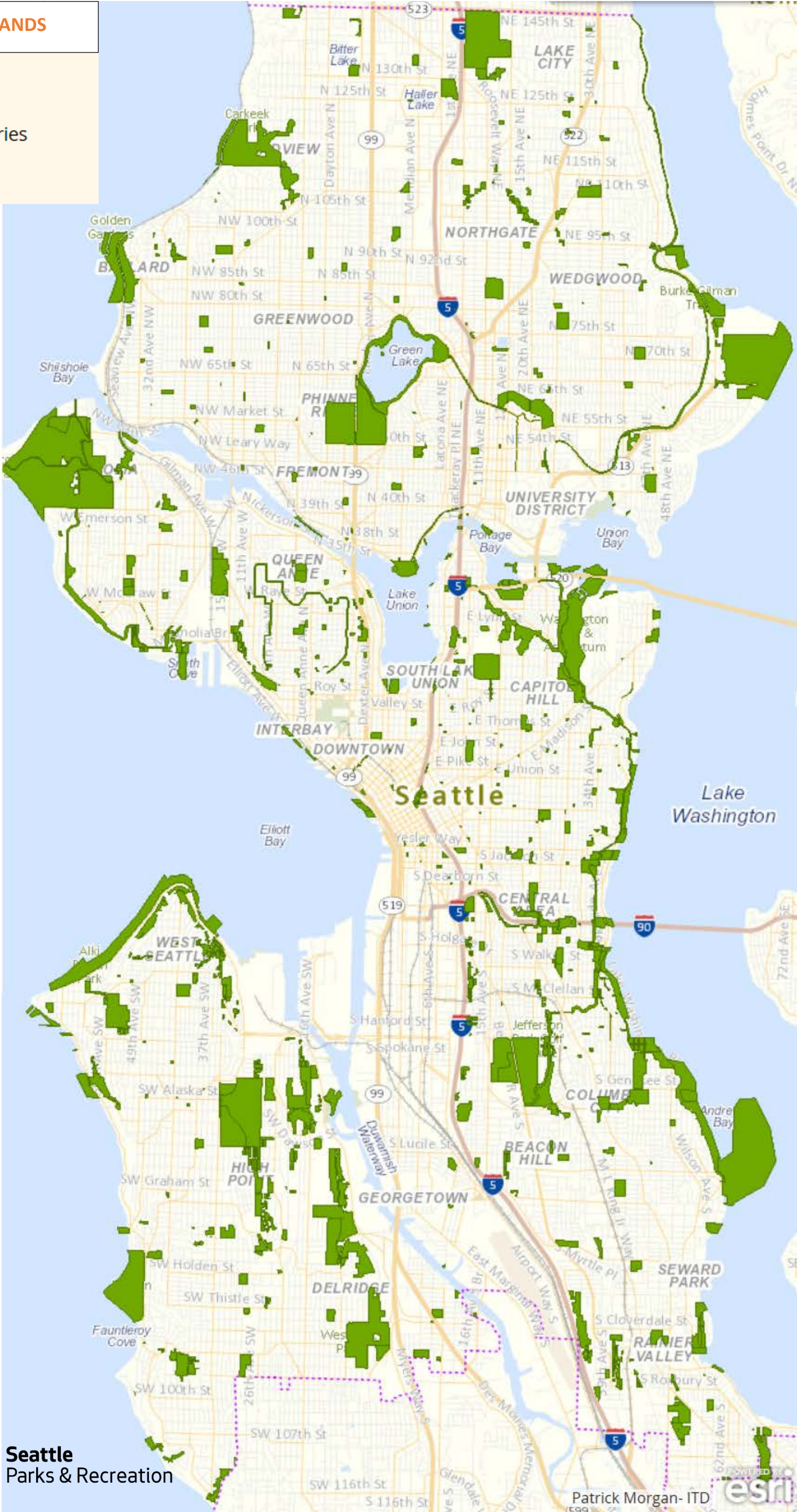


SEATTLE’S PARKLANDS

LEGEND

Layers

SPR Park Boundaries



Seattle  
Parks & Recreation





ACCESS

LEGEND

Layers

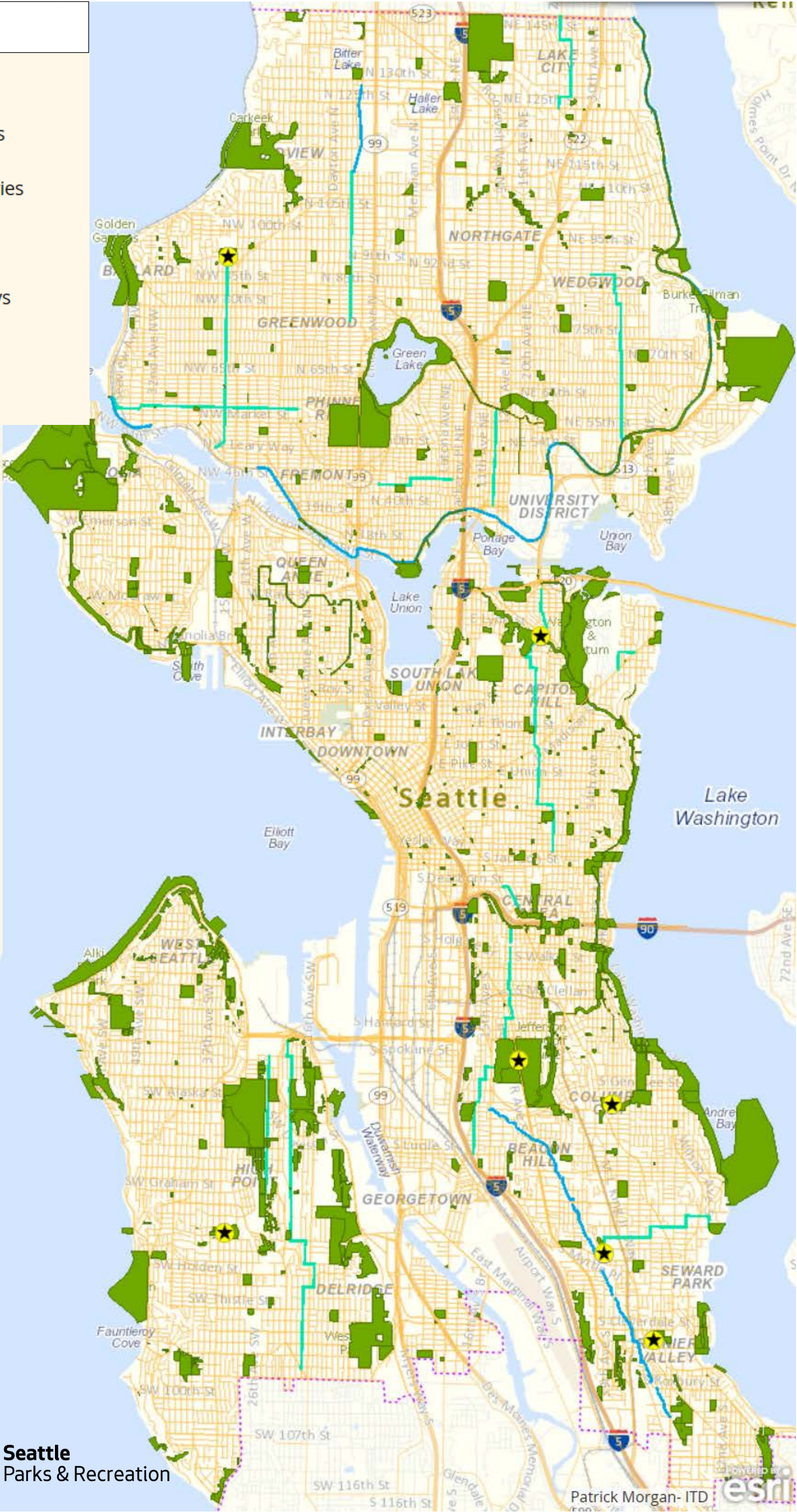
Greenway Projects

SPR Park Boundaries

Bicycle Trails

Existing Greenways

Streets









WALKABILITY

LEGEND

Layers

Urban Villages

SPR Park Boundaries

Streets

Walkability

5 minutes - 1/4 mile

10 minutes - 1/2 mile

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Parks & Recreation

Patrick Morgan- ITD

SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION 2017 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

APPENDIX A – CITYWIDE STORY MAPS

97





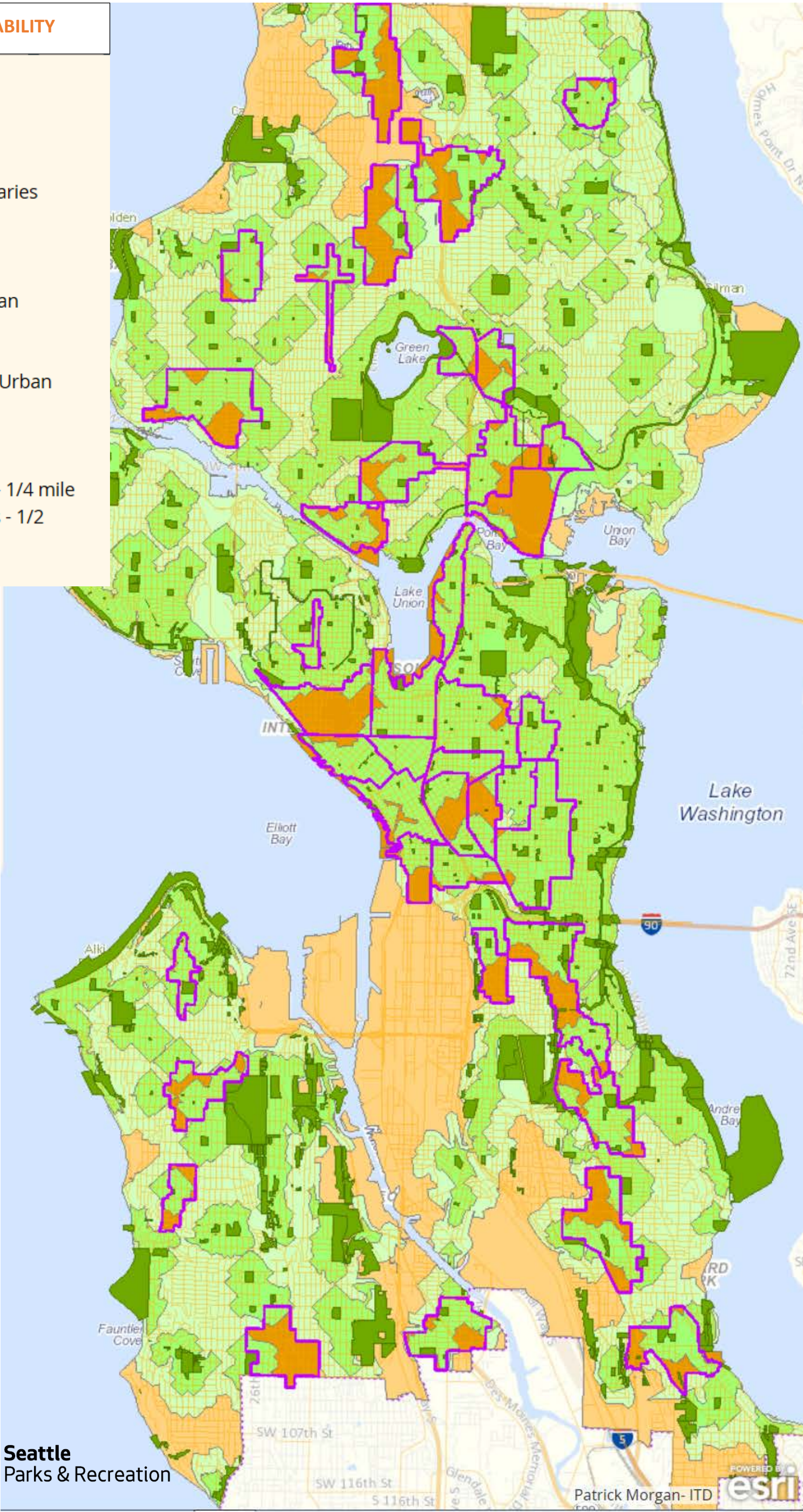


GAPS IN WALKABILITY

LEGEND

Layers

- Urban Villages
- SPR Park Boundaries
- Streets
- Gaps within Urban Villages
- Gaps outside of Urban Villages
- Walkability
  - 5 minutes - 1/4 mile
  - 10 minutes - 1/2 mile







EQUITY AND HEALTH

LEGEND

Urban Villages

SPR Park Boundaries

Gaps within Urban Villages

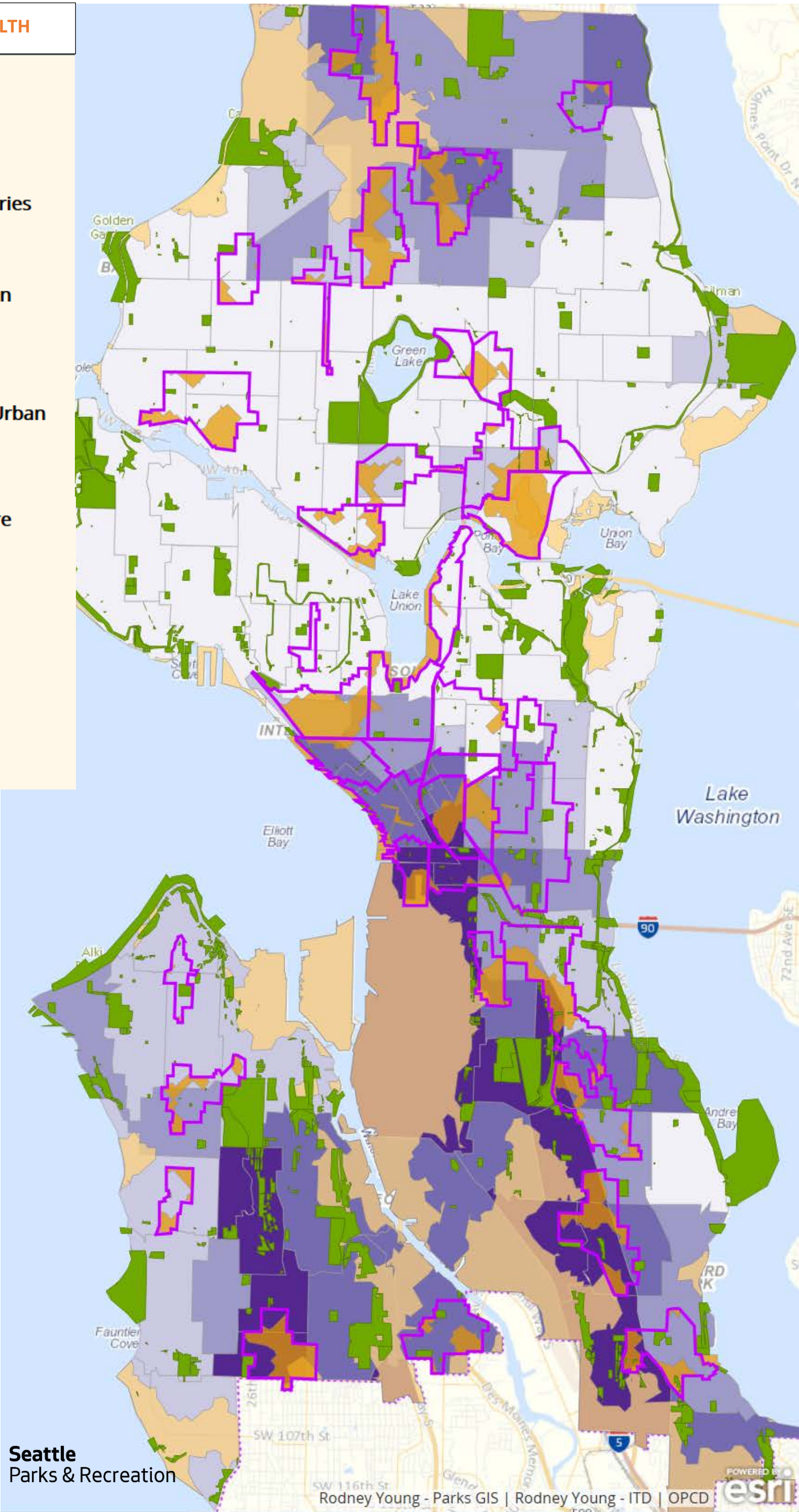
Gaps outside of Urban Villages

SDOT Equity Score

Equity Score

High

Low



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OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

