Introduction 1

Sammamish Residents Value and Appreciate Parks and Recreation

The Sammamish community has clearly indicated that it places a high value on the parks and recreation system. Outdoor play, sports, hiking, swimming, biking, walking, nature watching, and many other activities and experiences contribute to the overall quality of life in the city. In fact, this is the reason many people have moved to Sammamish in recent years. It's a perfect nexus between the urban cities that help us meet our modern-day needs and the rural forests and farms that allow us to experience the serenity of nature. It's that very balance that we strive to preserve in planning for the future of parks and recreation in Sammamish.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, also known as the PRO Plan, serves as a high-level planning document to help guide us into our second decade of cityhood. The plan outlines goals and objectives that recognize the challenging economic times while also providing for strategic growth, development, and improvement of the parks and recreation system.

This collaborative piece was influenced by many individuals. As such, compromises were made, ideas expanded, and goals refined, ultimately leading to a new vision for the Sammamish parks and recreation system.

Comprehensive Plan Mission and Vision Statement

This statement from the Sammamish Comprehensive Plan represents the vision for the Sammamish Community:

The vision of Sammamish is a community of families. A blend of small-town atmosphere with a suburban character, the City also enjoys a unique core of urban lifestyles and conveniences. It is characterized by quality neighborhoods, vibrant natural features, and outstanding recreational opportunities. A variety of community gathering places provide numerous civic, cultural, and educational opportunities. Residents are actively involved in the decisions that shape the community and ensure a special sense of place.

Introduction

The vision statement from the City's Comprehensive Plan highlights aspirations for outstanding recreational opportunities and for preservation of natural features. It directs the City to:

- Establish a park and recreation system that meets the high standards of the community.
- Create a safe and interesting network of trails.
- Preserve trees and greenways by encouraging the preservation or development of large areas of greenery that provide a visual impact as opposed to creating small areas of unusable residue.[1]

Parks and Recreation Mission and Vision Statement

The Parks and Recreation Commission in cooperation with the citizens of Sammamish developed a new mission and vision to reflect the current needs of the community.

MISSION STATEMENT	CORE VALUES
Community well-being through diverse recreational opportunities and environmental stewardship	Stewardship Integrity Sustainability Teamwork Inclusiveness

VISION STATEMENT

Maintain safe places to play and recreate.

Develop a parks and recreation system that meets diverse community needs.

Provide recreational opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles and a sense of community.

Serve as a steward of the environment to preserve and protect our natural resources.

Purpose of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PRO) Plan is the comprehensive plan for parks and recreation in the City of Sammamish.

This plan:

- Sets clear goals and objectives to carry out the vision of the department and establishes guidelines supporting those goals.
- Creates a forum for residents of Sammamish to express needs and ideas for parks and recreation that are accurately reflected in the plan.
- Meets the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office's eligibility requirements for state and local funding and grant programs.
- Meets the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act.
- Is regularly updated to identify new opportunities for growth and implementation.

The PRO Plan is part of the city's overall Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the guidelines established by the Growth Management Act (GMA). The GMA identifies the following parks and recreation goals for all Washington communities:

- Retain open space.
- Enhance recreational opportunities.
- Conserve fish and wildlife habitat.
- Increase access to natural resource lands and water.
- Develop parks and recreational facilities.

The Sammamish PRO Plan establishes a framework for implementation of these goals by identifying priorities, setting policies, and creating a roadmap (guidelines) for recreation development. These elements are then incorporated into a funding plan, the Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP is used by the City Council for short- and long-term budget planning and also serves as a guide for competitive grant requests.

Introduction

The PRO Plan must be updated every six years for the City to retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, which administers 12 grant programs. To maintain eligibility for these grants, the state agency has identified elements that must be included in the city's parks plan:

- Goals and objectives
- Inventory of parks and facilities
- Public process
- Needs assessment
- Capital improvement plan
- Plan adoption

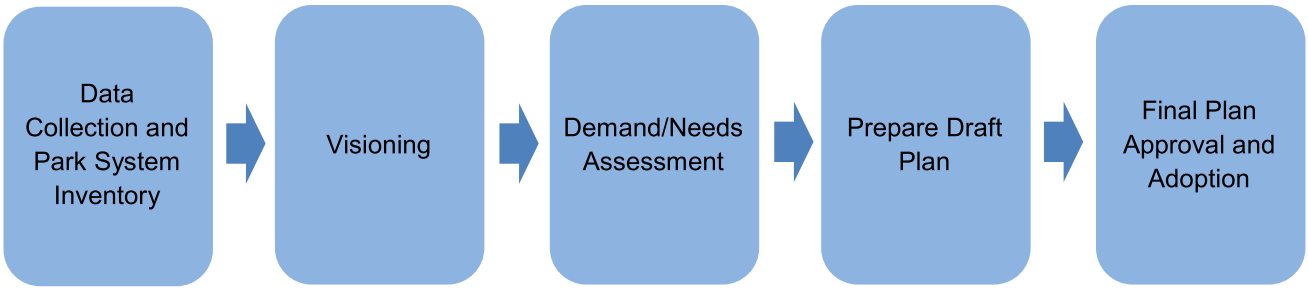
The City of Sammamish adopted its first PRO plan in December 2004. This update includes revisions as well as several new sections. Specific updates are as follows:

- Updated community profile and demographics (to reflect changes in population and social and economic status since the 2004 plan)
- Accomplishments since the 2004 PRO Plan was adopted
- Updated goals and objectives
- Updated inventory of parks, trails, facilities, open space, and programs
- A new section on cultural arts (not included in 2004 PRO Plan)
- A new section on volunteers and partnerships (not included in 2004 PRO Plan)
- A revised park classification system (revises the school park classification and adds an open space/natural area classification)

The Planning Process

Groundwork for the PRO Plan began with an inventory of the park system, including land, facilities, and programs. Current conditions were summarized for each park, trail, open space area, and facility. A list of department programs and events was also compiled. Figure 1.1 provides an overview of the PRO Plan update process.

Figure 1.1 PRO Plan Process



Oversight

A steering committee was established to oversee the PRO Plan update. The committee included members from the parks, planning, and arts commissions. They provided guidance to staff and recommendations to the City Council on the contents of the plan. In addition, members reported back to their respective commissions on the progress of the PRO Plan update.

Public Participation

The City sought feedback from a wide range of Sammamish residents regarding their needs, preferences, attitudes, and vision for parks and recreation. Several formats for public participation were offered, including public and school meetings, an informal Web survey, a statistical survey, a Web comment form, and open meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council.

Have A Say in How we Play!
Starting in March 2010, a series of neighborhood meetings were held to gather input on the future of parks and recreation in Sammamish. Using the slogan "Have a Say in How We Play," the Parks and Recreation Department invited people to voice their likes and dislikes about the park system and their thoughts for the future. Notices about these meetings were mailed to every household in Sammamish. The meetings were also advertised in the local newspaper, on the city's website, in the library, and in coffee shops, grocery stores, and other meeting places around Sammamish. Meetings were held in a variety of locations in the evenings and on weekends.

A total of ten public meetings were held and included an overview of the PRO Plan document, the timeline for the update, and group discussions facilitated by department staff and members of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Information from these meetings was presented to the City Council in April 2010.

Statistical Survey

A statistically valid telephone survey helped identify key themes and priorities for the update. This survey was created with input from the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Hebert Research surveyed 400 Sammamish residents in July 2010. Questions focused on parks, trails, a community and aquatic center, health and wellness, and arts and cultural programs. These survey results were presented to the City Council and Parks Commission in July 2010. The survey questions and results are included in Appendix A.

Community Center Feasibility Study Meetings

In early spring 2011, the City Council authorized consultants to conduct a feasibility study for a community and aquatic center to serve the citizens of Sammamish. Five public meetings and three focus groups were held to discuss programming, market analysis, site analysis, aquatics, budget, business and operations planning, and final design concept. In addition to the public meetings, several council meetings were held in joint session with the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the progress on the feasibility study. A comprehensive website was developed for people to learn about the project, review meeting material, and submit comments.

SEPA and Plan Adoption

Before this plan was adopted by the City Council, an environmental checklist was completed to comply with the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA). A determination of nonsignificance was issued on April 17, 2012. The adoption of the plan took place in a regular meeting of the Sammamish City Council on May 14th, 2012.

Accomplishments since the 2004 PRO Plan

Since the PRO Plan was adopted in 2004, the Parks and Recreation Department has accomplished a number of the original objectives and has made progress toward many others.

New programs and events were established, such as:

- Kids noontime concert series
- Fourth on the Plateau event
- Holiday lighting event
- Teen Fest
- Sammamish Days
- Sammamish Farmers Market
- Ten-year anniversary celebration

The department created a facility rentals division, which developed rental policies, increased rental revenues, and added rental office hours at City Hall.

In 2008, volunteer groups began helping with projects such as:

- Removing invasive plants
- Planting native plants
- Constructing trails
- Helping with office tasks
- Providing support at park events

Groups contributing volunteer hours include Rotary Club, Kiwanis, Boy Scouts, and several church congregations. Also, the City formed partnerships with groups such as the Washington Native Plant Society, the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce, and the Boys & Girls Club.

New parks were planned and developed, including:

- Sammamish Commons
- Ebright Creek Park
- Beaver Lake Preserve
- Evans Creek Preserve
- Sammamish Landing
- SE 8th Street Park
- Eastlake Community Sports Fields
- Skyline Community Sports Fields

New facilities and amenities were opened and developed including:

- Recreation Center
- Sween House
- Skate park
- Off-leash dog area

Improvements include:

- Resurfacing of tennis courts at NE Sammamish Park
- Upgrades to the playground and ball fields at East Sammamish Park
- New picnic shelters at Pine Lake Park
- New restroom roof at Pine Lake Park
- Dock and shoreline renovations at Pine Lake Park
- Lodge improvements at Beaver Lake Park

A complete list of the City's accomplishments can be found in Appendix B.

Notes

1. City of Sammamish, Comprehensive Plan, August 2006 , IX-1.

Community Profile 2

Community Profile

Introduction

The Community Profile chapter provides an overview of life in Sammamish – from habitats to people and populations. This information serves as a foundation for the goals and objectives identified in future chapters and helps the reader better understand the Sammamish community.

A Local and Regional Look at Sammamish

The City of Sammamish is located west of the Cascade Mountains in the Puget Sound region, about 20 miles east of Seattle. The western edge of the city lies along Lake Sammamish. It is bordered to the south by Issaquah, to the north by Redmond, and to the east by rural King County. The City covers 22 square miles and measures some 7 miles north to south along the shore of Lake Sammamish and some 6 miles east to west at its widest point (See Figure 2.1).

Twenty years ago, Sammamish was mostly rural in nature, with a few remaining farmsteads. Today the City comprises residential housing, schools, churches, and two neighborhood shopping center districts that include grocery stores, banks, gas stations, shops, and restaurants. The Town Center, located in the approximate center of the City, is zoned for mixed use development of some 2,000 dwelling units and 600,000 square feet of commercial/retail space. Interstate 90 provides access from the south, and State Route 202 provides access from the north. The closest major airport is Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, 26 miles southwest of town. No major rail line serves the city. A former Burlington Northern rail line is now a King County regional trail running along the shores of Lake Sammamish and the western edge of the city. Several King County Metro bus routes travel the main arterials of town, providing limited bus service to regional destinations: Issaquah, Redmond, and downtown Seattle.

Community Profile

Figure 2.1: Regional Map of Western Washington [1]

A Brief History of Sammamish[2]

Sammamish was home to Native American tribes (such as the Snoqualmie) long before settlers began arriving in the 1870s and 1880s. The attraction to the early settlers of Sammamish, and the major industry at the time, was logging. This is not surprising considering the landscape was dotted with mature trees and the forested area had grown virtually untouched for centuries.

In the 1930s the population remained small at less than 1,000. The southern area of Sammamish was developing faster than other areas, largely due to the location of several resorts: the Tanska Auto Camp and French's LaPine Resort, both on Pine Lake, and the Four Seasons Resort on Beaver Lake.

The population of Sammamish climbed above 1,000 in the 1950s. Dairy and chicken farming remained a main industry but would see a gradual decline in the coming decades. In the early '60s and into the '70s, development started to increase, but the area was still secluded and relatively untouched compared with neighboring urban developments.

In the mid '80s, growth was notable and schools and shopping centers began to appear in the landscape. In 1984 the population surpassed 10,000, and within the decade residents would begin to contemplate incorporation.

The City of Sammamish incorporated on August 31, 1999. Each year since, urbanization has been more and more evident, leading to what is now known as the City of Sammamish. Despite considerable development and a growth in the population, Sammamish remains a blend of both urban and rural characteristics.

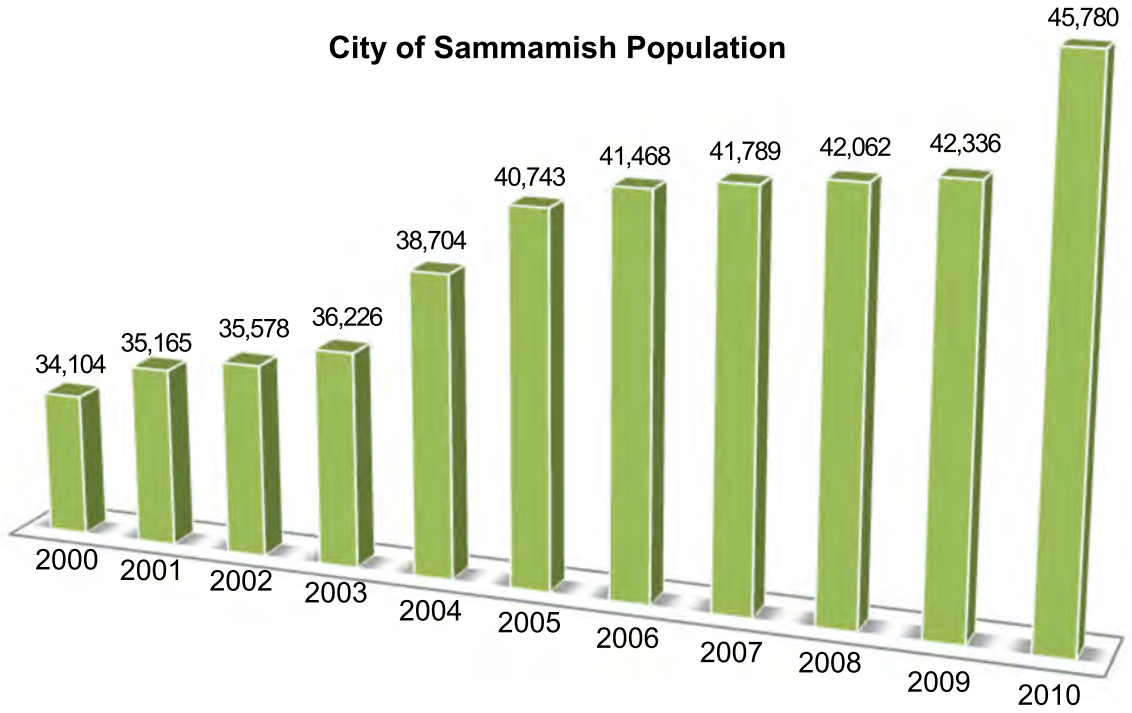
Community Profile

Demographic Profile

Population

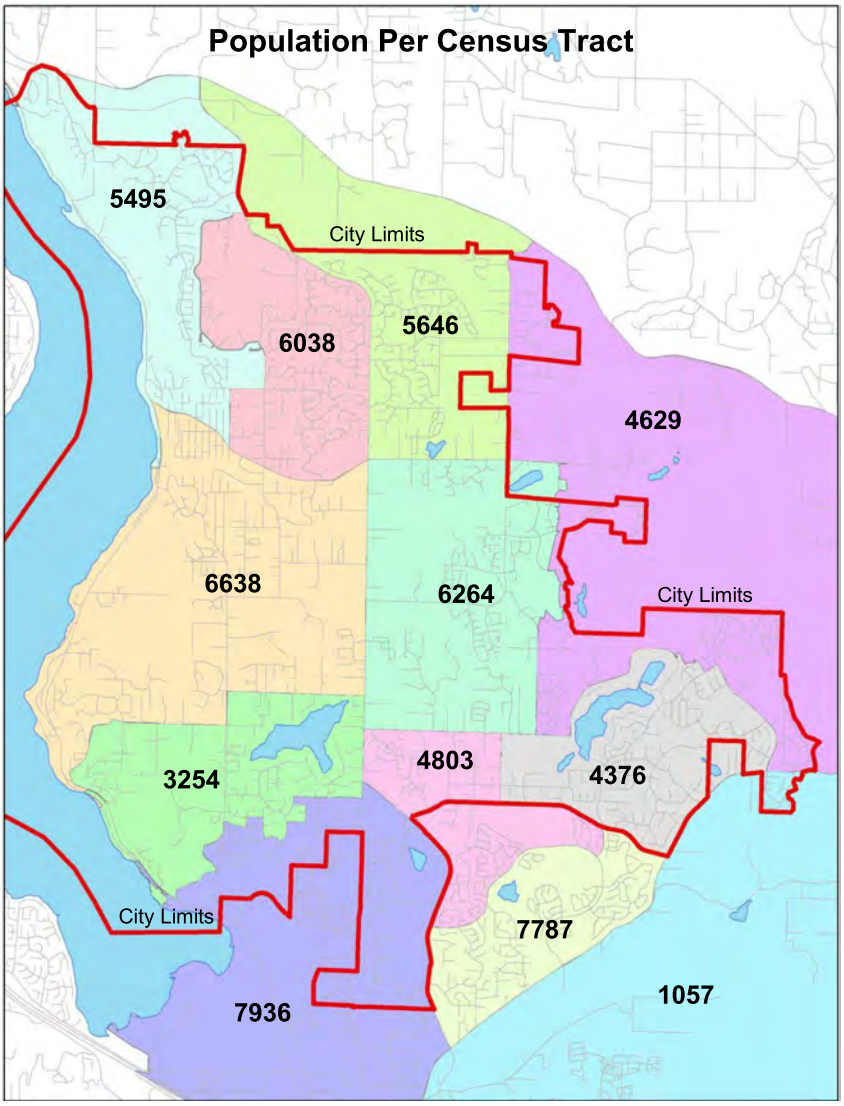
Sammamish had 45,780 residents in 2010, making it the 24th largest city in Washington State. Figure 2.2 shows the population growth in Sammamish from 2000 to 2010.

Figure 2.2: City of Sammamish Population Estimates 2000-2010 [3]



The City includes 15,154 households, with an average size of 3.01 people per household. The most common household type, as reported in the 2010 Census, was married couples with children (51.9 percent). Other types include nonfamily, or unrelated people sharing a home (14.8 percent), and single-person (11.4 percent).[4] Figure 2.3 shows the population density in Sammamish.

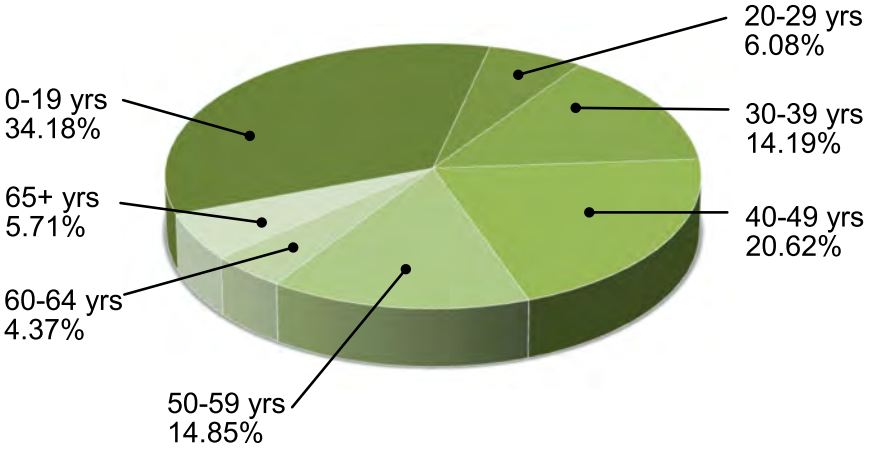
Figure 2.3: U.S. Census Persons per Census Tract [5]



Population Age

The median age of Sammamish residents was 37.6 in 2010, up from 35.3 in 2000, according to the United States Census. Nearly 21 percent of residents are 40-49 years of age, and older adults (65+) make up almost 6 percent of the Sammamish population. The population age range has remained proportionally very similar since the 2000 census. Overall, Sammamish remains a relatively young community, with 34 percent of the population under the age of 19. Figure 2.4 shows the population distribution by age of resident.

