

Enumclaw Comprehensive Plan

PARKS AND RECREATION



7. PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

Purpose

The purpose of the Park and Recreation Element is to establish goals, policies, and identify strategic capital projects that will direct the City in planning for, developing, operating, and maintaining parks, recreation, and open space facilities in Enumclaw. Attractive and functional parks, natural areas, and community services network are vital to maintaining and improving the community's overall quality of life.

People are attracted to Enumclaw's rural character and natural setting. The community's integrated parks and open spaces link the community's strollers, walkers, joggers, bikers, swimmers, picnickers, music listeners, and organized sports teams to the outdoors. This linkage celebrates Enumclaw's setting and recognizes the community's accessibility to other outdoor activities available nearby. Fishing, camping, horseback riding, and car touring are a few of the activities that residents enjoy in the surrounding rural, State, and federal lands.

Parks, recreation, and open space play a huge part in defining a community. Enumclaw is a unique piece of King County, abundant in beautiful parks and open spaces. Parks and open spaces are important to establishing communities' distinctive character, defining community identity, and contributing to a high quality of life for residents, employees, and others. High quality parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces improve the health and well-being of the residents by providing recreation opportunities and by protecting resources that improve water quality, clean the air, and protect wildlife. Quality parks also support communities' employment base and economic development making them a desirable place to live and work.

Planning Context and Framework

STATE PLANNING CONTEXT

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that all fully planning cities and counties to include a Parks and Recreation Element in their Comprehensive Plan. RCW 36.70A.070 requires that the parks and recreation element that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities and includes:

- Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period
- an evaluation of facilities and service needs
- an evaluation of tree canopy coverage within the urban growth area
- an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand

WAC 365-196-440 requires that the parks and recreation element include:

- Consistency with the capital facilities element as it relates to park and recreation facilities
- Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period
- An evaluation of facilities and service needs
- An evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) administers grants for the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board which requires an adopted master plan, self-certified and reviewed by the RCO to be eligible for state grant funding. Once an adopted master plan is approved by the RCO, the agency is eligible to apply for grant funding for six years.

REGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) published Vision 2050 which includes multi-county planning policies (MPP) for the environment including parks and recreation. Specifically, "Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents. Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments." Vision 2050 also discusses the promotion of healthy communities by creating more access to parks services and amenities.

King County has published Countywide Planning Policies (CPP) which include the following Open Space Policies:

- Identify and preserve regionally significant open space networks in both Urban and Rural Areas through implementation of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan. Develop strategies and funding to protect lands that provide the following valuable functions:
 1. Ecosystem linkages and migratory corridors crossing jurisdictional boundaries
 2. Physical or visual separation delineating growth boundaries or providing buffers between incompatible uses
 3. Active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities
 4. Wildlife habitat and migration corridors that preserve and enhance ecosystem resiliency in the face of urbanization and climate change
 5. Preservation of ecologically sensitive, scenic, or cultural resources
 6. Urban green space, habitats, and ecosystems
 7. Forest resources
 8. Food production potential
- Preserve and restore native vegetation and tree canopy, especially where it protects habitat and contributes to overall ecological function.
- Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents.

- Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.

LOCAL PLANNING CONTEXT

The GMA requires that the Park and Recreation Element include the minimum requirements and to be consistent with PSRC's Vision 2050 and King County's CPPs. The Park and Recreation Element relied on information gathered through a public survey and open comment period. This update found the community's highest priorities are improving and upgrading existing city parks and facilities. Also important to the community was the lack of desired park amenities and features, such as a splash park, turf fields, and age-appropriate play equipment, particularly for toddlers. Development and maintenance of trail corridors and athletic oriented community parks were also of high importance to the community. The community identified communication and dissemination of information as a barrier to both participating in programs offered by the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services department and visitation of city parks.

The City's provision of parks, recreation, and open space facilities is guided by its Parks and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan). The most recent plan was completed in 2019. The City is in the process of updating the 2019 Plan, to be completed in 2025.

Introduction

The City of Enumclaw's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element is split into two sections. The first section Goals and Policies, includes the goals and policies that are intended to direct the City's planning and provision of parks, recreation, and open space facilities in alignment with facilities delivered by others, as well as the operation and programming of active facilities. In the second section, this chapter identifies goals and objectives for meeting the City's open space and recreational requirements based on identified needs, desires, and issues. The chapter guides the services, programs, and future preservation and enhancement of recreational and community facilities, including parks, ball fields, trails, the community center, and library.

The City conducted an inventory of existing facilities and programs, determined levels of service standards, and identified expected development of parks, trails, open spaces and recreation facilities for the Urban Growth Area (UGA) as part of the 2014 Parks and Open Space Plan. This chapter summarizes the 2014 Parks and Open Space Plan which includes the inventory, needs analysis, level of service and improvements to meet GMA requirements.

RCW 36.70A.030 and RCW 82.02.050 define parks and recreation as public facilities where impact fees can be charged. A rate study supports an impact fee for parks and community-service facilities charged on new private development proposals to assist in funding specific projects.

Goals and Policies

Based on the Parks and Opens Space Plan, the department's focus is on four primary goals, all of which encompass a variety of aspects that help attain that goal:

- **Acquisition and Development.** Acquire and develop a system of parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces that are safe, attractive, functional, and available to diverse populations.
- **Resiliency (Maintenance, operations, funding).** Build a sustainable Parks system. Focus on the key elements (maintenance, operations, funding), that provide to the community needs within a sustainable budget. Maintain, protect, preserve, and restore existing parks and recreational facilities that furnish quality active and passive experiences for the community.
- **Quality of Life.** Enhance the quality of life in the community by providing services and programs that offer positive opportunities for citizens to lead healthy and productive lives. Transparency, Communication, Participation. Create easily accessible information about the park system and programs offered, build constituent trust, and be transparent in the decision-making process. Providing an open and continuing opportunity to participate, comment and offer direction in the development and maintenance of our park and recreational facilities, space, and activities.

Goal PK-1: Acquisition and Development. Acquire and develop a system of parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces that are safe, attractive, functional, and available to diverse populations.

Policy PK-1.1 The priorities for acquisition of park land are as follows in order of priority:

- A. Land in developing areas as necessary to meet minimum adopted levels of service for neighborhood and community park land;*
- B. Trail corridors identified in the Park Plan or identified as areas with frequent wildlife collisions; and,*
- C. Open space areas, wildlife corridors, historic structures or areas and view corridors that contribute to or enhance the unique character of Enumclaw.*

Policy PK-1.2 Neighborhood parks provided by individual developments to meet minimum levels of service should be owned and maintained by the applicable homeowner's association.

Policy PK-1.3 During development review, if consistent with parks target outcomes or other needs identified in the Park Plan, pursue dedication of land for future parks, open space, and recreation facilities.

Policy PK-1.4 Partner with other agencies and organizations (local School District, King County, Pierce County, local tribes etc.) to acquire/develop community and regional park land/trails.

