

# 4

## NEEDS ANALYSIS

This section of the PROS Plan analyzes Bremerton's park and recreation facility needs based on existing level of service, comparisons with other cities, citizen comment via requests, surveys and public meetings, and current trends in parks and recreation systems. The recommendations contained in this section will be reflected in the Capital Facilities Plan (Chapter 5) that outlines critical upgrades, improvements, and expansions.

### Level of Service

Level of service (LOS) is a term that describes the amount and quality of park and recreation facilities that are needed to serve the community at a desired and measurable standard. Determining LOS is a way to quantify local

needs and desires for parks and recreation facilities while also providing a benchmark for monitoring progress and comparing with other cities. A community can decide to lower, raise, or maintain existing LOS for each type of capital facility.

Formerly, the accepted National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) practice was to adopt a uniform national standard expressed in total parkland acreage per 1,000 of the population. Over the years agencies in urban settings have struggled with this approach, in large part due to the high density of US cities and corresponding amount of acreage needed over time to achieve the recommended standard in areas where cost of land is high. For example, Bremerton's 2007 PROS Plan proposed a development standard of 5.5 acres

of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. Applying this standard today would equate to a deficit of 112 acres of developed parkland; "developed" meaning parkland that is developed beyond a forested trail. In addition to being unattainable, this approach was lacking in that it did not take into consideration where parkland is needed or why an increase would be good for the community.



## Level of Service Standards - Comparable Cities Analysis

With NRPA backing away from the acreage per 1,000 of population standard, the 2014 PROS Plan used a comparable cities analysis (see table below) that generated distance-based standards to define a LOS for community parks and neighborhood parks. While most communities in the Northwest have developed a LOS for these two park categories, it is difficult to compare and generate a standard for regional parks, pocket parks, trails, and open space given the unique resources and needs of different communities. More discussion of these park categories will follow on pages 112-115.

Entity (Year)	Population	Neighborhood Park: Standard Size	Neighborhood Park: Service Area	Community Park: Standard Size	Community Park: Service Area Standard
NRPA* (1995)	N/A	5 - 10 acres	1/4 - 1/2 mile	30 - 50 acres	1/2 - 3 mile radius
Bremerton (2007)	35,810	1.5 - 10 acres	1/2 mile	10 - 50 acres	1 mile radius
Edmonds (2008)	39,709	Recommended 4 - 7 acres	1/2 mile	20 - 30 acres; no less than 10 acres	2 - 5 mile radius
Kirkland (2010)	48,787	.5 - 15 acres	1/4 mile	15 - 30 acres	not specified
Lacey (2010)	42,393	5 - 20 acres	1/2 - 1 mile	20 - 100 acres	2 - 3 mile radius
Longview (2009)	36,648	Recommended 7 - 15 acres	1/4 - 1/2 mile	min. 16 acres; Recommended 25+ acres	1 - 2 mile radius
Richland (2006)	48,058	3 - 5 acres	1/2 - 1 mile	20 - 50 acres	1 - 2 mile radius
Shoreline (2011)	53,007	less than 10 acres	1/2 mile	10 - 50 acres	1.5 mile radius
Bremerton (2014)	39,251	1.5 - 10 acres	1/2 mile	10 - 50 acres	2 - 5 mile radius

\*National Parks & Recreation Association - Published in *Parks Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*

As seen in the previous table, the 2014 Plan established a service standard of having a community park at least 10 acres in size within 2–5 miles driving distance and a neighborhood park of at least 1.5 acres in size within a half-mile walking distance, which equates to a 10-minute walk. This method involved defining the type of facility (e.g., neighborhood or community park) and developing a geographic radii service area around each type of facility. Analyzing walkable access to parks and open space has gained favor across the country with NRPA's 10-Minute Walk Campaign which will be discussed in more detail on page 106.

In prior plans, service areas were shown by circles of appropriate radius. But this as-the-crow-flies approximation does not reflect the realities of distances experienced while pushing a stroller or driving a car. Direct routes are often truncated by waterways, ravines, steep slopes, high-traffic arterials, and irregular street grids. The service areas shown in the following maps are intended to be more realistic and were constructed by tracing feasible routes out from appropriate areas of each park (e.g., playground for pedestrian routes, parking area for auto routes) using the application Google Earth™. Pedestrian routes could cross arterials only at traffic lights or at marked crossings in low-traffic intersections; informal shortcuts

across private or school properties were not used. To emphasize the true residential service area of each park, the feasible routes end near a residence. This constraint leads to interior gaps caused by commercial zones, schools, undeveloped land, and cemeteries, as well as odd exterior shapes resulting from the irregular street grid.

With regard to service standards of parkland distribution, school grounds in the Bremerton urban area do not play a formal role in its overall park system. While school sites may offer open fields or play equipment, daytime access is restricted by school use and limited for security concerns. Furthermore, after school scheduling places a priority on school-based athletics.

