

Chapter 3: Goals and policies

Goal 1: Strategic role

Undertake a modified strategic approach to open space, trail, park, and recreation facilities and recreation services where Burien assumes responsibility for functions of citywide interest where there are no other viable sponsors, and helps coordinate or support functions and activities that have other viable sponsors.

PROS Policy 1.1 Coordinating activities

Take the lead role in providing information and coordinating services for open space, trail, park facilities, and recreation program activities on a citywide basis.

Update future population growth estimates, inventory existing and proposed facility developments, identify probable citywide and local neighborhood facility and program needs, and proposals of citywide facility and program solutions.

PROS Policy 1.2 Planning and development services

Provide detailed planning and development services when:

- There are no other designated agencies or organizations who can, or
- The activity involves site controversies or environmental consequences that may not be equitably resolved otherwise within the Burien service area.

PROS Policy 1.3 Development, operation and maintenance

Develop, operate or maintain open space, trail, park, or recreational facilities or recreation program activities provided:

- The facility will have broad benefits for a large proportion of the citywide population and will be financed using resident approved methods, or
- Facility development and operating costs will be recaptured from direct charges of the populations who use the facility, or
- Facility development and operating costs will be compensated in some manner through inter-local agreements with the using agency, area or benefiting user group, particularly where the demands will originate from a community service requirement, or
- The site or facility has intrinsic value apart from traditional operation and maintenance needs, such as a passive natural area or wetland preservation.

The following goals and objectives are based on a strategic approach to citywide services, an analysis of existing open space, trail, park, and recreation conditions, and the results of workshop planning sessions and surveys.

Goal 2: Recreation programs



Coordinate, assist, program, and operate healthy eating and active lifestyle, recreational, and cultural programs and outreach activities of special interest and lifestyle benefit for city residents at city park sites, facilities, and at facilities at partner locations.



Coordinate, promote, and work with other public, nonprofit, and for-profit agencies, organizations, and vendors including Highline School District, King County, SeaTac, Normandy Park, Des Moines, Port of Seattle, and others. Such programs may include athletic leagues and sport groups (like youth soccer, little league, lacrosse, and football), youth, teen, and senior age groups, and special populations where these activities are of major interest and

benefit to city residents of all ages.

PROS Policy 2.1 Healthy lifestyle

Coordinate, promote, and work to provide healthy eating and active lifestyle programs including education, awareness, enforcement, and developmental partnerships for youth, teen, and senior age groups, and special populations where these activities are of major interest and benefit to city residents of all ages.

PROS Policy 2.2 Active lifestyle

Create a network of parks, trails, facilities, and programs that encourage an active lifestyle involving walking, hiking, biking, playing, swimming, exercising, and other pursuits that help regulate weight and physical condition, and mental and physical health and well-being for all age groups.

PROS Policy 2.3 Environmental

Organize and sponsor the operation of environmental, historical, cultural, and recreational programs providing instruction, volunteerism, and participation in habitat restoration, water-based recreation, trail development, interpretation programs, summer and day camps, maintenance, and other site-specific activities at Burien parks sites and properties.

PROS Policy 2.5 Historical

Support historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits; and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs that document and develop awareness of the city's heritage at Burien park sites and properties.

PROS Policy 2.3 Art and cultural

Offer and coordinate with other providers programs for arts, crafts, cultural expression, and special events for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in the city by all agencies and vendors including Burien.

PROS Policy 2.4 Athletics

Designate and preserve appropriate sites, and facilitate agreements with user and league organizations to operate basketball, tennis, lacrosse, soccer, baseball, softball, and other instruction and participatory programs for all age, skill level, and income groups in the city.

Goal 3: Cultural arts

Organize, coordinate, and selectively develop high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities at Burien parks and properties.

PROS Policy 3.1 Programs

Support successful collaborations between the Highline Historical Society, Burien Arts Commission, Burien Little Theater, Hi-Liners, other public agencies, service groups, schools, arts patrons, and artists that optimally utilize artistic resources and talents at Burien parks and properties.

