

VIII. Policies & Objectives

The City identified the following policies and objectives to reach the Plan’s Strategic Goals, introduced in the beginning of this plan and listed below.

Strategic Goal #1:

Develop a high-quality, diversified parks and recreation system that includes unique facilities, events, and recreation programs that encourage social interaction, cultivate community spirit, and strengthen the livability of Lacey.

- a. **Policy: Pursue traditional and non-traditional programs and amenities for all ages and families**



Objectives:

- 1) Continue to provide extraordinary parks and community programs that contribute to a high quality of life and attract tourism and economic development to Lacey.
- 2) Continue to provide local programs, summer lunch and day camp programs, aquatics, outdoor adventure, cultural arts, sports and fitness, and special events.
- 3) Be responsive to emerging program, facility, and event needs.
- 4) Promote City parks and recreation programs and facilities to maximize community use (or it the number of citizens?) so they are used by as many citizens as possible.
- 5) Provide recreation opportunities for all family structures.

- b. **Policy: Hire, train, support, and develop a high standard of professional parks and recreation staff.**

Objectives:

- 1) Partner with other agencies, cities, Thurston County, and districts to maximize scarce resources by offering joint training opportunities.
- 2) Actively participate in Washington Recreation & Park Association activities to network, attract qualified professionals to Lacey, and learn about training opportunities for current staff.
- 3) Continue the Counselor in Training (CIT) and Teen Council Programs to encourage youth to pursue Parks and Recreation careers.
- 4) Evaluate training and professional development opportunities for part- and full-time staff to offer optimum service and implement plan objectives.



Strategic Goal #1 – cont'd

- c. Policy: Protect our assets by maintaining parks and recreational facilities at a high standard of care.**

Objectives:

- 1) Ensure facilities are up to code (i.e. conduct required Playground Safety Inspections).
- 2) Maintain sign(age) standards.
- 3) Create standardized designs and specifications for construction of support facilities (i.e. restrooms and picnic shelters).

- d. Policy: Create sound planning structure and accountability for all recreation business areas.**

- e. Policy: Due to shortage of athletic fields for community use, acquire and provide additional athletic field sites to ensure sufficient land is available for community use and regional draw.**

- f. Policy: Continue events that have community and regional draw.**

Objectives:

- 1) Ethnic Fest
- 2) Lacey Spring Fun Fair
- 3) 3rd of July
- 4) Lacey In Tune Summer Concerts



- g. Policy: Provide rental spaces for special private and community events and places for the community to gather.**



Strategic Goal #2:

Prioritize Parks & Recreation projects and identify corresponding current and future funding sources.

- a. Policy: Lacey is moving from an acquisition stage to a development phase.**
- b. Policy: This plan identifies current and upcoming projects.**
- c. Policy: Investigate sustainable and revenue-producing options.**

Objectives:

- 1) Investigate innovative methods for financing facility development, maintenance, and operations to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase facility capacity.
 - 2) The City will research and consider all reasonable options to finance recreation services and facilities. This may include user fees, park-impact fees, grants, general revenue, dedicated funds (i.e. bond issues), fees in-lieu of open-space requirements in subdivisions, private and public donations, and volunteer services.
 - 3) Ensure that adequate maintenance resources accompany development.
- d. Policy: Identify funding sources for property and facility development and secure stable, long-term revenue sources.**

Strategic Goal #3:

Develop a trails system that interconnects parks, schools, neighborhoods, open spaces, other trail systems, and important public facilities.

- a. Policy: Continue to provide a high-quality system of multi-purpose trails and corridors.**

Objectives:

- 1) Use existing rail, utility, and unopened street rights-of-way, alleys, streams (where environmentally sound), and other corridors for urban trails. Preserve unimproved public rights-of-way for important open space, greenway linkages, and trails.
- 2) Acquire railroad rights-of-way for conversion to trails and compatible public uses. Identify potential corridors and sites for trails, prior to urban development.
- 3) Expand trail systems separated from roads that link residential neighborhoods with schools, downtown business districts, and other community facilities.
- 4) When located in areas where future trails are shown on the adopted map, ensure that new development provides appropriate pieces of the trail system using impact fees, the SEPA process, trail right-of-way dedication, or other means.



