

Chapter 1: Introduction

Why update the PROS Plan?

Burien has grown significantly since the last comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan was accomplished in 2012. After assessing the current available options and analyzing the needs of today's population, the choices confronting Burien in 2018 vary from those in 2012. The reasons to update the 2012 PROS Plan include:

- **Demographics** - adjust plans and programs to fit Burien's changing demographics.
- **Enhancements** - resolve park repair, replacement, and other improvement requirements and options.
- **Fiscal** - reflect Burien's present and future fiscal prospects and constraints.
- **Implementation** - create an implementation strategy for Burien and all other recreation program and park project sponsors and potential partners.
- **Eligibility** - remain eligible for state and federal grants.
- **GMA** - Comply with Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements.

This document outlines the choices that are available and the means for implementing preferred actions found to be of most benefit to Burien residents.

What are the PROS Plan objectives?

- **Define the setting** - in Burien including climate, environment, wildlife habitat, history, culture, population changes, and current development conditions.



Lake Burien School Memorial Park

- **Inventory assets** - including existing public and private open spaces, park and recreation facilities, and recreational services that have been developed to-date by Burien, King County, Highline School District, Port of Seattle, adjacent cities of SeaTac and Normandy Park, and private non-profit and for-profit

organizations.

- **Forecast demand** - for future open space, trails, park, and recreation facilities and recreation services that may be provided by Burien or other agencies.
- **Identify appropriate roles and responsibilities** - that should be undertaken by Burien to meet critical open space, trail, park, and recreation facilities and recreation program needs.
- **Develop the elements of a citywide plan** - for open space, trails, park, and recreation facilities and recreation programs including wildlife habitat and conservation areas, open spaces and natural resource areas, trails, athletic fields and facilities, indoor community and recreation centers, and other special purpose facilities.
- **Determine costs and standards** - involved in maintaining and/or improving open space, trails, park, and recreation facilities and recreation program levels-of-service (LOS), particularly the possible use of innovative financing tools or methods.
- **Define an implementation program** - outlining the actions necessary to realize the plan including supporting actions necessary to resolve agreements with the county, school district, port, and other private non-profit and for-profit agencies.
- **Determine public opinion** - through a series of public participation events and resolve final project, plan, and financing particulars based on the results of public input.

What is the planning approach?

This study analyzed the supply, demand, and need for public and private open space, trail, and park facilities and recreation services within Burien's current corporate limits.

The proposed implementation strategies are the result of this comprehensive or holistic analysis. Generally, the proposed strategies recommend Burien focus its resources where open space, trail, park, and recreation facilities and recreation needs are most critical, and Burien resources will be most effective.

How was the public involved?

The Burien Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department staff and Park & Recreation Board oversaw this planning process. During the course of the planning program, Burien conducted a series of public outreach events

including:

- **Retreat** - with staff reviewing current recreation program and park maintenance conditions, needs, and opportunities.
- **Focus groups** - with recreation provider agencies and user groups to review current and future needs for open space, trails, park, and recreation facilities along with possible partner approaches.
- **Outreach surveys** - of youth and city residents and Wild Strawberry Festival goers to determine their knowledge, use, condition assessments, and suggestions for existing and future facilities and programs.
- **Brainstorming event** - with the public identifying needs and possible solutions to existing and future parks, recreation, and open space facilities and programs.
- **Open house** - with city residents and user groups to review and discuss the results of the brainstorming session and the proposals for future facilities and programs.
- **Workshops** - with neighborhood residents to assess existing conditions in parks and recreation programs and obtain feedback on potential facility and program improvements that resulted from the brainstorming session and survey comments.



- **Open house** - with city residents and user groups to review and critique draft proposed facility plans and improvement projects
- **Statistical survey** - of registered voters to determine final project and program priorities and resolve financing preferences with which to implement this plan.

Outreach event	Number
Retreat with staff	20
Focus groups with sponsors/users	15
Teen and youth survey	95
Wild Strawberry Festival PROS Survey	180
Wild Strawberry Festival Recreation Survey	34
Citywide outreach survey	136
Brainstorming event with public	16
Open house on brainstorming/surveys	17
Neighborhood workshops	148
Open house on draft planning proposals	13
Voter survey non-statistical response	(pending)
Voter survey statistical sample	(pending)
Total	(674)

Note - some persons may have participated in more than one event.

The proposals contained within this document represent the comments, suggestions, opinions, and priorities developed from these public participation events.