PROS Policy 3.2 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 Burien parks and properties.

Goal 4: Resource conservancies



Assume a major 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 Highline School Districts Marine Tech Lab, Environmental Science Center, Port of Seattle, King County, Washington State Departments of Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources, and others, to create an effective approach to the following conservation issues.

PROS Policy 4.1 Wildlife habitat

4.1.1: Identify and conserve critical wildlife habitat including nesting sites, foraging areas, and migration corridors within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces, and the developing urban areas – especially along Puget Sound shoreline and Salmon, Walker, and Miller Creeks.

4.1.2: Preserve sensitive habitat sites that support threatened species and urban wildlife habitat particularly within Salmon Creek Ravine, Seahurst (Ed Munro) Park, and Eagle Landing Park.

PROS Policy 4.2 Natural areas

4.2.1: Assume major responsibility to preserve and protect significant environmental features including unique wetlands, open spaces, woodlands, shorelines, waterfronts and other characteristics that support wildlife and reflect the city’s resource heritage – especially the ponds and wetlands within the Salmon, Walker, and Miller Creek corridors and floodplains.

4.2.2: Provide public access to environmentally sensitive areas and sites that are especially unique to the city and surrounding area – including Eagle Landing Park, Salmon Creek Ravine, and Seahurst (Ed Munro) Park.

PROS Policy 4.3 Forestlands

4.3.1: Assume a major responsibility to identify and conserve forest cover and the scenic attributes woodlands provide – especially the remaining wooded hillsides defining the western bluffs of the city and urban growth area along the I-5 corridor.

4.3.2: Identify and preserve prime examples of heritage forestlands in and adjacent to the city including western shorelines abutting Seola Park, Salmon Creek Ravine, Seahurst (Ed Munro) Park, Eagle Landing Park, and Dottie Harper Park.

PROS Policy 4.4 Open spaces

4.4.1: Assume a major responsibility to define and conserve a system of open space corridors or separators to provide definition between natural areas and urban land uses in and adjacent to the city.

4.4.2: Increase natural area and open space linkages within the developed urban areas.

PROS Policy 4.5 Urban growth preserves and set-asides

4.5.1: Cooperate with other public and private agencies including the Port of Seattle, SeaTac, Normandy Park, and King County, and with private landowners to set-aside land and resources necessary to provide high quality, convenient open space, trail, and park facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development - especially the open spaces defining the separation of Burien with SeaTac Airport.

4.5.2: Preserve unique environmental features or areas in future land developments and increase public use and access. Cooperate with other public and private agencies, and with private landowners to set aside unique features or areas as publicly accessible resources.

Goal 5: Historical assets



Currently there are no designated historical sites in Burien. Assist where appropriate in the planning, coordination, and preservation of unique archaeological, historical, cultural, scenic, and man-made places, sites, landmarks, and vistas.

Work when appropriate with other public and private agencies, such as the Highline Historical Society, Washington State Historical Societies, and others, to create an effective approach to the following resource conservation issues and proposals.

PROS Policy 5.1 Historical features and interests

5.1.1: Identify, preserve, and enhance the city's heritage, traditions, and cultural features including historical sites, buildings, artworks, views, and monuments within park sites and historical areas.

5.1.2: 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, railroad and street car, logging, homestead sites, commercial buildings, and other places of interest in the city and adjacent areas.

5.1.3: Work with the Highline Historical Society, Washington State Historical Society, and other archaeological and cultural groups to incorporate historical and cultural activities into park developments and recreational programs.

PROS Policy 5.2 Manmade environments and features

5.2.1: 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.

5.2.2: Work with property and facility owners to increase public access and utilization of these special sites and features.

Goal 6: Trail systems



Assume a major responsibility for the planning, development, and operation of a variety of trails including water trails, off-road hike and bike, on-road bicycle touring routes and scenic drives that are directly related to environmental resources that are of most interest to city residents.