LEGEND

P-Patches



Street Ends



Layers

Urban Villages



SPR Park Boundaries



Non SPR Parks



Public School Property



Public Open Places



Major Institutions



Industrial Zoning



Walkability- Other Opportunities



5 minutes - 1/4 mile



10 minutes - 1/2 mile

Gaps within Urban Villages



Gaps outside of Urban Villages



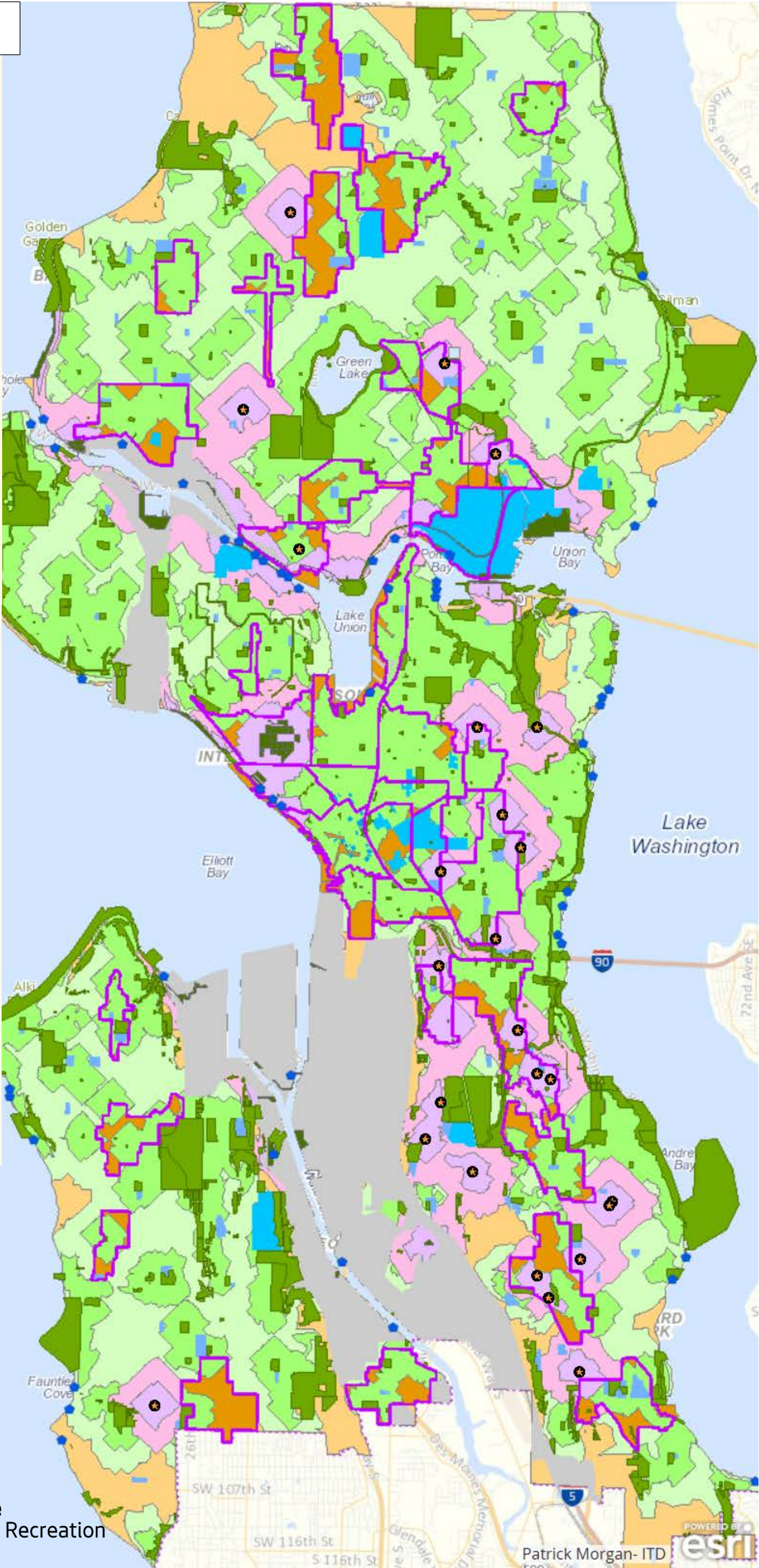
Walkability



5 minutes - 1/4 mile



10 minutes - 1/2 mile



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INCOME AND POVERTY

LEGEND

Urban Villages



SPR Park Boundaries



Gaps within Urban Villages



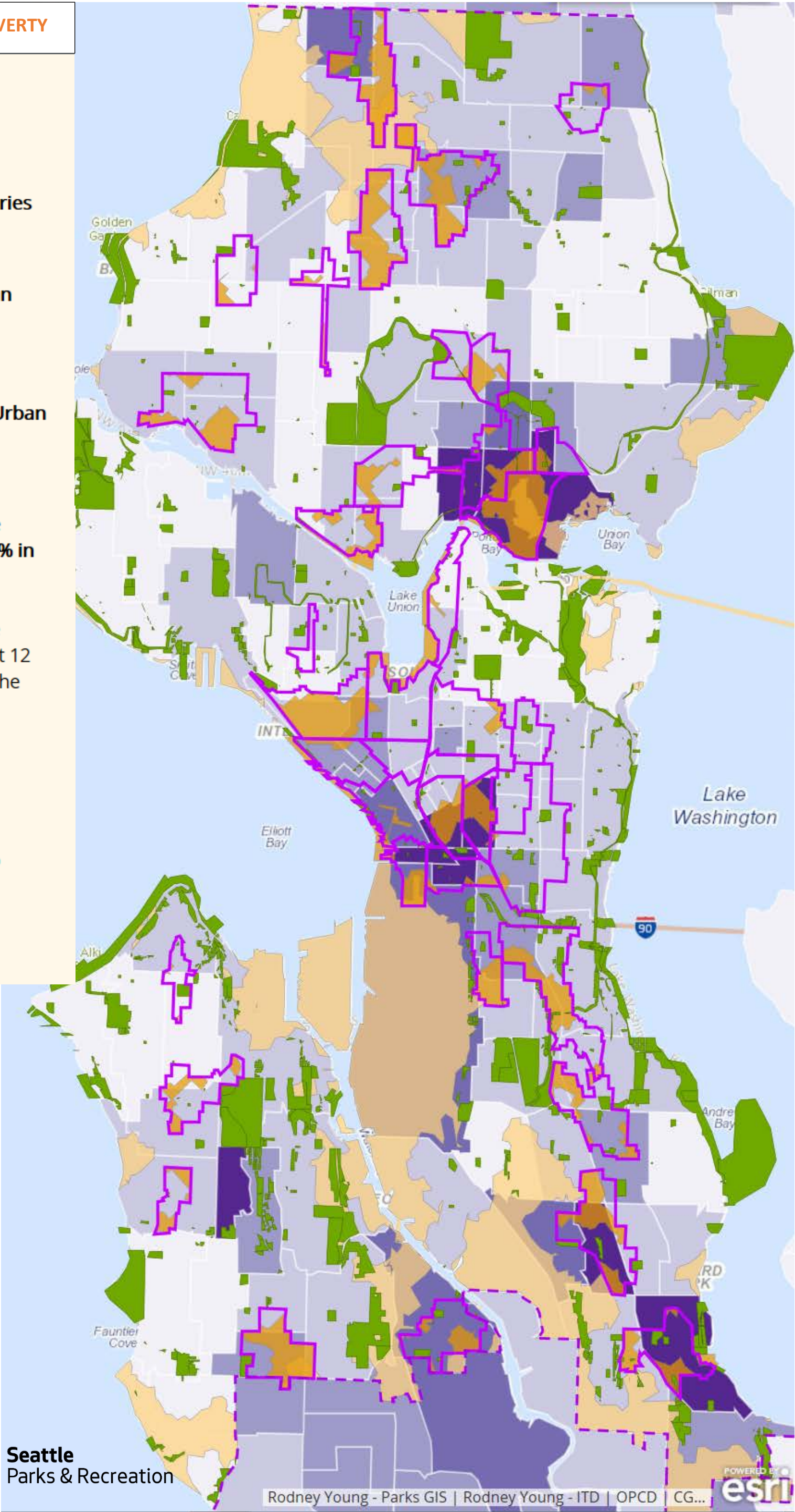
Gaps outside of Urban Villages



People Below the Poverty Level (14% in Seattle)

Percent of the population whose income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level

