#### **RESOLUTION NO. 571**

## A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING A PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

WHEREAS, by Resolution 150 the City adopted its first Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan on June 2, 1997; and

WHEREAS, because the Growth Management Act (RCW36.70A) requires that the City plan for recreation and open space among other land uses, the City adopted the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan as an element of its Comprehensive Plan on July 6, 1998; and

WHEREAS, to be considered for state and federal park funding assistance, most grant programs require that sponsors complete a systematic planning process (such as the PROS Plan) prior to seeking funding and that these plans be updated regularly; and

WHEREAS, staff and the City's Park and Recreation Committee began the process to update the PROS Plan in 2003, holding several public meetings, conducting three citizen surveys and commissioning two studies including a performing arts center study and parks needs assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Committee provided comments that have been incorporated into the attached PROS Plan to the City Council; NOW THEREFORE,

# BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The 2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby adopted as amended by the City Council on its meeting of November 5, 2007.

Section 2. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 5, 2007.

Gerald Gehring, Mayor

ATTEST:

Emy Genetia, Interim City Clerk

# City of University Place

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE

DRAFT November 2007

### **PREFACE**

A mission statement for this plan was developed by the City's Parks and Recreation Committee which sets the direction the city should take to provide parks, recreation and open space in the city. The mission states...

"Provide park, recreation and open space facilities and programs that no other agency can or is willing to provide; act as a coordinator of local interests where facilities are provided by many other agencies; and perform as a facilitator where unique acquisition or development opportunities may occur which could be implemented or operated by other agencies."

This statement recognizes that the City by itself is unable to provide the quantity and quality of diverse facilities and programs that are needed to adequately serve a city of over 30,000 individuals. Instead the City has successfully partnered with the School District, the County and others to provide the facilities and services needed. This ensures the greatest range of opportunities to the community. A city priority is to nurture the city's partnerships with the School District, County, non-profits and others to increase cooperation and expand the use of facilities by the general public.

As stated, the emphasis for future parks and recreation development needs to be in parks, recreation, open space facilities and programs that other agencies are not providing.

Community input, an inventory of existing facilities and a needs analysis suggest that the City should concentrate on improving existing parks by providing needed components such as trails, band stands and playgrounds. New park acquisitions should be located in areas that are currently underserved and provide for specific identified needs. For example, the southeast portion of the city is underserved by active recreational facilities, so a multi-purpose field and other active components located in this area should be a priority. Likewise the northwest portion of the city is underserved by passive facilities. A trail along Puget Sound with beach access in this area would meet this need and accomplish several important goals.

This Plan indicates that the City has excess capacity in some areas like natural open space, but because most of this area is in accessible, it serves only limited purpose from a parks and recreation standpoint. Connecting these properties and providing trailheads and trails for access will go a long way to providing the passive recreation needs of the community. Ultimately all the parks and open spaces should be linked to each other and to schools, neighborhoods and the Town Center.

### COUNCIL, PARC COMMISSION, STAFF

### **City Council**

Gerald Gehring, Mayor Stan Flemming, Mayor Pro Tem Linda Bird, Councilmember Jean Brooks, Councilmember Ken Grassi, Councilmember Debbie Klosowski, Councilmember Lorna Smith, Councilmember

### **Parks and Recreation Commission**

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Dale Yeager, Vice Chair
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) is the City's master plan to provide park, recreation and open space facilities and services to the community. In a nut shell, developing a PROS Plan involves an assessment of community needs and desires based on citizen input, an inventory of the existing parks, recreation and open space facilities and services, and an implementation strategy.

Although the basic components appear straightforward enough, that is where simplicity ends. To determine the City's parks and recreation demand, the City undertook an extensive public outreach program, conducting several public surveys and feasibility assessments. These included a park and recreation facilities needs survey, swimming pool feasibility study, a performing arts center feasibility assessment, stakeholder interviews and numerous public meetings.

In addition to the public outreach program to determine demand, the City considered the existing city profile and conducted research to determine local, state and national demand trends based on current and changing demographics.

To update the PROS Plan, the City revised its inventory of existing facilities and services and established goals expressed as Level of Service (LOS). For park and recreation facilities the LOS of a facility or program is usually expressed in a quantity available per 1000 population. For example, the LOS for open space is expressed in acres of open space per 1,000 persons and for arts and crafts, as the number of classes offered.

A unique component of the City's inventory was the use of the Geo-Referenced Amenities Standards Program (GRASP<sup>TM</sup>) which not only measures quantity per 1,000 persons but also the quality of the facilities and programs based on a number of criteria including quality, condition, location, comfort, convenience and ambience.

Taking the demand information expressed by the community, considering local, state and national trends and comparing it with existing facilities and programs allowed the City to determine its future demand needs. The implementation of the PROS Plan depends on having the resources to fund and maintain facilities and programs. The PROS Plan Update includes a discussion of funding sources and opportunities to partner with others agencies and citizens and concludes with a 6-year capital facilities plan and recommendations for future actions.

Based on public input, the community profile, and local state and national trends the city established a set of goals and polices to guide its planning for parks and recreation facilities and services and for the PROS plan implementation.

The PROS Plan is also required by State Law and allows the City to be eligible for state and federal grants and loans for park recreation and open space facilities and services.

### **Washington State Growth Management Act**

Washington State's Growth Management Act (GMA) requires the City to adopt a Comprehensive Plan. A comprehensive plan is a type of land use plan that provides the framework and policy direction for a city's or county's growth over a 20 year period. The plan is comprehensive in that it contains chapters called elements on land use, transportation, housing, capital facilities, utilities, shorelines, economic development and parks and recreation. Comprehensive plans identify where and how growth needs will be met. The comprehensive plan provides the basis for many of the policies, regulations, and budget decisions that the city makes.

The GMA contains several goals that relate to parks, recreation and open space planning to ensure that a municipality's high quality of life is sustained as it grows. (RCW 36.70A.020) These goals state that a community should:

Retain open space; Enhance recreational opportunities; Conserve fish & wildlife habitat; Increase access to natural resources - including land & water; and Develop parks and recreational facilities.

As a required element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, the PROS Plan acts as the road map that will guide the City of University Place's investment in providing parks facilities, open space, and recreation programs first, for the next six years but also long term. The PROS Plan also serves as a resource and planning guide for the Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Parks Maintenance and Recreation staff. The 2007 PROS Plan Update supersedes the City's 1997 PROS Plan.

The Growth Management Act requires the Parks and Recreation Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan include: a) estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a 10 year period; b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and c) an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreation demand. The GMA provides for Park Impact Fees on the new developments the city can use to acquire and improve publicly owned parks, open space & recreational facilities.

### **Update Process**

Staff began work on the PROS Plan Update in 2003, under the policy guidance and strategic direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC), with additional input from parks and recreation service provider partners, and area residents (through surveys).

The PROS Plan needs to be updated on a regular basis. This helps to ensure that the Plan accurately reflects the changing needs, desires, and priorities of the community. Community needs vary over time due to societal changes, shifting demographics, the economy and changing community conditions. This Plan allows University Place to maintain its eligibility for grants from the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) and serves to meet the requirements of GMA. The RCFB requires that an agency's parks, recreation, and open space plan meet minimum standards and be updated every six years.

Between PROS Plan updates, the Plan is reviewed and adjusted to reflect current conditions. Some of the most common changes to the Plan are modifications to the Capital Facilities Plan to reflect annual budget allocations and the receipt of federal and state grants.

The PARC Commission reviewed the PROS Plan as it was developed during several meetings before submitting its recommendation to the City Council for approval of the Plan in April 2006. The City's Planning Commission, Economic and Development and Neighborhood Policing Committee's were also asked to provide comment. The City Council conducted a public meeting before formal adoption on November 5 2007. Upon Adoption the PROS Plan was incorporated by reference into the City's Comprehensive Plan as required by GMA.

### Vision, Mission, Goals

The City's vision, mission, goals and objectives for the parks and recreation program were developed and refined during a series of community meetings between 1996 and 2006. The City's vision was developed in 1996 shortly after incorporation and served as the basis for the development of a mission statement for parks and recreation in 1997 and for goals and policies contained in the City's Comprehensive Plan adopted in 1998.

#### Vision

"Expansion of parks and recreation services has been achieved through cooperative efforts of the City, the Parks and School Districts and many citizen volunteers. Residents enjoy more neighborhood parks and public spaces, a community and civic center, public access to the shoreline, and a variety of recreation programs and activities for children, youth, adults, and senior citizens."

### **PROS Plan Mission**

"Provide park, recreation and open space facilities and programs that no other agency can or is willing to provide; act as a coordinator of local interests where facilities are provided by many other agencies; and perform as a facilitator where unique acquisition or development opportunities may occur which could be implemented or operated by other agencies."

### PARC Mission

"Enrich our quality of life through developing a comprehensive parks & recreation system that preserves and protects our natural resources and provides a variety of leisure time opportunities to meet the diverse and dynamic needs of our community."

### Major Goals

- Develop a high quality, diversified park, recreation and open space system that benefits citizens of various ages, incomes and physical abilities.
- Acquire and finance a comprehensive park, open space and recreation system through a variety of methods and distribute costs equitably among those who benefit.
- Create, maintain and upgrade park, recreational and cultural facilities to respond to changing uses and improve operational efficiency.
- Develop training and support for a professional parks and recreation staff that effectively serves the community.
- Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites and structures that have historical or cultural significance.
- Provide a range of spaces and places for civic functions such as public meetings, ceremonial events, and community festivals.
- Invite, encourage and involve the entire community, including the business community and other public jurisdictions and agencies, to participate in planning and developing parks and recreational services and facilities.
- Develop and maintain parks, open spaces and greenbelts, recognizing that these are an integral part of the City's infrastructure character and quality of life.
- Ensure safe and convenient access to recreational lands, facilities and programs.

 Measure acquisition opportunities against criteria designed to mitigate City risk and clearly measure benefits to the City and community, as well as implications for maintenance and operations.

### **Public Opinion**

The City conducted three surveys and polled individuals at a series of focus group meetings. In addition to local opinion, the City examined national trends in quality of life, recreational programming, recreational facilities and park and recreation administration.

In 2003, the City distributed the Parks and Recreation Activities and Priorities Survey during two community events and with refuse utility billings. Respondents expressed a preference for both investment in existing parks and purchase of new parks and open space to meet future needs. However, no clear direction was provided as to which facilities or types of park land should be targeted for this type of investment.

In June 2004, the City conducted the Aquatics Interest and Needs Survey. Respondents indicated the open swim and swim lessons were the most popular programs at the Curtis Aquatic Center. Respondents most often requested additional aquatic programming similar to the activities they use at other facilities (such as the YMCA) in surrounding communities.

In 2004 and 2005, the City created the Capital Strategy Task Force which conducted a series of focus group meetings. These focus groups provided their own recommendations and developed a community survey to gather public opinion regarding a capital improvement strategy.

The Capital Strategy Task Force came up with seven priority items that the community wished to be funded with future available capital improvement monies. They were – in order of preference:

- 1. Additional sidewalks;
- 2. Neighborhood lighting;
- 3. Purchase land for conservation & protection;
- 4. Walking & bike trails;
- 5. Purchase land for passive use;
- 6. Athletic fields upgrade existing or construct new; and
- 7. Improve neighborhood play equipment.

### **Inventory**

Park, recreation and open space facilities in the City are provided by the City, School District, the County and the private sector. Facilities owned and operated by the City, School District and County are open to the public in general, subject to specific rules regarding their use. Private sector facilities include private parks in residential developments and private recreation enterprises and clubs. Figure 1 shows the location of the larger of these facilities while Table 1 lists all parks recreation and open space facilities by ownership, type and available facility. Although, the City does not control many of the listed facilities, their presence adds to the park and recreation resources available in the community.

