

CHAPTER 2

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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Consistent with the Park District's mission statement, this plan recommends that the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District serve as the lead agency on Bainbridge Island in the area of parks, recreation and open space. It recommends that the Park District undertake a strategic approach to servicing the island in these areas, and that it coordinate with public, non-profit and other agencies or organizations on the island to achieve the goals and objectives identified in this chapter.

The following goals and objectives supply a framework for the Park District's Comprehensive Plan for Park, Recreation and Open Space. Plan goals drive the subsequent analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the park system resulting in opportunities being identified for progress over the next six and twenty year time periods. Plan goals are built around the opinions and aspirations expressed by citizens through surveys and community group forums. Plan goals are guided by Washington State's Growth Management Act which encourages retention of open space, development of recreational opportunities, and conservation of fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, the plan's goals are influenced by City of Bainbridge Island Planning documents such as its Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, Critical Areas Ordinance, Shoreline Master Plan, Open Space Study, and other related planning documents.

This chapter is structured as follows: 1) The District's broader goals are presented in paragraph form following the major headings; 2) The District's more specific goals are presented in bulleted form under sub-headings. It should be assumed the following verbiage precedes each bullet: "The District will..."

STRATEGIC ROLE

Leadership role

The Park District will take a leadership role in the planning, development, operation and maintenance of parkland, open space, recreation trails, park facilities and recreation activities throughout the island.

The Park District will work in conjunction with public, non-profit, and other agencies and organizations in order to accomplish what is needed to provide island-wide facilities and services related to parks, open space and recreation in accordance with its mission statement.

The Park District's role will include providing inventories of existing and proposed facilities, including development and identification of probable island-wide and local neighborhood facility and program needs, and proposals of island-wide facility and program solutions.

The Park District will acknowledge that it plays a significant role on the island as an environmental steward and as such will be 1) forward thinking and attentive to concerns affecting the environment and climate when making decisions; and 2) conscious of the need for management and conservation of the island's natural resources. To this end the Park District will collaborate with and draw upon the expertise and guidance of other public agencies and organizations in an effort to care for and sustain the environment.

The Park Board acknowledges the risks a changing climate poses to the community's resources, population and opportunities. Future decision-making that enhances natural resource and human-community resilience will reflect strategies that mitigate greenhouse gasses, for example incorporating sequestration techniques. Additionally, climate smart planning goals should be considered with the aim of reducing emissions over time. Future policies will be developed for the District's policy manual that will outline the Park District's response to climate change.

Development, operation and maintenance

The Park District will develop, operate or maintain open space, recreation trails, park, or recreational facilities and program activities according to one or all of the following criteria:

1. The facility will have broad benefits for a large proportion of the island-wide population and will be financed using resident approved methods,
2. Facility development and operating costs will be recaptured from direct charges of the populations who use the facility,
3. Facility development and operating costs will be compensated in some manner through interlocal agreements with the using agency, or benefiting user group or non-profit organization.
4. The site or facility has intrinsic value apart from traditional operation and maintenance needs, such as natural area or wetland preservation.
5. The implementation of park and facility development and operations has assessed environmental and climate change impacts.

RECREATION AND OTHER PROGRAMS

The Park District will program, coordinate, and operate recreation and cultural programs, as well as outreach activities of special interest and benefit, for island residents in park and community facilities.

Recreation, Cultural and Other Programs

- Enhance the Bainbridge Island community by fulfilling the recreational responsibilities inherent in the Park District's mission statement.
- Provide recreation programming for children, teens, active adults, people with disabilities and other populations with limited access to market-based recreation options.
- Research the relevance and effectiveness of recreation programs to ensure ample opportunities for the public.
- Continue partnering with the Bainbridge Island School District to maximize public use of recreation facilities on school sites, especially athletic fields, gymnasiums and classroom spaces.
- Leverage local resources by forming new and maintaining existing partnerships with other public, non-profit and private recreation providers to deliver recreation services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
- Continue refining cost recovery guidelines for recreation programs, services, and events.

CULTURAL ARTS & HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The Park District will organize, coordinate, and selectively develop high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities at District parks and properties.

Programs

- Support successful collaborations between the Park District, public agencies, non-profits, the business community, service groups, schools, arts patrons, and artists that optimally utilize artistic resources and talents at District parks and properties.

Artworks

- Where appropriate, incorporate public artworks including paintings, sculptures, exhibits, and other media for indoor and outdoor display to expand resident access and appropriately furnish public places in Park District parks and properties
- Support the preservation of historical and cultural elements to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits; and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs that document and develop awareness of the island's heritage at Park District park sites and properties.