- > 35.8%
- 26% - 35.8%
- 16.5% - 26%
- 6.9% - 16.5%
- < 6.9%
- Other



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DENSITY

LEGEND

Urban Villages

SPR Park Boundaries

Gaps within Urban Villages

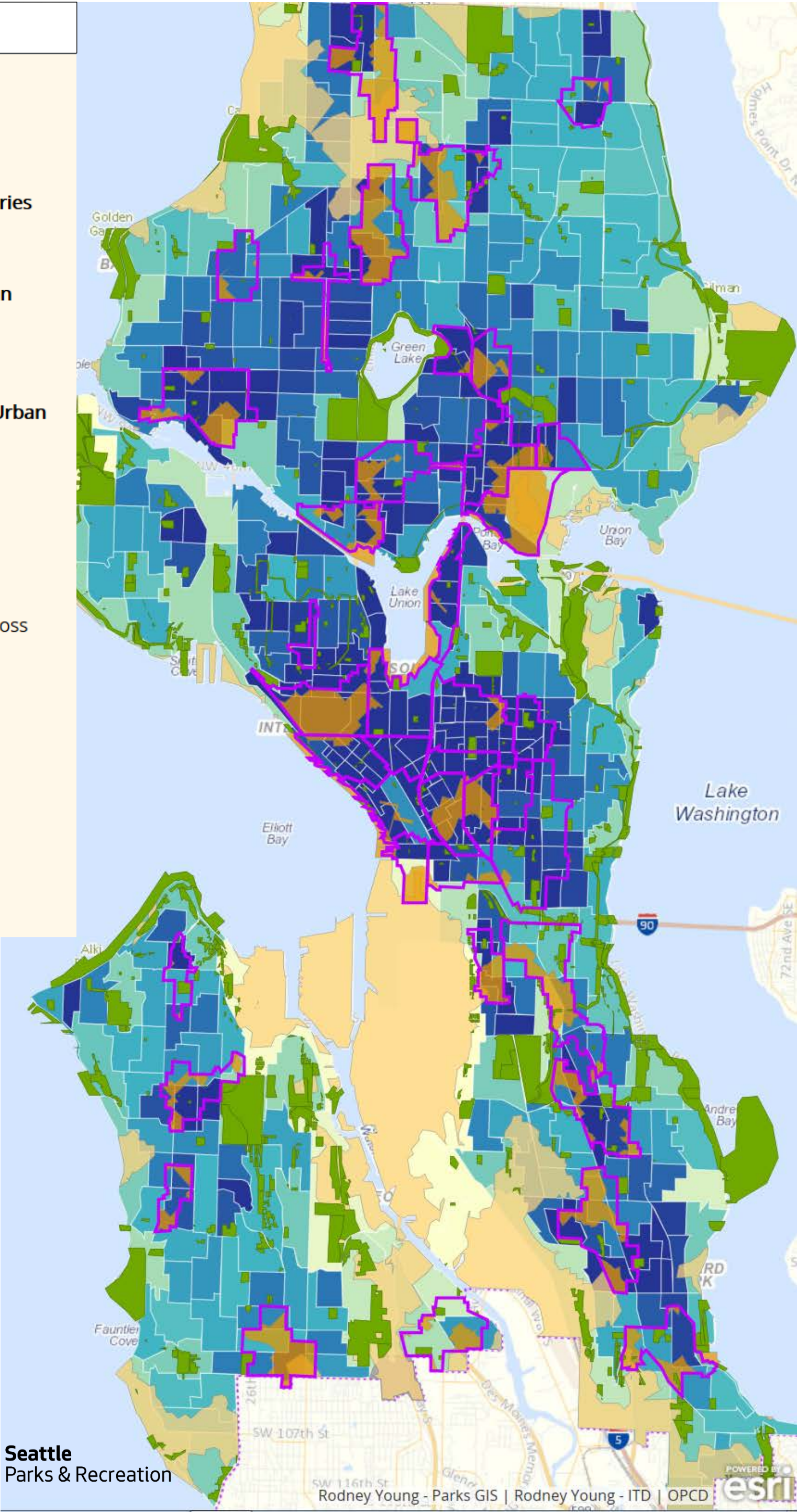
Gaps outside of Urban Villages

Total Population Estimate 2016

Population per Gross Land Acre 2016  

> 20  
 10.4  
 < 1

Other









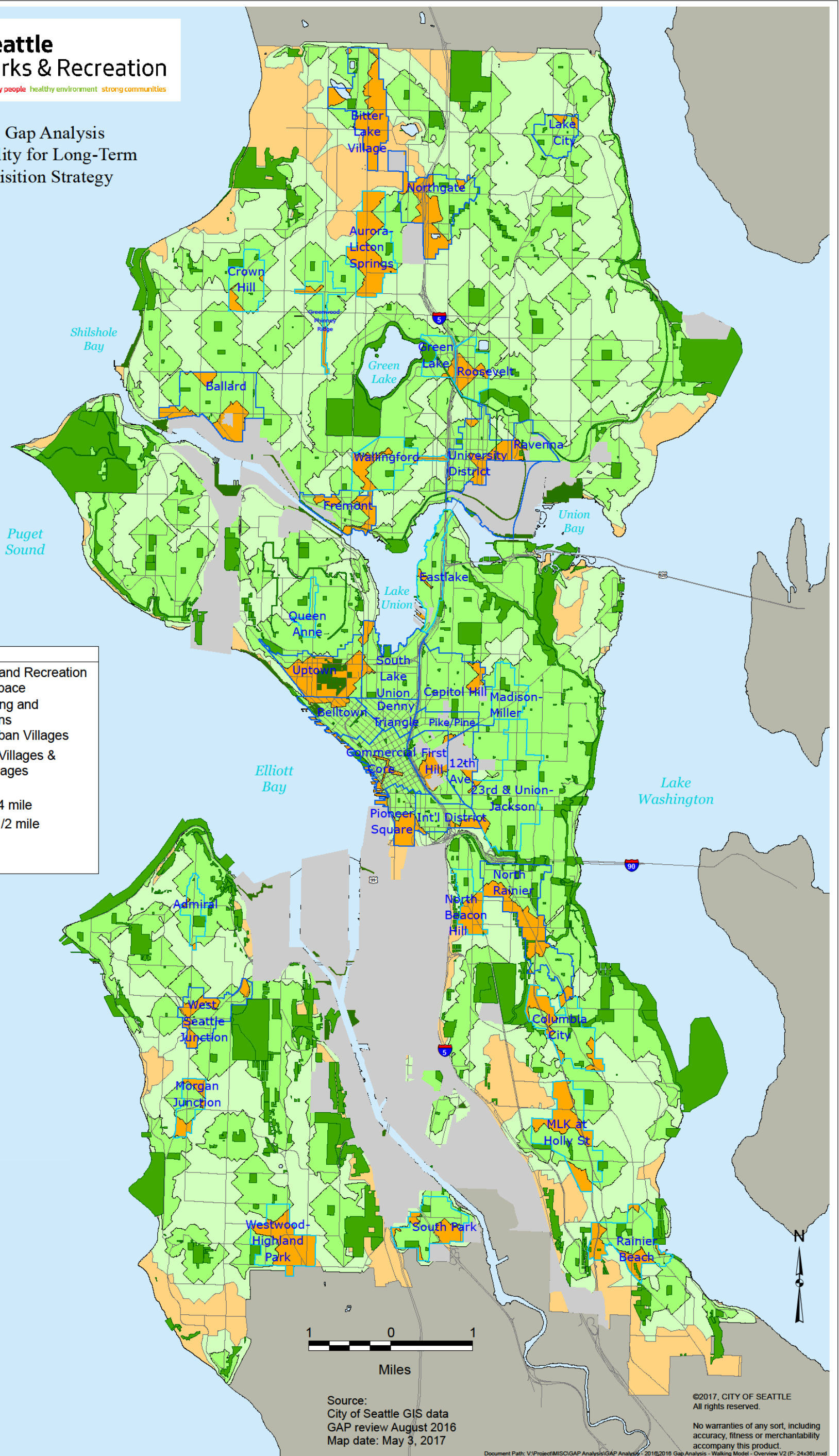
**Seattle  
Parks & Recreation**

healthy people healthy environment strong communities

## 2017 Gap Analysis Walkability for Long-Term Acquisition Strategy

### LEGEND

- Seattle Parks and Recreation
  - Other Open Space
  - Industrial Zoning and Major Institutions
  - Residential Urban Villages
  - Urban Center Villages & Hub Urban Villages
- Walkability**
- 5 minutes - 1/4 mile
  - 10 minutes - 1/2 mile
  - UV Gaps
  - Gaps



Source:  
City of Seattle GIS data  
GAP review August 2016  
Map date: May 3, 2017

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

Document Path: V:\Project\MISC\GAP Analysis\GAP Analysis - 2016\2016 Gap Analysis - Walking Model - Overview V2 (P-24x36).mxd





# APPENDIX B – Park Classification Policy

## Department Policy & Procedure

Subject: Park Classification System		Number 060 P5.11.1
		Effective: January 9, 2015
		Supersedes: December 1, 2009
Approved: January 8, 2015	Department: Seattle Parks & Recreation	Page 1 of 11

### 1.0 PURPOSE STATEMENT

Seattle Parks and Recreation recognizes the unique nature of each property it owns and is responsible for. The size of each property, its setting within the surrounding neighborhood, the amenities it provides to park visitors, its accessibility to the public, its soil, hydrology, vegetation, and habitat combine to make each property a unique asset. Understanding the uniqueness of each property, there is also a recognized benefit to categorizing park owned properties based on their similarities across a number of characteristics. The purpose of this policy and procedure is to establish a method for classifying the parks in Seattle Parks and Recreation. The classifications are driven by park use, purpose and size. This classification system serves the following purposes:

- These classifications will provide a general guideline for future development options. The combination of descriptors for each park type represents what has generally been successful on a certain sized plot of land located in a certain type of physical environment. These guidelines can help to set community expectations for a given site.
- These classifications may serve as a basis for policies around appropriate programming and uses in different park types.
- These classifications may inform functional planting design standards and other design standards.

This classification scheme is not intended to serve as an inventory of individual assets (e.g. total acres of natural area or total number of athletic fields) because different combinations of the same assets appear in each park type, nor is it intended to be a naming policy. For each park type, the list of desired or optional assets or programming opportunities is not intended to be inclusive of all potential assets or programs. Lastly, this policy is not to be used to supersede Parks approved Master Plans (Strategic Plans) for individual parks, such as Discovery Park, Magnuson Park or Seward Park.

### 2.0 ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED

#### 2.1 Seattle Parks and Recreation

### 3.0 POLICY

Seattle Parks and Recreation adopts the following park classifications as defined in Section 4.0 as well as the Parks Classification Assignments List dated October, 2014:

1. Mini Parks/Pocket Parks
2. Neighborhood Parks
3. Community Parks
4. Downtown Parks
5. Regional Parks
6. Special-Use Parks/Specialty Gardens
7. Greenbelts/Natural Areas
8. Boulevards/Green Streets/Greenways

#### 4.0 DEFINITIONS

4.1	MINI PARKS, POCKET PARKS	Mini and pocket parks provide a little green in dense areas. They are small parks transformed from developed, urban land sites acquired by the City. These urban land acquisitions have a wide variety of uses, and are sometimes jointly operated for both recreational and utility/infrastructure purposes.	
		Mini and pocket parks may include ornamental areas, traffic islands, small boulevards, oversized rights-of-way, medians, and minor drainage ways. Plans for mini or pocket parks try to use remnants of old landscaping features or other elements from the site’s prior use to emphasize cultural or historic importance. Plans may also incorporate water towers or other utility infrastructure.	
Physical			
Size		Generally under 10,000 sq. ft. (0.25 acre)	
Setting		All zones Can be surrounded by residences, small commercial, non-arterial streets or on unused land between roads	
Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement		No, unless it exceeds10,000 sq. ft. (0.25 acre)	
Built environment			
Percent developed		70-100%	
Assets (desired – size dependent)		Benches Improved paths	Plaza or grassy area for informal activity (no sports field)
Assets (optional)		Designed Landscape Lighting for safety (rare) Picnic table	Play area Public art Viewpoint
Parking		Street, none	
Natural Environment			
Natural Area		No	
Environmental Benefits		Possible green stormwater infrastructure, native plants	
Programs			
Programming (desired)		None	
Programming (optional)		Small community gatherings	
Geographic range of users		Immediate neighborhood – less than ¼ mile in distance	

4.2	NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	Neighborhood parks are substantially larger than pocket parks and generally occupy an area equivalent to one city block, and serve the surrounding neighborhood for multiple uses. Typical park development may include play areas, small fields, turf, trees, shrubs, irrigation, benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, paved parking or walkways, signage and lighting. Many Neighborhood Parks contain playgrounds and viewpoints.	
Physical			
Size		Between 0.25 and 9 acres	
Setting		Single Family Residential, Residential Urban Villages, Hub Urban Villages Generally surrounded by residences, small businesses, small or arterial streets	
Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement		Yes	
Built environment			
Percent developed		30-100%	
Assets (desired)		Benches Designed landscape Improved paths	Level grassy area for informal activity Picnic tables Play area
Assets (optional)		Basketball courts Boat launch Comfort station Garden Lighting for safety Picnic shelter or small shelter house	Public art Recreation areas Sports fields Stage Tennis courts Spray park or Wading pool Viewpoint Off-leash Area
Parking		Generally just street parking; may have off-street parking	
Natural Environment			
Natural Area		May have natural area, creek, lake	
Environmental Benefits		Green stormwater infrastructure, native plants, habitat (if natural area), CO2 reduction	
Programs			
Programming (desired)		None	
Programming (optional)		Light scheduling for athletic teams, community gatherings, small concerts	
Geographic range of users		Surrounding neighborhood – between ¼ and ½ mile	



4.3	COMMUNITY PARKS	Community parks satisfy the recreational needs of multiple neighborhoods and may also preserve unique landscapes. They generally accommodate group activities and recreational facilities not available at neighborhood parks. They may have athletic fields, large open spaces, paths, benches, natural areas, and restrooms. Community park sites should be accessible by arterial and/or collector streets, and may include off-street parking.	
<b>Physical</b>			
Size		Between 5 and 60 acres	
Setting		Single Family Residential, Residential Urban Villages, Hub Urban Villages Should be next to an arterial, institution, or natural area rather than surrounded by homes on all sides	
Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement		Yes	
<b>Built environment</b>			
Percent developed		25-100%	
Assets (desired)		Basketball court Benches Comfort station Designed landscape Improved paths Level grassy area for informal activity	Lighting for safety Picnic tables and shelters Play area Sports field(s)
Assets (optional)		Boat launch Community Center Concessions Community or specialty garden Lifeguarded beach Lighting for specific facility use Natural Area Off-leash area Public art	Pool Recreation areas or complexes (lighted sports fields with designated parking away from residences) Skatepark Stage Tennis courts Spray park or Wading pool Viewpoint
Parking		Off-street parking	
<b>Natural Environment</b>			
Natural Area		May contain natural areas, creeks, lakes	
Environmental Benefits		Green stormwater infrastructure, native plants, habitat (if natural area), CO2 reduction	
<b>Programs</b>			
Programming (desired)		Community gatherings	
Programming (optional)		Scheduled for athletic teams, small concerts, naturalist activities, food vendors (cart)	
Geographic range of users		Several surrounding neighborhoods – between 1/2 and 3 miles; citywide if park contains a recreation complex	

4.4	DOWNTOWN PARKS	<p>Downtown Pars are typically smaller, developed sites located in Seattle’s center. Many are iconic urban landscapes and provide a respite from busy downtown streets, offer places to sit, and provide space for performers and vendors.</p> <p>Many of these parks have historic significance. Downtown destination parks are signature parks of interest to the broad community and allow the public to enjoy the city’s center.</p>	
Physical			
Size		Between 0.1 and 5 acres	
Setting		The 2006 Downtown Parks & Public Spaces Task Force Report defines “downtown” as the area bounded by South Lake Union Park to the north, the International District to the south and Interstate 5 to the east. This document currently reflects those boundaries, although in the future the area defined “downtown” may shift as the city changes Generally surrounded by commercial buildings	
Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement		Only those over 10,000 square feet	
Built environment			
Percent developed		100%	
Assets (desired)		Benches Improved paths Designed landscapes Lighting for safety	Plaza or level grassy area for informal activity (no sports field)
Assets (optional)		Picnic tables Play area	Public art Stage Off-leash Area
Parking		Street, none	
Natural Environment			
Natural Area		None	
Environmental Benefits		Possible green stormwater infrastructure, native plants	
Programs			
Programming (desired)		None	
Programming (optional)		Buskers, food vendors (carts), small concerts, special events	
Geographic range of users		Immediate business community, downtown visitors and residents, tourists	

4.5	REGIONAL PARKS	Regional parks supplement neighborhood and community parks, often serving broader citywide recreation needs. Each of these parks contains various assets, often for active recreation, and is programmed accordingly. Many also have large natural areas of undeveloped land and/or historic or landmarked significance. These parks tend to be destinations, often generate tourism, and have views or water access. Restroom facilities and off-street parking should be provided for facility users. Park lighting should be for security and safety as well as facility use.	
Physical			
Size		The average for this category is over 100 acres, but the range is from approximately 10 acres up to over 500 acres.	
Setting		Single Family Residential, Residential Urban Villages, Hub Urban Villages	
Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement		Yes	
Built environment			
Percent developed		20-100%	
Assets (desired)		Benches Comfort station Designed landscape Improved paths Level grassy area for informal activity	Lighting for safety Picnic tables and shelters Play area Sports field(s)
Assets (optional)		Boat launch Community Center Concessions Community or specialty garden Lifeguarded beach Lighting for specific facility use Natural Area Off-leash area Public art Basketball court	Golf courses and driving ranges Pool Recreation areas or complexes (lighted sports fields with designated parking away from residences) Skatepark Stage Tennis courts Spray park or Wading pool Viewpoint
Parking		Off-street parking	
Natural Environment			
Natural Area		May contain natural areas, creeks, lakes, wetlands, shoreline access	
Environmental Benefits		Green stormwater infrastructure, native plants, habitat (if natural area), CO2 reduction	
Programs			
Programming (desired)		Community gatherings	
Programming (optional)		Scheduled for athletic teams, rentals, small concerts, naturalist activities, food vendors (cart), buskers, special events	
Geographic range of users		Citywide, regional, tourists	



4.6	NATURAL AREA/ GREENBELT	Natural Areas are park sites established for the protection and stewardship of wildlife, habitat and other natural systems support functions. Some natural areas are accessible for low-impact use. Minimal infrastructure may include access and signage, where it will not adversely impact habitat or natural systems functions. Larger natural areas may have small sections developed to serve a community park function. Large Natural Area/Greenbelts may be divided into subareas based on vegetation, habitat, restoration status, wildlife area designation, recreation use area, etc. in order to better differentiate resource needs and use priorities.	
Physical			
Size		Any	
Setting		Where tracts of undeveloped land are available. Natural areas may include, but are not limited to, forest, meadows, riparian areas, beaches, tidelands and wetlands. Non-accessible natural areas are generally found on steep slopes or in riparian zones or wetlands. Natural areas often serve as a buffer between incompatible land uses. See 1993 Greenspaces Policy (Resolution 28653) for details about natural areas.	
Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement		Only parks with usable open space over 10,000 square feet	
Built environment			
Percent developed		Limited to infrastructure for support services	
Assets (desired)		None (Parks Design Standard 02900-01 “Site Restoration of Natural Areas” shall apply)	
Assets (optional)		Comfort station Environmental Learning Center Picnic tables	Play area Signage Trails (internal and connecting with external urban trails) Viewpoint
Parking		Street parking, off-street parking for natural areas with more amenities	
Natural Environment			
Natural Area		Yes	
Environmental Benefits		Green stormwater infrastructure, native plants, habitat, riparian corridor (if there is a creek or shoreline), erosion control	
Programs			
Programming (desired)		Environmental education	
Programming (optional)		Plant restoration service projects, research	
Geographic range of users		Citywide, regional, tourists	

4.7	BOULEVARDS/GREEN STREETS/GREENWAYS	Park boulevards are established by City Council Ordinance, SMC 15.02.046 I and defined as an extension or expansion of a dedicated street which continues to serve as a right-of-way in addition to being park land. Many of Seattle’s boulevards are part of the Olmsted plan. Boulevards and green streets often provide safe pedestrian routes as well as recreation opportunities for jogging and bicycling.	
Physical			
Size		Any	
Setting		Single Family Residential, Residential Urban Villages, Hub Urban Villages Along an arterial road In places with attractive views	
Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement		Those with usable open space over 10,000 square feet	
Built environment			
Percent developed		25-100%	
Assets (desired)		Designed landscape Improved Path	Regular street lighting
Assets (optional)		Benches Decorative lighting Flat grassy area for informal activity	Play area Public gathering place Viewpoint
Parking		Street parking, off-street parking	
Natural Environment			
Natural Area		May have shoreline, riparian area	
Environmental Benefits		Green stormwater infrastructure, native plants, riparian area, CO2 reduction	
Programs			
Programming (desired)		None	
Programming (optional)		None	
Geographic range of users		Citywide, all travelers using the street	

<b>4.8</b>	<b>SPECIAL-USE PARKS/SPECIALITY GARDENS</b>	<p>This category refers generally to stand-alone parks that are designed to serve one particular use. Examples of parks that fit into this category include Woodland Park Zoo, West Seattle Stadium, Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, Kubota Gardens and Camp Long. Specialty gardens are some of Seattle's most beautiful and inspiring places. They offer respite from the city's noise, quiet places to sit and reflect, and a revival of color and fragrance in the spring.</p> <p>For each special-use park type, the descriptors will differ depending on industry standards and best practices for the intended activity. For each type of special-use park, a more detailed list of descriptors should be developed by a design expert in that particular field.</p>
<b>Physical</b>		
Size		Whatever size is necessary for the intended use
Setting		Depends on intended use
Contributes to planning area Usable Open Space requirement		In some cases
<b>Built environment</b>		
Percent developed		70-100%
Assets (desired)		Depends on intended use
Assets (optional)		Depends on intended use
Parking		Depends on intended use
<b>Natural Environment</b>		
Natural Area		None
Environmental benefits		Native plants, habitat, and green stormwater infrastructure; environmental benefits of other special-use parks depends on development
<b>Programs</b>		
Programming (desired)		Depends on intended use
Programming (optional)		Depends on intended use
Geographic range of users		Citywide, regional, tourists



## 5.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 5.1 The Planning & Development Division (PDD) will be responsible for reviewing the Parks Classification System as a guideline as park development plans are reviewed for proposed improvements or changes in use.
- 5.2 The Parks Division will be responsible for reviewing the Parks Classification System as new maintenance procedures at a park site are considered.
- 5.3 As policies related to park programming options in different park types are considered, it will be the responsibility of the Recreation Division and Regional Parks and Strategic Outreach Division to review the Parks Classification System for policy guidance.

