

June 15, 1996

Introduced By: Brian Derdowski,
Larry Phillips,
Greg Nickels

Proposed No.: 95-351

ORDINANCE NO. **12349**

1
2 AN ORDINANCE relating to the park,
3 recreation and open space system;
4 adopting the 1995 King County Park,
5 Recreation and Open Space Plan as a
6 functional plan to implement the policies
7 of the King County Comprehensive Plan in
8 accordance with the Washington State
9 Growth Management Act and repealing
10 Ordinance 3813.

11 PREAMBLE:

12 For the purposes of creating clear policies to guide the
13 future of park, recreation and open space in the county the
14 Metropolitan King County Council makes the following
15 legislative findings:

16 1. The Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan is consistent
17 with the King County Countywide Planning Policies and the
18 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan, which were adopted in
19 compliance with the Washington State Growth Management Act.

20 2. The Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan is consistent
21 with Motion 8793 which adopted the Vision Statement to
22 provide guidance for its development.

23 3. King County, with the assistance of the King County
24 Council appointed Parks Advisory Forum, citizens of King
25 County and representatives of incorporated cities and other
26 public agencies has considered the park, recreation and open
27 space policies for the future.

1 4. King County has considered the environmental impacts of
2 the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

3 5. King County will develop a ten-year capital improvement
4 program and a three-year operational financial plan to
5 implement the policies of the Park, Recreation and Open Space
6 Plan. The policies contained in the King County Park,
7 Recreation and Open Space plan will be reevaluated to ensure
8 consistency with the long range financial plans. The capital
9 improvement program and operational financial plan will be
10 evaluated and updated yearly to address changing conditions.

11 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

12 SECTION 1. The King County Park, Recreation and Open
13 Space Plan is adopted, as hereby amended, and declared to be
14 the principle document guiding the future of the county's
15 park, recreation and open space system.

16 SECTION 2. Ordinance 3813 is repealed and replaced with
17 the standards and site selection and evaluation criteria
18 contained in the King County Park, Recreation and Open Space
19 Plan.

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SECTION 3. The Executive is hereby directed to submit to the Council by September 1, 1996 a work plan which outlines a scope of work for the development of a three year park operational financial plan and related policies as described in King County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan Chapter XIV, identifies the cost of developing the financial plan and any needed resources, and specifies a time frame for transmitting the financial plan to Council.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 8th day of May, 1995.

PASSED by a vote of 12 to 0 this 17th day of June, 1996.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

[Signature]
Chair

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 17th day of June, 1996.

[Signature]
King County Executive

Attachments: King County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, as amended.

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*King County Park, Recreation
and Open Space Plan*

Adopted by Metropolitan King County Council - June 17, 1996
Please Note: This version does not include maps, charts, or photographs

Executive Summary

This King County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan provides vision and direction to the King County parks, open space and recreation system into the 21st Century.

The Plan takes a new approach. It looks beyond our individual parks and facilities to the natural open space and active recreation systems the County is charged with protecting and managing. This approach requires a new commitment to the County's regional role and a clear definition of local service responsibilities.

In 2010 King County will be a significantly different park, recreation and open space provider than today. In 1995 King County provides a wide range of both regional and local facilities and services. In the future King County will be a regional provider of parks, open spaces and recreation programs with a major focus on systems of open space corridors that conserve natural resources and provide recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty. King County will have a regional trail network that links cities and communities, and offers recreation, alternative commuting routes and migration corridors for

wildlife. Regional active and multi-purpose parks will be available to all citizens of the County. Valuable agricultural lands and forests will be conserved and continue as viable working resource lands. Local parks and open space in the urban area will become the responsibility of cities, and in the rural area the County will maintain local parks.

The State Growth Management Act (GMA), the resulting Countywide Planning Policies required by GMA and the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) have established a vision of our County's future. As King County becomes more urban, urban areas will increasingly be within cities. The County will play an important transitional role within that urban area. The County must continue to provide facilities and services in the urban areas, prior to annexation or incorporation to attract and support the expected population growth in those areas. The County can transfer local facilities to the cities or cities can contract with the County for local services after they annex or incorporate land. The County will increasingly direct its resources to providing local park, recreation and open space services in the less developed, unincorporated part of the County. The County will continue to provide regional services to the entire County, urban and rural.

The King County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan establishes the recreational, environmental and community defining functions of open space. The Plan proposes a future of regional greenways and waterways, a comprehensive regional trail system, major regional athletic complexes, and a wide range of recreational and aquatic opportunities.

The Plan recognizes that federal, state and local governments, schools, private individuals and non-profit organizations play an important role in providing recreation and open space. The Plan proposes a cooperative effort and calls for the County to play a leadership role in that effort.

King County's role as steward of our region's natural heritage requires new policies directed toward conservation and interpretation of our significant natural resources. To accomplish a balance between natural resource protection and recreation, the Plan proposes a classification system which defines sites as regional or local, their role in the system, and identifies park use areas within individual sites.

The Plan also sets park service levels and describes how the County will provide those services into the 21st Century. To measure our success in providing parks, recreation and open space to residents of unincorporated King County, the plan proposes park acreage goals which account for facilities and services provided by others.

Agriculture and forestry provide significant contributions to the quality of life in King County through their economic, scenic and cultural values. They are important elements of the County's open space inventory. The future of the County's agriculture and forestry lands and the viability their associated industries are gaining importance in the County. New programs are being developed today as part of a recently expanded County role. In the future, new policies and programs that result from this work will be incorporated into this plan.

The Park system's operating budget and a portion of its acquisition and development funds have historically been provided by the County's current expense or general fund. As the urban area continues to incorporate or annex, revenues to that fund are declining. This makes it harder to fund the operation of a growing parks system. New approaches and new sources of revenue will be needed if we are to protect open spaces critical to our quality of life, ensure our continued economic health and meet the needs of a growing population. The plan describes the cost of meeting these challenges.

The King County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan is presented in volumes. The first volume includes the blueprint for the future and the action plans and operational policies for achieving that future. The second volume is the technical appendix, including background information and plan support documents.

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I. Introduction to King County

Majestic mountain ranges, forests, farmlands, waterways and shorelines define the natural beauty and character of King County's landscape.

This landscape was created by an active geological history of advance and retreat of glacial ice sheets, volcanic activity and constant erosion by wind and water. These natural features provide the setting for parks and open spaces that offer a wide range of outdoor recreational activities. They also provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife, and help maintain air and water quality.

Throughout the County, park lands and open spaces border highly developed urban and suburban areas. Farmlands surround small towns in the rural areas. These open space separators provide relief from development and help define the communities of King County.

Parks and open space provide both environmental benefits and recreational opportunities. They offer places to exercise, participate in competitive sports and space for people to gather, frequently serving as the focal point of a community.

Trails link the features of the County's regional open space system and serve recreation, transportation and habitat network functions.

Together, these park and open space elements contribute to County residents' physical, mental and emotional health and support the high quality of life our area is known for. They also contribute to the economic strength of the County by attracting businesses, jobs and tourists. King County residents have repeatedly demonstrated the importance of preserving open spaces and our quality of life through their continued support of programs to acquire park, open space and agricultural lands.

King County is one of the fastest growing regions in the country. It has experienced a high level of population growth over the last decade, a trend that is expected to continue. This growth will continue to put pressure on the County and its cities to provide parks and permanently protected open space.

Profile of King County

King County, with its 1.5 million people is the thirteenth largest county in the country and is larger in land area than some states. King County is home to almost a third of Washington State's population.

King County's population is distributed nearly equally among the city of Seattle, thirty-four suburban cities and unincorporated King County. More than 80% of the people in unincorporated King County live in urban areas. This has historically made the County an urban provider of parks and open space which are services generally associated with cities. The County is also the local park provider for the rural population, and the primary provider of regional parks and open spaces.

The County serves a very demographically diverse population. While the population in general is maturing, the unincorporated County includes a large percentage of children under 18 at .28%, almost twice that of Seattle and above the state average of 26.4%. Senior populations in the unincorporated area are 8% of the total, half that of the city of Seattle and less than the 11.8% statewide.

Growth Trends

Growth trends in King County present challenges. Over 237,000 new residents were added during the last decade and forecasts indicate an increase of 325,000 more people in the next 20 years. The majority of new growth is expected to occur in urban areas with urban levels of development. These areas are currently in both cities and the unincorporated area.

Planning in King County

The King County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan is one way King County implements the King County Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a long range plan that addresses urban and rural land use, transportation, housing, economic development, parks, recreation and open space, natural environment, facilities and services, cultural resources, resource lands, and energy and telecommunications. The policies established in the Comprehensive Plan serve as a blueprint for growth until 2012.

The Comprehensive Plan is implemented in four levels of planning: multi-county; countywide; subarea; and neighborhood planning. Multi-county planning addresses the entire Central Puget Sound region and includes King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties. Countywide planning deals with issues that effect the entire County. Subarea planning centers on smaller geographic regions of King County. Neighborhood planning is the most focused and addresses concerns of individual communities and neighborhoods in unincorporated King County.

The Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan is a countywide plan that implements the policies of the King County Comprehensive Plan. The Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan defines a clear vision for the future of the King County Park and Open Space System and provides guidance for its planning, acquisition, development and management.

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II. Open Space in King County

Open space has a number of meanings. Some people consider it to be recreation areas, others consider only the natural and environmental features, while still others think of open space as vacant or leftover land.

The 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) calls for an open space system to include lands which provide for outdoor recreation, education and interpretation. It should preserve natural areas and environmental features with significant educational, scientific, wildlife habitat, cultural or scenic value, provide visual enjoyment and preserve physical and visual buffers within areas of urban development.

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- PR-102 (KCCP) Park and open space lands in King County are defined by three primary functions: recreational, environmental (ecological) and community shaping. They include lands that should be preserved for:**
- a. Physical and/or visual buffers within and between areas of urban and rural development;**
 - b. Visual enjoyment and outdoor recreation; and**
 - c. Natural areas and environmental features with significant educational, scientific, wildlife habitat, cultural or scenic values.**
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The Recreational Function. Recreational open space includes land and water that provide space for active and passive recreational activities and opportunities to enjoy natural areas. There is a wide range of use and development associated with this function.

Recreational open space is provided by a combination of public parks and schools, and privately owned recreational facilities such as golf courses, campgrounds and resorts.

The Environmental Function. Open space for environmental purposes is usually identified by its physical characteristics which might include geologic features, plant communities, wildlife habitat, hydrologic and biologic characteristics, as well as its cultural, scientific and scenic value. These lands are also important for their recreational and educational value. This may include such activities as hiking, picnicking, wildlife viewing and outdoor education. However, there may only be a limited range of use to ensure valuable natural resources are conserved.

Environmental open space is provided through both public and private efforts. These include public parks and natural areas, private holdings and areas regulated to preserve their environmentally sensitive areas.

The Community Shaping Function. These areas are sometimes referred to as urban separators. They provide open space values in urban and suburban areas, preserve the natural character of an area, strengthen neighborhoods and communities, and separate urban and rural land use areas. A green corridor, the urban/rural greenbelt along the urban growth boundary will provide both physical and visual separation.

Greenways, waterways and large parks, as well as topographical features such as river valleys, hills and mountains, contribute to this shaping function. The combinations of these types of open space lands with their variety of attributes and often overlapping functions make up an extensive system of open space in King County. Together, they preserve the character of the area and provide for recreational enjoyment, environmental quality and the health and well-being of County residents.

Permanence and Public Access

King County's current and future open spaces may be described by two factors; permanence and public access. These two factors point out that our open space resources that appear to be abundant, are largely temporary, without guaranteed public access and can be expected to decrease in the future.

Permanent open space with public access: These open spaces consist of public parks and lands with dedicated public access easements.

Permanent open space with limited public access: These open spaces include public school sites and open spaces within residential developments that have been dedicated for the use of homeowners, but not the general public. It may also include portions of publicly owned parks or open space sites with limited access to preserve sensitive natural areas.

Permanent open space with no public access: These open spaces include sites with development rights purchased through the Farmlands Preservation Program, conservation easements dedicated for open space preservation as a condition of land use actions such as sensitive areas and their buffers, and lands preserved for drainage ways.

Open space that is not permanent and has no public access: These lands which add to our perception of open space include the Agricultural Production District, Forest Production District, regulated Sensitive Areas and rural areas. Also included are privately owned open spaces such as golf courses, private parks and campgrounds; properties enrolled for ten year periods in the Current Use Taxation Program; and growth reserve tracts in subdivisions which may be held for future development.

Park and Open Space Providers

King County's parks and open spaces are a combination of the efforts of federal, state, and local public agencies and the private sector.

Federal Role

Federal agencies such as the National Park Service and National Forest Service, control a sizable portion of land providing open space and recreational opportunities in Washington State. They manage 80% of all recreational acreage, including wilderness areas. Recreational opportunities include trails, camping, picnicking, boat launching and mooring, and skiing. Most of these lands are in large holdings and much of it is roadless and accessible only by trail.

State Role

State agencies provide recreational lands statewide. The majority of their lands are undeveloped and in a natural condition with developed areas providing access and support facilities. Two agencies are prominent in providing parks and open space: Washington State Parks and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). State Parks are managed for a variety of recreational

opportunities, while DNR manages land for forest production as well as conservation areas, both of which support some recreational activities.

Local Role

Local agencies include the traditional park and recreation departments found in counties, cities and towns. Other local agencies such as ports, utility districts and schools often provide some recreation and open space as a secondary benefit. These agencies provide the majority of public sites for active and passive recreation close to home. Typically, these sites are highly developed for active recreation and include community centers, athletic fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and picnic tables and shelters. King County has acquired approximately 3,000 acres of natural areas and trail corridors as the result of the 1989 Open Space Bond Issue.

Private Sector

Private sector involvement is diverse, ranging from preservation of open space to provision of specific recreational facilities. It includes owners of private lands and facilities, and private non-profit land trusts that protect areas for their natural features and recreational use. Many of the open space lands in this category cannot be considered to have open public access or permanency.

King County's Evolving Role

Since the early 1900s, the role of King County Parks in providing recreation and open space opportunities has evolved and expanded through four distinct periods. Several of these periods are highlighted by the major funding efforts that directed them.

1900 to 1950: Establishment of a King County Parks System

This was a time when the need for a parks and recreational system for unincorporated areas of the County became apparent, and the first steps were taken to acquire land and provide recreation programs. Many of the original park lands were donated to the County and the first properties were acquired. Facilities added or built during this period include the Works Progress Administration (WPA) buildings, one of the largest and best-preserved groups of these log structures that remain in the nation today.

1951 to 1965: Focus on Recreation

The focus during this period shifted to providing innovative recreational programs and acquiring park land. Acquisition became important as growth shifted to suburban areas on the Eastside, and north and south of Seattle. Particular needs were lake-front access and areas for playgrounds, games, sports and parkways. The first county-wide park bond issue was passed for \$1 million in 1956. The County's first regional park, Marymoor Park, was acquired in 1962 for \$1.1 million.

1966 to 1980: The Forward Thrust Era

This was a period of unprecedented park expansion, funded by the Forward Thrust bond issue, to acquire and develop recreation facilities and programs distributed widely throughout the County. With \$49.2 million from the bond, the County was able to leverage millions more in grants and matching funds from other state and national programs. The County park system doubled in size, adding over 4,000 acres, 53 miles of waterfront, and miles of trail right of ways. One of the most notable of the County Forward Thrust park initiatives was the creation of the aquatics system of 16 indoor and one outdoor pool. Forward Thrust was a model interjurisdictional and interdisciplinary effort at the regional planning level. The King County Comprehensive Plan, the Ten Year Program for Open Space Acquisition (1965), the Urban Trails Plan and the General Bicycle Plan (1976) all contributed to the future of the system.

1980 to Today: The Open Space Era

By 1980, the focus shifted to regional parks, natural resources and the preservation of open space. County residents, responding to dwindling open space lands and loss of habitat and public access, passed a \$50 million Farmlands Preservation Bond issue in 1979 to preserve agricultural open space, and a \$117 million Open Space Bond to acquire other open space lands in 1989. In 1993 the County established a \$60 million Conservation Futures Bond Acquisition Program to purchase open space, parks and trails and initiated the \$14.8 million Waterways 2000 Program to conserve streams and rivers to protect salmon and provide open space for recreation and education. Regional parks were developed and large and significant open spaces were acquired during this period to protect their resources, to provide passive recreation enjoyment and to continue to build the regional trails network. Active parks were developed or expanded during this period to deliver sports programs outside the incorporated areas of the County.

Future: Stewardship, Regional Services and Open Space Conservation

The County's first Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan provides a new focus on the conservation of our natural resources while providing an expanding network of regional recreation opportunities.

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III. The Future

The King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) establishes the importance of the County's park, recreation and open space system. The system is valued for conserving environmental quality and scenic beauty; offering social, educational and recreational opportunities; and for its contribution to the economic health of the region.

F-101 King County will evolve into a significantly different park, recreation and open space provider in the future. King County will be a regional provider of parks, open spaces and recreation programs with a major focus on systems of open space corridors that conserve natural resources and provide recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty. King County will have a regional trail network that links cities and communities, and offers recreation, alternative commuting routes and migration corridors for wildlife. Regional active and multi-purpose parks will be available to all citizens of the County. Valuable agricultural lands and forests will be conserved and continue as viable working resource lands. Local parks and open

space in the urban area will become the responsibility of cities, and in the rural area the County will maintain local parks.

Regional Role

The role of King County has evolved and expanded through distinct periods, reflecting shifts in County government and growth trends. The State Growth Management Act supports this shift by reinforcing the role of cities as providers of local services and counties as providers of regional services. Recent years have seen the focus shift toward regional parks, natural resources and the preservation of open space. This direction is emphasized in the King County Comprehensive Plan.

PR-101 (KCCP) King County is evolving as the provider of regional park and open space systems, facilities and services and as a leader in establishing partnerships with other jurisdictions. The future focus of open space acquisition will be to identify and link park, open space, wildlife and waterway opportunities to create continuous open space corridors and recreational opportunities and to conserve the County's natural systems. The regional trail system and regional multi-use parks and athletic complexes will also be emphasized.

The future of the King County Park system will reflect the broad changes in the role of King County. King County is evolving as the steward of a regional park and open space system consisting of lands, facilities and support services and as a leader in establishing partnerships with other jurisdictions.

PR-103 (KCCP) The primary focus of King County should be as the leader in the provision regional parks and open space systems, facilities and services to all residents of the County. Regional means sites and facilities that are large in size, have unique features or character and/or cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Local Role

Continued growth in the unincorporated Urban Growth Area requires the County to provide local services in these areas until they are incorporated or annex to adjacent cities. The County will provide local services in the rural area for the long term.

PR-104 (KCCP) Local parks, trails and open spaces should be provided in each community, in both urban and rural areas, to enhance environmental and visual quality and meet local recreation needs. Local means smaller sites and facilities to serve close-to-home, day-to-day needs of the community.

The Vision Statement for development of the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan adopted by the County in 1992 describes the County's vision for parks, recreation and open space in the future. This plan provides the tools to achieve that vision. The Vision Statement is located in the Appendix in this document.

Open Space Systems

King County will focus on regional corridors linking park, open space, wildlife and waterway systems. These linked regional open space corridors along the County's major river systems and shorelines, along the urban/rural boundary and the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway provide recreational and interpretive opportunities, scenic beauty, environmental quality and habitat value. They preserve the character of the area and help shape neighborhoods and communities.

PR-201 (KCCP) King County will own and manage a regional open space system with a major focus on natural systems and multi-use trails.