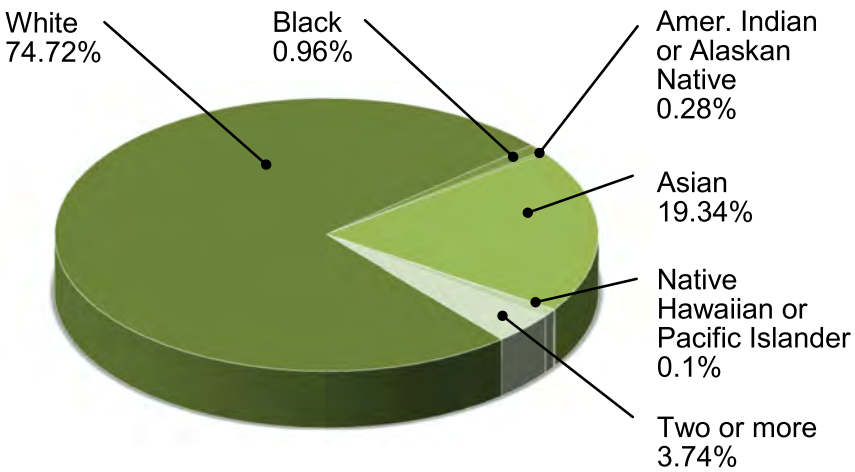
Figure 2.4: Age Distribution of Residents 2010 [6]



Racial and Ethnic Diversity

The 2010 Census established the ethnic makeup of the city as 74.7 percent white, 19.3 percent Asian, 3.7 percent two or more races, 1.0 percent black, 0.9 percent some other race, and 0.1 percent native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. Nearly 25.3 percent of Sammamish's residents identified themselves in this survey as a race other than white, compared with only 9.9 percent in the 2000 census—a dramatic shift. See Figure 2.5.

Figure 2.5: City of Sammamish Diversity 2010 Census [7]



Economic Well-Being
Sammamish's median household income during 2008-2010 was $139,065. By comparison, King County's median household income for the same period was $67,711. Nearly 70 percent of residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher (42 percent have a bachelor's degree and 28 percent have a graduate or professional degree).[8]

Natural Resource Characteristics

Situated between a lakeshore and Cascade foothills, Sammamish encompasses a wide range of natural habitats, including coniferous forests, shoreline habitats, wetlands, and upland corridors. A wet, temperate climate lends itself to lush undergrowth and large tree stands. Sammamish is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including deer, coyote, black bear, mountain beaver, and many varieties of birds. Bald eagles and great blue herons can be seen along the shores of Lake Sammamish. Fish populations include kokanee salmon, sockeye salmon, coho salmon, steelhead trout, and cutthroat trout.

A total of 11.8 miles of shoreline fall within Sammamish city limits, presenting opportunities for water-related recreation pursuits as well as a need for conservation efforts. The shoreline areas confer many advantages, including aesthetic enjoyment, recreational activities, and numerous environmental benefits.

Three large lakes are found within Sammamish city limits and play a key role in the parks and recreation system: Lake Sammamish, Beaver Lake, and Pine Lake.

Lake Sammamish
Though it is 7 miles long and 1.5 miles wide and defines the city's western edge, Lake Sammamish is not readily accessible within city limits. The City owns 2,750 feet of waterfront property on the lake, at Sammamish Landing. This park was opened to the public in 2012. Lake Sammamish State Park, at the southeast tip of the lake, is outside Sammamish city limits. To the north, in Redmond, Marymoor Park and Idylwood Park also provide public access to Lake Sammamish.

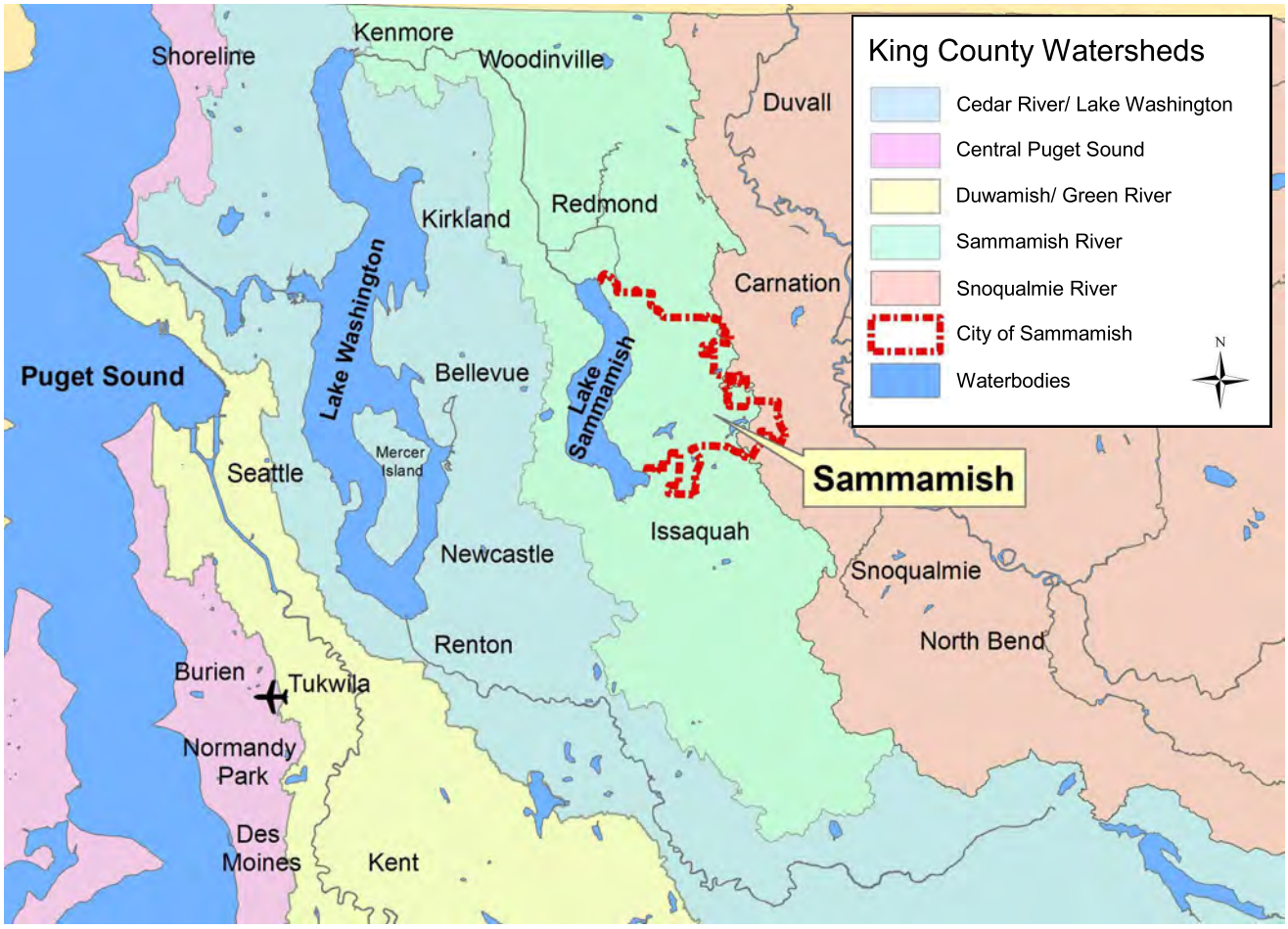
Beaver Lake
Beaver Lake covers 79 acres and is a part of a chain of three lakes: Long Lake, Beaver Lake, and Little Beaver Lake. Two city-owned parks lie on the lake's western shore: Beaver Lake Park and Beaver Lake Preserve. Both provide public access to the lake, although access at Beaver Lake Preserve is undeveloped. The state Department of Fish & Wildlife operates a public boat launch on the eastern shore of Beaver Lake.

Pine Lake
Pine Lake offers the only designated swimming beach in Sammamish, with lifeguard services provided by the City. Covering about 85 acres, the lake is a popular spot for recreation and fishing.

Watershed, Hydrology, and Critical Areas

The Sammamish watershed includes portions of the cities of Sammamish, Everett, Lynnwood, Kenmore, Brier, Mill Creek, Bothell, Woodinville, Redmond, Bellevue, and Issaquah as well as unincorporated areas of King and Snohomish counties. The watershed is part of the Cedar-Sammamish River Water Resource Inventory Area known as WRIA 8. It includes two major river systems, the Cedar and Sammamish, as well as Lake Sammamish, Lake Washington, Lake Union, and numerous tributaries to each. Six major stream systems totaling 42 miles are found within the City: Laughing Jacobs Creek, Zaccuse Creek, Ebright Creek, George Davis Creek, Kamin Creek, and Pine Lake Creek. These systems support vast biodiversity and significant wetland habitats.

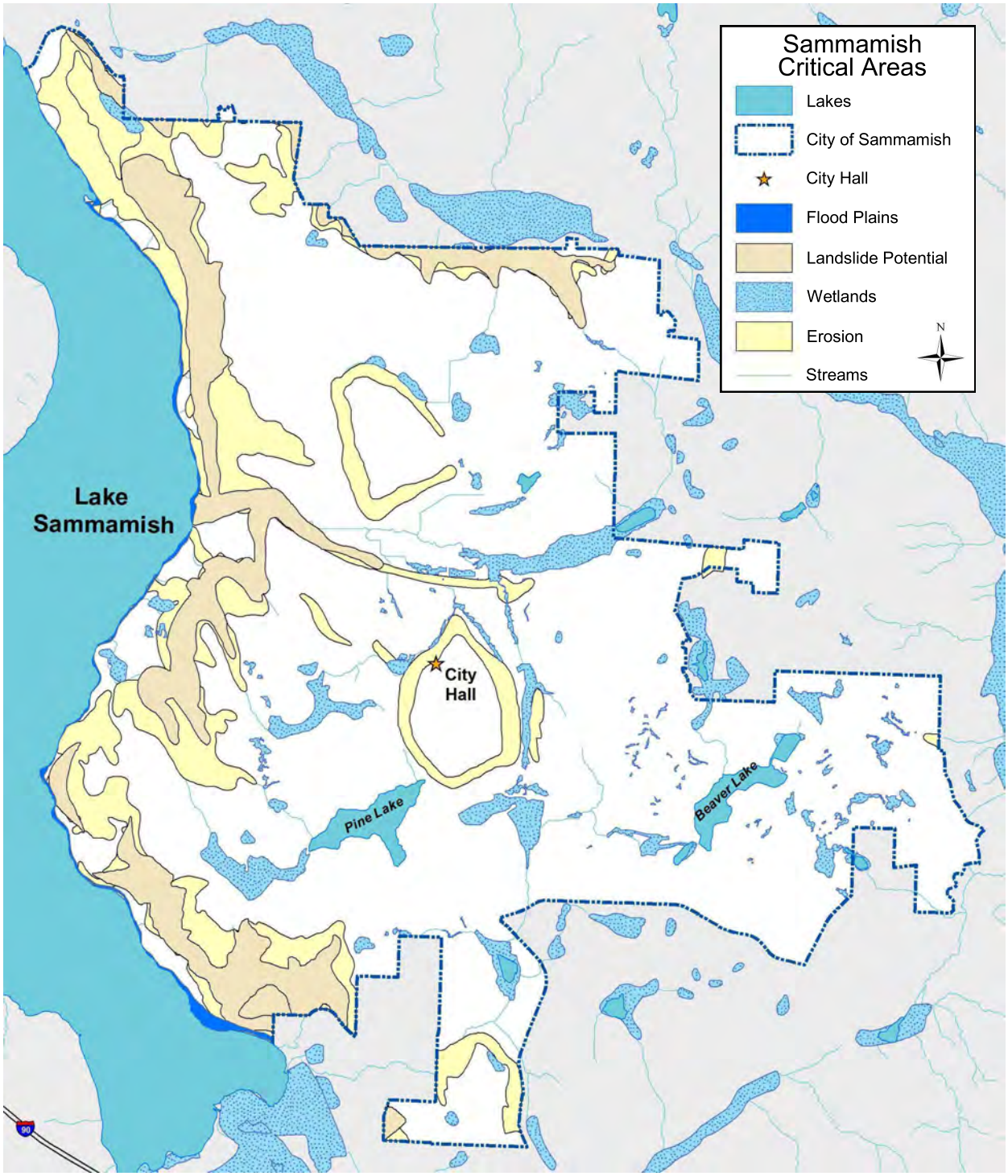
Figure 2.6: King County Watersheds Map [9]



Farmland and Forests

For many generations, Sammamish was a mix of farmland and forests. Orchards and dairy and chicken farms dotted the landscape. Some of these included the Sween family's 300-acre poultry farm, the Erikson farm, and the Mystic Lake Dairy.[10] Today, most of those farms have become subdivisions, supporting an increasing population and creating a more urban environment. Ties to the city's rural roots remain visible. The plateau has several horse farms as well as U-pick farms in and near city limits offering pumpkins, corn, flowers, and trees. The plateau still contains forested areas, including large stands of cedar and fir along with a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees. Other vegetation in the area is typical of the Pacific Northwest, including lush undergrowth.

Figure 2.7: City of Sammamish Critical Areas Map [11]



History of Sammamish Parks and Recreation

Before the City was incorporated, public parks and recreation programs and services in Sammamish were provided by King County and a variety of private and nonprofit agencies. As more people moved to the area, infrastructure could not support the growing population. Improvements to roads, parks, and other public amenities were being deferred. Residents, with an interest in receiving the benefits and amenities of an incorporated city, rallied together to get the City of Sammamish officially incorporated on August 31, 1999.

Shortly after incorporation, King County transferred three parks (Pine Lake Park, East Sammamish Park, and NE Sammamish Park) to the City of Sammamish. The City hired a recreation manager to oversee these parks and to perform other recreation duties. A need for a larger parks and recreation team became apparent as residents expressed desire for more amenities such as neighborhood gathering places and citywide special events. By 2002, the department included a recreation manager, park planner, recreation coordinator, and a maintenance supervisor with a crew of two full-time staff members and two seasonal employees.

In 2003, King County transferred Beaver Lake Park to the City of Sammamish, and two additional full-time employees were hired to maintain it. By the end of that year, the maintenance staff was managing more than 120 acres of land.

In 2004, the City and two school districts (the Issaquah School District and the Lake Washington School District) signed interlocal agreements allowing for shared use of facilities for community and recreation purposes. Under the agreements, community sports fields were constructed at Eastlake High School in 2006 and at Skyline High School in 2007.

In 2005, the first annual kids noontime concert series kicked off, and a management plan was adopted for Beaver Lake Preserve. The department began managing Beaver Lake Lodge in 2006, hiring a facility coordinator to oversee the lodge, shelters, and field rentals. Also in 2006, staff moved into the new City Hall in the Sammamish Commons, and volunteers built the first phase of trails in Beaver Lake Preserve, assisted by the Washington Trails Association. The first Fourth on the Plateau event was held, to great success.

In 2007, Ebright Creek Park and the Sammamish Commons Skate Park were completed. A holiday season kickoff event was inaugurated, and the City Council approved the first rental policies for facilities, fields, and shelters. The City hired a volunteer coordinator to establish and administer a volunteer program within the City. Also, the Parks and Recreation Department hired a deputy parks director to help manage its growing workload.

In 2008, the City Council adopted a master plan for East Sammamish Park. The department completed the city's first off-leash dog park in Beaver Lake Park and renovated the picnic shelters in Pine Lake Park. The first annual Teen Fest was held at Sammamish Commons in partnership with the Redmond/ Sammamish Boys & Girls Club. The department added rental office hours at City Hall, and a recycling program was started at the Beaver Lake Lodge. Volunteers from Issaquah and Lake Washington school districts restored the Sammamish Commons ravine by removing invasive vegetation and planting native plants. Boy Scouts volunteered to improve trails and remove invasive plants at Beaver Lake Park.

In 2009, the department undertook major renovations of the dock and shoreline in Pine Lake Park, constructed a parking lot and improved trails in the lower Sammamish Commons, and renovated the Sween House. A management plan was adopted for Evans Creek Preserve. Maintenance staff resurfaced the off-leash dog park with pet-friendly materials, made improvements to Beaver Lake Lodge, and replaced the restroom roof at Pine Lake. Because so many volunteers were involved in so many projects, the existing volunteer coordinator position moved under the Parks Department. This brought the total number of full-time staff to 15, where it remains in 2012. The City celebrated its first decade of incorporation and unveiled Sammamish Days as a new community event.

In 2010, master plans were adopted for Beaver Lake Park and Sammamish Landing. The first phase of Evans Creek Preserve was designed and permitted, and design work started on Sammamish Landing. Coordination began between the City and the Redmond/ Sammamish Boys & Girls Club in preparation of the new recreation center, and background research was conducted on community centers.

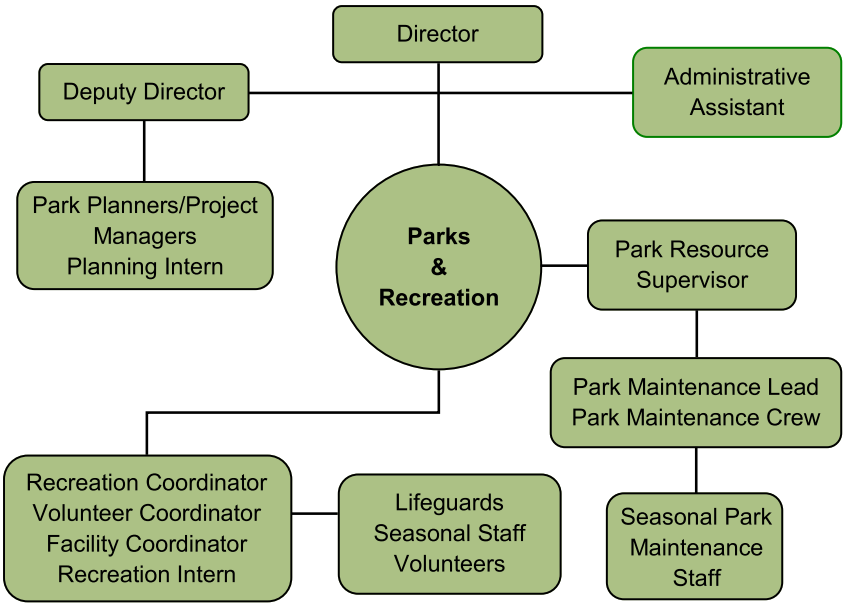
In 2011, the City opened two new parks, Evans Creek Preserve and SE 8th Street Park. The Recreation Center also opened, which is a city-owned facility managed by the Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club. A feasibility study was conducted for a community and aquatic center, and construction of picnic shelters, a seating lawn, and trails took place at Sammamish Landing. The department gained a project manager, transferred from the Public Works department, to assist with facility projects. One of these facility projects includes the Beaver Lake Lodge, which was remodeled with new flooring, lighting upgrades and reconfiguration of the kitchen and storage area.

Sammamish Parks and Recreation Today

At the end of its first decade, the City of Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department is managing 15 parks, preserves, and recreation facilities totaling 490 acres of land. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for planning, marketing, managing, and maintaining parks, trails, open space, programs, and facilities, as well as overseeing land acquisition, grant preparation, and park policies.

The department includes 15 full-time staff members, two interns, 12 seasonal park-maintenance staff, four seasonal facility staff, and 12 summer lifeguards. The City is now the single-largest provider of parks and recreation services in Sammamish. These services include administration, planning and development, wellness, culture and arts, recreation programming, park and facility maintenance, and volunteer services.

Figure 2.8: Parks and Recreation Organization Chart



Besides the staff, two commissions and one board provide support and advocacy for parks and recreation services in Sammamish. Those are the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Arts Commission, and the Sammamish Youth Board.

Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission, formed shortly after incorporation in 1999, is a nine-member advisory group to the City Council. The Council appoints commissioners to four-year terms. The commission meets monthly to provide guidance and give recommendations on park policies. Commissioners also provide support for events and special projects.

Arts Commission

The Arts Commission is a seven-member advisory group to the City Council. Formed in July 2003, the body provides guidance on policies and matters promoting public art. Appointed by the City Council, commissioners meet monthly to discuss community art, grants, and policies, and to plan the rotating art displays in City Hall. Commission members participate in the programs and events that they sponsor.

Sammamish Youth Board

The Sammamish Youth Board, formed in 2001, is composed of local high school and middle school students who are appointed by the City Council for one-year terms. The Youth Board serves as an advisory group to the Council on policy matters related to youth in Sammamish. The board also oversees community-service projects throughout the year.

Conclusion

The City of Sammamish has many unique traits that make it distinguishable from other Washington cities. Demographic factors including population, the large number of youth, and the increasing diversity all play a key role in planning for the future of parks and recreation.

Notes

1. City of Sammamish Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department.
2. Dougherty, Phil. "The Sammamish Story." The Sammamish Heritage Society. http://www.sammamishheritage.org/sammamish.html.
3. Washington State Office of Financial Management. April 1, 2011 official population estimates. http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/april1/finalpop.pdf.
4. U.S. Census Bureau. Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 for Sammamish, Washington. http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_DP_DPDP1&prodType=table.
5. King County GIS Data Portal, 2010 Census Tracts: All Race All Ages Data Table. King County GIS Center. http://www5.kingcounty.gov/gisdataportal/Default.aspx.
6. U.S. Census Bureau.
7. U.S. Census Bureau.
8. U.S. Census Bureau.
9. City of Sammamish Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department.
10. Baggette, Vicki. "Mystic Lake/Dairy.", Brennan, Michelle. "Erikson Farm.", Dougherty, Phil. "Sween Farm.", The Sammamish Heritage Society. http://sammamishheritage.org/history.html#residences.
11. City of Sammamish Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department.

Parks 3

Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the parks and open spaces in and near Sammamish and describes the park classification system.

Parks were established in the Sammamish area long before the City existed. Pine Lake Park was a resort from the early 1900s until King County purchased it in the 1960s.[1] Beaver Lake Park was also the site of a lakeside resort. Its ownership changed a few times before the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle purchased it in the '60s and called it Camp Cabrini. In 1985 King County purchased the camp for a park.[2] East Sammamish and NE Sammamish parks were also managed by King County when this area was rural land. These parks became the foundation of the City's current park system.