#### **Needs Assessment**

A level of service (LOS) analysis for of the University Place parks and recreation system was conducted using the Geo-Referenced Amenities Standards Program (GRASP™). This analysis takes demographic information; trends; existing facility inventory, function and condition; and combines them with citizen input regarding participation patterns, satisfaction levels, desires and preferences, priorities, and willingness to fund. Ultimately the analysis allowed the City to identify and understand current and future demand and determined what services and facilities would fulfill community need within its willingness to fund.

A review of PROS Plans and parks elements of Comprehensive Plans from neighboring jurisdictions and comparably-sized jurisdictions in King and Thurston Counties provided useful data and information. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) "standards" were referred only as indicators in development of the level of service standards.

PARC used this information, added their personal knowledge of the needs of the community to develop LOS numbers. NRPA standard descriptions of types of parklands were used as a reference to develop parkland definitions; however, each municipality has unique facilities that do not fit the standard. Therefore, descriptions were modified to fit University Place's unique park system.

The LOS shows many needed facilities; however, the greatest demand from the community at this time is for additional land purchases – for passive open space, trails, for preservation of wetland & stream buffers and for protection of wildlife corridors.

Bal-Merina 8 19TH ST Sunset Terrace Park Day Island Yacht Club **E**GENTS BLVD Senior Center 27TH ST.W. ircrest Club 31ST ST W Adrianna Hess Wetland Park Puget Sound 35TH STW Ⅲ UP Library Curran Homestead Apple Orchard Park 40TH STW 44TH ST W Proposed Preservation Area CIRCUE DR W **University Place** Pond 54TH ST W Riconosciuto Addition Tacoma Rifle Pemberton Creek Open & Leach Creek Open Space Revolver Club Space CHANGERS CREEK ROW! Chambers Crest Wildlife Habitat Leach Creek Trail Easements Kobayashi Preserve PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ACRES OWNER
96 MM CITY OF UP
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888 IIII PIERCE COUNTY
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Figure 1
Principal Major Park and Recreation Properties

Table 1
Parks Recreation and Open Space Facilities

Parks/Facilities	Features	Size*	
Mini Parks			
Drum Basketball Court	Basketball Court		
Curtis Big Toy	Playground		
Neighborhood Parks			
Sunset Terrace Park	Field, Playground	5.6	
Community Parks			
Cirque Park	Fields, Playground, Skate Park, Restrooms	22.0	
Curtis/Colgate Park	Tennis Courts	11.0	
Regional Parks			
	Golf Course, Fields, Trail Restrooms,		
Chambers Creek Properties	Concessions	240	
Greenways			
Grandview Trail	Path, Scenic Views	80	
Open Space/ Natural Areas			
	No Public Access,		
Chambers Crest Wildlife Refuge	Wildlife Corridor	7.5	
Riconosciuto Property	No Public Access	5.0	
Conservation Park	Green Space	1.5	
Pemberton Creek Open Space	No Public Access, Wetland, Wildlife Corridor	4.9	
Leach Creek Conservation Area	No Public Access, Wetland, Wildlife Corridor	14.8	
Adrianna Hess Wetland Park	Meeting Rooms, Wetland, Bird Watching	2.0	
Woodside Pond Nature Park	No Public Access, Wetland, Wildlife Corridor	3.6	
Chambers Creek Properties	Limited Public Access to Canyon/South Point	260	
Special Use Facilities			
Senior/Community Center	Meeting Rooms, Kitchen	0.5	
Curran Apple Orchard Park	Orchard, Playground, Band Stand	7.3	
City Hall	Meeting Rooms, Kitchen	2.4	
	Open Green, Gardens, Trails, Information		
Homestead Park	Kiosk	6.0	
Kobayashi Preserve	Open Green, Trail, Fishing Wildlife Corridor	5.5	
School Facilities			
	Gymnasium, Aquatic Center, Fields, Ball		
Curtis Sr. High School	Courts, Track Performing Arts Theater	10.9	
Curtis Jr. High School	Gymnasium, Fields, Ball Courts, Track	10.3	
	Gymnasium, Fields, Playground, Basketball	7	
Drum Intermediate School	Courts	2.8	
Narrows View Intermediate School	Fields, Playground	4.3	
	Gymnasium, Fields, Playground, Basketball		
Evergreen Elementary School	Court	5.5	
<u> </u>	Gymnasium, Fields, Playground, Basketball		
Chambers Primary School	Court	2.8	
Sunset Primary School	Gymnasium, Fields, Basketball Court	3.3	
University Place Primary School	Fields, Playground, Basketball Court	4	
Total Acres*	The state of the s	729	

<sup>\*</sup> Area is Approximate

Implementation Strategy
To be recommended by PARC and adopted by City Council.



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### **APPENDICES**

- A. Park, Recreation & Open Space Facility Inventory
- B. PROS Plan Survey & Summary
- C. Aquatic Survey & Summary
- D. Performing Arts Feasibility Assessment
- E. Capital Strategy Citizen Survey (winter 2005)
- F. Capital Strategy Task Force Report (spring 2006)
- G. Parks and Recreation Level of Service Analysis
- H. University Place School District Interlocal Agreement
- I. Pierce County Parks & Recreation Interlocal Agreement

# SECTION I

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) is the City's master plan to provide park, recreation and open space facilities and services to the community. The plan begins with a description of the city, its history and demographics. Public opinion, regional and national trends, laws governing parks and recreation and the City's vision, mission and goals follow. The plan includes an inventory of existing facilities and a needs assessment and concludes with an implementation strategy.

This Plan is a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan. It serves as a resource and planning tool for the Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP), for Parks Maintenance and for the Recreation Services Division of the city. The 2007 PROS Plan Update supersedes the City's 1997 PROS Plan.

Park facilities, recreation programs and open space are the subject of this Plan with current and proposed park facilities examined in the greatest level of detail. A detailed inventory of all publicly-operated facilities is shown in Appendix A. Private facilities and recreation services and programs are addressed only briefly by this Plan.

Updating this Plan allows University Place to maintain its eligibility for certain grants from the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) and also serves to meet the needs outlined in the State's Growth Management Act of 1990. RCFB requires that an agency's parks, recreation, and open space plan meet minimum standards and be updated every six years to reflect the above mentioned changes and progress that have been made over the course of the previous six-year period. Other grant sources such as Pierce County's Conservation Futures and the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act (ALEA) also depend upon this document to provide current, supporting documentation of the community's input and desires relating to parks & recreation development.

Between PROS Plan updates, the Plan is reviewed and adjusted to reflect current or changed conditions. Some of the most common changes to the Plan are modifications to the Capital Facilities Plan to reflect annual budget allocations and the receipt of federal, state and local grants.

### **Parks and Recreation Organization**

Parks and Recreation is a division of the City's Public Works Department. The Parks and Recreation Division is divided into three main areas of responsibility: Capital Improvements, Recreation Services and Parks Maintenance. The Capital Improvement Program is run by the Public Works Director, Recreation Services by the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, and Parks Maintenance by the Parks

Maintenance Supervisor. The Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation provides staff support to the Park and Recreation Commission (PARC) a nine member citizen commission appointed by the City Council. The PARC provides policy recommendations to the City Council on Park and Recreation matters including, capital improvements and recreation programs. Taking PARC recommendations into consideration, the City Council makes the final decisions regarding capital improvements and the biannual budget to fund all three areas of the Parks and Recreation Division.

### Park History and Recent Accomplishments

The University Place Parks and Recreation District formed in 1990 and developed the first parks and recreation plan the same year. Prior to the City's incorporation in 1995, the Park District owned seven properties including; a small community center (the current senior center), Colegate Park, a park donated by the Colegate family, Sunset Terrace Park, and the Curren Apple Orchard, an apple orchard acquired with Pierce County Conservation Futures funding. Shortly after the City's incorporation in 1995, the Park District and City entered into an inter-local agreement to jointly provide parks and recreation services. On January 1, 1997 the Park District dissolved and the City assumed all responsibilities for parks and recreation in the City's corporate limits.

In April 1997, the City created the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) appointing the five original elected commissioners of the former Park District Board. The PARC was expanded to nine members in 1998.

Since the City's incorporation, parks and open space lands have more than tripled. With the completion of Cirque Park in 2006, developed parks have more than doubled. The City owns a total of 15 park properties and regularly maintains two-thirds (10 sites) of these properties totaling nearly 100 acres of parks and open space for a variety of community uses. Park property acquisitions and major improvements since incorporation are listed in Tables 2 and 3 below.

# Table 2 Acquisitions

Park / Facility	Acquisitions
Adriana Hess Wetland Park	2.5 acre park donated by Dr. George Hess.
Cirque Park	21 acre park purchased by City.
Homestead Park	5 acre park purchased by City.
Kobayashi Preserve	5.5 acre open space and house purchased with Conservation Futures funds.
Leach Creek Open Space	14.8 acres donated by developers as mitigation.
Riconosciuto property	5 acres immediately south of Cirque Park purchased with Conservation Futures funds.

Table 3
Major Improvements

Park / Facility	Major Improvements
Adriana Hess Wetland Park	Renovation of the residential house into
	a public facility, with ADA restroom,
	meeting space and offices.
Cirque Park	Development of baseball, softball and
	soccer fields, skate park, parking lot,
	playground.
Curran Orchard	Construction of a band stand, new well drilled.
Colegate Park	New Child's Playground.
Homestead Park	Development of an open lawn area; Rhododendron
	Garden with approx. 650 plants; creation of a fern
	grotto; with 70 varieties; installation of a metal
	gazebo and wooden information kiosk.
Kobayashi Preserve	Interior and exterior improvements.
Senior/Community	Interior remodel, New commercial kitchen.
Sunset Terrace Park	New child's playground, parking, ball field.

The City's Recreation Services provides comprehensive, year-round recreation programs and activities designed to meet the needs of all University Place citizens, regardless of age, physical, mental or economic condition. The wide range of almost 700 recreation activities and programs provided meets the diversity of interests within the community, and includes senior programs at the Senior Center, trips and tours, cultural arts, martial arts, day camps, youth and teen activities, adult sports and special events. Recreation Services also provides support to PARC and other advisory groups established by the City Council. Table 4 lists some recent Recreation Services accomplishments:

Table 4
1997/ 2006 Recreation Service Accomplishments

Program	1997	2006
Total Programs / Classes	127	1008
Total Programs Implemented	78%	90%
Total Participation	2,478	18,593
Direct Cost of Recovery	101%	118%
Total Number of Volunteers	N/A	7407
Revenue	\$87,892.	\$288,935.

**Grants:** National Football League, National Recreation and Park Association, Tacoma Athletic Commission. Narrows Rotary, and Kiwanis Club of Tacoma

# SECTION II THE COMMUNITY

The City of University Place is located on the west side of the South Puget Sound in Western Washington. Approximately 8 square miles in size, the City supports a population of 31,400. The City currently ranks as the State's 31<sup>st</sup> largest city in population. The moderately hilly terrain is mostly forested in large Douglas fir, Hemlock and Western Red Cedar trees common in the Pacific Northwest. The City benefits from its location in the bustling Puget Sound region. Downtown Tacoma is less than fifteen minutes away and Seattle is about fifty minutes north of the City on Interstate 5. Olympia, the State capitol, is about a 30-minute commute to the south. The City's proximity to the Narrows Bridge also facilitates access to the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. Mount Rainer, the Olympic Mountains and the Puget Sound provide scenic backdrops for the City.