The systems approach to preservation provides values beyond the traditional focus of a parks agency. They may include additional benefits such as storm-water detention and water quality protection, as well as preserving wildlife corridors or incorporating scenic, cultural and historical features.

In addition to the identified open space systems, there are natural areas or features that could be considered of regional significance.

F-102 King County should consider adding significant natural areas not directly associated with the major open space systems, if they include regionally significant features and improve the distribution

F-103 King County will work with a variety of public and private groups to identify and protect these significant natural areas. Environmental protection and multi-use trails are among the management goals.

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IV. The Systems

Prior generations invested wisely in King County's parks, trails, wilderness and recreational areas. King County recognizes that connecting parks and open spaces into contiguous systems increases the environmental and recreational value of these lands.

Systems may be defined as natural or functional. Natural systems are based on geography, natural features and ecological functions. Functional systems are identified by their purpose or a relationship of similar characteristics or facilities and program use. These systems connect to serve multiple uses and to realize open space and recreational goals.

The Open Space Concept Map adopted in the 1989 King County Open Space Plan identifies the County's major open space systems and potential community separators. This plan is an extension and refinement of that work

S-101 King County will focus its open space efforts on the following natural systems: Cedar, Green, Snoqualmie, White, and Sammamish, Bear-Evans, Issaquah and Soos Creek Waterways, saltwater shorelines and lakes.

S-102 King County will focus its open space efforts on the following functional systems: Regional Trail System, Mountains to Sound Greenway, Urban Separators, the Urban/Rural Greenbelt, Wildlife

Habitat and Active Parks that include athletic complexes, multi-purpose or special purpose parks and the Aquatic System.

This chapter includes an overview of these systems. More detailed information may be found in other County inventories, plans, reports and studies. These include the Regional Trails Plan, individual park master plans and drainage basin plans, and Waterways 2000 planning reports.

These systems are the focus for the county's park, recreation, and open space implementation actions. Implementation will include a variety of actions by the County, and other agencies and organizations.

S-103 Future research and planning efforts should focus on the protection and enhancement of the systems identified in S-101 and S-102. This work should result in a planning, acquisition, development and management plan for each system that coordinates recreation and public use with resource conservation.

Natural Systems

Cedar River Waterway

The Cedar River flows 15 miles from its headwaters in the Cascade Mountains to the city of Renton and Lake Washington. Parts of the Cedar River are the closest examples of how the County's rivers existed before the area was settled.

The Seattle Watershed, at the Cedar River headwaters, provides a rich and diverse habitat near King County's urban area. The Cedar River corridor provides a network for fish and wildlife migration. The river hosts spawning populations of salmon. Elk and moose winter in the upper Cedar River valley both inside and outside the watershed. Eagles and heron fish in the clear river water. Mountain lion, cougar, fox, coyote, deer and black bear are commonly seen in the watershed.

In the 15 miles between the watershed and the City of Renton, the Cedar River has carved through glacial gravel and sediments to form a deep valley enclosed by steep forested slopes. The frequently changing river channel discourages new development and the rivers frequent flooding threatens the development that has occurred.

A rail line along the Cedar River was built to haul coal from mines in the Cascade foothills to settlements in the lowlands. King County acquired the rail line in 1992 to become a regional trail. Use of the six mile portion of the rail line within the watershed is currently restricted. Future access to this part of the trail may someday provide links to the County's Regional Snoqualmie Trail and Iron Horse State Park. The trail links extensive riverfront park lands owned by the County and City of Renton. This network provides recreation opportunities for fishing, walking, birdwatching, kayaking, horseback riding and biking.

There are many opportunities to acquire increased natural area buffers along the river and trail, as well as large parcels for environmental, recreational and educational uses. Easements, development incentives and tax incentives can be used to maintain visual and environmental quality in undeveloped areas. The Waterways 2000 Program will pursue these options in portions of the system.

The Cedar River Watershed provides a major part of the County's domestic water supply with storage behind a dam located at the western boundary of the Watershed. Increased demand for water has caused some of the habitat along the Cedar and its tributaries to be jeopardized due to low water flows. Water supply issues need to be balanced with habitat needs, especially the long term

viability of salmon runs. Water quality should be carefully monitored when development in the basin is considered.

Green River Waterway

The Green/Duwamish River is the longest and perhaps most diverse river in the County, beginning high in the Cascade range and winding over 50 miles to its mouth at Elliott Bay. The Green River changes character and name along the way, becoming the Duwamish River at Tukwila.

The mountainous eastern headwaters of the Green River are within the forested Tacoma Watershed. Leaving the watershed as a high-volume, fast-moving river, the Green River has carved the scenic 300 foot deep Green River Gorge. It winds through farmlands and wooded hillsides, then meanders through a wide flat valley which was once farmland and is now a commercial, retail and distribution center. At its confluence with the remains of the historical Black River at Tukwila, it becomes the Duwamish and flows through the industrial area of Seattle to Elliott Bay and Puget Sound. Near its mouth at Harbor Island, the river is regularly dredged for ship navigation.

The Green River provides high quality habitat to a variety of fish and mammals. It hosts resident fish populations and is the migration route for salmon spawning in the Soos Creek System and other Green River tributaries. The watershed is home to mountain lion, black bear, elk, and moose. Maintaining riparian buffers and native vegetation along the mainstem and tributaries is critical to conserving the habitat value of the system.

The lower Duwamish is influenced by tidal action from Puget Sound, and its brackish water is a critical transition zone for salmon fry leaving fresh water habitat and moving to salt water. Maintaining and improving water quality in industrialized and highly developed areas is important to ensure fish run survival.

The river corridor is popular for its scenic beauty, good fishing, boating activities, the regional trail and a variety of other recreational opportunities. Public ownership is scattered along the length of the Green River providing a strong framework from which to build an open space system. Major holdings include the Tacoma Watershed, nearly 1500 acres in the State's Green River Gorge Conservation Area and numerous King County park sites. The popular Green River Regional Trail connects with local parks and golf courses and links the cities of Auburn, Kent, Tukwila and Seattle. The Waterways 2000 Program will acquire several undeveloped properties adjacent to the river that will connect existing public properties and create an extensive open space network to conserve aquatic resources, provide recreational opportunities, protect high quality habitat lands and scenic resources, and preserve properties of cultural and historic importance.

Farming in the fertile Green River Valley has been a major part of the history and economy of the area. Through the Farmlands Preservation Program of 1979, the County acquired 4800 acres of development rights to preserve rich, productive soils from development.

Until 1919, the Duwamish River was used as the transportation corridor to the interior of King County. Ships, loaded in Elliott Bay with settlers, goods and mail, navigated the Duwamish and the Black River (the original outlet of Lake Washington) to reach Lake Washington. At that time they could continue up the Sammamish River into Lake Sammamish to reach settlements and work camps. Return trips brought forest and mining products to market.

Snoqualmie River Waterway

The Snoqualmie River Waterway links diverse landscapes. Rural towns, working farms and forests, parks, trails, and cultural sites all line the Waterway.

Originating in the Cascade range, the Snoqualmie River is the largest drainage basin in King County. It has three major tributaries; the South, Middle and North Forks joining at King County's Three Forks Park in the upper Snoqualmie Valley. The Middle Fork is listed on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory and has been recommended for Wild and Scenic River designation by the Forest Service. Two miles downstream from Three Forks the river plunges over a cliff creating the 268 foot high Snoqualmie Falls. The Falls are a natural wonder, an important cultural site and a source of hydroelectric power. The Snoqualmie then winds through the agricultural valley and rural cities of North Bend, Snoqualmie, Carnation and Duvall. At Carnation, the Tolt River, the second largest supplier of water to the City of Seattle, joins the Snoqualmie River at King County's Tolt/MacDonald Park.

Flowing north, the river leaves King County near Duvall and enters Snohomish County where it meets the Skykomish River and ultimately meets Puget Sound in the city of Everett.

In both the upper and lower valleys, the river meanders through rich farm land in tight curves. Remnants of former channels, called oxbows, provide rich habitat for wildlife. The Snoqualmie Valley is the nearest settled valley to forest lands and the Cascade Mountains. Wildlife is abundant. Deer, elk, mountain lion, coyote, bear and other large mammals are often seen. The river itself supports both resident and migratory fish populations.

Flooding is a fact of life on the Snoqualmie River, causing fairly regular damage to properties in the flood plain not protected by dikes. Flood frequency and severity has been increasing and storm water management is a high priority.

The Snoqualmie is an important agricultural valley in the County. The Farmlands Preservation Program of 1979 purchased development rights to 3,480 acres in the North Snoqualmie River Valley and 1,180 acres in the South Snoqualmie River Valley.

The valley is highly valued as a recreational corridor. The Snoqualmie Valley Regional Trail links existing County parks. The river supports fishing, kayaking and canoeing; and the valley's scenic, historical and cultural features bring visitors to learn about Native Americans, early settlements and our natural heritage. Integrating historic and natural resource preservation, and recreational oppor-

tunities into future plans for this valley will be a major contribution to the County's quality of life.

White River System

The White River originates in glaciers on Mount Rainier. Named for its milky color, the White River defines much of the southern border of King County. The White River corridor is mostly undeveloped and undisturbed. Its headwaters and all but two segments are protected by the Seattle and Tacoma watersheds, Mount Rainier National Park and the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. The lower reaches of the river traverse the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation, and converge with the Stuck River and flow as part of the Puyallup River to Puget Sound.

As a glacial river, the White River is full of naturally occurring sediment-suspended sand and gravel. The suspended sediment load causes frequent river bed migration and braiding. Shallow rapids are found almost the entire length of the river.

The White River Corridor provides excellent forested habitat. A herd of elk winter along its banks and range as far north as the Cedar River.

In King County the White River flows through both forests and farms. East of Enumclaw the White River flows out of the forested Cascade foothills. It passes through Federation Forest State Park where an interpretive center and trail system make the river accessible. Mud Mountain Dam impounds the White River for flood control and provides river access at Mud Mountain Park. The river flows past Pinnacle Peak and along the Enumclaw Plateau. Farms on the plateau overlook the river valley. Steep canyon walls limit access to this segment of the river. Where the river valley widens the river channel splits into multiple channels that continue to split and rejoin to form a braided pattern across the flood plain and into the Muckleshoot Prairie. The river is then redirected to the southwest and the city of Auburn.

The White River once flowed into the Green River. It joined the Green River at Auburn, and the valley from Auburn to Renton was known as the White River Valley. A branch of the river split at the south County boundary and flowed as the Stuck River into the Puyallup River and on to Commencement Bay. A devastating flood along the lower White River in 1906 led to the damming of the river's north branch and rerouting of the entire flow to the Stuck River bed. The Valley from Auburn to Renton was renamed the Green River Valley.

Pinnacle Peak is an important scenic and recreational feature of the Enumclaw Plateau and White River landscape. The acquisition of additional property on

Pinnacle Peak would provide recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and would preserve the most prominent feature in the landscape.

County property acquisition on the White River is not proposed. Tax and development incentives, best forest and agricultural practices, and regulations will be critical to the future of the White River. In an effort to preserve high quality fisheries, the Muckleshoot Indians are seeking protective covenants which will ensure that the river is treated with uniform regulation upstream of their land.

Sammamish River System

The Sammamish River Valley is known for its farming history, and for the rows of poplar trees that line portions of its river banks. This broad and flat river valley links Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish.

Two important salmon-bearing stream systems enter the Sammamish River, the Bear/Evans system at its southern end and the North Creek System in the north-east. The Bear and Evans Creek system is spawning ground for about 30% of the coho and 6% of the chinook salmon entering Lake Washington. Vegetation along their river banks provides cover and temperature control for the creeks, and nesting sites for birds. Wetland habitats, particularly at the mouth of the Sammamish River provide needed forage for native and migrating birds.

Farmlands Preservation Program funds acquired property or development rights to several large parcels in the Sammamish River corridor to preserve agricultural soils and farming uses.

Current land uses in the river corridor have reduced habitat quality. Some wild-life species remain, but the degraded habitat excludes species needing diverse types of food and extensive cover. The river has been straightened and diked through most of the valley to improve drainage and control flooding. There is little vegetation along the river banks to provide cover and to maintain low water temperatures. Oxbow lakes are cut off from the river channel impeding migration of fish and wildlife between systems. Restoration and enhancement efforts are needed to improve water quality and habitat.

The Sammamish River corridor, prior to 1919, was a convenient way to convey people and goods from Lake Washington to Lake Sammamish. Side-mounted paddle wheel boats transported goods between the lakes until the navigability of the river was destroyed when the Lake Washington Ship Canal opened and the water level of Lake Washington dropped approximately 10 feet. Today, the Sammamish River remains navigable only to kayaks, canoes and other small recreational boats.

King County has several parks in the Sammamish River Valley. Marymoor Park is the County's largest multi-purpose park, providing over 500 acres for active and passive recreation. The Sammamish River Trail parallels the river from Marymoor to Lake Washington, and connects to the Burke Gilman Trail along Lake Washington.

Bear and Evans Creek Waterways

Bear and Evans Creeks together contain some of the highest quality and most diverse natural river habitat in the County. Their systems provide spawning habitat for approximately 30% of the Coho salmon population and 6% of the Chinook salmon population that annually enters Lake Washington. Bear and Evans Creeks support the County's most extensive population of freshwater mussels, and rare freshwater sponges can also be found.

Both Bear and Evans Creeks occupy wide, shallow valleys that have been farmed or used as pasture land for a century or more. They are generally characterized by vegetated banks that provide cover and temperature control for fish and nesting sites for fowl.

Bear Creek's headwaters are in Paradise Valley and Little Lake Wetland in Snohomish County. The condition of the riparian corridor varies from intact and well-buffered with natural vegetation, to cleared land with residential development closely fronting the creek.

Evans Creek originates in a marshy area, forms a valuable natural wetland system as it flows through a farming area, and later converges with Bear Creek before both empty into the Sammamish River near Marymoor Park.

These systems are in one of the fastest growing areas in the County. Preserving water quality and habitat in these two important creeks is critical to maintaining the natural resource value of this system and keeping fish and wildlife in this portion of the central Puget Sound basin.

Several parts of the Bear Creek basin have been identified for preservation through the Waterways 2000 Program.

Issaquah Creek System

The Issaquah Creek System begins in the Cascade Mountains, flows along the base of Squak and Tiger Mountain and reaches into the urban areas of King County as it enters Issaquah. Like many other creek systems in the area, it is a rich salmon spawning habitat and migration channel.

The basins of Issaquah Creek headwater tributaries, Holder and Carey Creeks, are characterized by largely undeveloped forested watersheds with steep, upper reaches. Holder Creek originates on the south slopes of Tiger Mountain. Carey Creek originates south of Tiger Mountain in a geologically fragile area of erodible soils. The Issaquah Creek System is considered a regionally significant resource area due to the exceptionally high quality of its habitat.

The tributary creeks flow north from steep ravines into a wide, picturesque valley dotted with farms, pastures and homes, then into the narrow cut between Squak and Tiger Mountains, into the city of Issaquah, and finally into the south end of Lake Sammamish.

Intact vegetative buffers line major portions of the creek corridor. Other portions are developed in residential, commercial and light industrial uses. The creek is linked to Puget Sound through the freshwater lake system of Lake Sammamish, Lake Washington and Lake Union.

Issaquah creek is a regional resource for salmon production. It is the natural spawning ground for seven different salmonid species and the home of the Issaquah State Hatchery. The presence of the hatchery, along with the popularity of the annual Issaquah Salmon Days event has elevated creek habitat awareness among local residents.

Issaquah Creek enters Lake Sammamish through a large wetland in Lake Sammamish State Park. The wetland provides high quality habitat for waterfowl, fish and other wildlife.

Lake Sammamish State Park is a major recreational destination offering swimming, boating and picnicking opportunities. Several regional and local trails meet in the area.

Soos Creek System

The Soos Creek System is a complex network of six named creeks, a number of unnamed tributaries, ten lakes and an extensive system of associated wetlands. Soos Creek is an important tributary to the Green River supplying needed cover and low flows to support a major portion of the Green's spawning salmon populations.

Soos Creek is east of Auburn and Kent on a plateau separating the Green and the Cedar River Basins. It flows through the fastest growing region in the County. Development threatens the important small creeks in the Soos Creek system which are among the richest salmon spawning habitats in the County.

King County operates Lake Meridian Park, several small parks and a 4.5 mile open space and trail corridor along Big Soos Creek. Lake Youngs is the largest freshwater lake within the system and provides rich habitat value. It serves as a City of Seattle reservoir and is currently closed to public access. A King County trail around the perimeter of the Lake Youngs site is used by walkers, joggers and equestrians.

Like other systems in the area some small creeks are not named. They wind through wooded forests, residential yards and under or around retail and commercial developments. They receive storm water runoff from cleared lots slated for residential subdivisions and paved parking lots.

The Saltwater Shoreline

King County, located in the central Puget Sound Basin, is a unique topographic and hydrologic unit. Puget Sound's shoreline features are the result of the last glaciers and subsequent erosion over the last 10,000 years. Steep bluffs border much of the shoreline.

The Puget Sound Basin lies between the Cascade and Olympic Mountain ranges. The Strait of Juan de Fuca connects Puget Sound to the Pacific Ocean. The many stream and river systems, and the shoreline combine to form a rich landscape at the land and water edge. Puget Sound offers a landscape of scenic views, beaches and a rich marine habitat.

The Puget Sound bluffs provide a valuable habitat of safe nesting sites for a variety of birds. The shorelines are rich with marine and estuarine habitats including the saltwater of the Sound and productive estuaries where fresh and saltwater mix. Kelp, eel grass beds and marshes support a variety of marine life such as sea birds, salmon and sea run trout. Eel grass beds are especially critical to the life stage of salmon as they adjust to the saltwater environment. They are particularly sensitive to new sediment coming from disturbed land upstream.

Shorelines within unincorporated King County include 47 miles on Vashon Island and 3 miles of mainland shoreline in the southern part of the County. Public access to the saltwater shoreline is provided by county, state and city parks or by controlled access through private property.

The majority of saltwater shoreline is developed. The challenges for the future are to retain existing park land and its public access, preserve the natural character and open space attributes, protect upland and marine habitats, and offer environmental education opportunities to teach the public about the importance of this unique system.

The Lakes Systems

Freshwater lakes in King County provide open space, recreation and environmental resources, and influence the region's development pattern. The two largest lakes, Lake Washington (over 15 miles long) and Lake Sammamish (over 5 miles long), and 370 smaller lakes, provide habitat, support major fish populations, improve water quality and provide views and recreation to the 1.5 million County residents and visitors.

King County and the cities consider waterfront parks and public access to these shorelines a high priority. Lake shorelines offer few access opportunities because they are frequently bordered by residential development. A large amount of public lakefront property was purchased from private recreation, resort and camp properties. Similar private facilities should be considered a high priority for future acquisition.

In 1906, Seattle acquired much of the southern half of the Lake Washington shoreline for public access and parks, primarily due to the forward thinking of the Olmsted Brothers. Seattle has added a portion of the Burke Gilman Trail along Lake Washington to Kenmore. King County acquired the trail from the north end of the lake to the Sammamish River Trail which continues on to Marymoor Park and Lake Sammamish.

Today, King County owns and operates three parks on Lake Washington, (Juanita Beach, O.O. Denny, and Tracy Owen Station) and three on Lake Sammamish (Marymoor, Timberlake, and Greenwood Point) and 16 on numerous smaller County lakes.

