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GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goals and Objectives supply the framework for the PROS Plan. Goals are derived by analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the park system as it exists in 2019 and identifying opportunities for progress.

Opinions and aspirations expressed by citizens in the survey and at public meetings are a driving influence in goals and objectives formulation. Plan goals are also influenced by Washington State's Growth Management Act which encourages retention of open space, development of recreational opportunities, and conservation of fish and wildlife habitat. Additionally, the goals are influenced by the policies established in the city's 2016 Comprehensive Plan, which promotes community health by locating amenities in ways

that promote social interaction, encouraging open space along the waterfront and providing recreation space and trails that connect neighborhoods and communities.



Goal 1:

Develop a Park & Recreation System That Is Functional, Diversified, Attractive, and Available to All Segments of Bremerton's Population



Nearly 40 years of research evidence confirms that nearby nature, including parks, gardens, the urban forest and green spaces, support human health and wellness. The research about active living and opportunities to avoid chronic diseases (such as diabetes, heart disease and respiratory problems) is particularly relevant to large parks where people can enjoy walking and bike paths, and playing fields. But, equally as important is the role of small parks and nature spaces for health.

– The Health Benefits of Small Parks and Green Spaces, 2017

1.1 Improve the park system to meet the standard of having every city resident live within a half mile (10 minute) walking distance of a neighborhood park and 2–5 miles of a community park.

1.2 Expand existing neighborhood parks* to meet a 1.5-acre minimum size where feasible.

1.3 New neighborhood park* parcels should meet or exceed the 1.5-acre size.

1.4 Continue updating/renovating older parks through community engagement, grant opportunities, and partnerships.

1.5 Continue to upgrade accessibility and play value of all city parks and playgrounds.

1.6 Emphasize acquisition and development of parks in underserved areas.

1.7 Consider divestiture of park parcels that do not contribute to recreation opportunities or protection of the natural environment.

1.8 Continue to implement and maintain a standardized park signage system and develop directional and informational signs at individual parks.



*Neighborhood parks typically include play equipment, picnic shelter, restroom, walking paths, sports court, sports field, or open lawn area for unstructured play.

Goal 2:

Maintain Parks and Facilities to Protect Assets and Ensure the Park System is Clean, Green, and Safe

2.1 Develop and implement a comprehensive preventative maintenance program to better identify both ongoing future capital repair and maintenance needs.

2.2 Request funding needed for asset preservation and to meet increased service levels, including increased maintenance staffing levels.

2.3 Develop a level-of-service standard and tiered park maintenance classification system to direct scarce resources toward higher use parks and facilities. Continue to track maintenance costs by individual park/facility and use data to determine budget needs.

2.4 Upgrade the department's rolling stock and mechanized equipment, to ensure staff have the most efficient tools to perform maintenance functions.

2.5 Design and maintain parks and facilities for operational efficiency and to conserve energy, water, staff time, and other resources.

2.6 Remove encampments, vandalism, and graffiti as quickly as possible.

2.7 Continue developing park tree inventory database and continue to train all maintenance staff on software to track routine tree maintenance, as needed, to ensure tree health and longevity.

2.8 Continue to support community groups and organizations that help maintain parkland and park infrastructure and ensure department resources are available to support these volunteer/stewardship groups.

2.9 Continue to standardize park furniture (trash cans, benches, tables, water fountains, etc.), where feasible, and replace substandard furniture as resources allow.



"It is imperative to maintain existing parks. Without sufficient maintenance renovation funds, many of the parks will become a wasted, poor investment."

– Park Survey Comment, 2013

Goal 3:

Provide and/or Facilitate a Variety of Recreation Opportunities for a Spectrum of Ages, Interests, and Abilities

3.1 Emphasize service provisions to populations that have limited options to market-based recreation activities, including low income families and senior citizens.

3.2 Undertake a process to make decisions regarding the long-term future of the Sheridan Park Community Center and the Senior Center facilities. Potential options may include replacement by a single multi-generational facility, capital upgrades to the existing buildings, or cooperative service provision with other entities.