Inventory

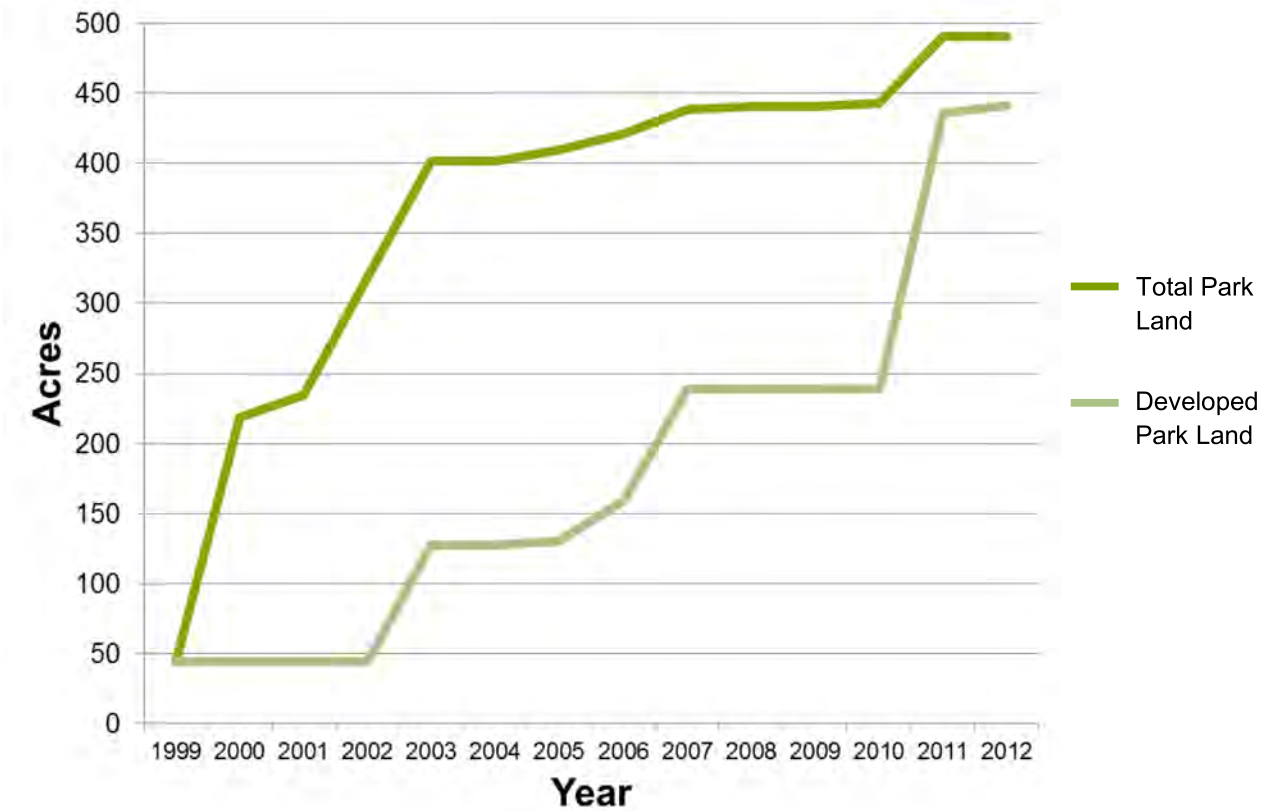
Sammamish's park system has 15 parks, preserves, and facilities totaling 490 acres of park land. Within these parks are 11 picnic shelters, nine playgrounds, six athletic fields, five multiuse sports fields, five tennis courts, three docks, a skate park, an off-leash dog area, and a spray park. Over the past 12 years, the City has cared for and improved the parks transferred from King County as well as expanded the parks system significantly.

Growth of the parks system has come from transfers and purchases. King County transferred Pine Lake Park, East Sammamish Park, NE Sammamish Park, Beaver Lake Park, and thirty acres within Soaring Eagle Park. The City of Redmond transferred five parcels of Sammamish Landing to the City of Sammamish. Purchases were made outright with city funds or with the aid of grants through Conservation Futures and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. Generous private donations allowed the City to acquire Sammamish Landing, a portion of Beaver Lake Preserve, and the SE 8th Street property. Partnerships with school districts led to the development of community sports fields at Eastlake High School and Skyline High School.

Parks

The growth of the parks system since incorporation has been tremendous, increasing from just 44 acres in 1999 to 490 acres in 2012. See Figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1: Sammamish Park Acreage Since Incorporation



Up until 2010, nearly half of the park land was held as undeveloped open space. In 2011, however, the opening of Evans Creek Preserve, Sammamish Landing and SE 8th Street Park nearly doubled the amount of developed park land, bringing the total to 442 acres. An additional 48 acres remains as undeveloped open space.

Figure 3.2 provides a list of Sammamish parks along with corresponding acreage. Detailed information for each of these parks, including the location, list of amenities, and an aerial photo is provided in Appendix C.

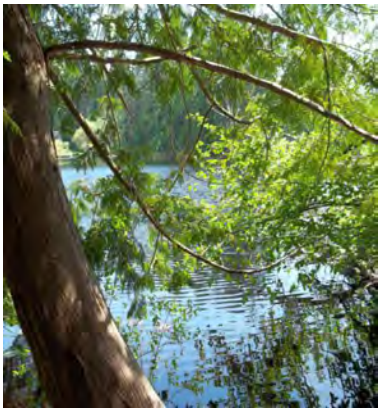


Figure 3.2: Sammamish Parks

City of Sammamish Parks	Acres
Beaver Lake Park	83
Beaver Lake Preserve	76
East Sammamish Park	19
Eastlake Community Fields	3
Ebright Creek Park	12
Evans Creek Preserve	179
Illahee Wetland Trail	8
NE Sammamish Park	6
Pine Lake Park	19
Recreation Center	2
Sammamish Commons Park	25
Sammamish Landing Park	8
SE 8th Street Park	16
Skyline Community Fields	4
Thirty Acres Park (Soaring Eagle)	30
Total	**490**

Sammamish residents also use park resources outside of city limits. The county, the state, and the nonprofit Forterra (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy) own neighboring land providing 3,566 acres for park and recreational use. Many of these parks and open spaces provide connections to regional features such as Cougar Mountain, Tiger Mountain, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway. For the purpose of this plan, only parks within one mile of the city limits are included in this inventory. A list of nearby parks is provided in Figure 3.3.

Figure 3.3 Parks within 1-Mile of Sammamish City Limits

King County Parks	Acres
Duthie Hill Park	120
East Lake Sammamish Trail	128
Evans Crest Natural Area	30
Grand Ridge Park	1285
Klahanie Park	64
Marymoor Park	479
Patterson Creek Natural Area	205
Soaring Eagle Park	627
Washington State Parks	
Lake Sammamish State Park	512
Forterra	
Hazel Wolf Wetlands	116
Total	**3,566**

Other park opportunities in Sammamish include private parks and schools.

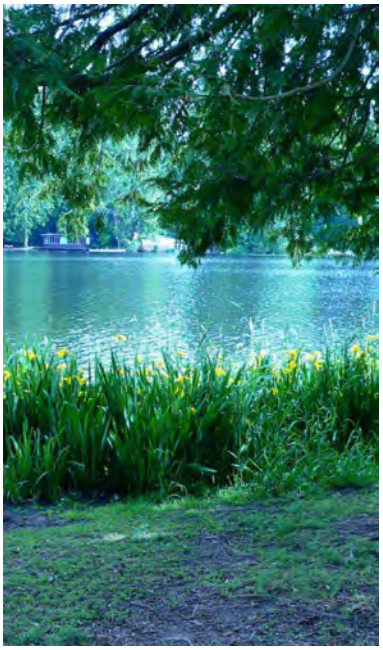
Private Parks

A private park is land within a subdivision that is owned and maintained by a community association (also known as a homeowners association or HOA). This type of park serves the subdivision and varies in size from a very small playground to many acres of sensitive area. Private parks may contain playgrounds, playfields, or walking trails, or they may be undeveloped open space.

Of the 5,862 acres that make up the City's community associations, 1,603 acres (27 percent) are dedicated to recreation, open space, or sensitive areas. Although the majority of this land is privately owned, it is still considered an important element of the parks system.

Schools

Sammamish is served by three public school districts: the Lake Washington School District, the Snoqualmie School District and the Issaquah School District. Together, they have 13 schools within city limits and four just outside city limits. Eastside Catholic, a private school, is also within Sammamish boundaries. Playgrounds and sports fields on school property are open to residents and fill many



of the same needs that parks do. Schools provide approximately 160 acres of park-like space in Sammamish. Most elementary schools have outdoor playground equipment, small grass or dirt play fields, basketball hoops, and markings for playground games such as hopscotch. These amenities are similar to those offered by a neighborhood park. Middle and high schools have the same kind of programmed sport fields common in community parks. The City has partnered with both school districts to upgrade athletic fields with synthetic turf and lights.

The City Park Classification System

Park classifications are used in the planning of new parks. The classifications also reflect standards that inform development decisions during master planning and construction design.

Several factors must be considered when classifying parks:

- Specific needs in neighborhood, service area, or community
- Suitability of a site for a particular use
- Cost and effort of development
- Possibility for public-private partnerships
- Operating and maintenance costs

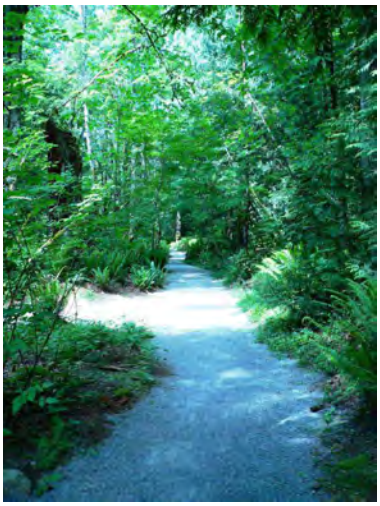
To provide residents with diverse recreational experiences, the City's park system encompasses different types of parks, open space areas, and facilities. The following classifications have been identified for the Sammamish park system:

- Community park
- Neighborhood park
- Mini park
- Special-use park
- School/City partnership park
- Open space/natural area
- Trail

Park Classifications

Community Park
Often the most-visited type of park in the City's system, a community park is typically 15-60 acres in size and serves neighborhoods in a two- to five-mile radius. Most visitors drive to the park. This type of park offers programmed activities as well as passive, unstructured recreation. Amenities may include athletic fields, skate parks, play courts, spray parks, swimming beaches, fishing piers, children's play areas, off-leash dog areas, individual and group picnic shelters, trails, natural areas, and community gardens. Athletic fields may be natural, synthetic turf, or a combination of surfaces, with or without field lighting. Because of the variety of recreation opportunities and the large number of people served, community parks require support facilities such as restrooms, parking lots, and maintenance facilities.

Neighborhood Park
A neighborhood park is typically 5-15 acres in size, serving primarily the residents of the immediate neighborhood—those within a half-mile radius. Topography and population density can influence the location of a neighborhood park. These parks offer both active and passive recreation on a limited scale, but they are used primarily for unstructured recreational activities. Amenities may include children's playgrounds, open space, trails, picnic areas, small facilities for active recreation, open fields, and gathering spaces. Support facilities may include restrooms and off-street parking.



Mini Park
Also called pocket parks, mini parks are small parks on public or private land that offer green space, outdoor seating areas, small playgrounds (such as a tot lot), and sometimes artwork. Currently, the City does not have any mini parks. Because of their size and limited recreational opportunities, mini parks are not feasible for the City to develop at this time. However, many private subdivisions have developed private tot lots and small recreational spaces, typically a half acre to 5 acres in size.

Special-Use Park
A special-use park typically has a single purpose. Examples include a zoo, a golf course, a boat ramp, etc. Size and service area depend on use. There is no size limitation for special-use parks.

School/City Partnership Park
A school/city partnership park combines city and school resources to provide recreational amenities that benefit both the community and the school. Size and service area vary with each site. In general, elementary and middle schools provide resources similar to those of a neighborhood park, while high schools provide resources similar to those of a community park.

Open Space/Natural Area
Open space is land set aside to preserve natural resources and enhance livability and community character. Size and service area vary with each site. Open space supports passive and nature-based recreation as well as environmental education. Sites typically contain sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams, and steep slopes, which also provide habitat for wildlife. Developed sites may include limited support facilities such as parking and restrooms.

Trails
This plan details trails within parks only. Trail systems that include sidewalks and bicycle lanes or anything in the right-of-way are addressed separately in the Trails, Bikeways, and Paths Plan.

Parks

City of Sammamish Parks are classified as follows:

Community Parks

Beaver Lake Park	83 acres
East Sammamish Park	19 acres
Pine Lake Park	19 acres
Sammamish Commons Park	25 acres
SE 8th Street Park	16 acres
Thirty Acres Park (Soaring Eagle)	30 acres
Total Community Parks	**192 acres**

Neighborhood Parks

Ebright Creek Park	12 acres
NE Sammamish Park	6 acres
Sammamish Landing	8 acres
Total Neighborhood Parks	**26 acres**

Special-Use Parks

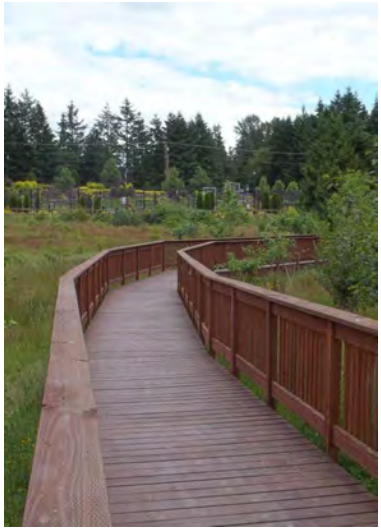
Illahee Wetland Trail	8 acres
Recreation Center	2 acres
Total Special-Use Parks	**10 acres**

School/City Partnership Parks

Eastlake Community Fields	3 acres
Skyline Community Fields	4 acres
Total School/City Partnership Parks	**7 acres**

Open Space/Natural Areas

Beaver Lake Preserve	76 acres
Evans Creek Preserve	179 acres
Total Open Space	**255 acres**
TOTAL PARK ACREAGE	**490 acres**



Level of Service

What is Level of Service?
The parks level of service provides a benchmark to help determine how many parks and what kinds of parks are needed to meet the needs of the Sammamish community. A level of service definition is included in this chapter specifically to help satisfy a requirement of many granting agencies and to provide a method for calculating impact fees.

A Historical Look at Level of Service
In 1983, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the leading professional organization in the field, set a uniform standard for level of service at 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. In 1996, that standard was revised to allow each community to establish level of service recommendations customized to its individual characteristics. The association recommends defining levels that are "practical and achievable, provide for an equitable allocation of park and recreation resources throughout the community, and reflect the real-time demand of the citizens." Although the "acres per thousands" standards are no longer used exclusively, a comparison of Sammamish park facilities to the national standards and to nearby municipalities is included in Appendix D.

Park Impact Fees and Level of Service
Rather than using park acreage per person, the City calculates parks level of service using an "investment per capita" model. In other words, level of service standards are calculated through the application of a formula that measures the overall park investment per person. This model allows the City to be flexible and responsive to changing needs and priorities instead of adhering to arbitrary ratios for each type of park facility. This calculation also serves as the basis for the park impact fee rate.

Sammamish authorized collecting impact fees for parks and recreation in 2006, when the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2006-207. Only new residential development incurs impact fees for park and recreational facilities. Revenue from impact fees is used for the capital cost of new public facilities, including land acquisition, site improvements, and construction as well as equipment and any necessary off-site improvements. The fee also pays for planning,

design, engineering, permits, financing, administrative expenses, and fees or mitigation cost.[3]

The Sammamish Impact Fee is applied based on the type of dwelling unit:

Dwelling Unit	Fee per Unit
Single-Family	$2,681.41
Multi-Family	$1,549.13
Mobile Home	$1,410.69

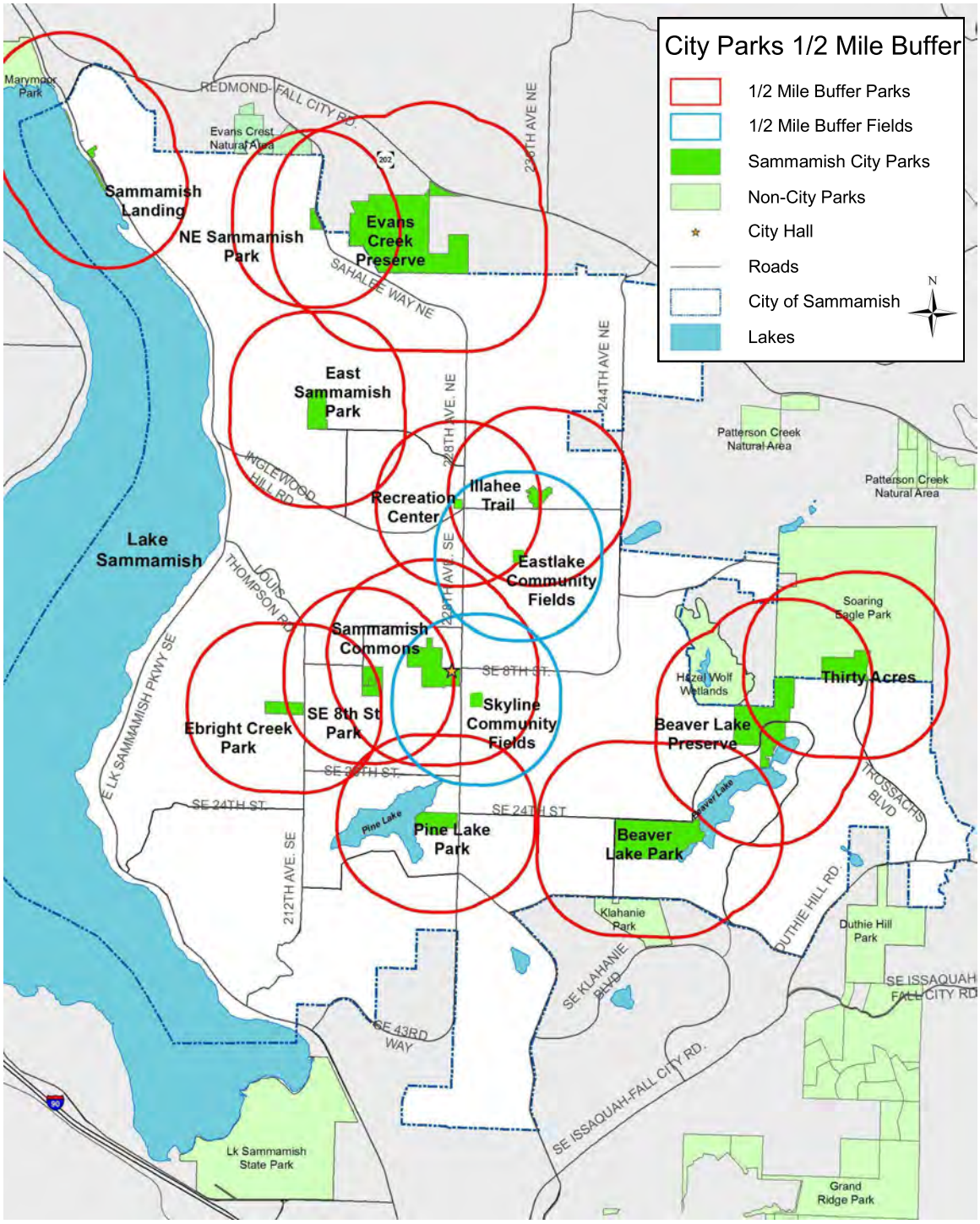
These numbers help identify the additional amount of parks investment needed as the community grows. For example, the addition of 100 new single-family dwelling units would indicate a need for an additional $268,141 in new park facilities. The impact fee model provides a method of collection for these fees as new homes are developed, providing a direct funding measure for new park facilities. A detailed analysis of the method of calculation for the park impact fee is included in Appendix E.

While the investment per capita model is intended to serve as a guideline for funding parks and recreation facilities, it is not intended to be a stand-alone measure of service needs. Many other variables may be considered when determining the appropriate level of investment in the parks system. For example, additional variables may include accessibility, size, amenities, etc. All these measures combined should be considered when making level of service decisions.

Geographic Equity as a Secondary Measure of Level of Service

A secondary measure of level of service is based on geography. This method analyses the location of existing facilities and helps identify where deficits may exist. The Sammamish standard is proposed at a half-mile radius for neighborhood parks and a two-mile radius for community parks. The map shown in Figure 3.4 highlights existing Sammamish parks and applies the geographic standard for level of service. Of note is the noticeable gap in the northeast quadrant of the City, which is one of the reasons this area has been identified for potential land acquisition for several years. Another gap is in the southwest corner of Sammamish, although this gap is less significant due to the close proximity of Lake Sammamish State Park.

Figure 3.4: Geographic Equity Map—1/2 mile buffers



Parks

Recent parks survey results indicate that over 60% of respondents were willing to walk at least one mile to a park facility. The map shown in Figure 3.5 depicts a one-mile radius for all parks, city and non-city-owned, in and near Sammamish.