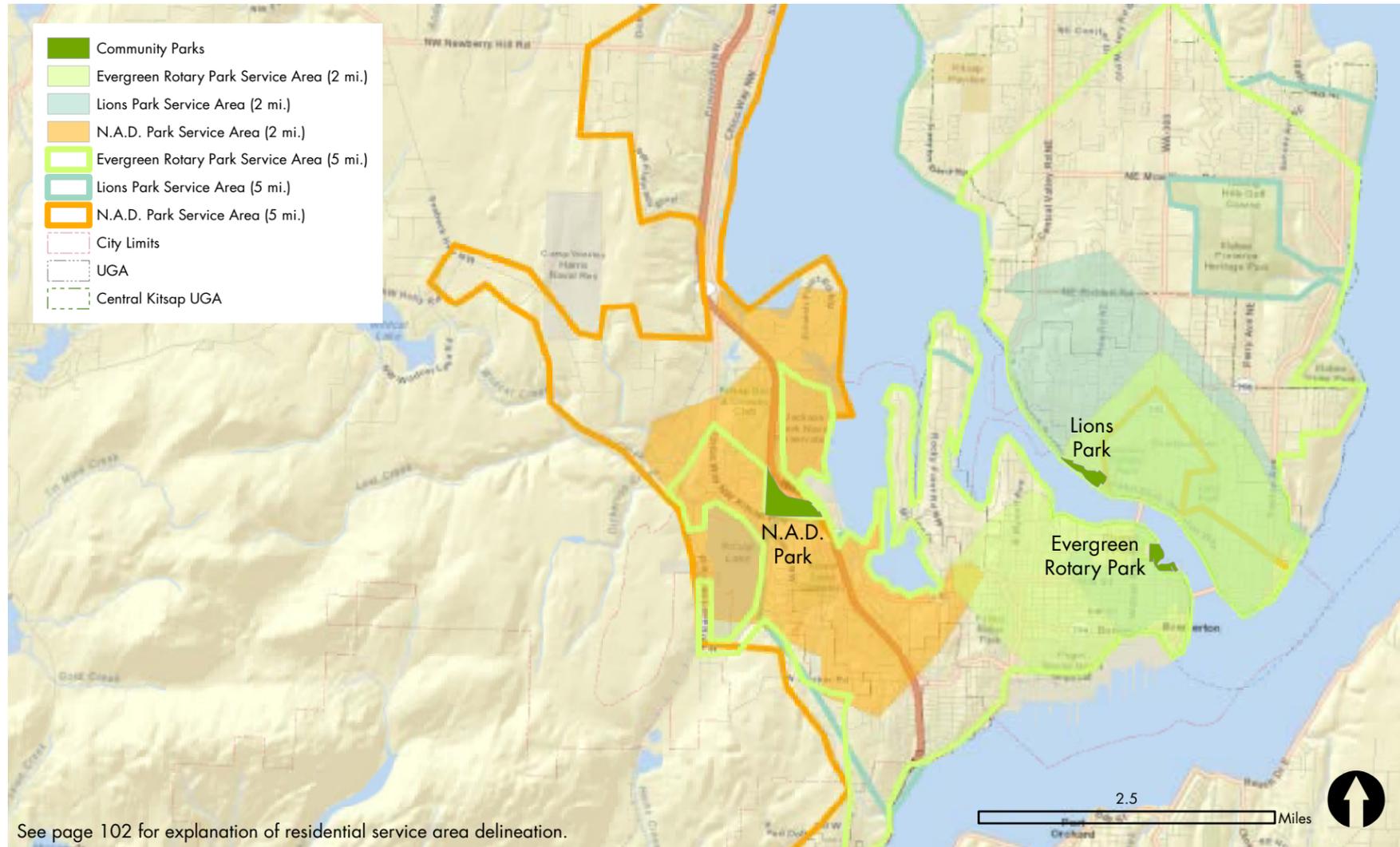
The maps on the following pages illustrate the service areas for community and neighborhood parks.

*"Parks are one of the quickest & most effective ways to build a sense of community & improve quality of life."*