NATURAL AREA PARKS & OPEN SPACE

The Park District will assume a primary responsibility for the planning, coordination, and preservation of unique environmental areas, wetlands, wildlife habitat, open spaces, forestlands, and scenic areas.

Work with other public and mission related non-profit and private agencies, such as Kitsap County, Washington State Departments of Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources, and such non-profits as IslandWood, Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge Island Land Trust, and others, to create an effective approach to the following conservation issues and identifying key habitat concerns.

Wildlife habitat

- Identify and conserve critical wildlife habitat including nesting sites, foraging areas, and migration corridors within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces, and buffers from developing urban areas.
- Preserve sensitive habitat sites that support threatened species and urban wildlife habitat.

Natural areas

- Preserve and protect significant environmental features including unique wetlands, open spaces, woodlands, shorelines, waterfronts and other characteristics that support wildlife and reflect the island's environmental systems.
- Provide public access to environmentally significant areas and sites that are especially unique to the island.
- Monitor and implement climate change practices when feasible for the Park District and consistent with guidelines issued by WA State Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Forest lands

- Identify and conserve forest cover and the scenic attributes woodlands provide.
- Identify and preserve prime examples of heritage forestlands on the island.
- Manage forests for a healthy sustainable ecosystem.
- Collaborate with local agencies to manage wildfire risk and other forest related emergencies.

Open spaces & urban parks

- Define and conserve a system of open space corridors or separators to provide definition between natural areas and urban land uses on the island consistent with public values and State of Washington Growth Management Act strategies.
- Increase natural area and open space linkages to and within the developing urbanizing areas and surrounding neighborhoods such as Rolling Bay, Island Center, Winslow, and Lynwood Center.
- Cooperate with other public and private agencies, such as the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation, the Bainbridge Island Land Trust, and with private landowners to set aside land and resources necessary to provide high quality open space, trail, and park facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development, and particularly private lands in and around significant wildlife, woodlands, and shoreline areas.
- Preserve unique environmental features or areas in future land developments and increase public use and public access. Cooperate with other public and private agencies and with private landowners to set aside unique features or areas as publicly accessible resources, such as non-profits, IslandWood and the Bloedel Reserve.

RECREATIONAL SHORELINE

The Park District will assume a primary responsibility for the planning, development, and operation of a variety of recreational shoreline oriented facilities. These facilities may include fishing sites, boat launch ramps, swimming beaches, picnicking areas, and possibly campgrounds. Recreational shoreline parks provide recreational facilities that are directly related to environmental and especially shoreline resources.

The Park District will work with other public and private agencies, particularly the City of Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, Washington State Park & Recreation Commission, and WA State Departments of Fish & Wildlife and Natural Resources, to develop and operate appropriate recreational shoreline parks.

Waterfront access and facilities

- Acquire and develop additional shoreline access for fishing, beachcombing, beach walks, wading, swimming, small crafts center related activities and other related recreational activities and pursuits.

Picnicking and day use activities

- Acquire and develop additional island-wide picnic sites, shelters, and day-use group picnic grounds at major natural area and recreational shoreline parks throughout the island.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS

The Park District will be responsible for the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of recreational trails. Recreational trails may also include water trails. The City of Bainbridge Island (COBI) is responsible for planning, development, operation and maintenance of transportation routes primarily intended to facilitate travel, such as roadway bike and walking lanes, touring routes, and scenic drives. The Park District will continue its work with other public and private agencies to achieve these goals and ensure that multi-jurisdictional trail connections are well coordinated and cost-effective.

Recreational trails are primarily off-road, limited to non-motorized, and intended for enjoyment. They include:

- Trails through natural areas
- Trail corridors within parks
- Trails that connect parks to parks
- Trails that connect neighborhoods to parks, especially where a walking route provides closer access than via existing roads
- Trails that connect parks to the shoreline
- Trails that connect parks to points of interest
- Trails that connect parks to public spaces
- Trails that connect parks to transportation corridors

Water trails

- In cooperation with other agencies and nonprofits develop an island-circumnavigating water trail, and regional water trail designations, such as Cascadia Marine Trail. The trail may incorporate and improve a system of boat ramps, landings, and other improvements to public facilities for appropriate nonmotorized watercraft.

Off road trail systems

- Promote health and wellness for community members with nature trails for hiking, jogging, cycling, and horseback riding.

