

July 11, 2005

Dear Reader:

It is with great pride that we present the City of Woodinville's updated Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan. Our City is just twelve years old; and while the growth and changes during that period have been numerous, citizen demand for a comprehensive park system has been a constant theme in numerous public meetings, surveys, and interviews.

Much has happened to bring Woodinville citizens closer to the ambitious dream that was outlined in our 1998 Plan. The 18 acre Rotary Community Park is the envy of the region with its state of the art skatepark, climbing boulder, art wall, and playground. In the coming year almost a mile of trails will offer interpretive trails, an outdoor classroom, and salmon viewing platforms. The City has aggressively protected open space and now has almost 100 acres in preservation from development. And the Woodinville Community Center and Sports Fields are in design for major renovation and expansion.

Along the way, the City has forged important partnerships with local civic clubs, competed successfully for regional and federal grants to leverage taxpayer dollars, and generally put the business of meeting quality of life expectations of its citizens as a top priority.

We are bound by a common appreciation for the green hillsides above the valley swaying with their majestic fir and cedar trees, the Sammamish River and its streams that nurture salmon and connect us with our natural history, and the busy sound of kids as they tumble onto a soccer field. We treasure the grand expanse of the Sammamish Valley, a drift of blooming tulips, a bench that calls out for a good visit with a friend or the playground noise that reminds us that we are at our best when we take time to sit, visit, contemplate, run, play, laugh, and live.

We hope this Plan helps you view the past, appreciate the present, and get involved in the future. The benefits of parks and recreations are endless!

Woodinville Parks and Recreation Commission

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Executive Summary

The 2005 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan for Woodinville represents the vision for the City's park and recreation system for the next six years and beyond. It strives to meet the demand for park and recreation services of the current and future population. It was developed from an analysis of the existing system and projections of recreation needs of the future population of the City.

The 2005 PRO Plan is an update and revision of the adopted 1998 PRO Plan. It has been over six years since the adoption of the first and latest version of Woodinville's plan for parks. Many things have changed since then, including a service area adjustment from the 1998 Planning Area to today's urban growth boundary which closely resembles the city boundary, a considerable reduction in geographic area. The scope of this plan is also reduced by exclusion of recreation service providers that are not part of City responsibility. King and Snohomish Counties, local school districts, and private facility providers were included in the 1998 PRO Plan, but due to their location outside of the city, their exclusionary policies and fees, they are not considered as meeting service needs in this PRO Plan update. The PRO Plan will no longer try to meet park and recreation demands in areas beyond City boundaries. Rather, the city line and the population that resides within the City will be the target population for defining demand for parks and recreation services in Woodinville. Space and facility demand and service quality are viewed from a very different perspective. This Plan adopts new levels of service categories related to functional geographic area service provisions. Accessibility and service area radius, in this Plan, become important elements of the quality of service.

In 1998 Woodinville had 25.4 acres of park resources and 0.40 miles of linear trails. In 2005, there are 98.2 acres of park land and 1.78 miles of trails. This represents an increase of nearly 400 percent in park resource land and about 445 percent increase in trail miles. Neighborhood Parks added 2.07 acres since 1998, Community Park acreage remained the same and Resource Park land increased by 75.86, of which 39.67 acres were donated, over the same period. These improvements to the park and recreation system of Woodinville are consistent with recommendations in the 1998 PRO Plan.

The new Plan is a fresh attempt at defining the resources that the City currently has to provide its citizens with recreation opportunities; now, and in the future. It was developed as part of a process that included an **Inventory** of existing sites and facilities, **Public Involvement**, including adoption of **Goals and Objectives** derived from citizen participation, a **Demand and Needs Analysis** in terms of park area and recreation facilities, recommendations for a **Development Plan** for park system improvements, adoption of recommendations and a **Capital Program** for plan implementation including capital funding strategies for meeting future demand.

The PRO Plan recommends that a high priority be placed on acquisition and development of facilities in most of Woodinville's neighborhoods; and acquisition and development of a community scale ball field site on the City's eastern plateau. Resource conservancy and open space land acquisition has been successful during the latest plan period (1998-2004) but special use facilities such as a swimming pool and a community center still remain as high priorities.

An outline of needs and priorities, as well as recommendations for more trails, suggestions for implementation and funding strategies and alternative methods to accomplish the parks, recreation and open space vision for the future of Woodinville is included in the Plan.

The strategies and methods for meeting future park and recreation needs are based on adopted standards derived from the public involvement process. The PRO Plan implements City policies, recommends future acquisition and development of facilities and describes ways to finance improvements.

While the City of Woodinville has made substantial improvements to the park system much is left to do to satisfy the park, recreation and open space needs and demands of the future population. Gaps in geographic service areas exist and adequate facility development is not up to pace with standards or demand. Neighborhoods lack adequate and easily accessible park and recreation facilities. More space for facilities such as ball fields, tennis courts, and playgrounds needs to be acquired and developed. Major facilities such as trails that provide connections to park resources and activity nodes, a community center, and a swimming pool are also needed to meet City demand, and may, in fact, meet part of a regional demand. These gaps are defined in the Plan and recommendations are made to satisfy the needs and demands for services. Some facilities that will provide service beyond city demand such as the building of a pool will require solutions of a regional scope, and coordination and cooperation with other public or private benefactors.

The 2005 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan was produced so that the City could have a blueprint to embark on a course of action that will result in a comprehensive and fully-developed parks, recreation and open space system by 2020. Within this long range perspective, the Plan looks at the current six year period to identify and recommend improvement projects and financing strategies which need to be put into place now in order to meet long term goals. Land supply for park acquisition is rapidly diminishing and time is of the essence.