This preliminary analysis indicates that nearly all Sammamish residents have a park located within one-mile of their home. This analysis does not, however, ensure walkability as the one-mile radius is based on how the crow flies, not the actual direction of travel. Further study will be required to better understand walkability in Sammamish.

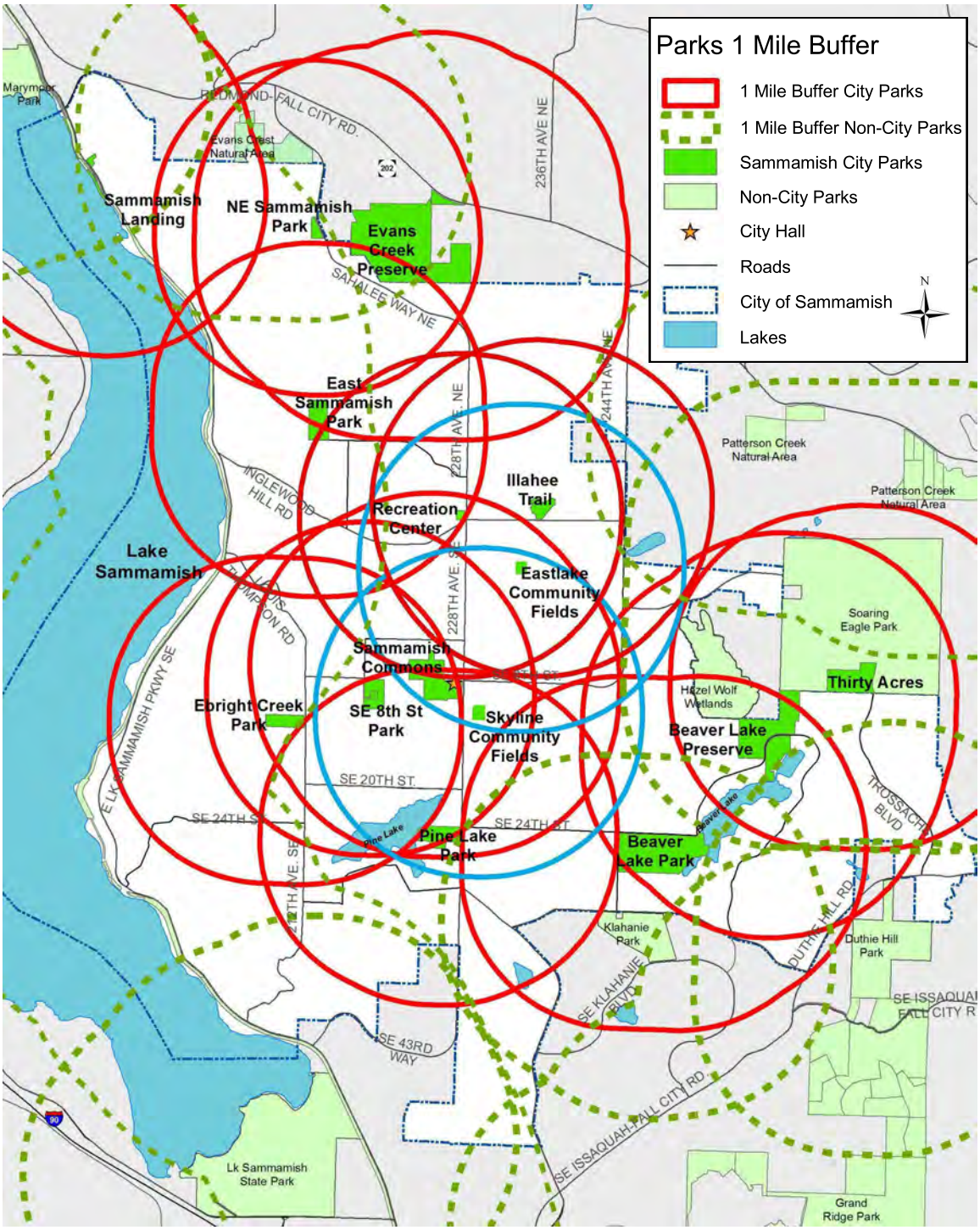
Geographic equity is a relatively new standard of measurement, and the mechanics and applicability are still being tested nationwide. Therefore, this information is included for reference only and will be further defined in future iterations of the PRO Plan.

Level of Service and the Future of the Parks System

After a decade of considerable growth and a ten-fold increase in park acreage, the question is now being asked: what is the right size of the Sammamish parks system? How much park land is enough? Can you ever have enough preserved land? While the level of service analysis in this plan provides some insight, it doesn't provide a clear answer and additional study and analysis is needed.

Future decisions about the size of the parks system must take into account community demand and needs, anticipation of future growth, population density, availability of non-city parks and open spaces, and maintenance and operating costs to name just a few critical factors. To provide some guidance and a long-term look ahead, a series of goals and objectives were developed for the parks system and are included at the end of this chapter.

Figure 3.5: Geographic Equity Map—1 mile buffers



Maintenance and Operations

The Parks Maintenance and Operations Division (Parks M & O) is responsible for maintaining the 490 acres of park land in Sammamish. This includes 22 acres of irrigated turf, 14 restrooms, 11 athletic fields, 11 picnic shelters, and nine playgrounds.

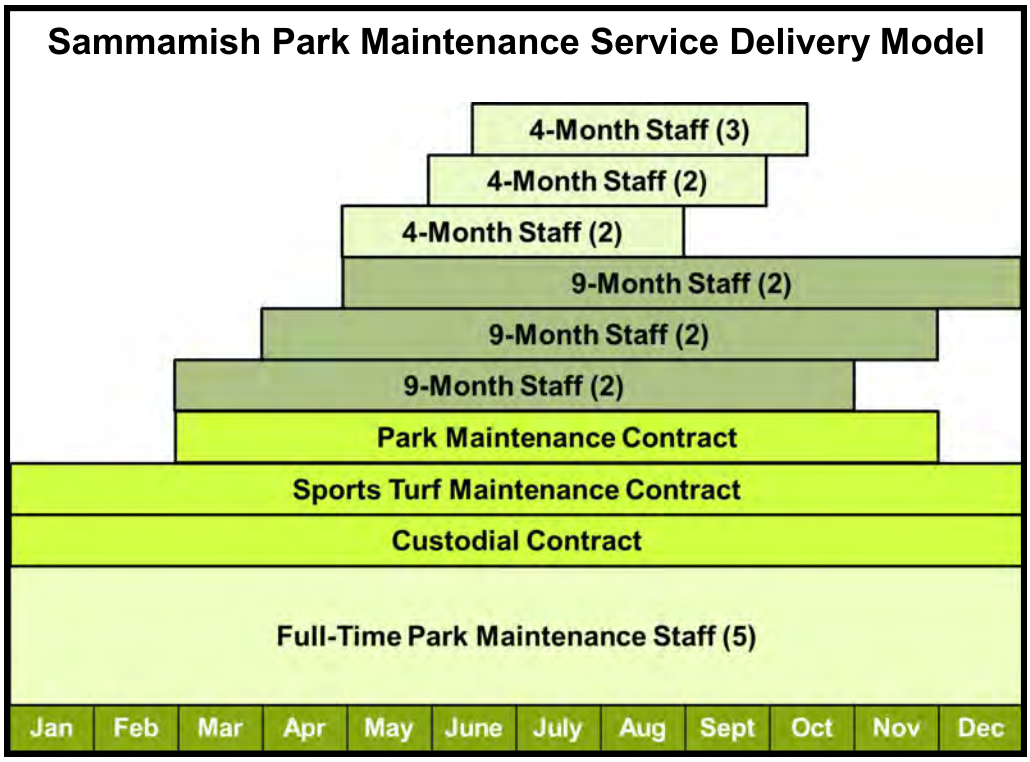
The objectives of the Parks M & O team are as follows:

- Maintain and improve sites and facilities for the enjoyment of the community.
- Maintain landscapes, trails, open space, and facilities by controlling weeds, removing hazardous trees, cleaning, and repairing and replacing equipment.
- Provide support for recreation and volunteer events.
- Maintain and update park maintenance plans.
- Coordinate with park planning to ensure efficient park design.
- Provide athletic field maintenance and preparation for sports teams and tournament play.
- Regularly inspect and maintain playground equipment to ensure current safety standards are met.
- Manage contracts for professional services.

The Parks M & O Division shares resources with the Public Works Maintenance and Operations Division and operates from two locations. Its primary location is a shop on 244th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 18th Street. This building houses the majority of the division's personnel, equipment, and supplies. A satellite shop is located in Beaver Lake Park, at 25005 SE 24th St.

One of the reasons Sammamish has been able to maintain high standards of maintenance, while keeping maintenance costs low is through a blended use of full-time staff, seasonal staff, and contracted staff to perform maintenance services. See Figure 3.6.

Figure 3.6: Park Maintenance Service Delivery Model



The Parks M&O team includes five full-time staff members in addition to a parks resource coordinator. Approximately 13 seasonal positions are filled in 4-month and 9-month durations, which are staggered throughout the year.

The Parks M & O team manages several contracts for professional services within the parks. The three main contracts are for park maintenance, custodial services, and synthetic turf maintenance. Specialty maintenance services for electrical repairs, HVAC maintenance, plumbing, tree services, pressure washing, and hydro-seeding are also provided by contract. In addition to trained staff and contracted services, volunteer groups occasionally help with maintenance tasks in many of the parks.

From 44 Acres to 490 Acres: Park Maintenance Realities

A ten-fold increase in park acreage in just 12-years is an amazing accomplishment. But, the growth of the parks system has not been

without its challenges. As park acreage has increased, so too has the cost of maintenance. Figure 3.7 provides a 5-year history of actual maintenance expenditures, including total amount spent per acre.

Figure 3.7: Five-Year History of Park Maintenance Expenditures

	5-Year History of Park Maintenance Expenditures					Budget
Year	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**
Actual Expenditures	$1,448,932	$1,523,309	$1,375,911	$1,550,230	$1,525,526	$1,661,500
Total Acres Developed Park Land	239	239	239	239	239+	442
Total Spent per Developed Acre	$6,062	$6,374	$5,757	$6,486	$6,387	$3,759

Park maintenance expenditures have held steady over the past five years, with the exception of 2009 when there was a slight decrease. This decrease was due to a management staff shortage, which prevented us from executing several maintenance contracts that year. Once staffing levels were restored in 2010, the contracts were also restored.

The 2012 park maintenance budget was increased in anticipation of opening three new parks at the end of 2011, including the 179 acre Evans Creek Preserve. In 2012 the anticipated maintenance investment per developed acre is significantly lower than the past five years. This level of expenditure may not be sufficient to maintain the current park maintenance service levels and should be evaluated during future budget cycles.

Understanding Park Maintenance Expenditures

Park maintenance services and tasks vary by type of park and amenity and for that reason there is no easy way to compare one park to another park or one park system to another park system. For example, the athletic fields at Beaver Lake Park require daily maintenance during the active sports season. On the other hand, the trails at Beaver Lake Preserve require only weekly inspections and monthly maintenance. Our new park features, such as the restroom

building at Ebright Creek Park, require significantly less maintenance than our older structures like the restroom building at Pine Lake Park.

One way to analyze park maintenance costs is to the compare cost of maintenance per acre to other jurisdictions. Figure 3.8 provides a comparison of maintenance cost per acre for five eastside cities.

Figure 3.8: Comparison of 2011 Park Maintenance Expenditures per Acre

	Issaquah	Sammamish	Redmond	Mercer Island	Kirkland
2011 Park Maintenance Expenditures*	$1,769,574	$1,526,526	$4,900,000	$1,963,657	$3,587,396
Total Park Acreage**	1,680	460	1,344	485	554
Cost per Acre	**$1,053**	**$3,319**	**$3,647**	**$4,049**	**$6,474**

** Actual 2011 park maintenance expenditures shown if known at time of publication.*

*** Includes developed, undeveloped and open space park lands. Sammamish maintenance expenditures include facility maintenance (Beaver Lake Lodge, Recreation Center, etc.) whereas other cities do not. All other cities listed include trail maintenance, whereas the City of Sammamish does not.*

While Sammamish ranks among the lowest in terms of park maintenance cost per acre, this is generally not a reliable comparison. For example, this analysis does not take into account the different types of park land: passive open space parks active parks. Furthermore, the type of park and the amenities in each park require different levels of maintenance and thus incur different maintenance costs.

A more useful tool for park maintenance analysis is the comparison of annual park maintenance investment per capita as shown in Figure 3.9.

Figure 3.9: Comparison of Park Maintenance Expenditures per Capita

	Sammamish	Kirkland	Issaquah	Mercer Island	Redmond
Population	46,940	80,836	27,160	22,699	54,144
2011 Park Maint. Expense*	$1,526,526	$3,587,396	$1,769,574	$1,963,657	$4,900,000
Includes Facilities	Yes	No	No	No	No
Includes Trails	No	Yes - 10 miles	Yes - 14 miles	Yes - 4.7 miles	Yes - 31 miles
$ Per Capita	**$33**	**$44**	**$65**	**$87**	**$90**

** Actual 2011 park maintenance expenditures shown if known at time of publication.*

The Sammamish park maintenance investment per capita is lower, and in some cases much lower, than neighboring eastside cities. The City of Issaquah is investing nearly double the amount per capita, but they are also maintaining 1,680 acres of park land (62 acres per capita) compared to 490 acres (10 acres per capita) in Sammamish.

It should be noted that investment per capita is not an exact comparison. Sammamish park maintenance expenditures also include facility maintenance costs for the Beaver Lake Lodge, the Recreation Center, the Sween House, and other facilities. Other eastside cities do not include facility maintenance costs in their park maintenance budget. On the other hand, all of the other eastside cities maintain trail systems of variable lengths and Sammamish does not.

Park Maintenance Conclusions: It's Complicated

The preceding sections provided a closer look at park maintenance operations and costs and attempted to provide a comparison of Sammamish to other nearby cities. But, let's face it, it's complicated. Levels of park maintenance investment are unique to each jurisdiction and for that reason Sammamish will need to continue to

define acceptable park maintenance standards and corresponding levels of investment that meet the needs of the community.

Just like roads and other city infrastructure, investing in park system maintenance and improvements is essential to ensuring these assets are preserved for future generations. And while the increase in park maintenance expenditures has recently raised concern, the community support for the parks system and level of satisfaction with park appearance remains high.[4]

Planning for the Future/Identifying Park Needs

Based on the information provided above, a series of goals and objectives have been identified for the parks system. These goals represent milestones to be achieved in the next six years or longer.

Goal – Areas of focus in the long-term
Objective – Specific steps toward accomplishing the goal
Action Item – Detailed assignment or task (when identified and appropriate)

Parks Goal #1 (P.1): *Provide a network of parks, trails, athletic fields, and open spaces that delivers a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities to the Sammamish community.*

Objective P.1.1: Provide barrier-free (ADA-compliant) access, where readily achievable, by modifying existing facilities or when designing or constructing new facilities.

Action P.1.1.A: Provide trails and paths for people of all ages and abilities through ADA-accessible design by establishing a hierarchy of trail/path materials and grades.

Action P.1.1.B: Provide information about accessible parks, trails, and playgrounds to the public through marketing and on-site signage.

Action P.1.1.C: Develop a long-term ADA transition plan for all Sammamish parks to include updates to playgrounds and other highly-utilized park amenities.

Objective P.1.2: Provide amenities at parks and open-space facilities such as restrooms, lighting, seating, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, bicycle racks, and shelters when possible, feasible, and appropriate to extend hours of use and service quality.

Objective P.1.3: Ensure public safety at all Sammamish parks and recreation facilities through coordination of design and renovation with police, fire, and emergency response personnel, and through the utilization of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) techniques.

Objective P.1.4: Explore opportunities for additional off-leash dog parks in Sammamish.

Action P.1.4.A: Identify at least one option for a new dog park in Sammamish.

Action P.1.4.B: Develop recommendations for better enforcement of off-leash dog laws in city parks.

Parks Goal #2 (P.2): *Identify financing strategies for the development and operations of parks and recreation facilities to serve the citizens of Sammamish.*

Objective P.2.1: Utilize impact fees to accommodate growth through the expansion of the parks system.

Objective P.2.2: Seek funding for new parks and facilities and renovations through a variety of sources including capital reserves, real estate excise tax, impact fees, grants, donations, bonds, or levies.

Objective P.2.3: Establish a pricing strategy for rented facilities that aligns with comparable market rates and supports cost recovery of maintenance and operations costs associated with those facilities.

Parks Goal #3 (P.3): *Enhance citywide planning for parks, athletic fields, trails, and open space.*

Objective P.3.1: Provide opportunities for public participation in the planning process for major park development and renovation projects.

Objective P.3.2: Complete additional research and analysis to help guide the development of secondary level of service standards.

Action P.3.2.A: Develop a "green space" map that identifies all public and private parks, open space, and trail opportunities in the city.

Action P.3.2.B: Complete a "walkability analysis" as part of the Trails, Bikeways and Paths Plan update that identifies safe walkable routes to parks within 1/2 mile and 1 mile of each residence.

Action P.3.2.C: Prepare a population density and park distribution analysis.

Action P.3.2.D: Develop and conduct a statistically valid benchmarking survey that measures a key set of performance metrics related to parks services including satisfaction with the parks system, park usage, participation in outdoor activities, and priorities for maintenance and capital investment.

Objective P.3.3: Develop and adopt a park classification system.

Action P.3.3.A: Classify all Sammamish park lands and develop a corresponding level of service (LOS) standard for appropriate classifications.

Objective P.3.4: Adopt a six-year capital improvement plan (CIP) every two years, off-cycle from the adoption of the biennial budget.

Action P.3.4.A: Update the CIP as part of the six -year PRO Plan Update. (2012)

Objective P.3.5: Inventory and map all park lands, open s paces, and trails. Include lists of all park amenities, trail easements, and public spaces.

Objective P.3.6: Establish, adopt, or update master plans for all parks in conjunction with public participation to guide all major park development and achieve cohesive design and efficient phasing of projects. Develop multiyear (10 to 20 year) plans that can be realistically implemented and funded.

Action P.3.6.A: Complete a master plan for the SE 8th Street Park properties.

Action P.3.6.B: Complete a master plan for the Soaring Eagle Park 30-acre property.

Objective P.3.7: Incorporate green building practices into park design and construction, including green demolition and disposal practices, use of local and recycled products when feasible, and incorporation of low-impact development techniques (such as green roofs, solar solutions, etc.).

Action P.3.7.A: Incorporate the sustainable sites initiative principles into park design and construction.

Objective P.3.8: Use parks and recreation staff, when feasible and appropriate, to provide project cost savings by designing, managing, and constructing capital projects in-house, and making minor repairs and other park improvements.

Objective P.3.9: Plan non motorized trail systems for pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the City and connect adjoining communities through regional linkages.

Action P.3.9.A: Inventory all trail connections – identify existing trails and connectivity gaps.

Action P.3.9.B: Update the Trails, Bikeways and Paths (TBP) Plan every six years or as needed.

Action P.3.9.C: Identify trail easements granted to the City but not currently in use.

Objective P.3.10: Promote safe trail use and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other trail users.

Action P.3.10.A: Implement trail signage plans based on regional design standards.

Action P.3.10.B: Ensure safe road crossings at designated locations.

Action P.3.10. C: Establish public awareness programs for the use, safety, and maintenance of trails.

Note: **A detailed and expanded goals and objectives section is included in the Sammamish Trails, Bikeways and Paths (TBP) Plan and not repeated here.**

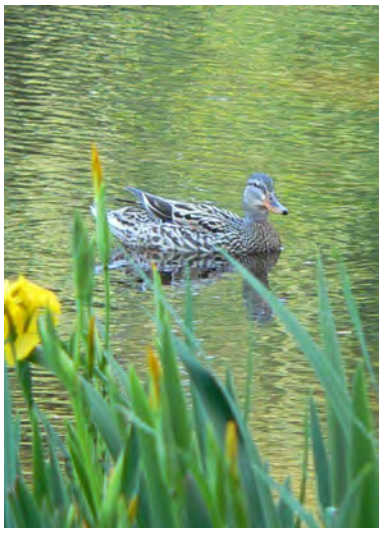
Parks Goal #4 (P.4): *Acquire and develop parks and recreation land, facilities, and open space areas to meet the needs of the Sammamish community.*

Objective P.4.1: Analyze system wide park needs and develop criteria for acquisition of new park land and facilities.

Action P.4.1.A: Investigate the acquisition of land suitable for a community park in underserved areas of the City.

Action P.4.1.B: Acquire the King County "Overlook Property" to establish a future connection to Evans Creek Preserve.

Action P.4.1.C: Establish criteria to help guide park land acquisition decisions. Criteria to include: alignment with parks and recreation vision, mission, and values; equitable distribution of geographic resources; cost of development; estimated maintenance and operations costs of new land and facilities; and, the benefits and potential services of the acquired land.



Objective P.4.2: Utilize the resources of national, regional, state, and local conservation organizations, corporations, non profit associations, and benevolent entities to identify and partner in the acquisition of land for park and recreation needs.

Objective P.4.3: Work with conservation groups and the private sector to acquire, conserve, and manage open space land through management practices, donations, bargain sales, or dedication.