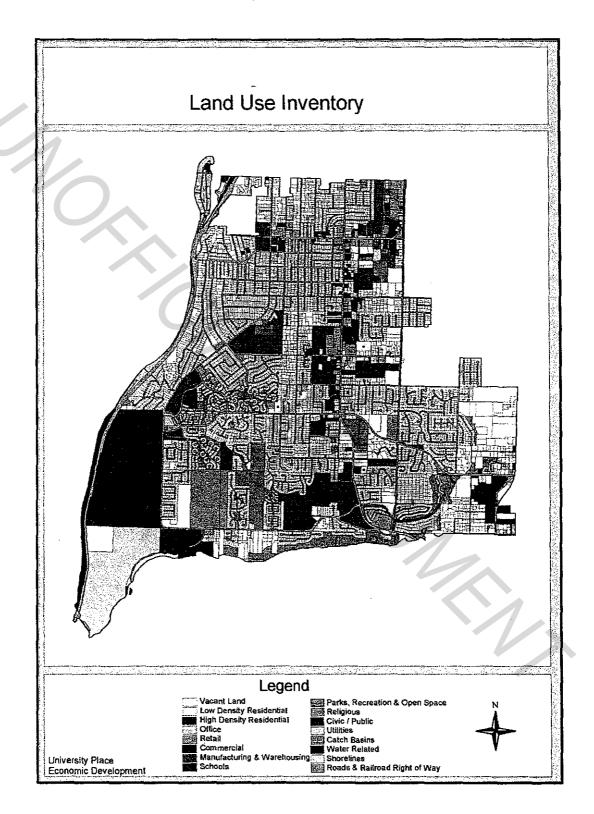
Although the City was incorporated in 1995, its history as a place dates back to the 1890's when the University of Puget Sound, proposed to locate its campus in the existing City Limits. The University of Puget Sound was eventually built in Tacoma, but this area retained the name University Place.

The City is primarily a residential community consisting mostly of single family homes, some multi-family and a centrally located commercial town center. Figure 2 shows the City's residential, commercial, industrial, and public areas. Although the City is now mostly built out with only a few remaining large vacant parcels of land, the community continues to redevelop actively improving local streets, utility infrastructure and parks to further enhance the quality of life.

The City's stunning setting on a hillside overlooking Puget Sound provides great views and opportunities for the development of paths and walkways. The City's natural features, such as the Morrison wetlands, Puget Sound shoreline, Chambers Creek Canyon, Chambers, Leach and Peach Creek corridors, fish and wildlife areas, and very steep slopes limit the ability to develop remaining vacant parcels for residential, commercial and industrial uses.

While unusable for development purposes, many of the City's remaining vacant lands with their distinctive natural features present potential for parks facilities development, passive recreation opportunities and open space preservation. Many of the existing City-owned and other public facilities are located in close proximity to these features.

Figure 2



### **Population**

Population in University Place has grown at a slow by steady rate of about 1% each year over the last decade. Figure 3 shows that the majority of the City's population is under 55 years old and one quarter of the population under the age of 18. The median age in 2000 was 36.5. For comparison the median for the State of Washington was 35.3 and the Nation's average 35.3. The population consists of 47.7% male and 52.3% female.

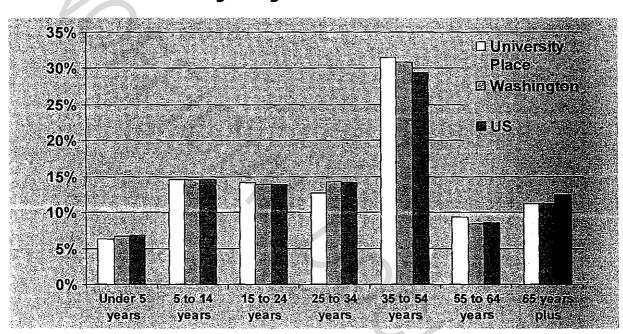


Figure 4
Age Range Breakdown

#### Race

University Place is somewhat unique in that it has a larger percentage of Blacks and Asians than the Washington State average and significantly more Asians but significantly less Hispanics than the national average.

Table 5
Race in University Place

Race	City of University Place	State of Washington	United States
White	75.9%	81.8%	75.1%
Black	8.7%	3.2%	12.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.7%	1.6%	0.9%
Asian Alone	7.5%	5.5%	3.6%
Pacific Islander Alone	0.6%	0.4%	0.1%
Some Other Race Alone	1.3%	3.9%	5.5%
Two or More Races	5.3%	3.6%	2.4%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	3.8%	7.5%	12.5%

### **Educational Attainment**

Residents of the City of University Place are well educated, having higher percentages of people with at least some college and advanced degrees than both the State of Washington and the United States as a whole.

Table 6
Educational Attainment

Degree	City of University Place	State of Washington	United States
Less then 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	2.1%	4.3%	7.5%
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade, No Diploma	5.0%	8.6%	12.1%
High School Graduate	21.1%	24.9%	28.6%
Some College, No Diploma	28.3%	26.4%	21.0%
Associate	9.6%	8.0%	6.3%
Bachelor's	21.6%	18.4%	15.5%
Master's/Prof/Doctorate	12.3%	9.3%	8.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### **Household Size**

The 2000 average household size in the city was 2.45 people while in the US the average household size was 2.53 and 2.59 in the State.

Table 7
Housing Units in 2000

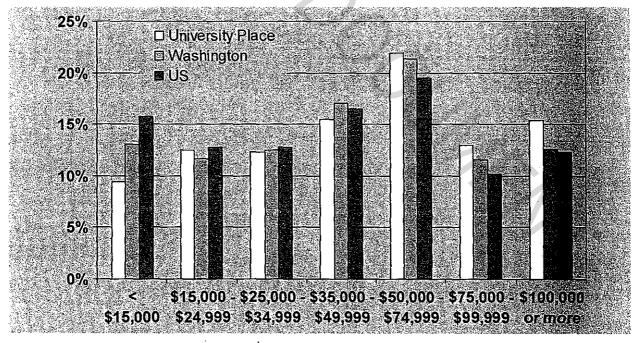
Туре	City of University Place	State of Washington	United States
Owner Occupied Housing Units	57.8%	59.9%	60.2%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	42.2%	32.8%	30.8%
Vacant Housing Units	4.2%	7.3%	9.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### **Household Income**

According to the 2000 Census, median household income in the City was \$50,287 and per capita income was \$25,544. The largest share of households (21.9%) earned \$50,000 to \$74,999 followed next by those earning \$35,000 to \$49,999 (15.5%). The City's household income differs from that of the State and the US in that the City has 3% more population in the category of '\$100,000 or more' and 6.4% fewer population in the "\$15,000 or less' category. The percentage of "households in need" is currently 20.3%.

Figure 3
Household Income



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### **SECTION III**

### **Community Opinion**

Community input was a critical step in defining community priorities for the current PROS Plan. The City conducted three surveys and polled individuals at a series of focus group meetings. In addition to local opinion, the City examined national trends in quality of life, recreational programming, recreational facilities and park and recreation administration.

In 2003, the City distributed the Parks and Recreation Activities and Priorities Survey during two community events and with refuse utility billings. Respondents expressed a preference for both investment in existing parks and the purchase of new parks and open space to meet future needs. However, no clear direction was provided as to which facilities or types of park land should be targeted for this type of investment.

Most survey respondents (64%) expressed a preference for both investment in existing parks and the purchase of new parks and open space to meet future needs. Less than 10% of respondents preferred investment solely in acquisition of new parks and open space. However, few facilities could be identified as a clear priority for investment. Community parks, facilities for organized sports, open space/natural areas, greenways and trails were rated as a somewhat high to high priority. Overall, respondents expressed a high level of satisfaction with recreation programs. Special events were the most well attended recreation programs, followed by participation in youth sports. When asked if a community center should be developed, most (59%) were interested in having access to a multi-purpose room available for rental. There was more support for arts and crafts facilities, fitness class rooms, and performing arts facilities than for a gymnasium, weight or exercise equipment, general purpose class rooms, a commercial kitchen or dining facilities and locker rooms with showers. User fees, rental and leasing arrangements were the most popular suggestions for helping to fund and financially sustain a community center.

In 2003, the City also conducted a Performing Arts Center Feasibility Assessment as part of the University Place Economic Strategic Development Action Plan. The Economic Strategic Development Action Plan called for locating a performing arts and conference center in the City's Town Center. The study described key financial, operating and partnership considerations for development of a Performing Arts Center, experience of other jurisdictions and next steps for the city. The assessment showed discernible community and stakeholder interest in a performing arts center. However, no clear funding partners or providers emerged.

In June 2004, the City conducted an aquatics interest and needs survey. One-third of survey respondents had participated in aquatic programs in the past year at the Curtis Aquatic Center. The Center's open swim and swim lesson programs were the most popular programs and survey respondents were highly satisfied with the programs.

Almost half (47.5%) of all survey respondents used other facilities in surrounding communities for daytime, Saturday or evening open swim hours or swim lessons. Use of other facilities was higher (59.2%) among households with children under the age of 18. Area YMCAs were the most popular facilities for these households. Those who responded from households without children under the age of 18 were more likely to use other, private facilities on a regular basis for adult daytime classes. Additional programming respondents most often requested included the types of programs most regularly used at other facilities — expanded evening or Saturday open swim or lap swim hours and additional adult classes and Saturday swim lessons. If the City developed a public aquatic facility, respondents would be most interested in locker rooms for public use, an indoor pool facility and instructional pool.

In 2004 and 2005, the City created the Capital Strategy Task Force to provide the City Council with a recommendation for future capital improvements. The Capital Strategy Task Force conducted a series of focus group meetings. These focus groups provided their own recommendations and developed a community survey to gather public opinion regarding a capital improvement strategy.

This survey was tailored to determine the community's desire for all capital facilities and its willingness to fund them, including road, street and sidewalk improvements, street lighting, and parks and recreational facility improvements. With regard to parks recreation and open space facilities, respondents generally indicated:

- 1. The level of satisfaction with facilities currently provided by the City is generally high with the least satisfaction in the senior/community indoor recreation facility;
- Members of the households would use a wide range of indoor recreation program spaces with most interest in a walking track, fitness and aquatic facilities;
- 3. A walking and jogging track is the indoor space they would be most willing to support with tax dollars;
- 4. They are supportive of a number of outdoor parks and recreation improvements and most willing to fund trails, athletic fields for youth sports, and land acquisition for passive usage;
- 5. Renovation/development of walking and biking trails is the outdoor parks and recreation improvement respondents would be most willing to fund;

- 6. Continued funding of capital improvements to outdoor and indoor parks and recreation projects is very or somewhat important to over 80% of respondents; and
- 7. Over 80% of respondents would be willing to pay some amount to fund the capital improvement projects most important to their households.

Some specific recommendations from the survey included:

- Provide better access to Puget Sound.
- Maintain existing passive opportunities in the Town Center.
- Provide a gateway to the Chambers Creek greenway at Kobayashi Preserve and connected it to the bike path system.
- Connect school sites with walking paths.
- Create natural areas, habitats, or outdoor-learning centers at schools to provide passive recreation for residents and learning opportunities for students.
- Add picnic shelters and tables at schools that could be used by students and teachers during recess and the community at other times.
- Create a continuous trail with multiple access points from Day Island along the Puget Sound Shoreline, up Chambers Creek Canyon, north along Leach Creek to Woodside Pond and Fircrest.
- Nurture and increase cooperation and partnerships with the School District to expand the use of indoor and outdoor school facilities by the general public.
- Provide additional youth sports fields and improvements to neighborhood parks with playgrounds, etc., in areas lacking facilities.
- Determine the feasibility of a single large, multi-purpose center to meet expressed needs.
- Consider future transit potential in the location of any proposed future facilities.