Work with other public and private agencies, including King County, Port of Seattle, SeaTac, Normandy Park, and Washington State Department of Transportation to develop and maintain an integrated system of trails.

PROS Policy 6.1 Water trails

6.1.1: Support the availability of kayak, canoe, and other hand carry boat access landings and other improvements for appropriate access to Puget Sound the city's shoreline.

6.1.2: Where feasible designate a water trail network for hand-carry or car-top craft including canoes and kayaks for the those segments of the Cascade Marine Trail along the shoreline of Puget Sound.

PROS Policy 6.2 Artworks

6.2.1: Develop where practical viewpoints and interpretive exhibits that integrate scenic routes with specific historical, cultural, environmental, and scenic points of interest within the park and trail systems.

6.2.2: Integrate as feasible artworks into trails, parks, park facilities, and historical sites.

PROS Policy 6.3 On and off-road trail systems

6.3.1: Consistent with the Burien Bike & Pedestrian Plan, support a comprehensive system of hike and bike trails that access scenic,

environmental, historic, and open space attributes in and around the city – expanding and linking existing trail systems to create city and area-wide networks especially including the multipurpose SR-509/Lake to Sound Trail extending south from King County and SeaTac into Normandy Park and Des Moines.

6.3.2: Develop a series of trailheads, trailside rest stops, viewpoints, interpretive exhibits, and trail signage systems that integrate hike and bike trails with specific historical, cultural, environmental, and scenic points of interest.

6.3.3: Integrate continuous trail corridors and local spur or loop routes with parks, schools, other public facilities, historical sites, and Burien’s historic downtown district and urban center.

6.3.4: Furnish trails with appropriate supporting trailhead improvements that include interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, parking and loading areas, water, and other services.

6.3.5: Where appropriate, locate trailheads at or in conjunction with park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local area access to citywide trail systems and reduce duplication of supporting improvements.

6.3.6: Develop trail improvements of a design and development standard that is easy to maintain and access by maintenance, security, and other appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles.

Goal 7: Resource parks



Assume a major responsibility for the planning, development, and operation of a variety of resource-oriented facilities. These facilities may include fishing sites, hand-carry boat access, and picnicking areas that are directly related to environmental resources that are of most interest to city residents.

Work with other public and private agencies, particularly King County, Port of Seattle, SeaTac, and Normandy Park, and Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife to develop and operate the following appropriate resource park facilities.

PROS Policy 7.1 Waterfront access and facilities

Acquire and support additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, and other related recreational activities and pursuits along Burien’s shoreline.

PROS Policy 7.2 Picnicking and day-use activities

Acquire and develop additional citywide picnic sites, shelters, and day-use group picnic grounds at major resource parks and along major off-road trail corridors in and around the city including the significant wetlands on Walker and Miller Creeks.

Goal 8: Playgrounds and fields



Develop an integrated system of local neighborhood playgrounds, courts, and fields that are of most interest to city residents. Assume responsibility for the planning of a system of local and regional athletic park facilities including competitive soccer, lacrosse, softball, and baseball fields that are of interest to city residents and league participants.

Coordinate and assist as appropriate other public and private agencies including the Highline School District and city youth sports league organizations. Site and sponsor the development of major competitive outdoor and indoor athletic facilities for all age and skill groups that are within reasonable geographic service areas of local neighborhoods in the city.

PROS Policy 8.1 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 within convenient walking distances of residential neighborhoods including opportunities for development of all-inclusive play.

PROS Policy 8.2 Recreational courts

Develop and designate a network of local and community park sites that provide a variety of recreational courts that meet the highest quality pick-up and competitive practice and playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests within convenient walking distances of residential neighborhoods.