Parks Goal #5 (P.5): *Maintain Sammamish parks and recreation facilities to ensure longevity of assets, a positive aesthetic and sensory experience, preservation of habitat and natural systems, and safety for park patrons.*

Objective P.5.1: Preserve existing forested parks and open space areas by implementing management practices to ensure the long-term health of the urban forest. Monitor tree health, forest structure, and the occurrence of invasive species in parks and open space areas throughout the city. Plant trees in parks and open space areas to improve the overall tree canopy.

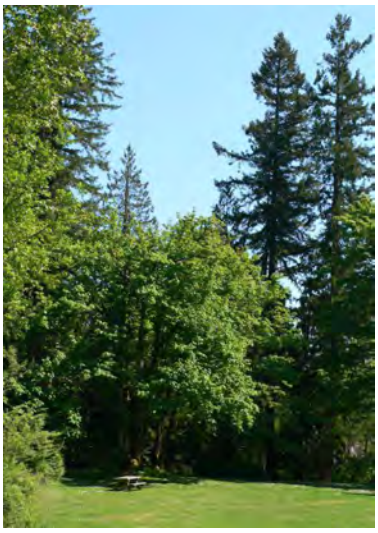
Action P.5.1.A: Complete the Tree City USA requirements to become an official Tree City.

Action P.5.1.B: Complete a tree survey at Beaver Lake Park.

Objective P.5.2: Develop and implement regularly scheduled routine, reactive, and preventive maintenance programs to ensure effective use of maintenance resources.

Action P.5.2.A: Transition to a computer-based asset management system.

Action P.5.2.B: Develop a maintenance plan for every park and facility.



Objective P.5.3: Provide maintenance and operations support for recreation programs, special events, and other city-sponsored activities.

Objective P.5.4: Remove invasive vegetation within parks, open spaces, and sensitive lands by establishing protocols for natural weed-removal methods (i.e. goats), by using native and non-native plants to increase the diversity of plant species within parks, and by developing outreach and volunteer efforts to educate the community on invasive plants and proper removal strategies.

Action P.5.4.A: Establish park stewardship opportunities for citizens to participate in the stewardship of the park properties.

Action P.5.4.B: Develop an invasive plant map for all park lands.

Action P.5.4.C: Implement a plan for removal and monitoring of invasive plant species.

Objective P.5.5: Promote recycling at all Sammamish parks and recreation facilities.

Action P.5.5.A: Provide recycling receptacles in all parks by 2014.

Action P.5.5.B: Develop marketing materials to encourage user groups (i.e. sports teams) to support and promote Sammamish recycling efforts.

Objective P.5.6: Conserve and reduce water use through design and renovation of parks including minimizing wide expanses of green lawn to reduce irrigation needs, utilizing gray-water methods where appropriate and safe, and designing water features to recirculate.

Objective P.5.7: Incorporate sustainable practices into park maintenance procedures by reducing use of pesticides and herbicides, maintaining equipment in good working order, purchasing green maintenance equipment when feasible, replacing existing lighting fixtures with high-efficiency fixtures, and keeping systems (irrigation, lighting, HVAC, etc.) updated and fully functional for maximum performance and efficiency.

Action P.5.7.A: Track monthly utility consumption data for all parks and facilities.

Action P.5.7.B: Complete an energy audit at Beaver Lake Park.

Objective P.5.8: Continue to encourage, support, and facilitate volunteer programs that enhance park improvement and restoration efforts, promote environmental education, support ongoing maintenance efforts, and engage all members of the community.

Objective P.5.9: Coordinate and maintain procedures for identifying and managing open space, conservation, or preservation of lands through mechanisms such as zoning, donation, purchase of easements, or management strategies.

Objective P.5.10: Work with conservation groups and the private sector to acquire, conserve, and manage open-space land through management practices, donations, bargain sales, or dedication.

Objective P.5.11: Identify areas where native habitat should be improved to protect wildlife and maintain wildlife corridors through the incorporation of native plantings and access controls and removal of barriers to fish passage.

Objective P.5.12: Promote environmental learning through interpretive signage programs in City parks and preserves.

Action P.5.12.A: Implement interpretive signage program to promote unobtrusive wildlife and habitat viewing and learning at Ebright Creek Park, Evans Creek Preserve, Beaver Lake Preserve, and SE 8th Street Park.

Conclusion

What started as just a few parks transferred from King County over a decade ago has grown and developed into a mature community-wide parks system. Managing this system and serving as good stewards of the land requires coordination, vision, and guidelines for the future. The preceding sections have provided these guidelines and begun to identify the future priorities for the parks system. All of this information will serve as the foundation for the development of the Capital Improvement Program (Chapter 9).

Notes

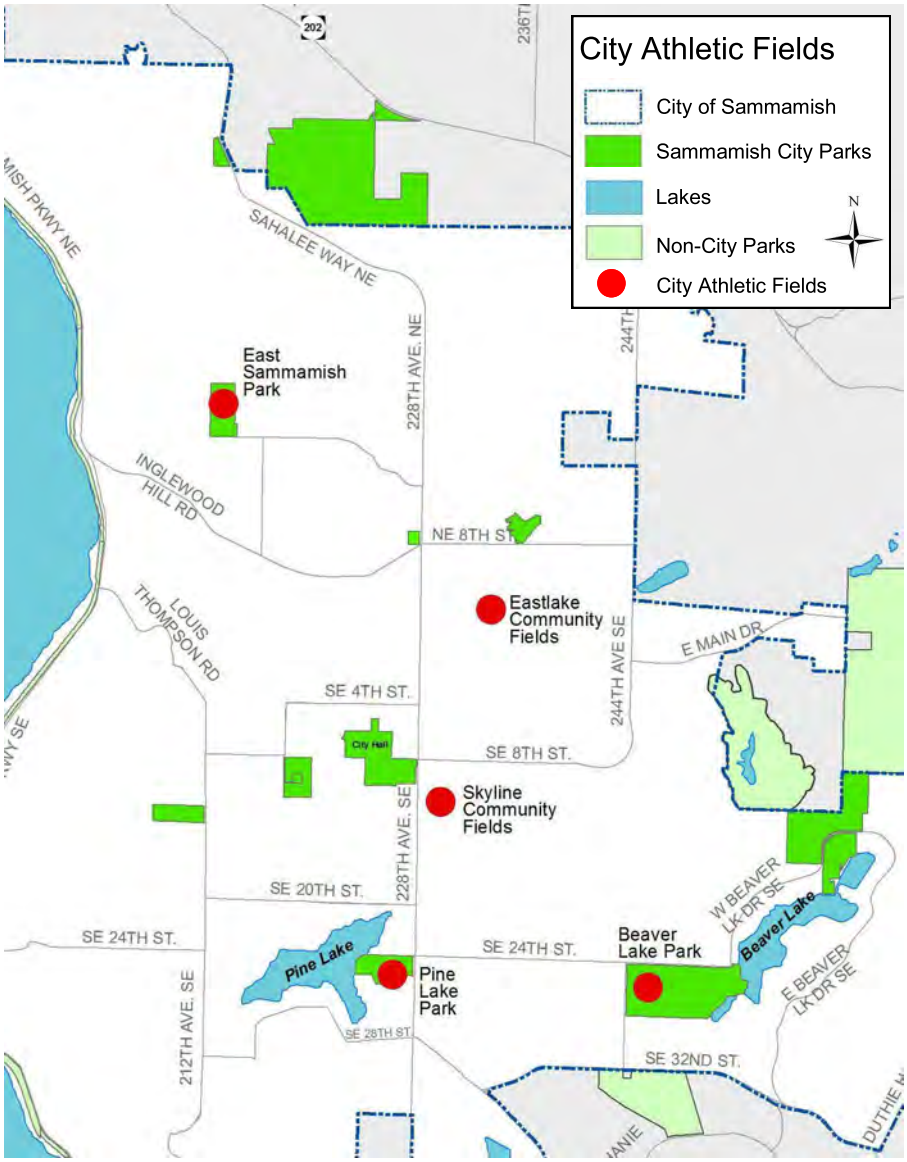
1. Dougherty, Phil. "Tanska Family." The Sammamish Heritage Society. http://www.sammamishheritage.org/tanska.html.
2. Heeringa, Caleb, "Beaver Lake Lodge to get a makeover." The Sammamish Review. November 26, 2011. http://www.sammamishreview.com/2011/11/26/beaver-lake-lodge-to-get-a-makeover
3. Henderson, Young & Company. Rate Study for Impact Fees for Parks and Recreational Facilities, City of Sammamish, Washington, November 2, 2006.
4. Hebert Research, Inc. City of Sammamish PRO Plan Survey, July 2010. Pages 10-11.

Athletic Fields 4

Introduction

Over the past several years, the number of athletic leagues in Sammamish has grown considerably, outstripping the current inventory of athletic fields. Land suitable for constructing new fields is scarce and expensive. This chapter examines current and future needs for athletic fields, specifically describing the condition of each athletic field and analyzing scheduling and usage patterns. The chapter also identifies opportunities to increase field-use capacity by improving existing fields or constructing new ones.

Figure 4.1: Existing Sammamish Athletic Fields



Inventory

The City of Sammamish operates 11 athletic fields at five City of Sammamish facilities. This includes a mix of natural-turf (grass) athletic fields and synthetic-turf fields. All city fields are multipurpose, serving more than one sport and more than one age group. Figure 4.1 provides a map of the city's athletic fields.

Athletic Fields

A summary of athletic fields, including size, amenities, quality of playing surface, and sports played on each field is provided in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2 Existing City Athletics Field Inventory

	Beaver Lake Park	East Sammamish Park	Pine Lake Park	Eastlake Community Fields	Skyline Community Fields
Number of fields (by type)	3 baseball/softball fields with removable mounds	2 baseball/softball fields with removable mounds 1 soccer/lacrosse field	1 baseball/softball field 1 soccer/lacrosse field located in outfield of baseball field; not lined for lacrosse	2 multipurpose fields	2 multipurpose fields
Surface type	Natural grass	Natural grass	Natural grass	Synthetic turf	Synthetic turf
Base Paths	60' & 65'	60' & 70'	60' & 65'	60', 65', 70', 80' & 90'	60' & 65'
Outfield Distance	285'	285'	285'	325'	200'
Soccer Dimension	N/A	330' x 180'	330' x 180'	330' x 180'	330' x 180'
Sports played	Baseball Softball Soccer – modified use for younger ages only	Baseball Softball Lacrosse Soccer	Baseball Softball Lacrosse Soccer Cricket	Baseball Softball Lacrosse Soccer Football	Baseball Softball Lacrosse Soccer Football
Year built	Built in 1994 Renovated in 2001	Built in 1991	Built in the 1970s Renovated in 2004	Built in 2006	Built in 2007
Condition of playing surface	Fair	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excellent
Irrigation	Yes, April to October	Yes, April to October	Yes, April to October	N/A	N/A
Subsurface drainage	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Sports Lighting	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

In addition to City of Sammamish athletic fields, leagues also use other fields inside and outside of Sammamish city limits to meet league needs. In almost all cases, league boundaries overlap with another jurisdiction, most often to the north with the City of Redmond or to the south with the City of Issaquah. For the purposes of this plan, athletic fields beyond one mile from the city limits are not included in this inventory. A list of non-city athletic fields is provide in Figure 4.3.

Figure 4.3 Existing Non-City Athletics Field Inventory

Owner		Name	Field Type		Sport Type				
			Natural	Synthetic	Football*	Baseball	Softball	Lacrosse	Soccer
City of Issaquah		Central Park	3						
				2					
Issaquah School District	Elementary School	Cascade Ridge	1						
		Challenger	1						
		Discovery	2						
		Endeavour	1						
		Grand Ridge	1						
		Sunny Hills	1						
	Middle School	Beaver Lake	2						
		Pacific Cascade	2						
		Pine Lake	3						
	High School	Skyline		2					
Lake Washington School District	Elementary School	Crista McAuliffe	2						
		Elizabeth Blackwell	2						
		Louisa May Alcott	1						
		Margaret Mead	2						
		Rachel Carson	1						
		Samantha Smith	1						
	Middle School	Inglewood	3						
	High School	Eastlake		1					
			3						
King County		Klahanie Park	2						
		Marymoor Park		16	*rugby				
Private Parks		Eastside Catholic		1					
		Brook O'Connor	1						
		McWhirter	1						
WA State Parks			9						

Athletic Fields

All of the fields listed in figure 4.3 are shown on the map in Appendix F.

Sammamish Athletic Leagues

In total, 20 athletic leagues were identified as regular users of Sammamish athletic fields. A list by sport is provided in Figure 4.4. Eastlake Little League and Sammamish Little League are listed twice because they offer both baseball and softball.

Figure 4.4 Sammamish Athletic Leagues

Sport	Organization	Ages
Baseball	Eastlake Little League	Elementary & junior high
	Eastlake Sammamish Baseball Assoc.	Middle & high school
	Lake Sammamish Baseball Assoc.	Middle & high school
	Sammamish Little League	Preschool to high school
	Spartan Baseball Club	Elementary to high school
	Puget Sound Senior Baseball League	Adult
Softball	Eastlake Little League	Elementary & junior high
	Sammamish Little League	Preschool to high school
	Clean and Sober Softball Assoc.	Adult
Soccer	Issaquah Soccer Club	Preschool to high school
	Lake Washington Youth Soccer Assoc.	Elementary to high school
	Greater Seattle Soccer League	Adult
	Washington State Women's Soccer Assoc.	Adult
	Sammamish Soccer Club	Adult
Football	Eastlake Youth Football	Elementary & junior high
	Skyline Youth Football Assoc.	Elementary & middle
Lacrosse	Pacific Cascade Lacrosse Club	Elementary to high school
	Eastside Crusaders Youth Lacrosse	Elementary to middle school
	Eastlake Lacrosse	Elementary to high school
	ISD Women's Lacrosse Club	High School
	Skyline Lacrosse	Elementary to high School
	Issaquah Youth Lacrosse	High school

Understanding the Need

Anecdotally, we have known for many years that demand for athletic fields exceeds the supply. The challenge is quantifying the need to develop a capital improvement program for athletic fields. Complicating the analysis is the fact that fields accommodate multiple sports and multiple leagues and operate in multiple playing seasons.

Needs of Sammamish Athletic Leagues

Representatives from all leagues in Sammamish were interviewed to identify current and future needs for athletic fields. Most projections were for continued growth and steady demand for more field time. In part because many league boundaries extend beyond city limits, league representatives said they regularly use non-city fields (such as school fields or private fields) and fields outside of city limits to meet their needs. Even with this additional inventory, league representatives indicate they still don't have enough field time. In many cases, Sammamish leagues have had to limit the number of participants because of the limited availability of athletic fields.

Each league provided information on how they are currently using the Sammamish fields (practices or games) and whether or not they are using non-city fields to support their programs. This information is summarized in Figure 4.5

Figure 4.5: Existing Field Use

		City of Sammamish Fields					Other Fields	
Sport	**Age**	**Beaver Lake Park**	**East Sammamish Park**	**Pine Lake Park**	**Eastlake Community Fields**	**Skyline Community Fields**	**Inside Sammamish**	**Outside Sammamish**
Baseball	Youth	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Yes	Yes
Baseball	Adult	N/A	N/A	N/A	Practices & Games	N/A	Yes	Yes
Softball	Youth	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Yes	Yes
Softball	Adult	Practices & Games	None	None	None	N/A	No	No
Football	Youth	N/A	N/A	N/A	Practices	Practices	Yes for Games	No
Lacrosse	Youth	N/A	Practices	Practices	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Yes	Yes
Soccer	Youth	Practices	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Practices & Games	Yes	Yes
Soccer	Adult	N/A	Games	None	Games	Games	Yes	Yes

Athletic Fields

Information about field use shows that all Sammamish athletic fields are being used as multipurpose facilities, serving multiple sports and multiple age groups. Though efficient, it often causes scheduling challenges during overlapping athletic seasons. On natural-turf fields, such as East Sammamish Park, overuse can cause turf damage and long-term closures for maintenance.

Field Needs by Season

Until the 1990s, sport seasons were clearly separated. Soccer and football were played in the fall and winter, and baseball and softball were played in the spring and summer. Most Sammamish athletic fields were designed as overlays, meaning that a soccer or football field overlapped a baseball/softball field. The overlapping design worked because the sports seasons were distinctly different.

For the past 15 years or so, the introduction of select programs and the boom in sports such as lacrosse have increased field demand and blurred the line between sport seasons. Select or competitive teams often practice year round. For example, extending soccer season to spring and summer causes conflicts for fields that were previously dedicated for baseball or softball. The growing popularity of lacrosse adds another challenge. Lacrosse leagues use fields similar in size to soccer and football and play primarily in the spring. Figure 4.6 provides a summary of athletic league play by month.

Figure 4.6 Athletic League Seasons By Month

Sport	Age	Field Usage by Month											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Baseball	Youth			■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Baseball	Adult					■	■	■	■	■			
Softball	Youth			■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Softball	Adult			■	■	■	■						
Football	Youth								■	■	■	■	
Lacrosse	Youth	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Soccer	Youth	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■
Soccer	Adult	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Overlapping seasons result in increased demand for some fields and a reduction in rest periods for natural-turf fields.

Field and Design Requirements by Sports League

In addition to a different field configuration for each sport, age groups within each sport sometimes require different field sizes. Soccer, for example, begins as early as age 4 or 5 on a 45-by-60-foot field. Soccer for older youth and adults, however, is played on fields that are 180 by 330 feet. Lengths of field lines and even the size of the goal vary by age group.

Football, lacrosse and soccer are played on similar-size fields, but the dimensions for each vary slightly, and each sport requires different field lines. Also, the lines for men's and women's lacrosse are different. To address this need, lacrosse fields are designated for either women or men and are not interchangeable for game play.

Safety can become an issue, especially when fields are side by side as at Skyline and Eastlake high schools. For example, a long fly ball from a softball game on Skyline Field 2 can enter the play zone of a lacrosse game in progress on Field 1. Ideally, fields should include safe zones beyond out-of-play lines to protect nearby users. Figure 4.7 summarizes field size requirements for Sammamish leagues.

Figure 4.7 League Field Size Requirements

Sport	Age	Pitching Mound Distance	Base Path Distance	Center Field Fence Line Distance	Field Dimension
Baseball	Youth	Range: 46' to 60' 6"	Range: 60' to 90'	200' to 300'	N/A
Baseball	Adult	60'	90'	325'+	N/A
Softball	Youth	35' to 43'	50' to 60'	200'	N/A
Softball	Adult	50'	65'	200' to 315'	N/A
Football	Youth	N/A	N/A	N/A	Width: 210' Length: 288'
Lacrosse	Youth	N/A	N/A	N/A	Width: 180' - 210' Length: 330' - 420'
Soccer	Youth	N/A	N/A	N/A	Width: 45' - 180' Length: 75' - 330'
Soccer	Adult	N/A	N/A	N/A	Width: 195' - 240' Length: 330' - 360'

Athletic Fields

To accommodate a variety of needs, synthetic-turf fields are built to a standard size that can be used by as many leagues as possible. For example, community sports fields are 180 by 330 feet, a satisfactory size for adult soccer, football, and lacrosse that can also accommodate younger teams. An overlay for a baseball/softball field makes the field even more versatile.

From an operations perspective, synthetic turf offers many benefits: It doesn't require rest periods, sustains wet weather conditions and costs considerably less to maintain. However, representatives from youth baseball and youth softball leagues say they wish to continue playing on natural-grass fields. Natural-grass fields fare better when they are not required to accommodate multiple sports at the same time. They cannot sustain the wear and tear of full-size field play for soccer and lacrosse in addition to spring-season baseball and softball.

Athletic League Weekly Usage

The number of practices, games and tournaments played annually by each Sammamish athletic team varies widely. Generally, youth teams hold one or two practices per week, usually on weekdays. Most play at least one game per week, typically on weekends. Most youth teams travel outside of Sammamish for half of their regular-season games. Many leagues host preseason and postseason tournaments, which are accommodated when field space allows.

Because of the limited number of fields and because youth teams have priority over adult teams, most adult teams do not have practice time during peak season (March through May and July through October). When fields are available, adult teams typically practice no more than once a week. Adult leagues schedule their games on weekdays and weekends, as field availability allows. For the most part, adult play is restricted to synthetic-turf fields.

Sammamish Athletic Field Use Analysis

To understand how existing Sammamish fields are being used, capacity at each field was studied, with both weekday (Figure 4.8) and weekend (Figure 4.9) use analyzed. (An attempt was made to compare Sammamish field usage data to national standards, but the comparison was difficult due to the many variables involved including field types, field size, weather and scheduling policies.)

Information in both tables was generated based on historical field reservation data.

Figure 4.8 Sammamish Field Usage by Time Slot (2011 Weekday Use)

Facility	Field	Surface	Sport*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beaver Lake Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
Beaver Lake Park	Field 2	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
Beaver Lake Park	Field 3	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
East Sammamish Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
East Sammamish Park	Field 2	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
East Sammamish Park	Field 3	Natural	SC, LX												
Pine Lake Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
Eastlake Comm. Fields	Field 1	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB												
Eastlake Comm. Fields	Field 2	Synthetic	SC, LX, FB												
Skyline Comm. Fields	Field 1	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB												
Skyline Comm. Fields	Field 2	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB												

*BB = baseball, SB = softball, SC = soccer, LX = lacrosse, FB = football

High Usage (80-100% reserved)
Moderate Usage (60-80% reserved)
Low Use (<60% reserved)
Field Closed for Maintenance

Weekdays primarily see use for youth practices and, when fields are available, for adult games. High-use periods, particularly on synthetic-turf fields, occur during peak youth-league seasons (March through May and July through October). The reservation rate for many of the months shown in red is at or near 100 percent for synthetic-turf fields.