Functional Systems

King County Trail Systems

King County residents are fortunate to have one of the largest trail systems in the country. The King County Regional Trail System now includes 200 miles of paved and unpaved trails connecting urban areas of the county with rural valleys and mountains, linking cities and parks along the way. This system serves as the backbone of a far more extensive system that includes local trail networks in cities and unincorporated communities of King County. Several regional trails cross County boundaries to the north and south and connect to the cross-state Iron Horse Trail. These trails carry users through residential and commercial neighborhoods to distant farming areas, along lake shores and riverfronts and through dense forests. Users may travel on abandoned railroad grades, water pipeline and powerline corridors, linear parks or river levees. In addition to these trail systems many county and city parks include internal trails within their site boundaries.

Regional Trails

The King County Regional Trail Plan was adopted in 1992 to provide guidance for continued acquisition and development of the regional trail system. The Plan identifies a regional network of trails that are a major element of the County's open space system. The 1989 Open Space Bond funds contributed significantly toward making this system a reality.

S-104 King County should complete a regional trail system, which includes connections between trail corridors to form a county-wide network.

Many trail corridors will accommodate several types of uses while others may serve a single purpose. Trail types range from an accessible paved, level trail like the Sammamish River Trail that is suitable for multiple users to the primitive and challenging foot paths of Cougar Mountain. Many trail corridors also provide a route for wildlife migration throughout the County.

S-105 Regional trails should be planned and designed to accommodate all users, except when constrained by corridor width or physical characteristics.

S-106 Master plans should be prepared for trail corridors in King County. These plans should identify users, trail designs and maintenance costs.

Local Trails

PR-306 (KCCP) Local trails should be acquired when identified in the Park, Recreation and Open Space Functional Plan or when identified as part of a community trail network. If feasible, these trails should provide handicap accessible access in conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and shall be developed to accommodate some or all of the following uses: hiking, cycling, running and horseback riding.

Local trails provide recreation, circulation within the local community and access to the regional trail system. Many of the local trail systems in the county consist of existing trails that have been informally developed through years of use by the local community. The interests of the community are best met by identifying and preserving the current trails and the trail uses and enhancing them by adding trail mileage, improving trail access to local destinations, linking them to the regional trail system and providing for maintenance. Local trails are frequently referred to as community trails.

S-107 King County should prepare a Community Trails Plan to identify existing local trails and connections needed for recreation, local circulation and access to the regional trail system.

S-108 King County will use trail rules and a Trail User Code of Conduct to direct the safe and enjoyable use of the County's trail system.

King County's Trail User Code of Conduct was adopted by Ordinance No. 8518 in 1988. It may be found in Appendix F.

PR-104 (KCCP) Local parks, trails and open spaces should be provided in each community, in both urban and rural areas, to enhance environmental and visual quality and meet local recreation needs. Local means smaller sites and facilities to serve close-to-home, day-to-day needs of the community.

S-109 King County should identify and preserve existing local trails to maintain important linkages within communities to form a local trail system.

S-110 King County should identify and preserve a local trail system that provides opportunities for a wide range of trail users.

Mountains to Sound Greenway

The Mountains to Sound Greenway is many things: an historic road, a visual corridor stretching along Interstate-90; a network of parks and recreational trails, rest areas and wildlife corridors; and a landscape of working farms, forests and communities. It is a special combination of history, scenery, nature and recreation.

Greenway efforts began in 1991 and major building blocks of the corridor exist today. The National Forest and Cedar River Watershed, state and local parks and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. State scenic highway easements, land purchases and exchanges by the Department of Natural Resources complete the initial Greenway inventory.

King County is an active participant in Greenway efforts. County parks along the corridor contribute significantly to the Greenway. These include: Three Forks Park near North Bend, major holdings connecting Cougar, Squak, and Tiger Mountains, the 2800 acre Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Coal Creek Park and Luther Burbank Park. The County and the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) jointly own and manage 1786 acres on Rattlesnake Ridge.

Numerous County trail corridors and networks are located within the Greenway. These include the Cougar, Squak and Tiger Trail corridor, Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Snoqualmie Valley Trail, Cedar River Trail and East Sammamish Plateau Trail.

PR-202 (KCCP) King County should support a greenway parallel to the Interstate-90 corridor. The County should work to complete the continuous block of public ownership along this greenway which forms the "backbone" of a countywide habitat network. Closure of the gaps should be accomplished through acquisition or coordination with other public and private agencies.

Urban Separators

The State Growth Management Act directs jurisdictions to reduce sprawl and encourage retention of open space. It requires counties and cities to identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas. These corridors must include lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connections of critical areas such as wetlands. In response, Countywide Planning Policies call for a regional open space system that provides physical and/or visual buffers to distinguish urban and rural areas, define urban growth boundaries, and establish the character of a neighborhood, community, city or region.

The 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan calls for the preservation of park and open space lands that define, through their natural features, the boundaries of urban and rural communities, including parks, trails, rivers, wetlands and scenic corridors. These lands provide scenic value, recreational opportunities and help to separate incompatible uses. They can preserve the natural character of an area and promote the formation of neighborhoods and communities.

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- U-307 King County should designate permanent Urban Separators within the Urban Growth Area and work in cooperation with cities during future planning efforts to develop additional Urban Separators, based upon the following criteria:**
- a. The land can serve as wildlife habitat, is an environmentally sensitive area as defined in King County's environmental protection regulation or serves to link such designated sensitive areas, contains a major elevation change or other visible landscape feature, is a part of a Regionally or Locally Significant Resource Area, public park, open space or trail, or contains historic resources found to be eligible for county landmark designation; or**
 - b. The land will help define community or municipal identities and boundaries.**
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This plan identifies major County urban separators, open space systems and corridors.

- S-109 King County will continue to identify and preserve local urban separators through local or subarea planning programs.**

Urban/Rural Greenbelt

The Countywide Planning Policies establish a program to actively pursue dedication of open space along the Urban Growth Area line. This program implements Growth Management Act goals to reduce sprawl and encourage the retention of open space.

The 4 to 1 Program

The 4 to 1 Program is an exciting new program developed to help implement the vision for an urban/rural greenbelt and conserve significant lands along the urban/rural growth line. The program offers rural property owners the ability to obtain an urban land use designation and urban density zoning in exchange for dedicated public open space. Owners with rural property contiguous to the Urban Growth Line are given an opportunity to join in a partnership with King County to benefit themselves and the general public.

The program allows for one acre of the property to be redesignated as urban land if four acres of the property are dedicated to the public as permanent open space. In addition, an affordable housing incentive allows property owners who agree to provide affordable housing to reduce the open space dedication to 3.5 acres. The 4 to 1 Program has the potential to add up to 16,000 acres of permanently dedicated open space that would nearly double King County's inventory of existing park and open space acreage.

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- I-204 (KCCP) King County shall actively pursue dedication of open space north and south along the Urban Growth Area line.**
- a. Rural Area land, excluding agriculturally zoned land, may be added to the Urban Growth Area only in exchange for a dedication of permanent open space to the King County Open Space System. The dedication shall consist of a minimum of four acres of open space for every one acre of land added to the Urban Growth Area, calculated in gross acres. The open space shall be dedicated at the time the application is approved;**
 - b. Land added under this policy to the Urban Growth Area adopted in the Countywide Planning Policies and the King County Comprehensive Plan shall be physically contiguous to the existing Urban Growth Area and must be able to be served by sewers and other urban services;**
 - c. The total area added to the Urban Growth Area as a result of this policy shall not exceed 4,000 acres;**
 - d. Development of the land added to the Urban Growth Area under this policy shall be limited to residential development and shall**

- be at a minimum density of four dwelling units per acre. Proposals shall meet the urban density and affordable housing policies of the Comprehensive Plan;
- e. Open space areas shall retain their rural area designations and should generally be configured in such a way as to connect with open space on adjacent properties. Open space areas should generally parallel the Urban Growth Area line, but the criteria set forth in I-204(k) below shall be controlling;
 - f. The minimum depth of the open space buffer between the proposed addition to the Urban Growth Area and the Rural Area shall be at least half the property width;
 - g. The minimum size of property to be considered will be 20 acres, which includes both the proposed addition to the Urban growth Area and land proposed for open space dedication. Smaller properties may be combined to meet the 20 acre threshold;
 - h. Initial proposals for open space dedication and redesignation to Urban Growth Area must be received between July 1, 1994 and June 30, 1996. Review by King County shall conclude by June 30, 1997;
 - i. Where applications are adjacent to city boundaries or Potential Annexation Areas, King County shall consult with and solicit recommendations from the city;
 - j. Proposals shall be evaluated for quality of both open space and urban development. The highest quality proposals shall be recommended for adoption as amendments to the Urban growth Area, in accordance with the procedural requirements of the Growth Management Act. If the 4,000 acre limit on land to be added to the Urban Growth Area is not reached in the time limits set forth in I-204(h), above, because of either insufficient number of proposals or proposals of insufficient quality, King County may set a time period for additional proposals;
 - k. Criteria for evaluating proposals shall include:
 1. Quality of fish and wildlife habitat areas;
 2. Connections to regional open space systems;
 3. Protection of wetlands, stream corridors, ground water and water bodies;
 4. Unique natural, cultural, historical, or archeological features;
 5. Size of proposed open space dedication and connection to other open space dedications along the Urban Growth Area line; and
 6. The ability to provide efficient urban facilities and services to the lands to be redesignated as part of the Urban Growth Area;
 - l. Proposals which add 200 acres or more to the Urban growth Area shall include affordable housing consistent with King County

regulations for urban planned developments, which require a mix of housing types and densities, including 30 percent below-market-rate units affordable to low, moderate and median income households;

- m. As an incentive for additional affordable housing development under this program, the required open space dedication shall be reduced from four to 3.5 acres for each acre added to the Urban Growth Area for 1) proposals smaller than 200 acres that provide 30 percent affordable housing units, or 2) larger developments that exceed 30 percent affordable housing units;
- n. Development on land added to the Urban Growth Area under this policy shall be subject to the same growth phasing policies applicable to all other urban development; and
- o. Where a contiguous band of publicly dedicated open space currently exists along the Urban Growth Area line, the above program shall not be utilized.

I-205 King County shall amend the Urban Growth Area to add rural lands to the UGA consistent with policy I-204. Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map amendments pursuant to this policy shall occur each year as part of the annual review of the Plan, and shall consist of a rural to urban redesignation and a reclassification to an urban residential zone. Detailed site suitability and development conditions for both the urban and open space portions of the proposal shall be established through the preliminary formal plat approval process. Open space dedication shall occur at final formal plat approval. If the applicant fails to actively pursue and receive preliminary formal plat approval during a reasonable period of time the urban and open space properties shall convert to a rural designation and rural zone classification during the next yearly review of the King County Comprehensive Plan.

The Urban/Rural Greenbelt that results from the 4 to 1 Program will help maintain a corridor of natural landscape and habitat for wildlife; connect existing trails, parks and open space; create new recreation opportunities; preserve historic and cultural resources; and clearly define the Urban Growth Line in King County. Stretching from Pierce County north to Snohomish, the greenbelt will be a contiguous permanent buffer of open space between urban and rural lands for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Existing parks, open spaces, trail corridors and agricultural production districts contribute significantly to the Urban/Rural Greenbelt. Beginning from south to north they are: Auburn Narrows Park, Soos Creek Park, Lake Young's Trail and watershed, Lake Desire/Spring Lake Park, Petrovitsky Park, Cedar River Park,

May Valley Park, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Squak Mountain State Park, Tiger Mountain State Forest, Grand Ridge open space, Duthie Hill Park, Fall City Park, Cleveland Memorial Forest (Seattle School District), Snoqualmie Agricultural Production District; Section 36 Park, Sammamish River Agricultural Production District, and Sixty Acres Park.

S-110 Open space acquired through the 4 to 1 Program shall be considered as primarily natural areas or passive recreation sites as defined in this plan. The following additional uses may be allowed only if located on a small portion of the open space and are found to be compatible with the site's open space values:

- a. development for active recreation uses when they are compatible with the site and are necessary to meet the recreational needs of the adjacent urban area provided that: the active recreation area is nearby the Urban Growth Area; and the physical characteristics of the site, such as topography, soils and hydrology are suitable for development of active facilities;
- b. trails;
- c. natural appearing, unfenced stormwater facilities;
- d. compensatory mitigation of wetland losses on the urban designated portion of the project, consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan and the Sensitive Areas Ordinance.

Wildlife Habitat

King County is committed to conserving fish and wildlife resources in the County and to maintain countywide biodiversity. The King County's Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) makes clear the commitment to preserve opportunities for people to observe and enjoy wildlife and wildlife habitats.

NE-601 (KCCP) The County shall strive to maintain the existing diversity of species and habitat in the County. In the Urban Growth Area, King County should strive to maintain a quality environment which includes fish and wildlife habitat that support the greatest diversity of native species consistent with the density objectives. The County should maximize wildlife diversity in the rural Area.

Wildlife resources in King County are still very diverse. Elk, black-tailed deer, black bear, bobcat, beaver, and cougar are still found throughout the County. Bald eagles, hummingbirds, great horned owls, red-tailed hawks and pileated woodpeckers are among the more than 100 species of birds found in the County's forests and clearings. Waterfowl include eared grebes, buffleheads, dippers, and belted kingfishers. A variety of amphibians and reptiles inhabit the area including rubber boas and pacific giant salamanders. Sockeye, kokanee, coho, Chinook salmon and cutthroat and steelhead trout populate streams and lakes. Numerous butterflies and other insects thrive in the region. Wetland and riparian areas provide a home to approximately 230 wildlife species during one or more life stages. The challenge will be to maintain this level of biodiversity as the County grows and develops.

Growth and development are converting native vegetation to landscapes that do not provide the food and shelter many native wildlife species require. Loss of native species and the introduction of non-native species results in overall loss of wildlife habitats and increased competition from introduced species such as starlings.

Common habitats, such as second growth forest, disappear as urbanization occurs. Also most people in King County have the most contact with the more common habitats. If we concentrate on unique or rare habitats, we may not be optimizing citizen's opportunities to view or interact with wildlife. Finally, some areas may be important simply because they connect other areas together. In a fragmented environment, these unremarkable but linked habitats may become critical.

King County analyzed the change in habitat values from 1981 to 1991 in the East Sammamish Planning Area, a sub-area of King County. This analysis indi-

cated that the amount of poor and moderate quality habitats doubled while the remaining excellent and good quality habitats became fragmented, isolated and much less available to wildlife. The average size of higher quality habitats declined from about 51 acres to about 29 acres during the same time period. This community planning area is representative of many of the developing areas of the County.

Public Concern and Involvement

In 1991 the WSU-King County Cooperative Extension conducted a survey of King County residents who were asked to rank the seriousness of eleven environmental problems. The loss of fish and wildlife ranked number one overall. More recently, the Conversation about the Future project that was conducted in November of 1993 received over 1600 responses. Respondents said the number one reason for living here was the environment. The highest ranked strategy for enhancing economic development was to protect our natural environment and resources.

King County has expressed a strong commitment to protecting fish and wildlife resources by advocating for and supporting a wildlife program. Public input into wildlife protection strategies has been a part of the development of the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

Action Program

Wildlife protection goals may be achieved through acquisition, restoration and habitat management, and educational programs. Regulations, monitoring and interjurisdictional coordination efforts will be pursued. Development review standards should include measures to protect priority species and habitats and integrate wildlife habitats into new development. Incentives include tax credits for habitat enhancement projects on private property and buffering existing protected properties. Management and development of County-owned land provides opportunities to demonstrate leadership in habitat protection and stewardship.

S-111 King County will in part pursue its wildlife habitat protection goals through a program to:

- a. identify and protect critical wildlife habitat areas;**
- b. link critical wildlife habitat areas and other protected lands through a network system;**
- c. integrate wildlife habitat and conservation goals into new developments and encourage integration of wildlife into existing developments; and**

d. demonstrate leadership in habitat protection and stewardship through County land management practices.

Several County programs include habitat conservation as part of their goals. The Waterways 2000 program, for example proposes to purchase properties along the Green, Cedar and Snoqualmie Rivers and Bear and Patterson Creeks for the purpose of habitat conservation and for natural area recreation opportunities. These will help form large blocks of land and corridors to support wildlife. Park master plans outline critical habitat areas and management strategies to be used within County parks.

Available Information

Extensive information about wildlife habitats and wildlife in King County is maintained by the County's Wildlife Program. Habitat values have been analyzed for the rural and urban fringe areas of the County. A habitat network has been mapped and was adopted in the 1994 Comprehensive Plan. Cover type mapping based on satellite imagery has been completed for the County. The County also maintains an inventory of streams and wetlands which provide valuable wildlife habitat.

Active and Passive Recreation

Regional active park and recreation facilities include large single purpose facilities such as tournament quality athletic complexes like Fort Dent, large multi-use parks like Marymoor that offer active, passive and natural areas. The County also manages regional single purpose facilities such as athletic complexes, the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatics Center, and King County's Enumclaw Golf Course.

PR-205 (KCCP) King County will advance a functional system of regional active parks and recreational facilities to include sites and facilities that attract users from beyond the geographic limits of individual neighborhoods and communities and are of a size, uniqueness of feature or character and are equitably distributed and/or are important parts of systems that best function as a unit or cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Active recreation sites provide for organized, scheduled activities. Active parks provide for a variety of recreational activities. These might include a highly developed athletic field complex with lights and extensive support facilities, or large picnic shelters and areas for organized group picnics. Undeveloped areas may remain within these parks and provide additional secondary benefits such as habitat value, environmental protection, and passive recreation. These recreation sites accommodate intensive use and require a significant amount of development to accommodate them.

PR-201 (KCCP) King County will own and manage a regional open space system with a major focus on natural systems and multi-use trails.

Passive recreation sites provide informally developed areas to support independent and group activities such as informal play, hiking, walking, jogging, picnicking and bicycling. These activities may require some improvement or development to support them. Examples include an open grassy meadow, picnic tables, playfields, children's play equipment, and trails.

Local Recreation

Local parks, including active and passive sites and facilities, open space lands and trails serve the close-by and more frequent recreation needs of the community. Local parks can provide for intensive active play or passive activities and include development such as play areas, open grassy fields, developed ballfields, tennis or sport courts, picnic areas and trails. These parks are often

the informal meeting place for the neighborhood, providing a social function and a sense of community identity.

Unincorporated Urban Growth Area

King County will play an important transitional role in the provision of local parks in the unincorporated urban area. Local facilities and services are needed in these areas to attract and support the expected population growth. Provisions must be made for the ownership and management of County facilities that are within the new boundaries of these jurisdictions. Local parks will be transferred to cities as they annex or incorporate or the city may contract with the County to manage these lands. King County will inventory equipment and furnishings prior to transferring local parks and as a general rule, will retain maintenance equipment such as lawnmowers and maintenance vehicles but will transfer all furnishings and equipment such as benches, picnic tables, and lifeguard equipment which had been designated for that facility. The cities will be encouraged to retain existing park programs and staff.

PR-301 (KCCP) King County will work in partnership with other jurisdictions and organizations to plan and provide local open spaces, trails, active parks, pools and facilities and recreation services in the unincorporated Urban Growth Area, until such time as annexations or incorporations occur or other providers become available to assume these responsibilities.

S-112 King County will transfer to cities the park, recreation and open space lands and facilities within their jurisdictional boundaries that are classified as local. Cities may enter into contracts with the county to maintain local lands and facilities. The priority for transferring local parks to cities should be in the following order: (1) local parks located in urban areas with active annexation and incorporation efforts, (2) local parks already located within the jurisdictional boundaries of a city, (3) local parks located in potential annexation areas where the city has indicated a desire to take over the facility, and (4) other local parks located within potential annexation areas. The County will ensure that parks transferred to cities are in at least an adequate condition reflecting county maintenance, safety and capital improvement standards but will not ensure that parks meet higher city standards. The County will generally not provide an operating subsidy to cities during the transitional phase, however in order to assist newly incorporated cities during the transition period,

the County may provide cost sharing for maintenance and operation.