The Capital Strategy Task Force came up with seven priority items that the community wished to be funded with future available capital improvement monies. They were – in order of preference:

- 1. Additional sidewalks:
- 2. Neighborhood lighting;
- 3. Purchase land for conservation & protection;
- 4. Walking & bike trails;
- 5. Purchase land for passive use:
- 6. Athletic fields upgrade existing or construct new; and
- 7. Improve neighborhood play equipment.

Summaries of the survey results and performing arts feasibility assessment are found in Appendices C, D, E and G.

Overall, survey results and individual recommendations lead to the conclusion that the community seeks a system of outdoor passive and active recreational places and indoor facilities connected by a system of pedestrian and bicycle paths. Although a number of priorities emerge as a result of community input, the first appears to be the purchase of land for conservation and trails. Other priorities in no particular order include a community center with multi-purpose rooms, an indoor walking and jogging track, expansion of existing aquatic programs, and the improvement of existing athletic fields and neighborhood playgrounds.

### SECTION IV: VISION, MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The City's vision, mission, goals and objectives for the parks and recreation program were developed and refined during a series of community meetings between 1996 and 2006. The City's vision was developed in 1996 shortly after incorporation and served as the basis for the development of a mission statement for parks and recreation in 1997 and for goals and policies contained in the City's Comprehensive Plan adopted in 1998.

### Vision

"Expansion of parks and recreation services has been achieved through cooperative efforts of the City, the Parks and School Districts and many citizen volunteers. Residents enjoy more neighborhood parks and public spaces, a community and civic center, public access to the shoreline, and a variety of recreation programs and activities for children, youth, adults, and senior citizens."

### PROS Plan Mission

"Provide park, recreation and open space facilities and programs that no other agency can or is willing to provide; act as a coordinator of local interests where facilities are provided by many other agencies; and perform as a facilitator where unique acquisition or development opportunities may occur which could be implemented or operated by other agencies."

### PARC Mission

"Enrich our quality of life through developing a comprehensive parks & recreation system that preserves and protects our natural resources and provides a variety of leisure time opportunities to meet the diverse and dynamic needs of our community."

The following parks, recreation and open space goals and objectives were developed by staff under PARC guidance to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. These goals and objectives update those of the PROS Plan by augmenting community input from the 2003 PROS Survey, the 2004 Aquatic Survey and the 2005 -2006 Capital Strategy Task Force Community Survey. Goals and objectives are divided into the following groups: Community Involvement, Planning and Implementation, Facility Development and Maintenance, Historical and Cultural Resources, Parks, Open Space and Greenbelts, Access to Parks, Civic Facilities, Human Resources, Acquisition and Finance and Acquisition Policy.

### **Goal 1: Community Involvement**

Invite, encourage and involve the entire community, including the business community and other public jurisdictions and agencies, to participate in planning and developing parks and recreational services and facilities.

- 1.1 Encourage citizen involvement in all aspects of the City's parks and open space selection, development, and day-to-day use.
- 1.2 Identify lands of regional significance for preservation as parks or open space through a process involving University Place residents, landowners and conservation groups, other cities and other government agencies.
- 1.3 Establish effective ways to inform people about parks and recreation activities and programs.
- 1.4 Promote collaboration among various public and private agencies in developing and using the community's recreational and cultural capabilities.
- 1.5 Encourage donations of public park and open space land and improvements that help implement the PROS Plan and design plans for individual sites.
- 1.6 Promote a close working relationship between the City and local school districts to provide the best possible level of park and recreation service.
- 1.7 Maximize the use of school facilities as activity and recreation centers.
- 1.8 Encourage cooperation between public and private groups for planning and use of recreational facilities.

### Goal 2: Planning and Implementation

Develop a high quality, diversified park, recreation and open space system that benefits citizens of various ages, incomes and physical abilities.

- 2.1 Identify, acquire, and preserve a wide variety of lands for park and open space purposes.
- 2.2 Ensure a fair geographic distribution of parks, playgrounds, and related recreation opportunities.
- 2.3 Evaluate impacts on surrounding land uses when considering sites for acquisition and in developing park sites.
- 2.4 Encourage improvement and use of underutilized publicly owned properties for park, recreation and open space purposes.
- 2.5 Encourage development of active recreation facilities and programs that are responsive to community needs and interests and based on the demand for recreation programs.
- 2.6 Enhance recreation opportunities for University Place by partnering with other cities, non-profit groups, local businesses, other government agencies and University Place School District.
- 2.7 Require usable open space in residential development to provide open space and recreation for children and adults in new residential projects. Encourage public plazas, seating and other usable open space in commercial projects.

- 2.8 Improve bicycle access and safety throughout University Place and provide new bicycle lanes or trails when streets or transportation facilities are constructed or improved.
- 2.9 Coordinate development of parks, open space, pedestrian walkways, bike paths, water trails, and an urban trail system with the area's unique open space settings including wetlands, creeks, greenbelts, and other environmentally sensitive and historic sites.
- 2.10 Provide adequate Community Center facilities for youth and adults based on community support and funding capacity.
- 2.11 Encourage development of community oriented enrichment programs that are responsive to community needs and promote community support.

### Goal 3: Facility Development and Maintenance

Create, maintain and upgrade park, recreational and cultural facilities to respond to changing uses and improve operational efficiency.

- 3.1 Periodically review buildings and parks to determine if the public's needs are being met and make changes as necessary to meet those needs efficiently.
- 3.2 Encourage volunteer and civic groups to take part in appropriate periodic maintenance and improvement of park facilities.
- 3.3 Provide clean, safe, and attractive parks for public use through a maintenance program which matches the intensity of use and character of the park and facilities.

### Goal 4: Historical and Cultural Resources

Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites and structures that have historical or cultural significance.

- 4.1 Seek opportunities to identify, commemorate and preserve the City's historical and cultural resources.
- 4.2 Enhance the cultural environment in the community by promoting the creation and placement of art in various public venues throughout the city.
- 4.3 Once identified, designate significant historical and cultural resources for preservation and enhancement.
- 4.4 Encourage public education programs regarding historic, archaeological and cultural land sites and structures as a means of raising public awareness of the value of maintaining these resources.
- 4.5 Coordinate and cooperate with local, state and national historical and cultural preservation organizations.

### Goal 5: Parks, Open Space and Greenbelts

Develop parks and maintain parks, open spaces and greenbelts, recognizing that these are an integral part of the City's infrastructure character and quality of life.

- 5.1 Preserve greenbelts so that the expanse and intensity of development is tempered by natural features found in the community, and so that wildlife habitat and corridors are maintained and enhanced.
- 5.2 Encourage the connection and linkage of parks, open spaces and greenbelts.
- 5.3 Provide usable open space in the Town Center, mixed use and commercial areas.

### Goal 6: Access to Parks

Ensure safe and convenient access to recreational lands, facilities and programs.

- 6.1 Locate major recreational facilities that generate large amounts of traffic on sites with direct arterial access, preferably grouped with other traffic generators.
- 6.2 Provide safe parking at parks and recreational facilities that commonly draw crowds which arrive by automobile or bicycle.
- 6.3 Provide recreational opportunities that do not discriminate against any participant, regardless of age, income, race, creed, color, sex, or special need, and eliminate all barriers to special populations. Adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) where required.

### **Goal 7: Civic Facilities**

Provide a range of spaces and places for civic functions such as public meetings, ceremonial events, and community festivals.

- 7.1 Create public spaces throughout the City.
- 7.2 Encourage the inclusion of public art.
- 7.3 Encourage community volunteerism in public beautification projects.

### Goal 8: Human Resources

Develop training and support for a professional parks and recreation staff that effectively serves the community.

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

### Goal 9: Acquisition and Finance

Acquire and finance a comprehensive park, open space and recreation system through a variety of methods and distribute costs equitably among those who benefit.

- 9.1 Continue the City's commitment to build and maintain parks and recreation facilities to meet established level of service standards.
- 9.2 Use the current Capital Improvement Program to prioritize parks, recreation, and open space funding.
- 9.3 Preserve parcels identified as potential parks, open space and trails using a variety of methods, including regulations, mitigation fees, incentives, trades, and the purchase of lands or easements.
- 9.4 Encourage development designs which create, preserve and maintain open space accessible to the general public.
- 9.5 Acquire and develop parks and trails with public funds, shared use of transportation right-of-ways, and dedications from large residential and commercial developments.
- 9.6 Develop park mitigation options for all development based on development impacts.
- 9.7 Take advantage of all outside sources of funding and assistance for park and recreation projects and programs.
- 9.8 Encourage private businesses and service organizations to develop recreational opportunities for neighborhoods and for the community.

### **Acquisition Policy**

Acquisition opportunities should be evaluated against the following twelve criteria designed to mitigate city risk and clearly measure benefits to the city:

- 1. How well does the acquisition respond to an urgent need or opportunity?
- 2. Is the acquisition necessary to fulfill a legal, contractual or other requirement?
- 3. Is the acquisition consistent with the PROS, Comprehensive Plan and any other applicable plans?
- 4. How does the opportunity respond to health and safety issues?
- 5. What are the costs and potential funding opportunities?
- 6. Is the public support for the acquisition?
- 7. Is there a project ready?
- 8. What are the implications of deferring or postponing acquisition?
- 9. What are the benefits to other capital projects, existing parks, systems, facilities, services or service deliveries?
- 10. What are the impacts to maintenance and operations?
- 11. How many city residents will be served and in what area?
- 12. Does the acquisition provide pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle accessibility?

# SECTION V: PARK FACILITIES AND RECREATION SERVICES INVENTORY

The City of University Place provides parks, recreation and open space facilities and services to the residents in partnership with Pierce County, the University Place School District and private facility operators. Through these strategic partnerships and its own services, the City provides adequate parks, recreation and open space facilities to the residents of University Place and the larger community surrounding the City.

The City has a number of different types of park and recreation facilities and open space. Facility types are divided into categories including:

<u>Mini Parks</u>, single-purpose play lots sometimes referred to as "tot lots." The primary focus of such parks is a piece of playground equipment, supplemented with a small open grass area or several picnic tables and/or benches. They are usually one acre or less in size and designed to serve the surrounding area within a quarter mile of the park. Most of these facilities are in private developments.

<u>Neighborhood Parks</u> are suited for passive and/or active family activities and play. Features often include playground equipment, picnic areas, pathways or trails, open grass areas and informal multi-use sports fields. Parking facilities are usually available. Neighborhood parks are usually two to ten acres in size and geographically positioned in a residential neighborhood within safe walking and bicycle access for residents.

<u>Community Parks</u> include areas suited for intense recreational activities, such as basketball courts, small-sized playfields or multi-use sports fields for soccer, baseball or other such uses to provide active and structured opportunities for young people and adults. These parks can also provide walking, viewing, sitting or picnicking opportunities and may possibly offer covered and/or indoor facilities. Because these parks are focused on meeting a wider geographic range of recreational needs, they can be 10 to 30 acres in size and serve several neighborhoods within a two mile radius of the park.

<u>Greenways</u> are defined as any path, route, right-of-way, or corridor posted, signed or designated as open for (non-motorized) travel or passage by the general public. These may include landscaped areas that are located along street right-of-ways and intersections, entry features and plazas. They often feature landscaping, seating areas, view corridors and entrance signs.