## 6.0 PROCEDURE

- 6.1 Revisions to the Parks Classification System may be requested, including revisions to park category definitions and changes to the assigned category of a specific park. Requests should be made in writing to the Parks Superintendent.
- 6.2 The Parks Superintendent may confer with the chair of the Board of Park Commissioners on the revisions and the preferred public review process for requested revisions. The Parks Superintendent shall have final authority on changes to the policy and/or park classification assignments

## 7.0 REFERENCES      Not applicable

# APPENDIX C – Public Engagement Notes

## CITYWIDE OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS:

### Summary Bitter Lake

This venue was well attended, with approximately 100 people in attendance overall. We easily had 30-40 people stop by the ‘Parks’ tables.

Some people were frustrated with the Open House format and wanted a more traditional meeting with lots of opportunity to comment, others seemed to be very appreciative of the format and all the information available.

Overall, people seemed very pleased with the proposed walkability approach and taking into consideration factors such as density and poverty levels as a means to prioritize future long-term acquisition.

Some people were frustrated that we had not included a more in depth sidewalk analysis and felt that that was key. Several people wanted to know what this meant for their neighborhood – Bitter Lake, Crown Hill, West Seattle.

### Questionnaire comments received to date include:

1. What do you think about SPR’s suggested network approach, based upon walkability and access, compared with the older buffer approach for informing SPR’s long-term acquisition strategies?
  - *“This City is not safe, white lives matter, what is the City doing about this? People are not going to walk to parks at night without sidewalks.”*
  - *Open space options that increase accessibility for low income should be considered as long as mechanisms are in place to prevent squatting.*
  - *I think it makes sense to consider walkability and access, however most Seattleites are within a half mile of a park or greenspace. You can bike, bus or drive to most sports. I prefer walking. Sometimes I do a “bus” hike.*
  - *There is not walkability without sidewalks and Urban Villages are defined by 10-minute walk zone, therefore, without sidewalks there can be no urban villages. All urban villages north of 85<sup>th</sup> require 100% sidewalks. NE Seattle has a parks deficit that’s not showing in the gap analysis.*
  - *Lake City’s low-income seniors, youth and immigrants urgently need a fully programmed community center.*
2. The Gap Analysis considers population density, levels of income, as well as other publically accessible land, such as Major Institutions and Universities, Seattle Public School property and Port property. Are there other factors that should be taken into consideration?

- *I think those are factors to be Considered (levels of income, population density) however, parks are for everyone and should be close to all. I do think some areas need to be “saved” before development.*
3. What should the priority strategies be for Long-Term Acquisition, given the constraints of the built environment in a growing city?
- *Maybe “new construction” should also help pay for parks and recreation like it does for housing, at least in the more urban areas this could be legislated.*

## Summary West Seattle

### Shelby's Creamery -

This venue was very well attended, very crowded and very noisy – at least 150 people were in attendance at this venue. Many folks were upset/angry with the venue choice, that food was served (many people felt that they were being ‘bought off’), and that there was no opportunity for meaningful comment.

We easily had 60-70 people come by the ‘Parks’ tables.

The majority of people that SPR staff interacted with were very appreciative of the effort, of the new mapping approach and thought that the walkability modeling was fantastic. Many people were super excited that they could access the data on their smartphones and tablets.

There were about 5 individuals who were upset that the West Seattle Golf Course was included as part of the parkland inventory; the feeling being that it was not open to the public since one needs to pay a fee to play golf.

One individual did not like our presentation boards – thought our color scheme was off (didn’t follow proper design principles), were difficult to understand, thought we should ‘fire’ our consultants and did not like the fact that we included the West Seattle Golf Course.

### Youngstown Cultural Center -

There were about 50 people at this venue and a few kids. It was a good space and it looked like folks had an opportunity to talk with a variety of department staff. SPR staff spoke with about 10 people and gave them background on the development plan and gap analysis; explained the change to the walkability guidelines and everyone was supportive of that approach.

The only real concern voiced by several people (2) was the gap in the Westwood Urban Village and the desire for more parks (and safer streets) in that neighborhood.

- *Several public comments were received in the HALA comment form that mentioned parks and the need for more parks. In West Seattle, there was a single request for a new park within the Alaska Junction Urban Village.*



[Questionnaire comments received to date include:](#)

1. What do you think about SPR's suggested network approach, based upon walkability and access, compared with the older buffer approach for informing SPR's long-term acquisition strategies?
  - *You are to be congratulated on the impressive way to access so many layers of data!*
  - *After talking with SPR staff this evening in West Seattle and looking at the map site, I support the idea of using funds to increase parks in areas where the gaps in urban villages coincide with high density and high poverty.*
  - *Thank you for providing a positive and informative presentation at last night's open house meeting at Shelby's in West Seattle.*
  - *The SPR displays and discussions were informative and helpful.*
  - *I sincerely appreciate how the SPR team encouraged suggestions and feedback from all attendees, and then accepted it with patience and respect.*
  - *I am very encouraged by the steps taken and the progress SPR has achieved on this project, and look forward to further updates.*
  - *We have one park in the Junction which is amusing called a 'pocket' park, on Alaska and 42nd. Apparently we are supposed to consider the golf course on 35th as part of our green space as well as Lincoln Park. As much as my husband enjoys the golf course, which I know the city owns and which is obviously used only by golfers, and as much as we enjoy Lincoln Park, which is a bus ride away, there is really no other green space within the Junction. As it is, the pocket park is heavily used because there is nowhere else to sit (you can't really stroll through it as it takes less than one minute).*
  - *With all the building of thousands of apartments in West Seattle, many of which are in the Junction, we need more green. Desperately. This should be obvious to anyone walking around here.*
  - *The new plan should include a new park for the Junction. Or two. Please consider our neighborhood needs for a place to sit and breathe.*
  - *Include SPU's substations as the utility sells them. Many are located in higher density neighborhoods that can use more green space.*
  - *Love the idea of a bike/walking route around West Seattle (a complete loop), Alki to Lincoln Park to Meyers Way and back to Alki Someday!*
  - *I live near the golf course and cannot use it because I don't golf. Please it should not count as a walkability "park" it's a golf course – common sense please.*
  - *(Maps) look like a good start, I have to analyze it.*
  - *Why are there no green spaces added to the Urban Villages?*

- *Create open space with High Rise Development not balconies or the building as open space. Publically accessible open space.*
  - *Don't use Jefferson Golf course as a calculation for green space.*
  - *Don't use H.S. stadium as green space.*
  - *Would suggest first concentrating on maintaining existing parks, and developing already acquired but not developed properties. If those are taken care of then sure, more greenspace is always better (bikeways are now a joke) but for God's sake keep the modeless out of the parks!*
  - *The Greenspace of HALA includes the West Seattle Golf Course. That is very misleading. Please don't try to add green space that isn't accessible. Redo maps to reflect reality!*
  - *Walkability is good! it's how people use parks and it cuts down on need to spend \$ on parking too.*
  - *There is a need for more benches to allow people to sit and rest.*
  - *We have one park in the Junction which is amusing called a 'pocket' park, on Alaska and 42nd. Apparently we are supposed to consider the golf course on 35th as part of our green space as well as Lincoln Park. As much as my husband enjoys the golf course, which I know the city owns and which is obviously used only by golfers, and as much as we enjoy Lincoln Park, which is a bus ride away, there is really no other green space within the Junction. As it is, the pocket park is heavily used because there is nowhere else to sit (you can't really stroll through it as it takes less than one minute).*
  - *With all the building of thousands of apartments in West Seattle, many of which are in the Junction, we need more green. Desperately. This should be obvious to anyone walking around here.*
  - *The new plan should include a new park for the Junction. Or two. Please consider our neighborhood needs for a place to sit and breathe.*
2. The Gap Analysis considers population density, levels of income, as well as other publicly accessible land, such as Major Institutions and Universities, Seattle Public School property and Port property. Are there other factors that should be taken into consideration?
- *Urban villages underrepresented communities, historically investment, number of children, lack of open space around buildings, access to car, access to gardens, access to cheap healthful food (P-patch)*
  - *Lincoln Park and all parks need more open bathrooms in the winter. The Coleman Pool bathroom used to always be open all winter. I vote for parks levies hoping to get more all season restrooms so we don't have to pee in the bushes.*

- *Bus lines. In gap areas, neighborhood, house, dense, pocket parks that get used, abandoned/unused alleys, church lots.*
  - *Pocket parks, under 10,000 square feet are needed so neighborhood children have a safe local park to play in.*
3. What should the priority strategies be for Long-Term Acquisition, given the constraints of the built environment in a growing city?
- *Highland Park Urban Village Eastern Side. Meet the original plan. UV's encourage giving up cars, so make the residents of urban villages lives better. HALA = livability!*
  - *Think the Highline, green roofs, parks on top*
  - *SPD (SPR), needs to look at parks in other cities to see what they have achieved. Herman Park Houston TX. The walking paths in the Woodlands TX.*

## Summary Ravenna

This venue was very well attended with approximately 100 people in attendance overall - people were engaged and generally very supportive. Several Planning Commissioners were in attendance along with City Council staff.

We easily had 20-30 people come by the 'Parks' tables, posing questions and engaging in conversation.

The majority of people were very appreciative of the effort, really engaged with the new mapping approach and walkability modeling. The most common question/comment posed, was "how can we support you to get more open space and park facilities?"

As with the previous meetings, walking and sidewalk conditions were discussed along with a desire for transit routes to larger regional parks – especially where athletic fields exist. Additional comments and themes included:

- How and when a community center will be provided in Wallingford, especially due to renovation of Lincoln High School and expected residential growth as an urban village.
- How and why Seattle Public Schools could mitigate open space for renovation of Lincoln High School by using the overcrowded Woodland Park athletic fields.
- How to get a pathway developed from a community garden (within WSDOT ROW) at NE 60<sup>th</sup> Street and I-5 to Ravenna Boulevard.
- What is status of park on Sisley property near Roosevelt High School.

## Questionnaire comments received to date include:

1. What do you think about SPR's suggested network approach, based upon walkability and access, compared with the older buffer approach for informing SPR's long-term acquisition strategies?



- *Walkability is a great concept for consideration for access to parks!*
  - *Walkability is more than calculated walking distance. Where are parks most needed by populations least able to walk long distances? Consider street conditions, lighting, size and accessibility of existing parks.*
  - *The network approach looks like it will really improve the ability to identify opportunities.*
  - *Strong support!*
2. The Gap Analysis considers population density, levels of income, as well as other publicly accessible land, such as Major Institutions and Universities, Seattle Public School property and Port property. Are there other factors that should be taken into consideration?
- *Consider neighborhood populations – are there senior housing locations or other circumstances that might change your definition of “walkability”?*
  - *I worry these factors blind the City to the facts on the ground. Students don’t visit parks too often; families with children visit parks a lot. Some areas have more families with cars, others fewer. Some improvements to existing parks are easy, others blocked by topology.*
  - *I’m excited that this new technology helps Parks do its job, but I worry about losing connection to the grounds themselves.*
  - *I know that many older residents will be opposed to this. I encourage everyone to fight for lighting on the Burke-Gilman Trail. This will be good for safety and improve the quality and comfort of all trail users. There are plenty of unlit green spaces in the city and more importantly outside of the urban-growth boundary. We need to accommodate higher density if we are going to lower our carbon footprint and not continue suburban sprawl. Lighting on the trail will help make Seattle more livable for the many who use it to walk and bicycle to get to work, school, shop and access transit.*
3. What should the priority strategies be for Long-Term Acquisition, given the constraints of the built environment in a growing city?
- *Non-driving populations, low-income communities, communities of color, where there are a few small parks only.*
  - *Areas far from parks; community spaces between buildings (not in parks).*

## Summary Capitol Hill

This venue was very well attended with over 100 people in attendance overall - people were engaged and generally very supportive.

SPR's table was at the front so most people walked by and either looked or engaged in conversation. We talked with a couple dozen people, giving an explanation of our mapping and asking questions. The majority of people were very appreciative of the effort, really engaged with the new mapping approach and walkability modeling. Some people did not know what Department we were until we started talking with them and were confused by the 'Walkability Story map' title.

Like other meetings, people were interested in how to get more open space, even though the map clearly showed the abundance of parks in this part of the City.

#### [Questionnaire comments received to date include:](#)

Staff handed out a lot of questionnaires, but to date, none have been turned back in.

### **Summary Columbia City**

There was great public attendance with approximately 175 people in attendance overall – at times the venue was packed with interested citizens. SPR had two displays: one for the *2017 Parks and Open Space Plan*; and one for the Brighton Playfield Renovation. SPR staff talked with approximately 30 individuals.

As with the previous public meetings, several attendees stated that they liked SPR efforts to identify potential acquisition sites via walkability. Additional comments and themes included:

- Revise gap mapping to better identify usable open space versus boulevards. The specific concern was that the need for a park would not be adequately identified.
- The mapping shows no gaps in the Mt. Baker Station area because we have mapped walkability from boulevards.
- A neighborhood group is already working with SPR Acquisition on a potential park site south of the Link Rail Mount Baker Station.
- More waterplay features are needed in the area parks.
- Lower basketball hoops for youth in a park.
- The mapping should include density.
- A bicyclist uses the sidewalks on Graham and on Beacon Avenue due to the traffic. The wheelchair ramps are too narrow and steep, and are dangerous for bicyclists.