Unincorporated Rural Area

King County will continue to provide service to the unincorporated Rural Area. The King County Comprehensive Plan established Rural Areas where limited growth and development, and the reduced levels of facilities and services are to occur.

F-203 (KCCP) In the Rural Area, services provided by agencies should support a rural level of development and not facilitate urbanization.

PR-302 (KCCP) King County will adopt standards and provide local open spaces, parks, trails and recreation services in the Rural Area.

S-113 King County will work with cities in the rural area to provide park and recreation rural services. These partnerships are encouraged to serve the large geographic area and dispersed population in rural unincorporated King County.

S-113A King County should continue to provide capital support through the annual Parks CIP to park and recreation districts for county parks which are transferred to park and recreation districts located in unincorporated areas.

King County Fair

The King County Fairgrounds and annual King County Fair promote agriculture by providing opportunities for participation in agricultural events. The Fair provides a stage for participation in the experience and enjoyment of our agricultural heritage. The King County Fair has existed for 128 years, and is the oldest continuously operated fair in Washington State. It is valued as a showcase for the agricultural community, highlighting the efforts of youth in 4H and the Future Farmers of America.

The County plans, schedules and manages the annual King County Fair which includes coordination of displays, exhibits, competitions and shows, stage entertainment and concessions. In addition, the County is responsible for operation and maintenance of the Fairgrounds for other special events occurring throughout the rest of the year.

During the fair, revenue is generated by admission, parking, camping, carnival fee percentage, exhibitor fees and sponsorships. Fair visitors also contribute a large economic benefit to the city of Enumclaw and surrounding communities.

- S-114 King County is committed to providing a traditional agricultural and educational experience through the annual King County Fair.**
- S-115 King County will actively market and promote use of the King County Fairgrounds to maximize its use by revenue producing events.**
- S-116 King County will work with the city of Enumclaw to provide programs, special events and scheduling of the King County Fairgrounds that are consistent with the site, facilities, and character of the area.**

Aquatics

Miles of saltwater and freshwater shoreline and public river access make water safety and swim instruction important in King County. The current aquatic system includes Puget Sound and lake beaches, and the largest indoor pool system in the United States. There are currently 16 indoor and 2 outdoor pools in the King County system.

In 1968 the Forward Thrust Bond provided countywide funding for the construction of 16 indoor swimming pools and 1 outdoor pool. Pools were sited throughout the unincorporated King County area, with at least one pool planned for each of the school districts in the County. This system was established to provide a basic level of swimming skills for all school age children within the County. Due to fiscal constraints, most of the school districts have since discontinued their swim instruction program; however, King County provides basic swimming skills through a variety of programs and swimming opportunities.

The King County/Weyerhaeuser Aquatic Center was added to King County's inventory at the time of the Goodwill Games in 1990. The outdoor pool at Cottage Lake was acquired with the acquisition of the former Norm's Resort. St. Edwards Pool is owned by the State, but operated by King County. The County beach program is an integral part of the system. Currently, eight public beaches are staffed by County lifeguards.

This system offers a range of aquatic instructional programs including pre-school through senior citizen swim lessons, water aerobics, arthritis exercise activities, lifeguard training, school swim teams and many others. The County has also initiated less traditional uses for the pools including programs for youth-at-risk, scuba training and special event programming. In 1994 there were 807,637 swimming lessons taught in County pools. Swim instructors were certified through County training programs and 192 new lifeguards were trained and certified for employment at pools and beaches throughout the area.

Beyond teaching basic swimming and safety skills, the County is able to promote nationally recognized competitive swimmers and divers. King County area athletes continue to break national high school records. In 1991, the interscholastic competitive swim team program, supported primarily by King County pools, had seven girls and nine boys who achieved high school All-American recognition. In 1992, there were 17 youth swim teams, 4 diving teams, 2 synchronized swim teams, 6 water polo teams and 8 master swim teams all practicing and competing in County pools.

The King County/Weyerhaeuser Aquatic Center is the centerpiece of the County's competitive swimming program and is regarded as one of the finest competition pools in the United States. King County athletes who have trained in

the pool system have won Olympic Gold Medals in swimming and synchronized swimming.

King County has found it increasingly difficult to finance this comprehensive system. Joint planning for funding in both the short and long term is critical to continued operation of the system.

S-117 King County's swimming pools are a regional system that is made up of individual local pools.

S-118 King County will work with cities to manage and fund the regional swimming pool system to assure County residents can safely experience our region's abundant water resources.

Some pools are located within cities and predominantly serve city residents, such as the pool in Mercer Island. Others may serve a combination of residents from several cities and/or the unincorporated area. The Weyerhaeuser/King County Aquatics Center serves the entire County, as well as the greater Northwest region. The County will work with cities to develop ownership and management strategies that best serve the public and that reflect the unique circumstances of each pool. Options include cost sharing in proportion with the jurisdiction of the users, and transfers of pools to cities which are used predominantly by city residents.

S-119 King County recognizes a difference in the users of each pool, with some pools serving predominantly either city or unincorporated residents, while others serve a mixed user group.

S120 King County shall develop a method for determining and monitoring pool use by the residents of other jurisdictions.

S-121 King County's goal is to maintain the regional swimming pool system with responsibility for funding matched to the jurisdictions of the users.

S-122 King County should negotiate and complete the transfer of pools serving predominantly city residents at the rate of two per year. Pools located in cities with the highest percent usage by residents from the incorporated city should be transferred first.

S-123 Pool transfers to cities may include payments of up to the present value of four years of the current County net operating subsidy for each pool or an alternative arrangement for cost sharing

between the city and the county based on percent of usage by incorporated and unincorporated residents.

The above policy will require the reservation of transfer subsidy or cost sharing funds in the County budget in anticipation of this rate of transfer.

- S-124 King County will consider cost sharing agreements for pools which serve a combination of users from cities and unincorporated King County.**
- S-125 King County will do its part to keep the system in good condition and available to all County residents.**
- S-126 King County will work with cities to plan for swimming pools that increase the opportunities to program and generate revenue from the facilities. New investment should consider an expanded range of activities associated with pools.**

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V. Recreation Programs

Recreation programs promote the enjoyable use of the park, recreation and open space system and cultivate a better understanding and appreciation of the land. King County provides programs for a wide variety of recreational lands, and facilities. Particular attention shall be paid to providing park programs and activities to those areas of the county where King County is the local service provider.

R-100 In the rural areas, King County shall provide an array of park programs and activities consistent with the rural level of service.

R-100A In the urban unincorporated areas, King County shall provide park programs and activities consistent with the urban level of service and shall develop partnerships and coordinate with cities, school districts, and community groups to help meet program demands.

PR-204 (KCCP) King County will offer educational, interpretive and aquatic programs that further the enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources of the regional system and the region.

PR-206 (KCCP) King County will sponsor regional recreational and aquatic programs and special events.

King County will continue to promote special events attracting regional participation and focusing on the regional resources of the park and open space system. Examples of special events include the Heritage Festival, Return to Newcastle and the King County Fair, as well as regional competitive events and tournaments.

R-101 King County will organize and sponsor programs and activities that are appropriate to the role and resources of the park or open space site.

R-102 King County will focus on providing a smaller range of regional recreation programs over time that take advantage of our natural systems and regional facilities.

Recreation programs will increasingly focus on the visitor's relationship to nature, natural features and processes, ecology, local history and appropriate use of natural areas. This programming can be carried out as a part of programs such as day camps, family camps, group activities, and park walks.

R-103 King County should develop and implement a comprehensive interpretive plan and programs focusing on the natural and cultural resources of the system.

R-104 King County will work with cities, communities and other providers to maximize program offerings and services to provide a variety of local recreation programs that respond to the interests of the communities.

Joint programs or service contracts may also be appropriate for some local programs and activities

Equity is an important programming issue. Adapting programs and services to changing demographics and population distribution, while maintaining high quality, affordable programs is a challenge for King County. The County will plan and evaluate programs to ensure that the diverse needs and interests of County citizens are met.

- R-105 King County should develop program guidelines to clearly outline County roles and responsibilities, including definition of a base level of service and identification of other alternatives and costs.**
- R-106 King County will regularly evaluate programs for interest, attendance, effectiveness and cost, and will use this information to plan and design its programs.**
- R-107 King County will offer accessible recreational programs that offer a diversity of activities to all ages, abilities and interests.**

Recreation programs will be planned to accommodate the needs of the disabled and they will be encouraged to participate in mainstream County programs. Options for special programs will also be offered. Youth-at -risk , low income and senior populations need to be served.

- R-108 King County will continue to provide a variety of park and recreation services that meet the needs of low income populations. Financial options may include scholarships, private and public sector grants, cooperative programming, and subsidized or reduced fees.**
- R-109 King County should identify how much of various programs and services are recovered by fees, determine services needing subsidies, and research other creative ways to fund these programs.**
- R-110 King County will continue to encourage volunteer and jointly sponsored programs with other providers to maximize availability of recreation programs.**

The scheduled activity use of all King County facilities is critical to ensure safe, equitable, and appropriate use of the facilities.

- R-111 King County will balance uses of park and open space facilities to serve a variety of users and minimize conflicts.**

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VI. Park and Open Space Classification System

The King County Park and Open Space System includes lands and facilities with a variety of park and open space resources and functions. This classification system forms the framework for stewardship of park resources, while providing a system to define recreational and educational uses.

C-101 Parks and open spaces in the King County system will be classified using a three level system; first identifying the site as regional or local, second identifying its primary role within the system and third, identifying park use areas within a site.

C-102 New parks and open spaces will be classified at the time of acquisition and through development of a site management plan or master plan.

Level One Classification: Regional/Local

Level one classifies a site as regional or local based on who it serves, and guides future development to be appropriately scaled to serve those uses.

C-103 Regional sites and facilities are generally larger than 50 acres, have unique features or character, or provide major active recreation activities, are important as part of a larger system and/or cross jurisdictions and/or serve users from multiple jurisdictions as evidenced by the level of activities and/or the location which is proximate to major transportation corridors.

C-104 King County should own and operate regional sites and facilities but a city or another agency may own or partially own and/or manage a regional site, based on a negotiated agreement with the county.

Designating a site as regional does establish a presumption of County ownership and management responsibility, however cities and other agencies may negotiate with King County to assume ownership or partial ownership and/or management responsibilities for regional sites and King County may pursue cost sharing arrangements with cities if a large percentage of the park users are from incorporated cities.

C-105 King County should retain ownership of the following regional sites which are currently located within cities or within urban areas which will eventually annex or incorporate.

**Aquatic Center
Beaver Lake Park
Big Finn Hill
Coal Creek Park
Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park
Fort Dent
Lake Wilderness Park
Luther Burbank Park
Marymoor Park
Petrovitsky Park**

These sites are the urban regional park facilities that substantially meet the definition of policy C-103. Each of these sites is large in size, draws from outside cities boundaries, offers unique services to the public and/or offers major recreational activities, and is an important part of the County's active, multi-purpose facilities.

- C-105A** Juanita Beach Park will be retained, operated and maintained by King County as a regional park pursuant to the terms of the Interlocal Agreement signed between King County and City of Kirkland in October 1987.
- C-106** Ownership of open space lands acquired through the 4 to 1 Program shall not be transferred to an adjacent city.
- C-107** King County should transfer all other park sites to the cities in which they are located. Cities may contract with King County to continue to provide maintenance and/or recreation service.
- C-108** King County shall pursue with Seattle and the Suburban cities the development of a regional financing and governance plan to fund and manage the regional park and open space system and to provide for a transitional park system within potential annexation areas.
- C-109** In the absence of a regional funding source, King County should pursue cost sharing agreements with cities to equitably distribute the cost of operating and maintaining regional sites, especially where a high percentage of park users are from incorporated cities.
- C-110** King County should address transfer of park and open space sites as part of annexation or incorporation interlocal agreement which cover other services and facilities.
- C-111** King County may transfer regional sites located within the unincorporated area to an adjacent city, park district, or other agency if the transfer makes service provisions more efficient and when the rights to access and use by all citizens of King County are protected.

Traditional local parks have active and passive park facilities including play areas, open grassy fields, developed ballfields, tennis or sport courts, small picnic areas and trails. Less developed local passive parks and natural areas provide for conservation of local community character and natural resources, and offer opportunities for passive recreation.

The definition of local facilities within unincorporated King County is used to guide future financial responsibility after annexations or incorporations.

- C-112** Local sites are smaller sites and serve the close by park and recreation needs of the community. These sites are predominantly used by residents of the jurisdiction the park is in.
- C-113** Sites designated as local will be transferred to the city in which they are located. Cities may contract with King County to continue to provide maintenance or recreation services under contract.
- C-114** King County may transfer local sites located within the unincorporated area to an adjacent city, park district or other agency.
- C-115** King County will focus on the acquisition of local park sites in the unincorporated urban area. These sites will be land banked for future development.
- C-116** King County may provide mineral development on urban local park sites in the unincorporated urban areas to preserve and protect the site and provide some limited public use.
- C-117** King County will fully develop local urban park sites in the unincorporated urban area when significant progress has been made toward reaching the County's local acquisition goals and when the area is expected to remain unincorporated for the long term or when partnerships are available to share funding and management responsibilities.
- C-118** King County will consider entering into interlocal cost sharing agreements with cities for local park and open space acquisition and development within the city's Potential Annexation Areas (PAAS) to meet their local standards.

Level Two Classification: Role in the System

Level two classifies each site based on its primary intended purpose. This designation guides the site's future use, development, programming and management, and gives important direction for future master plans.

- C-119** All King County park and open space sites will be classified within the following categories: 1) natural, 2) active recreation, 3) passive recreation, 4) multi-use, 5) trail or 6) special purpose site.

- C-120** Natural sites recognize areas valued for their natural character. They may not be completely natural and undisturbed, but may be important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological sites or features of scientific and educational value. Development and use will focus on keeping the environment in a nearly undeveloped state. There may be little or limited public access to these sites.
- C-121** Use of natural sites may include interpretive and educational programs, nature programs, and activities that emphasize the appreciation of the outdoors.
- C-122** Public use and management activities should be allowed on natural sites when they are compatible with the natural resource values of these sites and when they do not significantly affect the long term quality of the site or its resources. Development will be limited to making the site available for public enjoyment in a manner consistent with natural resource conservation.
- C-123** Natural sites may require individual management plans to determine the site's ability to support public uses, and to determine the enhancement and preservation efforts needed.
- C-124** Active recreation sites recognize a higher level of public use, and will require developed areas for organized or intense recreation.

Active sites support independent, group and team activities that require a significant level of development and operations. This includes scheduled sports activities and large scale special events and tournaments. They support high impact forms of recreation. Site development, maintenance and programming will reflect this level of developed facilities and intensive use.

- C-125** Passive recreation sites require a lower level of development and provide areas for informal, self-directed activities for individuals and groups.

Uses may also include less formal levels of sports fields (playfields) or courts. These activities require some level of improvement or development to support them.

- C-126** Multi-use sites provide a combination of active or passive recreation opportunities and natural areas.

Each portion of a multi-use site will be developed and managed to support the level of use or preservation appropriate to its designation.

- C-127 Trails provide non-motorized recreational and transportation opportunities and may serve a variety of uses or may be designed for a more limited use.**

Multi-purpose trails allow for a combination of users such as walkers, equestrians, bicyclists, joggers, or roller skaters. Single or limited purpose trails are developed to serve one or compatible types of users.

- C-128 Special purpose sites provide for a unique use. This includes such sites as fairgrounds, golf courses, the aquatic center, community gardens and historical or cultural sites that provide recreation and interpretive value.**

Level Three Classification: Park Use Areas Within Park Sites

Finally, each park site will be further defined by park use areas within the site.

- C-129 Park use area designations establish areas of development, use, maintenance and stewardship. Their purpose is to organize uses within a park site.**
- C-130 The following categories will be used to identify the individual park use areas within a site: 1) natural area, 2) passive recreation area, 3) active recreation area, 4) staging area, and 5) special management area.**
- C-131 Natural Area designates areas of natural character and natural resources. These areas support little development and limited public access. Development may include basic improvements necessary for trails, nature study and related outdoor activities.**

Examples include soft-surface trails, overlook areas, protective fencing/barriers, enhancement of natural vegetation, and interpretive and informational signs.

- C-132 Passive Recreation Area designates areas for informal, self-directed activities such as informal play, hiking, bicycling, jogging, and picnicking. These areas may include open fields, trails, children's play equipment, and picnic sites.**

- C-133 Active Recreation Area designates areas with the highest level of development, use and programming. These areas include facilities to support organized athletics such as ball fields and soccer fields, and areas for large scale group picnics, gatherings and special events.**
- C-134 Special Management Area designates areas within a site identified for special management or use. These areas may include wetland management areas, habitat corridor preservation and enhancement areas, resource restoration areas, scenic corridors and historic districts.**
- C-135 Staging Area designates areas for support facilities needed for public access and use of the site. Facilities will generally be located in the least sensitive portions of a site, at the edge of a sites or at previously disturbed locations within them.**

Examples include parking areas, restrooms, drinking fountains, picnic areas, shelters, outdoor education or interpretive facilities and park information and trailhead signs. Maintenance and programming support facilities will be located in the staging area. The objective for the staging area facilities associated with natural area sites is to direct appropriate use and minimize the impacts of public use.

VII. Inventory

The three level park classification system described in Chapter 5 provides a way to organize and describe each park's use, management needs and role within the system.

The following chart arranges King County parks first by whether they are regional or local.

Within the regional list, parks are sorted by their geographic location, such as the Cedar River Waterway and Mountains-to-Sound Greenway or within other systems such as the aquatic system, regional trail system or regional active parks.

The local list is sorted by location within the urban or rural area, as defined by the Urban Growth Line and further identified as to location within a potential city annexation or incorporation area. The role of a site within the system is also included. Land use areas within sites will be designated in future master plans and management plans.

For more detailed information on park sites and facilities see Appendix D.