*— American Planning Association, 2002  
"Community Engagement"*

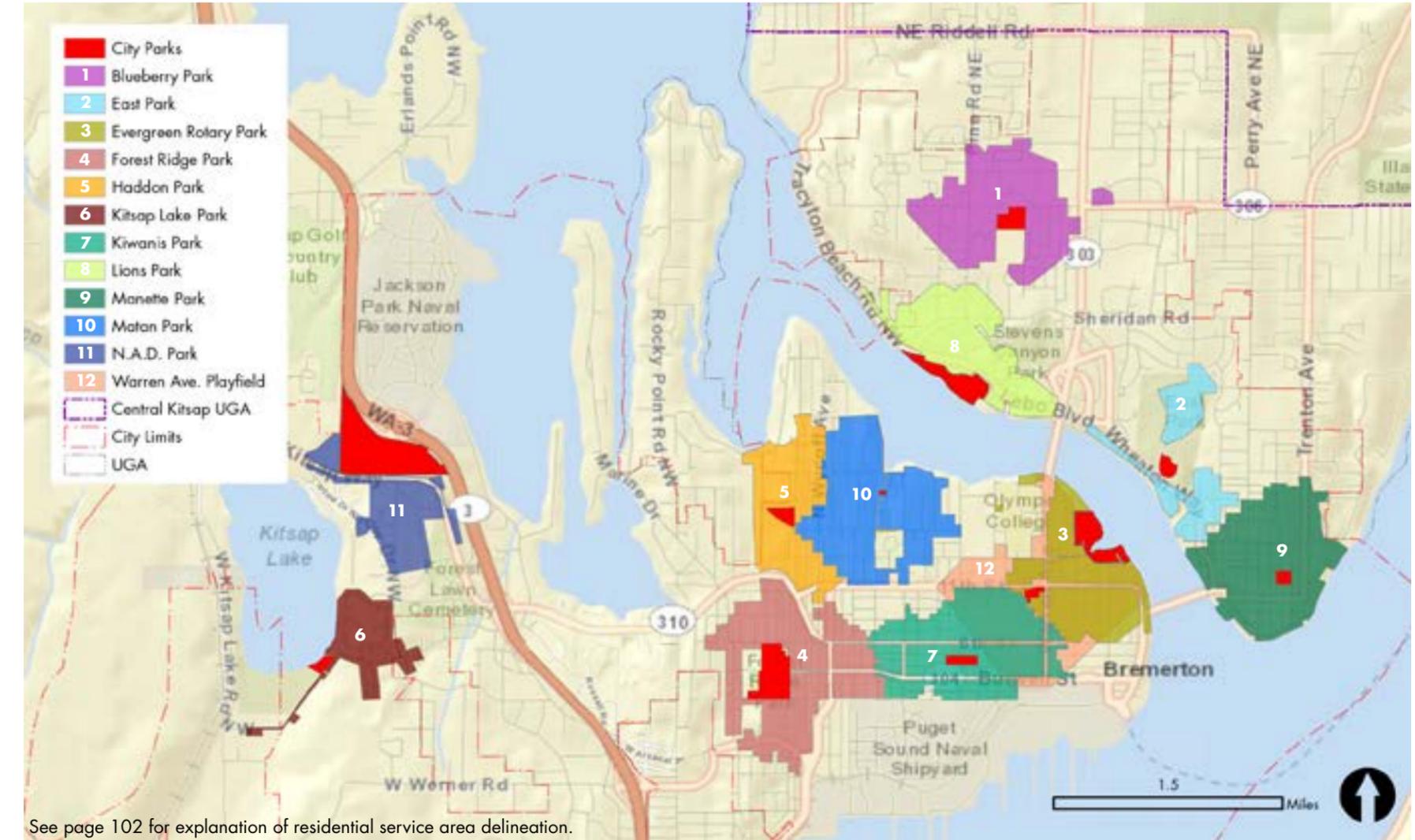


### Service Areas for Community Parks: 2–5 Mile Driving Distance



See page 102 for explanation of residential service area delineation.

### Service Areas for Neighborhood Parks: 1/2 Mile Walking Distance = 10 Min. Walk



See page 102 for explanation of residential service area delineation.

## 10-Minute Walk Campaign

In 2017, the NRPA along with The Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute, launched the 10-Minute Walk Campaign. This campaign establishes the ambitious goal that everyone in the US live within a 10-minute (or half-mile) walk of a high-quality park or green space. The campaign was built on extensive research that confirms that access to high-quality parks within a half mile of a home deliver a wide range of benefits for residents and cities. These benefits include “reducing crime rates, improving mental and physical health outcomes (e.g., depression, anxiety, and obesity), increasing city revenues,

and protecting communities from flooding, extreme temperatures, and other impacts from climate change”.

According to a recent report published by the NRPA, 85% of Americans support this effort to ensure every person has access to a great park within a 10-minute walk of their home. To date, a bipartisan group of more than 220 mayors across the country, including Bremerton’s Mayor Wheeler, have made the commitment to adopt equitable citywide policies that support achievement of the 10-Minute Walk Campaign. In addition to ensuring equitable distribution

of high-quality parks, the campaign also aims to improve streets, sidewalks, trails, and other infrastructure to ensure safe and accessible connections between parks.

**DID YOU KNOW:** Across all age groups, greater access to parks is associated with lower body mass index and reduced risk of obesity.



**DID YOU KNOW:** Across all age groups, greater access to parks is associated with reduced stress, reduced risk of depression, and greater mental health and well-being.



**DID YOU KNOW:** Children’s use of neighborhood parks increases by 400% when parks are closer to home.



**DID YOU KNOW:** A city of well-connected green spaces is more resilient to extreme environmental events, such as heat waves and extreme rainfall.



**DID YOU KNOW:** City parks and other urban natural areas produce benefits with estimated values of up to \$6.8 billion USD annually.



