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## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Chapter Relationship to Vision

Vision	Parks, Recreation and Open Space Chapter Concepts
<p><b>County Government.</b> County government that is accountable and accessible; encourages citizen participation; seeks to operate as efficiently as possible; and works with citizens, governmental entities and Tribes to meet collective needs fairly while respecting individual and property rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek citizen input from a wide array of citizens and interest groups.</li> <li>▪ Form stewardship committees to help guide development of Heritage Parks and other types of parks.</li> <li>▪ Provide parks, recreation, and open space facilities and services in an efficient and economical manner.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Natural Environment.</b> Natural ecosystems – including interconnected wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat, and water quality – that are rehabilitated, protected and enhanced and that allow for flexible and innovative development to meet environmental and growth goals. In developed areas, the growth pattern supports conservation of non-renewable energy and minimizes impacts on air quality and climate.</p>	<p>Supports using a strong environmental ethic when identifying lands for acquisition and in designing, managing and maintaining County open space lands and park facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support acquiring and managing lands to preserve/enhance groundwater recharge, key wildlife habitat and sensitive areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Housing:</b> Residential communities that are attractive, affordable, diverse, and livable supported by appropriate urban or rural services. A variety of housing choices are available, meeting a full range of resident income levels and preferences. Residents are able to walk between neighborhoods and to community destinations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incorporate open space and parks amenities in proximity to new and existing housing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Open Space:</b> An open space network – including greenbelts, wildlife habitat, forested areas, and active and passive parks – that is accessible, interconnected, provides opportunities for recreation and defines and distinguishes urban and rural areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support preservation of open space that provides wildlife habitat; preserves important historical and cultural sites, maintains lands that contribute significantly to the character of the County and buffers urban areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Urban Areas:</b> Healthy urban areas that are the region's centers for diverse employment and housing opportunities all levels of education, and civic and cultural activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Partner with cities and other entities to provide parks, open space and recreation in urban areas.</li> <li>▪ Provide local, community-based parks in unincorporated urban areas until area incorporates or is annexed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rural Areas.</b> Rural areas and communities where unique historical characters, appearances, functions, and pioneering spirits are retained and enhanced. Natural resource activities, such as forestry, agriculture, and mining continue to contribute to the rural character and economy. Rural recreation opportunities are enhanced, including equestrian facilities, trails, and others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acquire and preserve a network of off-road non-motorized trails.</li> <li>▪ Provide regional parks and open space facilities.</li> <li>▪ Provide local, community-based parks in unincorporated rural areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cultural Resources.</b> Historical and archaeological resources that are recognized and preserved for future generations.</p>	<p>Provide interpretive and cultural program through the recreation program, including environmental education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preserve historical and cultural resources in parks and open space.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Economic Development.</b> A stable, prosperous and diversified economy that provides living wage jobs for residents, supported by adequate land for a range of employment uses and that encourages accomplishment of local economic development goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide parks, open space, and recreation that support the economic growth of the County and contribute to a sense of place where people want to live, work, and play.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Services and Facilities.</b> Public services and facilities – including, but not limited to, parks and recreation, law enforcement, fire protection, emergency preparedness, water/sewer, roads, transit, nonmotorized facilities, ferries, stormwater management, education, library services, health and human services, energy, telecommunications, etc. – are provided in an efficient, high-quality and timely manner by the County and its partner agencies. Public services and facilities are monitored, maintained and enhanced to meet quality service standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focus on management and maintenance of park and open space lands.</li> <li>▪ Work with cities and other communities for park and open space acquisition projects.</li> <li>▪ Target capital development and maintenance resources on specific parks for the greatest benefit.</li> <li>▪ Institute management programs for habitat value, forest health and safety for the Heritage parks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transportation.</b> An efficient, flexible, and coordinated multi-modal transportation system – including roads, bridges and highways, ferries, transit, and non-motorized travel – that provides interconnectivity and mobility for county residents and supports our urban and rural land use pattern.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incorporate a network of trails and greenways through the County to connect population and employment centers, schools, and public facilities.</li> <li>▪ Promote pedestrian and bicycling through provision of bicycle and walking trails in parks system.</li> </ul>



## Chapter 10. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

### 10.1. Plan Context

The current Kitsap County parks, recreation, and open space system includes 74 sites totaling approximately 5,700 acres. More than half of that acreage is within the five Heritage Parks owned by the County. Heritage Parks are at least 400 acres, and are intended to remain primarily undeveloped natural areas, with trails located through them and environmentally sensitive areas preserved or enhanced. In addition to Heritage Parks, other classifications of facilities in the parks system include: other regional parks (primarily waterfront parks); community parks; natural resource areas preserved for their habitat values; and partnership properties that are generally smaller and have limited, if any, active use and/or are used and managed primarily by other parties. More detailed information about parks, trends and forecasts can be found in Volume II, Section 3.3.4, and the 2006 Kitsap County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (POS Plan).