Athletic Fields

The weekday chart indicates that natural-turf fields, particularly at Beaver Lake Park, are not being used to full capacity. A recent increase in rental rates may have resulted in fewer reservations on these fields. Anecdotal feedback from league representatives suggests that leagues no longer reserve multiple fields for the same time, as they used to do when reservation fees were lower. This may mean fewer reservations but also a more accurate reflection of demand. This new availability is an opportunity for the department to shift leagues and teams from high-use fields to low-use fields and to promote additional field time to other teams and leagues.

Field quality is also a factor in demand; demand is strongest for fields of the highest quality (synthetic-turf fields). Durability of the synthetic playing surface allows leagues to schedule multiple teams on the same field for practice, thereby making the most of their field rental budget.

Adult leagues, specifically adult soccer, would like more time during the week on synthetic-turf fields. Adult leagues are attractive to the city because they play year round, which stabilizes use and revenue over a 12-month period. However, synthetic-turf fields are not available for adult use during peak youth seasons. Most adult leagues require a minimum two-hour block that they can schedule consistently all year. The addition of more fields would help meet this need.

Another factor in scheduling natural-turf fields is that they are used only by youth programs, ages 12 and under. Older youth teams and adults are scheduled exclusively on the synthetic-turf fields, which are larger and can withstand the wear and tear of adult play.

Figure 4.9 Sammamish Field Usage by Time Slot (2011 Weekend Use)

Facility	Field	Surface	Sport*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beaver Lake Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
Beaver Lake Park	Field 2	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
Beaver Lake Park	Field 3	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
East Sammamish Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
East Sammamish Park	Field 2	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
East Sammamish Park	Field 3	Natural	SC, LX												
Pine Lake Park	Field 1	Natural	BB, SB, SC												
Eastlake Comm. Fields	Field 1	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB												
Eastlake Comm. Fields	Field 2	Synthetic	SC, LX, FB												
Skyline Comm. Fields	Field 1	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB												
Skyline Comm. Fields	Field 2	Synthetic	BB, SB, SC, LX, FB												

*BB = baseball, SB = softball, SC = soccer, LX = lacrosse, FB = football

High Usage (80-100% reserved)
Moderate Usage (60-80% reserved)
Low Use (<60% reserved)
Field Closed for Maintenance

Weekend use shows virtually the opposite of weekday patterns. Many of the natural-turf fields are scheduled at or near capacity to accommodate youth games, especially in the spring. Sammamish has a high number of baseball and softball leagues playing games on weekends on their home fields. Synthetic-turf fields see much lower play on weekends, as soccer and lacrosse teams travel for half their games. Fall football leagues use high school stadiums, instead of city fields, because of their spectator seating, public-address systems, and concession stands.

Athletic Fields

Weekend play on all fields is low during the months of August, September and October. This may be an opportunity for another league to use Sammamish fields or for small local tournaments to be held.

One way to balance weekend and weekday use is to encourage adult teams to use the synthetic fields for weekend practices. This market should be explored further.

Next Steps for Athletic Fields

Currently, there is no formula available to identify the number of athletic fields needed to meet demand.

Instead, the recommendation is based on observed trends, historical reservation data, and information obtained from the leagues.

New synthetic-turf fields would alleviate demand at existing Sammamish fields. If new fields are constructed in partnership with the school districts (i.e., shared-use fields), the City should consider constructing two to three additional multipurpose fields. Each shared use field provides a maximum of only four hours of community use on weeknights.

If the fields are city-use only, fewer fields will be required as each field can accommodate up to seven hours of community use on weekdays, nearly doubling the capacity as compared with a shared-use field.

While not specifically examined in this chapter, consideration should also be given to constructing fields where lights are allowed until as late as 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. to maximize field use. Currently our fields with lighting have a cutoff time of 9 p.m.

If extended field light hours are not an option, an indoor venue (i.e., a field house) should be explored as a suitable alternative.

In addition to constructing new fields, existing natural-turf fields should be evaluated for improvements, such as installing synthetic turf in high-use areas (for instance, goal boxes on soccer fields). Other improvements may include installing better drainage to improve play and reduce rainouts and long-term maintenance closures. In some instances it may make sense to replace the dirt infields of a softball or baseball field with synthetic turf.

Field scheduling policies and practices should be analyzed to ensure that field utilization is maximized (at or above 80 percent) system-wide during peak seasons (March through May and July through October). Furthermore, strategies should be implemented to increase field use above 60 percent during nonpeak seasons. This may include reducing the field rental rates and implementing a marketing program.

Specific goals and objectives related to athletic fields are identified in the following section.

Planning for the Future/Identifying Athletic Field Needs

Based on the information provided above, goals and objectives have been identified for the Sammamish athletic fields. These goals represent milestones to be achieved in the next six years or longer. It should be noted that athletic fields are also referenced in a general sense in the goals section of Chapter 3.

Goal – Areas of focus in the long-term
Objective – Specific steps toward accomplishing the goal
Action Item – Detailed assignment or task (when identified and appropriate)

Athletic Field Goal #1 (A.1): *Construct new athletic fields, giving priority to the construction of synthetic-turf multipurpose athletic fields.*

Objective A.1.1: Explore the potential of building a field house with indoor synthetic-turf fields.

Action A.1.1.A: Work with the Y to explore the possibility of developing an indoor field house at the Y-owned Pine Lake property.

Action A.1.1.B: Develop criteria for new athletic fields that provides guidance as to when synthetic turf and lights are appropriate and also provides guidance on field use hours and field light hours.

Athletic Fields

Objective A.1.2: Purchase or develop two or three additional field sites suitable for the construction of new synthetic turf multipurpose fields.

Action A.1.2.A: Complete the Eastlake Community Field Phase II project. This is a conversion of a natural-turf baseball field to a multipurpose synthetic-turf field.

Objective A.1.3: Complete master plans for undeveloped park land that may accommodate additional athletic fields.

Action A.1.3.A: Complete the Thirty Acres Park at Soaring Eagle Master Plan.

Athletic Field Goal #2 (A.2): *Improve existing Sammamish athletic fields to increase field capacity.*

Objective A.2.1: Prioritize conversion of existing natural-turf to synthetic-turf fields (with lights when possible) to increase playability and to serve multiple athletic programs.

Action A.2.1.A: Install synthetic turf in the goal boxes at East Sammamish Park Field 3. It was determined in the adopted East Sammamish Park Master Plan that this field would not be upgraded to full synthetic turf.

Action A.2.1.B: Convert one baseball/softball field at East Sammamish Park to synthetic turf. This conversion was not identified in the Master Plan, and the conversion will not include field lights.

Objective A.2.2: Perform other field improvements, including the installation of under-drainage systems at all natural-turf fields to improve athletic field playing surfaces and reduce the number of rainouts and the time required for turf rehabilitation.

Action A.2.2.A: Install under-drainage at the Pine Lake Park field and at all East Sammamish Park fields.

Athletic Field Goal #3 (A.3): *Explore partnership opportunities to improve or upgrade non-city fields.*

Objective A.3.1: Continue to partner with the local school districts and other providers to convert natural-turf fields to synthetic-turf fields with lights.

Athletic Field Goal #4 (A.4): *Continually evaluate field usage data and modify and review field scheduling processes to maximize community use and ensure system wide coordination.*

Objective A.4.1: Continue to coordinate field scheduling with leagues to ensure a balanced use of fields during peak and nonpeak seasons. Peak season field utilization rates should be at or above 70 percent on all fields.

Action A.4.1.A: Complete an assessment of Sammamish league needs and determine Sammamish's level of responsibility (most league boundaries overlap with other jurisdictions) for meeting these needs.

Athletic Fields

Objective A.4.2: Market and promote the Sammamish fields to local and nonlocal users to increase facility use during low-use periods.

Action A.4.2.A: Promote weekday use at Beaver Lake Park year-round.

Action A.4.2.B: Promote weekend use at all athletic fields during the months of August, September and October. Strive for 60 percent field usage during this time period.

Action A.4.2.C: Evaluate the potential to reduce field use fees during nonpeak times to increase field utilization.

Conclusion

Sammamish athletic leagues have expressed a need for more athletic fields. While the City of Sammamish made a significant contribution by constructing new community fields at Skyline and Eastlake high schools, demand for more field time remains strong. The solution includes improving operations by closely coordinating with leagues to schedule efficiently and by promoting low-use field time. In addition, the solution may also include construction of new fields and/or an indoor field house, and continued improvement of existing fields.

Recreation Facilities 5

Recreation Facilities

Introduction

The following chapter examines the parks and recreation facilities in and near Sammamish, including indoor recreation amenities as well as park pavilions and shelters.

Although Sammamish has been an incorporated city only a short time, there are several indoor recreation facilities available to the public and a number of park pavilions and shelters. Many indoor facilities and shelters were part of existing King County parks or were built for other purposes before the land became a park. Since the city's incorporation, other parks have been established and additional facilities added. However, major indoor recreation facilities are still lacking for a city with the population base of Sammamish.

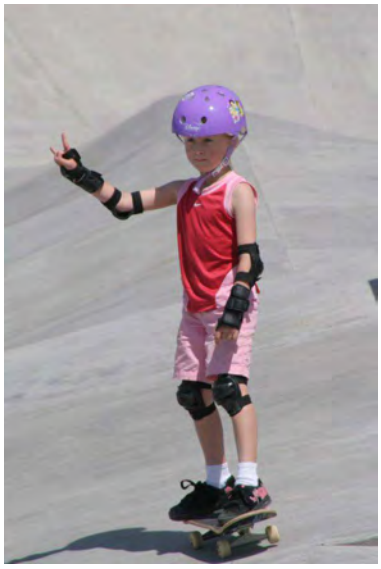
Indoor Recreation Facilities Inventory

This section of the chapter deals specifically with indoor recreation facilities, specifically indoor spaces that may be used for both active recreation (i.e., fitness, sports and swimming) and passive recreation (i.e., classes and meetings).

City of Sammamish Indoor Recreation Facilities
Sammamish's indoor facilities consist of Beaver Lake Lodge, Commons Hall in City Hall, the Recreation Center and the yet-to-be -developed SE 8th Street Park house and barn. The City does not own or operate any active indoor recreation spaces.

Beaver Lake Lodge – Located in Beaver Lake Park, this building was originally part of a lakeside resort that was later a Catholic camp. The building has undergone a number of improvements and now includes a large (1,850 square feet) multipurpose room that can seat 150 people, and a kitchen with an open stove-top range, triple sink, refrigerator, and ice machine. The building includes restrooms as well as a small office area. The lodge is used for a variety of parks and recreation programs, activities and community meetings, and is also available for rent.

Commons Hall – This large multipurpose room is part of City Hall and serves primarily as City Council Chambers and as a location for other city meetings and events, limiting its use as a recreation space



and community events area. The main hall is 2,000 square feet with a seating capacity of 200 and an attached gallery area of 2,500 square feet.

Recreation Center-Sammamish Boys & Girls Club – This old King County Library building was purchased by the City but is leased and operated by the Boys & Girls Club. The club has space to serve a variety of youth recreation needs. Club officials hope to build a gym at this location in the future. The facility also provides a limited number of senior and adult programs during the day.

SE 8th Street House and Barn – The City has acquired the buildings and land (donated by Mary Pigott) to develop into a future park. The house is a well-maintained former residence that has a large living room, dining room, family room, kitchen/eating area, large master bedroom, two smaller bedrooms and a two-car garage. In addition, a barn with a covered storage area is a short distance away. The final use of these spaces will be determined as part of the master planning process for this park.

City of Sammamish Indoor Facility Reservations

Most of the city's indoor recreation facilities may be reserved for private use. Figure 5.1 provides information on usage and income over a three- year period.

Figure 5.1 Indoor Facilities Rental History Summary

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Commons Hall				
Reservations	43	49	46	112
Attendance	3,225	3,675	3,450	8,400
Beaver Lake Lodge				
Reservations	818	1026	814	586*
Attendance	61,350	76,950	61,050	43,950
Totals				
Reservations	861	1075	860	698
Attendance	64,575	80,625	64,500	52,350
Total Revenue	$56,716	$67,374	$60,366	$55,344

** The Lodge was closed November-December 2011 for renovations.*

Over the last three years, attendance and the number of rentals and bookings have fluctuated dramatically. Revenues were higher in 2009 than in 2008 or 2010.

Because the City of Sammamish has limited indoor recreation facilities, especially for more-active recreational pursuits, other providers fill the gap for residents. Other providers are listed below, sorted into public, nonprofit and private categories.

Public Indoor Facilities

The two school districts that serve Sammamish (Lake Washington and Issaquah) have gyms, classrooms and other areas that can be used for community recreation purposes. However, priority is given to school-based activities, which limits availability. None of the schools has a pool.

While most cities near Sammamish have indoor recreation facilities, most of these are older and smaller, with limited elements for active recreation. However, each city has a long-range plan to build new community recreation centers with a strong focus on active recreation pursuits. These facilities are mapped on figure 5.2

City of Redmond Indoor Facilities

Old Firehouse Teen Center – Formerly a fire station, this building has been renovated and expanded to serve as a teen center. The facility includes a small office area, game room, sound studio, silk-screen shop, dark room, computer room, small kitchen and a large performance area that opens to the outside.

Redmond Pool at Hartman Park – The City of Redmond owns the land, King County owns the building, and the private nonprofit Wave Aquatics club operates the pool. The aquatic center features a stretch six-lane tank with 1-meter and 3-meter diving boards; the center includes a small office area and locker rooms.

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center – This former school building is the primary location for Redmond's general recreation programs. It houses staff offices, classrooms, a large gym, a multipurpose room, a pottery studio, a commercial kitchen, and a dance studio.

Redmond Senior Center – This newer building features a large multipurpose room, a commercial kitchen, open lounge area, a wellness room, computer lab and crafts rooms, billiards room, gift shop, library, and other meeting rooms.

City of Issaquah Indoor Facilities
The City of Issaquah has two indoor facilities located next to each other downtown.

Issaquah Community Center – This newer center features a large gym, raised running track, a very small fitness area, several classrooms and a youth center.

Julius Boehm Pool – Built during the King County Forward Thrust movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, this facility is typical of that time period, with a conventional stretch 40-yard pool with a shallow area and a 25-yard six-lane lap/competition area. Parking is often scarce.

City of Bellevue Indoor Facilities
The City of Bellevue has a number of indoor recreation amenities, but the only facility that is in relative close proximity to Sammamish is their indoor pool.

Bellevue Aquatic Center – This conventional six-lane pool has a diving well in addition to a separate therapy pool.

Other Indoor Facilities
In addition to the public facilities listed above, there are also other communities in the area (Snoqualmie, Mercer Island, etc.) that have indoor community recreation facilities, but they are all a considerable distance from Sammamish, which limits their market impact.

Nonprofit Indoor Facilities
There are a limited number of nonprofit facilities in the greater Sammamish area. Besides the Sammamish Boys & Girls Club, noted above, this list includes:

Bellevue Family YMCA—This is a full service YMCA that is in a small building with little parking. The Y has a four-lane lap pool, gym, fitness area, indoor track, racquetball courts, and youth, teen and senior areas.

Issaquah Valley Senior Center– This facility is located in downtown Issaquah and offers fitness classes and health and wellness programs.

Pine Lake Community Club –This older community building in Sammamish has a large multipurpose room with a small kitchen and stage area. A preschool rents space on the first floor.

Sammamish Family YMCA – This facility is located in a leased portion of City Church and features a four-lane lap pool, gymnasium, wellness studio, cycling studio, meeting room, and fitness center. Although this is the only comprehensive nonprofit facility located within Sammamish city limits, it is not owned by the Y, was not designed for its current use, and is far too small to serve the needs of the area.

Private Indoor Facilities

Besides the public and nonprofit facilities listed above, a variety of private clubs operate in the area. These facilities are mapped on figure 5.3 and they include the following:

24 Hour Fitness — The club, in Issaquah, has a large fitness area, lap pool and gymnasium.

Columbia Athletic Club-Pine Lake — The only comprehensive private sports and fitness facility in Sammamish, the club has four indoor tennis courts, a gymnasium, a 25-yard pool, a children's pool, a large fitness area, three exercise studios, and other amenities.

Columbia Fitness — This is a smaller storefront fitness center in north Sammamish that provides a fitness area.

Fitness Together — This is a small fitness facility located in a shopping center that provides a fitness area.

Gold's Gym (2) — There are two Gold's Gyms in the area: The one in Redmond is a large comprehensive club with indoor lap pool, large fitness area, gym, and a youth athletics area. The other, in Issaquah, also has a large fitness area as well as an indoor lap pool.

Recreation Facilities

Klahanie Fitness — This is a medium-sized fitness facility located just outside Sammamish that provides a fitness area.

Klahanie Pools — The Klahanie development has two small outdoor four-lane lap pools: the Mountainview Pool, which is open seasonally, and the Lakeside, which has an inflatable bubble to cover it from fall to spring. This pool is used by competitive swim teams during the winter months and is open to the residents of Klahanie.

The Plateau Club — Primarily a golf facility, the club also has an outdoor pool and a small fitness center in a separate building from the clubhouse.

Pro Sports Club-Bellevue and Redmond — The club's Bellevue site is one of the largest and most sophisticated health clubs in the United States. The high-end facility features large fitness areas, four indoor pools, a gym, indoor tennis courts, racquetball courts, a restaurant, and other support amenities. The Redmond facility is more of a specialty fitness and sports-specific training center in a much smaller space.

Redmond Athletic Club — This relatively new health club in downtown Redmond features a large weight/cardio area, a gym, a group fitness areas, a climbing wall and racquetball courts.

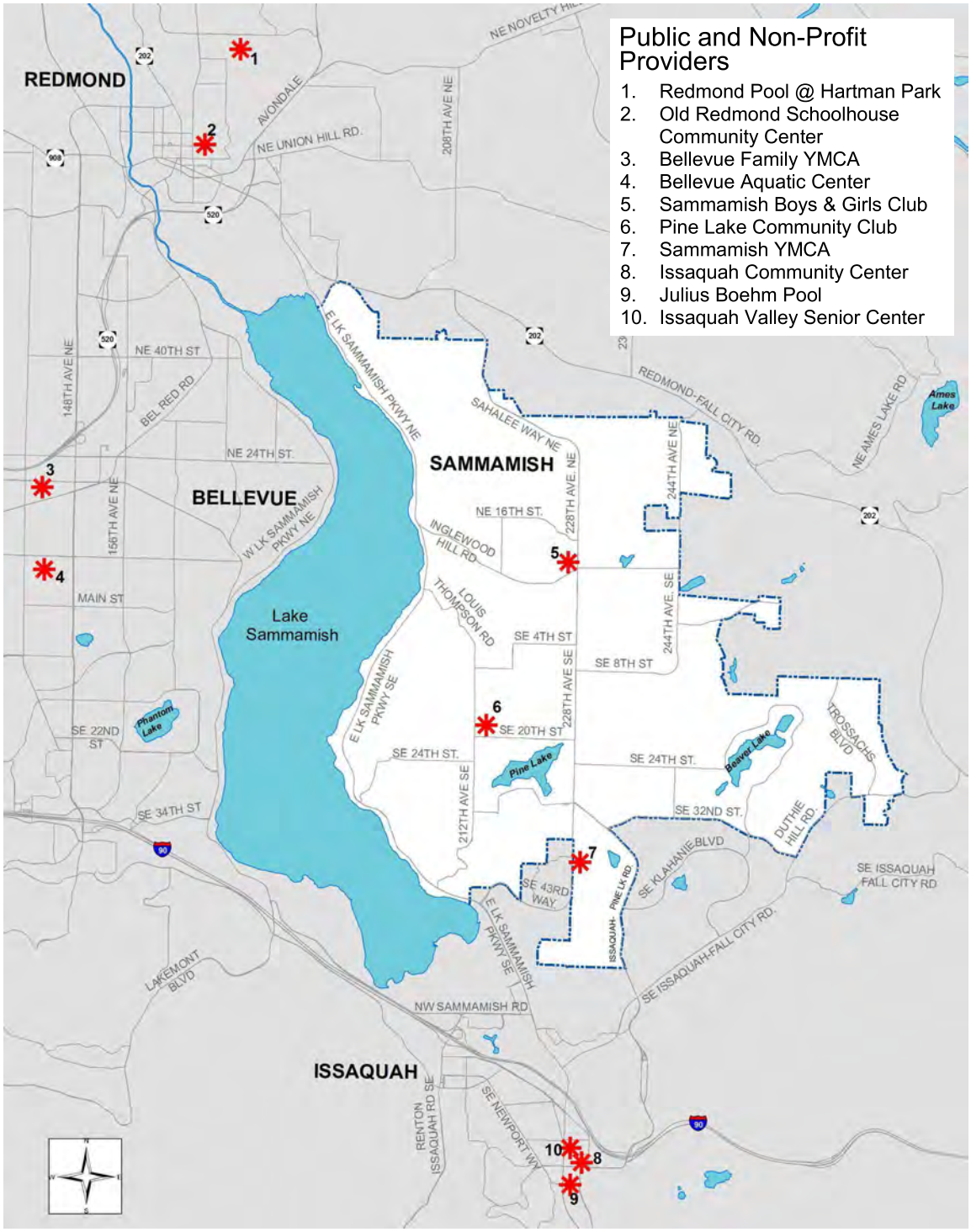
Samena Swim & Recreation Club — Located in Bellevue, this club has indoor and outdoor pools, a fitness area, classroom space, youth space, preschool room and a multipurpose room. This facility is about 10 miles from Sammamish.