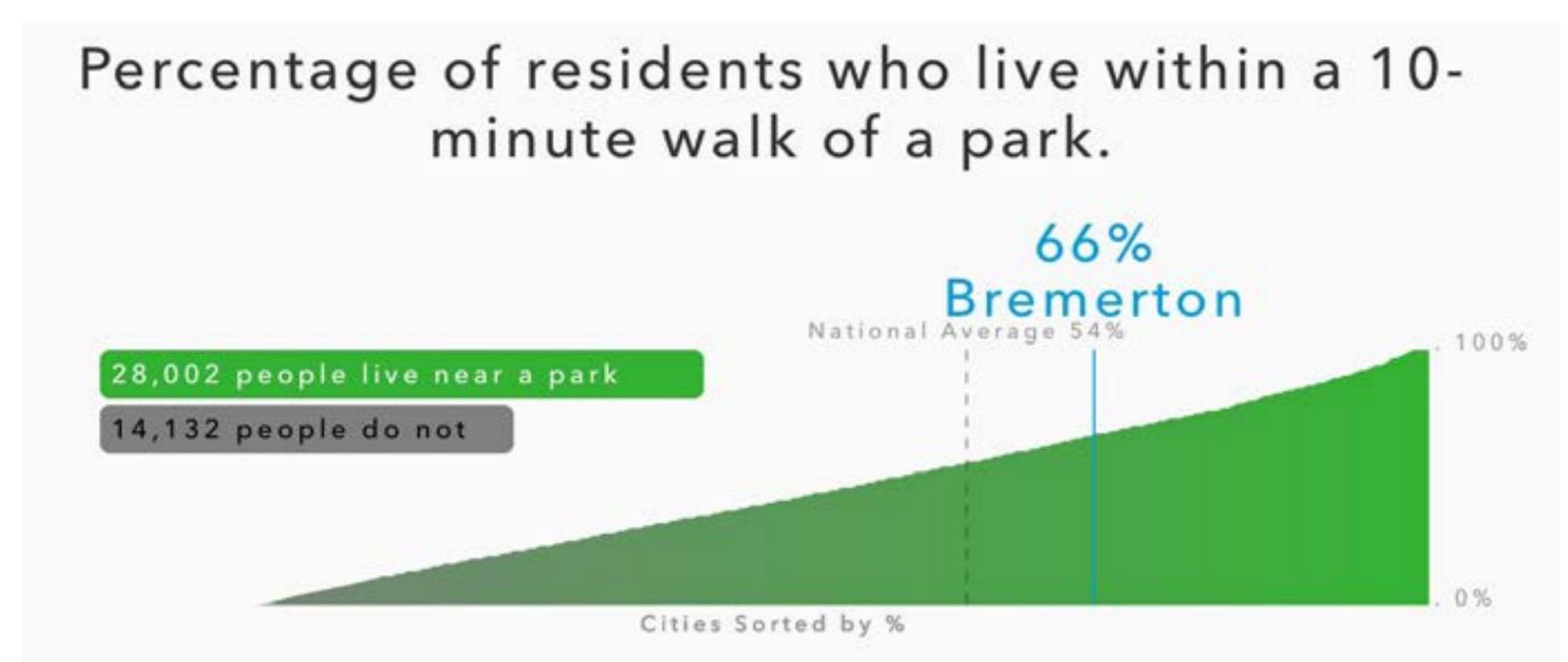
**DID YOU KNOW:** Nearly ¾ of citizens say that parks, trails, and open space are an essential component of American health care.