3.3 Increase opportunities for youth recreation programs through exploring joint programming and program advertising with the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and similar non-profit recreation providers.

3.4 Cooperate with non-profits, business associations, and corporate sponsors to provide concerts, community events, and performances at park facilities.

3.5 Solicit feedback from community to develop a recreation needs assessment including input from existing users of recreation programs to make decisions based on highest need.

3.6 Work cooperatively with the YMCA to promote use of Glenn Jarstad Aquatic Center by city residents.

3.7 Continue to grow Adult Athletic Programs and provide a reasonable return after expenses on the operation of these activities.

3.8 Explore opportunities to cooperate with the school district on recreation programming and reciprocal facility use.



Goal 4:

Foster Public Involvement in the Operation & Programming of the Park System

4.1 Continue to involve and keep citizens and stakeholders up to date in the planning of park projects and undertakings.

4.2 Continue to update the department's internet presence by making the webpage more interactive and providing a simplified on-line registration and program evaluation.

4.3 Improve marketing to increase visibility of available parks, facilities, and recreation programs.



4.4 Establish a formalized volunteer program to include volunteer tracking, documentation and recognition of efforts, and advertisement of upcoming opportunities.

4.5 Schedule periodic reports on department activities at televised council meetings.



"Community events and involvement are important. Volunteer opportunities give people the chance to connect with their local parks. The more folks are connected to the system the more they will care about the success of that system..."

– Park Survey Comment, 2013

Goal 5:

Develop Cost Recovery and Expense Tracking for Revenue Generating Facilities to Ensure Financially Responsible Operation

5.1 Continue to develop a cost center approach to facilities and programs where fees can be adjusted to wholly or partially recover costs of operation.

5.2 Continue to accurately track expenses for revenue-generating facilities and programs.

5.3 Review level of subsidy for department program offerings with Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council to determine if it is appropriate for the public good provided.

5.4 Improve and develop underused park facilities to increase community access and revenue generating opportunities.



Goal 6:

Provide Trail Opportunities Connecting Parks, Natural Lands, and Neighborhoods

6.1 Support implementation of the city's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

6.2 Provide a balance of paved, accessible trails and rustic nature trails in city parks.

6.3 Provide and secure additional resources to better manage and maintain trails in parks.

6.4 Increase non-motorized amenities such as bike racks at parks and kayak storage at designated water trail locations.

6.5 Continue to develop park perimeter trails, where feasible, to encourage safe exercise walking opportunities within city parks.

6.6 Identify crosswalk locations to increase safety of pedestrians walking/biking to parks.

6.7 Enlist community organizations (Eagle Scouts, etc.) to perform trail improvement work on a regular basis.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is now encouraging schools to offer more physical education, urban policymakers to provide more sidewalks, bike paths, and other alternatives to cars, and parents to reduce their children's television and computer time and to encourage outdoor play.

- Health of Washington State Report, 2002

Goal 7:

Protect and Manage Natural Resources while Encouraging Appropriate Public Access and Enjoyment



"Nature is fuel for the soul. Often when we feel depleted we reach for a cup of coffee, but research suggests a better way to get energized is to connect with nature. Research has shown that people with a greater sense of vitality don't just have more energy, they are also more resilient to physical illnesses. One of the pathways to health may be to spend more time in natural settings."

— *Journal of Environmental Psychology, June 2010*

7.1 Preserve and protect natural areas, including, but not limited to, wetlands, stream corridors, shorelines, and forests. Evaluate recreational use in these areas to ensure they are maintained and preserved as assets for future generations.

7.2 Manage vegetation in natural areas and natural areas within parks to control invasive species and promote native species for habitat values and promotion of a healthy environment.

7.3 Actively involve volunteers and volunteer groups in the restoration of natural areas and ensure department resources are available to supervise and support these groups.

7.4 Evaluate and address the health of the urban forest including removal of risk trees and replanting new trees where appropriate to expand the tree canopy on city-owned land.

7.5 Evaluate and make recommendations for the acquisition/protection of ecologically valuable properties within the city limits.

7.6 Review boundaries of natural areas and address encroachments.