- Provide access and educate the community about conservation and preservation of the island's natural resources through a system of prescribed trails, carefully laid out through sensitive areas.
- Provide for community connections to highlight our unique historical venues, park landscapes and the community's natural beauty.
- Increase community connections between the Winslow core, parks, recreation centers, schools and neighborhoods by linking to other publicly maintained non-motorized corridors.
- Partner and collaborate with other agencies and non-profits on opportunities, as they arise, for key connections and trail system development and expansion.
- Develop and implement a trail classification system that meets the needs of a large variety of user types and abilities.
- Consider ways to integrate park trails into an island-wide transportation system to create long distance routes north and south, east and west.
- Promote education of trail use that includes trail etiquette, conservation, preservation, and leave-no-trace principles.
- Design trails that protect and conserve the natural landscape.
- Design trails for public use that carefully consider the impacts to wildlife.

PLAYGROUND & ATHLETIC FACILITIES

The Park District will assume a primary responsibility for the development of an integrated system of local neighborhood playgrounds, fields, and courts that are of most interest to island residents. It will assume responsibility for the planning of a system of local and regional athletic park facilities including recreational soccer, lacrosse, softball, and baseball fields that are of interest to island residents and league participants.

The Park District will work as appropriate with other public and private agencies to achieve these goals, including the Bainbridge Island School District and island youth sports league organizations. In conjunction with these agencies, the Park District will work to site and sponsor the development of major recreational outdoor and indoor athletic facilities for all age and skill groups that are on the island.

Playgrounds and tot lots

- Develop and designate a network of local play sites and facilities that meet playing standards and requirements for all age groups and skill levels.

Athletic facilities

- Designate a network of sites that can be developed for organized sports leagues and other groups (such as soccer, lacrosse, softball, baseball fields and outdoor sports courts) to meet the highest quality recreational practice and playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests, including recreational field sites at Battle Point Park, Strawberry Hill Park, Hidden Cove Ballfield, Sands Avenue Ballfields, Rotary Park, and Sakai Park.)

INDOOR FACILITIES & COMMUNITY CENTERS

The Park District will explore the feasibility of implementing two potential projects that would serve in the community as large indoor community centers. Continued opportunities for community input into the projects will be provided. Funding for either project would be obtained through various funding sources and would require a voter approved bond measure.

Community recreation center at Sakai Park

- Refer to concept plan, feasibility study and schematic design completed in 2018-2019 while assessing the feasibility of moving forward with this project that includes indoor athletic facility

with indoor fields, gymnastics area, and running track in addition to a multi-purpose facility, and class and program facilities for all ages.

Aquatic center

- Refer to feasibility studies completed in 2017-2019 while assessing the feasibility of moving forward with this project that proposes three new pool options for replacing the aging Ray Williamson Pool which is nearing the end of its lifetime. Each option provides varying levels of increased capacity.
- Continue to maintain the current aquatic center by doing what is needed to keep the Ray Williamson Pool functioning and continue providing a variety of aquatics programming for all ages and levels in both the Don Nakata and Ray Williamson pools.
- Continue to provide opportunities for other uses in the current aquatic center such as the Teen Center, class and meeting room space, and facility rentals.

SPECIAL PURPOSE FACILITIES

The Park District will work in conjunction with other public agencies, non-profits, and private organizations, when appropriate and in accordance with its mission statement, to develop and operate facilities that have special or unique characteristics of relevance to island residents that may not be provided elsewhere on the island. These joint efforts could include working with other public agencies such as the City of Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, public utility districts, as well as historical societies, museums and other specialized facilities.

Special enterprises

- Where appropriate and economically feasible (self-supporting), support the operation of specialized and special interest recreational facilities such as historical museums and exhibits, retreats and conference centers, art and performing theaters for these interests in the general population.
- Where appropriate, participate in joint planning and operating programs with other public and private agencies for special activities such as conferences, parades, festivals and other community events.

SUPPORT FACILITIES

The Park District will continue to be responsible for facilities that provide auxiliary support to District service functions such as administrative building, park maintenance facilities, and caretaker residences in parks.

Administrative building

- Prioritize efforts to maintain the Park District's administrative building while assessing replacement options.

DESIGN & ACCESS STANDARDS

The Park District will design and develop District facilities that are accessible, safe, and easy to maintain, with life cycle features that account for long-term costs and benefits.

Accessibility

- Design outdoor picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, courts, fields, parking lots, restrooms, and other active and supporting facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of varied physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income, and activity interests.
- Design indoor facility spaces, activity rooms, restrooms, hallways, parking lots, and other active and supporting spaces and improvements to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of varied physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income, and activity interests.