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Figure14. PARK INVENTORY AND CLASSIFICATION
SORTED BY LOCAL/REGIONAL AND URBAN/RURAL

Name	Acres	Loc/Reg	CPA	Urban/Rural	Pot. City *	class.	system
LOCAL PARKS IN URBAN AREA							
Auburndale Park	10	local	Soos Creek	urban	Auburn	passive	
Lea Hill Park	8.8	local	Soos Creek	urban	Auburn	active	
Auburndale Two	9.2	local	Soos creek	urban	Auburn	passive	
Eastgate	25	local	Eastside	urban	Bellevue(1)	active	
Lake Heights	3	local	Newcastle	urban	Bellevue	passive	
Sunrise	4.4	local	Newcastle	urban	Bellevue(1)	passive	
Inglemoor Soccerfield	9.6	local	Northshore	urban	Bothell/Kenmore	active	
Kenmore Park and Recreation Center	12.5	local	Northshore	urban	Kenmore	passive	
Moorlands	4.6	local	Northshore	urban	Kenmore	passive	
East Norway Hill	26	local	Northshore	urban	Bothell	active	
West Hill Park	7.6	local	Northshore	urban	Bothell	natural	
Chelsea Park	3	local	Highline	urban	Burien (2)	active	
Des Moines Memorial	0.1	local	Highline	urban	Burien (2)	spec.pur.	
Lakeview Park	2.8	local	Highline	urban	Burien (2)	passive	
Moshier Memorial Park	15.2	local	Highline	urban	Burien (2)	active	
Salmon Creek Ravine	76.9	local	Highline	urban	Burien (2)	passive	
Seahurst	185	local	Highline	urban	Burien (2)	passive	
Shorewood	3.4	local	Highline	urban	Burien (2)	passive	
Woodmont Park	8.7	local	Federal Way	urban	Des Moines(3)	passive	
Redondo	2.8	local	Federal Way	urban	DesMoines(3)	spec.pur.	saltwater
Wooten Park	2.3	local	Federal Way	urban	DesMoines(3)	passive	
Dougherty Farm	2	local	Snoqualmie	urban	Duvall	spec.pur.	
Farmers Park	10	local	Enumclaw	urban	Enumclaw	passive	
Camelot Park	16.4	local	Federal Way	urban	Fed Way/Aub	passive	
Five Mile Lake Park	26.5	local	Federal Way	urban	Federal Way	passive	
Lake Geneva Park	18.5	local	Federal Way	urban	Federal Way	active	
Greenwood/Sammamish Cove	19	local	East Samm	urban	Issaquah	natural	
Klahanie Park	10	local	E. Sammamish	urban	Issaquah	active	
Klahanie Park/Queens Bog	40	local	E. Sammamish	urban	Issaquah	natural	
Pine Lake	15.8	local	E. Sammamish	urban	Issaquah	active	
Timberlake	25	local	Newcastle	urban	Issaquah	passive	
Linwood Park	2.7	local	Shoreline	urban	Kenmore	passive	
Swamp Creek Two OS	28.4	local	Northshore	urban	Kenmore	natural	
Tracy Owen Station	15.8	local	Northshore	urban	Kenmore	passive	Samm/BG
Wallace Swamp Creek Park	17	local	Northshore	urban	Kenmore	passive	
Green Tree Park	1.5	local	Soos Creek	urban	Kent	passive	
Park Orchard	6.3	local	Soos Creek	urban	Kent		
North Green River Park	169	local	Green River	urban	Kent/Auburn(7)	active	Green

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**Figure14. PARK INVENTORY AND CLASSIFICATION
SORTED BY LOCAL/REGIONAL AND URBAN/RURAL**

Name	Acres	Loc/Reg	CPA	Urban/Rural	Pot. City *	class.	system
North Meridian Park	35	local	Soos Creek	urban	Kent	active	
132nd Square Park	9.4	local	Northshore	urban	Kirkland	active	
Edith Moulton Park	26.4	local	Northshore	urban	Kirkland	passive	
Juanita Beach	29.5	local	Northshore	urban	Kirkland	active	
Juanita Heights	3.5	local	Northshore	urban	Kirkland	passive	
Juanita Triangle	0.5	local	Northshore	urban	Kirkland	spec.pur.	
Kingsgate	6.9	local	Northshore	urban	Kirkland	passive	
O.O. Denny (8)	37.5	local	Northshore	urban	Kirkland	passive	
Windsor Vista Park	1.7	local	Northshore	urban	Kirkland	passive	
Bruggers Bog Park	4.3	local	Shoreline	urban	Lake Forest Park	passive	
Horizon View Park	8.4	local	Shoreline	urban	Lake Forest Park	passive	
Shamrock Park	1.2	local	Snoqualmie	urban	North Bend	passive	
Si View Park and Activity Center	11.4	local	Snoqualmie	urban	North Bend	active	
Evans Pond	0.2	local	E. Sammamish	urban	Redmond	passive	
Bill Reams,East Sammamish Park	19	local	E. Sammamish	urban	Redmond	active	
NE Sammamish Park	2	local	E. Sammamish	urban	Redmond	active	
Cascade Park	9.2	local	Soos Creek	urban	Renton	passive	
Honey Dew (Darnell II)	0.4	local	Newcastle	urban	Renton	spec. pur.	
Maplewood	4.8	local	Newcastle	urban	Renton	passive	
Maplewood Heights	20	local	Newcastle	urban	Renton	active	
Renton Park	18.5	local	Soos Creek	urban	Renton	passive	
Sierra Heights	4.7	local	Newcastle	urban	Renton	passive	
Hilltop Park	6.9	local	Highline	urban	SeaTac	passive	
Southern Heights	3.3	local	Highline	urban	SeaTac	passive	
Ballinger Park Open Space	3.2	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	natural	
Cromwell Park	2.1	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	active	
Darnell	0.8	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	passive	
Echo Lake Park	0.9	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	passive	
Hillwood Park	10	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	active	
Innis Arden Reserve	23	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	passive	saltwater
James Keough Park	3.1	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	passive	
Meridian Park	3.2	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	passive	
North City	3.8	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	passive	
Northcrest	7.3	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	passive	
Paramount Open Space	3.5	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	natural	
Paramount Park	5.6	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	active	
Paramount School (1)	7	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	active	
Richmond Beach Park	40	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	passive	saltwater
Richmond Beach Center	3.8	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	spec.pur.	
Richmond Highlands Park & Act. Cntr.	4.3	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	active	

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Figure14. PARK INVENTORY AND CLASSIFICATION
SORTED BY LOCAL/REGIONAL AND URBAN/RURAL

Name	Acres	Loc/Reg	CPA	Urban/Rural	Pot. City *	class.	system
Richmond Reserve	0.1	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	natural	
Ridgecrest	3.8	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	active	
Ronald Bog	13.7	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	passive	
Shoreline Park	5	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	active	
Shoreview	86.4	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	active	
Twin Ponds	21.8	local	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline(4)	active	
Waterford Park	4.1	local	Northshore	urban	Woodinville(5)	passive	
Arbor Lake Park	32	local	Highline	urban	(6)	passive	
Evergreen Athletic Fields	8	local	Highline	urban	(6)	active	
Fernwood Park	6	local	Tahoma/RH	urban	(6)	natural	
Lake Desire Park	0.2	local	Soos Creek	urban	(6)	passive	
Lakewood Park	34.5	local	Highline	urban	(6)	passive	
Pine Tree Park	9.8	local	Soos Creek	urban	(6)	passive	
White Center Bog	1	local	Highline	urban	(6)	passive	
White Center Heights	5.6	local	Highline	urban	(6)	passive	
White Center Park & CC	11.7	local	Highline	urban	(6)	active	
Hazel Valley Park	2.5	local	Highline	urban	(6)	passive	
North Shorewood Park	6.4	local	Highline	urban	(6)	passive	
Puget Sound Park (former school)	4	local	Highline	urban	(6)	passive	
Salmon Creek Park	4.5	local	Highline	urban	(6)	passive	
Bryn Mawr	4.7	local	Highline	urban	(6)	passive	
Skyway	19.9	local	Highline	urban	(6)	active	
Lake Sawyer Park	2.7	local	Tahoma/RH	rural		active	
TOTAL	1519.5						
LOCAL PARKS IN THE RURAL AREA							
Bassett Pond Park	32	local	Bear Creek	rural		natural	
Bear Creek	18	local	Bear Creek	rural		natural	
Boulevard Lane Park/Soos Creek Trail	17.1	local	Soos Creek	rural		passive	Soos Creek
Carnation Marsh	20	local	Snoqualmie	rural		natural	
Coalfield Park	12	local	Newcastle	rural		active	
Cottage Lake Open Space	21	local	Bear Creek	rural		passive	
Daniel's Creek Park	18	local	Bear Creek	rural		passive	
Duthie Hill	120	local	E. Sammamish	rural		passive	
Enumclaw Sportsmen Park	12.8	local	Enumclaw	rural		passive	
Estebo	0.7	local	Snoqualmie	rural		passive	
Evans Creek	38.2	local	Bear Creek	rural		natural	
Fall City Community Park	25.4	local	Snoqualmie	rural		active	
Fall City Park	40	local	E. Sammamish	rural		passive	

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Figure14. PARK INVENTORY AND CLASSIFICATION
SORTED BY LOCAL/REGIONAL AND URBAN/RURAL

Name	Acres	Loc/Reg	CPA	Urban/Rural	Pot. City *	class.	system
Fall City/Quigley Memorial Park	3.4	local	Snoqualmie	rural		passive	
Jenkins Creek	20	local	Tahoma/RH	rural		passive	
Kathryn C. Lewis Park	10	local	Bear Creek	rural		natural	
Lake Francis Park	9.4	local	Tahoma/RH	rural		active	
Lake Joy Park	0.8	local	Snoqualmie	rural		passive	
Levdansky Park	19	local	Tahoma/RH	rural		active	
Maple Valley Heights Park	2.9	local	Soos Creek	rural		active	
May Valley	54.3	local	Newcastle	rural		passive	
Nowak	14	local	Snoqualmie	rural		passive	
Rafter Park	2	local	Tahoma/RH	rural		natural	
Ravensdale Park & Act. Cntr.	12.3	local	Tahoma/RH	rural		active	
Timberlane/Covington	55.9	local	Tahoma/RH	rural		active	
TOTAL	579.2						
REGIONAL PARKS IN THE URBAN AREA							
Beaver Lake Park	86	regional	E Sammamish	urban	King County	passive	ESP
Big Finn Hill	220	regional	Northshore	urban	King County	active	active
Coal Creek	303.5	regional	Newcastle	urban	King County	natural	MTS
Cougar Mountain	4000	regional	Newcastle	urban and rural	King County	natural	MTS
Fort Dent	54	regional	Green River	urban	King County	active	Green
Hamlin Park	73	regional	Shoreline	urban	Shoreline (4)	active	active
Lake Wilderness Park	148	regional	Tahoma/RH	urban	King County	multi-pur	multi
Luther Burbank Park	77	regional	Eastside	urban	King County	multi pur	lake
Marymoor Park	523.9	regional	Bear Creek	urban	King County	multi pur	Samm
Petrovitsky Park	90.5	regional	Soos Creek	urban	King County	active	active
TOTAL	5575.9						
REGIONAL PARKS IN THE RURAL AREA							
60 Acres	60	regional	Northshore	rural		active	Samm
Rock Creek	98	regional	Tahoma/RH	rural		natural	Cedar
Enumclaw Fairgrounds	44.5	regional	Enumclaw	rural		spec.pur	Enum
Paradise Lake/Upper Bear Creek OS	36.5	regional	Bear Creek	rural		natural	
Cedar River Park	96.4	regional	Soos Creek	rural		passive	Cedar
Enumclaw Activity Center	40.4	regional	Enumclaw	rural		active	Enum
Enumclaw Golf Course	202.7	regional	Enumclaw	rural		spec.pur.	Enumclaw
Section 36	633	regional	E Sammamish	rural		multi pur	ESP
Gold Creek Park & Lodge	38	regional	Northshore	rural		passive	feature
Pinnacle Peak	7.7	regional	Enumclaw	rural		natural	feature
Redmond Watershed (9)	800	regional	Bear Creek	rural		passive	feature

**Figure14. PARK INVENTORY AND CLASSIFICATION
SORTED BY LOCAL/REGIONAL AND URBAN/RURAL**

Name	Acres	Loc/Reg	CPA	Urban/Rural	Pot. City *	class.	system
Redmond Watershed Addition	3.1	regional	Bear Creek	rural		passive	feature
Auburn Narrows	59.6	regional	Green River	rural		passive	Green
Flaming Geyser	98	regional	Enumclaw	rural		passive	Green
Hatchery	20	regional	Green River	rural		passive	Green
Metzler Park	55.7	regional	Enumclaw	rural		passive	Green
Neely Bridge	24.9	regional	Enumclaw	rural		passive	Green
O'Grady Park	200	regional	Enumclaw	rural		passive	Green
Whitney Bridge Park	29.6	regional	Enumclaw	rural		passive	Green
Moss Lake	275.4	regional	Snoqualmie	rural		natural	lake
China Creek	14	regional	Newcastle	rural		natural	MTS
Cougar/Squak Corridor OS	461	regional	Tahoma/RH	rural		natural	MTS
Preston Activity Center	0.6	regional	Snoqualmie	rural		spec.pur.	MTS
Preston Trailhead Park	4	regional	Snoqualmie	rural		passive	MTS
Rattlesnake Ridge	1875.7	regional	Snoqualmie	rural		natural	MTS
Squak/Tiger Corridor	144.1	regional	Tahoma/RH	rural		natural	MTS
Dockton	23	regional	Vashon	rural		active	Saltwater
Northshore Athletic Fields	20	regional	Northshore	rural		active	Samm
Duvall Park	22.4	regional	Snoqualmie	rural		active	Snoqualmie
Little Si Park	26.8	regional	Snoqualmie	rural		natural	Snoqualmie
Snoqualmie/Stillwater	136.6	regional	Snoqualmie	rural		natural	Snoqualmie
Three Forks (Norman Bridge)	378	regional	Snoqualmie	rural		passive	Snoqualmie
Tolt MacDonald	451	regional	Snoqualmie	rural		multipur	Snoqualmie
Lake Desire/Spring Lake Open Space	371	regional	Soos Creek	rural		passive	Soos
Lake Youngs Park/Trailhead	9	regional	Soos Creek	rural		passive	Soos
Maury Island	297.3	regional	Vashon	rural			
TOTAL	7058						
LEGEND							
Loc/Reg-Local or regional designation							
CPA-Community Planning Area							
Urb/Rural-Located in urban or rural area							
Class.-Classification of primary role in the system							
NOTES:							
* Identification based on a draft map of potential annexation and incorporation areas.							
(1) To be transferred to Bellevue under existing interlocal agreement.							
(2) To be transferred to Burien 1/1/97 under existing interlocal agreement.							
(3) Recent annexation area, to be transferred to Des Moines 3/97.							
(4) Transfer negotiations with Shoreline underway.							

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**Figure14. PARK INVENTORY AND CLASSIFICATION
SORTED BY LOCAL/REGIONAL AND URBAN/RURAL**

Name	Acres	Loc/Reg	CPA	Urban/Rural	Pot. City *	class.	system
(5) Transfer under negotiation.							
(6) Within urban area, but no city currently identified.							
(7) Long, linear park within PAA of both cities.							
(8) Owned by Seattle, managed by King County.							
(9) King County has a conservation and trail easement on this site, along with an interlocal agreement							
TRAILS							
Bridle Crest Trail	13.2						
Burke Gilman Trail	66.4						
Cedar River East	454.5						
Cedar River SE	181						
Cedar River/Lake Samm	26.3						
East Lk Samm/Klahanie	62.5						
Gary Grant Soos Creek	436.9						
Green River	6.2						
Interurban (South)	48						
Lake Youngs	21						
Maple Valley/Lk Wilderness	34.8						
May Creek	63.2						
Preston Snoqualmie Falls	91.4						
Sammamish River (North)	342						
Sammamish River (South)	4.5						
Snoqualmie Valley	336						
Squak Mt./ Issaquah Creek	1						
Tolt Pipeline East	46.5						
Tolt Pipeline West	46.5						
TOTAL	2281.9						
POOLS							
Auburn					Auburn		
Bellevue					Bellevue		
Costie-Ruiz(Northshore)					Bothell		
Cottage Lake					King County		
Enumclaw					Enumclaw		
Evergreen					White Center		
Kenneth Jones (Federal Way)					Federal Way		
Kent					Kent		
Lake Washington (Redmond)					Redmond		
Mary Waite (Mercer Island)					Mercer island		

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Figure 14. PARK INVENTORY AND CLASSIFICATION
 SORTED BY LOCAL/REGIONAL AND URBAN/RURAL

Name	Acres	Loc/Reg	CPA	Urban/Rural	Pot. City *	class.	system
Mt. Rainier					Des Moines		
Renton					Renton		
Shoreline					Shoreline		
Si View					North Bend		
South Central					Tukwila		
St. Edwards *					Bothell/Kenmore		
Tahoma					King County		
Vashon					King County		
Weyerhaeuser Aquatic Center					King County		
SUMMARY OF ACRES							
URBAN LOCAL	1,520						
RURAL LOCAL (UNINC)	579						
REGIONAL IN URBAN	5,576						
REGIONAL IN RURAL	7,058						
subtotal	14,733						
TRAILS	2,282						
Total	17,015						

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VIII. Standards

Park standards are guidelines to evaluate park, recreation and open space needs. Park standards provide a predictable measure of the level of service delivered by the park system and provide direction for acquisition, development and management.

ST-101 Park standards are guidelines to evaluate park, recreation and open space needs and direct the planning, acquisition, development and management of a park and open space system.

Need for Standards

The Growth Management Act encourages the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conservation of fish and wildlife habitat, and increased access to natural resource areas and developed parks. Countywide Planning Policies require all jurisdictions to develop twenty year growth plans based on locally adopted definitions and service levels. In addition, they call for jurisdictions to develop coordinated service standards for the provision of parks and open space. The following King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) policies are consistent with these requirements.

PR-303 (KCCP) King County will adopt and use park and recreation standards to serve as guidelines for evaluating local park, recreation and open space needs.

PR-304 (KCCP) Local parks, trails and other open space lands should be acquired and developed to meet adopted standards with a combination of public funds and dedications or contributions from residential and commercial development, based on their service impacts.

State law requires counties to determine if appropriate provisions are made for open space, parks and playgrounds to insure that the public use and interest will be served by the platting of subdivisions.(RCW 58.17.110) In addition, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), the State grant funding agency, requires measurable park standards.

Purpose of Park Standards

Park standards help:

- define the amount and distribution of park and recreation facilities within the County,
- identify the need for parks and open space to support new growth and development, consistent with the overall land use pattern of the County,
- provide guidance for future expenditures to achieve balance and equity of distribution throughout the County, and
- provide a benchmark which can help measure the quality of life within a community.

Basis for Standards

Park standards as a measure of service are accepted nationwide. The first standards can be traced to the early 1900's. During the 1930's the National Recreation Association, which later became the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), issued its first recommendations on standards for parks in neighborhoods. Over the years these standards have been evaluated and adjusted.

Recreation is increasingly viewed as an important factor in maintaining health--both physical and mental. Studies of children's behavior and development have

documented the importance of play, especially informal and unstructured play, in children's physical, social, intellectual and creative development. The NRPA considers recreation as a "means to an end rather than simply as an end in itself".

The standards used by most local governments today are based on national standards established by the NRPA. These population based standards describe a goal of acres of park land per unit of population. They are used to define the need for traditional local and active parks, such as neighborhood, community and major urban parks. The NRPA suggests these standards should be viewed as flexible planning guidelines and that they address "minimum, not maximum, goals to be achieved".

The NRPA standards also cover a range of facility types such as athletic fields, basketball and tennis courts, volleyball, field hockey, running tracks, golf courses, archery ranges, swimming pools and beaches. Some jurisdictions set population-based standards for additional park facilities and amenities, such as picnic tables, picnic shelters, playgrounds, campsites, horseshoe pits, community recreation centers, ice rinks or boat ramps.

Flexible standards are needed to meet the different needs of communities with populations varying in age, income and interests. Flexibility allows for consideration of variables that are not easily quantified, but that influence the desirability and usability of a park. Some standards also include distribution guidelines that recommend distances between park facilities to ensure equitable geographic distribution. Standards should reflect the availability of other area facilities such as schools and regional parks.

King County Standards

In 1978, King County adopted Ordinance No. 3813 to set forth park acquisition and development policies which provide standards for local parks; identified as neighborhood, community and major urban. Standards for resource based parks focused on amenities such as shoreline, forests, view sites or other special environmental features. The location and need for these parks was based on their unique or special physical characteristic, rather than a population based standard. Trail corridors were placed within the resource category.

Motion No. 3527 was also adopted at this time to establish targets, based on population, for athletic facilities to meet the needs of residents in unincorporated King County. This motion and Ordinance No. 3813 may be referred to in Appendix D.

