

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



LACEY PARKS
CULTURE & RECREATION



Accomplishments from:

- Lacey Museum
- Parks, Culture and Recreation
- Park Maintenance

Pictured:
3rd of July Drive-In Fireworks Show

Lacey Parks

PARK INVENTORY AND FEATURES

1,180 Acres

404 DEVELOPED
776 UNDEVELOPED

35

PARK PROPERTIES
(9 NOT FULLY DEVELOPED)

26

DEVELOPED
PARKS & TRAILS



PARKS

21

Youth/Child Playgrounds

17

Picnic Shelters

5

Pickleball Courts

1

Youth Fishing Dock

1

Disc Golf Course

1

Skate Park

SPORT FIELDS

12

Baseball/Softball Fields
(4 more needed)

16

Soccer/Football/Rugby Fields
(4 more needed)

9

Tennis Courts

13

Basketball Half Courts

TRAILS

4

Trails

7.2

Miles of Trails

Athletic Facilities

The long-standing joint use partnership with North Thurston Public Schools allows many sports organizations access to fields and facilities.

REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX



323

Days Used at the RAC

78,400

Tournament and League Attendance

9,372

Hours Rented / Booked By Users / Tournaments



COMMUNITY FIELD AND FACILITY USE

8,655

Hours Of Field Use Scheduled - School Fields

5,448

Hours of Field Use Scheduled - City Fields

2,050

Hours Of Pool Use Scheduled To User Groups

Recreation

118,000

The Parks, Culture and Recreation Department includes 15.5 full-time staff responsible for implementing the wide variety of community recreation offerings such as;

HOURS OF RECREATION GENERATED INCLUDING EVENTS

- Aquatic Programs
- Community Buildings & Park Rentals
- Daycamp & Teen Programs
- Lacey Museum
- Special Events
- Sports and Fitness Programs

25,500

PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS/PROGRAMS



RECREATION PROGRAMS

82,000

Total Hours of Recreation Generated

5,000

Total Enrollment

648

Programs / Classes Offered

\$295,400

Total Revenue



COMMUNITY EVENTS

36,100

Total Hours of Recreation Generated

20,500

Total Attendance at Events

33

Total Events Offered

- 3rd of July Drive-In Fireworks
- Brunch with Santa
- Children's Day
- Children's Entertainment Series (6)
- Cultural Celebration
- Lacey in Tune Concerts (6)
- Lacey Loves to Read (Virtual)
- Lighted Parade and Tree Lighting
- Magic Show (Virtual)
- Movies in the Park (4)
- Play in the Park Series (6)
- Scavenger Hunts in the Park (3)
- Signing Santa

Museum & Community Buildings



LACEY MUSEUM

220
Visitors



588
Virtual Program Participation



295
Volunteer Hours Donated



\$626,116
Grants and Donations



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



147

Days Used At Lacey Community Center



43

Days Used At Jacob Smith House



195

Individual Bookings Of Rental Facilities



300

Park Picnic Shelter Reservations



1,472

Hours of Picnic Shelter Use



Parks & Maintenance

PARK MAINTENANCE AT A GLANCE

Every day the maintenance team is working throughout the City to ensure the parks and facilities are in the best condition possible for the enjoyment of our community.



66

Parks, Trails, and Undeveloped Properties Maintained

618

Trees Planted in Parks

37,100

Restrooms Cleaned

1,551

Trees Pruned

8,265

Acres of Turf Mowed

1,257

Irrigation Zones Maintained

324

Garbage Cans Emptied Daily

20,708

Irrigation Heads Maintained

Parks & Maintenance

PARK MAINTENANCE STAFF

The Public Works Parks and Facilities Maintenance Division includes 14 full-time and 13 seasonal staff. This staff is responsible for maintaining the grounds of all City-owned parks and facilities.

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY

Plants and Shrubs

Weed control, pruning, and landscape bed cleanup.

Building and Structure Maintenance

Blowing and pressure washing shelters, sidewalks, parking lots, basketball courts, tennis courts, pickleball courts, and skate park.

Irrigation Maintenance

Installs, repairs, and maintains the automatic turf irrigation systems.

Tree Maintenance

Pruning, tree inspections, tree planting, stump removals, leaf pickup, and watering.

