

Shaping Our Future

Recreation Programs and Facilities



Initiative 1: Build an Aquatics and Community Center

Objective: Place a proposal for a new aquatics and community center before the voters by 2020. Open a new facility in 2022.

Strategy: Continue the work started through the Aquatics and Community Center Feasibility Study. Next steps include site selection and securing funding for next steps in planning and design and ultimately construction.

Upon incorporation in 1995, the City partnered with the Shoreline School District to use school district facilities to offer recreation programming to residents. This partnership has worked well to serve the public over the decades. The Spartan Recreation Center and the Shoreline Pool have been able to offer a full range of recreation options to the community. However, the age of the facilities and anticipated light rail development directly adjacent to these facilities make it necessary to reevaluate the sustainability of this service delivery system.

The Shoreline Pool has served the community since 1971 in virtually the same way it did when it originally opened. Aquatics programming, and what communities look for in an aquatics facility, has changed dramatically over the last 45 years. The Shoreline Pool does not meet current recreation standards and this 45 year old facility has required several capital improvements over the years to keep it going.

Spartan Recreation Center is operated, but not owned, by the City. This, coupled with the fact that it is located directly adjacent to a future light rail station, makes its longevity as a City-operated recreation facility very uncertain.

Combining the pool and community center would create efficiencies in utilities and staffing, increase service delivery as a one-stop recreation center, and create a hub, or third place, for the community to gather, celebrate and play.

The Aquatics and Community Center Feasibility Study, completed as part of this PROS Plan process, provides parameters for what it will take to build a successful facility. The study, combined with the results of an in-depth public process, will guide the next steps for this Initiative.

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Initiative 2: Expand Opportunities to Connect with Nature

Objective: Integrate nature-based programming into new and existing recreation offerings. Increase the number of programs that include a nature-based component by 25%.

Strategy: Formalize an environmental education program through day camps, outdoor preschool and at Kruckeberg Botanic Garden. Implement the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Master Plan.



Environmental education at any age increases awareness about the natural world. It develops critical-thinking skills and promotes responsible decision-making. Over the last decade the PRCS department has initiated programs to support such learning opportunities for the community. Outdoor Preschool and Outdoor Day Camps are now offered throughout the year, and in 2008 the City of Shoreline purchased the 3.79 acre Kruckeberg Botanic Garden in an effort to enhance environmentally-focused education.

Throughout the public process, nature-based recreation and education emerged as a top priority for the community. Partnership development and intentional program focus are two ways to meet this demand using current resources.

Intentionally focusing on nature-based programming is an area of potential growth moving forward. Currently, an outdoor environmentally-focused preschool operates year round out of Hamlin Park, and an outdoor summer camp experience is available for youth at Hamlin Park and Richmond Beach Saltwater Park.

Initiating and expanding partnerships with environmentally-focused organizations would increase service to the community efficiently, and in a cost effective manner. Many times space to operate is the lone resource required from the City. The Master Native Plant Steward Training program, offered by King Conservation District, is an example of a new nature-based community opportunity that demands little from City resources. Diggin' Shoreline and the City's own Environmental Services Division are other organizations with whom partnerships can be expanded to augment and enrich current program offerings.

In addition, regionally recognized Kruckeberg Botanic Garden, a City-owned facility operated by a non-profit Board, is on the precipice of implementing a Master Plan that includes space for environmental education, and staff to coordinate programs, lectures and classes. This addition would create unique and exciting opportunities for Shoreline residents of all ages.



Initiative 3: Expand Recreation Facility Opportunities

Objective: Provide at least one additional outdoor basketball court, two pickle ball courts, one off-leash area, one skate park and one community garden, and develop at least one adventure playground and one splash pad by 2022. Fill service area gaps for neighborhood park amenities by 2030.

Strategy: Specifically look at repurposing underutilized baseball diamonds at Ridgecrest, Cromwell, upper Hamlin, Richmond Highlands, and Hillwood, and consolidate uses at Shoreview Park. Engage in a site selection process for new uses to ensure appropriate locations are identified.

The City of Shoreline offers a wide variety of recreation facilities to the public including picnic shelters, a skate park and athletic fields. Many of these facilities were inherited from King County Parks at the time of incorporation in 1995 and continue to serve in their original capacity. Over the past 20 years the needs and use patterns of the community have shifted. Reassessment of existing facilities in relation to current demand and anticipated use will most efficiently meet the community need.

Reviewing field usage data may reveal that repurposing Hamlin Park's upper fields into a dog park, or using the land to increase tree canopy, may be a more efficient use of limited park land. Master planning Shoreview Park might lead to replacing the lower field and fallow dirt soccer fields with an outdoor adventure park, or more illuminated turf fields for which current demand far exceeds supply.