In the past, King County has been unable to meet these adopted standards. Analysis of the existing King County park system, the established standards and guidelines and their limitations, as well as the County's increasing regional role, make clear the need for new park standards. The following new standards address the different needs of urban and rural areas, and establish a way to evaluate regional park needs.

General Standards

Local parks are typically developed with a combination of informal recreation areas and facilities such as ballfields, open grassy meadows, sport courts, picnic areas, children's play equipment and pathways or trails. Public elementary school playgrounds are generally available for public use outside of school hours and meet some neighborhood park and playground needs.

ST-102 One-half of public elementary school sites will be credited toward the park standard. Regional parks and other outdoor recreation spaces with public access will be given some additional credit toward the park standard, to be determined case by case.

Urban Standards

Projected population growth in urban areas require adequate local public parks and open space to attract and support new development.

ST-103 Local park acres in the urban area should be provided at a ratio of 7.5 acres/1000 population. This acreage should be equitably distributed throughout the urban unincorporated areas of the County. Local parks should generally be available within 1/2 mile from all residents. Other factors that affect accessibility should be considered, such as topographical features, physical barriers, visibility and pedestrian and transportation circulation patterns.

Rural Standards

PR-302 (KCCP) King County will adopt standards and provide local open spaces, parks, trails and recreational services in the Rural Area.

Local park standards in rural areas differ from the urban standards. In rural areas, there is less need for close-to-home local public park space. Individual

lots are larger and provide more outdoor recreation space than in urban areas and a large proportion of regional parks are located in the rural areas. The large size of the rural area and low residential densities result in a need for fewer individual sites in the rural area.

ST-104 Local parks in the rural areas should be provided at a ratio of 4 acres/1000 population. This acreage should be equitably distributed throughout the rural area. However, due to lower population densities there will be fewer individual facilities and users can expect to travel greater distances in the rural areas. Ideally, rural park facilities should be located near rural cities or activity centers.

Site Selection Criteria for Local Parks

In addition to addressing acreage standards, there are a number of factors to be considered in selecting land for new local parks.

ST-105 Size is a factor in the selection of sites for local parks. Ten acres is the recommended minimum size in the rural and less developed parts of the County. Smaller sites may be appropriate in the highly developed urban areas where large sites are not available. Smaller sites in these areas are valuable to the neighborhood and community character and for small scale recreational opportunities. Larger sites allow for development of a range of recreational opportunities, as well as providing natural and landscaped area that serve as screening from adjacent residence or other land uses.

ST-106 Local park sites should be accessible to pedestrians and bicycles. Parking should be available at each site based on individual park conditions, rates of use and the community served.

ST-107 Approximately one half of the land in local park sites should be level and well-drained with soils suitable for active play fields, courts, and other developed areas.

ST-108 Local park sites should be located to best serve the neighborhood and community. Local park sites should be pursued adjacent to school sites whenever possible. The use of school facilities during non-school hours maximizes community recreation opportunities while minimizing the need for separate park lands and recreation facilities.

Facility Standards

The degree to which King County residents are served by the park system cannot be measured only by the amount of available park land. The number of facilities within park lands is also an important consideration. Decreasing amounts of suitable land in developed urban areas may require more built recreation facilities to compensate for acres.

Park activities and facilities can be measured by two factors. They may be separated into (1) those that are non-scheduled and informal and are best evaluated based on distance and availability to residents, and (2) those that are more formal and require specific facilities to serve a prescribed number of participants or teams and are often scheduled for use. They are best evaluated based on a facility per unit of population.

ST-109 The County will use the facility standards of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) as guidelines for determining park development needs.

Facility standards can be found listed in Appendix E. NRPA Standards.

Regional Goals

PR-203 (KCCP) The implementation of King County's regional open space systems will be based on the opportunity presented by the physical landscape and will be evaluated by completeness of the system and conservation of important natural resources. The amount of desired regional open space cannot be quantified in terms of acreage per capita, but should be based on resource preservation and the conservation of natural system corridors.

ST-110 King County's goal for the regional park and open space system is to preserve the County's valuable open space systems and natural resources, and provide a wide range of recreational opportunities to County residents.

ST-111 King County's goal for location, size and distribution of regional active and multipurpose parks and facilities will be based on

geographic distribution of sites, consideration of need, and public support for a facility not otherwise available in the County.

Some facilities may be considered regional because they require a specialized user group that may not be found within any one jurisdiction. Examples might include the velodrome and the climbing rock at Marymoor Park and the King County fairgrounds at Enumclaw.

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IX. Planning, Acquisition and Development

Planning, acquisition and design development decisions for the park, recreation and open space system of lands and facilities provide the foundation for the County's stewardship efforts and recreation activities.

PAD-101 King County will enhance and operate the park, recreation and open space system to further the vision and goals of the plan.

PR-106 (KCCP) Lands preserved for public parks or open space should provide multiple open space benefits whenever possible.

PAD-102 King County will plan and develop facilities that encourage multiple public uses and will work to minimize conflicts between users.

Planning

Planning establishes an organized approach for realizing King County's goals for its park, recreation and open space system. King County will pursue a variety of planning activities that build upon each other to further the goals for the system. The County will implement the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan as the framework for its planning activities and management of the system.

PAD-103 King County will evaluate and update the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan when necessary to address changing conditions.

PAD-104 King County will prepare a project program plan and site master plan for each park and open space site prior to significant development or use. This plan should identify appropriate public access, necessary rules of use, and level of maintenance, stewardship, monitoring and enforcement needed for public enjoyment and site safety and liability. If a project program plan or site master plan cannot be prepared immediately after acquisition, King County will prepare an interim management plan to address resource protection, public safety and public access.

PAD-105 Future decisions for each park or open space site will be based on conformance with the project program plan, site master plan or interim management plan. Changes in conditions will require evaluation and periodic updating of these plans.

Cooperative efforts are becoming increasingly important in maximizing County park, recreation and open space funding resources. Participation in partnerships can provide benefits to each party.

PAD-106 King County will promote coordination and cooperative efforts among other County and city park agencies and jurisdictions through continued participation in park directors' forums, the County's interdepartmental planning efforts and other similar activities.

PAD-107 King County will participate with other agencies and groups in mutually beneficial planning and implementation projects.

Some examples of interdepartmental projects include the Waterways 2000 Program, Basin and Community or Subarea Plans, Growth Management activities, and the Quality Urban Environment (QUE) project. Examples of interagency projects include joint ownership and management of Rattlesnake Ridge with the

Department of Natural Resources (DNR), participation in the Mountains to Sound Greenway and Squak, Cougar and Tiger Mountain Coordinating Committee, and joint development and use projects with cities and school districts.

PAD-108 King County should develop and pursue mechanisms, incentives and opportunities for property owners to participate in programs that preserve open space values and resources.

PAD-109 King County should prepare an assessment of existing parks to evaluate how they serve the public, and make recommendations to enhance individual sites to increase their benefit to King County citizens.

Redevelopment and enhancement of existing facilities is an especially important strategy in areas of the County that are highly developed and have a shortage of park lands.

PAD-110 King County should develop and implement a system for monitoring park use patterns as background for future planning efforts

PAD-111 King County will continue urban wildlife planning efforts to ensure wildlife values are an integral part of Park, Recreation and Open Space decisions.

Wildlife planning is also a requirement of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) to remain eligible for grant funding.

PAD-112 King County will develop and maintain a comprehensive computerized site inventory data base in coordination with other County inventories, data bases and the Geographic Information System (GIS).

The inventory should include purchase information, historic site development and funding records, survey information, master plans, site plans and specifications, site conditions and maintenance requirements. It will facilitate the County's planning, property management, development review, project development, property acquisition, maintenance and scheduling responsibilities.

PAD-113 King County will initiate a long term program to identify, mark and inspect park boundaries to minimize encroachments and negative impacts on park lands and resources.

PAD-114 King County will systematically apply the park classification system and use area designations to County parks to clearly identify use, programming, maintenance and stewardship.

PAD-115 King County should prepare resource management strategies for individual sites within the system to maximize their specific resource value(s). Site management strategies should describe each park use area and its associated management needs and recommended maintenance practices.

PAD-116 King County should work with athletic organizations and school districts to identify facility needs and coordinated funding strategies.

There is an increasing demand for athletic fields and facilities throughout the County. Service providers should work together to evaluate the specific needs of each area and strive to maximize the use of existing facilities. This requires a work program that might include: a) Conducting a survey and initiating on-going coordination meetings with athletic user groups to evaluate specific needs, i.e. practice vs. game quality fields, youth vs. adult requirements, etc., b.) documentation of field use patterns and trends evaluating and monitoring scheduling activities to reflect changing facility use patterns to equitably and efficiently allocate use, and c) actively pursuing opportunities countywide for joint use and development of school facilities and

Review

Outside activities can affect the park, recreation and open space system. These may result from new County ordinances or regulations, or from planning or development proposals of individuals and other agencies. Participation in the development and review of these actions is important to the future of the system.

PAD-117 King County will review legislation, and land use and development proposals, to ensure park, open space and trail issues are addressed.

PAD-118 King County will pursue opportunities for early participation with the private sector in the development process to further park, trail and open space goals.

Early participation can result in mutual benefits to the community and neighborhood, while providing predictability from the early stages of the review process.

Acquisition

The lands that are added to the system ensure a quality of life and a legacy to future generations. Expected growth in King County will bring additional pressures to preserve park, recreation and open space opportunities. Limited public funds make every acquisition decision important. Acquisition decisions must consider the implications of future development, use and management.

PR-305 Park sites should be acquired when identified in the Park, Recreation and Open Space Functional Plan or when needed to meet adopted local park and recreation standards.

PAD-119 King County should acquire property for park, recreation and open space purposes when consistent with the goals of the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

A key measure of consistency with the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is the acquisition evaluation criteria.

PAD-120 King County should acquire properties that provide public benefit in proportion to the cost of ownership, development and management.

PAD-121 King County should acquire critical natural areas that provide unique and special resource opportunities, value and sustainability of site resources and functions, and that have a significant role within the County's identified open space systems or greenways.

PAD-122 King County will emphasize acquisition and development of park, recreation and open space systems and sites that provide for multiple benefits and functions.

PAD-123 King County will identify the role of a proposed addition to the park, recreation and open space system prior to acquisition.

PAD-124 King County will prepare a site acquisition evaluation before potential sites are acquired to ensure they are appropriate for the intended use.

The site acquisition evaluation will at a minimum consider the following:

- identification of future site role
- inventory and analysis of site conditions necessary to evaluate suitability for the proposed project (topography, geology, soils, hydrology, vegetation, sensitive areas, wildlife, infrastructure, access, visibility, zoning, adjacent land uses, etc.)
- special studies as necessary to determine feasibility of the proposed project (wetland delineation, geotechnical studies, etc.)
- identification of boundary adjustments that may be needed to provide for access, use, management, and sustainability of the site resources
- estimate of future costs of assuming ownership (site clean-up, removal of structures, securing of site, signage, maintenance, monitoring, recreational use, etc.)
- identification of relationship and/or linkage of proposed acquisition to other parks and open spaces

The chart on page 87 describes in detail the site acquisition and development evaluation process and demonstrates how it will be used in decision making.

PR-105 (KCCP) A variety of measures should be used to preserve regional and local parks, trails and open space. King County will rely on incentives, regulations, trades or purchase of lands or easements.

PAD-125 King County will identify the method of site acquisition appropriate to each site to achieve the desired level of protection, use and public benefit.

The method of acquiring park, recreation and open space lands must consider the value being protected. These methods may include fee-simple and less-than fee simple acquisition such as dedications, easements, or other mechanisms.

PAD-126 King County will evaluate all acquisition proposals to insure that deed conditions or restrictions do not preclude or detract from future use, management or public benefit.

Design and Development

Safe, environmentally sensitive and cost effective design and development is a major responsibility in public projects. The following policies demonstrate King County's commitment in the development and approval of capital projects.

PAD-127 King County will design, develop and maintain parks to encourage the safe use and public enjoyment of the County's park, recreation and open space system, and to protect their natural resources.

PAD-128 King County will prepare site designs and specifications for the development of a park, recreation or open space site to ensure consistency with the goals and policies of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

PAD-129 King County is committed to the design and development of accessible park, recreation and open space facilities.

PAD-130 King County will develop park and open space sites in accordance with their adopted project program plans and master plans. High priority will be given to aesthetic considerations in park design and development. Designs will be evaluated based on color, scale, style, and materials appropriate for their proposed use. Development should be consistent with the park's role and purpose in the system and blend with park surroundings and the natural environment.

PAD-131 King County will develop and follow design standards and details which promote a unified, identifiable image of the County's park, recreation and open space system.

A unified design program is cost effective in terms of minimizing future design and maintenance costs. Standardization minimizes replacement and repair costs, reduces part and supply inventories and simplifies maintenance.

PAD-132 King County will establish standards and evaluate designs and development to promote efficient use of energy and water.

PAD-133 Parks will include educational and interpretive signage facilities and features which enhance the users understanding and enjoyment.

PAD-134 King County will demonstrate fiscal responsibility in its review and approval of design and development to balance development costs with long term operational costs and public benefits.

The Capital Improvement Program

A long range Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is an important component of planning for the future implementation of this plan and is a required element of the State Growth Management Act, King County Comprehensive Plan and the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) funding programs.

PAD-135 King County will prepare a long range park Capital Improvement Program to direct capital expenditures for acquisition and development.

PAD-136 The Parks Division will use the Site Acquisition and Development Evaluation Process as the basis for prioritizing future capital improvement plan program expenditures.

The Site Acquisition and Development Evaluation Process includes three levels of evaluation: 1) it evaluates the benefits of an individual site or development project, 2) it evaluates the site in comparison to others of the same type county-wide, and 3) it evaluates whether the site or project is an opportunity that could be lost, and the long term maintenance costs and cost/benefit of the site or project.

This process will result in a prioritized list of acquisition and development project opportunities within each category, which will be merged to form the CIP. The process for this step will rely on projected funding sources and levels of available funding along with the restrictions associated with many of the funding sources.

The process relies on guidance found in this plan, the Adopted Vision Statement and information contained in the plan appendix, especially the Demographics Report, and Park Inventory and Analysis of Existing Conditions. Additional references include the Regional Trail Plan, King County Open Space Plan, master plans, and the inventory and analysis mapping produced for this plan.

Annual Evaluation

A yearly evaluation of the 10 Year CIP will be conducted to address changes in County policy, funding, demographics and community needs.

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chart3

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chart4

X. Stewardship and Maintenance

Stewardship expresses the values that guide how we use, care for and appreciate the parks, recreation and open space system.

In 1995, King County is the caretaker of over 18,000 acres of park, recreation and open space lands and 200 miles of trails. Stewardship of these lands gains importance as the effects of the County's growth in population, rate of development, and diminishing natural resources become more evident. Use of active and natural area parks will increase. It is important that the County take an active role in promoting stewardship values throughout the system for County staff, residents and park users.

Stewardship is the responsible management of the park, recreation and open space system and its resources. All sites need some level of management to ensure the safety of the public, provide appropriate public access and use of the site, and protect site resources. Management actions include: enhancement, restoration, and traditional maintenance. Stewardship will include use of new techniques, skills, training and equipment, in addition to developing and implementing good management practices to protect park and open space resources and promote recreational opportunities

As stewards of this significant resource, the County will continue to improve its management of the system and its resources.

- SM-101** King County will be stewards of the park, recreation and open space system and keep these lands in perpetuity for park, recreation and open space purposes. Other uses will be considered only if it can be demonstrated through a public process and adopted criteria that they are surplus to the County's public park, recreation or open space needs.
- SM-102** King County will develop and implement strategies to accommodate visitors and protect park resources and facilities by establishing acceptable levels of public use.
- SM-103** King County will maintain park, recreation and open space sites to ensure the public investment is protected, and public use is safe and enjoyable.
- SM-104** King County expects the public to have access to the lands in the system, but may restrict public access when necessary to protect or restore resource values.

Stewardship values are the basis for the management of the park, recreation and open space system's valuable and sensitive natural resources.

- SM-105** King County commits itself to conservation and will carry it out in daily activities.
- SM-106** King County will manage its natural areas to conserve wildlife habitat and to foster native species. This may include restoring degraded natural areas to increase their habitat and educational values.

- SM-107** King County will develop and implement a program to integrate habitat management and enhancement programs into existing park maintenance practices.
- SM-108** King County will maintain, enhance and restore vegetation for its ecological and wildlife habitat value and visual benefits.
- SM-109** King County will emphasize the use of drought tolerant plants and native vegetation in site development and restoration to minimize the need for irrigation and reduce damage caused by non-native species.
- SM-110** King County will work with other agencies to maintain the necessary quality and quantity of water in its streams and lakes to provide for plant communities, suitable fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational use.

Stewardship principles to be incorporated into the direct care of sites will include measures addressing conservation along with environmentally sensitive management practices and techniques.

- SM-111** King County will conserve water. New construction, and the reconstruction of older facilities, will incorporate low water use equipment. Use of recycled water will be considered, when practical and effective.
- SM-112** King County will promote and support recycling efforts in parks and use recycled materials available and appropriate for park uses.
- SM-113** King County will develop and apply environmentally sensitive maintenance techniques and best management practices as responsible stewards and caretakers of the system.
- SM-114** King County use of pesticide and fungicide will be based on integrated pest management to further environmental stewardship policies.

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a strategy to prevent or suppress outbreaks of pests while minimizing impacts to human health and the environment. IPM strategies include appropriate use of plants, installation of natural barriers to pests, use of organic or least toxic pesticides, timing of application and encouragement of natural predators.

- SM-115** King County will protect the environment and the health and safety of its staff and park users from the inappropriate use of hazardous materials.
- SM-116** King County will evaluate long term maintenance costs during the review of capital projects using a life-cycle analysis approach to balance initial cost with long term operating and maintenance costs.
- SM-117** King County will review and evaluate how park maintenance is conducted to account for the changing needs of the system, and identify and incorporate new procedures and tasks to address emphasis on natural areas and resource preservation.
- SM-118** King County will strive to achieve equal levels of maintenance throughout the County system.
- SM-119** King County should prepare a Stewardship Management Handbook to provide written guidelines for management of the park system and its resources, emphasizing clear goals for resource preservation and enhancement of differing types of park lands and resources.
- SM-120** King County will develop and maintain a schedule for major maintenance and rehabilitation of park sites and facilities to insure safe public use and to reduce lifecycle costs.
- SM-121** King County will develop measurable maintenance objectives to evaluate effectiveness and provide guidance for future maintenance decisions.
- SM-122** King County will review and monitor maintenance of sites on a regular basis to determine whether appropriate site maintenance is occurring.
- SM-123** King County will maintain an inventory and financial plan for the addition or replacement of needed equipment to best and most efficiently maintain the park system.

Stewardship of the park, recreation and open space system extends to its relationship with its neighbors. It is important to minimize adverse impacts to park, recreation and open space lands and resources from activities on nearby property.

SM-124 King County will work with nearby property owners, agencies and the public to protect the character, function and natural resources of the parks and open space system.

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XI. Property Management

Property management reinforces the commitment to land stewardship. Activities that occur in the parks contribute to and enhance park enjoyment by the public. As property manager, King County is responsible for guiding the use of park, recreation and open space sites and ensuring the value of this legacy for future generations. This responsibility originates in state legislation that identifies park properties as part of a special trust held for park uses for the benefit of the public.

PM-101 King County will encourage and allow the use of park land that is compatible with the park site, consistent with park purposes and can be demonstrated to serve the public.

King County will achieve these goals by encouraging activities compatible with park sites and preventing uses that may cause site degradation or loss of public benefit.