Policy PK-1.5 Priorities for development of existing parks and recreational facilities are as follows:

- A. Redevelopment or rehabilitation of parks and/or facilities that are outdated and/or in need of major repair;*
- B. Development of undeveloped park land in developing areas;*

- C. Continue expansion/linkage of the Foothills Trail and other trails as identified in the plan; and,
- D. Updating existing Senior and Youth Facilities to meet needs for a multigenerational Community Center.

- Policy PK-1.6 Design of park signs, benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, and other amenities should be standardized and consistent throughout the park system.*
- Policy PK-1.7 In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), ensure that park facilities are designed to be safe and accessible for use by the physically disabled.*
- Policy PK-1.8 Solicit public input during the park design process and incorporate public desires and needs into the design of parks where appropriate.*
- Policy PK-1.9 Layout and design of parks should maximize unique mountain views, scenic vistas and natural features for the benefit of park users.*
- Policy PK-1.10 Park design and programming should include features and facilities that address identified needs and should balance active and passive recreation opportunities.*
- Policy PK-1.11 Encourage private interests to assist in the provision of recreational facilities and space through donations, sponsorship and dedication of land.*

Goal PK-2 Resiliency (Maintenance, operations, funding). Build a sustainable Parks system. Focus on the key elements (maintenance, operations, funding) to ensure that community needs are met within a sustainable budget. Maintain, protect, preserve, and restore existing parks and recreational facilities that furnish quality active and passive experiences for the community.

- Policy PK-2.1 Utilize maintenance best practices, preventative maintenance, and NPSI standards to improve park safety, operational efficiency, and usage. Focusing on sustainable operations and maintenance funding existing and new park development.*
- Policy PK-2.2 Continue to utilize volunteer organizations and private sector services for repetitive, seasonal, and specialized maintenance activity.*
- Policy PK-2.3 Consider funding to maintain the City's public art collection.*
- Policy PK-2.4 Balance City, private, and volunteer efforts to provide an effective and economical mix of cooperative effort in developing and/or maintaining the public park system.*

Goal PK-3 Quality of Life. Enhance the quality of life in the community by providing services and programs that offer positive opportunities for citizens to lead healthy and productive lives.

- Policy PK-3.1 Provide recreational programs and opportunities that address the needs of all segments of the population.*
- Policy PK-3.2 Coordinate with outside organizations, the school district, and other partners to maximize recreational opportunities and minimize duplication.*
- Policy PK-3.3 Strive to keep programs updated to reflect changing public needs and desires.*

- Policy PK-3.4 Arts, community events and other cultural activities all encourage a sense of place and cultural identity. The City has limited funds for these activities but recognizes that it can provide technical or organizational support.*
- Policy PK-3.5 Reflect community identity using public art to create unique community places, define or redefine public spaces, or create a strong sense of place.*
- Policy PK-3.6 Provide opportunities that highlight the talents of local artists.*
- Policy PK-3.7 Support community events such as the Wine Walk, Street Fair and 4th of July Celebration, that are provided by the Chamber of Commerce and other non-profit organizations.*
- Policy PK-3.8 Support organizations that provide quality programs and services that benefit the greater community.*
- Policy PK-3.9 Provide services for all ages to encourage community members to try new activities and build a habit of healthy living.*

Goal PK-4 Transparency, Communication, Participation. Create easily accessible information about the park system, build constituent trust, and be transparent in the decision-making process. Providing an open and continuing opportunity to participate, comment and offer direction in the development and maintenance of our park and recreational facilities, space, and activities.

- Policy PK-4.1 Increase access to information about parks and recreation, including the trail system, using virtual and physical platforms.*
- Policy PK-4.2 Engage the public in current and future parks and recreation planning efforts.*
- Policy PK-4.3 Continue to promote and create awareness of department updates (activities, development, acquisition, maintenance, etc.) through use of an activity guide, website, and social media.*
- Policy PK-4.4 Expand participation options through enhanced partnerships with businesses and organizations, and through volunteerism.*
- Policy PK-4.5 Increase the sense of public ownership by involving community partners and volunteers in the design, construction, and maintenance of parks and programs.*

Goal PK-5 Provide a continuous, multi-use, safe and enjoyable trail system throughout the City.

- Policy PK-5.1 Development of and connections to the regional trail system of Pierce and King County (Foothills Trail) is a priority for trail funding.*
- Policy PK-5.2 Trail systems should be separated from vehicle travel lanes by a planter strip to improve the user experience.*
- Policy PK-5.3 Trail linkages should be planned to connect neighborhoods to public facilities, including parks, schools, and library, and to the central business district.*
- Policy PK-5.4 The City trail system should provide connections to the regional trail system of Pierce and King Counties.*

Policy PK-5.5 Encourage a trail network in developing subdivisions via right-of-way dedication and developer participation.

Policy PK-5.6 Incorporate existing public lands and rights-of- way into a linked network of trails and other non- vehicle corridors.

Policy PK-5.7 Coordinate school routes and the proposed trail system where possible.

Goal PK-6 Implement capital funding policies to support parks, recreation, and open space capital investments.

Policy PK-6.1 Develop a volunteer program that supports residents’ desires for volunteer opportunities while reducing costs, where possible.

Policy PK-6.2 Index Parks Impact Fees to inflation to ensure they cover the appropriate share of project costs.

Policy PK-6.3 Develop new cost-recovery and/or revenue-generating policies that support scholarships for recreation programming and charging non-residents a higher fee to prevent residents from subsidizing non-residents.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Services and Facilities Inventory

PARK CLASSIFICATION TYPES AND DEFINITIONS

Based on past planning efforts, the City has developed a parks classification scheme that, along with its level of service standards, helps to set expectations around the types of parks and amenities available to residents and the appropriate amenities to be developed in any given park. The parks classification schema includes four types of parks: mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and open space, which, along with their size, purpose, and use are described in Exhibit PK-1, following.

Exhibit PK-1 Park Classifications

Park	Size	Purpose	Service Zone	Use
Mini Park	0-1.6 Acres	Decorative open spaces and monuments	Several Blocks	Passive
Neighborhood Parks	0-4.9 Acres	Serving Residential Neighborhoods	3/4 Mile	Active
Community Parks	5+ Acres	Serving the community at large	Entire Community	Active and/or Passive

Park	Size	Purpose	Service Zone	Use
Open Space	5+ Acres	Serving community at large, typically contains a significant natural or cultural feature	Entire Community	Passive

Park classification is largely a planning tool to classify park usage and gauge neighborhood access to park and open space facilities. These park classifications are general guidelines rather than strict rules. For example, parks may be slightly out of the acreage range but still be classed in that category. Within the park classification schema, “service zones” refer to the primary population that is served by the park facility. In general, the greater the size of the park and the more amenities it offers, the greater the size of its “service zone.”

A key differentiator among these park classifications is park use; that is, whether they are intended to for “active” or “passive” use. “Active” uses include sports, recreation, and other recreational activities and implies that the park includes facilities such as baseball, softball or soccer fields; tennis, basketball, or other sport courts; and/or playgrounds and other play equipment. courts. “Passive” uses include walking, picnicking, nature enjoyment and study, and contemplation, although small play structures and minor play equipment may be provided. Other passive park amenities may include benches, picnic shelters, and walking trails, as well as interpretative signage. In general, parks that support active uses do not preclude passive uses, while passive parks are exclusive to those uses. However, residents and park users may ultimately use parks in ways that vary from the classification standard.