A greenway may be paved or unpaved, allowing for pedestrian or bicycle commuting and/or passive recreation, and can serve as a link to other components of the recreation system or community facilities. Greenways should be sufficient in width to protect the resource and provide maximum use.

<u>Trails and Bicycle Routes</u> consist of maintained areas that generally follow a stream corridor, ravine or some other elongated feature, such as a public right-of-way. They can be designed for a single type of activity or may be multi-purpose in nature. They can vary in length and grade, and provide links between neighborhoods, parks, public schools and communities.

<u>Open Space and Natural Areas</u> preserve the special natural character or an important habitat conservation area. These areas, open to passive recreation uses such as walking, bird watching and interpretive educational programs, may include environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, wetland buffers, creeks, streams or river corridors, forested or upland wildlife habitat areas, steep hillsides, ravines, bluffs or canyons. The area may or may not be open to public access. These areas are usually sized appropriately to protect the resource.

Regional Parks serve a population beyond the city boundary due to their orientation, location, size or unique qualities. These parks are usually large and often include one specific use or feature that makes it unique, such as environmental education and trail features, a golf courses, or soccer field complex. Because of their size, these parks are usually accessible via a collector or arterial street.

<u>School Facilities</u> include indoor recreation spaces including gymnasiums, aquatic centers and meeting rooms and outdoor facilities including playgrounds, courts and athletic fields.

<u>Special Use Facilities</u> include small or special landscaped areas, community gardens, or a site occupied by recreation buildings or a specialized facility (such as a retreat/meeting facility).

Figure 5 and Tables 8 and 9 on the following pages provide an overview of public facilities in the city. A detailed inventory of all public facilities in the city is included in Appendix A: The Park, Recreation and Open Space Facility Inventory. Appendix A lists individual park sites and includes information such as: ownership (designated by logo), available facilities, a basic site plan, aerial photographs and topographic information for each park, recreation and open space sites located in the city.

Figure 5

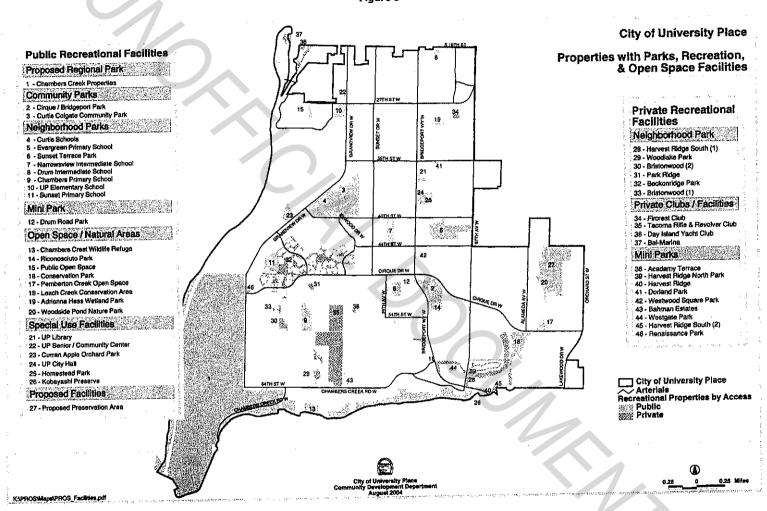


Table 8
Public Parks, Recreation and Open Space Facilities

Parks/Facilities	Features	Size
Mini Parks		
Drum Basketball Court	Basketball Court	0.5
Curtis Big Toy	Playground	0.5
Neighborhood Parks		
Sunset Terrace Park	Field, Playground	5.6
Community Parks		
Cirque Park	Fields, Playground, Skate Park, Restrooms	22.0
Curtis/Colgate Park	Tennis Courts	11.0
Regional Parks		
	Golf Course, Fields, Trail Restrooms,	
Chambers Creek Properties	Concessions	240
Greenways		
Grandview Trail	Path, Scenic Views	80
Open Space/ Natural Areas		
	No Public Access,	
Chambers Crest Wildlife Refuge	Wildlife Corridor	7.5
Riconosciuto Property	No Public Access	5.0
Conservation Park	Green Space	1.5
Pemberton Creek Open Space	No Public Access, Wetland, Wildlife Corridor	4.9
Leach Creek Conservation Area	No Public Access, Wetland, Wildlife Corridor	14.8
Adrianna Hess Wetland Park	Meeting Rooms, Wetland, Bird Watching	2.0
Chambers Creek Properties	Limited Access to Canyon / South Point	260
Woodside Pond Nature Park	No Public Access, Wetland, Wildlife Corridor	3.6
Special Use Facilities		
Senior/Community Center	Meeting Rooms, Kitchen	0.5
Curran Apple Orchard Park	Orchard, Playground, Band Stand	7.3
City Hall	Meeting Rooms, Kitchen	2.4
	Open Green, Gardens, Trails, Information	
Homestead Park	Kiosk	6.0
Kobayashi Preserve	Open Green, Trail, Fishing Wildlife Corridor	5.5
School Facilities		
	Gymnasium, Aquatic Center, Fields, Ball	
Curtis Sr. High School	Courts, Track Performing Arts Theater	10.9
Curtis Jr. High School	Gymnasium, Fields, Ball Courts, Track	10.3
	Gymnasium, Fields, Playground, Basketball	7 7
Drum Intermediate School	Courts	2.8
Narrows View Intermediate School	Fields, Playground	4.3
	Gymnasium, Fields, Playground, Basketball	1.0
Evergreen Elementary School	Court	5.5
Transport Editionally Salosi	Gymnasium, Fields, Playground, Basketball	3.3
Chambers Primary School	Court	2.8
Sunset Primary School	Gymnasium, Fields, Basketball Court	3.3
University Place Primary School	Fields, Playground, Basketball Court	4
Total Acres	. rolos, riaggiouna, basiceban court	724.5

# Table 9 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Statistics

# Park or Recreation Facility By Use

#### **Number of Units**

Wildlife Habitat/Resource Conservancy Linear Parks and Trails Acres Conserved Improved Playgrounds Outdoor Basketball Courts Tennis Courts

202.0 acres (32.1 acres owned by City) 0.5 acres of developed walking trails 101.5 acres

12 playgrounds (2 owned by City)

19 courts 10 courts

Football, Soccer, Baseball & Softball Fields 34 total fields (1 owned by City)

3,150 sq. ft. of indoor swimming pools

Source: City of University Place 2003-2004 Adopted Biennial Budget.

#### **Recreation Services**

Swimming Pools

The City of University Place provides a variety of recreation services to City residents. Residents of surrounding communities also utilize many of these recreation programs, services and parks facilities. The City partners with the University Place School District to provide aquatic services for residents. In addition, there are several privately operated recreation facilities and services operating inside the City limits as well as just outside its borders, such as the Morgan Family or Lakewood YMCA. Table 10 provides a list of programs provided by the city.

# Table 10 Recreation Programs & Classes

AARP Drivers Training - 55 Alive Adult / Senior Computer Classes Adult - Coed / Men's Softball Aerobics / Weight training **Babysitter Training** Ballroom / Latin / Swing **Dance Classes** Basketball Baseball / Softball Challenger Brittish Soccer CPR / First Aid **Country Line Dancing Daddy Daughter Dance** Dodgeball Dog Training: Basic Obedience / Puppy Jump Start

Feng Shui Class Flag Football **FREE Seminars Guitar Class** Golf Hip Hop / Jazz Dance Class Ice Angels Basic Skills (Ice Skating) Indoor Soccer Irish Dance Class Jazz / Hip Hop Dance Class Kidz Love Soccer Late Night Out Dances -Teens **Operation Paintball Pilates Quinault Casino SAIL Fitness Classes** 

Senior Weekly Drop-In **Activities** Skyhawks Sport Camps Ski / Snowboard Classes Tae Kwon Do Tennis - Youth & Adult Trip & Tours Viola Classes Violin Classes Walking Club Winter / Spring / Summer -Day Camps Yoga Youth Etiquette Classes Youth Technology Computer Classes Zumba

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# SECTION VI: NEEDS/SITUATION ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the needs/situation assessment is to identify and understand current and future demand for park, recreation and open space facilities and services and determine what facilities and services the community needs now and in the future to meet demand.

A level of service analysis was used to determine the City's existing capacity to provide parks and recreation facilities and services. This capacity is expressed in terms of the size or quantity of a given facility per unit of population. The parks and recreation inventory summarized in Section V above provides the basis for determining the existing level of service.

Next, level of service standards were established based on community demographic information, regional and national trends, the function and condition of existing facilities and citizen input (surveys) regarding participation, satisfaction, preferences and priorities to determine existing unfilled and future needs. Like capacity service standards are expressed as a number of facilities per 1,000 persons. For example, the national standard for passive and active recreation acres is 34.45 acres/1,000.

Table 11 shows the existing level of service for passive and active recreation land in comparably-sized, full service cities in Pierce, King and Thurston counties and the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) norms. The cities range from 20.7 acres per 1,000 to persons (Olympia) to 7.43 (Puyallup), while the national norm is 34.45 acres per 1,000 persons. Without the County's Chambers Creek Properties, the City's ratio of acres per 1000 persons is the lowest among neighboring jurisdictions at 3.14. Adding the 685 acre Chambers Creek Properties brings the City closer to the NRPA standards than any of its comparative neighbors.

Table 11
National Standards, Passive and Active Acreage in Neighboring and Comparable Jurisdictions

<b>City</b> NRPA Standard	April 1, 2004 Population Estimate	Total Acres of Park Land	Acres Per 1000 Population 34.45*	Active or Developed Park Land	Active Acres Per 1000 Population	Passive or Undeveloped Park Land	Passive Acres Per 1000 Population
University Place:	30,800	781.57	25.39	104.23	3.38	581.05	18.87
Chambers Creek Propertic City Of University Place		685 <b>96.57</b>	22.24 3.14	75.2 <b>29.03</b>	2.44 <b>0.94</b>	513.51 <b>67.54</b>	16.67 <b>2.2</b>
Olympia	43,040	891.42	20.71	299.55	6.96	591.87	13.75
Federal Way	83,590	916	10.96	512.2	6.13	403.8	4.83
Burien	31,130	325.32	10.45	228	7.32	90	2.89
Lacy	32,225	500.5	15.53	124.5	3.86	346	10.74
Lakewood	59,010	595.5	10.09	252	4.27	320.5	5.43
Des Moines	29,020	270.18	9.31	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Puyallup	35,690	265	7.43	90	2.52	175	4.9

\*Source: April 1 Population of Cities, Towns and Counties Used for Allocation of Selected State Revenues, Washington State Office of Financial Management (2004), City Budgets (2004), supplemented with staff interviews.

# **National Standards**

There are no definitive "National Standards" rather there are a number of publications including a book titled "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" (Lancaster, 1983) published by the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA). This publication recommends that a park system, at minimum, be composed of a core system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population (Lancaster, 1983, p. 56). The guidelines also make recommendations regarding an appropriate mix of park types, sizes, service areas and acreages, and standards regarding the number of available recreational facilities per thousand population. While the book was published by NRPA and the table of standards became widely known as "the NRPA standards," these standards were never formally adopted for use by NRPA.

Other publications have updated and expanded on possible "standards," several of which have been published by NRPA. Many of these publications benchmark what an "average LOS" should be. In essence, the popularly referred to "NRPA standards" for LOS, as such, do not exist. Table 12 provides some of the more commonly used "capacity standards" today.

It is key to realize these standards can be valuable when referenced as "norms" for capacity, but not necessarily as the target standards for which a community should strive. Standards are utilized in this plan as a tool to address the level of service targets, as described more fully on the following pages.