Sammamish Club — The club, in Issaquah, features four indoor tennis courts, a four-lane lap pool, a weight/cardio area, group fitness rooms, and a youth area and café.

Velocity Sports Performance — Dedicated to sports-specific training, the Redmond club focuses primarily on youth.
There are also plans to develop a Planet Fitness facility in the old Albertsons grocery store in Issaquah.

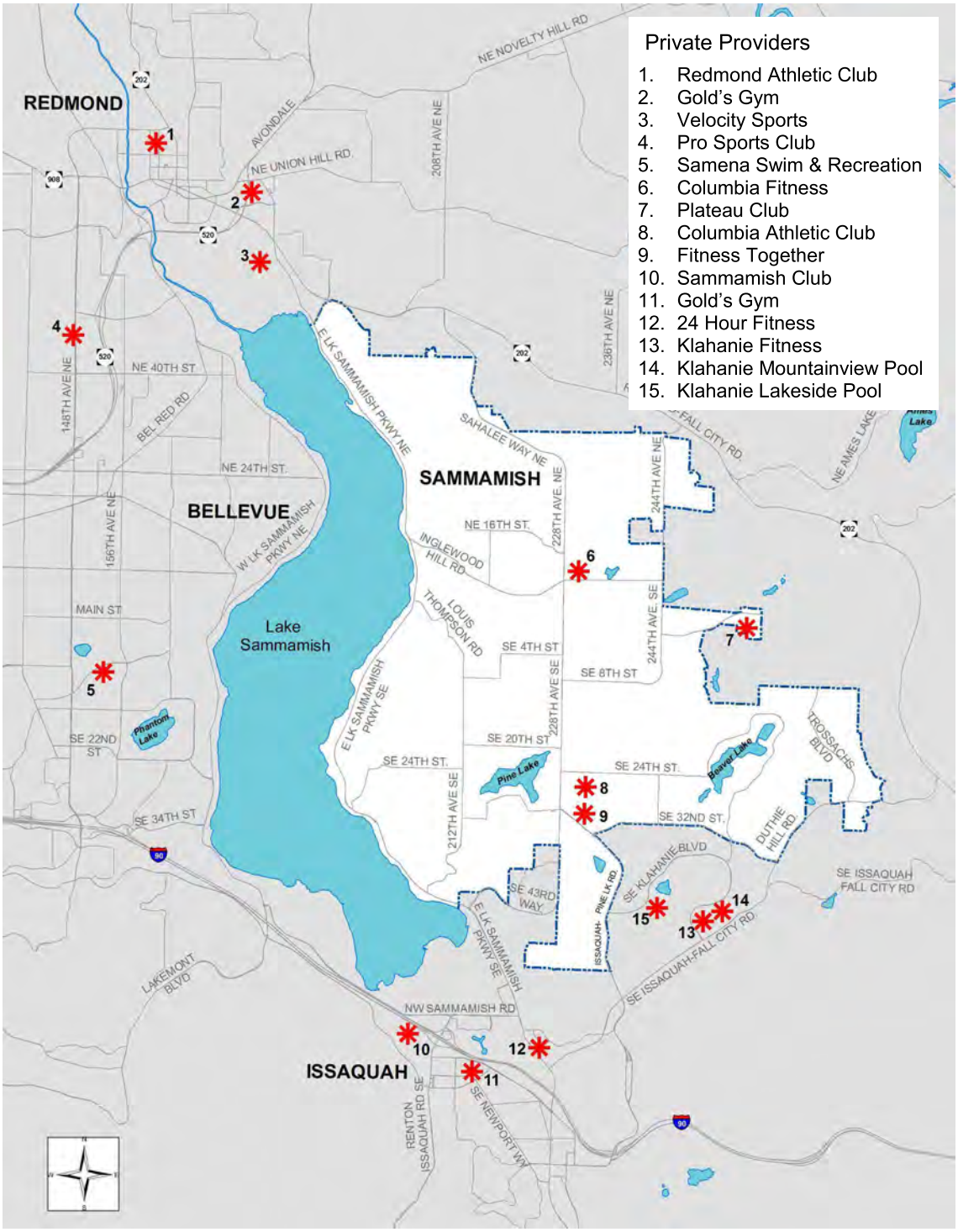
In addition to these large comprehensive facilities, there are many smaller fitness facilities, such as Snap Fitness, Anytime Fitness and Curves. Many martial arts and dance studios operate in the area as well.

Figure 5.2 Public and Non-profit Providers



Recreation Facilities

Figure 5.3 Private Providers



Indoor Recreation Facility Trends

Over the past 20 to 30 years, indoor facilities for recreation have changed dramatically. In the past, most recreation in public spaces took place outdoors, with limited demand for indoor activities. Indoor recreation facilities tended to have the following characteristics:

- Neighborhood-Based — Most facilities served a neighborhood, much like parks did. Often a community built three or four facilities to serve the needs of its residents.
- Smaller Facilities — Most centers were 5,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet.
- Passive Recreation Orientation — Many were designed to accommodate passive, classroom-based recreation, with minimal active recreation elements.
- Singular-Focused — Because of their small size, they tended to include only one or two elements such as a gym, pool or meeting area.
- Limited Demographic Appeal — The neighborhood center tended to focus on one demographic group, usually children, teens or seniors.
- Minimal to No Fitness — Most neighborhood centers had few or no fitness amenities such as weight/cardio areas or group exercise studios.
- Institutional Look and Feel — Neighborhood centers usually were very basic in design and material and often had little curb appeal to attract users.
- Use of Multiple Facilities — Because most facilities were small with a single focus, users often had to travel to multiple facilities for their indoor recreation needs.
- Reliance on School Facilities — Schools often provided the outlet for community recreation activities.

- High Operating Costs and Low Revenue - With multiple facilities to maintain and fewer amenities for which to charge fees, the cost recovery rate for these older indoor recreation facilities has tended to be low.

Now many communities are developing larger, multipurpose indoor recreation centers with the following traits:

- Community Based — The focus has shifted to multifaceted, centralized indoor recreation facilities that can serve an entire community.

- Larger Facilities — The size of facilities has grown to an average of 65,000 to 75,000 square feet.

- Active and Passive Recreation Orientation — To meet a wide range of recreation needs, community centers often blend active recreation elements (pools, gyms, fitness areas, etc.) with more-traditional meeting spaces, classrooms and cultural arts amenities.

- Multigenerational Facility — To serve an entire community, a center must appeal to young and old and especially to families. This reduces the need for separate, age-specific facilities and is a more cost-effective approach to providing these services.

- Commitment to Fitness and Wellness — Driven by public demand, most community recreation centers now provide fitness amenities (weight/cardio equipment areas, group fitness studios, walk/jog tracks and wellness education areas) as well as fitness and wellness programming.

- Community Gathering Place — A primary goal of community recreation centers is to serve as a community's living room.

- Facilities with Strong Market Appeal — New centers are designed to entice users with open floor plans and lots of windows and natural light.

- Partnerships — Developing and operating these bigger, more-comprehensive centers at a time when public funds are tight has

led to a greater emphasis on establishing partnerships with other providers.

- Higher Cost Recovery — One comprehensive center with many active and passive components is less expensive to operate than multiple facilities, and the revenue potential is much higher. As a result the overall cost recovery level is now in the 75 to 90 percent range for centers in more-urban markets.

Despite the trend toward larger, more-comprehensive community recreation centers, most communities still require additional indoor recreation, fitness, and sports providers to meet the diverse needs of their residents.

A single facility cannot always meet all indoor recreation needs, so it is not unusual to see smaller facilities that either have a strong community presence or are a special-use facility such as an ice rink, performing arts center, aquatics center or field house.

Although new community recreation centers have decreased dependence on school facilities, schools are still used for community recreation. Nonprofit and private facilities are also essential to meeting all of a community's recreation, sports and fitness needs.

Specific Facility Needs

Because of increasing demand, there is a shortage in most communities of the following types of indoor spaces:

- Gymnasiums
- Pools (especially leisure pools)
- Weight/cardiovascular equipment areas
- Indoor running/walking tracks
- Meeting/multipurpose (general program) space
- Senior adult program space
- Preschool and youth space
- Teen use areas

Growth in youth sports and high demand for school gyms have left most communities experiencing an acute lack of gymnasium space. Space for weight equipment and cardiovascular workouts is also in high demand.

Meeting the needs of senior citizens, the fastest-growing segment of society, is important and will grow more so in the coming years. Indoor walking tracks, exercise areas, pools and classroom spaces are important to this age group. Marketing to younger, more-active seniors is important, as this age group has the free time available to participate in leisure activities, the desire to remain fit, and the disposable income to pay for such services.

Youth programming, always a cornerstone for recreation services, will continue to be so as communities focus on meeting the needs of teens and providing a deterrent to juvenile crime. As the number of households led by single parents or two working parents increases, the need for before-school and after-school child care continues to grow, as does the need for preschool programming.

Community Recreation Center Benchmarks

The following benchmarks, provided by Ballard*King and Associates, were developed based on market research at recreation centers across the United States:

- The majority of recreation centers being built today are between 65,000 and 75,000 square feet. Most include three primary components: a pool area, usually with both competitive and leisure amenities; multipurpose gymnasium space; and a weight/ cardiovascular equipment area. In addition, most centers also have group exercise rooms, drop-in childcare, and classrooms or community spaces.

- To cover all operating expenses with revenues, centers must have a service population of at least 50,000 and a fee structure that supports cost recovery.

- Most centers that are between 65,000 and 75,000 square feet have an operating budget of between $1.5 million and $1.8 million annually. Nearly 65 percent of the operating costs are from personnel services, followed by approximately 25 percent for contractual services, 8 percent for commodities, and 2 percent for capital replacement.

- Centers that serve a more urban population should be able to recover 70 to 100 percent of operating expenses. For centers in

more rural areas, the recovery rate is generally 50 to 75 percent. Facilities that can consistently cover all of their operating expenses with revenues are rare.

- Most large centers in an urban environment serve 800 to 1,000 or more paying customers each day.

- It is common for centers to have a three-tiered fee structure offering passes for daily access, extended visits (usually punch cards), and annual access. In urban areas, it is common to have resident and nonresident fees. Nonresident rates usually run 25 percent to 50 percent higher than the resident rates. Daily rates for residents average between $3 and $6 for adults and $3 and $4 for youth and seniors. Annual rates for residents average between $200 and $300 for adults, and $100 and $200 for youth and seniors. Family annual passes tend to be heavily discounted and run between $350 and $800.

- Most centers are open an average of 105 hours a week, with weekday hours 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays noon to 8 p.m. Often hours are shorter during the summer months.

Note: These statistics vary by region of the country.

City Indoor Recreation Facilities Classification System

There are three categories of indoor recreation facility:

- Neighborhood recreation center
- Community recreation center
- Special-use center

The decision to develop indoor recreation facilities in any of the three classifications depends on the following:

- Specific needs in neighborhood, service area or community
- Size and suitability of a site for a particular use
- Cost of development
- Possibility for public-private partnerships
- Operating and maintenance costs

Recreation Facilities

Indoor Recreation Facility Classifications

Neighborhood Center
This type is usually 5,000 to 20,000 square feet and serves a population base of 5,000 to 10,000. These centers often include an entry area, office space, restrooms, classrooms, community space, and possibly a gym or other multipurpose space.

Community Recreation Center
Often 65,000 to 75,000 square feet, they serve entire communities (30,000 people or more). Most include three primary components: a pool area, usually with both competitive and leisure amenities; multipurpose gymnasium space; and a weight/cardiovascular equipment area. In addition, most centers also have group exercise rooms, drop-in childcare, and classrooms or community spaces.

Special-Use Center
These are usually stand-alone facilities with a specific demographic focus (teens, seniors, etc.) or a special amenity (ice rink, field house, aquatics center, performing arts center, etc.). They may also be facilities with historical or cultural significance. As a result, indoor recreation facilities of this type can vary dramatically in size and offerings.

City of Sammamish indoor recreation facilities are classified as follows:

Neighborhood Center
Recreation Center-Sammamish Boys & Girls Club — A smaller facility that primarily focuses on one age group.

Community Recreation Center
At the present time, the City does not have a community recreation center, although the possibility of building one is being explored.

Special-Use Center
Beaver Lake Lodge — The lodge's unique nature and presence in Beaver Lake Park makes it more of a special-use center. If the City were to develop a community recreation center, the lodge would fit more squarely in the neighborhood category.

Commons Hall — Its location in City Hall makes it a communitywide facility , but its limited and unique uses qualify this facility as a special-use center.

SE 8th Street Park House & Barn — Though the specific uses of this facility have yet to be determined, its history, physical limitations, and location suggest that it will function as a special-use center.

Indoor Recreation Facilities Maintenance and Operations

The City's commitment to indoor facilities maintenance and operations varies with the facility. Currently the Parks Maintenance and Operations Division (Parks M & O) is responsible for maintaining the Beaver Lake Lodge and to some extent Commons Hall as part of the City's management of City Hall. The Recreation Center, since it is leased to the Sammamish Boys & Girls Club, is maintained and operated by that organization, but the City does have long-term maintenance requirements for the building's structure and operating systems. While the City does have ownership of the SE 8th Street Park house and barn, its future use will ultimately determine the Parks M & O's role in maintaining the facility.

The Parks M & O team utilizes a number of contracts for professional services to maintain indoor recreation facilities. This includes custodial services, electrical repairs, HVAC system maintenance, and plumbing.

Recreation Facilities Maintenance Plans
With minimal indoor recreation facilities in the City's inventory, there are only basic maintenance plans in place. However, as new,

larger and more diverse indoor facilities are added, it will be important to develop very detailed operations and maintenance plans for each one of these centers that includes not only custodial tasks and standards but also general systems maintenance and preventive maintenance tasks.

Indoor Recreation Facilities Level of Service

There are no established national levels of service for indoor recreation facilities. However, some communities are now beginning to adopt basic square footage per person (SF/person) guidelines as a prelude to adopting actual level of service standards. The average SF/person is in the range of 1 to 3 for general indoor recreation amenities (classrooms, multipurpose rooms, pools, gyms, fitness areas, etc.), but these numbers do not include specialty facilities such as ice rinks, performing arts centers, and field houses. The trend in the last five years is an increase in SF/person ranges as the demand and popularity of indoor recreation facilities have also risen. This is expected to continue in the next ten years.

Park Pavilion and Shelter Inventory

This section of the chapter concentrates on park pavilions and shelters. These are covered outdoor spaces located in city parks that may be reserved for private use. The City of Sammamish has eleven picnic shelters and one pavilion in its current park inventory (Figure 5.4).

Figure 5.4 Shelter Inventory

Park	Facility	Size (SF)	Tables	Grill	Coal Bin	Trash Can	Water	Electricity	Drinking Fountain	Fireplace
Beaver Lake Park—East	Pavilion	2,500	6	■	■	■	■	■		■
Beaver Lake Park—West	Medium Shelter	1,178	3	■	■	■				
Pine Lake Park	Medium Shelter	1,080	5	■	■	■				
Pine Lake Park	Small Shelter (2)	360 ea	2	■	■	■				
East Sammamish Park	Medium Shelter	863	4	■	■	■		■	■	
Ebright Creek Park	Medium Shelter	1,050	4	■	■	■		■		
Lower Commons Park	Medium Shelter	1,484	4	■	■	■				
Lower Commons Park	Small Shelter (2)	330 ea	1	■	■	■				
Sammamish Landing Park	Small Shelter (2)	360 ea	4	■	■	■				

Rental Criteria

In its fee schedule, the City of Sammamish classifies its shelters into Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities, based on popularity rather than size. Small shelters are not rented and are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are therefore in a third category. Rentals are scheduled from March through September.

Picnic Shelter and Pavilion Rental Reservations

Figure 5.5 provides information on usage and income over a three year period. In the figures below, a rental is defined as an individual contract. Each contract may have one or multiple reservations.

Figure 5.5: Picnic Shelter and Pavilion Rental History Summary

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Beaver Lake Pavilion				
Reservations	239	221	195	304
Attendance	9,560	8,840	7,800	12,160
Beaver Lake West Side				
Reservations	32	21	22	34
Attendance	1,600	1,050	1,100	1,700
Pine Lake				
Reservations	18	75	70	85
Attendance	540	2,250	1,200	2,550
Ebright Creek				
Reservations	90	75	63	60
Attendance	4,050	3,375	2,835	2,700
East Sammamish Park				
Reservations	33	29	38	27
Attendance	1,320	1,160	1,710	1,080
Lower Commons				
Reservations	5	8	26	31
Attendance	225	360	1,170	1,395
Totals				
Reservations	417	429	414	541
Attendance	17,295	17,035	15,815	21,585
Total Revenue	$22,343	$20,706	$34,511	$36,797

Over the last three years, the overall number of reservations has remained about the same, while attendance has fluctuated. Revenues were significantly higher in 2010 than in the previous two years. Based on historical reservation data, the City currently has an adequate number of park shelters that can be reserved; however the most popular Tier 1 facilities sell out much more quickly than the Tier 2 facilities.

Park Pavilions and Shelter Trends

Park pavilions and shelters have evolved over the last 20 years to include the following:

- Larger shelters that can be rented for bigger gatherings, including corporate events. These are often in a separate area of the park.
- Shelters with more amenities including:
  - Water
  - Electricity
  - Storage
  - Lighting
  - Restrooms very near or included in the shelter.
- Increased fees geared towards partial or full cost recovery for high-demand times (weekends) and high-demand locations.
- Shelters located near other recreation amenities such as athletic facilities, lakes and playgrounds.

Park Pavilion and Shelter Classification System

Separate from the pricing structure, park pavilions and shelters are classified as follows. These classifications provide guidelines to aid with future park development projects.

Large (Pavilion) — A pavilion that is larger than 1,500 square feet that has at least six picnic tables, barbecue grill, hot-coal can, trash cans, water, and electricity. There should also be restrooms within the immediate vicinity. Optional amenities may include lighting, fireplaces, drinking fountains, and attached storage.

Medium — A shelter between 500 and 1,500 square feet that includes a minimum of four tables, a barbecue grill, hot-coal can, and trash cans. It may have water and electricity.

Small — A shelter of 500 square feet or less that includes one or two picnic tables, a barbecue grill, hot-coal can, and trash cans only.

The presence of shelters in city parks should be based on the classification of the park.

Community Park — This level of park can support all sizes of shelters but should have more large- and medium-sized shelters than small. Pavilions or large group shelters are also appropriate

Neighborhood Parks — This size of park should have small to medium shelters only.

Mini Park — A park of this size should have only a small shelter or no shelter at all.

Special-Use Park — Depending on type of use, it could be appropriate to have a variety of sizes of shelters.

Open Space/Natural Areas — Passive use parks should have small to medium shelters only.

Maintenance and Operations

Currently, the Parks Maintenance and Operations Division, with help from contracted service companies, cleans and maintains all shelters and the Beaver Lake Pavilion. This includes daily cleaning as well as small repairs or improvements. Larger improvements are contracted to outside professionals. The department has a strong commitment to keeping the shelters in top condition for all renters and for drop-in use as well.

Pavilion and Shelter Maintenance Plans
Basic maintenance plans for each park include pavilion and shelter maintenance. If the City develops additional shelters and larger pavilions, it will be necessary to establish more-detailed, site-specific maintenance plans.

Park Pavilion and Shelter Level of Service

There are no established levels of service for park pavilions or shelters, but it is important that the City create a direct relationship between pavilions/shelters and park development. It should establish not only the appropriate size of pavilions and shelters based on park classification, but should also delineate the approximate range in number of these facilities that are developed per park. Aligning pavilion and shelter planning with park development will ensure both are distributed equitably throughout the city.

Planning for the Future/Identifying Recreation Facility Needs

Based on the information provided above, a series of goals and objectives has been identified for indoor recreation facilities and park shelters. These goals represent milestones to be achieved in the next six years or longer.

Goal — Areas of focus in the long-term
Objective — Specific steps toward accomplishing the goal.
Action Item — Detailed assignment or task (when identified and appropriate).

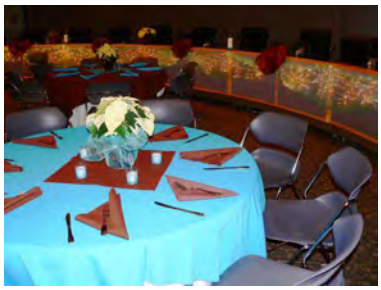
Recreation Facilities Goal #1 (F.1): *Provide a number of indoor recreation facilities that are able to deliver a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities to the Sammamish community.*

Objective F.1.1: Continue to manage and update the existing indoor recreation facilities that are in City of Sammamish ownership.

