

September 25, 1992
NM/pb 92-684.mot

Introduced by: Larry Phillips

Proposed No.: 92-684

MOTION NO. **8793**

1
2 A MOTION adopting the Vision Statement to
3 provide guidance to the continued
4 development of the Park, Recreation and
5 Open Space Plan.

6 WHEREAS, the parks division is preparing a Comprehensive
7 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan pursuant to Ordinance No.
8 9981 adopted by the King County council, and

9 WHEREAS, the King County council adopted Motion No. 8363
10 approving the schedule of major elements and products of the
11 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan Work Program, and

12 WHEREAS, the Park, Recreation and Open Space Work Program
13 calls for review and adoption of a Vision Statement to provide
14 guidance for the continued development of the plan, and

15 WHEREAS, the Vision Statement will give direction to the
16 development of specific goals for planning acquisition,
17 development, maintenance, stewardship, leadership and
18 programming during the planning phase and throughout the life
19 of the plan;

20 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

21 The attached Vision Statement is approved to provide
22 guidance for the continued development of the Park, Recreation
23 and Open Space Plan.

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PROVIDED THAT:

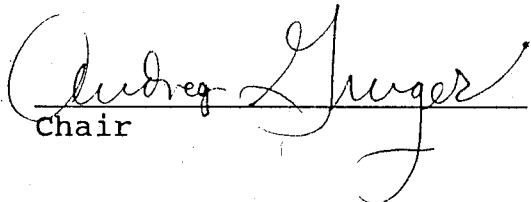
Criteria establishing priorities between the regional, transitional and rural roles and their elements are developed and submitted to the council for review and approval prior to the development of the 10-year capital improvement program;

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT:

The ongoing quarterly reports on the parks and open space comprehensive plan status will alert the council on other major policy issues.

PASSED this 28th day of September, 1992

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Chair

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Council

KING COUNTY PARKS: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE**PREAMBLE**

King County is richly endowed with an unrivaled natural beauty. It is geographically defined by beautiful mountains, lakes, river valleys and Puget Sound. These areas support lush forests, valuable wetland systems and plentiful fish and wildlife.

Recreational opportunities abound in the area. They range from primitive wilderness opportunities in the eastern portion of the county to very urban opportunities provided in the densely developed areas in the western portion of the county. The natural beauty and the quality of our cultural heritage provide enjoyment, inspiration and a sense of well-being.

The combination of these assets and opportunities is a major contributor to the quality of life in King County. However, despite its rich endowments, King County is not exempt from the pressures of the times.

It is critical to achieve a balance between the natural and built environment to avoid the loss of open space, critical wildlife habitats, and the very beauty that makes this region unique. The purpose of this plan is to address the role the King County Parks Division plays in this essential work and the leadership it should provide in the region.

WHY IS A VISION IMPORTANT?

Defining a clear vision for the future of the King County Parks System is the first critical step in developing the comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The vision will provide guidance for the development of specific goals for acquisition, development, maintenance, stewardship, leadership and programming during the planning process, and on into the future.

The evolution of King County's park system is the story of the acquisition and development of active and passive parks, swimming pools, trails, open spaces, recreation centers and programs. The 1968 Forward Thrust Bond program was the major factor in moving the Parks Division into the role of being the major provider of traditional parks, recreation facilities and recreational services outside the City of Seattle. This legacy has put the parks system in the position of being "all things to all people" in the area of parks, recreation and open space. Current concerns and a number of trends suggest that this may not be the most effective role for the future.

Recent annexations and incorporations have changed the responsibilities of County government. Its role in providing parks, recreation and open space opportunities needs to be reexamined. Since the passage of the 1989 Open Space Bond, the role of the Parks Division has been significantly expanded to one of stewardship, regional services and open space preservation. In addition, growth management policies will redefine the roles of cities and counties. The following vision statement has carefully considered these changes.

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The vision statement is the result of an extensive public process including the work of the Parks Advisory Forum, a series of public workshops, a telephone public opinion survey, discussions with the King County Park Directors, discussions with county staff from a variety of disciplines through the Technical Steering Committee, discussions with the Parks Division Management Team and a series of meetings with all Parks Division staff.

VISION: THE ROLE OF KING COUNTY PARKS

The King County Park System is a major provider of park and recreation opportunities in King County. Federal, state and local agencies as well as private sector park and recreation providers and volunteers also are critical elements in the dynamic countywide system. Coordination with other agencies, other jurisdictions and private organizations is critical to make sure opportunities are available for the enjoyment and appreciation of all residents of King County.

The roles of the different providers are changing as the County urbanizes. The first step toward successful coordination is to look ahead and develop a clear vision for King County Parks among these providers.

The vision for the King County Park System consists of three critical roles. They are:

1. **Regional Role** - The King County Parks Division will serve as a provider of regional park, recreation and open space opportunities that complement and enhance the roles of other providers in the region and provide leadership and provide for opportunities that are not within the scope, boundaries or capabilities of other individual providers. In the context of this plan, regional may be defined as sites, facilities and programs that attract users from beyond the geographic limits of individual neighborhoods, communities or jurisdictions by offering sites, facilities and programs that possess a large size, uniqueness of feature or character and/or are important as systems that best function as a unit or cross jurisdictional boundaries.
2. **Transitional Role** - The King County Parks Division will serve as the transitional agency in coordination with other agencies and districts to provide local park, recreation and open space opportunities in urban unincorporated areas of the county. The county will assume this role until such time as incorporations, annexations or other service providers are created, identified or become capable of assuming the responsibilities.
3. **Rural Role** - The King County Parks Division will serve as the agency to provide rural levels of parks, open spaces and recreational opportunities to the rural unincorporated areas of the county.