Underutilized tennis courts may be better used for Pickle Ball, currently the fastest growing sport in the country. This would be a quick and inexpensive way to transition the system into meeting more community demand.

A few areas of the City are not currently adequately served by desired neighborhood park amenities. Master Plans for specific parks such as Hillwood, Ridgecrest and Shoreview will provide additional guidance for implementing this Initiative to more effectively meet community needs and desires.

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Initiative 4: Serve the Full Spectrum of Adult Recreation Needs



Objective: Develop a strategic plan by 2019 for meeting the adult recreation needs of Shoreline.

Strategy: Work with the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Senior Center staff and Board to understand their future plans, gain a better sense of when a new recreation center might be constructed, and then develop a strategic plan in 2018 for implementation in 2019 and beyond.

Shoreline's population is currently the oldest in King County. Adult programming emerged as one of the highest demand programs from community meetings and public surveys. Baby Boomer retirements are putting increased demand on community adult programs. As Boomers retire they are less inclined to identify as "Seniors" and more likely to refer to themselves as "Active Adults." How does a community merge the disparate needs and desires of an aging population, some of whom rely heavily on social and health services and require an established physical location and others who are looking for opportunities to explore and create new friendships?

Currently, the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Senior Center and the City of Shoreline PRCS Department offer services and programs which strive to meet these diverse needs. The Senior Center has an emphasis on supporting the social service needs and the PRCS Department hosts a growing Active Adults recreation program. Sustainability and expansion of these offerings will be the challenge in the future as both service providers are based on the Shoreline Center campus which is directly located to a new light rail station. This proximity elicits a measure of facility uncertainty in the future. In addition limited financial and staffing resources are realities which come into play.

These factors combined speak to the need for further study as to the future of service and program delivery to aging adults in Shoreline. PRCS staff will work with the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Senior Center to meet the needs of the adult/senior community in Shoreline. In order to be most thoughtful and productive, a strategic plan for adult recreation programs will be useful.

Shaping Our Future

Parks and Open Spaces



Initiative 5: Ensure Adequate Park Land for Future Generations

Objective: Add 2 acres of new park land by 2022 and 10 additional acres by 2030.

Strategy: Develop strategy for gaining ownership of high priority properties adjacent to existing parks, and add new park land in specific locations.

Shoreline has a long history of supporting and expanding its parks and open space properties through purchasing new property and engaging in partnerships with other public property owners. It is important to Shoreline residents that parks and open spaces are available to everyone and are plentiful enough that they provide adequate “breathing room.” General population growth and the extension of the Sound Transit Light Rail system into Shoreline, with stops at 145th and 185th Streets, are anticipated to result in increased neighborhood density.

This predicted population growth has a direct impact on the City's ability to meet our standards for park land and facilities. To maintain our standards for park land per population, the City will add an additional twelve acres of land over the next twelve years.

The purchasing of park land can be difficult and expensive especially in an urban environment where most property is built out. Possible opportunities for purchasing additional park land include purchasing houses or blocks of houses, school district sites, or other large blocks of land such as church or commercial sites. A variety of park sizes will be pursued from pocket parks that break up the monotony of a dense urban landscape to larger parks sites that can provide needed amenities such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, community gardens and off-leash areas.

A thoughtful strategy will be developed for property acquisition to engage willing sellers in the right locations to the maximum extent possible.

The Light Rail Station Sub-areas Parks and Open Space Plan provides additional guidance on implementation of this Initiative. Chapter Four provides more information on demand and locations where park and open space property is expected to be most needed.

Shaping Our Future

Parks and Open Spaces

Initiative 6: Maintain, Enhance, and Protect the Urban Forest

Objective: Restore 10 acres of degraded forest land by 2023.

Strategy: Engage in urban forest stewardship projects in Ballinger Open Space, Bruggers Bog, Twin Ponds Park, Boeing Creek Open Space and other parks where appropriate, to enhance the health of the forest. Establish an ongoing tree maintenance program for trees in the public right-of-way.



The City of Shoreline's Urban Forestry Strategic Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2014. That plan includes an analysis of the City's tree canopy and the health of the existing urban forest. Recent assessment of the urban forests in selected parks has provided additional information on what is needed to enhance and protect our urban forest. The importance of the health of the natural environment is a consistent theme expressed by Shoreline residents.

The Urban Forestry Strategic Plan indicates that the tree canopy occupies 53% of the available planting space and meets the City's goal of between 50% and 75%. The Plan establishes a goal to, "Develop strategies to maintain and enhance canopy cover on public property." This Strategic Action Initiative is intended to accomplish that Urban Forestry Strategic Plan goal.