### 10.2. Parks Goals and Policies

#### 10.2.1. County's Role

**Goal 1. Provide regional park, recreation and open space to meet the regional needs.**

Policy POS-1 Establish the County in the role as the provider of regional facilities to meet regional needs.

Policy POS-2 Complete acquisition of the Heritage Park system.

Policy POS-3 Begin development of the Heritage Parks, including tournament-level athletic field complexes, trail networks, and facilities to meet other identified needs.

- Policy POS-4 Acquire and develop waterfront parks, including freshwater lakes and access to the saltwater shoreline, including park sites, access to public tidelands, and underwater parks.
- Policy POS-5 Acquire and preserve an integrated system of open space lands that preserve valued wildlife habitat, and historical and cultural lands.
- Policy POS-6 Acquire and develop a network of off-road, non-motorized trails, connecting parks, population centers, schools, and other destinations.
- Policy POS-7 Maintain a POS Plan, which, if fully funded, would achieve the community's preferred future and contribute to high quality of life for the citizens of Kitsap County.
- Policy POS-8 Implement the adopted Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan to plan, acquire, and develop open space, greenways, and wildlife habitat to the greatest extent possible with funds provided. Consider the concepts in the adopted County Greenways Plan as the POS Plan is implemented and updated.
- Policy POS-9 Seek opportunities to achieve multiple local and state objectives with open space acquisitions, including maintaining aquifer recharge areas, helping Hood Canal overcome its low dissolved oxygen issues, recovering listed species, maintaining the viability of working forests and the local timber industry, protecting key habitats and landscapes, and maintaining rural character.
- Policy POS-10 Establish minimum sizes for buffers and wildlife corridors on County-owned land based upon consideration of Best Available Science (BAS) for the known needs of particular wildlife. Limit access to sensitive areas as needed to protect them.

### 10.2.2. Transition of County Parks Priorities

#### **Goal 2. Improve management and maintenance of parks and open space lands.**

- Policy POS-11 Shift capital program priorities from acquisition of lands to development, management, and maintenance of park and open space lands.

#### **Goal 3. Improve support of special events.**

- Policy POS-12 Develop programs for county park facilities emphasizing special events, such as Kitsap County Fair & Rodeo, concerts in the parks, and athletic tournaments.

### 10.2.3. Parks and Open Space Acquisition

**Goal 4. Complete the acquisition of North Kitsap Heritage Park, Newberry Hill Heritage Park, and the Hansville Greenway Phase 2.**

**Goal 5. Acquire lands that will provide access to and use of the saltwater shorelines of the county.**



Policy POS-13 Acquire shoreline parcels so that the public has access to a total of 4.58 miles of saltwater shoreline.

Policy POS-14 Prioritize acquisition of properties that provide access to public tidelands, to maximize public access.

**Goal 6. Acquire trail corridors between parks, schools and residential areas.**

Policy POS-15 Locate trail corridors to also serve wildlife when possible.

Policy POS-16 Encourage the protection of open spaces and greenways within Kitsap County through a variety of non-regulatory means to maintain recreational opportunities; vistas; and protected water, forestry, mineral, wildlife and plant resources.



Policy POS-17 Coordinate with Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program established in accordance with this Plan (Policies RL-63 through RL-68) as needed for the development of trails in rural areas.

**Goal 7. Preserve open space lands in a targeted manner to meet specific goals.**

Policy POS-18 Acquire wildlife habitat as it is targeted in existing, County-adopted studies.

Policy POS-19 Retain an integrated open space network in the county that protects natural, cultural, and historical resources; protects water supplies; buffers land uses; provides recreational opportunities; and enhances the quality of life of County residents.

Policy POS-20 Preserve the remaining large blocks of habitat-friendly land in land-locked portions of Kitsap County.

- Policy POS-21 Purchase lands along the lower mainstem of Chico Creek Watershed as recommended in the Chico Creek Mainstem Restoration Plan.
- Policy POS-22 Include any additional lands adjacent to an identified or established corridor where there are significant habitat features such as mature forests or standing dead trees, and there is a willing property owner who agrees to participate in some permanent; conservation-type easement.

### 10.2.4. Management of Park and Open Space Lands

#### **Goal 8. Provide programs and facilities of the highest quality possible.**

- Policy POS-23 Focus development and capital maintenance resources on specific parks to bring those facilities up to a high standard (rather than dispersing those resources throughout the system), moving focus from site to site annually.



- Policy POS-24 Institute a formal, ongoing capital maintenance program.
- Policy POS-25 Allocate maintenance funding for new property acquisitions from the Conservation Futures fund.
- Policy POS-26 Institute management programs for habitat value, forest health, and safety for Heritage Parks, following the goals and recommendations in the Stewardship Plans for those parks.