#### [Questionnaire comments received to date include:](#)

At least a half dozen citizens took comment forms with them, but to date, none have been turned back in.

## SUMMARY OPEN SPACE FOCUS GROUP

SPR invited representatives from several organizations and neighborhoods to participate in several Focus Group sessions to gather input on the 2017 *Parks and Open Space Plan*, Gap Analysis and Long-term Acquisition strategies for open space. The first Focus Group was held on Friday, Dec. 9 from 11:30 – 1 p.m. at 100 Dexter Ave North.

The session showcased SPR's new Walkability mapping system, how SPR is working to inform future land acquisition and priority strategies for long-term acquisitions. Attendees represented a variety of organizations and community groups, including: Seattle Parks Foundation, POSA, Groundswell NW, Forterra, Trust for Public Land, Seattle Green Spaces Coalition, Central Area and Lake City Neighborhoods.

### Comments from the focus group participants include:

- *In Lake City sidewalks needed. It is hilly and a topography map should be included. The mapping should be in distance ¼ mile, ½ mil because different people are different abilities. Handicapped, strollers. All (walk areas) need curb cuts and sidewalks.*
- *Some think sidewalks are carbon intensive.*
- *Equity methodology is important. Equity and environment. Need a consistent mapping area. Look to partner with non-profits and other departments. It would be great to partner with other departments, include things such as land priority and storm water.*
- *Take into consideration transit overlay - connections and opportunity transit offers. Need to show transit stops and how buses can take you to water-front parks or open green spaces.*
- *Tremendous, much more in depth than previous mapping; much better than the bubbles. Need to treat different parks different. Like golf course – not a park and synthetic playfields not same as nature. I live near a park but not one that I use. All parks should not be treated the same.*
- *It is important to stay aligned with goals as related to population – 1 acre for every 100 people – has the City give up on this? Need to look into Roy Street parcels and people need to advocate for new park space not just maintaining parks. By not looking into this it is a failure to follow Growth Management Act. Factor for opportunity cost of property now and later.*
- *There is market pressure to get land, the market is more capricious. Walkability is important – link parks and spaces together. Think of linear parks; instead of 5-minute walk to park – walk 5 minutes thru lushness into more lushness and green space. What are the best demographics and can the city decide on one map? OPCD is tackling this same issue. Depts. need to work together.*
- *The mapping is fantastic! Kudos to Seattle Parks and Recreation for being so far out in front of the curve. This is a lot of work!*
- *Do you account for age groups and chronic disease? These are important. Set prioritization and structure? TPL has a new Park evaluator tool that is available to the public.*



- *Does the pace of development factor in? This touches on opportunity – what are the zoning codes for industrial space and who is watching out for these neighborhoods? Mt. Baker Blvd should be taken off the map, maybe all Olmsted Blvds taken off?*
- *What is the City's goals and Parks goals for Ecological performance? Look at parks not as object but as entities without boundaries. Equity issues with respect to ecological performance – what services are being offered – cleaner air, cleaner water.*
- *Switch from passive amenities to improving ecological performance. Create interconnected system for continuous habitat. Don't be afraid – be bold. From habitat side – do ecological overlay and green flag property.*
- *Industrial District - hold them accountable – in Vancouver BC – small and large park on every arterial. Get more aggressive with metrics.*
- *Stick with quantitative and acknowledge quantitative need. Going away from parks per capita is not a good idea. Need these metrics.*
- *Need to keep priority on equity work and health benefit from open space. Connectivity important and parklets inside gaps will lead to connectivity. Will help spread people out.*
- *Trees are important – preserve space for trees – ravines steep slopes.*
- *Equity component, monetize open space = health outcomes. Need to identify resources to do a plan that outlines equity map.*
- *REET very large – need to tap into this and have public involvement. Need money for aging buildings.*
- *Ecosystems and service to ecosystems and air quality is essential. Look at how building affects permeable land.*
- *Work with non-profits to incorporate their Open Space Plans and knowledge of the communities. Crowd source the work.*
- *HALA has no 'livability'.*

Questionnaire comments received to date include:

1. What do you think about SPR's suggested network approach, based upon walkability and access, compared with the older buffer approach for informing SPR's long-term acquisition strategies?
  - *Much improved approach. Additional work will make it much more useful, not just in walkability but for types of parks to be provided and how parks might be able to mitigate climate change impacts.*

- *Goal mentioned above includes transit and bikes along with walking. Did not see these modes as part of mapping? 10-minute bike ride?*
  - *Need to look at other agency's lands serving similar functions such as SDOT street ends and vacant ROW's. include in studies*
  - *Should there be some numbers for current park usage, such as trail counts? Are there underutilized facilities that may not be addressed? Look at supply and demand.*
2. The Gap Analysis considers population density, levels of income, as well as other publically accessible land, such as Major Institutions and Universities, Seattle Public School property and Port property. Are there other factors that should be taken into consideration?
- *Obesity and chronic disease*
  - *Density by age group (available but not mapped?)*
  - *Topography for storm water absorption*
  - *Tree canopy*
  - *Heat island effect*
  - *What about population drivers such as light rail?*
  - *Ecosystem services*
  - *Tree canopy and goals*
  - *Critical areas (should be off limits to development)*
3. What should the priority strategies be for Long-Term Acquisition, given the constraints of the built environment in a growing city?
- *Climate change prevention/protection*
  - *Health and obesity reduction*
  - *Equitable access and distribution*
  - *Trail can be linear parks. Why doesn't parks have jurisdiction over or goals to creates trails?*
  - *Trails can be pathways to play*
  - *Way more money needed*
  - *Rethink the concept of access. Many parks should be restricted.*

#### Additional Comments Received

- *I was surprised and alarmed to hear about a policy revision that threatened to undermine our efforts to achieve a neighborhood park in an area that has long been recognized by the City, and parks advocates, as Southeast Seattle's "worst" gap in open space. This policy change if adopted would undermine the goals of equitable development and livable transit oriented communities.*

*We respectfully ask that the City's capital planning processes address the need to bridge Southeast Seattle's worst gap in open space – before incentivized development makes that impossible.*

*In a recent meeting I was shown a new "gap map" for North Rainier which would blindly erase a known parks gap at North Rainier, based on a new theory that the Olmsted Boulevard System qualifies as usable open space. This new "go play in the Boulevard" approach is not a livable solution for future generations of our City, and would seem to be inconsistent with the GMA Board's analysis. The City of Seattle has many potential tools in its toolbox to ensure breathability as its urban villages increase in density. However, if the City has not incentivized open space creation in zoning regulations, or imposed impact fees to bridge these gaps, then the only fallback is a capital plan that funds the acquisition outright. While Parks has begun an acquisition project for North Rainier's existing gap – I understand that the Boulevard approach would destroy the driving force behind this acquisition project.*

*For the foregoing reasons I respectfully ask that the City's 2017 Parks and Open Space Plan ensure that its formula is consistent with the analysis of the GMA Board.*

- I have been thinking about this in a larger context. Given that Parks is talking to SDOT, SPU and other departments, what if we expand our concept of parks and open space? Following the thought that the journey is as important as the destination, what if we think of our streets as Linear Parks? Portland does this well by having large trees lining the streets that make walking around that city more enjoyable. It would also benefit the city if the Department of Construction and Inspections were more adamant with developers to give up more space to larger trees in their developments....especially along streets.*

*Last night I attended a presentation on creating policy for maintenance of Seattle's 92 miles of trails on park land. It seems that these trails can form connections to neighborhoods as well as giving users a park experience. Currently, trail maintenance is seriously underfunded. My question is, should parks be looking for acquisitions that yield parks like the 12th and James Court, a concrete plaza or should the city do a better job of maintenance to accommodate more users in our existing parks? I personally don't want to spend time in a concrete plaza on a hot day next to a noisy street.*

*I would also add that it is important that we not give away pieces of our existing parks such as Volunteer Park to uses that remove land and habitat (SAAM planned expansion in VP).*

*The right hand needs to know what the left hand is doing. It is important to protect our existing parks that have big trees and landscapes that relieve the pressures of density. We also need to remind ourselves that global warming is with us and how do our parks fit in to alleviate its effects?*

- I am writing to advocate for re-opening the wading pool at Sandel Park. With the new Greenway coming through Greenwood past Sandel Park (along 90th/92nd), the park will see an increase in traffic and visibility, and it would be great to have all the park's amenity's available. Please consider re-opening the wading pool at Sandel Park, as well as others that have closed. Thank you.*



- *The American Skating History is fascinating in it's growth and development. As stated in many history books on the activity of skating, it was first created in the northern countries such as modern England and the Netherlands as a form of transportation, the roads were covered with snow and iced over waterways. But that was ice skating! As told by a respected roller skating historian named James Turner, who first wrote 'The History of RollerSkating.' In Holland where the Dutch loved to skate, a Dutchman could not bear to be off his skates during the spring and summer, because there wasn't any snow. So he decided to design a wheeled skate with wooden spools placed in a line to simulate an ice skate but that could roll on pavement. (Even though it wasn't stated, at the time, one could say the the development was the creation of the first inline skate.) This is how roller skating got it's beginning. From 1735, when the first roller skate was invented by Joesph Merlin to 1863, there were about 7 different inventions made on the roller skate. However, the modern roller skate that we skate on today, was designed by an American named James Plimpton almost 153 years ago.*

*In city of Seattle has been with out a bonafide public roller skating facility since the 'Ridge Rink' located out on 85th & Aurora, closed in 1972. However, there were and still are small low-key public roller skating programs being offered at three park and recreational facilities throughout the city. During the years of 1982 and 1985, there were two public for profit roller skating businesses that both failed after just three years of operation. This happened I think mainly to a strong lack of skating knowledge and business ignorance by the owners and managers. Aside from a small minority of Seattle residents who may have experience the activity of roller skating through their respective schools or churches, Seattle families have be left deprived of a strong American tradition called roller skating. Seattle leaders need to do better by leading the way in making the city of Seattle's landscape more RollerSkating friendly.*

*By improving the existing landscapes throughout the city of Seattle through capital improvements would be a good start.*

*1. Seward Park - Lake Washington Blvd roadway: The roadway needs repaving from Mt Baker to the north and Seward Park to the south. The street path needs to be repaved so that during the event of 'Bicycle Sunday' skaters can skate on the Roadway. Presently the surface on the roadway is very rough and bumpy and not conducive to any type of skating.*

*2. Mt. Baker & Seward Park sidewalks, needs to be repaved for the same reasons as stated about the roadways. The roots from trees and other plants have cracked up sidewalk paths.*

*3. The Seward Park Loop - needs to be repaved for the same reasons, very bad and un-smooth pavement, and not conducive to any type of skating.*

*4. Alki Beach & Greenlake - both have adequate skating paves, however, they both need a smooth open space area made from either cement or asphalt surface that would measure at least 60ft X 120ft in diameter.*

- *I appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on the 2017 Parks and Open Plan and Gap Analysis. As a cultural anthropologist with a research focus on environmental education and*

more than ten years of experience working with and for underresourced communities in Seattle, I applaud and support SPR's twin goals of accessibility and equity. However, I have two serious concerns. First, I am concerned that SPR's interpretation of accessibility as exclusively "walkability" is at odds with the goal of equity. A second, related concern is the Plan's generic approach to our parks, an approach that relies solely on the metric of acreage and thereby assumes that all parks offer the same thing (just in different quantities of physical space). I would like to formally request that SPR planners adopt a more accurate and nuanced approach that strives to properly account for the qualitatively different affordances, opportunities and experiences represented by our very diverse parks. Size matters, to be sure. But no one would deny that acreage is far from the only metric that differentiates our parks: there are a host of other differences that are extremely consequential when it comes to how parks serve and satisfy our citizens. Ten acres of ball fields and basketball courts does not equal ten acres of open space. Five one acre pocket parks do not equal a contiguous five acre space. Landlocked parks do not equal parks of the same size with beaches or lakes. Difficult as it is, I believe it is essential for SPR to try and account for these differences in their analysis. Yes, it will be more complicated and controversial, and it would indeed be much easier for SPR to simply use an "X acres per X number of people" type of benchmark, and strive to equalize the numbers citywide. But equality isn't equity, and it is critical that SPR devise ways to offer our most underserved communities access to the crown jewels of our parks system, the large open spaces that offer inner-city kids and adults the closest thing to wilderness that they may ever experience. In the communities where I work, including the Chinatown-International District and Yesler Terrace, we will not be acquiring any large open spaces, and people in those communities will never be within walking distance of the nature experience that I strongly believe is their birthright. Shall we then abandon them to their pavement parks? I ask that SPR do the difficult work of figuring out how to make good on BOTH goals—accessibility and equity—by properly valuing the differences in our parks and working to ensure that citizens have access to the best that our parks offer—even if they cannot reach them by foot (or cannot walk at all, such as the many disabled citizens who are also poorly served by an exclusive focus on walkability).

As stated in the Plan's Frequently Asked Questions, "a goal in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan is to consider access to our parks by transit, bicycle and on foot when acquiring, siting and designing new park facilities or improving existing ones." While I certainly wish that everyone lived within walking distance of biodiverse open spaces, the Comp Plan's broader definition of access is the one more likely to ensure actual equity. Accordingly, I would like to urge SPR to include transit, bicycle, and ADA access in their analyses, and figure out creative ways to work with community centers to facilitate citizen access to large open spaces, parks that may not be within walking distance of the people who most need them. And while we are acquiring new spaces, let us be vigilant about protecting the open space that we already have: once lost to "development", it can never be replaced.

- I support the use of walkability, equity, and the approved urban village growth strategy as a basis for evaluating and measuring the need for additional parks resource and functioning as an allocation tool. This approach is consistent with that of the newly approved 2035 Comprehensive plan for the City. I have attached a copy of written comments provide at the September 16, 2016 public hearing held by the Parks, Seattle Center, Libraries and Waterfront Committee on the draft Community Center Strategic Plan 2016. Comment #10 relates to the service area Standard for Community Centers which Lake City has an issue with the current standard.