- b. Policy: Continue to provide a trail system that promotes physical activity and a health-conscious community.**

Ongoing Actions:

- 1) Seek options for additional trail opportunities.
- 2) Acquire Phase 3 Woodland Trail when railway becomes available.
- 3) Encourage walking and bicycling for recreation and transportation purposes by linking parks to walking routes, streets, and trails.



Strategic Goal #4:**Provide parks, facilities, and programs to underserved areas and/or natural areas that should be preserved.**

- a. **Policy: Incorporate critical areas, ecological features, and natural resources into the park system to protect and preserve habitat and retain migration corridors important to local wildlife.**

Objectives:

- 1) Identify potential sites for parks, open space, and trails, prior to urban development.
- 2) Identify, protect, and conserve wildlife habitat (nesting sites, foraging areas) and significant environmental features (wetlands, open spaces, woodlands, shorelines, etc.)
- 3) Provide public access to observe wildlife, enjoy nature, and develop an appreciation for our natural environment. Interpret and provide environmental educational opportunities to instill an appreciation of critical areas and wildlife habitat in our citizens.
- 4) Accommodate passive recreation opportunities where feasible and ensure minimal or passive development of some areas in parks to retain natural character.
- 5) Preserve Woodland Creek corridor.

- b. **Policy: Connect natural areas and open space in the developed areas. Preserve these open areas to meet the future needs of increasing population.**

Objectives:

- 1) Acquire and/or preserve areas such as wetlands, lakes, and streams to serve as natural area linkages and urban separators, when possible.
- 2) Maintain flexibility in planning for new parks and recreation facilities and open space to take advantage of favorable opportunities for acquisition or development.
- 3) Preserve parks and open areas to meet the future needs of increasing population through purchase of options, development rights, or control and tenure.
- 4) Extend appropriate types of trails through natural area corridors or greenways such as Woodland Creek and around natural features that provide a high quality, diverse representation of area environmental resources.

Strategic Goal #5:

Preserve and enhance important historical and cultural sites and artifacts and make them accessible to the community.

a. Policy: Maintain significant, high-quality historical resources that recognize our diverse community.

Objectives:

- 1) Work with the Lacey Historical Commission and the Lacey Historical Society to identify, preserve, and enhance Lacey's heritage, traditions, and cultural features including historical sites, buildings, artworks, views, and monuments.
- 2) Solicit artifacts, donations, grants, bequests, and outside revenue for exhibit and facility development, maintenance, and operations.

b. Policy: Educate the public about Lacey's history, including significant historical and cultural artifacts and sites.

Objectives:

- 1) When appropriate, provide on-site educational markers informing the public of the historical significance of the site and/or structure.
- 2) Provide events, tours, and other public programming, when possible, to educate the public about Lacey's history.



Strategic Goal #6:**Leverage investments in parks, recreation, and facilities and maintain Lacey's eligibility for grant funding.**

- a. Policy: Initiate and strengthen partnerships to offer optimum services to residents that would not be possible without the partnership.**

Objectives:

- 1) Maximize limited public resources by strengthening and continuing the partnership with North Thurston Public Schools. Work with the school district to plan proposed school district facilities to meet both school and community recreation needs.
- 2) Continue contracting with Senior Services for South Sound (SSSS) to provide a variety of senior services including social and recreational activities to meet community need. The City of Lacey owns the Lacey Senior Center and Senior Services for South Sound, a non-profit organization, manages and provides programs for the center. SSSS also manages the Senior Center located in the Olympia Community Center. This allows the organization to share staff and resources and effectively manage two facilities. The Lacey Senior Center serves Lacey and its urban growth area residents, as well as some regional residents.
- 3) Partner with Thurston County, and other public and private agencies or individuals, to maximize use of community resources, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and meet community needs through joint planning and development efforts. For example, in 1998, Thurston County and the City of Lacey entered into a partnership to jointly acquire, develop, and operate the Regional Athletic Complex, with funding from a Public Facilities District. Construction was completed in 2009. This partnership led to development of a first-rate athletic complex that would not have been possible with either agency acting on its own.
- 4) Seek opportunities for shared parking facilities to minimize impervious surfaces and maximize available funds.
- 5) Seek opportunities for collaboration to acquire Puget Sound access. Two private HOAs (Beachcrest and the Hawk's Prairie Community Association) have private access for residents and their guests. This serves a partial need for water access, but served a limited number of people.
- 6) Work in cooperation with utility providers to extend municipal utilities, such as sewer service and drinking water, to all public parks, whenever possible.
- 7) Continue to partner with private parties. Maximize existing partnerships and form new ones.
- 8) Continue to partner with private businesses to offer recreation programs.