Maintenance

- Design, retrofit, and develop facilities that are sustainable, of low maintenance, and high capacity design to address climate change issues as practical and reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs.
- Where appropriate, incorporate low maintenance materials, settings or other value engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements, and retain natural conditions and experiences.
- Where practical and appropriate, implement adopt-a-trail and adopt-a-park programs where volunteer users and citizens can perform maintenance, collect litter, and other support activities.
- Conduct condition/needs assessment study for all parks, facilities, and recreation programs with periodic updates as needed so available when developing the 2026 comprehensive plan.

Security and safety

- Implement the provisions and requirements of the American Disabilities Act (ADA), Washington State Building Codes, and other design and development standards that improve park facility safety and security features for park users, department personnel, and the general public.
- Develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that provide proper training and awareness for department personnel.
- Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that protect user groups, personnel, and the general public.
- Where appropriate, use adopt-a-park programs, park watches, and other innovative programs that increase safety and security awareness and visibility.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND COORDINATION

The Park District will create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining District facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

Finance

- Investigate innovative and on-going available methods, such as land set-a-side or fee-in-lieu-of-donation ordinances and interlocal agreements, for the financing of facility development, maintenance, and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase services.
- Consider joint ventures with other public and private agencies including the City of Bainbridge Island, the Bainbridge Island School District, Kitsap County, regional, state, federal, and other public and private agencies including for-profit concessionaires where feasible.

- Conduct cost benefit study using results of condition/needs assessment study called for in the above Design & Access Standards section.

Public and private resource coordination

- Create a comprehensive, balanced open space, trail, park, and recreation system that integrates District facilities and services with resources and funding available from a number of sources, such as the City of Bainbridge Island, the Bainbridge Island School District, Kitsap County, regional, state and federal agencies, and non-profit/private agencies, in a manner that will best serve and provide for the island's interests.
- Coordinate with and participate in joint planning and development efforts with the City of Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, the Bainbridge Island School District, regional, state, federal, and other public and non-profit/private organizations to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and represent resident area interests.
- Coordinate with the City of Bainbridge Island on developing a park zone or equivalent land use regulation.

Cost/benefit assessment

- Define existing and proposed land and facility levels-of-service (ELOS/PLOS) standards that differentiate requirements due to population growth impacts, improved facility standards, and regional and local nexus of benefits in order to effectively plan and program open space, trails, parks, and recreation needs on the island.
- Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining open space, trail, park, and recreational facilities in manners that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private user interests.
- Develop and operate recreational programs that serve the broadest needs of the population recovering program and operating costs with a combination of registration fees, user fees, grants, sponsorships, donations, scholarships, volunteer efforts, and the use of general funding.
- Where appropriate, provide recreational facilities, such as fields, boating facilities, and retreat and conference facilities for those interested groups who are willing to finance the cost through user fees, registration fees, volunteer efforts, or other means and methods.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Park District will develop, staff, train, and support a professional open space, trail, park, and recreation staff that effectively serves the District in the realization of the above listed goals and objectives.

Personnel

- Employ a diverse, well-trained work force that is motivated to achieve the Park District's mission and goals.
- Encourage teamwork through communications, creativity, positive image, risk taking, sharing of resources, and cooperation toward common goals.
- Provide staff with appropriate education, training, technology, equipment and supplies to increase personal productivity and efficiency.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The Park District will work when appropriate with other public, non-profit and private agencies, to create an effective approach to the following historic resource conservation issues and proposals.

Historical features and interests

- Assist where appropriate in the planning, coordination, and preservation of unique archaeological, historical, cultural, scenic, and man-made places, sites, landmarks, and vistas.
- Identify, preserve, and enhance the island's heritage, traditions, and cultural features including historical sites, buildings, artworks, views, and monuments within park sites and historical district.
- Identify and incorporate significant historical and cultural lands, sites, artifacts, and facilities into the open space, trail, and park system to preserve these interests and provide a balanced social experience, especially including important Native American, shipping, logging, and homestead sites and places of interest on the island, and the WWII Japanese American Exclusion Memorial at Pritchard Park.
- Work with the Bainbridge Island Historical Society, Kitsap County, WA State, and other archaeological and cultural groups to incorporate historical and cultural activities into park developments and recreation programs.

Manmade environments and features

- Incorporate interesting manmade environments, structures, activities, and areas into the open space, trail, and park system to preserve these features and provide a balanced recreational experience.
- Work with property and facility owners to increase public access and utilization of these special sites and features.