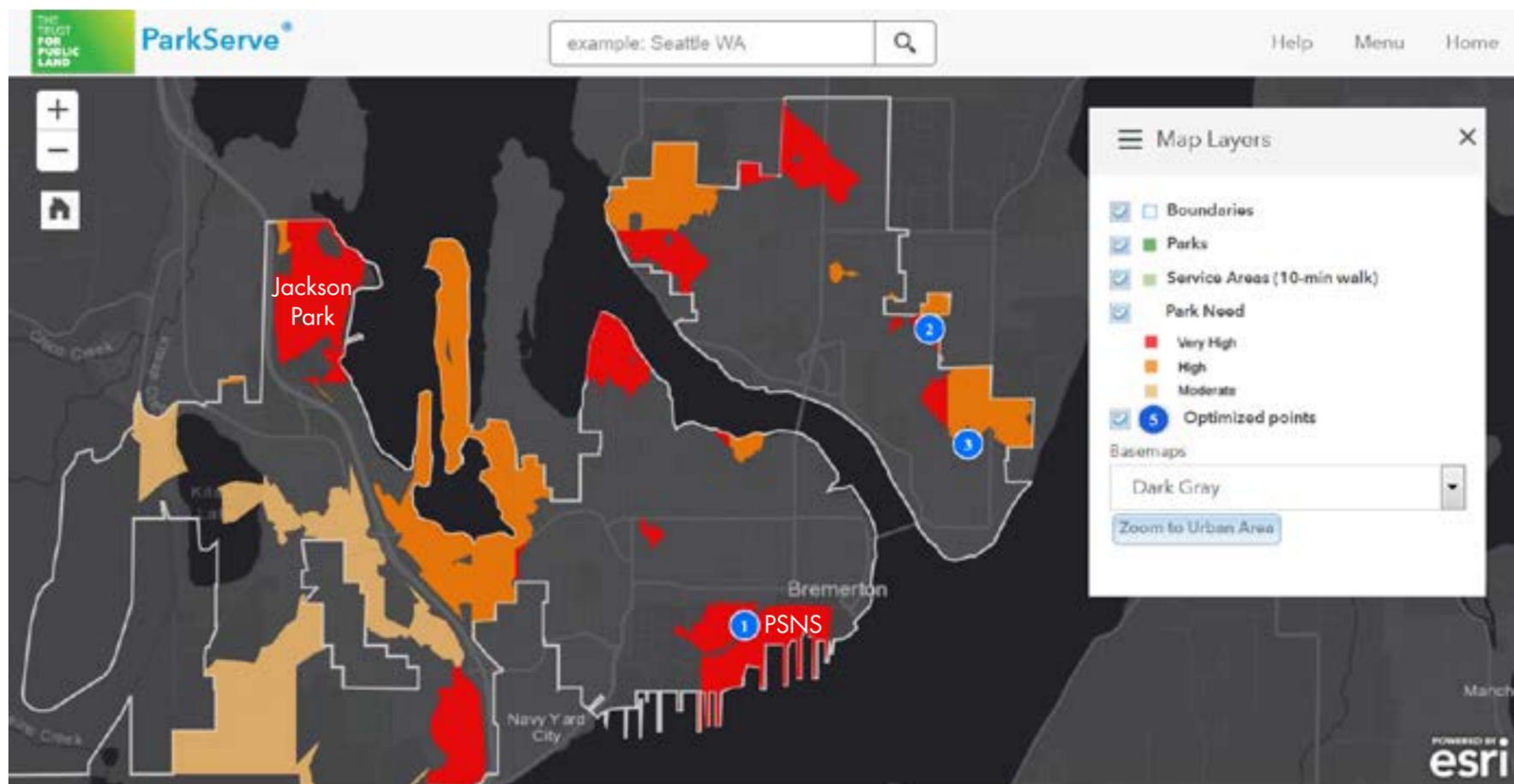


Graphics from <https://www.10minutewalk.org/>

## ParkServe® 2018

In order to further promote the 10-Minute Walk Campaign, The Trust for Public Land launched ParkServe® in 2018, a database measuring park access within a 10-minute walk for over 80% of the US population. Phase 1 is complete and currently includes a standardized database of publicly-owned parkland for 13,913 cities, towns and communities. (Database excludes golf courses, home owner association parks, cemeteries, and school yards without a joint-use agreement with local government.) The ParkServe® platform maps the 10-minute walk service areas for each park and the associated percentage of residents that live within a 10-minute walk of the park. In the national sample evaluated to date, the percentage of US residents living within a 10-minute walk of a public park ranges from 28% to 100%, with a national average of 54%. According to the current ParkServe® database Bremerton ranks above the national average at 66%, noting that 28,002 people live near a park, and 14,132 people do not.





This map was generated by ParkServe® which shows the suggested locations for new parks based on the estimated increase of residents served. The blue circles represent the optimized locations (ranked by the number of potential new residents served), where new parks are projected to make the biggest impact in underserved neighborhoods (shaded in red and orange). To date, much of the ParkServe® database was created from census tracts without local knowledge (evident by the red shading at Jackson Park Navy Housing and optimized point at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard). Phase 2 of ParkServe® will include expansion of the database to include information on park amenities, park quality, and park usage, as well as information on how well each park is providing green infrastructure and public health benefits.

## Gap Analysis

The adjacent map identifies the residential areas (shaded) that are not served within a half-mile walking distance by either a neighborhood or community park. (Community parks serve dual-purpose as neighborhood parks for nearby residences.) This analysis illustrates where the service standard is not being met due to lack of parkland within a half-mile, or 10-minute walk.

A side-by-side analysis with the ParkServe® map on the previous page illustrates similar service need gaps in East Bremerton. The expansion of multi-family residential development along the Wheaton Way corridor will increase the need for parkland in this area of the city.

Two new neighborhood park opportunities, which are illustrated on the map in lime green, currently exist on city-owned land. These include the Olympus Drive Parcel (approximately 4.5 acres) and the Tracyton Parcel (41 acres). The Tracyton Parcel is a heavily forested property with steep ravines, appropriate as a nature area with hiking trails and neighborhood park amenities (e.g. restroom, play area) concentrated at the entrance similar to Forest Ridge Park. If developed with neighborhood park amenities (e.g. restroom, shelter, playground, walking paths, etc.), these city-owned properties would help fill the need for neighborhood parks in the underserved residential areas of East Bremerton.



## NRPA's Park Metrics Comparisons

NRPA's Park Metrics allow agencies to enter data about their agencies for the current year and compare their figures to industry norms. The extensive Agency Performance Survey includes questions covering jurisdiction, agency operation, capital budget, personnel, workload, agency responsibilities, facilities, activities, and agency policies. Once the survey is complete a Performance Report can be generated with options to select various filters, including jurisdictions nearby and/or other jurisdictions of similar size. The following Performance Reports were generated comparing the Bremerton Parks & Recreation Department (BP&RD) to other jurisdictions of similar size in the country and in the Pacific Northwest region. This side-by-side comparison illustrates the following:

- BP&RD relies heavily on grants (16.3% vs. the median of 0.5–0.9%) and sponsorships (3.3% vs. the median of 1.0–2.0%).
- BP&RD ranks 5–6% below the median on general fund tax support.
- BP&RD ranks 36–59% below the median on agency's total annual non-tax revenues.
- BP&RD has a high number of parks (28 vs. the median of 20–25.5) but the average park size in acres is low (10.43 vs. the median of 19.5–21.9).
- BP&RD ranks low for its number of non-full-time employees but ranks above the median nationally for its high number of volunteers and volunteer hours.