*Another issue I raised was the use of the 2010 census data which has now become really outdated to describe what is happening in Seattle neighborhoods given the changes in demographics. The 2016 Seattle Recreation Demand Study used updated data collected in 2013 as part of the American Community Survey (ACS). This study is a good source for knowing what park and recreational resources people use the most as of 2015.*

*Lack of available land and increasing demand for development is placing greater need to use the planning and development process and partnering in identifying park and recreation needs and to provide an opportunity to obtain needed open space by allowing higher densities in certain situations that is supported by the local neighborhoods.*

*The current 6 Year Park District budget makes reasonable allowances for needed additional major maintenance work in 2017 (\$18,673,734, \$1,107,000 for the Aquarium and \$1,845,000); and needed new park space and development in 2017 (\$2,050,000 for land which has been matched by the County and \$7,840,302 for development). The Park District Budget has a major short fall for replacing aging buildings in the Parks system with only \$3,072,171 for community center renovation and development projects which includes Community Center Major Maintained Projects (major maintenance projects should be funded out of the larger allocation provided for that purpose). I have attached a recommendation to the Park District Board Commissioners provided on November 21, 2016 suggesting that they create a dedicated allocation for new building replacement that would have generated over 7.5 million dollars per year. No action was taken on this recommendation*

*What is the current approval process for Real Estate Excise Funds and Cumulative Reserve Sub account? There is huge amount of funds allocated to parks reflected in the following years allocation per the Mayor's recommended 2017-2022 Capital Improvements Plan: 2016-\$29.861 million; 2017-\$34,139 million; 2018-\$37.593 million (highest allocation) and 2019 which falls off to 13.864 million.*

- *I want to make a comment about the data used for Georgetown showing the residential cores as having the lowest population density in the entire city. I question how this data was correlated and the potential it has to paint a picture of 'nobody lives in Georgetown'. Isn't our residential neighborhood just as densely populated as a similar number of blocks of Beacon Hill or South Park? We have continuous blocks lined with houses, apartment buildings and townhouses at the same density as other surrounding neighborhoods, don't we? I suspect this is caused by the adjacency of the residential zones to the commercial/industrial lands that dominates the residential area's data. I believe a more detailed data set looking at Georgetown's neighborhood planning area would paint a more realistic picture of this area's population density. I wouldn't want Georgetown to get left out of planning for parks and open space because of the belief that there is <1% density in our residential neighborhood.*

*Also, take a look at employee density and access to open space. There is a tremendous gap in access to open space for a huge number of people who work in District 2's industrially zoned areas. Perhaps an employee density overlay could be a useful gap analysis tool.*





**GROUNDSWELL NW**  
Creating Community Parks & Habitat

1.17.16

Addressees: Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle City Council  
Re: 2017 Parks Development and Gap Analysis Update  
Dear: 2017 Seattle Parks Development Plan Team

I am writing on behalf of Groundswell NW in reference to and in support of the 2017 Parks Development Plan. We appreciate being included in the 12/9/16 focus group and are encouraged to see a multi-layered approach to identify gaps and opportunities for Seattle parks, open space and habitat.

Upon review of the plan, we believe that overall goals and policies presented meet the goals and mission of the NW Seattle community which Groundswell NW represents, and we request that you take into consideration the following observations and recommendations in order to make this plan stronger.

1. Although it is a step in the right direction to map walkability to parks by taking entrance access into consideration, the story map should also reflect how people actually move about. Busy streets, signage, railroad tracks, private property, topography, and pedestrian facilities like sidewalks and lighting, affect how people access places.
2. We appreciate the inclusion of non-SPR parks and institutions as opportunities, however we highly recommend not including schools in your analysis, because public access to these facilities is not reliable. Most are not available during school hours and many facilities do not allow access to playfields or play areas off school hours.
3. Include a public transportation layer (bus and light rail) to not only inform open space gaps within the current transportation network, but to also identify where there are public transportation gaps to existing open space. For example, Golden Gardens Park has the potential to serve a very large population, however, only for those in walking, driving or bicycling distance. There is no public transportation available to this park.
4. Add layers to the plan that are contributed by the community to inform opportunities. For example, we would like to have the [2015 Groundswell NW Ballard Open Space Plan Inventory data](#) included.
5. Not all open space should be treated equally when identifying open space gaps, e.g. a ball field serves a broad geographic population, a pocket park serves a more local population, whereas a natural habitat serves the people who visit and the creatures who live there.
6. With regards to using the equity layer by geography, we are concerned that this lens may not be the right measurement to use when identifying gaps in open space. E.g. the University District shows a very high poverty level, which is most likely due to the high student population, which is transient. We urge the Department to apply the measures used by King County's Equity and Social Justice Initiative or the City's Race and Social Justice efforts.
7. Map existing natural habitat and tree canopy, including private land, for preservation and enhancement opportunities.
8. With only \$2 million available per year to purchase new open space or natural habitat land, this

plan is not showing a commitment to taking up opportunities when they arise. Given the projected increase in population, Groundswell NW urges the Department to prioritize the acquisition of new land, even if it cannot be developed in the near future. Land costs continue to rise at a high rate, so securing land while costs are lower should be a high priority.

9. In the population density layer, you should include projected population in order to get ahead of the curve. We need to be developing for the future.
10. Give special consideration to large green space/nature area opportunities (i.e. Myers parcels), even if the walkability/access is low. There are many other benefits, including natural habitat and environment services, which should weigh into the decision when looking at potential parks of that type.
11. Address changing the use and amenities within existing parks to better service a population that has changed dramatically since the park's inception. For example, Ballard Commons Park is in the heart of a very vibrant, high-density community that would benefit from a playground and a public restroom.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to participate on the December focus group and provide comments on the 2017 Parks Development and Gap Analysis Plan. Please contact me if you would like any further clarifications. We continue to value our partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation and look forward to working with you in the New Year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Hemminger", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dawn Hemminger  
Board President, Groundswell NW  
groundswellnw@gmail.com  
206-953-3940

On behalf of fellow Groundswell NW Board Members

Frana Milan, Jan Satterthwaite, Dave Boyd, David Folweiler, Renee Dagseth, Dennis

## COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

11/10/16

SPR staff presented the draft Gap Analysis Update using the walkability modeling to the Board of Park Commissioners. Below is a summary of their comments:

- The Commissioners think it would be helpful to overlay topography and sidewalks. Susanne replies there were over 50 data layer options, but no one could access the information because the program kept crashing.
- Maintenance of parks and community center facilities - what is the plan for maintenance funding? The plan will have an inventory that could include anticipated maintenance needs in a matrix form.
- During Parks Legacy Plan process, SPR staff learned there is a huge discrepancy between pocket parks and neighborhood parks - clear from maintenance perspective it was better to acquire new park land adjacent to other parks. However, there is value in having smaller parks.
- SPR staff look at how to provide multiple uses in a piece of land, which is easier on larger pieces of land with less restraints for recreation and more efficiencies from a maintenance perspective.
- Commissioner McCaffrey mentions there are a lot of little parcels that could be used as parks; because increasing capacity is a priority. She feels there are opportunities for privately-owned open spaces. The department is looking at the next six years and how best to leverage limited funds. State grants have a variety of categories - look at categories to find opportunities for matching funds. Superintendent Aguirre adds there is economic value of parks. Real estate values increase more with small pocket parks.
- Look at different regulatory tools such as, impact fees and incentive zoning for developers.
- Using schools and other open spaces like thoroughfares (closing the streets for recreation).
- Commissioner McCaffrey mentions conservation easements which are huge with big land acquisitions. Is there an opportunity for an SPR easement on other people's properties?
- Seattle 2035 Public Engagement - when looking towards implementation - how will the meetings be advertised? Susanne responds there are five big meetings coming up and the outreach will be performed by the Department of Neighborhoods. For SPR projects, staff send out mailings but there is no funding for mailers.
- There will be focus groups with people who spoke during open space Comprehensive Plan formation.
- Marj Press serves on the Planning Commission; she wonders how this Development Plan relates to the Parks element of the Comprehensive Plan. The Parks element would have the broad goal



and long-term strategy with the shorter term strategy and implementation for land acquisition and facility in the Development Plan.

- The information in the 2011 Development Plan, the Comprehensive Plan and the Legacy Plan, will be tied into the newest iteration of the Development Plan.
- Commissioner Herrera notices the Equity tab is based on poverty and income but there is no race information; it would be great to see the intersection of poverty, income and race.
- Susanne will look into a health filter for this, especially after the great presentations tonight.
- Commissioner Byers hopes they are not zeroing out the industrial areas; Susanne says no it's just information. Some of the best parks in our system served functions that were not open spaces and more industrial.
- The vision is not limited by the \$2million a year in current Park District structure. Their goal is to anticipate needs and gaps going past the Park District cycle.

## **SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENTS ON THE SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS DEVELOPMENT PLAN & GAP ANALYSIS**

12/8/16

The Seattle Planning Commission was briefed by Susanne Rockwell of Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) on the 2017 Parks Development Plan and Gap Analysis at the December 8, 2016 Commission meeting. At this meeting, Ms. Rockwell provided an overview of the planning process and demonstrated the Gap Analysis GIS mapping tool. The Commissioners appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the Parks Development Plan and commend SPR on their efforts to create an equitable plan for Seattle's parks and open space. The Commissioners also specifically acknowledge SPR's demonstrated commitment to public involvement by making the GIS gap analysis tool available on the SPR website.

We appreciate the opportunity to discuss this plan and provide some initial feedback. The following points represent a summary of comments and recommendations by Commissioners at the December 8 meeting, as well as additional comments from our Land Use & Transportation Committee at their December meeting. Please note that these meetings did not include any official actions on this subject by the Commission.

### Relationship of the Parks Development Plan to the Comprehensive Plan

- The Parks and Open Space Element of the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan contains overarching goals and policies. The Parks Development Plan is an implementation tool for the goals and policies of the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The Parks Development Plan should be linked with the Comprehensive Plan's Growth Strategy. Include parks and open space in the process of developing indicators and monitoring progress of the Comprehensive Plan.
- A level of service for Parks and Open Space should be included in the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan includes goals and policies that are aspirational. The Parks and Open Space

element of the Plan should also include aspirational goals and policies for the citywide parks and open space system. The Parks Development Plan could reflect these aspirational goals and policies while also identifying more specific 6-year goals and acquisition priorities.

- We encourage Seattle Parks and Recreation to collaborate with the Office of Planning and Community Development and other departments in the development of a citywide open space plan. Ensure that the methodology and findings of the Parks Development Plan and Gap Analysis inform this inter-departmental effort.

#### Variety of Citywide Park and Open Space Needs

- Continue to expand the City's park holdings and open space opportunities to meet the needs of an increasing population. Place special emphasis on serving our urban centers and urban villages, the areas that are anticipated to accommodate the largest amount of growth.
- Provide access to open space and recreation activities in areas that have been traditionally underserved. Engage with community leaders to identify and develop parks, facilities, and amenities based on the specific needs and cultures of each community they serve.
- Think creatively about open space needs, especially in dense neighborhoods. Engage in inter-departmental citywide open space planning efforts to identify innovative opportunities to utilize existing land for open space and recreation.
- Use investments in park facilities and programs to reduce health disparities for all Seattle residents, especially marginalized populations, seniors, and children.

#### Metrics and Data

- We understand that SPR's intent is to gain a more accurate picture of access by measuring how people walk to a park or recreation facility. The Commission is concerned that walkability should not be the only metric used to determine the need for parks and open space investments. Walkability is a helpful measure, but does not always represent existing conditions (e.g. topography) and actual accessibility. Some parks (e.g. golf courses) that may be included in the gap analysis are very specialized and are therefore not accessible by all.
- Level of service in parks planning has evolved to include a menu of options. While some local governments and parks agencies continue to use single quantitative metrics to determine their level of service, others are using both quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess performance and plan for investments. We encourage SPR to consider incorporating the additional metrics described below to more comprehensively analyze and understand Seattle's parks and open space needs.
  - ✓ **Size and Percentage of City Land**  
The **median size of parks** and **park acreage as a percentage of a city's land area** are two additional metrics that are related to the amount of parkland. These are especially helpful to monitor park system conditions over time.

✓ **Park Pressure**

Park pressure is a lesser known, but helpful metric that refers to the **potential demand on a park**, assuming that the residents in a “parkshed” use the park closest to them. Using GIS, a Park Service Area (PSA) is defined containing all households with the given park as their closest park. The population within this PSA provides an estimate of the number of nearby potential park users. The acreage of the subject park is then used to calculate the **number of park acres available per 1,000 people within the parkshed**. Research has demonstrated that park pressure can be used to highlight racial inequities in park access, showing that people of color and low-income groups are more likely to live close to parks with higher potential park congestion.

✓ **Quantity and Variety of Park Amenities**

**Communities should regularly assess their amenities**, including playgrounds, swimming pools, sport courts and playfields, skate parks, picnic shelters, splash pads, gymnasiums, recreation centers, senior centers, restrooms, etc. To get a sense of whether a community needs more of certain amenities, it can then **compare to national, state, and/or city averages (e.g. X playgrounds per 100,000 population) and a citywide needs assessment**.

✓ **Condition of Park Amenities**

The condition or quality of park amenities is a key measure of park adequacy. **Communities should regularly assess the condition of each park’s general infrastructure and amenities**, such as walkways, parking lots, park furniture, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems, and vegetation. The condition of this infrastructure and park amenities may be rated in any way that **allows a city to determine its deferred maintenance and park improvement needs in terms of costs**.

Note: These metrics are described in more detail in the following article:

<http://losangeles.urbdezine.com/2015/11/12/park-needs-measured/>

We suggest a review of the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment as an excellent example of a parks agency incorporating many of these metrics to comprehensively measure their system needs.

More information is found here: <http://losangeles.urbdezine.com/2016/07/17/parks-recreation-needs-assessment-l-county-story/>

- The Commissioners encourage SPR to recognize the **differences between typologies** of parks and open space in the gap analysis. Different park and open space types are appropriate for a variety of various user groups and culturally-specific activities.
- The Commissioners are concerned that SPR is not using all available data in its GIS methodology. The gap analysis should **include topography as well as condition of the walkable network**, emphasizing that access to parks should be safe and manageable for all.
- A **health data layer** should be included in the GIS gap analysis to emphasize the importance of parks and open space to mental and physical health. Presentations by the University of Washington and Public Health – Seattle & King County at the November 10, 2016 Parks Board meeting demonstrated the **connections between parks, open space, and human health**. The Seattle Department of



Transportation has included health analyses in its recent modal plans, including the recent update to the Pedestrian Master Plan.

- Work with King County and other groups to incorporate **climate resiliency and sea level rise** considerations into the gap analysis.

#### Schedule and Community Outreach

- The Commissioners are concerned that SPR's timeline for development of the Parks Development Plan is too short. We recognize that a lot of work has gone into developing the project already, as well as other related documents such as SPR's Parks Legacy Plan and Recreation Demand Study. Integration of the Parks Development Plan with the inter-departmental citywide open space planning project being led by OPCD would present a broader assessment of parks and open space needs for all of Seattle's communities.
- The Commission has not had the opportunity to review the separate GIS map for analyzing the need for recreation facilities (Volume II). See our comments above related to metrics and data for Volume I. Similar metrics to those noted above should be used to evaluate the need for investments in recreational facilities.
- Work creatively with a variety of community partners in achieving SPR's citywide parks system goals.
- SPR should conduct more community outreach and hold more stakeholder meetings to identify the needs of individual neighborhoods, user groups, and under-represented communities.
- SPR should also conduct outreach to collect input from kids and youth groups.

## APPENDIX D – 2018-2023 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN LIST

### – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

The Asset Management Plan List is a compendium of all known major maintenance needs for which full funding has not yet been approved. This list is the source for the adopted Capital Improvement Program projects found later in this appendix. A description of how projects are prioritized can be found in **Section 9** of this plan.

Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
ADA Compliance Projects	0	\$2,700,000	Miscellaneous Park Elements
Gas Works Park Remediation	1	\$7,982,000	Miscellaneous Park Elements
Environmental Remediation	2	\$600,000	On-going Programs
Play Area Safety Program	3	\$900,000	On-going Programs
Irrigation and Outdoor Infrastructure Program	4	\$2,300,000	On-going Programs
Roof and Building Envelope Program	5	\$2,100,000	On-going Programs
Trail Renovation Program	6	\$1,950,000	On-going Programs
Landscape Replacement Program	7	\$2,580,000	On-going Programs
Pavement Restoration Program	8	\$2,400,000	On-going Programs
Neighborhood Response Program	9	\$1,500,000	On-going Programs
Urban forestry: Forest Restoration Program	10	\$1,200,000	On-going Programs
Urban Forestry: Green Seattle Partnership Program	11	\$10,200,000	On-going Programs
Urban Forestry: Tree Replacement Program	12	\$570,000	On-going Programs
Utility Conservation Program	13	\$2,130,000	On-going Programs
Electrical System Replacement Program	14	\$900,000	On-going Programs
Boiler and Mechanical Replacement Program	15	\$1,050,000	Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning
Tennis and Basketball Court Small Scale Renovation Program	16	\$600,000	On-going Programs
Ballfield Minor Capital Improvement	17	\$300,000	On-going Programs

Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Ballfield Lighting Replacement Program	18	\$2,650,000	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Loyal Heights PF Synthetic Turf Replacement	19	\$2,100,000	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Victor Steinbrueck Parking Envelope Replacement	20	\$5,829,043	Miscellaneous Park Elements
Aquarium Major Maintenance Commitment	21	\$300,000	Aquarium Buildings
Parks Upgrade Program	22	\$4,848,000	On-going Programs
Roof Fall Arrest Protection Compliance	23	\$2,400,000	Roofing
Magnuson Park Building #31 Lead Paint Abatement	24	\$300,000	Buildings
Magnuson Park Master Plan and Site Improvements	25	\$8,025,490	Miscellaneous Park Elements
Illicit Connection Remediation	26	\$600,000	Irrigation & Drainage
Pier 58/59/60 Inspection	27	\$100,000	Saltwater Piers
Gas Works Play Barn Renovation	28	\$350,000	Miscellaneous Park Elements
Mounger Pool Deck Lighting Renovation	29	\$80,390	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Play Area Renovations Program	30	\$15,500,000	Play Areas
Jefferson CC Facility Renovation	31	\$950,000	Buildings
Mayfair Park Retaining Wall and Stair Replacement	32	\$500,000	Seawalls/Retaining Walls/Bridges
Green Lake Small Craft Center Lift Station Replacement	33	\$35,640	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Emergency Management Projects	34	\$2,041,305	Buildings
Carkeek Park Rail Overpass Replacement	35	\$194,400	Seawalls/Retaining Walls/Bridges
T1 to Fiber Conversion	36	\$5,718,000	Miscellaneous Park Elements
Burke-Gilman Trail NE Renovation	37	\$250,000	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Green Lake CC Space Renovation	38	\$3,185,258	Buildings
Camp Long Lower Bridge Replacement	39	\$426,619	Seawalls/Retaining Walls/Bridges



Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Queen Anne Bowl PF Synthetic Turf Replacement	40	\$918,540	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Magnuson Building #2 Renovation	41	\$27,630,000	Buildings
Ballard Pool Seismic Upgrade	42	\$876,052	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Seward Park Electrical Service (Phases B, C, D)	43	\$1,858,067	Infrastructure-Utilities/Service
Queen Anne CC Renovations	44	\$860,795	Buildings
Washington Park Playfield Synthetic Turf Replacement	45	\$1,683,990	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Asset Management Work Order System	46	\$2,000,000	Miscellaneous Park Elements
Golden Gardens Irrigation Upgrade	47	\$280,260	Irrigation & Drainage
Golden Gardens Park Lower Picnic Shelter Access Improvement	49	\$469,156	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Maple Wood PF Athletic Field Renovation	50	\$5,555,174	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Mt Baker Park Bathhouse Renovation/ADA Upgrade	51	\$410,355	Buildings
Georgetown PF Synthetic Turf Replacement	52	\$1,670,000	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Magnuson Building #47 Community Center Renovation	53	\$3,315,987	Buildings
Miller Playfield Synthetic Turf Replacement	54	\$1,533,961	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Delridge PF Synthetic Turf Replacement	55	\$3,220,000	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Walt Hundley Playfield Synthetic Turf Replacement	56	\$1,212,472	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Evans Pool Plaster Liner Replacement	57	\$201,216	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
West Seattle Stadium Park Athletic Field Lighting Renovation	60	\$715,111	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Dearborn Park Storm Drain Repairs	61	\$109,428	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Hunter Boulevard Irrigation & Drainage Renovation	62	\$88,637	Irrigation & Drainage
Hutchinson PG Irrigation and Drainage Renovation	63	\$1,091,652	Irrigation & Drainage

Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Lakeridge PG Field/Drainage/Irrigation Renovation	64	\$820,928	Irrigation & Drainage
Matthews Beach Park Irrigation/Drainage Renovation	65	\$724,305	Irrigation & Drainage
Mt Baker Park Bathhouse Sewer Replacement	66	\$186,555	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Pratt Park Drainage Improvements	67	\$133,735	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Pritchard Island Beach Irrigation & Drainage Upgrade	68	\$223,641	Irrigation & Drainage
Rainier PF Drainage Renovation	69	\$301,185	Irrigation & Drainage
Southwest Pool Deck/Walk/Ramp Renovation	70	\$193,298	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Garfield PF Synthetic Turf Infield Replacement	71	\$900,000	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Genesee PF #1 Synthetic Turf Replacement	72	\$1,131,000	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Genesee PF #2 Synthetic Turf Replacement	73	\$2,200,000	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Virgil Flaim Park Irrigation Renovation	74	\$293,159	Irrigation & Drainage
Jefferson Park PF Synthetic Turf Replacement	75	\$2,296,350	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Lakewood PG Retaining Wall Replacement	76	\$75,000	Seawalls/Retaining Walls/Bridges
Discovery Park Historical Building Painting Phase 2	77	\$499,030	Buildings
Magnuson Park Tower Comfort Station Renovation	78	\$980,100	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses
Adm Building Boiler Replacement	79	\$346,250	Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning
Southwest Pool Clerestory Window Replacement	80	\$169,766	Buildings
Southwest Pool Locker Room Renovation	81	\$65,508	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Southwest Pool Spa Hardware Replacement	82	\$151,370	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Evers Pool Structural Renovations Phase 2	83	\$931,741	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Comfort Station and Shelterhouse Renovations	84	\$2,400,000	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses

Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Ballard Pool Electrical System Renovation	85	\$93,150	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Evans Pool Building Renovation	86	\$597,392	Aquatic Facilities
Evans Pool Natatorium Deck Repair	87	\$41,703	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Evans Pool Wall Vapor Barrier Installation	88	\$78,193	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Amy Yee Tennis Center Heating System Renovation	89	\$500,000	Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning
Green Lake Park Bathhouse Theater Electrical	90	\$319,965	Infrastructure-Utilities/Service
Leschi Moorage North Pile and Float Replacement	91	\$3,376,000	Aquatic Facilities
Leschi Moorage South Pile and Float Replacement	92	\$2,574,000	Aquatic Facilities
Camp Long Improvements Study	93	\$50,000	Buildings
Mt Baker Park Rowing and Sailing Bulkhead Reinforcement	94	\$356,735	Seawalls/Retaining Walls/Bridges
Seward Park Bathhouse Renovation	95	\$437,712	Buildings
Stan Sayres Boat Ramp Renovation	96	\$273,570	Aquatic Facilities
Volunteer Park Cottage Renovation	97	\$547,139	Buildings
W Queen Anne PF Athletic Field Conversion & ADA	98	\$5,124,000	Athletic Fields & Facilities
W Queen Anne PF Path Repaving	99	\$43,771	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Highland Park PG Tennis Court Renovation	100	\$85,408	Courts
Hutchinson PG Tennis Court Renovation	101	\$95,796	Courts
Jose Rizal Park Comfort Station Upgrade	102	\$50,000	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses
Lakeridge PG Basketball Court Renovation	103	\$83,100	Courts
Lakewood PG Comfort Station Renovation	104	\$350,000	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses
Mt Baker Park Tennis Court Renovation	105	\$69,250	Courts
Othello PG Shelterhouse Renovation	106	\$100,000	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses



Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Pritchard Island Beach Parking Lot Repaving	107	\$184,667	Infrastructure-Parking Lots
Rainier Beach PF Pathway Renovation	108	\$23,083	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Sandel PG Shelterhouse Sewer/Drainage Renovation	109	\$103,875	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Westcrest Park Comfort Station Replacement	110	\$560,054	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses
Ballard Pool Roof Major Maintenance	112	\$108,916	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Evers Pool Interior Renovation	113	\$53,533	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Evers Pool Paving Joints Resealant	114	\$1,100,436	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Magnuson Building #12 Stabilization	115	\$291,600	Buildings
Queen Anne Pool Acoustic Decking Replacement	116	\$162,220	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Queen Anne Pool Exterior Wall Repair	117	\$74,947	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Queen Anne Pool Roof Replacement	118	\$2,161,891	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Reclaimed Property Renovation	119	\$300,000	Miscellaneous Park Elements
Loyal Heights CC Space Renovation	120	\$1,966,055	Buildings
Dahl PF Shelterhouse Renovation/ADA Upgrade	121	\$150,000	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses
17th Ave Centerstrip Irrigation/Drainage Upgrade	122	\$163,048	Irrigation & Drainage
Alki PG Irrigation and Drainage Renovation	123	\$547,139	Irrigation & Drainage
Amy Yee Tennis Center Exterior Painting	124	\$437,712	Buildings
Olmsted Parks and Boulevards Landscape Restoration	125	\$3,199,646	Forest, Landscape, & Trail Restoration
Colman Park Drainage Renovation	126	\$162,395	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Colman Pool Exterior Painting	127	\$76,600	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Colman Pool Wind Wall and Sidewalk Repairs	128	\$103,956	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Condon Way Centerstrip Irrigation/Drainage Upgrade	129	\$126,936	Irrigation & Drainage

Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Cowen Park Irrigation and Drainage	130	\$323,907	Irrigation & Drainage
Denny Blaine Park Irrigation System Replacement	131	\$122,559	Irrigation & Drainage
Discovery Park Lighthouse Garage Renovation	132	\$93,014	Buildings
Queen Anne Community Center Space Renovation	133	\$2,085,089	Buildings
Gas Works Park Comfort Station Sewer Line Replacement	134	\$94,108	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Gas Works Park Drainage System Upgrade	135	\$90,825	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Gerber Park Irrigation & Drainage Upgrade	136	\$55,808	Irrigation & Drainage
Green Lake Park Boat Rental Water Line Repair	137	\$36,174	Infrastructure-Utilities/Service
Green Lake Park Irrigation & Drainage Upgrade	138	\$1,410,525	Irrigation & Drainage
Green Lake Park Pitch & Putt Drainage Renovation	139	\$172,896	Irrigation & Drainage
Japanese Garden Irrigation & Drainage Replacement	140	\$512,052	Irrigation & Drainage
Lakewood Moorage Pole Lighting Replacement	141	\$150,000	Aquatic Facilities
Leschi Moorage North Lighting Replacement	142	\$150,000	Aquatic Facilities
Leschi Park Irrigation Replacement and Drainage	143	\$480,881	Irrigation & Drainage
Lincoln Park Headquarters Sewer Replacement	144	\$74,411	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Lincoln Park Sewer and Drainage Rehabilitation	145	\$1,232,438	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Loyal Heights PF Sewer and Drainage Rehabilitation	146	\$218,856	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Madrona Dance Studio ADA Renovation	147	\$861,075	Buildings
Madrona Park Irrigation System Conversion	148	\$140,478	Irrigation & Drainage
Magnolia Park Irrigation and Drainage Upgrade	149	\$762,726	Irrigation & Drainage
Magnuson Park Sanitary Sewers Renovation	150	\$1,209,270	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Magnuson Water Main Replacement	151	\$1,185,032	Infrastructure-Utilities/Service

Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Ravenna Park Irrigation and Drainage Upgrade	152	\$665,776	Irrigation & Drainage
Lower Woodland PF #2 Synthetic Turf Replacement	153	\$1,543,147	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Lower Woodland PF #7 Synthetic Turf Replacement	154	\$1,157,360	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Magnuson Park Athletic Fields Synthetic Turf Replacement	155	\$7,224,317	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Sacajawea PG Irrigation and Drainage Renovation	156	\$459,240	Infrastructure-Utilities/Service
Seward Park Drainage Rehabilitation	157	\$381,363	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Seward Park Irrigation and Drainage Renovation	158	\$1,004,586	Irrigation & Drainage
Seward Park South Beach Comfort Station Upgrade	159	\$400,000	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses
Soundview Terrace Irrigation Replacement	160	\$103,392	Irrigation & Drainage
Viewridge PF Athletic Field Irrigation Renovation	161	\$1,656,949	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Volunteer Park Irrigation Renovation	162	\$118,094	Irrigation & Drainage
W Magnolia PF North Athletic Field Renovation	163	\$555,083	Athletic Fields & Facilities
W Queen Anne PF Sewer Manhole Installation	164	\$33,471	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Wallingford PF Shelterhouse ADA Improvements	165	\$250,000	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses
Woodland Park Central Sewer Replacement	166	\$153,504	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Magnuson Building #11 Stormwater Renovation	167	\$300,000	Irrigation & Drainage
Golden Gardens Parking Lot Renovation	168	\$25,000	Infrastructure-Parking Lots
Montlake Playfield Synthetic Turf Replacement	169	\$964,467	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Arboretum East Foster Island Road Repair	170	\$700,000	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Ballard Pool Locker Room Plumbing Replacement	171	\$121,095	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Meadowbrook Pool Exterior Paving Replacement	172	\$225,237	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Meadowbrook Pool Locker Room Roof Replacement	173	\$69,365	Roofing



Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Meadowbrook Pool Roof and Siding Replacement	174	\$2,068,463	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Queen Anne Pool Mechanical Upgrade	175	\$740,309	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Dahl PF Athletic Field Irrigation Renovation	176	\$2,900,000	Athletic Fields & Facilities
W Magnolia PF South Athletic Field Renovation	177	\$5,773,000	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Adm Building Domestic Water Replacement	178	\$288,542	Buildings
Alki Beach Park 57th St. Comfort Station Renovation	179	\$161,583	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses
Alki Beach Park Seawall Promenade Paving	180	\$182,358	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Armeni Boat Ramp Float Stabilization	181	\$156,967	Aquatic Facilities
Bayview PG Comfort Station Upgrade	182	\$150,000	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses
Bayview PG Fence Repairs	183	\$66,942	Infrastructure-Fencing
Burke-Gilman PG Pathway Renovation	184	\$40,000	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Lakewood Moorage Pier Maintenance	185	\$1,955,000	Aquatic Facilities
Magnolia Park Tennis Court Renovation	186	\$132,729	Courts
Magnuson Building #138 Renovation	187	\$940,416	Buildings
Magnuson Building #138 Roof Replacement	188	\$800,000	Roofing
Magnuson Building #19, #54, #55 Repair	189	\$190,438	Buildings
North Service Shops Seismic Improvements	190	\$792,913	Buildings
Peppi's PG Shelterhouse Renovation	191	\$100,000	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses
Prentis Frazier Park Basketball Court Upgrade	192	\$43,858	Courts
Queen Anne Bowl PF Track Surface Replacement	193	\$78,483	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Ravenna Park Comfort Station Sewer Replacement	194	\$98,104	Infrastructure-Sanitary Sewer & Storm
Ravenna Park Tennis Court Renovations	195	\$155,813	Courts

Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Seward Park Fish Hatchery Mix/Grind Building Renovation	196	\$110,800	Buildings
Sunnyside Avenue North Boat Ramp Maintenance	197	\$23,083	Aquatic Facilities
Terry Pettus Park Wall/Piling Replacement	198	\$600,000	Aquatic Facilities
West Central District Hdqtrs Parking Lot Paving	199	\$123,496	Infrastructure-Parking Lots
West Seattle Stadium Exterior Painting	200	\$63,479	Miscellaneous Park Elements
Brighton PF Tennis Court Renovation	201	\$51,938	Courts
Cleveland PF Athletic Field Renovation	202	\$115,417	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Dearborn Park Fence	203	\$23,083	Infrastructure-Fencing
Highland Park PG Athletic Field #2 Fencing	204	\$108,075	Infrastructure-Fencing
Hutchinson PG Fence Rehabilitation	205	\$134,203	Infrastructure-Fencing
Rainier Beach PF Fence Fabric Replacement	206	\$125,890	Infrastructure-Fencing
Rainier Beach PF Soccer Field Renovation	207	\$60,570	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Roxhill Park Fence Replacement	208	\$20,190	Infrastructure-Fencing
Van Asselt Gym	209	\$1,914,680	Buildings
Walt Hundley PF Comfort Station Renovation	210	\$83,458	Comfort Stations & Shelterhouses
Beacon Bluff Community Garden Path	211	\$86,563	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Ballard PG Athletic Field Renovation	212	\$138,500	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Ballard Pool Floor/Locker/Bench Renovation	213	\$31,904	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Bayview PG Athletic Field Renovation	214	\$92,333	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Bitter Lake PF Athletic Fields	215	\$230,834	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Bitter Lake PF Tennis Court Renovation	216	\$115,417	Courts
City Wide Athletic Office Renovation/ADA Upgrade	217	\$46,167	Buildings

Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Colman Pool Floor/Locker/Bench Renovation	218	\$79,638	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Cowen Park Tennis/Basketball Court Renovation	219	\$250,000	Courts
East Queen Anne PG Athletic Field Renovation	220	\$226,215	Irrigation & Drainage
Freeway Park Naramore Fountain Renovation	221	\$258,905	Miscellaneous Park Elements
Green Lake Park Aqua Theater Storage Area Renovation	222	\$112,826	Aquatic Facilities
Green Lake Park Small Craft Center Launch House Replacement	223	\$535,940	Aquatic Facilities
Hiawatha PF Synthetic Turf Replacement	224	\$2,008,540	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Interbay PF Fence Replacement	225	\$174,583	Infrastructure-Fencing
Jefferson Bowling Green (West) Renovation	226	\$150,000	Forest, Landscape, & Trail Restoration
Lake Washington Blvd (Central) Path Repaving	227	\$100,000	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Leschi Moorage North Comfort Station Renovation	228	\$100,000	Aquatic Facilities
Leschi North Building Exterior Renovation	229	\$75,000	Aquatic Facilities
Leschi Park Yesler Bridge Repair	230	\$100,000	Seawalls/Retaining Walls/Bridges
Madison Pool Warm Pool	231	\$400,000	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
Magnuson Building #312 Renovation	232	\$59,382	Buildings
Magnuson Park Beach Re-nourishment	233	\$67,695	Aquatic Facilities
Magnuson Park Lakeshore Drive Parking Renovation	234	\$100,000	Infrastructure-Parking Lots
Magnuson Park Road and Parking Lot Renovation	235	\$150,000	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Maple Leaf PG Athletic Field Renovation	236	\$1,582,005	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Evers Pool Locker Room Renovation	237	\$2,561,625	Swimming Pool/Natatorium
O.O. Denny Park Parking Lot Renovation	238	\$107,188	Infrastructure-Parking Lots
Pigeon Point Park Fence Replacement	239	\$13,064	Infrastructure-Fencing



Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Queen Anne Bowl PF Fence Fabric Replacement	240	\$59,382	Infrastructure-Fencing
Seacrest Park Beach Renourishment	241	\$81,947	Aquatic Facilities
Seward Park Fish Hatchery North Residence Renovation	242	\$40,000	Buildings
Seward Park Fish Hatchery S. Residence Renovation	243	\$80,000	Buildings
Volunteer Park Service Yard Stormwater Management	244	\$178,146	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Waterfront Park - Pier 58 Redevelopment	245	\$2,840,000	Saltwater Piers
Woodland Park NE 50th St. Parking Lot Renovation	246	\$80,000	Infrastructure-Parking Lots
Magnuson Building #11 Circulation Renovation	247	\$275,000	Infrastructure-Roads, Paths, Trails
Magnuson Park Athletic Field 12 Conversion	248	\$5,613,300	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Magnuson Park Field 13 Development	249	\$5,613,300	Athletic Fields & Facilities
Green lake Park Bathhouse Theater Comfort Station Renovation	250	\$358,320	Buildings
Lower Woodland Playfield E Parking Lot Study	251	\$25,000	Infrastructure-Parking Lots
Pier 62/63 Replacement	252	\$25,000,000	Saltwater Piers
Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center Renovation Study	253	\$45,000	Buildings
Alki Community Center Renovation Study	254	\$45,000	Buildings
Ballard Community Center Renovation Study	255	\$45,000	Buildings
Central Waterfront Redevelopment	256	\$22,286,000	Saltwater Piers
West Seattle Stadium Improvements	257	\$500,000	Athletic Fields & Facilities
HVAC Duct Cleaning - Large Buildings	258	\$210,000	On-going Programs
Non-Parks Operated Buildings' Renovation	259	\$10,000,000	Buildings
Aquarium Pier 59 Piling Replacement Debt Service	Debt Service	\$10,280,000 <sup>1</sup>	Saltwater Piers

<sup>1</sup> Based on 6-year period from 2017-2021

Project Title	2018-2023 Priority	Current Estimate	Category
Debt Service	Debt Service	\$14,342,570	Miscellaneous Park Elements
Hubbard Homestead Park Acquisition Debt	Debt Service	\$1,453,000	Miscellaneous Park Elements
<b>263 Projects Total</b>		<b>\$350,966,167</b>	

## APPENDIX D – ADOPTED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2017-2022

The projects listed below come from the 2017-2022 adopted CIP, which is based upon the Asset Management Plan list of all capital needs, outlined in the previous chart. Funding that was allocated prior to 2018, or carryover funds for a particular project are not included here.

Project Title	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
14th Avenue NW Park Boulevard Development (NW 58th to NW 62nd)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Activating and Connecting to Greenways	\$ 210,000	\$ 215,000	\$ 221,000	\$ 226,000	\$ 231,000
ADA Compliance - Parks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Aquarium - Pier 59 Piling Replacement and Aquarium Redevelopment Debt Service	\$ 1,718,000	\$ 1,714,000	\$ 1,708,000	\$ 1,714,000	\$ 1,712,000
Aquarium Expansion	\$ 2,370,000	\$ 4,260,000	\$ 7,500,000	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 6,620,000
Aquarium Major Maintenance	\$ 1,135,000	\$ 1,163,000	\$ 1,192,000	\$ 1,222,000	\$ 1,252,000
Arboretum Waterfront Trail Renovation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Athletic Field Improvements	\$ 1,866,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000
Ballfield Lighting Replacement Program	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Ballfields - Minor Capital Improvements	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Beach Restoration Program	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Boat Moorage Restoration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Boiler and Mechanical System Replacement Program	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000
Bryant Site Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Comfort Station Renovations	\$ 660,000	\$ 660,000	\$ 660,000	\$ 660,000	\$ 660,000
Community Center Rehabilitation & Development	\$ 3,484,000	\$ 3,572,000	\$ 3,660,000	\$ 3,751,000	\$ 3,846,000
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Danny Woo Improvements	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Delridge Playfield Synthetic Turf Resurfacing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,321,000	\$ -	\$ -

Develop 14 New Parks at Land-Banked Sites	\$ 4,805,000	\$ 2,892,000	\$ 407,000	\$ -	\$ -
Donations- Green Space	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
East John Street Open Space Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Electrical System Replacement Program	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
Emma Schmitz Sea Wall Replacement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Emma Schmitz Sea Wall Replacement-2008 Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Environmental Remediation Program	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Garfield Playfield Infield Synthetic Turf Resurfacing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 618,000	\$ -	\$ -
Gas Works Park - Remediation	\$ 790,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 420,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Gas Works Park Play Area Renovation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Genesee Playfield #1 Synthetic Turf Resurfacing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,521,000	\$ -	\$ -
Genesee Playfield #2 Synthetic Turf Resurfacing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,613,000	\$ -	\$ -
Georgetown Playfield Turf Replacement	\$ -	\$ 2,035,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Golf - Capital Improvements	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Golf Master Plan Implementation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Green Lake CC - Evans Pool Roof Replacement & Solar Hot Water	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Green Lake Community Center Electrical and Mechanical Renovation-2008 Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Green Space Acquisitions-2008 Parks Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Hiawatha Community Center Renovation-2008 Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Hiawatha Playfield Synthetic Turf Resurfacing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,703,000	\$ -	\$ -
Highland Park Playground Renovation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Hubbard Homestead Park (Northgate) Acquisition- Debt Service	\$ 234,000	\$ 221,000	\$ 224,000	\$ 221,000	\$ 218,000
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
HVAC System Duct Cleaning Program - Large Buildings	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Improve Dog Off-Leash Areas	\$ 112,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 117,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 123,000



Irrigation Replacement and Outdoor Infrastructure Program	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000
Jefferson Park PF Synthetic Turf Resurfacing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,407,000
Lake City Community Center Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lake Union Park Remediation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lake Union Park Walkway Renovations-2008 Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Landscape Restoration Program	\$ 430,000	\$ 430,000	\$ 430,000	\$ 430,000	\$ 430,000
Lower Woodland Park Playfield #2 Synthetic Turf Replacement	\$ -	\$ 1,977,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lower Woodland Park Playfield #7 Synthetic Turf Replacement	\$ -	\$ 1,483,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loyal Heights Community Center Renovation	\$ 1,671,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loyal Heights Playfield Turf Replacement	\$ 2,385,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Magnuson Park (5 Fields) Synthetic Turf Replacement	\$ -	\$ 4,628,000	\$ 4,628,000	\$ -	\$ -
Magnuson Park Building #406 Roof Replacement-2008 Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Major Maintenance Backlog and Asset Management	\$18,819,000	\$19,289,000	\$ 19,771,000	\$ 20,265,000	\$ 20,772,000
Major Parks- 2008 Parks Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Major Projects Challenge Fund	\$ 1,681,000	\$ 1,723,000	\$ 1,766,000	\$ 1,810,000	\$ 1,855,000
Marra-Desimone Park Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miller Playfield Synthetic Turf Replacement	\$ -	\$ 1,966,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Montlake PF Synthetic Turf Replacement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,431,000
Municipal Energy Efficiency Program - Parks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Neighborhood Capital Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Neighborhood Park Acquisitions- 2008 Parks Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds- 2008 Parks Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Neighborhood Response Program	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000

Northwest Native Canoe Center Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Opportunity Fund Acquisitions- 2008 Parks Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Opportunity Fund Development- 2008 Parks Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Park Acquisition and Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Park Land Acquisition and Leverage Fund	\$ 3,601,000	\$ 3,654,000	\$ 2,208,000	\$ 2,263,000	\$ 2,320,000
Parks Central Waterfront Piers Rehabilitation	\$15,150,000	\$18,616,000	\$ 30,302,000	\$ 18,420,000	\$ 5,750,000
Parks Maintenance Facility Acquisition - Debt Service	\$ 561,000	\$ 559,000	\$ 555,000	\$ 555,000	\$ 556,000
Parks Upgrade Program	\$ 808,000	\$ 808,000	\$ 808,000	\$ 808,000	\$ 808,000
Pavement Restoration Program	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
Play Area Renovations	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Play Area Safety Program	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
Puget Park - Environmental Remediation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Queen Anne Bowl Playfield Turf Replacement	\$ -	\$ 1,120,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rejuvenate Our P-Patches	\$ 210,000	\$ 215,000	\$ 231,000	\$ 237,000	\$ 243,000
Roof & Building Envelope Program	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
Saving our City Forests	\$ 2,308,000	\$ 2,365,000	\$ 2,425,000	\$ 2,486,000	\$ 2,548,000
Seattle Asian Art Museum Renovation	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Seattle Asian Art Museum Restoration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Seward Park Forest Restoration	\$ 90,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Smith Cove Park Development	\$ 2,803,000	\$ 1,950,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tennis & Basketball Court Renovation Program	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Trails Renovation Program	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
Urban Forestry - Forest Restoration Program	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Urban Forestry - Green Seattle Partnership	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,700,000
Urban Forestry - Tree Replacement	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000
Utility Conservation Program	\$ 355,000	\$ 355,000	\$ 355,000	\$ 355,000	\$ 355,000

Project Title	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
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Victor Steinbrueck Park Renovation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Victor Steinbrueck Parking Envelope	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Walt Hundley PF Synthetic Turf Replacement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,713,000	\$ -
Washington Park Arboretum Trail Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Washington Park PF Synthetic Turf Replacement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,498,000
Yesler Terrace Neighborhood Park Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Zoo Major Maintenance	\$ 1,891,000	\$ 1,938,000	\$ 1,987,000	\$ 2,037,000	\$ 2,088,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$84,377,000</b>	<b>\$88,853,000</b>	<b>\$ 99,231,000</b>	<b>\$ 75,373,000</b>	<b>\$ 66,803,000</b>



## APPENDIX D – ADDITIONAL DISCRETIONARY PROJECTS

There is currently no funding for the projects listed in the table below. This table lists additional discretionary capital projects that may be implemented during the 2017-2023 timeframe when funding becomes available, and depending on priorities at the time.

Project Type	Additional Discretionary Projects	Total Cost (2016\$)	Possible Locations
<b>Connections</b>	Linear street parks & green streets (4 new/expansions)	\$14,000,000	Bell Street Extension, Ballard Ave "Move Ballard", South Seattle TBD, Northeast TBD
	Trails and paths	\$1,450,000	5 miles TBD, citywide (50% paved; 50% soft)
	Street end improvements (8 new)	\$600,000	2 in each quadrant of City
<b>Community Centers</b>	Community centers (2 new, 1 expansion)	\$22,420,000	TBD, citywide
<b>Play Areas</b>	New play areas (5 new)	\$3,100,000	TBD, citywide
	Play area expansions (6 locations)	\$2,100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soundview PF</li> <li>• Cowen Park</li> </ul>
<b>Athletics</b>	Adult outdoor fitness equipment (10 new stations)	\$1,000,000	At least 2 in each quadrant of the city
	Sport courts (4 new)	\$1,400,000	1 court in each quadrant of the city
	Conversions to synthetic (4 fields)	\$12,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Queen Anne PF</li> <li>• West Magnolia PF</li> </ul>
	Pickleball pilot project (up to 10 sites) citywide	\$40,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 10 sites will be striped as part of the pilot project for pickleball</li> </ul>
<b>Other Park Improvements</b>	Off-leash areas (8 expansions)	\$800,000	2 in each quadrant of City
	Picnic shelters (8 new)	\$1,280,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ravenna Park • Six (6) others TBD</li> </ul>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$127,635,000</b>	