However, it is important to note that each community is different, and there are many varying factors which are not addressed by the capacity standards alone.

# Table 12 Common LOS Capacity "Standards"

Activity/ Facility	Recommended Space Requirements	Service Radius and Location Notes	Number of Units per Population
Baseball Official	3.0 to 3.85 acre minimum	¼ to ½ mile Unlighted part of neighborhood complex; lighted fields part of community complex	1 per 5,000; lighted 1 per 30,000
Little League	1.2 acre minimum		
Basketball Youth High school	2,400 – 3,036 vs. 5,040 – 7,280 s.f.	1/4 to 1/2 mile Usually in school, recreation center or church facility; safe walking or bide access; outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks,	1 per 5,000
r ngn sonoor	0,040 1,200 3.1.	plus active recreation areas in other park settings	
Football	Minimum 1.5 acres	15 – 30 minute travel time Usually part of sports complex in community park or adjacent to school	1 per 20,000
Soccer	1.7 to 2.1 acres	to 2 miles     Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to larger soccer fields or neighborhood parks	1 per 10,000
Softball	1.5 to 2.0 acres	1/2 to 1/2 mile  May also be used for youth baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool & amenities; usually ½ to 2-acre site	15 – 30 minutes travel time  Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive & recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m to 3m diving boards; located in community park or school site	1 per 20,000 (pools should accommodate 3% to 5% of total population at a time)
Tennis	Minimum of 7,200 s.f. single court area (2 acres per complex	1/4 to 1/4 mile  Best in groups of 2 to 4 courts; located in neighborhood community park or near school site	1 court per 2,000
Volleyball	Minimum 4,000 s.f.	½ to 1 mile Usually in school, recreation center or church facility; safe walking or bide access; outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings	1 court per 5,000
Total land Acreage		Various types of parks - mini, neighborhood, community, regional, conservation, etc.	7.5 to 10 acres per 1,000

#### Sources:

David N. Ammons, Municipal Benchmarks - Assessing Local Performance and Establishing Community Standards, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 2002

Roger A. Lancaster (Ed.), Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines (Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983), pp. 56-57.

James D. Mertes and James R. Hall, *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways* Guidelines, (Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1996), pp. 94-103.

# **GRASP<sup>TM</sup>**

The level of service analysis use in this plan goes beyond the typical capacity standards analysis described above. This expanded methodology is called GRASP™ (Geo-referenced Amenities Standards Program). In addition to a capacity analysis, other factors including quality, condition, location, comfort, convenience and ambience are considered. Parks, recreation facilities and open space are evaluated as part of an overall infrastructure made up of various components such as playgrounds, multi-purpose fields, passive use areas, etc. The ways in which the characteristics listed above affect the amount of service provided by the components of the system are described below.

**Quality** — The service provided by any component, whether it is a playground, soccer field, or swimming pool is determined in part by its quality. A playground with a variety of features, such as climbing structures, slides, and swings provides a higher degree of service than one with nothing but an old teeter-totter and some "monkey-bars."

**Condition** — The condition of a component within the park system also affects the amount of service it provides. A playground in disrepair with unsafe equipment does not offer the same service as one in good condition. Similarly, a soccer field with a smooth surface of well-maintained grass certainly offers a higher degree of service than one that is full of weeds, ruts and other hazards.

**Location** — A park or component serves the public only if they can get to it. A typical park playground provides greater service to those who live nearby than someone living all the way across town. Therefore, service is dependent upon proximity and access.

**Comfort** — The service provided by a component, such as a playground or ball field, is increased by amenities such as shade, seating and nearby restrooms. Comfort enhances the experience of using a component.

**Convenience** — Convenience encourages individuals to use a component or visit a park, which in turn increases the amount of service that it offers. For example, easy access and the availability of trash receptacles, bike rack, or nearby parking enhance the service provided by a component.

**Ambience** — Simple observation proves that people are drawn to places that "feel" good. This includes a sense of safety and security, as well as pleasant surroundings, attractive views and a sense of place. A well-designed park is preferable to poorly-designed one, and this enhances the degree of service provided by the components within it.

The methodology evaluates each of the various components found within the park and open space system to determine their geographic location, quality and condition. The quantity of each component is recorded providing data on capacity for the LOS analysis.

By combining and analyzing the value of each component, it is possible to measure the service provided by the entire park and open space system from a variety of perspectives and for any given location. The results are presented in a series of maps and tables that make up the GRASP<sup>TM</sup> analysis.

## **Scoring the Components**

The analysis uses a scoring system to record the service value of each component when all of the characteristics are taken into account. For each component, it is assumed that the typical or "average" characteristics found in University Place represents the normal expectations of the community for that component, unless input from staff, the public, or other sources indicates otherwise. For example, the typical playground in University Place contains a moderate-sized children's play structure with a variety of elements that allow for physical and social play. The structure is in reasonably good condition, and it is an enclosed area of safety surfacing with a low fence around it. This "average" playground can be used as the basis for a three-point scoring system wherein a score of "2" represents the basic level of quality and condition expected for a playground. Playgrounds that exceed this average because they are newer or contain special features are given a score of "3", and playgrounds that fall below it because they are old, obsolete, or otherwise inferior receive a score of "1." A playground that is unsafe or otherwise unusable would receive a score of "0."

In this fashion, all of the major components within each park and open space throughout the system were scored against an assumed basic level of expectation for quality and condition. This is the Component Score for that component. The geographic location for the component was also recorded.

At each site, an evaluation was also made of the comfort, convenience and ambience of the park, and an overall score from one to three was given to each property to represent how it compares to a basic level of expectation for these qualities. This is the Overall Park Multiplier.

Finally, it should be noted that the score for components located on school sites was discounted by ½ to account for the fact that school uses have priority, and access to the general public may be limited at certain times.

### Measuring Service

Service, as described earlier, is derived from both a combination of characteristics and the result of multiple components working together to meet a specific set of needs. The LOS for a given need at any geographic location is dependent upon the combined service offered by all facilities available to meet that need, which exist within reasonable access from that geographic location. This is the basis for the GRASP<sup>TM</sup> method of determining LOS. Level of Service is graphically displayed as a series of shades on University Place maps.

Each map uses the composite service values for selected combinations of components to show how a particular type of service is being provided. The service value of any given component is calculated by multiplying its Component Score by the Overall Park Multiplier for its location. The combination of components for each map is determined by the type of service being measured, such as Active Recreation, Passive Use, Indoor Recreation or a combination of all.

#### Service Areas

Because the ease of access to a component also affects service, a service radius is assigned to each component. A service radius of 1/3 mile is used based on the assumption that this radius encompasses an area from which the component can normally be reached within a walking time of 10 minutes. This is intended to be the case, even along an indirect route, with the exceptions of the indoor areas, where varying buffers have been utilized.

Walking times are used instead of driving times because given the size of University Place, it is possible to drive to/from any point to another within a reasonable drive time. For that reason, the distribution and location of facilities is less important to the Level of Service than the quantity and quality of facilities. Having an adequate number of facilities of the basic quality needed for a given activity will address the LOS requirements regardless of the location of those facilities. By looking at walking times, the GRASP™ LOS analysis brings into it the added dimension of walkability to the services being provided.

# The GRASP™ LOS Maps

By assigning a component's value to its service area and plotting it on a map, the area served by the component is displayed as a shaded circle. The shade of the circle represents the service value of the component with darker shades representing higher values. By overlaying the service areas from multiple components, a composite map (Figure 9) is produced that provides a graphic representation of the cumulative level of service for any given location on the map. A darker shade at any given location indicates that the service areas overlaying that location cumulatively provide a higher level of service to the location. Lighter colors indicate locations with lower cumulative levels of service.

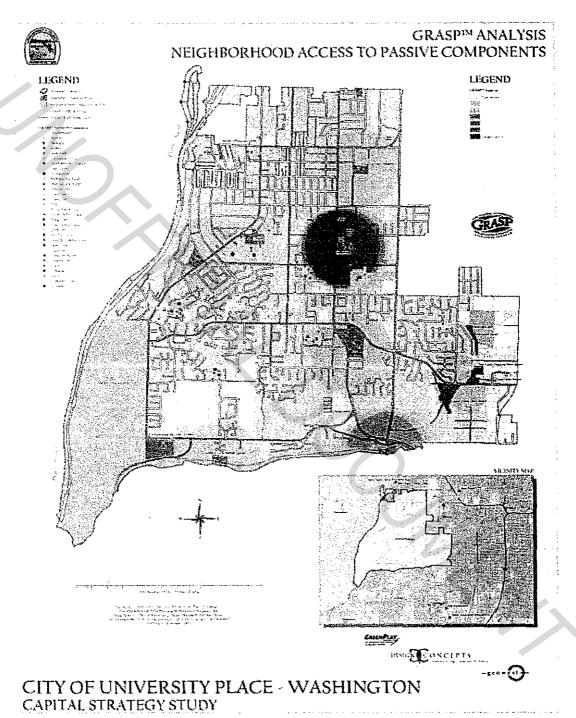
This analysis is intended to show how service is being provided primarily by University Place's parks, open space and recreation facilities. In some instances, scores for components have been adjusted to reflect a reduced amount of public access. For example, school facilities are available for public recreational use only outside of school hours. The analysis is limited to the city limits because facilities outside of the city, while being available to residents, are not within the city's control and may be subject to change without the city's input.

## **Access to Passive Components**

Figure 6 shows facilities that support passive use. The map was compiled using the service value scores for those components that offer opportunities for passive recreation such as walking, quiet contemplation, enjoyment of nature, etc. These include natural areas such as woodlands, native grass areas, wetlands, ponds, streams, etc. It also includes observation points, vistas, and specialty locations such as the stream confluence in Kobayashi where people come to watch the salmon run. Other components include open lawn areas suitable for informal activities, walking paths, trailheads, picnic shelters, public art and specialty gardens.

The shades on this map represent composite scores ranging from 0 to 65.5, with a mean score of 18.53. The map indicates that nearly all of University Place has at least some level of service for passive recreation. The only exceptions are a few neighborhoods at the edges of the city. The pale shade showing over most of the city represents a numeric value of about two to three, which is primarily the result of the designated bikeway system. This system essentially forms a grid of 1/2 mile or less throughout much of the city. Most of these trails are on-street bike lanes and/or walkways paralleling the street, which in and of themselves may have a relatively low recreational value, but provide access to other components that allow for passive recreation.

Figure 6
Access to Passive Components



Note: Map layouts are being modified for Plan Update

Several areas, including those around Adrianna Hess Wetland, Curran Apple Orchard, Cirque Park, Chambers-Crest Wildlife Habitat and the Leach Creek Open Space, enjoy a somewhat higher level of service in the category of passive recreation. Values here range from about 10 to 12. These are well-distributed across the city, which means that residents outside of these areas do not have to travel too far to take advantage of them. The most notable exception is the northwest corner of the city, which would potentially have much higher service if better access to Puget Sound could be made available.

#### **Access to Active Components**

Figure 7 uses components that support active uses, both indoor and outdoor. This includes sports courts and fields, aquatic facilities, gymnasiums, golfing, hiking and biking paths, playgrounds, skate parks and open lawn areas suitable for informal games. The SCUBA access points at the peninsula on the northwest corner of the city were also counted as active components.

Most of the City displays the same low-level service score found for passive recreation, because the path system was included on both maps with the assumption that the paths serve both active and passive recreational needs. The highest service levels for active recreation reach just above 84 points, and the mean is 29. Service scores for active recreation throughout the city would be higher if the scores were not discounted for components on school sites.