Agency Operations		Bremerton P&R Department	94 jurisdictions in US with populations between 30k-50k			Bremerton P&R Department	8 jurisdictions in WA/OR with populations between 30-50k		
			Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile		Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
1	Agency's total annual operating expenditures	\$4,168,273	\$2,032,724	\$3,430,000	\$6,323,914	\$4,168,273	\$2,225,491	\$4,168,273	\$6,539,914
2	Percentage of agency's total operating expenditures for the following categories:								
	a. Parks	66.56	29.5	40.0	60.0	66.56	31.5	49.8	81.1
	b. Recreation	31.08	25.0	43.0	63.0	31.08	17.5	36.0	60.5
	c. Other	2.36	2.8	11.0	28.3	2.36	1.0	2.4	13.0
3	Percentage of agency's total operating expenditures for the following categories:								
	a. Personnel services	46.1%	38.5%	55.5%	65.0%	46.1%	46.6%	51.0%	71.2%
	b. Operating expenses	20.9%	30.0%	35.0%	49.3%	20.9%	25.0%	28.2%	44.0%
	c. Capital expense not in CIP	33.0%	1.0%	5.0%	10.0%	33.0%	0.3%	1.7%	15.6%
4	Percentage of agency's total operating expenditures from the following sources:								
	a. General fund tax support	57.0%	41.9%	62.0%	82.0%	57.0%	59.0%	63.0%	72.4%
	b. Dedicated levies	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	26.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	22.3%
	c. Earned/generated revenue	8.8%	10.8%	22.5%	39.3%	8.8%	12.4%	17.3%	29.0%
	d. Other dedicated taxes	14.6%	0.0%	0.3%	9.0%	14.6%	0.0%	3.0%	8.2%
	e. Sponsorships	3.3%	0.0%	1.0%	3.1%	3.3%	0.3%	2.0%	3.3%
	f. Grants	16.3%	0.0%	0.9%	4.0%	16.3%	0.0%	0.5%	4.8%
5	Agency's total annual non-tax revenues	\$366,122	\$325,170	\$903,043	\$2,236,862	\$366,122	\$355,446	\$571,143	\$2,366,164

Effectiveness		Bremerton P&R Department	94 jurisdictions in US with populations between 30k-50k			Bremerton P&R Department	8 jurisdictions in WA/OR with populations between 30-50k		
			Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile		Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
6	Operating expenditures per capita	\$102	\$55	\$89	\$157	\$102	\$58	\$102	\$182
7	Operating expenditures per acre of parkland	\$14,268	\$4,935	\$11,000	\$22,253	\$14,268	\$4,408	\$9,604	\$20,247
8	Operating expenditures per acres of parks and non-park sites	\$12,844	\$4,781	\$9,491	\$16,449	\$12,844	\$3,995	\$8,879	\$13,780
9	Acres of parks per 1,000 residents	7.12	6.1	10.3	18.1	7.12	7.5	9.6	13.4
10	Number of acres per park	10.43	13.5	21.9	32.9	10.43	11.7	19.5	30.9

Workload		Bremerton P&R Department	94 jurisdictions in US with populations between 30k-50k			Bremerton P&R Department	8 jurisdictions in WA/OR with populations between 30-50k		
			Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile		Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
11	Number of individual parks or non-park sites the department/agency maintains and/or has management responsibility over:								
	a. Total number of parks	28	12	20	26	28	19	25.5	26
	b. Total park acres	292.14	240	400	650	292.14	319.1	400	538.8
	c. Total number of non-park sites	12	2.8	5	12.3	12	5.5	7.5	8.8
	d. Total acres of non-park sites	32.4	20	75.3	157.5	32.4	19.4	53.9	83.3
	Total number of parks + non-park sites (a+c)	40	18	26	34	40	26.3	28.5	33
	Total acres of parks + non-park sites (b+d)	324.54	359.4	486	842.5	324.54	343.9	516.6	661
12	Number of acres of developed & undeveloped open space for which the dept. has management responsibility over or maintains:								
	a. Developed	191.32	133	250	450	191.32	157.6	191.3	197
	b. Undeveloped	131.38	82.8	167.4	296	131.38	131.4	203	231.3
13	Number of buildings and the square footage of the buildings operated by the agency:								
	a. Number of operated buildings	2	2	4	7.8	2	2.8	5	5.8
	b. Square footage of operated buildings	40,500	17,000	50,000	120,000	40,500	14,554	37,796	40,500

Personnel		Bremerton P&R Department	94 jurisdictions in US with populations between 30k-50k			Bremerton P&R Department	8 jurisdictions in WA/OR with populations between 30-50k		
			Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile		Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
14	Number of funded employees at your agency:								
	a. Number of full-time employees	19	14	19	33.3	19	14.5	15	29.9
	b. Number of non-full-time employees	20	21.5	75	150	20	12.5	20	107.5
	c. Total annual hours worked by non-full-time employees	11,378	10,534	34,045	66,805	11,378	9,653	11,689	28,192.5
	d. Total number of full-time equivalent employees (FTEs)	24.47	20.1	35	62.4	24.47	17.1	24.5	41.3
15	Percentage of total FTEs involved in the following operational areas:								
	a. Administration	5.5%	8.0%	15.0%	20.0%	5.5%	11.0%	16.0%	25.3%
	b. Operations/Maintenance	66.7%	33.2%	46.0%	61.3%	66.7%	27.5%	38.5%	67.8%
	c. Programmers	16.7%	16.5%	30.0%	45.0%	16.7%	12.5%	16.7%	31.5%
	d. Capital development	5.5%	0.0%	0.6%	5.0%	5.5%	0.9%	3.5%	4.8%
	e. Other	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	5.8%	5.6%	0.0%	5.6%	6.0%
16	Number of volunteers and annual hours worked by the volunteers at the agency:								
	a. Number of volunteers	325	76.3	150	325	325	250	325	532
	b. Total hours worked by volunteers	9,300	732.5	3,437.5	10,000	9,300	5,151.9	9,769	13,705.3

## Park System Discussion

The following pages discuss the challenges and needs in more detail for each park category as well as recreation programs and facilities.