#### **Goal 9. Establish a better institutional framework for land acquisition, operation and management, and dedicate the resources necessary.**

- Policy POS-27 Establish a more formalized, better-coordinated acquisition program within the county and with other resource management agencies in the county.
- Policy POS-28 Maintain and ensure the security of acquired lands to provide proper stewardship.
- Policy POS-29 Manage, rehabilitate, and restore key degraded habitat as necessary to assist the recovery of priority populations, such as listed species of concern and salmon populations in general.
- Policy POS-30 Use open space lands to enhance recreational, educational, and aesthetic opportunities.

**Goal 10. Build a Greenways Network of non-motorized, on-road commuter trails and off-road recreational trails, within and outside of road rights-of-way, that interconnect open spaces, urban areas, communities, and recreational areas.**

Policy POS-31 Coordinate Greenway implementation efforts with Chapter 8, *Transportation*, to develop a system of non-motorized transportation facilities that:

- Are constructed primarily within the rights-of-way of existing and proposed public streets or roads; and
- Provide safe transportation among a variety of regional, inter-community and local Kitsap County destinations for bicyclists and pedestrians.



Policy POS-32 Coordinate planning and preservation efforts among various entities to protect the scenic amenities of Kitsap County landscapes, and ensure that the development of new trails helps preserve the natural system and sensitive areas through which they pass. Consider the adopted County Greenways Plan and the adopted POS Plan as guidance.

Policy POS-33 Utilize regulatory authority in particular circumstances when there is a compelling public interest.

**10.2.5. Funding**

**Goal 11. Operate the County’s park, recreation and open space system as cost effectively as possible.**

Policy POS-34 Look creatively at all potential resources for funding or support to provide needed facilities and services.

Policy POS-35 Develop facilities that require low maintenance, even at increased development costs.

Policy POS-36 Develop and manage park facilities for multiple uses.

Policy POS-37 Consider the formation of a Metropolitan Park District to assume responsibility of the County’s park, recreation and open space system.

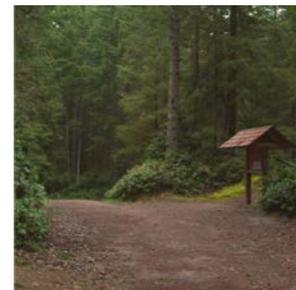
### 10.2.6. Partnerships

**Goal 12. Take the initiative to create partnerships with other agencies and organizations to meet all identified needs, including those beyond the County’s primary responsibilities.**

- Policy POS-38 Coordinate efforts with other facility providers to meet needs identified by the POS Plan.
- Policy POS-39 Collaborate with cities and communities to provide park and open space lands in urban growth areas.
- Policy POS-40 Cooperate with others to provide “tot lots” and open spaces in unincorporated neighborhoods and community parks with in 0.5 mile of unincorporated population concentrations. Creative tools should be used to accomplish this including: land purchases, property exchanges, donations of land and/or labor, easements, selling properties that do not serve park or open space purposes, and reinvesting land sale proceeds to meet identified needs.
- Policy POS-41 Coordinate with other agencies to provide for community, teen, senior, and aquatic centers.
- Policy POS-42 Provide coordinated information on recreation programs offered by all agencies in Kitsap County, in both a multi-agency quarterly recreation program guide and on a website with information/links to programs offered by all agencies and organizations.
- Policy POS-43 Collaborate with resource agencies, non-profit organizations, and Tribes to provide public open space and maintain private working forests in key habitat areas.

**Goal 13. Work with others to provide/promote environmental education.**

- Policy POS-44 Integrate environmental education, as appropriate, into recreational program offerings and in parks and open space sites throughout the county.
- Policy POS-45 Manifest a strong environmental ethic when identifying lands for acquisition, and when designing, developing, managing, and maintaining County open space lands and park facilities.



**Goal 14. Coordinate and cooperate with other jurisdictions, organizations, land trusts, and private landowners to help provide and maintain habitat values and ecosystem functions.**

Policy POS-46 Include the purchase of easements and the negotiation of cooperative management agreements, in addition to fee simple acquisitions, in implementation of habitat planning.

### 10.2.7. Civic Engagement

**Goal 15. Proactively cultivate positive relationships with the public in all aspects of departmental responsibilities.**

Policy POS-47 Actively engage the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Fair Board in fulfilling their purpose.

Policy POS-48 Work cooperatively with stewardship committees in the planning, development, and maintenance of park sites.

Policy POS-49 Work cooperatively with user groups to plan, develop, and maintain park facilities.

Policy POS-50 Provide public information on park and recreation facilities and programs in the form of brochures and websites.



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