INVENTORY AND NICHE ASSESSMENT

As an important first step to understanding the City of Enumclaw’s current parks and recreation system and its needs, we evaluated the current availability of parks, recreation, and open space facilities in Enumclaw. This included both city-owned and non-city owned public facilities, as residents and park users have access to both.

CITY-OWNED FACILITIES

Exhibit PK-2 identifies the existing parks and open space facilities in Enumclaw by classification and size, and identifies their general amenities.

Exhibit PK-2 City-Owned Parks Inventory

Site	Acres	Use	Amenities
Mini-Park			
Bruce Guenther Park	0.4	Passive	1 picnic table
City Hall Park	1	Passive	
Goodwill Park	0.52	Passive	Garden and Public Art

Site	Acres	Use	Amenities
Rotary Centennial Park	0.25	Passive	1 Picnic Shelter, 1 Picnic Table
Scott Park	0.7	Passive	
Triangle Park	0.4	Passive	
Veterans Memorial Park	1.6	Passive	Memorial Tributes
** Chinook Winds	0.22	Undeveloped	
Neighborhood Park			
Elk Meadows	2.32	Active	
Ellenson Park	2.6	Active	Picnic tables, Playground, Soccer Field
Flensted Park	2.5	Active	Basketball Court, # Picnic Tables, Playground, Soccer Field
MacFarland Park	6.5	Active	Baseball / Softball, Basketball Court, Picnic Shelters, Picnic Tables, Playground, Soccer Field
Martin Holdener Park	5.01	Active	
Martin Johnson Park	4.5	Active	Baseball / Softball, Open Field, Soccer
Montgomery Park	1.6	Active	Baseball/Softball Fields, Basketball Courts, Picnic Tables, Playground
Rainier Trails Park	3.6	Active	
Community Park			
Boise Creek Park	19.3	Active	
Dwight Garrett Park	5.4	Active	Baseball/Softball Fields, Basketball Courts, Picnic Tables, Skate Park, Tennis Court
Enumclaw Park	5.6	Active	1 lighted softball/baseball field, children's play area, picnic area
Farmers Park	9.7	Active	Disc Golf Course, Picnic Tables
Mahler Park	30	Passive	Undeveloped
Sportsman Park	12.86	Active	
TOTAL	150.58		

In addition to this inventory, the City has two undeveloped open spaces: Anderson Riverview (20 acres) and Fell Hill Open Space (14 acres) which were donated to the City but are outside of its urban growth area. The city has a policy of only operating parks and open space facilities within its urban growth area (UGA). Both Anderson Riverview and Fell Hill Open Space are well outside Enumclaw's UGA, so at this time these properties are undeveloped and remain in reserve. It is likely that these properties will be surplussed rather than developed, as they do not meet the City's policies for parks and open space facility development.

Beyond parks and open space facilities, the City also has several City-owned recreational facilities (inventory shown Exhibit PK-3) and trails (inventory shown in Exhibit PK-4).

Exhibit PK-3 City-owned Recreational Facilities Inventory Existing City Recreational Facilities and Trails (In or Near Enumclaw UGA)

Site	Size	Status/Use
Enumclaw Aquatic Center	Pool-4,956 SF	Active
	Facility- 13,540 SF	
Enumclaw Golf Course	188 Acres	Active
Senior Center	6,388 SF	Active

The City has three major recreational facilities: the Enumclaw Aquatic Center, Enumclaw Golf Course, and the Senior Center. The City is also currently evaluating the futures of all three of these facilities, to ensure that they are appropriately maintained and sustainably operated moving forward.

- Enumclaw Aquatic Center.** The Enumclaw Aquatic Center was transferred to the City of Enumclaw by King County in 2005. The Pool was originally built by King County in the early 1970's as part of the "Forward Thrust" initiative, and as such, King County and now the City of Enumclaw are obligated to voters to maintain the pool or a replacement for the next 30 years. The City currently operates and maintains the pool, independently.

A Citizen's advisory committee was formed in 2018 to research and recommend alternative funding sources to operate and maintain the pool, which up until 2, 2020 as heavily subsidized by the general fund. In August 2019, King County voters approved a replacement for the King County Parks Levy which substantially increased levy proceeds, and with it, the annual disbursement of levy proceeds to King County cities. Enumclaw expected to receive an additional \$125,000 annual disbursement from this levy and elected to dedicate these proceeds to the Aquatics Center, as the City considers the Aquatics Center a regional facility. These proceeds have offset general fund subsidization.
- Currently, the pool is not at capacity and can accommodate additional growth. In 2019, the City commissioned a feasibility study which established that the City should maintain the pool (including making necessary condition-related and ADA improvements) and make phased improvements to increase capacity to keep up with

population growth.

The pool is currently under construction (expected to last from January to August 2024, with a twelve-week closure from April 2024 to June 2024) for necessary maintenance and improvements, including ADA upgrades, locker room upgrades (including lighting and showers), entryway and external façade improvements, and the addition of a 1500 square foot community/party room.

- **Enumclaw Golf Course.** The Enumclaw Golf Course is an 18-hole regulation length course, spanning 188 acres. The golf course was transferred to the City in 2003 by Enumclaw Golf Club, Inc. It has 18 holes, a putting green, parking lot and clubhouse. Developed between the 1930s and the 1980s, the course was accepted in outdated and poor condition. Drainage is a constant issue due to its location and environmental features on the site.

The Golf Course is currently leased to and operated by a private outside organization. This decision was made to reduce subsidization of the golf course enterprise by the general fund. The golf course continues to recover its operating costs through user fees. Like the Aquatics Center, the City considers the Golf Course as a regional facility. However, while this may be adequate to fund operating costs, it has not been sufficient to build reserves for needed, long-term maintenance and capital improvements. Lease negotiations were ongoing in 2024, with the intent to find a cost-share or -responsibility mechanism to cover the course's expenses.

- **Enumclaw Senior Center/Community Center.** The current Enumclaw Senior Center was built in 1928 and, before becoming the City's senior center, was a garment factory, grocery store, and automotive dealership. The facility was not built with use as a community center in mind and cannot accommodate the growing needs of the Enumclaw community. In addition, the current building needs significant repairs, and the estimated cost to renovate the building exceeds its total value; a 2021 feasibility study, identified that the existing Senior and Youth sites have several structural and seismic issues.

Instead, the City gave voters the choice whether to update the existing building or to, alternatively, surplus the existing senior center and develop a new community center which would accommodate seniors, children and youth, and families and include a senior center, commercial kitchen, common/dining room, classrooms, exercise room, full high school size gym as well as various offices housing ArtsAlive!, the Chamber of Commerce, City Parks and Recreation, and meeting spaces for the community, based on a conceptual design completed in 2018.