Strategic Goal #7:

Develop a sustainable park system that meets community needs.

a. Policy: Provide parks in close proximity to all residents.

Objectives:

- 1) Ensure level of service standards are met/maintained. Identify the need for additional facilities.
- 2) Use Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) standards as a guideline for adequate level of service standards
- 3) During development review, encourage developers to dedicate land for future parks, open space, and recreation facilities, if consistent with park level of service standards or other needs.

b. Policy: Ensure Lacey's park system includes opportunities for its citizens to experience nature and solitude.



Objectives:

- 1) Assess which properties should be developed vs. left as open space
- 2) Identify and acquire future park and open space sites in the City and/or Urban Growth Area.
- 3) Develop parks or plazas near urban corridors

c. Policy: Ensure a strategic planning process is in place to reflect site suitability and development.

Objective:

Prepare a master plan upon acquisition of new park property, soliciting input from all potential users and affected agencies. The master plan will reflect the suitability of the site for specific uses, the needs of the anticipated users, and the integration of the new park to the whole system.

IX. Prioritized Actions

The City will take action during the planning period 2017-2022 to satisfy demand and need. The actions are listed in priority order, based on the public outreach process and identified needs. Further actions have been identified for the planning period 2023 – 2035, as listed further below.

2017 - 2022

Field Development

- Pursue converting Field 2 (grass, multi-use field at the RAC) to synthetic turf with lights
- Explore adding another soccer field to the RAC – space limitations may prohibit
- Explore development of RAC Phase 3 with convertible baseball/soccer stadium
- Explore feasibility of expanding RAC to Phase 4 including Nisqually fields or other vicinity parcel
- Pursue additional parking at the RAC
- Explore development of sports fields at Meridian Park



Museum

- Construct historic Lacey train depot replica as a Woodland Trail amenity
- Update site plan to provide the foundation for new Lacey Museum & Civic Center in the Depot District

Indoor Sports Arena

- Explore feasibility of large, indoor, multi-sport complex

Master Planning

- Explore development of Concept Plan for Cuoio Park (community/regional park)
- Pursue improvements to Pleasant Glade Park
- Explore creating concept plan for Meridian Campus North Neighborhood Park

2017 – 2022 – cont’d

Swimming and Water Access

- Explore feasibility of developing Wanschers Park

Spray Park or Outdoor Pool

- Explore feasibility study

Indoor Pool and Community Center

- Revisit feasibility study Aquatic Center / Community Center

Facility Upgrades

- Further develop (or upgrade) the historic Jacob Smith House by improving parking, adding a gazebo, and maintaining the historic nature of the house

Programming

- Identify recreation program and activity deficiencies in the Lacey community and create strategies to fill these gaps (i.e., disc golf, outdoor racquetball, etc.).
- Create a formalized program to encourage and provide opportunities for volunteer stewardship of parks and natural areas.



Trails

- Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions and State agencies to build a regional trail network and coordinated trail signage program, consistent with the Thurston Regional Trails Plan.

2023 - 2035

Facility Upgrades

- Explore the option of restrooms and parking lots at neighborhood parks
- Explore renovation of McKinney building at Lake Lois Habitat Reserve

Master Planning

- Pursue further development of Woodland Creek Community Park per master plan
- Pursue development of McAllister Park per master plan
- Explore the option of concept plan for Palm Creek Headquarters property
- Explore preparation of natural resources management plan for Mullen Road Habitat Reserve.

Trails

- Explore the possibility of extending the William Ives Trail east to the Nisqually Delta
- Pursue acquisition and development of Phase III Woodland Trail

Swimming and Water Access

- Explore feasibility to develop, maintain, and operate Hicks Lake Boat Launch
- Investigate the potential for public use at Long Lake Natural Area

New Facilities

Explore feasibility for:

- Dog off-leash area
- Ice rink
- New Skate Park

Acquisition

During the transition from an acquisition phase to a development phase, Lacey will consider acquisitions when a deficit has been identified and property and funding are available.