PROS Policy 8.3 Skateboard courts and challenge courses

Develop park sites and install furniture installations that provide specialized activities (such as skateboard, rollerblade, climbing walls, and challenge courses) that meet the highest quality competitive practice and playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests.

PROS Policy 8.4 Athletic fields

Designate a network of sites that can be developed for organized sports leagues (such as soccer, lacrosse, softball, and baseball fields) to meet the highest quality competitive practice and playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests - including competition field sites at Chelsea and Moshier Memorial Parks as well as potential joint ventures with Highline School District and private schools.

Goal 9: Indoor recreation facilities



Coordinate the planning, development, and operation of specialized indoor facilities including aquatic facilities, gymnasiums, arts and crafts, classrooms, meeting rooms for special populations, children, teens, seniors, and the general population that are of major interest to city residents of all ages

Coordinate and assist other public and private agencies and nonprofits, among others, to realize the following effective facilities and services within reasonable geographic service areas of neighborhoods.

PROS Policy 9.1 Aquatics centers

Develop or identify outdoor and indoor aquatics facilities that provide instruction, aerobics, recreation, and competition facilities for all age groups, skill levels, and aquatics interests on a seasonal or year-round basis - working with groups such as Evergreen Aquatics Center, Highline YMCA, Highline Athletic Club, Gregory-Seahurst Swim Club, Normandy Park Swim Club, Arbor Heights Swim Club, Glen Acres County Club, Rainer Golf & Country Club, LA Fitness, and Tukwila organizations.

PROS Policy 9.2 Recreation centers

Develop or identify multiple use indoor recreational opportunities that provide gymnasiums, physical conditioning, recreational courts, and other athletic spaces for all age groups, skill levels, and community interests on a year-round basis - working with groups such as SeaTac, Highline School District, Highline Athletic Club, Highline YMCA, and other nonprofit and private groups.

PROS Policy 9.3 Community centers

9.3.1: Develop or identify a system of multipurpose community centers and facilities that can provide arts and crafts, music, video, classroom instruction, meeting facilities, eating and health care, daycare, latch key, and other spaces for all age groups including preschool, youth, teens, and seniors on a year-round basis.

9.3.2: Support the continued development of relationships with SeaTac, Highline School District, Highline Athletic Club, Highline YMCA, and other organizations of special meeting, assembly, and other community facilities that provide general support to school age populations and community-at-large functions.

PROS Policy 9.4 Arts centers

9.4.1: Continue to develop and maintain special indoor and outdoor cultural and performing arts facilities that enhance and expand music, dance, drama, cultural and historical interpretations, and other audience and participatory opportunities for the city-at-large including special summer farmers' markets and festival events in the downtown district.

9.3.2: Continue to maintain and operate the Moshier Arts Center as a regional arts facility providing ceramic, pottery, and other related art education, instruction, and recreational activities.

Goal 10: Special purpose facilities



Assume appropriate responsibility for the development and operation of facilities that have special or unique interests, impacts or relevance to city residents that may not be provided by another public or private agency.

If practical, coordinate and assist other public and private agencies including the Highline Historical Society, Washington State Historical Society, Highline School District's Marine Tech Lab, and Environmental Science Center, among others, with interpretive centers, community gardens, museums, dog parks, and other specialized facilities in Burien.

PROS Policy 10.1 On and off-leash dog parks and areas

10.1.1: Designate a system of on and off-leash dog areas that provide controlled and convenient exercise opportunities for dog owners.

10.1.2: If appropriate, designate off-leash dog parks that provide controlled and convenient exercise and social area opportunities for dog owners including the use of Grandview Dog Park in SeaTac.

PROS Policy 10.2 Special enterprises

10.2: Where appropriate, designate sites for community garden and landscape plots in parks, open spaces, or other public, nonprofit, or private agency properties throughout the city that can be planted, maintained, and harvested by resident volunteers.