To give voters this choice, the City developed a capital bond initiative (Proposition No. 1²) that was included in an April 2024 special election. The Community Center Bond Initiative did not pass, receiving 47.93% approval, far short of the 60% super majority needed to pass. The City has interpreted this as Enumclaw residents'

² In April 2024, Enumclaw put Proposition No. 1 on the April 23, 2024 special election ballot. This initiative asked voters for a capital bond a bond projected at \$0.30 per \$1,000 of assessed property value on the April 23, 2024, special election ballot. If passed, this capital bond would also allow the City to pursue \$3.35 million in grants and city funds for the project and to pursue other grants and private donations to further reduce the amount of funding needed by taxpayers. However, these alternative funding sources were contingent on the bond passing.

preference to refurbish the existing building and/or rent space to address senior and community needs.

The City has a limited trails system, however, that is partially because the City is working to improve its multi-modal transportation system and is surrounded by King County trails, such that the park, recreation, and cultural services department trails are largely those in City-owned parks.

Exhibit PK-4 City-owned Trails Inventory

Trail	Size	Status/Use
Foothills Trail	1.00 Mile	Paved
BNSF Rail Corridor	0.42 Miles	Paved
Battersby Loop Trail	3.60 Miles	Paved (not complete)
Trail above Golf Course	Unmeasured	Undeveloped

To be considered a “trail,” right-of-way must have been acquired and the trail must be level and cleared and have a useable surface such as gravel or chips.

NON-CITY-OWNED FACILITIES

It is important to remember that, while the City of Enumclaw is responsible for delivering parks and open space facilities and parks, recreation, and cultural services to its residents, residents also have access to a suite of non-City owned facilities. Understanding this inventory is important to understanding the true need for parks and open space facilities in Enumclaw and the City’s niche is delivering those facilities, discussed later in this Element.

Exhibit PK-5 Existing Non-City Parks and Open Space Facilities (In or Near Enumclaw UGA)

Existing Non-City Recreational Facilities (In or Near Enumclaw UGA)		
Site	Acres	Status/Use
Private Community Open Space		
Mountain Villa	0.4	Dedicated to community. Play area, picnic tables.
Mountain Villa Open Space	1.3	Old BNSF right-of-way leased to Mountain Villa
Mt. Peak Village Open Space	2	Dedicated to community
Crystallaire Open Space	2	Dedicated to community
Mt. Meadows	0.4	Dedicated to Community. Play area, basketball court.
Mt. Meadows Open Space	1	Old BNSF right-of-way leased to Mt. Meadows
Enumclaw School District Facilities		

Existing Non-City Recreational Facilities (In or Near Enumclaw UGA)		
Site	Acres	Status/Use
EHS Auditorium	NA	Performing arts, theater
Sunrise Elementary	16	Playground, 5 multiuse fields, covered play area
EMS and EHS Site	28	2 Playgrounds, 2 Multiuse Fields, 5 Baseball/Softball Fields, 2 Tracks, 5 Tennis Courts, 1 Pickleball Court,
Southwood Elementary	9.7	Playground, 2 Baseball/Softball Fields, Natural Area
Kibler Elementary School	3.6	Multiuse Field Play Area, Covered Play Area, Playground
JJ Smith Birth to 5 Center	2.2	Playground, Baseball/Softball Field, Covered Play Area, Sport Court
King County Recreational Facilities and Trails		
Pinnacle Peak Park	256	
Big Spring/Newaukum Creek Natural Area		
Little Lake Forest	151	
Foothills Trail	4.3 Miles	1.3 Miles Paved Along HWY 410, 1.3 Miles Grave,l 1.6 Miles Undeveloped
Other Facilities		
Enumclaw Expo Center	55 Acres	Active
Library (KCLS)	10,500 SF	Active

NICHE ANALYSIS

The City of Enumclaw is the primary provider of parks and recreation facilities in Enumclaw, delivering neighborhood and community parks and major regional facilities like the aquatic center, golf course, and community center. Because the latter are regional facilities, the City should consider opportunities to distribute the responsibility for those facilities regionally, as well. However, the City benefits from King County’s regional role in providing open space and trails.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

The City of Enumclaw has adopted levels of service (LOS) that are easy to measure, feasible and relevant to the unique needs of Enumclaw residents. The LOS for park land determines that amount of land needed while the LOS for facilities determines the types of facilities

needed in the park system. Park and trail land are determined using acres per 1,000 population as well as locational criteria. The need for park and trail land is based on the adopted level-of-service and the future population of nearly 15,000 people, as described below.

The City of Enumclaw updated its Parks and Open Space Plan in 2019 and, at that time, adopted the following level- of-service standards for park and recreation land:

- **Neighborhood Parks:** 2.26 acres per 1,000 residents and all residences located within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Neighborhood parks one acre in size or larger should be publicly-owned and maintained. Neighborhood parks less than one acre in size should be privately-owned and maintained as “Tot Lots” within subdivisions. Every neighborhood park should have facilities to serve a broad range of the population and should include one or more play components (five to 12), one or more adult fitness structures or activity features (fitness equipment, bocce, horseshoes, etc.), a sport court or a multi-purpose playfield. Trails, fitness equipment, and/or multiuse courts/fields should be added to existing parks as appropriate to the park to increase the range of age of users. Playgrounds, sport courts, multiuse fields, benches and restrooms should be maintained or added to parks as appropriate.
- **Community Park:** 3.59 acres per 1,000 residents.
- **Trails:** 1/4 mile of trail per 1,000 residents.

It is notable that no level of service standard has been set for miniparks or open space. In the case of miniparks, these facilities are specifically sited to accommodate the decorative elements and monuments they house. While they are highly valued amenities downtown, they are not necessarily needed in neighborhoods, where neighborhood parks would be more appropriate, however this does not preclude miniparks from being developed in neighborhoods should need arise. In the case of open space, as discussed previously, the City’s open space needs are largely served by King County’s robust regional open space facilities, which, although largely outside of City boundaries, are adjacent and extremely accessible to residents.

In the past, the National Recreation and Park and Association (NRPA), has recommended these level of service standards around minimum acreage and facilities based on population. However, the NRPA no longer recommends a standard for facility and park land based on population ratios. Rather, because every community is different, the NRPA recommends that standards should be developed by the community and used as a guide in planning. In the case of Enumclaw, as growth and urbanization occur, increased density may favor more developed parks and additional amenities per park, rather than simply adding additional park acreage. In the future, it may make sense to consider opportunities to add additional considerations around geographic access and walking distance, amenities and recreational value, and total investment to the City’s’ parks level of service standards.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

To plan future parks and open space investments, the City of Enumclaw must understand both the current inventory of facilities and the community’s desires for additional ones. The facility inventory has already been completed. Next, we focus on the community’s wishes for

new facilities. This analysis is based on data from several sources, including a 2023 community survey, public engagement related to the Comprehensive Plan (of which this Parks Element is a part), and earlier long-term parks planning efforts.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