Grounds and Trail Maintenance

Weed removal, invasive removal, and trail clearing.

Turf Maintenance

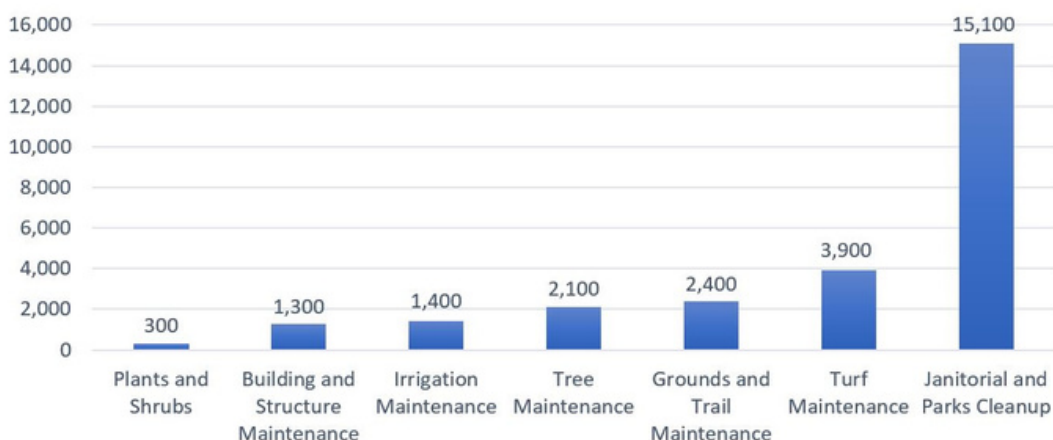
Mowing, edging, line trimming, aeration, and fertilizing

Janitorial and Parks Cleanup

Cleaning restrooms, emptying garbage cans, safety checks, playground maintenance, and general park cleanup.



TOTAL STAFF HOURS BY DEPARTMENT / CATEGORY



2021 Highlights



PARKS MAINTENANCE

- Assisted Thurston County Public Health and Social Services to host a mass vaccination clinic at the RAC to provide vaccinations to 1,100 community members.
- Took over maintenance responsibilities at Animal Services, an additional 5 acres.
- Generated 1013 park related work orders
- Pressure washed 170 garbage cans, 130 picnic tables, 96 benches and 52 picnic pads.
- Replaced two 6' benches, one 4' bench, six dome lids and five trash receptacles.
- Spent 624 hours clearing snow after 2 separate snowfall events.



- Added 250 yards of wood fiber to play toy areas at Horizon Pointe, Wonderwood, Bush and Lakepoint Parks.
- Rapid Response Clean-Up Team formed to assist with collection and clean up of homeless camps and nuisances on public property in Lacey. During the last quarter of 2021 the team responded to:
 - 39 encampment and 27 roadside litter clean ups, removing 17.24 tons of debris.
 - Collected, disinfected and returned 376 shopping carts.
 - Collected and safely disposed of 438 hypodermic needles.
 - Cleaned up 8 graffiti sites.



CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

- Completed the construction documents for the new Lacey Museum and Cultural Center. The project was approved for Salmon-Safe certification.
- Awarded a \$608,000 Heritage Capital Projects Grant from the Washington State Historical Society to fund a portion of preparing the new museum site for construction, including removal of the existing warehouse building.
- RAC additional parking lot design 30% completed.
- Added 5 holes to the disc Golf Course at Woodland Creek Community Park through an agreement with the South Sound Disc Golf Association.
- Master planning for the 400+ acre Greg Cuoio Park & Greenways located in northwest Lacey reached the 80% completion mark.

2021 Highlights

PLAYBOOK

Your guide to recreation, activities, and parks in Lacey



PROGRAM & PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- RAC financial plan and policy and procedure updated.
- Started family open swim program.
- Successfully switched from parent-led (COVID-19 restricted) to regular group swim lessons and provided training and support to staff in the transition.
- Created volunteer handbook, policy manual and updated adopt-a-park guidelines.
- Began taking reservations at the Lacey Depot site -13 total.
- The museum reopened July 1 with a new exhibit "Who Are We? Washington".
- Held 2 new regional tournaments (USA Ultimate Northwest Regional Championships) and (Youth and Adult Flag Football World Championship Tour 2021 Regional Qualifier).