PM-102 King County will enter into agreements for use of park land that allows future flexibility to serve the changing needs of the public

or the park system and that ensures fairness to all County residents. The County will not enter into long term leases or exclusionary use permits for park lands or facilities.

- PM-103** King County will encourage and promote mutually beneficial joint use and cooperative use agreements with school districts, other agencies and private groups for the joint use and management of sites and facilities for recreation.
- PM-104** King County will evaluate requests for alterations to park, recreation and open space sites to ensure they are consistent with park purposes, park site plans and conditions and will not deter from park use, aesthetics and stewardship.
- PM-105** King County will issue park use permits for events sponsored by others when the use is consistent with park purposes and site conditions, will not deter from park aesthetics and stewardship, and is compatible with other park uses and users.
- PM-106** King County will not allow alterations, enter into agreements or permit uses that incur future obligations to the County for maintenance, replacement, rehabilitation or removal until a thorough analysis of the long term cost to the County has been prepared and the risks and liabilities to the County clearly identified.
- PM-107** King County will evaluate all site agreements, easements, use permits and other agreements to ensure they continue to be in compliance with their terms and conditions, current County policies and codes, and remain in the best interests of the site and the public.
- PM-108** King County will consider concessions that are compatible with and enhance the park experience by providing an opportunity for increased public use and enjoyment of the site.
- PM-109** King County will grant concession agreements that do not incur uncompensated cost to the County.
- PM-110** King County will review concession operations for effectiveness and efficiency in delivery of services, as well as revenue generation.
- PM-111** King County will clearly post sites with applicable rules and restrictions for the sites in language that is easily understood by the public.

PM-112 King County will maintain a policy for the naming of park, recreation and open space sites and features.

King County's park naming policy is found as in Appendix G.

PM-113 King County will accept gifts or donations of site improvements that are consistent with park purposes and site conditions, enhance park aesthetics and stewardship, and are consistent with the site master plan.

XII. Public Involvement and Coordination

King County is committed to public involvement and coordination during park planning, acquisition, development and management. The following policies encourage public participation in the planning and delivery of services and programs to balance the diverse and competing needs and priorities of King County residents:

- PI-101 King County will seek and encourage public input, advice and participation in park, recreation and open space system issues.**
- PI-102 King County will use a variety of methods to obtain public involvement, including public meetings, and advisory committees, or established park advisory committees appropriate to the size and complexity of the issue.**
- PI-103 King County will design and conduct a public participation process when preparing park project program plans and master plans.**

- PI-104** King County will solicit community input in the planning and delivery of services, and work with groups and organizations to address program service issues.
- PI-105** New funding initiatives for Parks and Open Space should be based on a Countywide planning and public involvement process to identify community needs and regional opportunities.
- PI-106** King County will encourage public use of the park, recreation and open space system, provide awareness of the opportunities it offers and increase public knowledge of the system.
- PI-107** King County will pursue funding to prepare and publish a comprehensive map of the King County Park System to encourage public use and enjoyment of the system.
- PI-108** King County will emphasize clear, concise and timely communication with the public.

Volunteers

Many County residents support the efforts of King County through fundraising and volunteer time to support park, recreation and open space activities.

- PI-109** King County will encourage volunteer efforts in recreation activities to enhance and support programs.
- PI-110** King County will encourage volunteer efforts to conserve, restore and interpret the natural resources of the park and open space system.
- PI-111** King County will seek volunteers to implement park watch programs to increase security on park and open space lands.

Partnerships and Coordination

King County will coordinate with other area providers and land stewards. This work will emphasize sharing of public information and expertise, and furthering public involvement and public service in park and open space activities.

- PI-112** King County will provide regional leadership in park and open space efforts and encourage public understanding, involvement and commitment to regional goals and resources.

- PI-113 King County will work to bring together a diversity of agencies, groups and individuals to advocate and support the regions park and open space goals.**
- PI-114 King County will share its knowledge and provide technical assistance to local agencies, groups and individuals to further park and open space goals, and secure and manage park and open space lands and facilities.**
- PI-115 King County will provide leadership in educational and interpretive programming based on the natural, historic and cultural resources in the system.**

Coordinating with local jurisdictions, school districts, community groups, the general public and volunteers is key to maximizing the regions resources. This can result in a greater scope and number of recreational opportunities than an individual agency can produce. Future annexations and incorporations will continue to change the recreation responsibilities of local agencies and create opportunities to forge new partnerships. Stewardship of the County's extensive park and open space system goes beyond the efforts of any one agency or group.

- PI-116 King County will coordinate park planning, acquisition and development with other County projects and programs and with other agencies and organizations that may provide mutual offsetting benefits.**
- PI-117 King County will promote partnerships with public and private organizations, and others, to increase the range of facilities and programs in the park, recreation and open space system.**

XIII. Funding

Introduction

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan defines a future for King County that protects our natural resources based on their connection to critical systems; that ensures the County's support of regionally significant recreational facilities; and that maintains our on-going commitment to providing appropriate levels of local park and recreation services to citizens in rural and unincorporated areas.

The Funding Chapter describes the financial implications of this future park system. The Chapter accomplishes this by:

- Providing a 10 year historical perspective on the park operating and capital budgets;
- Estimating the financial impact of major policies presented in the Plan;
- Looking 10 years into the future to estimate the cost of operating and stewarding our built and natural resources based on the policies presented in the Plan; and

- Establishing clear policies that promote cost-sharing, partnerships, and efficient use of resources.

The Funding Chapter is not intended to be a financial plan from which annual budgets are derived. The assumptions used to project future costs quantify certain unknowns and simplify the analysis, and therefore, are not appropriate for budgeting purposes. For example, the analysis of future operating expenditures, discussed later in this Chapter, assumes that all annexations and incorporations will occur at a constant rate over the next ten years. In reality, there is no way to know when an area will actually annex or incorporate.

This chapter does not provide the answer to how the region will fund a growing park, recreation and open space system amid a shrinking unincorporated tax base. The purpose of the Plan, and this Chapter, is to provide important information to help guide a regional discussion of these issues.

Funding History

Operational Funding

Operational funding supports a wide range of activities associated with the management and operation of the park and open space system. These activities are categorized as maintenance, programming, and administration. The following information is based on the 1995 Budget.

Maintenance represents day-to-day upkeep, rehabilitation, and monitoring of over 200 sites and facilities. Maintenance costs include the purchase of new equipment, supplies and materials, and the cost of labor. Maintenance represents approximately 47% of the park operating budget, and about 59% of park full-time employees.

Programming refers to the myriad recreation, aquatics and educational programs and services offered throughout the County. The County charges fees for many recreational programs and services, such as athletic field use, and offers many free programs, such as late-night teen programs and programs for seniors. Recreation programming represents about 47% of the operating budget and approximately 33% of full-time employees.

Administration refers to the policy, analytical, planning, and administrative work that goes into supporting and building a world class park and open space system. Administrative functions include land acquisition and development, program planning, financial management, and coordination with affected agencies

and stakeholders. Administration represents about 6% of the budget and 8% of employees.

In 1984, the park operating budget was \$10 million. Ten years later, this cost has more than doubled to over \$20 million. During this same 10-year period, the park system, measured by number of acres, more than doubled in size (from 8,000 acres to nearly 18,000 acres). The table below illustrates the growth in park expenditures and park acreage over the last 10 years.

The cost per acre to operate and maintain the park and open space system has declined in recent years. This decline represents the County's growing emphasis on acquiring land for natural resource protection and passive recreation purposes. Active park lands, which contain ballfields and special purpose facilities, cost considerably more to maintain than passive or natural parks. For example, in 1994, the 54 acre Fort Dent Park cost \$381,000 to maintain (\$7,055 pr acre). Fort Dent is a highly developed active park with eight ballfields, one soccer field, 21 picnic tables, and two restroom areas. The comparably sized (56 acres) Metzler Park, which is passive and has little development, cost about \$6,000 to maintain (\$107 per acre). As the ratio of passive to active parks continues to rise, the cost per acre to maintain the system will decline.

Comparison of Park Acres to Expenditures

	1985	1991	1992	1993	1994
Acres	8,017	11,223	11,926	13,586	17,700
Expenditures	\$10,630,000	\$17,189,000	\$18,532,000	\$19,816,000	\$20,000,000
Cost Per Acre	1,330	1,530	1,550	1,460	1,130

Operating Revenues and Fees

Park operations generate enough revenue annually to off-set about 25% of the operating budget. In 1994, park operations generated \$5.5 million in revenues. Revenues are generated primarily from the following sources: swim fees, fee-based recreation programs, ballfield and facility use fees, the King County Fairgrounds and the Aquatic Center. In 1994, swim fees generated \$2.4 million; fee-based recreation programs generated \$0.7 million, ballfield fees and facility use fees generated \$0.4 million; the King County Fair generated \$0.7 million; and the Aquatic Center generated \$0.3 million. The following figure shows 1994 park operating revenues by source.

The next figure shows park operating revenues and expenditure from 1989 to 1994. In recent years, growth in revenues have not kept pace with expenditure growth. One reason for this is that expenditures rise with inflation, while fees do not. We can expect revenues to continue declining as the County divests of revenue-generating urban parks and pools, and invest in natural and passive regional parks. The County will continue to look for creative, entrepreneurial approaches to maximize revenues from such activities as the King County Fairgrounds and the Aquatic Center, and through joint use and concession agreements.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is the vehicle for much of the acquisition and development of park and open space lands and facilities. Spending for the CIP is driven more by the availability of funding than by the need for new facilities.

There are four primary sources of funding for Park CIP:

- King County Current Expense -- County general fund
- Real Estate Excise Tax #1 -- One half of a .25% real estate sales tax collected in unincorporated King County. This revenue can only be used in unincorporated King County and/or for regional projects.
- Real Estate Excise Tax #2 -- An additional .25% levied in 1994. This revenue can only be used for park development and rehabilitation. It can not be used for acquisition.
- Conservation Futures Tax -- Countywide property tax of \$0.625 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For acquisition of open space, agriculture, and timber lands. This source can not be used to acquire "traditional" park sites.
- Grants -- Matching funds from Federal or State agencies. Grantors have included the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

The following table shows historical funding for park CIP by source of funds. Funding for Park CIP has fluctuated from year to year. Funding for CIP increased by \$3 million from 1993 to 1994, then declined by \$1 million in 1995. Current expense contributions to Park CIP over the last six years has ranged from a high of \$4.0 million in 1991 to a low of \$160,000 in 1995.

Table T-2
Park Capital Improvement Program
Revenues by Source
(in millions of dollars)

Funding Source	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total
Current Expense	1.82	3.99	1.59	0.45	1.59	0.16	9.60
REET #1	6.42	2.99	4.53	5.64	2.28	1.06	22.92
REET #2	-	-	-	-	6.34	5.72	12.06
Conservation Futures	-	-	-	-	-	0.98	0.98
Grants	0.53	1.30	3.36	1.18	-	-	6.37
Fund Balance	(0.40)	1.01	0.36	-	0.21	1.39	2.57
Total	8.38	9.29	9.84	7.27	10.42	9.31	54.51

New park acquisition and development have a direct impact on operation and maintenance cost. Each year, new ballfields, restrooms, picnic areas etc. add new demands on the maintenance budget. For example, between 1994 and 1996, existing CIP projects will add 19 new ballfields to the park system. The growth in operating and maintenance cost associated with new development has averaged about \$500,000 per year.

One way in which the County is attempting to control operating and maintenance cost is to pursue partnerships with school districts, cities and other jurisdictions. In these partnerships, the County will fund some or all of the capital development in exchange for an operating and maintenance commitment from the other agency. Between 1994 and 1996, the County will have completed 17 joint projects, including 11 projects with school districts, 4 projects with cities, and two projects with other agencies. The County will invest about \$8.4 million in capital costs to support these projects.

In addition to the CIP, park acquisition and development is impacted by the Open Space Bond Program, Waterways 2000, and the 4 to 1 Program. The open space bond is expected to add new park lands and extend the trail system. Waterways 2000 will add 1,500 acres to the system by 1998; and the 4 to 1 program will add 16,000 acres by 2002.

Financial Impact of Major Policies

Aquatic Programs

In Chapter IV, policies S-121 through S-124 direct the County to transfer swimming pools to cities when such pools serve predominantly city residents. The Plan sets a goal of two transfers per year.

Of the 17 pools currently managed by King County (excluding the Aquatic Center and the new Cottage Lake outdoor pool), 12 are located within cities. Based on a survey conducted in 1992, ten of the 12 pools located within cities are predominantly used by city residents and, therefore, should be transferred.

The table on the following page lists each of the 17 pools, identifies the cities in which they are located, shows their budgets for 1994 and the percentage of unincorporated use. The Plan assumes that over the next ten years all but four pools will eventually transfer to cities. At a rate of two transfers per year, the County expects to divest of all 14 pools within seven years -- by 2001. The Mercer Island, Bellevue, and South Central Pools, which have the least unincorporated use, should be the highest priorities for transfer.

Table T-3

Table T-4

Pools that will eventually transfer to cities have an average subsidy cost of \$146,000 per year each, for a total subsidy cost to the County of over \$2 million. These pools also average less than 25 percent unincorporated usage. This means that unincorporated taxpayers subsidize city pools users at a cost of over \$1.5 million annually.

The County would save an estimated \$11 million dollars over the next 10 years if all 14 pools were transferred. The following table shows the net effect of the pool transfer policy on the County budget. The analysis assumes that starting in 1995, two pools will transfer each year. To facilitate the transfer, the County will pay to the city an amount equal to the subsidy cost of the pool for up to four years. The County will begin to realize savings from these transfers after four years.

After seven years, all pools located within cities are expected to be transferred. By the year 2005, that last subsidy payment on city pools will be complete and the County's cost will be limited to only those pools in the unincorporated area. This will reduce the County's pool cost from \$3.3 million to \$350,000 in 2005.

Impact of Annexations and Incorporations

In Chapter VI, the Plan classifies parks and open spaces as regional and local based primarily on who they serve. Policy C-104 states that a regional site may be owned and managed by King County, a city, or other agency. Policies C-107 and C-113 directs the County to transfer urban parks to the city in which they are located, with the exception of the following regional parks: Marymoor, Big Finn Hill, Hamlin, and Fort Dent.

As the following table and figure show, applying these policies to the current inventory of park and open space sites results in 13% of the system being transferred to cities and 87% remaining in County ownership.

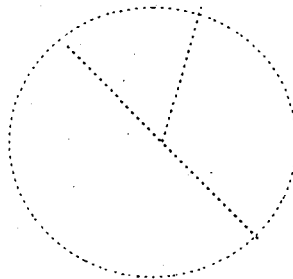
Policy Application of Classification

Category/Classification	Sites	Acres	% System	% of O&M Cost
Local Parks in Urban Area	101	1,396	8%	30%
Regional Parks in Urban Area to transfer	11	975	.5%	10%
Total to Potentially Transfer	112	2,371	13%	40%
Local Rural Parks	33	675	5%	7%
Regional Parks in Urban Area to keep	4	871	5%	18%
Regional Parks in Rural Area	43	11,366	64%	20%
Regional Trails		2,282	13%	15%
Total to Keep	80	15,194	87%	60%

The Plan assumes that over the next ten years, all of the urban area will be located within cities. As a result, the County will divest over 70% of its existing urban park and open space acreage. The County will retain only those parks that substantially meet the definition of regional (policy C-103). The County will retain all rural parks and open spaces and the regional trail system.

The urban parks that will transfer to cities (13% of system) represents 40% of park maintenance cost. The following figure shows how the maintenance budget is distributed by park classification.

Urban parks are generally more developed and, therefore, require more maintenance resources. As the County continues to move away from urban, active parks toward more passive and natural regional parks, the cost per acre to maintain the system will decline. Divestment of urban parks will save the County about \$500,000 per year. However, land acquired through the 4 to 1 Program, Waterways 2000, and other acquisitions will cause maintenance costs to rise.



Future Costs

Over the next ten years, King County's park and open space system will change in a fundamental way. The County will divest of most of its urban parks and open spaces; transfer urban pools to cities; and more than double its passive and natural park acreage. Between 1996 and the year 2005, the system could grow from 17,700 to over 35,000 acres. Most of this land would be donated to the County through the 4 to 1 Program

The following table shows the effect these changes will have on the park operating budget over the next ten years.

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Tables

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Divestment of urban parks will save the County between \$500,000 and \$600,000 per year. This savings represents the foregone maintenance cost of these facilities. Over ten years, divestment will save \$5.7 million.

The County will begin to realize savings from pool transfer in 1999. The first years savings will be about \$346,000, and by 2005 it will grow to nearly \$3 million.

The 4 to 1 Program will add 16,000 acres to the park and open space system over a five year period, starting in 1998. Waterways 2000 will add another 400 acres. These programs will add \$200,000 to the operating budget in 1997 and nearly \$1 million each subsequent year through 2002. This cost is based on an estimate of \$275 per acre to maintain passive and natural lands.

Each year, through the normal capital improvement program (CIP), new park lands and facilities are added to the system. These facilities include such things as ballfields, restrooms, etc. With these new facilities comes added maintenance which cannot be absorbed by existing resources. This growth, referred to as new facility growth, will add about \$500,000 per year to the operating budget.

On average, the Parks operating budget will grow at about 2% per year. This growth rate is kept low primarily because of the savings from the transfer of pools to cities. If the pools are not transferred, the growth rate climbs to 6 percent per year on average. The following figure shows the net effect of changes in the system in parks operating budget, with and without savings from pool transfers.

Despite the loss of park and open space lands from annexation and incorporations and the transfer of pools to cities, the County's regional park and open space system will continue to grow and so will the cost to maintain it. Policy C-108 states that the County will work with cities to establish a regional funding source to pay for operating and maintaining regional parks and open spaces. As the County's tax base declines with annexations and incorporations, this regional funding source is critical to our ability to adequately maintain the system.

Policies to Guide Expenditures and Revenues

F-101 King County will continue to work with agencies and jurisdictions to develop new funding sources and other strategies to support the system.

- F-102** King County will make the best use of available funds through public-private partnerships; use of volunteers; joint acquisition, development, use and management agreements; and other means.
- F-103** King County will encourage and pursue partnerships with other agencies, jurisdictions and the private sector for funding of the park, trail and open space system and its resources.
- F-104** King County will pursue quality improvement and workforce efficiencies to help off-set the growth in operation and maintenance cost.
- F-105** King County will promote awareness of the role King County parks, recreation and open space system plays in the recreation industry and its economy.
- F-106** King County will leverage its funding through outside resources, including the aggressive pursuit of grants, outside funding sources and partnerships.
- F-107** King County will plan for a responsible future by identifying needs and cycles for capital expenditures, equipment replacement funds and other predictable needs.
- F-108** A fiscal note shall accompany all CIP project proposals. This note shall identify the long-term operation and maintenance cost and source of funds to support the CIP project.
- F-109** King County will work to ensure that future funding effort to acquire and/or develop land for park, recreation, and open space purposes include a funding source to cover operation and maintenance costs.
- F-110** King County should negotiate interlocal agreements to share cost of maintaining and operating regional park facilities in proportion to the jurisdiction's share of use. The process of negotiating interlocal agreements should begin with urban regional parks with the highest share of non-unincorporated King County users.

Chapter XIV: Development of Park CIP and Operational Financial Plan and related policies.