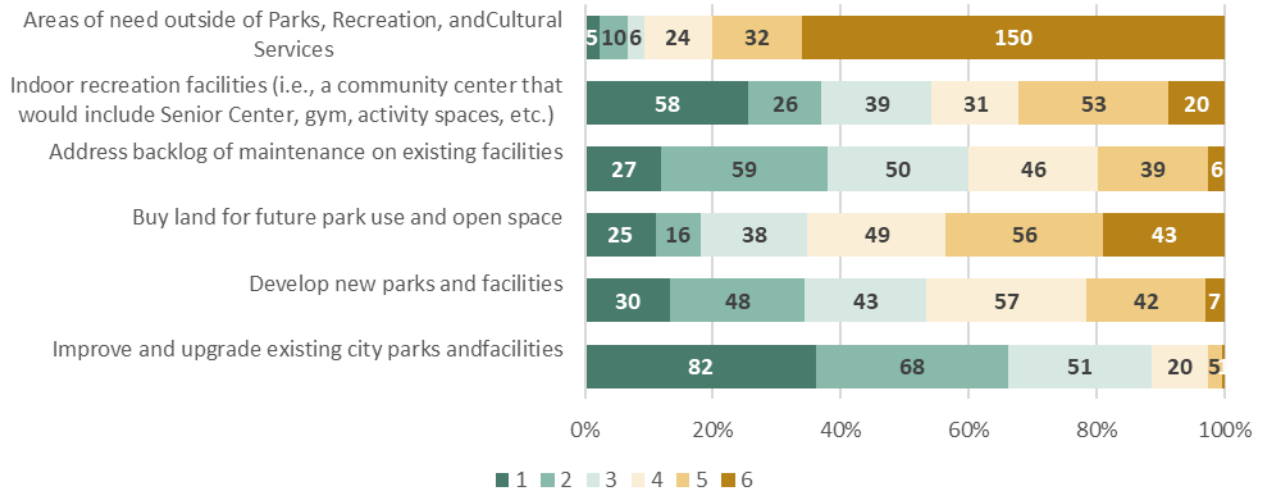
To develop this Parks Element, the City of Enumclaw conducted an online survey to assess resident and park users' satisfaction with and desires for the City's parks and open space system. The survey included 21 questions, with five optional demographic questions to help determine how representative the results were.

Approximately 61% of respondents (116 out of 189 who answered this question) were City residents, while most of the remaining respondents lived in the 98022 zip code, which includes Enumclaw but lies outside City limits. The demographic data showed a larger share of respondents than expected were from higher-income households (earning over \$130,000 annually) and were women. The data also suggests a need for more outreach to communities of color, as no respondents identified as Asian or Asian-Indian; Black or African-American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Middle Eastern or North African; or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

Most respondents reported frequent use of parks and open spaces, visiting one or more facilities at least a few times per month and describing themselves as at least moderately familiar with what the City offers. Despite this, respondents also provided reasons for not using parks and open space facilities more often. Of the 198 respondents who answered, the most common barriers were a lack of awareness about park or trail locations, insufficient information on programs and facilities, and not knowing about available programs. Some respondents also mentioned issues with the system itself, such as a lack of desired features and amenities or programs being too full.

The survey aimed to understand residents' and users' impressions of the current park and open space system and their priorities for improvement. As a starting point, respondents indicated that the system generally meets the community's needs. They were then asked what their priorities for future investments would be, as shown in Exhibit PK-6, following.

Exhibit PK-6 Respondents Priorities for the City of Enumclaw Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department, Ranked for 1 (highest priority) to 6 (lowest priority) (n=227)



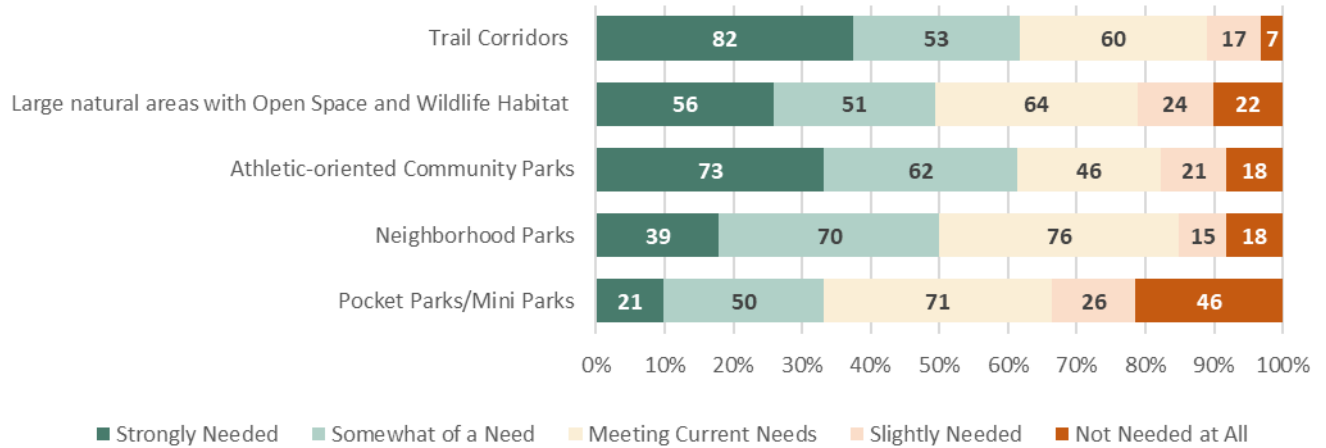
Note: Question text: “Indicate your priorities for the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department by ranking the following with 1 being your most important priority and 6 being your least important priority.”

Based on this survey question, survey respondents’ most important priorities for the park and open space system are to improve and upgrade existing facilities, including addressing a backlog of maintenance on those facilities. Respondents also clearly prioritized indoor space (specifically a community center) over land acquisition and developing new parks and facilities.

To understand maintenance needs, the survey asked respondents, “How would you rate the maintenance of the following City of Enumclaw Park features?” When responses of “I don’t know” were excluded, most amenities—such as fields, parking areas, picnic areas, playgrounds, and trails—were rated as fair to good. This suggests that a higher level of maintenance might be desired for these features. Restrooms and parking areas stood out, with most respondents rating their maintenance as poor to fair. However, improving restroom maintenance may face challenges. Issues like unsanctioned use of restrooms could mean that even increased maintenance might not significantly improve the experience for park users.

Although respondents are most interested in improving and maintaining the current park and open space system, when asked about the level of need for different types of parks and open space facilities, the majority of respondents indicated the system needs additional trail corridors and athletic-oriented community parks, as shown in Exhibit PK-7.