PROS Policy 10.3 Special enterprises

10.3.1: Where appropriate and economically feasible, support the development and operation of specialized and special interest recreational facilities, like the Kiwanis Camp Schoenwald, as well as non-profit and for-profit retreats and conference centers, art and performing theaters for these interests in the general population.

10.3.2: Where appropriate, participate in joint planning and operating programs with other public and private agencies for special activities like the downtown farmers’ market, Burien Wild Strawberry Festival, and other activities in the city and surrounding area.

Goal 11: Design standards



Continue to apply green building standards and practices. Design and develop Burien facilities that are accessible, safe, and easy to maintain, with life cycle features that account for long-term costs and benefits.

PROS Policy 11.1 Accessibility

11.1.1: 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 all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income, and activity interests.

11.1.2: 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 all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income, and activity interests.

PROS Policy 11.2 Maintenance

11.2.1: Design, retrofit, and develop facilities that are sustainable, of low maintenance, and high capacity design to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs.

11.2.2: Where appropriate, incorporate low maintenance materials, settings or other value engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements, and retain natural conditions and experiences.

11.2.3: Where practical and appropriate, implement an Adopt-a-Park program where volunteer users and citizens can perform maintenance, collect litter, and other support activities.

11.2.4: Incorporate Integration Pest Management principles in the management of park landscape resources by utilizing a holistic approach to managing pests using biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical tools.

11.2.5: Ensure that appropriate maintenance resources coincide with any facility additions, expansions, or change of use.

PROS Policy 11.3 Security and safety

11.3.1: 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 public-at-large.

11.3.2: Develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that provide proper training and awareness for department personnel.

11.3.3: Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that protect user groups, department personnel, and the general public-at-large.

11.3.4: Where appropriate, use adopt-a-park programs, park watches, and other innovative programs that increase safety and security awareness and visibility.

Goal 12: Financial resources

Create effective and efficient methods of operating, maintaining, acquiring, and developing facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

PROS Policy 12.1 Finance

12.1.1: Investigate innovative available methods, such as impact fees, pay for play, land set-a-side or fee-in-lieu-of-donation ordinances, and inter-local 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.

12.1.2: Consider joint ventures with other public and private agencies including King County, Port of Seattle, SeaTac, Normandy Park, Highline School District, Highline YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and other regional, state, federal, public, and private agencies including for-profit concessionaires, where feasible and desirable.

PROS Policy 12.2 Public and private resource coordination

12.2.1: Create a comprehensive, balanced open space, trail, park, and recreation system that integrates Burien facilities and services with resources and funding available from the county, school district, and other regional, state, federal, and private park and recreational lands and facilities in a manner that will best serve and provide for Burien resident interests.

12.2.2: Cooperate with King County, Port of Seattle, SeaTac, Normandy Park, Des Moines, Highline School District, and other regional, state, and federal, public, and private organizations to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and represent resident area interests through joint planning and development efforts.

PROS Policy 12.3 Cost/benefit assessment

12.3.1: 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. Differentiate Burien standards compared to composite standards that include the city, county, school district, state, and other public and private provider agency efforts in order to effectively plan and program open space, trails, parks, and recreation needs in the city.

12.3.2: 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 - such as the application of impact fees where new urban center developments impact potential level-of-service (ELOS) standards.

12.3.3: 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, pay for play, grants,

sponsorships, donations, scholarships, volunteer efforts, and the use of general funding.

12.3.4: Where appropriate, provide recreational programs, like 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.

Goal 13: Human resources



Develop, staff, train, and support a professional open space, trail, park, and recreation staff that effectively serves Burien in the realization of the above listed goals and objectives.

PROS Policy 13.1 Personnel

13.1.1: Employ a diverse, well-trained work force that is motivated to achieve citywide goals.

13.1.2: Encourage teamwork through communications, creativity, positive image, risk taking, sharing of resources, and cooperation toward common goals.

13.1.3: Where appropriate, provide staff with education, training, technology, equipment and supplies to increase personal productivity, efficiency, and pride.