### Regional and Community Parks

Regional and community parks typically are larger than 10 acres and contain a mixture of active and passive recreation opportunities including athletic facilities and walking trails.

Bremerton has one regional park (Pendergast) and three community parks (Evergreen Rotary, Lions, and N.A.D). These four parks make up 65% of the city's park systems acreage. Evergreen Rotary, Lions, and Pendergast, along with the downtown Memorial Plaza and Harborside Fountain Park, are the most heavily visited pieces of recreational real estate within Bremerton.

In recent years two community parks have been upgraded to better meet the needs of the greatest number of people. The 2011 renovation of Lions Park and 2014 inclusive playground at Evergreen Rotary Park are examples of how the addition of a waterfront loop trail and high quality playground can increase the draw of a community park to serve a large swath of the city's population.



*"I believe the City of Bremerton needs to keep parks support and budgeting as a high value in the life of our community. We too often take the easy road to city management and cut the resources that give us some of our greatest community lifts, and our best public relations. That is our parks department. Clean and well maintained parks and good family programs are needed, and wanted by our citizens."*

– Park Survey Comment, 2013

Planned improvements to Pendergast Regional Park (turfing the soccer fields, installing a new restroom near the soccer fields, overlaying the 470-stall parking lot, renovating the concession/restroom building, and installing new play equipment) will drive increased use and satisfaction with these facilities.

Distribution of regional and community parks within Bremerton is an issue that should be addressed in the long term. West Bremerton holds the city's only dog park and demand for a second dog park facility is strong. Community parks typically contain youth and adult athletic facilities. Bremerton has reduced the number of youth ballfields in its inventory with the remake of Lions and Kiwanis parks. The loss of three youth ballfields has been absorbed to some extent by the increased use and scheduling of school ballfields for youth games and practice.

## Neighborhood Parks

Bremerton has nine neighborhood parks that, combined with ten pocket parks, create the backbone of the city's park system, as they are located close to where people live. Neighborhood parks should be accessible within a half-mile walk, avoiding the need for motorized transportation. Quality neighborhood parks are essential to attracting young families to the city and to fostering investment in nearby housing stock. In recent years, Manette, Kiwanis, Matan, and Blueberry parks have all been renovated. The acreage standard for neighborhood parks in Bremerton is a minimum of 1.5 acres in size. (In many jurisdictions the minimum is 3.0 acres.) This amount of acreage allows for a mix of close-to-home activities typically including a small shelter for gatherings, playground, smaller sports court, and a lawn that often doubles as a youth athletic field.

Challenges for Bremerton's neighborhood parks include the fact that several are undersized or that available space is heavily weighted toward athletic fields. Matan Park (0.37 acres) falls shy of the neighborhood park minimum size standard, limiting recreational opportunities. Warren Avenue Park is a 1.89-acre neighborhood park; however, the bulk of its space is occupied by a crucial youth football/baseball field, leaving little space for neighborhood gatherings or

unorganized child/family play. Manette Park is another neighborhood park where youth sports fields that are more typically found in larger community parks dominate much of the available green space. Expansion of undersized neighborhood parks is recommended to better meet close-to-home recreation needs. While school grounds help to fulfill some of the needs for neighborhood outdoor recreation, aesthetic values are lower and access more restricted than in a neighborhood park setting.

*"I believe that the city should focus on creating/acquiring open spaces for each neighborhood. Creating walking and bike trails by partitioning off neighborhoods and creating family friendly common areas for play, exercise and community activities."*

– Park Survey Comment, 2013





*"Urban trails that are clearly marked and include maps for pedestrians/bicyclists should be a priority..."*

*"Find a way to connect parks with bike lanes."*

*"We really need to look at linking our existing parks with safe and attractive bikeways and pedestrian paths. That would increase the usage of all parks."*

*"I think linking the parks with attractive, safe byways along the streets, and installing appropriate way-finding signage would create a true park system and maximize what we have. Right now, when I want a pleasant experience for a long bike ride, jog, or walk; I go to other parts of Kitsap County."*

*– Park Survey Comments, 2013*

## Pocket Parks

Bremerton has ten pocket parks, defined generally as parks that are smaller than 0.5 acres and provide a specific need such as a viewpoint, plaza, or small playground. They typically serve a localized area and may provide a special feature such as beach access or a memorial. Pocket parks are too small to serve as neighborhood parks owing to lack of green space and limited space for amenities. In some areas they serve as surrogate neighborhood parks where a larger park is not available within easy walking distance. In recent years Smith Nature Play Park has been renovated, and Lillian & James Walker Park has been developed as a multi-purpose stormwater management and beach access site. Pocket parks have low economy of scale for maintenance, and the city should use caution prior to acquiring additional pocket parks. Existing pocket park inventory should be reviewed to ensure each property is making a contribution to the overall park system in line

## Trails

Sidewalks and bike lanes are addressed in the city's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan at <http://www.ci.bremerton.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/840/Non-Motorized-Transportation-Plan-PDF>. Key elements include the Port Washington Narrows (Bridge to Bridge)

trail connecting East and West Bremerton and recently developed widened sidewalks on Pacific Avenue to create a connection between downtown and Evergreen Rotary Park.