Pursue/explore acquisition of:

- Community park land for Pattison Lake public access.
- Park land in Hawks Prairie, Meadows, Wonderwood, and McAllister Planning Areas
- Land adjacent to Long Lake Park

X. Implementation Cost

The City of Lacey identified the following priorities for the beginning of the planning period 2017-2022. During the planning period, opportunities, not envisioned at the time of this writing, may arise that could satisfy goals, objectives, and/or priorities. It is difficult to accurately predict the total cost of acquisition, development, and maintenance of an expanded park system. Many variables, such as land acquisition, utility and street improvements, grant funds available and secured, partnership potential, volunteer assistance, facility components and design, and levels of maintenance, affect these costs. This plan allows for flexibility. The following priorities are not an exhaustive list, but rather an indication of scope of projects.

Each year, staff will review progress to measure if community needs are being met. This will take place during the annual budget preparation and update of the Capital Facilities Plan, located in Appendix A.

		City Funds	Grants, Outside Sources
RAC Field Development	\$2,600,000	\$600,000	\$2,000,000
Cuoio Park Concept Plan	\$50,000	\$50,000	
RAC Phase III Multi-use stadium	\$5,000,000		\$5,000,000
RAC Phase IV	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000
Museum Design & Exterior	\$500,000		\$500,000

These projects require public funding. Therefore, serious consideration needs to be given to proposing a Metropolitan Park District, park bond measure, or similar source of public financing. Public input and participation is critical before moving forward on these park assets.

It is critical that when the capital and operating budgets are prepared each year, that staff and the Park Commissioners review the progress achieved in implementing the action program to determine if sufficient funds are available.

Land

- Acquisition of park land, average cost is \$150,000 per acre.

Parks, Trails, and Facilities

Amenity Type	Development/Construction Cost	Notes
Neighborhood Park	\$120,000*/acre	Excluding natural areas
Community Park	\$120,000-\$240,000*/acre	Excluding natural areas
Urban Trail	\$1M*/mile	Paved, regional, multi-modal 10-12 ft. path for pedestrians & cyclists
Urban Trail	\$650,000*/mile	Smaller pathway, depending on width & complexity
Trail	\$50,000*/mile	Regional 4-ft gravel path with geotextile fabric
Facility	\$480/sq ft of building (likely includes FF&E) \$120,000-\$180,000*/acre for parking and outdoor elements	
*Estimated costs in 2017 dollars and may not include all project costs.		

Maintenance

- Maintenance personnel: One technician per 12-15 acres of developed park area
- Total annual maintenance and operation costs including administration, support staff, and miscellaneous items: \$12,000 to \$14,000* per developed acre.

*Estimated costs are in 2017 dollars and may not include all project costs

Regional Facilities

Although not located within Lacey's Urban Growth Area, the following facilities have a significant influence on the local recreational activities and therefore, have been included in this inventory.

Tolmie State Park is a 106-acre regional park, located on 61st Avenue NE, about one mile north of the Hawk's Prairie Planning Area. It has one half mile of Puget Sound shoreline, large natural area, beach, nature trail, picnic grounds and shelters, amphitheater mooring buoys, underwater scuba park, and shellfish gathering.

Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Area is a 2,818-acre United States Fish and Wildlife Service conservancy property adjacent to the northeast boundary of the Planning Area. It has nature trails, an environmental education center, and significant waterfowl habitat.

Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area is a Washington State Department of Natural Resources conservancy area on Henderson Inlet about 4 miles north of the Hawk's Prairie Planning Area. It has over 4 miles of marine shoreline, 260 acres of upland, and 190 acres of tideland - all subject to limited public access. The Chehalis-Western Trail links this site to the planning area.

Luhr Beach Boat Ramp located at the mouth of the McAllister Creek, owned and operated by the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, provides saltwater access

Chehalis Western Trail, a paved, regional pedestrian and bicycle trail that runs along Lacey's western border and stretches north 6.5 miles to the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area and south 16 miles to the rural town of Rainier.