The highest levels of service are found around the Colgate and Cirque parks. This is because there are a relatively high number of active-use components found at these sites. The Colgate site would score much higher than it does if it were a city-run facility rather than a School District facility.

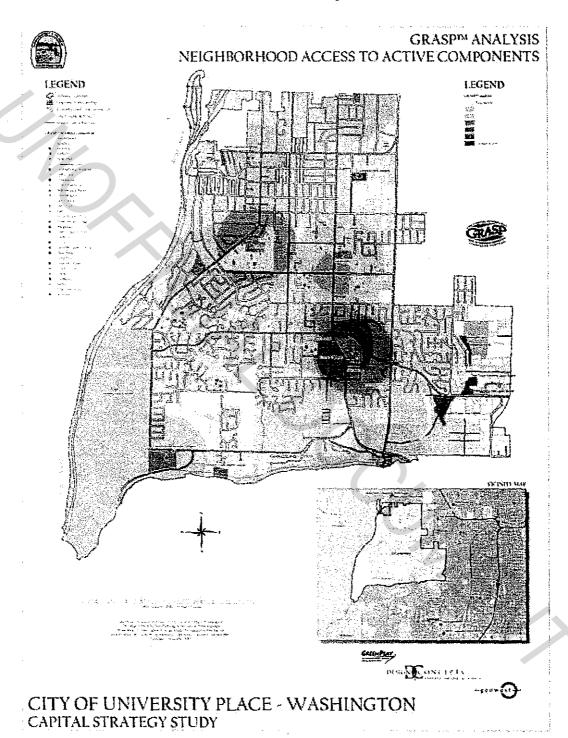
The distribution of service across the city is good. The highest concentrations of service are found in the center of the city, and moderate levels are distributed throughout the rest of the city. All of the sites within the city that offer high levels of service for active recreation are within relatively easy reach of the bikeway system.

### **Access to Indoor Components**

Figure 8 shows typical indoor components including community centers, indoor pools, gymnasiums and multipurpose rooms. As with previous maps, the scores for components on school sites are discounted.

Unlike the previous maps, a great deal of the city shows a service score of zero. This is normal because indoor facilities tend to be fewer in number than parks and other outdoor sites, and people typically are willing to travel to indoor facilities. Many residents currently travel to other communities to utilize indoor recreation facilities.

Figure 7
Access to Active Components



October 2007 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Figure 8
Access to Indoor Components

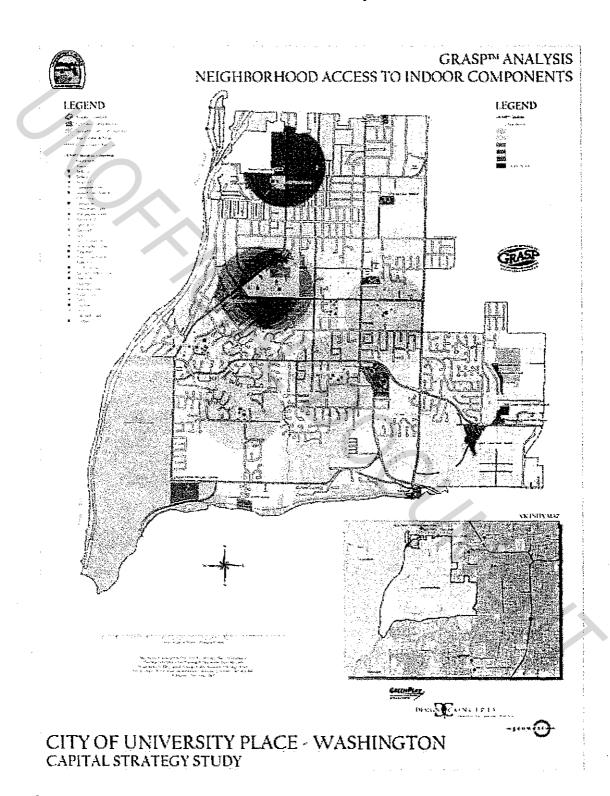


Figure 8 is somewhat misleading in that it shows the highest level of service to be in the vicinity of University Place Primary. This is because the Senior Community Center is one of the only city-owned indoor facilities on the map; therefore, the only component that is scored at full value. The map clearly indicates the current heavy reliance on school facilities for indoor recreation and the importance of maximizing the benefits of these.

The distribution of service as shown on the map indicates that current components have a fairly central location with the exception of the Senior Center. The southeast portion of the city is somewhat lacking in service for indoor recreation.

# **Access To All Components**

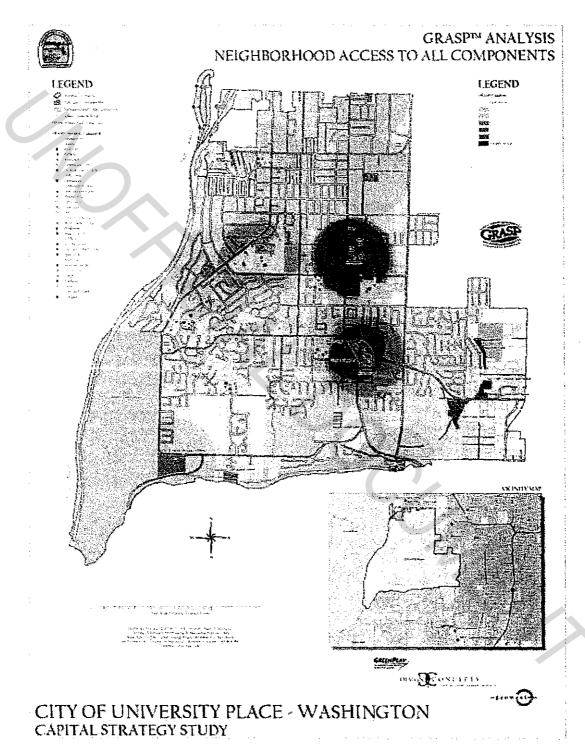
Figure 9 is a composite of all components including active, passive and indoor. It provides a picture of the level of service by the entire parks and recreation system. The scores range from a base level of 1.0 for most of the city (the lightest shade on the map) to a high of 104.5. This map shows that 95% of the city is covered by at least some level of service. The average score for the entire city is 20.3 points.

Table 13
GRASP™ Analysis Access to All Components

			LOS POINTS	5	Total LOS	Total Corporate	Average Points	
	1 - 7.9	8 - 29.9	30 – 49.9	50 - 74.9	<b>475</b> 4	Acres	Acres	Per LOS Acre
Acres	1869	2080	689	135	345	5117	5377	20.3
Percent	35%	39%	13%	3%	6%	95%		

In Figure 8, the distribution of service is fairly even. The higher service areas occur in the central parts of the city and moderate-service areas are well distributed, although there is an apparent lack of moderate service in the southwest-central area and in the far southeast area of the city.

Figure 9
Access to All Components



Note: Map layouts are being modified for Plan Update

# **Capacity Analysis**

The GRASP™ analysis provides a comprehensive view of the levels of service from an overall quality and distribution perspective. It is also useful to look at the quantities and capacities of individual features including but not limited to sport courts, athletic fields, and picnic shelters, where having an adequate supply of facilities is more important than the location or distribution of those facilities.

# **Capacity LOS for Recreation Components**

Tables 14, 15 and 16 show the capacity for passive, active and indoor recreation components respectfully. These tables show the quantities currently available for various components throughout the city. Components that are under construction, presently funded, or otherwise expected to be in place within the next five years have been counted. For each component, the tables show the current quantity of that component on a "per-1000 persons" basis and the prorata number of persons in University Place represented by each component for all public facilities. The tables also include a projection of the number facilities that will need to be added to maintain the current ratios as the population grows and a recommended target capacity based on regional and national standards and community input.

#### **Capacity LOS for Passive Recreation Components**

The October 2005 Citizen Survey indicates that some of the highest priorities for the general public are additional open space and trails. Table 14 shows that there are 412 acres of natural areas in University Place. Some of these are entire parcels of land, and some are portions of existing parks or other developed sites. Unfortunately most of this natural open space is inaccessible to the public. Over 200 acres is in Chambers Creek Canyon and another 100 acres in the southern portion of Chambers Creek Properties. Although Table 14 shows that the city has approximately ½ of the trails it needs, these trails include street sidewalks and the paved Grandview Trail. The City lacks nature trails in wooded and natural open space areas.

Establishing a Chambers – Leach Creek trail corridor by acquiring properties and/or trail easements and building a trail will open much of the available natural areas in the city and provide the trail deficit. Other passive components the City needs to meet adopted service levels include two bandstands, four large picnic shelters, three trailheads and two water features.

Table 14
Capacity LOS for Passive Recreation Components

		Acres	Amphitheater	Band Stand	Natural Area - in	Open Turf	Paths and Trails	Picnic Shelter .	Pond	Garden	Trall Head	Water Feature
INVENTORY						er galland	e of the factor	<u> </u>		11999	1 m 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	agreement for A
City of University Place		99.62	0	11	51.2	3	1.2	1	2	1	1	11
Schools		136.45	0	0	1 1	1	0.25	0	0	0	0	0
County		690	1	0	360	24.5	3	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL		926.07	1	1	412.2	28.5	4.45	1	2	1	2	1
CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (per 1000 population)												
CURRENT POPULATION	31,400											
Current Level of Service (Capacity)		29.49	0.03	0.03	13.13	0.91	0.14	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.03
Population per component		33.91	31,400	31,400	76.18	1101.75	7,056	31,400	15,700	31,400	15,700	31,400
TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE (per 1000 population)	MONTH OF			CONTRACTOR OF		医海绵溶液	-3015(A)	et galacea an		r and was	<b>美国新疆</b>	a Mario Karis
Target Level of Service		12.00	0.02	0.08	7.2	0.15	0.25	0.15	0.06	0.04	0.12	0.09
Population per component		83	50,000	12,500	139	6,667	4,000	6,667	16,667	25,000	8,333	11,111
Current Need: Total # needed in place to attain target standard at current population		0	1	3	0	0	7.85	5	2	1	4	3
Number that should be added to achieve target LOS at current population		0	0	2	0	0	3.4	4	0	0	3	2
PROJECTED POPULATION - YEAR 2017	33,500											
Future Need: Total # needed to achieve target LOS at projected population		402	0	3	241	0	8.38	5	2	1	4	3
Number that should be added to current target levels achieve target LOS at projected population		0	0	2	0	o	0.53	0	0	0	0	0

## **Capacity LOS for Active Recreation Components**

Table 15 indicates that the greatest need the city has is for tennis courts, a spray pad and sand volleyball courts. What Table 15 does not indicate is the distribution of active recreation components around the city. The City lacks active recreation facilities in the northwest and the southeast as indicated in the GRASP™ Analysis.

Another priority from the survey is for additional youth sports fields and improvements to neighborhood parks with playgrounds, etc. Table 15 shows that all but one of the City's multi-purpose fields are located at schools and on other properties not owned by the city. Similarly, less than half of the existing playgrounds are found within city parks.

Although the City and School District have a good working relationship, many of the playfields and playgrounds are restricted during school hours. The City will need to purchase land in underserved areas of the city, and construct both playfields and playgrounds to better meet the demand for these facilities. Some of the playfields should be sports specific and include amenities such as backstops, spectator stands and scoreboards.

# **Capacity for Indoor Recreation Components**

Table 16 shows indoor facilities on a component basis. The table shows that the city has only the Senior/Community Center, and a few other components are provided by the School District. The most notable of these are the gymnasiums and the indoor swimming pool.

