

Chapter 1: Introduction

Burien has grown and changed since the last comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan was accomplished by the city in 2006.

The choices that confront Burien at the present time are significant and could alter the character and quality of open space, trail, and park facilities, and recreation programs and services if not adequately planned.

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

1.1 Objectives

The specific objectives of this planning effort were to:

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

1.2 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.

1.3 Public involvement

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:

- **Internet surveys** - of city residents to determine their knowledge, use, condition

assessments, and plan proposals prior to the initiation of this planning process.

- *Hand-out/hand-back surveys* - of Burien school students and participants of the Wild Strawberry Festival to determine their current park and program utilization, program and park priorities.
- *Public workshops and forums* - with recreation provider agencies and city residents to brainstorm their ideas for open space, trails, park, and recreation facilities; and to review and critique the resulting brainstorm proposals prior to the development of final plan alternatives.
- *Mail-out/mail-back and internet survey of registered voter households* - towards the end of the process to determine final voter household project and program priorities from among the alternative proposals, and resolve financing preferences with which to implement this plan.

The proposals contained within this document represent the opinions developed from these public participation events.

1.4 Documentation

This report is organized into 6 chapters outlining goals and objectives, recreation program strategies, detailed plan elements, specific park property exhibits, and implementation measures.

Separate technical appendices detailing the community setting, existing facility inventories, park opportunities, land and facility demands, finances, and public opinion are available from the Burien Park, Recreation & Cultural Services Department.