To enhance the health of the City's existing urban forest, staff works to maintain our trees through structural pruning, removal of competing non-native plant species as well as improve the understory of existing urban forests through the planting of native plant and tree species. While this is ongoing work done by PRCS staff, this Initiative will highlight and increase the visibility of this work and engage much needed volunteer support.

This effort will also increase the tree canopy on public property. This will happen through the planting of street trees in rights of way, repurposing and replanting areas of parks where it is appropriate as well as mitigation efforts through the upcoming construction that will be occurring with Sound Transit Light Rail System.

In addition to the Urban Forest Strategic Plan this Initiative will be guided by forest health assessments, vegetation management plans, and individual park master plans as appropriate.

This Initiative will rely on partnerships with community volunteers, the King Conservation District, the Washington Native Plant Society, EarthCorps and other like organizations with forest stewardship goals.

Shaping Our Future

Parks and Open Spaces

Initiative 7: Enhance Walkability In and Around Parks



Objective: Create 2 miles of new nature trails within parks and 2 miles of enhanced pedestrian access to parks.

Strategy: Extend and improve nature trails in appropriate places such as Ronald Bog Park, Boeing Creek Park and Open Space, North City and Ballinger Open Space and connect Ronald Bog with James Keough and Twin Ponds Parks. Advocate for pedestrian improvements through the transportation management plan update.

A clear message heard from the public through meetings and surveys is that nature trails and walking paths are some of the most important amenities provided in Shoreline's parks. Promoting public health is an integral part of our mission and vision for the City of Shoreline's parks and recreation system.

Walking trails that are readily accessible to citizens provide a number of health benefits including an increase in cardio vascular health and stress release as well as a sense of communing with nature and the surrounding community. Examples of the importance of walking to Shoreline residents is the success of the "Shoreline Walks" program and the annual Million Step and Million Stair Challenge events.

Nature trails and walking paths are provided in most of Shoreline's parks. Some are more extensive and better developed and maintained than others. This Initiative is intended to ensure existing trails and walk ways are maintained and improved and new trails and walkways are added.

We will examine possibilities for expanding existing trail systems through new connections and routes. Trail maintenance and improvements are part of the PRCS department's ongoing work. This initiative will focus on enhancing existing trails by prioritizing this work. Opportunities for extending trails will be pursued with park master planning and in conjunction with urban forest enhancement and restoration projects.

Pedestrian access to parks is also an important way of improving the City of Shoreline's walkability. We will advocate for improved pedestrian connections to parks through other City planning and capital improvement efforts related to the transportation infrastructure.

Shaping Our Future

Cultural Services and Public Art

Initiative 8: Support Diverse Communities



Objective: Participation in Shoreline-sponsored special events reflects the diversity of the community.

Strategy: Through partnership with the City's newly established Diversity and Outreach Coordinator and the City's Neighbor Coordinator we will review existing events, encourage new events, and develop new outreach methods.

The demographics of Shoreline have shifted since incorporation in 1995 to mirror those of Seattle. This diversity within a smaller community, and the growing maturity of the City itself, sets the stage for opportunities to foster rich, empowering interactions for residents of different backgrounds and ages. Special Events, physical spaces and partnerships are key to creating an accessible, inviting and welcoming community for all.

The City currently hosts many special events throughout the year, with Celebrate Shoreline being the capstone festival each year on the City's birthday in August. Although this event currently has the capacity to engage all ages and abilities, attendance does not currently represent the diversity of the community at large. This could be said for the majority of current City-sponsored special events as many still function the same as they did a decade ago. Through partnership with the City's newly established Diversity and Outreach Coordinator and the City's Neighbor Coordinator, assessment of events is critical to determining barriers to attendance, whether it be the event format or location, and strategies to address those barriers. Micro-events focused in neighborhoods and developing partnership to leverage existing non-City sponsored community events are two ways in which special events staff can work to garner a more well represented participation at events.

A second mechanism available to the City to galvanize engagement is simply through making space easily accessible for groups to use for their own events. Community rooms and picnic shelters are examples of spaces desired by community groups looking to host their own events yet can be difficult to access. Streamlining procedures, keeping costs down and publishing documents in different languages are vital empowerment components that create accessible facilities for all.

Various strategies will be developed and implemented to accomplish this Initiative.

Shaping Our Future

Cultural Services and Public Art

Initiative 9: Enhance Placemaking through Public Art

Objective: Install at least one permanent, significant piece of art by 2019 and provide temporary graphic or performing arts annually in Shoreline neighborhoods.

Strategy: Utilize the resources of the Public Art Fund and engage the partnership with the Arts Council; Leverage the leadership of the Public Art Committee and Neighborhood Councils to select and site the art pieces.