The citizen survey indicated a strong preference for an indoor walking and jogging track, which currently does not exist. The next set of preferences was made up of weights, cardio-vascular, aerobics/fitness/dance space, and facilities for lap swimming and a leisure pool. Table 16 shows that there are no fitness/weight room facilities at present, and that there is only one indoor pool currently operated by the School District.

The table indicates there is also an unmet demand for meeting room/multipurpose room space. Concern has been expressed that the Senior/Community Center is too small, and staff experience is that there is more demand for meeting space than can be presently met. This type of space is best to be considered in combination with other types of indoor recreation spaces when the opportunity presents itself.

Table 15
Capacity LOS for Active Recreation Components

		Backstop	Ballfleld	Baskethall	Pootball Field	301	Pieij esodindilinili	Play Pad	Punou6/teld	Skate Park	Spray Pad	Tennis Court	Track	Volleyball - Sand
INVENTORY	1						<u> </u>		<u> </u>	an an Pila se			1 14 E 10 E	100 (100)
City of University Place	·	0	4	0.5	0	0	1	1	4	1 1	10	7	0	1
Schools		16	3	8	1 0	0	8 2	6	-	0	0	0	0	0
Other TOTAL	1	16	7	8.5		<del></del>	11	7	11	<del></del>	0	<del></del>	2	1 1
CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (per 1000 population	200	- 10	1	0.0	<del></del>			<del></del>	<del>                                     </del>	<del>                                     </del>	<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	<u>'</u>	<u> </u>	<u>'</u>
CURRENT POPULATION	31,400			· · · · · ·										
Current Level of Service (Capacity)	31,400	0.51	0.22	0.27	0.03	0.03	0.35	0.22	0.35	0.03	0.00	0.22	0.06	0.03
Population per component	i t	1,963	4,486	3,694	31,400	31,400	2,855	4,486	2,855	31,400	0.00	4,486	15,700	31,400
TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE (per 1000 population	gradient		a Police Stre	140		ar make take in c		230.00 A	2.000	Characters	48.164.1838.2		Cásto Colocia	
Target Level of Service	1	0.08	0.22	0,12	0.01	0.01	0.12	0.1	0.21	0.04	0.04	0.3	n	0.12
Population per component	f	12,500	4.545	8,333	100,000	100,000	8.333	10.000	4,762	25,000	25.000	3,333		8,333
CURRENT NEED: Total # needed in place to attain target standard at current population		0	7	0	0	0	4	3	7	1	1	9	0	4
Number that should be added to achieve target LOS at current population	{	0	o	o	o	o	0	0	o	0	1	2	0	3
PROJECTED POPULATION - YEAR 2017	33,500													
Total # needed to achieve target LOS at projected population		0	7	4	1	0	4	3	7	1	1	10	0	4
Number that should be added to current target levels achieve target LOS at projected population		0	0	o	0	o	0	o	0	0	0	1	0	o

# Table 16 Capacity LOS for Indoor Recreation Components

	,	Auts and Crafts Room	Community Center	Fitness/weight Room	Gynanæsium	Indoor Pool	Multi-purpose Room
INVENTORY		13.80	14 (14)	engligation is		537 <u>9.</u> dis	a de la
City of University Place		_ 0	1	0	0	0	_ 0
Schools		0	0	0	7	1	1
County Owned		0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		0	1	0	7	1	1
CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (per 1000 population				·			
CURRENT POPULATION	31,400						
Current Level of Service (Capacity)		0.00	0.03	0.00	0.23	0.03	0.03
Population per component			30,390	0	4,426	30,980	30,980
TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE (per 1000 population	). The Mile	(A) YELLOW	透過網路接	字 (5) 图 · 数	The self self	ang mengan bangai	<b>的数据数据</b>
Target Level of Service		0.04	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.05
Population per component		25,000	33,333	25,000	20,000	50,000	20,000
CURRENT NEED: Total # needed in place to attain target standard at current population		1	1	1	2	0	2
Number that should be added to achieve target LOS at current population		1	0	1	2	0	2
PROJECTED POPULATION - YEAR 2017	33,500						
Total # needed to achieve target LOS at projected population		1	1	1	2	0	2
Number that should be added to achieve target LOS at projected population		0	0	0	0	0	o

# **SECTION VII**

# **FUNDING AND PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

# Parks and Recreation Funding

The City allocates General Fund revenues on a biennial basis to fund parks and recreation services and operations. Capital projects are funded out of the Parks Capital Improvement Fund. General Fund revenues are derived primarily from Property Tax, Sales Tax, the Criminal Justice Sales Tax, Real Estate Excise Tax, Utility Tax and building, franchise and recreation fees. Other dedicated sources of funding include the Regional Parks Sales Tax, Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax, and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Impact Fee. In addition to the General Fund and dedicated sources, the City may obtain grants, donations and help from non-profit organizations and volunteers. Dedicated finding sources, grant opportunities and other forms assistance are described in detail.

#### Real Estate Excise Tax.

The Real Estate Excise Tax (or REET) fund accounts for the receipt and disbursement of the 0.25% real estate excise tax that is dedicated for capital purposes including public buildings and facilities, parks, and debt service associated with capital projects in these areas. The City has opted to collect an additional 0.25% as authorized by GMA. The first quarter of these funds are restricted to financing capital projects that are specified in the Capital Facilities Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. University Place has allocated some of these funds to debt service for park land acquisition. Use of the second quarter percent of REET is not permitted for the acquisition of land for parks.

#### Regional Parks Sales Tax.

In September 2000, the voters of Pierce County approved a sales and use tax increase equal to one-tenth of one percent (0.01%) within Pierce County to provide funds to acquire, improve, rehabilitate, maintain or develop regional and local parks. Fifty percent of the funds are allocated to the Point Defiance Zoo and Northwest Trek. The remaining fifty percent of the funds are allocated on a per capita basis for parks to Pierce County, the Tacoma Metropolitan Park District, and each city and town in the County (except Tacoma). The City issued a General Obligation Bond totaling \$2.4 million in 2002 to leverage this revenue source and make basic infrastructure improvements at the Cirque-Bridgeport Park, a 22-acre park purchased in 1997.

#### Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax.

State law requires that at least one half percent (0.5%) of the total amount of funds received annually from the motor vehicle fund be expended for path and trails purposes – within the right-of-way of city streets. Monies set aside in the City's Path and Trails Fund must be spent within ten years of receipt.

#### Parks, Recreation and Open Space Impact Fee.

Established in 1998, this fee on residential growth and development assumes new growth should pay a proportionate share of the facility cost to serve new residents. Impact fee receipts are deposited into the Parks Capital Improvement Fund and are used solely for parks system improvements (such as planning; land, right-of-way, easement or access acquisition; engineering; and architectural design) as described in the current Capital Facilities Plan. Impact fee receipts vary on an annual basis and fluctuate with growth in residential units. The City budget assumes \$25,000 in Parks impact fees each year. However, in 2005, actual receipts amounted to \$46,361. At the end of 2006, the City had received \$22,796 in impact fees for the year. In 2005, the total impact fees increased considerably due to higher levels of residential development in the city.

#### **Potential Grant Funding Sources**

A grant is a cash award given for a specific purpose and does not have to be repaid. Recipients of a grant are often required to match a portion of the grant – anywhere from 10% to 50%. Grants are an important but limited source of revenue for all capital facilities.

#### **RCFB Grants**

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) are two State funding bodies managed by the Recreation and Conservation Office. This agency administers and oversees several grant programs for active and passive recreation, trail development, habitat conservation purposes such as stream & stream bank protection & restoration, wetland & wetland buffer protection & enhancement, etc. Depending on the program, eligible project applicants can include municipal subdivisions of the state (cities, towns, and counties, or ports, utilities, parks and recreation, and school districts), Native American tribes, state agencies, and in some cases, federal agencies and non-profit organizations.

To be considered for funding assistance, most grant programs require that the proposed project will be operated and maintained in perpetuity for the purposes for which funding is sought. Most grant programs also require that sponsors complete a systematic planning process (such as the PROS Plan) prior to seeking RCFB funding. Grants are awarded by the Committee based on a public,

competitive process, which weighs the merits of proposed projects against established program criteria. There are many categories including land purchases, parkland improvements, facility development, trail construction and stream restoration for salmon habitats. Many of these grant categories require a 50% match; however, grants from other programs may be used as a match.

#### **Pierce County Conservation Futures Grants**

The term "Conservation Futures" is a County program that aims to purchase land to be preserved for conservation and public use in perpetuity. The money to purchase such properties comes from a property tax available only to counties. Pierce County started collection of the Conservation Futures property tax in 1991. Each year approximately 2.3 to 2.8 million in taxes are collected. To date, the County has spent \$26,900,000 and acquired 1,245 acres of wildlife habitat and open space properties. Land is acquired in both incorporated and unincorporated areas. The properties are not always held by the county but are often given/turned over to a specific city, town and/or land trust as well as other public agencies within the county. Grant applications are locally reviewed and managed and require only a 10% match. In 2004 and 2005, the County bonded against its allocation for approximately 80% of its yearly funding. With only 20% of the yearly funding available, it was determined that invitations for grant proposals would only be entertained every other year and that only 3 to 5 projects would be chosen each funding cycle.

#### Other Grant Sources:

#### Starbucks Neighborhood Parks Grant Program

In 2005, Starbucks offered a local grant program of 30 grants totaling \$1 million dollars to King, Pierce & Snohomish counties for small projects (\$15,000) to make improvements to neighborhood parks. The project must be a cooperative project between a community organization and a public agency, with the project totaling at least \$50,000. The project must also have strong local support from a Starbucks barista & requires volunteerism from the community.

#### Donations and Gifts to University Place.

Cash donations designated for specific purposes by the donor, such as the Curran Apple Orchard or Homestead Park, are used as specified by the donor. Both of these parks have dedicated volunteer groups that work to improve the park, who also host special events to raise funds for improvements that each group desires to make in each park. Dr. George Hess donated the Adriana Hess Wetland Park in the name of his wife, and he set up a foundation to help fund its improvement and maintenance. This property and the foundation was a very generous gift to the city. It is imperative that we continue to seek other such gifts to help enhance our park system. Park donations are received and utilized as needs arise.

## **Local Non-Profit Organizations**

Local organizations such as the Lions Club, Kiwanis and the Rotary are often willing to provide partnering opportunities, and they volunteer to manage and hold fund raising events to raise money for community improvements. The local chapter of the Rotary (the Tacoma Narrows Rotary) has chosen to adopt one of the City's parks - Cirque Park, and they raised the money to purchase two matching electronic scoreboards for the ball fields at Cirque Park. They have volunteered for work parties and were a partner in the 2005 Starbucks grant which funded the construction of a "tot lot" at Cirque Park. Such partnerships with community service based organizations are essential in today's competitive market. The City will need to continue and expand such partnerships to meet the community's demand for a high quality park system.

# **Other Funding Options**

The Capital Strategy Task Force recommended the City Council consider several new funding options to include:

A Levy Lid Lift to allow the property tax levy amount to be adjusted more than the 1% statutory lid as long as the levy rate stays under the \$1.60/\$1,000. Any measure taken before the voters would need to be specific and well described, so the voters would know exactly on what they were voting.

A "Pay-as-You-Go" approach using a practical, logical approach with a cogent vision. Focus on critical issues: create a "big picture package" around connectivity and activity nodes within the community.

Become a Metropolitan Parks District (MPD), with the city limits constituting the limits of the district. A MPD would potentially generate additional monies for parks and recreation, which would be dedicated funds only for parks programs, improvements, land purchases & maintenance. Establishing a MPD requires voter approval of the community.

# **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

To be recommended by PARC and adopted by City Council.