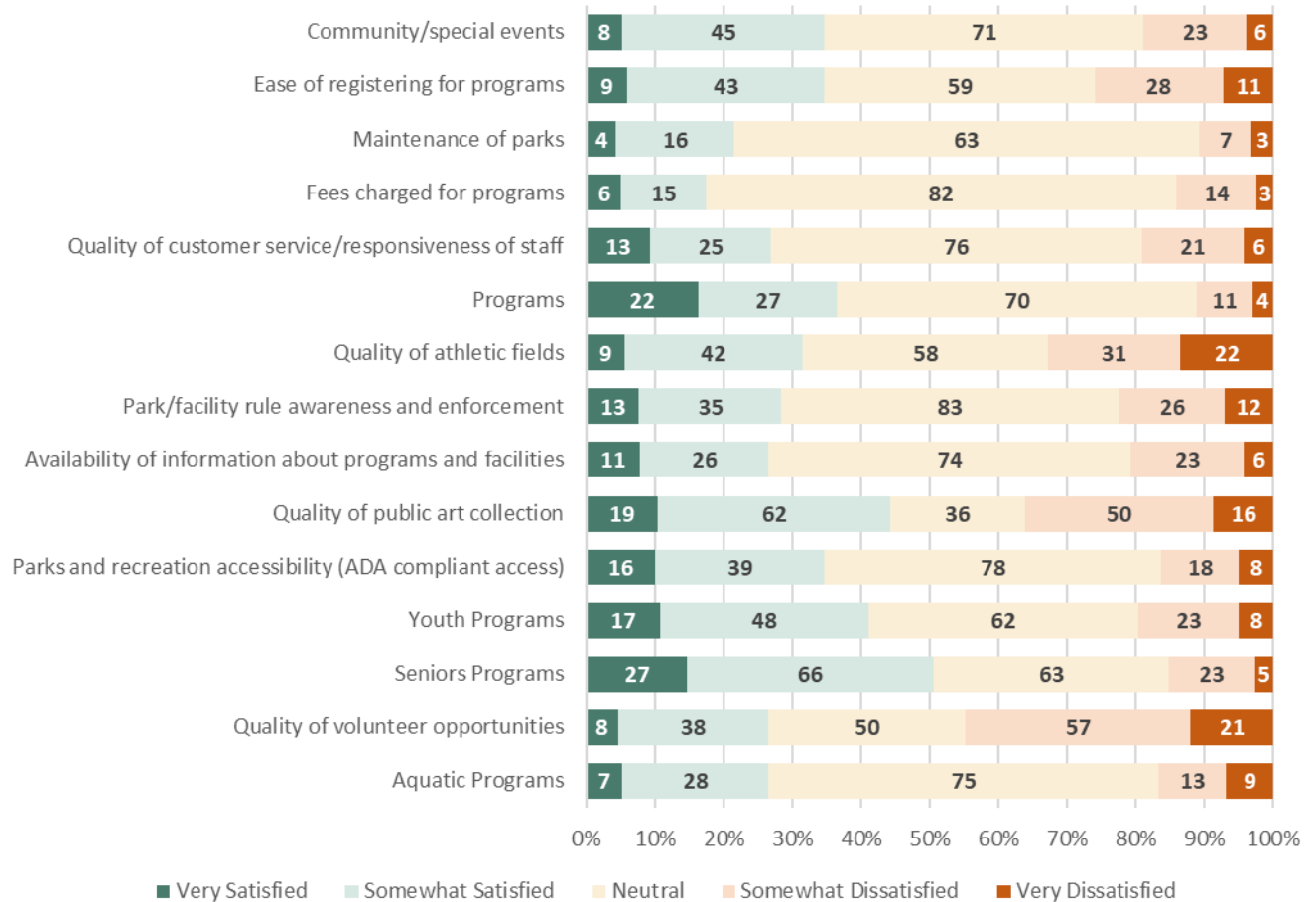
Exhibit PK-7 Survey Respondents' Beliefs Around Park and Open Space Facility Needs, (n=220)



Respondents were split on whether the City’s current large natural areas with open space and wildlife habitat meet its needs, or whether additional facilities from that category are also needed. Most respondents believe the City’s neighborhood parks and pocket parks/mini parks are sufficient to meet its needs.

Respondents were also asked about the level of need for different kinds of recreation activities and other programming. While many respondents were neutral about the current availability of recreation programs, the survey results, shown in Exhibit PK-8.

Exhibit PK-8 Survey Respondents' Satisfaction with Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department Activities and Programs, (n=220)

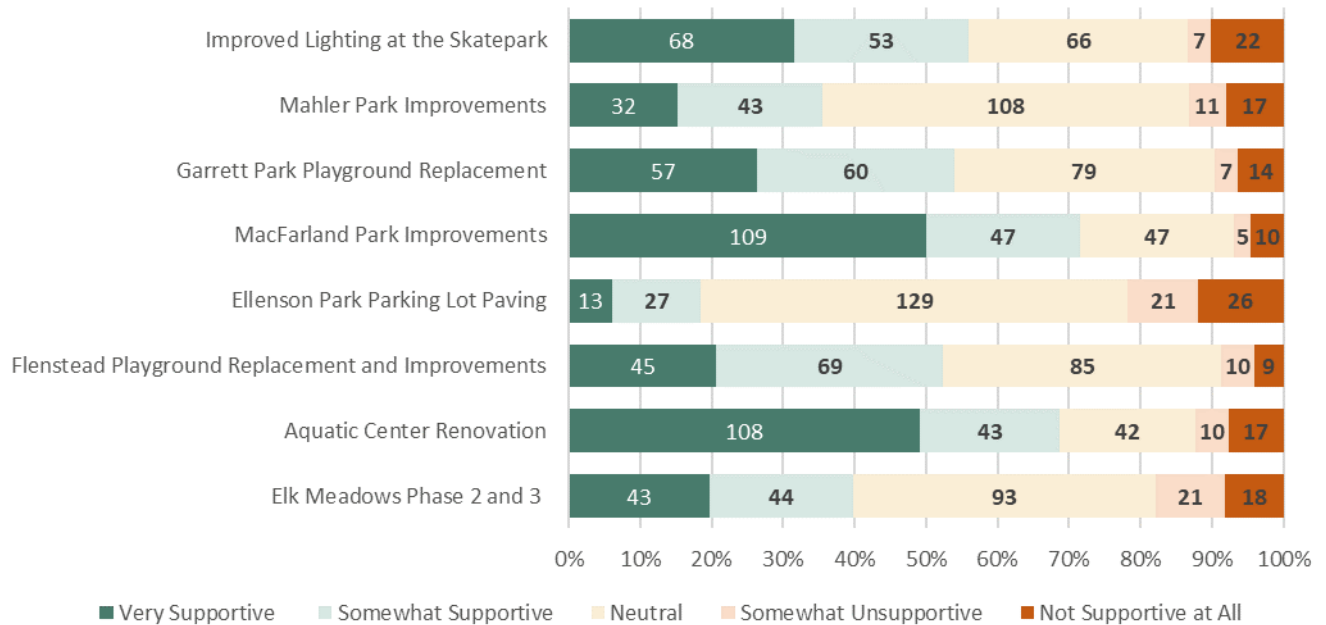


Note: Question text: “Please rate your satisfaction with the following areas within the City of Enumclaw Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department.”

There are a few areas that stand out as areas of need, including volunteer opportunities, public art, and athletic fields.

Survey respondents were also asked whether and the degree to which they support current parks and open space capital projects from the City’s 2022-2027 parks capital improvement program, as shown in Exhibit CP-9.

Exhibit PK-9 Survey Respondents' Support to Current Park and Open Space Capital Projects, (n=219)



Respondents were largely supportive of the City’s capital improvements projects, except for the Ellenson Park Parking Lot Paving and Mahler Park Improvements, which most respondents were neutral about. This may reflect indifference to the projects, rather than lack of support.