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VISION: ELEMENTS

The vision contains six interrelated elements. The following elements and detailed descriptions of how the regional, transitional and rural roles would be implemented in King County are:

(A) PRESERVE NATURAL, RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL LANDS

Regional Role: Plan, acquire, preserve and manage large and/or unique natural area/resource based sites and systems that are not available to other jurisdictions, cross jurisdictional boundaries or are beyond the abilities of individual cities. Plan, acquire, preserve and manage historical and cultural resources that are of a countywide significance and can serve park functions.

Transitional Role: Plan, acquire, preserve and manage local (neighborhood and community) open spaces, natural areas and resources until other providers are available.

Rural Role: Plan, acquire, preserve and manage rural scale open spaces, natural areas and resources.

PLAN, ACQUIRE, DEVELOP AND MANAGE TRAIL SYSTEM

Regional Role: Plan, acquire, develop and manage the regional trail system and coordinate activities with other jurisdictions. Link communities and facilities to the regional system.

Transitional Role: Plan, acquire, develop, manage or preserve opportunities for community trail networks in coordination with other jurisdictions until other providers are available.

Rural Role: Plan, acquire, develop and manage trails that provide local access to the regional trail system, rural circulation networks and linkages and interior trails within regional park and open space sites.

(C) ACQUIRE, DEVELOP AND MANAGE SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION SITES

Regional Role: Plan, develop and manage regional-scale multiple-use sites and facilities; fresh and saltwater access sites; regional scale athletic complexes; unique or special purpose facilities; and sites and facilities that are most effectively and efficiently owned and operated by a single jurisdiction due to needed economies of scale and/or expertise. These activities should be coordinated with other jurisdictions and cost sharing of facilities should be considered when appropriate.

Transitional Role: Plan, acquire, develop, manage and preserve future opportunities for local (neighborhood and community) scale parks until other providers assume responsibility.

Rural Role: Plan, acquire, develop and manage parks to meet rural service standards.

(D) PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL, INTERPRETIVE, AQUATIC AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

Regional: Provide specialty programming and coordination of services that may be efficiently and effectively offered by a single jurisdiction; specialized programs associated with regional park and open space facilities; and special events, fairs, and festivals. These activities should be coordinated with other jurisdictions and cost sharing of programs should be considered when appropriate.

Transitional Role: Provide programs and coordinate with other jurisdictions to ensure availability of opportunities for local programs until other providers are available.

Rural Role: Plan, provide and coordinate with other jurisdictions to offer rural levels of opportunities for recreational programs.

(E) FOSTER STEWARDSHIP OF THE PARK SYSTEM

Stewardship should be fostered within the park system in the regional, transitional and rural roles of the county. The elements of stewardship are:

1. **Planning** - Plan for the preservation of valuable park and open space resources in park and open space plans, policies, designs and development. Participate in the development of regulatory policies and regulations, and in review of individual development proposals to ensure sensitive incorporation of open spaces and trails and provision of active recreation opportunities to meet level of service standards are incorporated in all new development.
2. **Acquisition** - Lands to be acquired may be for preservation of natural areas or to be developed for active or passive recreation. Natural area lands should be acquired that are environmentally critical to preserve natural beauty and wildlife habitat. Lands for active recreation should be evaluated to ensure they are suitable for proposed development and programming and are consistent with stewardship goals.
3. **Site Planning** - Site access and site plans should identify appropriate levels of site use and development that does not harm or severely compromise the natural environment.

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4. **Development** - Site development should incorporate program needs with stewardship goals.
5. **Site Management and Maintenance** - Develop, budget and implement management and maintenance practices and techniques that protect the environment. Develop specific maintenance, restoration and enhancement standards for active parks, trails, natural areas, and wildlands.
6. **Programs** - Develop and implement programs providing education and interpretation to promote safety, understanding, appreciation and protection of the environment, the park system and its resources.
7. **Public Involvement** - Encourage public involvement and citizen and group participation in acquisition, design, development, management, and programming. Increase public awareness of park, recreation and open space opportunities.
8. **Volunteerism** - Increase and nurture volunteer participation in the stewardship of the park system.

(F) PROVIDE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP IN PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

Regional leadership should be provided in the regional, transitional and rural roles to foster cooperation among all public and private providers to achieve a balance of opportunities to serve a diverse and changing population. The areas of leadership are:

1. **Advocacy** - Provide leadership and support in the preservation and stewardship of park and open space lands, provision of recreational opportunities and identification and advocacy of funding sources.
2. **Coordination** - Facilitate communication and coordination between all levels of park, recreation and open space providers. Foster partnerships and cooperative efforts to maximize opportunities and provide facilities to serve multi-jurisdictional user groups. Coordinate with other park agencies to identify and advocate new funding sources. Coordinate with other agencies to implement the countywide planning policies for growth management.
3. **Assistance** - Provide technical assistance to other agencies in planning, acquisition, design, development, and management of parks, recreation, facilities and open spaces. Develop areas of special expertise to share with other agencies.

BW:SC:eh
Rev. 9/16/92