The first goal in Shoreline’s Public Art Plan is to “Be a Leader in the City’s Placemaking Effort.” Placemaking is “an overarching idea and a hands-on approach for improving a neighborhood, city, or region, Placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, Placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value. More than just promoting better urban design, Placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing evolution.”

The City of Shoreline has put an emphasis on Placemaking to make it more inviting for people to live, visit and operate a business. Public art can play an integral part in those efforts.

The Public Art Plan was developed through an extensive public process and in close collaboration with the City’s Public Art Committee. It is expected to be adopted by the City Council in March 2017. The Public Art Plan includes five overarching goals and describes outcomes over three phases that would move towards accomplishing those goals.

The Art Plan describes phase 1 as focusing on a major new permanent art commission and neighborhood art. This Strategic Action Initiative is intended to ensure implementation of the highest priority work plan item from the Public Art Plan.

Shaping Our Future

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Administration

Initiative 10: Secure Sustainable Funding

Objective: All programs, facilities and initiatives are funded with an appropriate mix of fund sources.

Strategy: We will assess the phasing and funding needs associated with the Strategic Action Initiatives and the operations of PRCS and develop a phased funding plan for each.

The City of Shoreline general fund provides the basic funding for operations and maintenance of the PRCS system. The general fund fluctuates from year to year but is generally a reliable and predictable fund source. The Public Art Fund has provided funding for the public art program and installations.

Capital improvements have been funded by grants, the 2006 Parks Levy, and the general fund. The 2006 Parks Levy has been the primary source of funds for expansion and improvements to the PRCS system.

In order to implement the Initiatives outlined in this plan a variety of funding sources will be necessary. Some projects are wholly dependent on new funding sources, some can move forward with existing funding sources.

In order to be successful in securing the funding necessary, a complete plan for funding is necessary. Some Initiatives may compete for funding from the same source and a plan will help prioritize and phase funding requests to granting agencies, philanthropists, and the voters.



Shaping Our Future

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Administration

Initiative 11: Implement a Values-Based Capital Improvement Plan

Objective: 85% of major maintenance CIP dollars are prioritized and implemented consistent with values based criteria.



Strategy: Maintain criteria and apply it to new projects as ideas are generated. [The values-based, prioritized list](#) will be reflected in the six-year CIP approved by the City Council annually in the order of the City's final priority.

The asset condition assessments completed in 2016 resulted in a list of improvements needed to continue to secure the foundation of our parks, recreation and cultural services system. The asset condition is a basic summary of each asset and its condition based on a general and quick review. The condition report does not prioritize asset maintenance needs. Given there are not enough funds to complete all the maintenance needed, it is necessary to prioritize maintenance needs. In 2016, with the advice of the PRCS Board a list of values-based criteria was developed to provide guidance on how to prioritize the list of maintenance needs.

Staff developed a draft list of seven criteria:

1. Health & Safety
2. Code Requirements
3. Shovel Ready Projects
4. Facility Integrity
5. Improving Operating Efficiency
6. Project Meets Environmental, Sustainable or Adopted Plan Goals
7. Adds New Recreation or Public Art Capacity

The rating system used for each category ranges from three (3) to zero (0) points. A rating of three (3) points means that the project completely meets the category and zero (0) points means that the project does not meet the category. The projects that rate with the most points are high priority projects. Projects that rate with the least number of points are low priority projects.

Other factors may come-in to play when developing the CIP list including neighborhood interest, political and community pressure, etc. This initiative is focused on ensuring that the capital improvement project list for maintenance of the PRCS system follows, to the extent possible, the value-based criteria.

Shaping Our Future

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Administration



Initiative 12: Ensure Administrative Excellence

Objective: Attain certification from the Commission for the Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

Strategy: Document that PRCS operations are consistent with Best Management Practices for similar government agencies.

Shoreline's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department receives high marks from the community for the value it receives. When asked their level of satisfaction with the overall value received from PRCS, 81% report being satisfied, 15% reported being neutral and just 4 percent report being dissatisfied. This high level of satisfaction reflects the public's overall confidence in the Department and its operations. This is due to a high level of administrative and operational excellence by the staff.

Developing and maintaining a highly functioning organization that efficiently and effectively provides highly valued public services requires constant attention. It is important that operations are continually reviewed and updated to ensure that our operations are consistent with best management practices.

Certification from the Commission for the Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) is one way of documenting high operational standards. Through compliance with the standards of excellence, CAPRA accreditation assures policy makers, department staff, and the general public and tax payers that an accredited park and recreation agency has been independently evaluated against established benchmarks as delivering a high level of quality. Certification of a CAPRA accredited agency is based on compliance with 151 standards for national accreditation.