Introduction

The King County Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan establishes a vision and broad long term goals for the maintenance and growth of the County's park and open space system. This plan will provide the foundation for transferring local facilities to cities, for analyzing future park master plans, and for managing a park system within a regional context. However, a financial plan is also necessary to prioritize long term operational and capital goals. This practical financial plan should include the ten year Parks CIP as mandated by the Growth Management Act and action policies related to implementation of the long range vision. The CIP Plan should include funding priorities relating to acquisitions, new development, and major rehabilitation for existing park facilities. In addition, it is also important to consider a three year operational plan and related policies which will help establish maintenance, operation and programming priorities and standards for the county.

Necessary Elements of Long Range Financial Plans

In order for the King County Council to review a ten year Parks CIP and a three year operational financial plan, there are a number of components which must be considered. Some of this data listed below is already contained within the proposed visionary parks plan but is not presented in a format which permits a long term financial analysis of the information. The following list is the minimum data which should be transmitted as part of the Parks CIP and Operational financial plans:

Revenue Data: The financial plan should include park capital revenue forecast estimates for ten years and park operational revenue estimates for three years, including an analysis of the volatility and limitations of all projected revenues.

Expenditures: The Council needs to consider detailed financial data and future capital expenditures estimated for ten years and future operational expenditures estimated for three years. The financial data should include for each park facility within the current King County system (including those parks proposed to be transferred):

- operational costs of day-to-day maintenance (including utility costs)
- minor rehabilitation costs
- programming costs of park programs and facilities (system-wide by planning area)
- major rehabilitation costs
- unit costs for new development

The expenditure analysis should provide a base line budget which distinguishes the mandatory or already committed expenditures with those expenditures which are discretionary.

Demand and Needs Analysis: The transmittal should include current needs and demand analysis and estimated future needs (based on trends and projected population growth) per capita broken down by planning areas and by categories as follows:

- park acreage
- active sports facilities by type (soccer, baseball/softball, tennis courts, etc.)
- park programming (swimming lessons, special interest classes, etc.).

CIP Criteria: The financial plan should include methodology and assumptions for prioritizing CIP projects.

Benchmarks and recovery strategies: It is important that there be a gauge to measure whether the goals of the plan are being met over time. There should be a series of benchmarks to measure the progress of the plan. In the event that adjustments need to be made in the financial plan, there should be recovery strategies which provide options to reprioritize competing demands.

Policy modifications to support ten year Parks CIP and three year

Operational plan: The Council recognizes that there may need to be policy modifications to the Parks Plan in order to realistically implement a long range financial plan. Those policy amendments should be transmitted along with the financial plan in order to reconcile the goals with the financial realities.

Process for review of long range plans

The ten year Parks CIP Plan will be transmitted as part of the annual budget. However, due to time constraints during the time frame of the annual budget

review, the ten-year Parks CIP will be generally reviewed and adopted with the annual budget but will be reevaluated as part of the review of the operational financial plan in 1997.

Policy Issues

There are a number of policy issues which should be considered as part of the development of the ten year Parks CIP and Operational financial plans. The following list of issues, which is not intended to be exhaustive, should be considered and addressed as part of the financial plan transmitted to Council later this year:

- * Is the assumption that all of the urban unincorporated areas will annex or incorporate within 10 years realistic? If so, is it realistic that all of the urban local parks and pools will be transferred to these new or newly expanded cities at a constant rate and within 10 years? What are the implications if these assumptions are not met?
- * Can King County identify a reliable source of future park operating revenues?
- * How should the operating funds be prioritized, assuming that expenditures continue to exceed revenues?
- * Can King County, in cooperation with cities, develop a regional funding source for the development and operation of the regional park system?
- * Should the policies guide the priorities for CIP funds between and among the categories for the CIP: acquisition, development, and rehabilitation?
- * Should the annual savings from the divestment of urban parks and pools be directly reinvested into the remaining King County Park system?
- * Should King County focus on developing existing trails rather than acquiring new trail right-of-way?
- * How should the County strike a balance between the need for new active sports facilities and the high cost of developing and maintaining these facilities?
- * Does the County have adequate planning strategies and financial capabilities to create pocket parks within neighborhoods?

- * Does the financial plan contemplate land banking within urban potential annexation areas (PAA) and do the policies address an appropriate level of coordination with the cities in those PAA's?

Chapter XV: PARTNERSHIPS

Since the late 1960's, King County Parks has realized that developing partnerships encourages a sharing of not only resources and responsibilities, but ideas and visions for the future. These partnerships promote the region's goals of providing parks, recreation and open space lands, facilities and services to current and future generations of County residents.

The County has formed partnerships with the state, cities, schools, community groups, non-profit organizations and individuals to share the costs and responsibilities of acquiring and developing parks, recreation, and open space lands and facilities, and providing maintenance, stewardship and programming at these facilities. Partnerships both maximize the value of public funds and increase public benefits. Partnerships are increasingly vital to maintaining the quality of, as well as to meet the public demand for parks, recreation, and open space facilities and services. Partnerships can result in a greater scope and number of recreational opportunities than any one entity can achieve alone.

King County should not only look to other jurisdictions and agencies to form partnerships. King County should also work with community groups to facilitate their involvement in the county parks system. For example, the county could assist community groups with grassroots efforts to fund, develop and operate neighborhood pocket parks or help a community in creating a park and recreation district. The County may also link community groups with private businesses to promote special events and volunteer park activities.

This chapter provides an overview of partnership arrangements, criteria for evaluating and prioritizing partnerships, and an outreach strategy to implement them. It also explores the value to the County, its partners and the public of each type of partnership.

Values and Benefits of Partnerships

The value and benefits of partnerships are recognized throughout the plan. There are many benefits to King County, its partners and County residents in establishing these partnerships.

- Partnerships enable the County and its partners to leverage their fiscal and human resources to provide facilities and services greater than any one partner could achieve.
- Partnerships, such as those with schools, encourage optimal use of public facilities.

- Partnerships enable the County and its partners to draw on the expertise of each other to steward and maintain the region's park, recreation and open space resources.
- Partnerships provide opportunities to bring together agencies, individuals, and interests to work toward achieving common goals.
- Partnerships empower community groups to invest in their community park system.

As a regional government, King County is committed to providing leadership and actively pursuing and facilitating partnerships to provide parks, recreation and open space sites, facilities, programs and services in the County. These partnerships will strive to maximize available funds and increase public benefits through inter-jurisdictional and public-private partnerships; use of volunteers; joint acquisition, development, use and management agreements; and other means. The following policies provide a solid foundation on which to build these partnerships.

PT-101 King County will work to bring together a diversity of agencies, groups and individuals to advocate and support the region's parks, recreation and open space goals.

PT-102 King County will encourage and pursue partnerships with public agencies and jurisdictions and private organizations for the funding of the parks, trail and open space system and its resources.

PT-103 King County will promote partnerships with public and private organizations, and others, including corporate sponsorship programs with businesses, to increase the range of public facilities and programs available within the park, recreation and open space system.

PT-104 King County will provide regional leadership, share its knowledge with and provide technical assistance to local agencies, groups and individuals to further parks, recreation and open space goals, and to secure and manage parks, recreation and open space lands and facilities.

PT-104A King County shall work with community groups to facilitate local grassroots involvement in the creation and development of community parks, facilities, and programs.

The Partnership "Tool Box"

Agreements and partnerships are varied and site specific, depending on the site, the parties involved and the type of acquisition, development, use, and

stewardship being considered. However, partnerships may generally be categorized within the following areas: (1) planning, acquisition and development of land and facilities; (2) use and stewardship of land and facilities; (3) recreation program development and implementation; and (4) service contracts.

Partnership agreements with public agencies and jurisdictions are generally established through an Interlocal Agreement, with several major types of instruments or agreements available to be used in creating and documenting partnerships with both government and non-governmental entities. In general they fall within the following categories:

Lease. By law, a lease conveys proprietary interest to the lessee if its duration exceeds one year. To lease a county facility, the lessee is required to pay fair-market value for use of the property, and the lease may be subject to competitive bidding. In the case of park property or facilities, there are further state (RCW) requirements that must be met.

Leases are generally not a viable option in the case of parks because of requirements for declaring a surplus of park land which is difficult to demonstrate. Funding sources may also require the provision of replacement land.

Use Agreement. Per the County Code (4.56.150), a use agreement is a short term agreement of less than one year under which the user group has no proprietary interest in the property/facility and can be required to vacate at the County's request with little advance notice. The county may enter into a use agreement with a non-profit organization wherein the non-profit organization is to make improvements to the property or provide services which benefit the public.

Concession. Per County Ordinance No. 11524, a concession contract is designed to accommodate long term usage of a County facility by a non-profit recreational organization by allowing the group to provide capital improvements, public recreation and revenue sharing as a means to derive full public value from the partnership.

The County also enters into less formal or long term partnerships with individuals, community groups and other agencies. In 1994, the Parks Division enlisted the help of roughly 4000 volunteers for special projects and volunteer efforts, who contributed over 6,000 hours of work.

Planning, Acquisition and Development of Land and Facilities

Joint planning, acquisition and development of park and open space lands offers an opportunity to leverage the County's economic resources, as well as those of its partners.

Coordinated planning identifies acquisition and development strategies that can meet the constituent needs of each of the partners, while minimizing duplication of services to the extent possible. This is especially valuable in making the best use of the limited supply of land appropriate for active park and recreation purposes and in conserving ecological systems that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

PT-105 King County will coordinate park planning, acquisition and development with other agencies and organizations and County projects and programs that may provide mutual offsetting benefits, when appropriate to park, recreation and open space goals.

Acquisition and development partnerships are based on public need and benefit, opportunity and the source and availability of funds for these types of projects. Funding frequently determines the types of land to be acquired, how it can be developed, and what uses it can accommodate. School districts and cities or other public agencies are typical partners in these ventures.

King County has formed several partnerships to acquire and/or develop park and recreation sites. Some examples of these types of partnerships include:

- Rattlesnake Ridge, an 1,800 acre parcel, was recently purchased and will be managed through a joint effort of King County and the Washington State Department Natural Resources.
- The Field of Dreams program is a cooperative effort between the Parks Division and school districts throughout King County, to acquire and develop athletic fields or make improvements to existing fields, allowing both the school and community to benefit. For example, the County partnered with the Northshore School District to make improvements to athletic fields at Woodinville High School. The County funded improvements, including lighting, relocating tennis courts, and constructing a restroom/concession building. The Northshore School District financed other improvements, including reorienting, underdraining, and irrigating sports fields. As the contractor, the school district assumed responsibility for preparing the site plan and conducting the bidding process. As the owner of the property, the school district also assumes responsibility for maintaining the site and all improvements.
- King County and the City of Bellevue jointly funded development of athletic fields on Bellevue property adjacent to Marymoor Park. The partnership also includes shared responsibilities for maintenance and operations.

- The Squak, Cougar and Tiger (SCAT) Committee partners King County, the city of Issaquah, Seattle Water Department, State Parks and the Department of Natural Resources to plan for and coordinate the management of the extensive holdings of these agencies in the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway.
- The County actively participates with the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and other non-profit organizations and public agencies to plan for and implement an open space corridor of forests, farms, parks, rivers and lakes along I-90.
- The Waterways 2000 Program combined the resources of the King County Parks and Surface Water Management Divisions and the Office of Open Space, in conjunction with the Citizen's Oversight Committee (COC), Technical Advisory Panel and Stakeholders Group, to implement a program that conserves our valuable streams and rivers to conserve salmon habitat, provide green space and create passive recreational and educational opportunities. This program included coordinated planning, acquisition of targeted properties, and community education and stewardship.
- Funding partnerships with other agencies and granting organizations have led to key park, recreation and open space acquisitions and development. The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation has been a longtime funding partner, contributing to the purchase and development of an extensive list of parks, trails and open space sites. Some examples include the acquisition of Cougar Mountain, Section 36 and the Maury Island site.

Use and Stewardship of County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Lands and Facilities

The County has a number of partnerships which include various forms of use in exchange for contributions to the development and stewardship of sites and their resources. Stewardship activities include enhancement, restoration, capital improvements or traditional maintenance activities. These agreements save the County from incurring some of the costs associated with managing these sites and provide levels of service beyond what the County could normally afford.

Although use and stewardship agreements come in many different forms, the key element is the linkage between use and stewardship; use of the County's parks, recreation and open space property carries the obligation of stewardship and accommodation of the general public. Some use agreements are simple exchanges in which the County permits extended non-exclusive use of a site or facility and the user group is responsible for regular maintenance or contribution to capital improvements. Other stewardship agreements focus on the conservation or enhancement of natural areas and their resources.

Conservation organizations, other public agencies and community groups are typical of the groups who enter into these agreements with the County and they often provide stewardship solely as a service to the public and the environment.

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PT-106 King County will encourage and promote mutually beneficial joint and cooperative use agreements with school districts, other agencies and private groups for the joint use, stewardship and management of sites and facilities for public recreation and natural resource protection consistent with the planned purposes for each site and facility.

There is increasing interest in the County's Adopt-a-Park program which has enlisted the assistance of partners in the care of an increasing number of park sites. Some examples of the County's stewardship partners include groups that have assumed responsibilities for Saddle Swamp, Carnation Marsh and Whispering Firs Bog.

Saddle Swamp is an example of a stewardship agreement whose focus is the conservation of a valuable wetland system and its natural resources. This agreement partners King County with the Seattle-King County Land Conservancy, a private non-profit group, the Beaver Lake Community Association, and Quadrant Corporation and Taiyo America, two development companies. The Quadrant and Taiyo companies owned properties that contained wetlands, and they were interested in selling these wetlands to King County. Although the County recognized the value of these wetlands, their limited recreation value and the long-term costs of protecting them made the County hesitant to accept ownership of them. These obstacles were overcome by forming the Saddle Swamp partnership. Quadrant Corporation donated their wetland property to the Seattle-King County Land Conservancy which sold King County a conservation easement to establish a trust fund for site stewardship. Homeowners in the future Quadrant development of Beaverdam Estates and users of the Taiyo golf course will contribute operating funds annually to the Seattle-King County Land Conservancy. This along with the interest earned is used to support the stewardship activities. The County brought the partners together and develop a conservation plan for the wetland property which the partners will monitor through an oversight committee.

All the partners reap the benefits of this partnership. The Quadrant and Taiyo companies were able to focus on developing their adjacent properties, the Seattle-King County Land Conservancy acquired valuable wetlands property, and the Beaver Lake community has a role in protecting that property. For King County, the value of this partnership is the permanent protection of valuable wetlands property without the long-term operations and maintenance costs.

Recreation Program Development and Implementation

King County Parks has a variety of partnerships with other organizations that increase the range and scope of recreational and educational activities. Typical of these partnerships are cooperative arrangements with other public agencies or entities to provide and schedule a variety of program activities.

PT-107 King County will encourage and pursue partnerships with public agencies, organizations and individuals to increase the range and scope of recreational, interpretive and educational opportunities of the park system.

Other examples include sharing of technical information and expertise and utilizing volunteers for a variety of enrichment and interpretive programs. Some specific examples include:

- King County Parks, the Park Lake Boys and Girl's Club, the City of Burien, and the King County Girls Basketball League formed a competitive program to expand opportunities for residents of the area.
- King County Parks and the Shoreline School District jointly staff Friday night teen programs at middle school sites. The partners jointly provide diverse recreation opportunities, including drop-in basketball, photography and ceramics classes, and intramural sports to middle school students. The County brings prospective program ideas to the partnership, county parks and school district employees staff the programs along with parent volunteers, and the school district provides the facilities. In 1995, the County contributed approximately \$5,600 and the school district contributed approximately \$2,900 plus in-kind contributions of facility and equipment usage to this program.
- Return to Newcastle is a regional heritage and interpretive event jointly presented by King County Parks and the Renton, Black Diamond and Issaquah Historical Societies, and the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Each year over 3,000 people attend this event at Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park.
- The King County Library System works as a partner in providing performances in the parks and participated in literacy and summer reading programs associated with the playgrounds and daycamps.

Interpretive program partners provide technical advice or volunteers to parks and recreation programming. Some of these have included the King County Cooperative Extension and Conservation Districts, Surface Water Management, King County, Pacific Science Center, Museum of Flight, Burke Museum,

Museum of History and Industry, Audubon Society, Water Tenders, Seattle Mime Theater, Seattle Children's Theater, Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle Aquarium and the King County Library.

Service Contracts

Historically, King County has provided recreation and maintenance services to newly incorporated cities on a transition basis. Given its resources, expertise and the economies of scale, it may be advantageous to contract with cities to provide these services on a long-term basis. This may be an attractive and cost effective option to new or smaller cities.

- PT-108 King County should investigate the feasibility of providing recreation and maintenance services to cities through long-term contracts. If feasible, King County should develop a plan to market and deliver these services.**

Strategies To Develop Future Partnerships

Outreach Program

This Plan directs the County to establish partnerships for planning, acquisition and development of parks, recreation and open space sites as well as joint use and development of facilities. The Plan further directs the County to partner with other agencies and volunteer organizations in a variety of stewardship and program activities.

The County will support an active outreach effort to identify potential opportunities for the formation of partnerships. These policies encourage coordination and early involvement in the planning processes of likely partners, such as city park agencies and jurisdictions, school districts and athletic, non-profit and community organizations. Partnerships will be pursued through a variety of activities including publications, community meetings and direct contact with other agencies and groups to identify opportunities for partnerships.

- PT-109 King County will monitor and coordinate planning efforts of potential partners, such as city park agencies and jurisdictions, school districts, and athletic and other private sector organizations to identify and pursue partnerships.**
- PT-110 King County will work closely with cities and in their long-range planning efforts for parks, recreation, and open spaces in the urban growth area and identify potential partnerships in these areas.**

PT-111 King County will work with large private sector developers to incorporate partnerships for parks, recreation and open spaces into their developments.

Evaluation Criteria

Several considerations must be addressed in the evaluation and prioritization of potential partnerships. These include public benefits and costs, as well as the legal framework which defines the County's ability to enter into partnership agreements and the conditions of those agreements. This framework includes federal laws, Washington State laws, and the King County Code and ordinances, including land use zoning codes and development regulations, deed restrictions, and funding source restrictions.

Each partnership opportunity may offer different and unique benefits to the public and each of the partners. Additional priorities for partnerships must be established to channel the County's efforts to those that best meet the region's needs for public parks, recreation and open space opportunities.

The following policy establishes the criteria for evaluating and prioritizing potential partnerships.

PT-102 King County will evaluate partnerships based on the following criteria:

- 1. The partnership has an identifiable benefit to King County and the public.**
- 2. The partnership is consistent with the mission and goals of the King County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.**
- 3. The partnership satisfies an identified need for the opportunity provided by the partnership, such as a recreation facility or activity or stewardship of a site.**
- 4. The partnership for a capital project should meet the criteria for long-term capital planning contained in this Plan.**
- 5. The partnership is consistent with the primary purpose for which the site was acquired and developed and with the existing master plan for the site. If no master plan exists, a public process will be used to determine if the proposed use is consistent with public goals and needs.**

- 6. The partnership does not inappropriately restrict the public's access to the site or facility.**
- 7. The partnership will provide a higher level of service to the public than currently exists or will provide the current level of service at a savings to the County and the public.**
- 8. The partnership provides increased public value and/or access to the parks, recreation and open space lands and facilities.**
- 9. The partnership will maximize staff resources or increase efficient use of staff resources.**
- 10. The partnership offers a sharing of liability or risk.**
- 11. The potential partnership has the active support of willing and able partners.**
- 12. There is a window of opportunity for the partnership, such as availability of funding or property.**
- 13. Partnerships with cities and school districts will be the highest priority to maximize the efficient use of public funds.**

Appendix

1. Countywide Planning Policies
 - Open Space Chapter
 - Regional Finance and Government Chapter
2. 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan
 - Parks, Recreation and Open Space Chapter
3. Adopted Vision Statement