Loop trails and pathways providing exercise, walking, and beach viewing opportunities within city parks are a priority for citizens responding to the 2007, 2013, and 2019 surveys. Incorporation of improved interior trails in Lions, Kiwanis, Blueberry, and Stephenson Canyon parks have increased the usage of these facilities. Walking the loop trail at redeveloped Lions Park may be the most popular activity at this 17-acre site. Heavy usage of newly developed interior trails in city parks and natural areas calls out the need to create additional trail improvements within N.A.D Park, Madrona Trails, and Forest Ridge Park. Creating clearly marked loop trails with attractive interpretive and directional signage will help Bremerton citizens make better and more frequent use of the city's undeveloped parks and natural areas. This plan supports the citizen-driven effort to create a connecting trail between Kitsap Lake and Jarstad Park. This proposed trail system contains excellent wildlife viewing opportunities in addition to a forested setting with mild elevation gains that can help walkers increase fitness levels. The city and county jointly funded and completed a feasibility study in 2018.

## Natural Areas

There are no typical acreage standards for natural areas, as each community has its unique geography containing lands worthy of protection for preservation of wildlife corridors, separators between development, water quality, and enjoyment of nature. Bremerton has designated Madrona Trails, Kitsap Lake Wetlands, N.A.D. Marine Park, and Stephenson Canyon as natural areas. While N.A.D. and Forest Ridge parks contain tracts of undeveloped natural lands, their designation as "parks" opens future use of these lands to development with active facilities. Currently Bremerton has 111 acres of natural land area and 153 acres of natural land holding a park



designation. This figure does not include the 8,400 acre Bremerton Watershed, which is protected from development; in addition, selective logging and lack of authorized public access place it in a different category than Parks & Recreation Department natural lands. Bremerton should use GIS mapping, combined with voluntary negotiations with developers, to identify future natural areas that have the potential for ecological preservation and public use for nature trails. Parks staff should continue to work with Public Works and interested citizens to make portions of the Watershed from Jarstad Park to the Kitsap Lake area available for appropriate use.

*"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike."*

*– John Muir, Founder of the Sierra Club*



## Recreation Facilities & Programs

Distribution of recreational facilities within Bremerton is an issue that should be addressed in the long term. Facilities like the Sheridan Park Community Center, Senior Center, and Glenn Jarstad Aquatic Center are concentrated in East Bremerton.

Residents appreciate the Sheridan Park Community Center and Senior Center, while recognizing that both facilities have structural limitations and are in need of extensive renovation or eventual replacement. The non-profit sector has stepped in to meet some of the demand with construction of the Youth Wellness Center in East Bremerton, the development of the Marvin Williams Recreation Center downtown, and the expansion/remodel of the YMCA to include the Jarstad Aquatic complex. The immediate path forward is likely to include cooperative agreements with management of the new non-profit facilities and the Bremerton School District to maximize recreational opportunities for citizens. Simultaneously, capital funding should be aggressively pursued to address ADA and structural issues at the Sheridan Park Community Center and Senior Center.

For discussion on Recreation Programs see page 80.



## Level of Service Summary

Level of Service (LOS) standards will become even more challenging to obtain in the future due to projected increases in population and demand for housing resulting in lack of available land for parks and recreation. Based on the City's 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update, the population for Bremerton and its associated Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) in 2036 is projected to increase by nearly 16,000 additional residents for a total of 66,880 residents.

While Bremerton has a solid land base of 292 acres of park property, not all residents are currently covered within the desired LOS distance and many of the parks do not meet the minimum size standard of 1.5 acres for neighborhood parks and 10 acres for community parks. While progress has been made since 2007 to maximize the recreational utility of older parks through extensive grant-funded renovations, there are still compelling needs to expand existing neighborhood parks that have a footprint smaller than 1.5 acres and to identify potential neighborhood park sites illustrated in the gap analysis.

This Plan identifies service gaps for improving parkland distribution throughout Bremerton and considers two city-owned properties in

East Bremerton to help fill this gap as identified on page 109. To further address the need for future parkland, grants, land donations, trades, bequests, life estates, and other non-traditional acquisition methods should continue to be pursued. Lands received through donations should be appropriate in size and location to fill identified service gaps.



*"Well maintained parks are a reflection of civic pride."*

*"Urban parks are essential to healthy communities. Research establishes a link between presence/absence of parks, trees and open space to economic vitality and community safety. Bremerton's comprehensive plan provides a blueprint for expanded pedestrian and non-motorized use presence. Diminish our parks and you diminish the quality of life in the community. Parks and open spaces are one of the engines that drive community stability and improvement. Speak out for these!"*

*— Park Survey Comments, 2013*

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