- We were awarded the following grants:
 - \$5,000 Thurston County Heritage grant to continue work on cataloguing the Lacey Leader negative collection.
 - \$5,616 Diversity in Local History grant to create an interpretive marker and begin a collections audit on Black history in Lacey.
 - \$7,500 Nisqually Tribe Charitable Funds for Salmon Safe Certification at the new museum.
 - \$33,680 from Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction through North Thurston Public Schools for Playground Pals program.
- Started a monthly digital newsletter with over 5,000 contacts in the first year.
- New recreation brochure, PLAYBOOK designed and launched.
- Partnered with Intercity transit to offer a new Earn-A-Bike program.

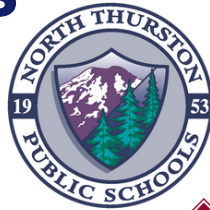


- Created COVID-19 friendly events including:
 - Free snowman and shamrock scavenger hunts in the parks.
 - Presented the first virtual Cultural Celebration with recorded performances, demonstrations, and interactive information booths drawing almost 3,000 people from 24 states and 4 countries.
 - The July 3rd Fireworks show in a drive-up and watch format.
- Coordinated the 12th Annual Giving Tree Program to provide NTPS students in need gifts during the holidays. City of Lacey Employees donated over 60 gifts and \$1,300 to 28 students. The generous donations allowed every child to receive 3 gifts and food gift cards.
- Worked with Sports Commission to coordinate new way to find economic impact for tournaments held at the RAC. In 2021, direct impact was \$6,073,812 to the local economy.
- Community Outreach Campaign successful with 1,600 online surveys completed.

Partnerships & Budget

PARTNERSHIPS

Partners are essential to the City of Lacey and the Parks, Culture and Recreation Department to provide programs to the community in the most cost-efficient way possible for the City of Lacey community.



Saint Martin's UNIVERSITY



South Puget Sound COMMUNITY COLLEGE

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT



\$50,800

Value of Volunteer Time

1,781

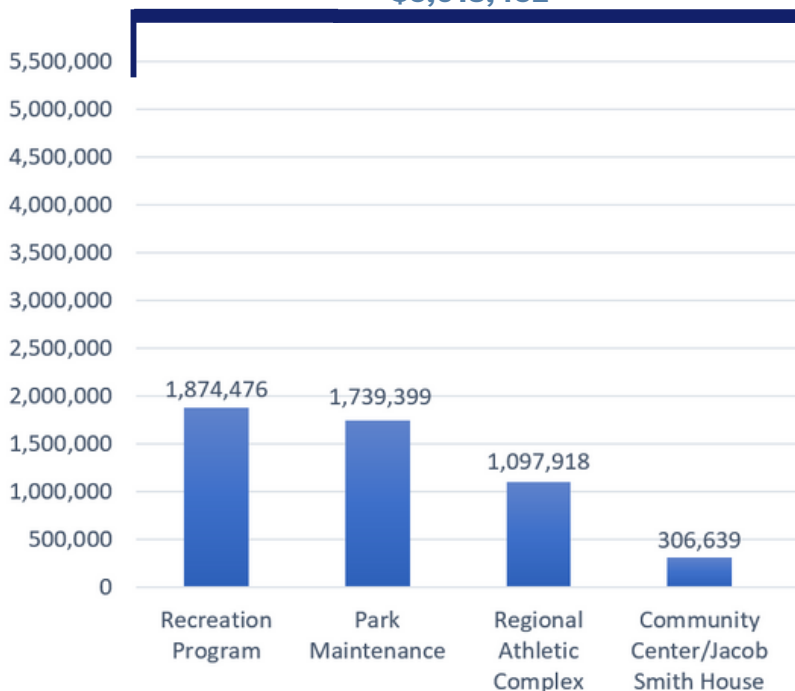
Hours at Events / Programs

85

Hours in Parks

COST OF PARKS & RECREATION

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$5,018,432



Revenues are generated by program and rental fees, but Parks, Culture & Recreation is funded primarily by the City's general fund.

PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS' MESSAGE

PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS



SARAH DANIELS
CHAIR



KAMBER GOOD



WENDY GOODWIN



GARY LARSON



TROY KIRBY

In addition to the accomplishments that have been highlighted in this annual report, we would like to note some of the other Park Board and Parks, Culture and Recreation happenings from 2021.

Board Got Bigger

Lacey City Council approved the Board of Park Commissioners to grow from five to seven members for increased diversity and community representation! In addition, we are excited to have the youth commissioner active again after two challenging years without a youth member due to COVID-19.



ERWIN VIDALLON



ARAM WHEELER



DECLAN LINE
YOUTH REP.

COVID-19 Adjustments

Once again the board held all meetings virtually in 2021 due to the continuing public health crisis. The Park Board supported staff during the ongoing challenges of ever-changing guidelines and safety requirements for programs, facilities and events. In addition, the Board supported staff opening back up to in person offerings.

Staff Updates

The Park Board has continued to appreciate the bi-monthly updates from Parks, Culture and Recreation staff and wishes to continue again for 2022. The board enjoys hearing from staff regarding ongoing challenges and accomplishments and appreciates opportunities to interact and support staff.

Parks and Recreation Month

The Park Board celebrated the National Recreation and Park Association's "July is Parks and Recreation Month" for the second time. The 2021 theme was "Our Park and Recreation Story", and author Kwame Alexander wrote a poem based on input from all over the country.

Community Engagement

The Park Board worked with staff, consultant JRO + CO and a community Outreach Team in 2021 to learn what priorities the community has, and determine the best approach for community engagement moving forward. The board will continue preparing for the upcoming Parks, Culture & Recreation Comprehensive Plan update.

Sincerely,

Board of Park Commissioners

PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

LEADERSHIP TEAM



JENNIFER BURBIDGE
DIRECTOR
PARKS, CULTURE &
RECREATION



SCOTT EGGER
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC WORKS



SCOTT DEVLIN
OPERATIONS
MANAGER



SUE FALASH
RECREATION
MANAGER



JAMIE OAKLAND
PARKS
MAINTENANCE
SUPERVISOR

In 2021 our departments continued to work through a transition year due to COVID-19, and navigate through keeping facilities and programs open to the public while at the same time protecting staff and the public and following ever changing safety requirements. We want to express sincere appreciation to our staff for their patience and determination through the public health crisis.

We know it will be important moving forward to embrace an “adaptation” mentality and recognize we may not ever go back completely to “the way things used to be”. Knowing that there have been so many changes due to COVID-19, but also knowing changes in technology will be redefining the way people want to recreate. We know that parks, culture and recreation will still be valued but the way the public participates might look different.

Last year we recognized a renewed appreciation for outdoor spaces, particularly during a pandemic. In 2021 not only was there still a renewed appreciation for the great outdoors, but also renewed appreciation for more programs getting back in person and understanding just how important human interaction is for the social and educational benefits. Parks and open spaces continue to provide free access and improvement of overall physical and mental health and well-being of our residents.

It's important to point out why Lacey parks and programs are critical, during normal times and now especially during COVID-19. The caliber of Lacey's park system puts us among the best in the state. Lacey Parks:

- Play a vital role in the social, economic, physical, and emotional well-being of residents
- Encourage active lifestyles and reduce health costs
- Strengthen local economies and create job opportunities
- Make cities more resilient (stormwater/flood management)
- Increase community engagement and reduce crime
- Help clean the air (urban forests) and improve public health
- Provide a tool for cities to achieve equity goals

A few significant highlights that happened in 2021 were design of the Regional Athletic Complex parking lot conversion, the Woodland Creek Park Disc Golf Course Expansion, and the Greg Cuoio Park & Greenways Master Plan. In addition, the first phase of the Parks, Culture & Recreation community outreach and engagement project was completed.

Lacey's park system, and the many programs and services available is made possible by a tremendous amount of teamwork between the Parks, Culture and Recreation Department and Public Works Park Maintenance, Water Resources, and Project Management teams. In addition, the partnerships the City of Lacey has with North Thurston Public Schools, Senior Services for South Sound, Saint Martin's University, Lacey South Sound Chamber, and many more equals the delivery of better, more efficient services. Together we continue to achieve more for our community!

Sincerely,

Jen Burbidge and Scott Egger