DESIRED AMENITIES

Like in the case of this Parks Element, the City has completed one-time and ongoing community engagement activities to support all its previous PROS Plans and Elements, including its most recent PROS plan updated in 2019. One of the findings of that PROS Plan was a list of additional parks and open space facilities and amenities to be included in neighborhood or community parks that should be considered for development on a citywide basis. These facilities and amenities include:

- Parks and Open Space Facilities
 - Climbing Wall
 - Outdoor Environmental Learning Center
 - Dog Park
 - BMX Park
 - Updated Community Center
- Amenities
 - 2 Gathering Space/Outdoor Theater
 - 2 Covered Play Areas
 - 3 Picnic Shelters

- o 1 Spray Park

Since this list was last revised, the City has moved forward with renovations to the Enumclaw Aquatic Center which may The City has also opened an off-leash dog park at Ellenson Park.

In the next section, gaps in services according to the City's level of service standards and role in providing parks, recreation, and open space facilities, and how these desires may align with the City's identified gaps.

GAP ASSESSMENT

Following in Exhibit PK-10, we consider parks acreage and trail mileage needs based on the City's current level-of-service for parks, recreation, and open space facilities.

Exhibit PK-10 Park Land Level-of-Service (Based on a future population of 14,017)

Population	Inventory	LOS Standard	Current		2044	
			Required LOS 12,543	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Required LOS 14,017	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Neighborhood Park	28.63 acres	2.26 acres / 1,000 residents	28.35	0.28	31.68	(-3.05)
Community Park	82.86 acres	3.59 acres / 1,000 residents	45.03	37.83	50.321	32.54
Trails	5.02 miles	¼ mile / 1,000 residents	3.14	1.88	3.5043	1.52

As shown in Table 9.5 above, approximately 3 acres of additional neighborhood park land will be needed by 2044 to meet the needs of Enumclaw's projected population based on the City's current level of service standards. The City's current community park acreage and trail mileage is sufficient to meet the needs of anticipated growth based on the City's projected population and current level of service standards. However, current community parks may need additional amenities to support growth or be good locations for some of the more major amenities desired by Enumclaw residents and park users.

Similarly, while no additional trail mileage is needed to meet level of service standards based on the anticipated growth additional trails may be considered to improve the existing trail network or increase connectivity. In particular, the City seeks to complete the Battersby Loop Trail.

GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to level of service acreage considerations, we must consider geographic level of service. The City of Enumclaw's level of service standard for neighborhood parks establishes that all residences should be within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of one or more neighborhood parks. Based on this level of service standard, a neighborhood park is needed in the Big West Subarea (located within the City of Enumclaw's urban growth area, west of Enumclaw's 2023 city limits).

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The details for making park improvements, costs and timing are covered in detail in the 2025 Parks and Open Space Plan, however, the major future project priorities are summarized, following.

UPDATE THE SENIOR CENTER AND MEET BROADER COMMUNITY CENTER NEEDS

As discussed previously, voters rejected an April 2024 capital bond initiative (Proposition No. 1) intended to support replacement the current Enumclaw Senior Center with a new multigenerational community center. This initiative did not pass, which the City has interpreted as Enumclaw residents' preference to refurbish the existing building and/or rent space to address senior and community needs. The current Senior and Youth facilities need significant reimagining to address all community center needs and have significant seismic issues, as well as needing substantial repairs.

AQUATIC CENTER IMPROVEMENTS AND SPRAY PARK

The City had a consultant complete a feasibility study in 2019 for the renovations and additions to the aquatic center, including the development of an additional outdoor spray park on the east side of the building. Currently, the City has moved forward with several necessary improvements to the Aquatic Center to be completed in 2024, including ADA upgrades, locker room upgrades (including lighting and showers), entryway and external façade improvements, and the addition of a 1500 square foot community/party room. After this phase of improvements, the City will need to review design and costs to decide whether to move forward with future phases of this plan.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE EXISTING PARKS IMPROVEMENTS TO OTHER PARKS

All the existing serviceable parks are slated for some improvements. Some of these improvements, such as installation of off-street parking, will increase the parks' usage capacity. Other improvements, such as the replacement of outdated play equipment, will not increase capacity. With the Boise Creek Park, plus the school ballfields, Enumclaw currently has adequate playfields, however, improvements are necessary to keep up with high demand and facilitate maintenance.

DEVELOP ADDITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- A few areas still will not be within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of an active-use park (Neighborhood Park or Boise Creek Park) after the Elk Meadows, Future Southeast Park, and Future Big West Park are built. The areas, not within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, are located at the edge of the UGA. The area to the extreme north is now covered by Thunder Mountain Middle School, with its own ball fields. Developing the following facilities will satisfy substantially the proximity standard included in this chapter. A neighborhood park in the Big West Subarea (located within the City of Enumclaw's urban growth area, west of Enumclaw's 2023 city limits) would be needed to satisfy the requirement that all residents be within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of a neighborhood park.

To satisfy LOS requirements that all residents are within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of a neighborhood park, a new Southeast Park (not necessarily the final name) will be developed in conjunction with the Holdener Farm property and will probably be about five acres in size. The exact location, cost, negotiations, and timing cannot be known until the Holdener property develops.

ACQUIRE LAND FOR A FUTURE BIG WEST PARK

This plan anticipates a new park north of SE 448th Street and west of 244th Avenue SE. This area is currently very rural and undeveloped. It is also located outside of current City limits. If the entire Big West urban growth area is annexed and develops, this park would be necessary to meet the LOS standard that no residential part of the City should be more than $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from a neighborhood park. However, that park will only be built if residential development expands beyond 244th Avenue. This Chapter assumes that this park would be acquired through the land development process.

DEVELOP MAHLER PARK

Mahler Park is currently undeveloped but does offer trail access to Newaukum Creek. Due to deed restrictions and environmental considerations related to Newaukum Creek and surrounding forested wetlands, this community park will be developed for passive use. The Cedar River Academy conducted an environmental study and developed a Master Plan for Mahler Park which has been incorporated by reference into this Parks Element. Future improvements will include an interpretative area, trails, parking, picnic tables and a restroom facility, while keeping the park as a natural area.

COMPLETE BATTERSBY LOOP TRAIL

The City seeks to complete the Battersby Loop Trail.

FUNDING STRATEGY

The City of Enumclaw has limited dedicated funding sources for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Capital improvements, with much of the historical funding for these improvements coming from general, fungible City sources or shared capital reserve sources. Much of the dedicated funding for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Capital Improvements are from competitive sources like local, state, and federal grants. Following, we describe the primary funding sources available for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space capital improvements, moving forward.

DEDICATED FUNDING SOURCES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- **King County Parks Levy Disbursements.** The King County Parks Levy which substantially increased levy proceeds, and with it, the annual disbursement of levy proceeds to King County cities. Enumclaw expected to receive an additional \$125,000 annual disbursement from this levy and elected to dedicate these proceeds to the Aquatics Center, as the City considers the Aquatics Center a regional facility.
- **Park Impact Fees.** The City of Enumclaw levies parks impact fees (EMC 19.24.080) to developers to recover identifiable infrastructure costs associated with growth. The fees are based on the existing level of service, the level-of-service standard, and the cost of improvements needed to maintain the LOS standard.

COMPETITIVE FUNDING SOURCES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- **King County Conservation Futures Tax.** Conservation Futures tax levy funds are a dedicated portion of property taxes in King County and are available, by statute, only for acquisition of open space, agricultural and timber lands. The King County Council approves funding for projects based on submittals from cities and the County.
- **Local, State, and Federal Grants.** Federal, State, and County agencies offer a variety of grants to local governments. Grants for funding park projects typically require a local match to remain eligible. Grants have enabled the City to leverage its limited resources in the past. Grants allow federal, state and county taxes to return to benefit the local community.
 - Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - National Recreation Trails Trust
 - Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
 - Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
 - King County Youth Sport and Facilities Grants

FUNGIBLE SOURCES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- **Real Estate Excise Tax (REET).** Restricted funds for sales of real estate. Parks and recreation projects are eligible if included in the City's six-year capital plan. This is a tax levied on the sale of real property within the City of Enumclaw. It is legally restricted for capital purposes. Consequently, this source can be used to fund park

acquisition, renovation and development. The Growth Management Act stipulates the REET funds be used primarily for projects identified in the Capital Facilities Plan.

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

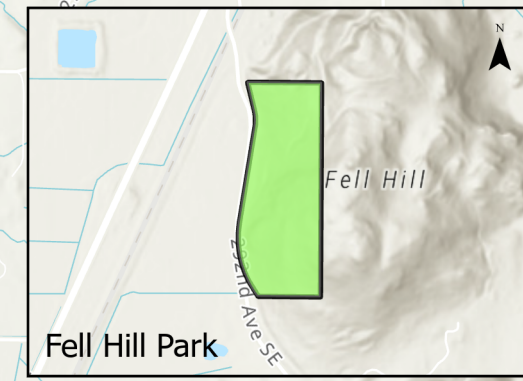
- **Partnerships.** Partnerships are joint development funding sources or operational funding sources between two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a nonprofit and a City department, or a private business and a City agency. Two partners jointly develop revenue producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strengths and weaknesses of each partner.
- **Volunteerism.** The revenue source is an indirect revenue source in that persons donate time to assist the department in providing a product or service on an hourly basis. This reduces the City's cost in providing the service, plus it builds advocacy into the system.
- **Corporate Sponsorships.** This revenue-funding source allows corporations to invest in the development or enhancement of new or existing facilities in park systems. Sponsorships are also highly used for programs and events.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
1309 MYRTLE AVE, ENUMCLAW, WA 98022
PH: (360) 825-3593

CITY OF ENUMCLAW PARKS MAP

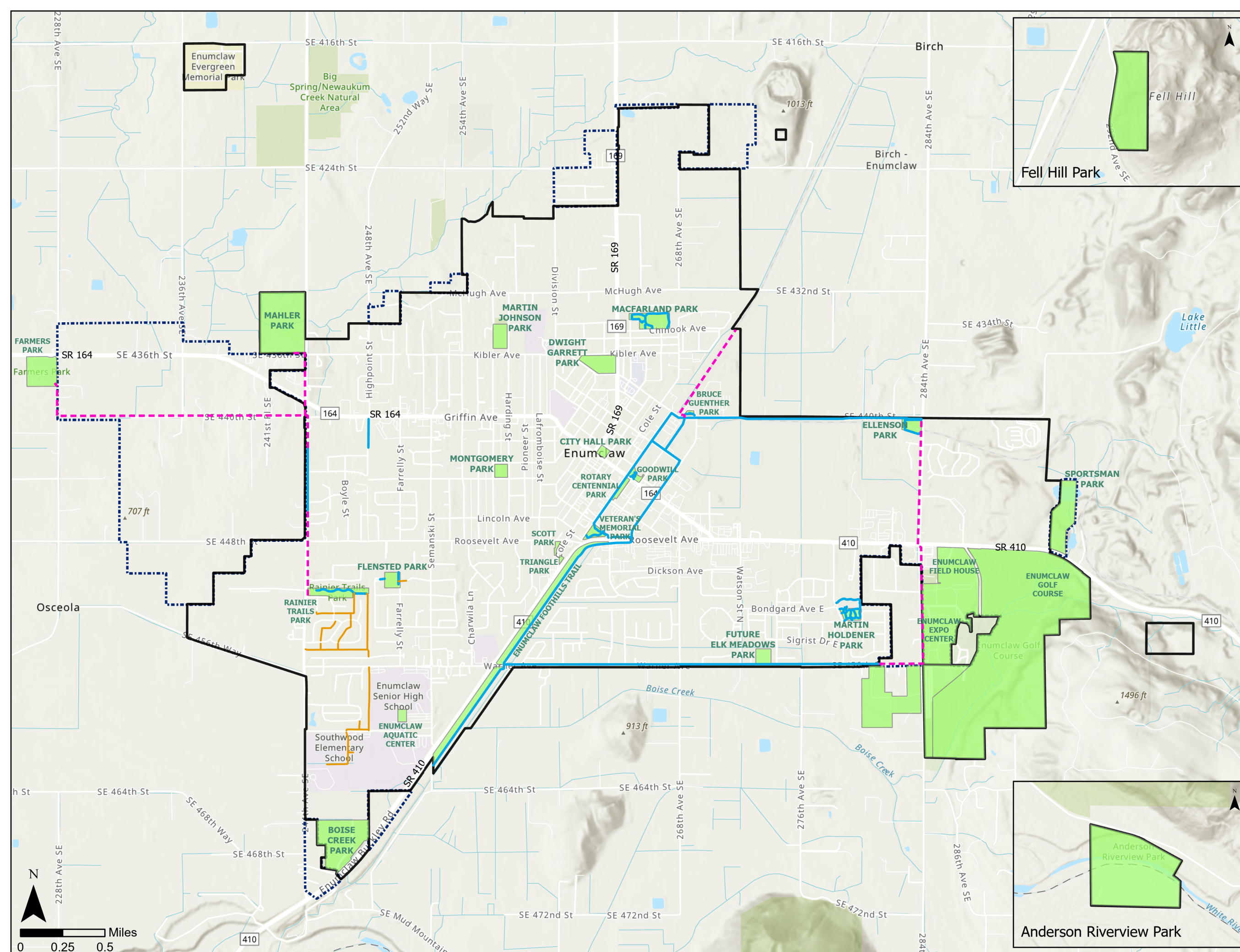
- Existing Trails
- Existing Neighborhood/School Trails
- Future Trails
- Parks
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Area (UGA)



Disclaimer: This map is a visual representation derived from the Geographic Information System of the City of Enumclaw and does not represent survey level accuracy. This map is based on the best information available as of the date shown on this map. The City of Enumclaw makes every effort to provide correct information, but makes no representation as to the completeness or accuracy of this map. The process of data collection is continuous and the information displayed should not be considered complete. This map is not intended for regulatory purposes, as the scale, accuracy, and completeness are not sufficient to determine regulatory implications at a site-specific level. This map represents the best available data at the time of publication.

The City of Enumclaw shall not be liable for any general, special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, lost revenue or lost profits resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained on this map. Any sale of this map or information on this map is prohibited except by written permission of the City of Enumclaw.

Date: November 2024



0 0.25 0.5 Miles