Action F.1.1.A: Develop long-range plans for ongoing maintenance and capital repairs at Beaver Lake Lodge.

Action F.1.1.B: Establish a maintenance and operations plan for all indoor facilities, including leased facilities. Operating plans shall address staffing levels, program and service delivery, maintenance, and marketing.

Objective F.1.2: Plan for the development of additional indoor recreation facilities to better serve the recreational needs of the community.



Objective F.1.3: Provide indoor amenities that will meet a broad range of recreation needs from active to passive recreation. Facilities should have a multi-generational appeal when at all possible, and the number of neighborhood facilities and special-use facilities should be limited.

Objective F.1.4: Provide indoor recreation facilities that are centrally located. Minimize or eliminate the development of neighborhood focused facilities.

Objective F.1.5: Reduce the reliance on Beaver Lake Lodge and Commons Hall as locations for recreation programming. Establish these facilities as priority locations for rentals.

Objective F.1.6: Provide barrier-free (ADA-compliant) facilities, where readily achievable, by modifying existing facilities or when designing or constructing new facilities.

Objective F.1.7: Provide clear priorities of use for each city facility (and each amenity) for both internal department use as well as other community providers and general community usage.

Recreation Facilities Goal #2 (F.2): *Develop a new, comprehensive indoor community center to serve both the active and passive recreation needs of the community.*

Objective F.2.1: Modify the findings from the 2011 feasibility study and the project approach as necessary to meet the changing needs and financial expectations of the community.

Action F.2.1.A: Develop two or three modified facility options (smaller in size) for consideration and further study.

Objective F.2.2: Establish a funding plan for the development and operation of the center.

Objective F.2.3: Identify partners for the project. Partners should be considered for both capital development and operations.

Recreation Facilities Goal #3 (F.3): *Determine the future use of the SE 8th Street Park house and barn.*

Objective F.3.1: Complete a master plan to determine the future program uses of the house and barn. Identify program focus and orientation.

Action F.3.1.A: Determine needed improvements/additions/changes to modify the house and barn for the intended use, including addressing ADA and safety issues.

Action F.3.1.B: Establish a formal development plan including funding requirements, a project timeline, and construction approach.

Recreation Facilities Goal #4 (F.4): *Explore the establishment of equity partnerships with other public, nonprofit and private indoor recreation service providers.*

Objective F.4.1: Recognize that the City does not have to own and operate all the recreation facilities that it utilizes for recreation programs and services.

Objective F.4.2: Actively pursue the establishment of equity partnerships to develop or expand indoor recreation facilities. Equity partnerships may include capital development, operations, and service delivery.

Objective F.4.3: Promote the development of special-use facilities through partnerships.

Objective F.4.4: Encourage other indoor recreation providers to bring facilities into the Sammamish market.

Objective F.4.5: Continue to work with the two school districts and private education providers to further increase utilization of existing school facilities for recreation purposes. Also work to develop any new school buildings or facilities to also serve community recreation needs.

Recreation Facilities Goal #5 (F.5): *Identify financing strategies for the development and operation of indoor recreation facilities to serve the citizens of Sammamish.*

Objective F.5.1: Seek funding for new or renovated indoor facilities through a variety of sources, including capital reserves, real estate excise tax, impact fees, grants, donations, bonds, levies or partnerships.

Objective F.5.2: Establish and maintain a fee policy for indoor facility use and rental rates that supports the operational requirements of the facility and market demand for use. Consider cost-recovery goals for each facility.

Objective F.5.3: Adopt a six-year capital improvement plan (CIP) every two years to address indoor recreation facilities improvements.

Action F.5.3.A: Update the CIP as part of the six -year PRO Plan Update. (2012)

Recreation Facilities Goal #6 (F.6): *Develop and operate pavilions and shelters in a manner that effectively and efficiently serves the residents of Sammamish.*

Objective F.6.1: Integrate pavilion and shelter development with any new park plans or renovations to existing parks.

Objective F.6.2: Regularly update and modify the existing fee schedule to maximize the revenue potential from the rental of these facilities. Link demand and shelter size to fees assessed.

Objective F.6.3: Improve registration processes and customer service associated with picnic shelter and pavilion rentals.

Action F.6.3.A: Accept credit cards for pavilion and shelter rentals and have the capability to reserve and pay for all rentals online.

Conclusion

The City of Sammamish will need to concentrate on the development of additional indoor recreation facilities to adequately serve the diverse recreation needs of the community. This will be accomplished in a number of ways including renovating existing amenities and developing new facilities. Establishing strong partnerships and identifying key funding sources will be critical to this process.

The pavilion and shelters that are located in the city's parks are a definite asset for the community. The operation and management of these amenities needs to be a focus in the coming years with an emphasis on long-term planning.

Recreation Programming 6

Recreation Programming

Introduction

Our favorite moments in life often involve a recreation activity. From attending a play to rafting a river, playing a sport, or hiking a beautiful trail, recreation and leisure play a significant role in our lives. People choose to participate in recreation activities for a variety of reasons, including health, fun, education and social opportunities. Figure 6.1 provides a summary of general recreation categories.

Figure 6.1: Categories of Recreation Programs

Category	Program Description
Adventure	This type of recreation almost always takes place outside and is typically very active and physically challenging. Some examples include skateboarding, rock or wall climbing, bicycle motocross (BMX) or mountain biking, skiing, paragliding, zip-lining and horseback riding.
Aquatics	These activities occur in a pool, lake or other body of water. Specific programs may include swim classes, boating or water safety programs, free swim, water slides, fishing, and competitive swimming programs.
Cultural Arts	This category includes performing arts (theater, plays), music (symphony, choir ensemble), visual arts (photo exhibits, sculptures, quilting), creative movement (ballet, dance), and culture/ heritage preservation (cultural fair, historical film/slideshow, scrapbooking).
Educational/ Instructional Classes	These programs help participants learn new skills or improve current skills. Examples include classes in defensive driving, cooking, computer programming, foreign language, and financial management.

Figure 6.1 continued

Category	Program Description
Environmental	Programs may teach about the environment or offer an activity that focuses on environmental awareness. Commonly offered programs include park cleanups, tree planting and nature walks.
Health and Wellness	Besides traditional physical fitness activities, health and wellness programming can also include classes, socializing, meditation and stress relief. Popular programs include yoga, aerobics, healthy cooking, and dance. Health and wellness has become a greater focus of recreation providers as rates of obesity (and other health risk factors) have risen in the United States.
Special Events	A special event is usually a one-time activity that is open to the general public. Special events can overlap with other recreation categories. A triathlon, for example, is an athletic special event. A concert in a park would be considered a cultural-arts special event.
Special Needs/ Inclusivity	Specialized recreation is for individuals with disabilities or other special needs. A well-known example is Special Olympics, a very popular program offering a wide range of athletic activities. Besides specialized classes, this category can include programs and activities that can be adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

This chapter will focus on the role of the Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department in providing and facilitating recreation opportunities in Sammamish. The chapter will conclude with a list of goals to aid the growth and development of recreation programming over the next six to 10 years.

Recreation in Sammamish

Upon incorporation in 1999, public recreation programs were provided primarily by the cities of Redmond and Issaquah, with limited opportunities provided by King County. While opportunities for public recreation existed, travel time required to participate in these programs was a challenge for many residents.

Fortunately, local nonprofits, service clubs, private organizations and churches were and still are helping to meet the community need for recreation. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts offer classes and camps for youth. Recreational events such as the Nightmare at Beaver Lake Park are hosted by the Rotary Club of Sammamish. Many Sammamish churches offer recreational programs, classes and events that are open to the public. Some even offer preschool programs, before- and after-school daycare, and summer camps. Private and nonprofit organizations provide membership-based recreation opportunities including swimming and fitness. A summary of current recreation providers in Sammamish is provided in Figure 6.2.

Figure 6.2 Summary of Recreation Service Providers

Organization	Recreation Opportunities
Beaver Lake Community Club 1955	The Beaver Lake Community Club was created by neighbors of Beaver Lake. The club sponsors and organizes several events, including an Easter egg hunt in Beaver Lake Park, open to all residents, the Beaver Lake Triathlon and the annual Beaver Lake Regatta.
City of Issaquah	The City of Issaquah offers aquatics at Boehm Pool, a farmers market at Pickering Barn, and a community center that includes a youth center. It also rents facilities and fields and offers preschool, recreation classes, summer concerts and other events. The Issaquah Valley Senior Center, operated by a nonprofit group, offers programs for older adults.

Figure 6.2 continued

Organization	Recreation Opportunities
City of Redmond	The City of Redmond offers recreation classes, aquatics at the Redmond Pool, a senior center, a teen center, facility and field rentals, Farrel-McWhirter Farm Park, a preschool, a farmers market at Redmond Town Center (privately operated), and events such as Derby Days and Redmond Lights.
City of Sammamish	The City of Sammamish offers large community events such as a summer concert series, a noontime summer performance series for children, the Fourth on the Plateau, Sammamish Days, the winter holiday event, and the farmers market (in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce).
Columbia Athletic Clubs Pine Lake Club 1995 Sammamish Club 2000	Columbia Athletic Club, a private fitness facility, offers health and fitness programs for families and individuals. Programs include day camps and after-school programs, fitness classes, tennis, basketball, volleyball and aquatics.
Pine Lake Community Club Established in 1936 Club House late 1940s	The clubhouse was originally built as a community gathering space. The club offers programs such as student driving, math tutoring, step aerobics, yoga, dance and art to its private members.
Redmond/ Sammamish Boys & Girls Club 1992	The Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club offers recreational programs for kids ages 6 to 18. This club operates a recreation center in Sammamish and provides before- and after-school programs at five Sammamish elementary schools in the Lake Washington School District. The Club also provides summer camps and youth sports leagues.

Figure 6.2 continued

Organization	Recreation Opportunities
Sammamish Family Y	Even before it opened its own facility on the south end of the plateau, the Y offered programs for child care and youth sports in Sammamish. The current facility includes a fitness center and gymnasium and offers fitness classes and aquatic programs. The Y service model emphasizes families, healthy lifestyles, and "providing opportunities for youth which shape values and encourage lifelong community service."

Since incorporation, the focus of the Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department has been building and improving infrastructure rather than being a direct provider of recreation programming. The City currently operates a number of parks, which provide opportunities for passive recreation, including hiking, biking, walking, and nature watching. The City of Sammamish also operates athletic fields, which support active recreation programs such as baseball, softball, soccer, football, and lacrosse. Beaver Lake Lodge provides an indoor venue for community members, clubs and organizations to host recreation classes.

The city's major role in recreation programming is the production of large community special events. The City hosts a summer concert series, a noontime summer performance series for children, the Fourth on the Plateau, and Sammamish Days, in addition to a number of other special events throughout the year. The City also partners with the Chamber of Commerce to provide a local farmers market from May through September.

In 2010, the City made a further investment in recreation programming by purchasing the former King County library building to develop a small recreation center. Through a partnership with the Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club, recreation programs and activities are now available for middle and high school students during nonschool hours. Additional programs for toddlers, stay-at-home parents, home-school children and senior adults are available during school hours and on the weekends.

Recreation Programming

Current Recreation Trends

Like any major industry, recreation is constantly changing. Recreation trends need to be observed and factored into long-term planning strategies. Some key trends include:

- A transition to a partnership-based model for delivery of recreation programs
- Recreation as a key factor in improving health and wellness
- Play as an essential component of childhood development
- Recreation as an important community builder

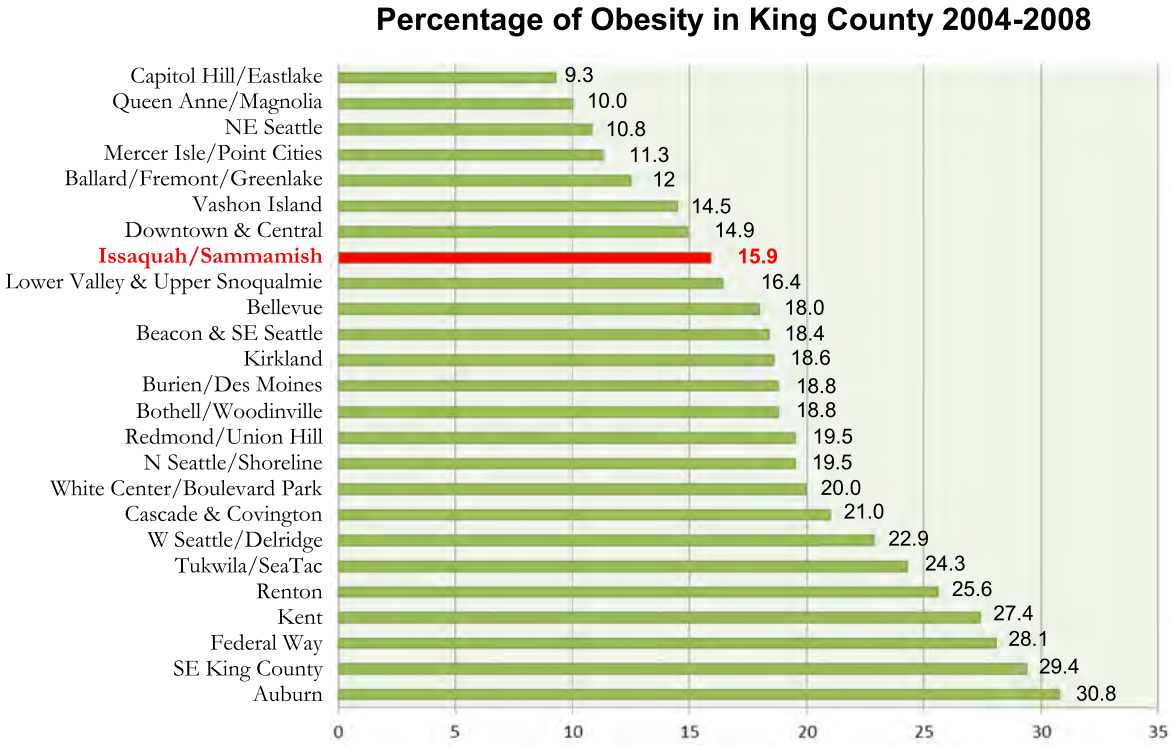
Transition to Partnership-Based Delivery Models
The recent economic recession significantly affected recreation programming. Government agencies were forced to make cuts that in many cases resulted in reduced service levels, higher fees or the elimination of recreation programs. The demand for recreation services, however, remains high.

The days of significant program subsidies are gone, and government is forced to consider alternative service delivery models. The most common transition has been to a public-nonprofit partnership model. This is the operating model used for the recreation center, a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club. Other partnership models exist including public-private and joint-government ventures. Partnerships will continue to play a critical role in the delivery of recreation programs in the future.

Health and Wellness
Obesity is an alarming trend in the health of Americans. Nearly one-third of U.S. adults are obese, and fewer than half are at a healthy body weight. Increasing rates of obesity and inactivity over the past two decades reflect a dramatic shift in American health and lifestyle. Children, whose levels of obesity have skyrocketed, are now more vulnerable to lifelong risks of diabetes, high blood pressure, osteoporosis and heart disease. The U.S. Surgeon General has warned that today's youth may be the first generation to have a shorter lifespan than their parents.[1]

Recent statistics provided by the Seattle-King County Department of Health indicate almost 16 percent of adults (age 18+) in Sammamish are obese (Figure 6.3). While this percentage is less than the average for King County (19.8 percent), and lower than that of many other cities, it is still a cause for much concern.

Figure 6.3 Percentage of Obesity in King County 2004-2008 [2]



Research indicates that a person's level of physical activity is strongly influenced by features of home, workplace, and community. The presence of bicycle paths, walking paths, exercise facilities and swimming pools, perceived by residents as safe, pleasant, and easily accessible, can play an important role in the health of a community.[3] There is a strong connection between health and wellness and the availability of recreation opportunities and programs in the community. Recently, First Lady Michelle Obama has stepped in to promote health and wellness through recreation by kicking off a nationwide "Let's Move" campaign.

The Importance of Play for Childhood Development

Many adults fondly remember childhood days spent playing outside. Today's children, however, often face a different reality. In many cases, their back yards, if they have one, consist of small patches of grass, not suitable for pickup games of baseball. These days, play often involves structure, continuous adult supervision, and the influence of technology.

Safety is also a concern. Parents are reluctant to allow kids to go to a park alone or even to walk to school. Statistics show a steep decline in the number of children walking or biking to school over the past 50 years.[4]

Finally, technology is another factor in reduced active play time. Technological advances have changed the way we use our leisure time. Computer games, online social networks and television occupy a significant portion of our daily lives. In fact, children today spend more time watching TV than any other activity except sleeping.[5]

Research indicates that children are missing critical opportunities for life development because of their reduced time for play. Figure 6.4 lists some of the cognitive and social benefits of play.

Figure 6.4: Some of the Benefits of Play [6]

1. Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination and dexterity and their physical, cognitive and emotional strength.
2. Play is important to brain development.
3. Play allows children to learn to interact with the world around them.
4. Undirected play allows children to learn how to work in groups, to share, to negotiate, to resolve conflicts, and to learn self-advocacy skills.

While we can't change new social norms, we can assure that our recreation programs and facilities provide safe opportunities that promote healthy childhood development, including creative play. Not every recreation program or activity needs to be structured. Some of the best recreation programs are being developed with a focus on discovery and exploration. In a community like Sammamish, with plentiful outdoor opportunities, these types of experiences should be encouraged.

Building Community

Now that the population of Sammamish tops 45,000, it's harder for residents to get to know all of their neighbors. Yet the desire for community and a sense of place is strong. Attendance at special events demonstrates the appeal of community gatherings. The Kids First Noontime Performances, a series of midday summer programs for young children, routinely attracts more than 500 audience members. On a fair-weather night, 1,000 people attend summer concerts at Pine Lake Park. The inaugural years of the Fourth on the Plateau event attracted more than 10,000 people.

Recreation programs such as Sammamish Days, a relatively new event, provide an opportunity to learn about and celebrate different cultures. Additional cultural enrichment opportunities should be explored in the future. Opportunities to bring the community together in a variety of settings should continue to be a priority for recreation in Sammamish.

Planning for the Future/ Identifying Recreation Programming Needs

As the City of Sammamish contemplates the future of recreation, including the possibility of a new community and aquatic center, early results from community outreach indicate a strong desire for additional recreation programs in Sammamish. Based on this information, the following recreation programming goals have been identified:

Recreation Goal #1 (R.1): Identify and implement partnerships that support efficient and effective delivery of recreation services and programs.

Recreation Goal #2 (R.2): Provide recreation opportunities and support partnerships that promote active living and health and wellness opportunities in the community.

Recreation Goal #3 (R.3): Provide recreation opportunities and support partnerships that support lifelong play, discovery, exploration, creativity and learning for individuals and families.

Recreation Goal #4 (R.4): Expand recreation programming opportunities to promote community building.

Recreation Goal #5 (R.5): Provide affordable and high-quality recreation experiences that serve a diverse community.

Recreation Goal #6 (R.6): Improve and expand marketing to increase participation in parks and in recreation programs and activities.

Conclusion

Recreation opportunities, including programs, services and events, are an essential aspect of life in Sammamish. Recreation programs promote active living, provide social opportunities, and contribute to the overall health and wellness of the community. The demand for recreation programs is evident, but the City of Sammamish cannot go it alone. Partnerships will be the cornerstone of recreation program development and expansion in the coming years.

Notes

1. Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Competition, Infrastructure, and Foreign Commerce Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation United States Senate "The Growing Epidemic of Childhood Obesity" Statement of Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S., Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
2. Health of King County. Public Health Seattle King County, November 2009 Appendix 6-5 Data Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Public-Health-Seattle & King County. Http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/partnerships/CPPW/kcprofile.aspx
3. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Healthy Places. Health Impact Assessment. http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/physactivity.htm
4. http://www.saferoutesinfo.org
5. Active Bodies Active Minds. "Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice Provider Packet." University of Washington Center for Public Health Nutrition. http://depts.washington.edu/tvhealth/healthychoice.htm
6. Ginsburg, Kenneth and the Committee on Communications and the Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health. "The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds." American Academy of Pediatrics. http://www2.aap.org/pressroom/playFINAL.pdf

Cultural Arts 7

Cultural Arts

Introduction

Arts and culture play a vital role in the Sammamish community by encouraging creativity, challenging us to see the world through different eyes, providing a connection to the past, and celebrating and honoring the diversity of the community. The arts scene in Sammamish is very much alive thanks to an active arts commission and a dedicated group of community volunteers.

The Sammamish Arts Commission, serving as an advisory body to the City Council, has identified the following mission and guiding principles:

Mission Statement
Integrating art and culture to create a sense of place, civic identity and unique character.

Guiding Principles

- Artistic excellence: We strive for artistic excellence by showcasing high-caliber local, regional and national artistic programming that reflects the city's vision.

- Accessibility: We engage deeply and widely with all segments of the city, striving to reach all members of the community and create an avenue for artists to bring their creativity to the public.

- Collaboration: We are committed to creating alliances and partnerships within and outside Sammamish to promote artistic excellence and accessibility. We work collaboratively with various state, regional and local agencies to enhance the effectiveness of the arts commission.

- Community Design: We focus our efforts to nurture and build creative capital locally, including taking necessary risks, to realize the impacts of the arts in fostering a vibrant social economy.

- Diversity: We value diversity in artistic expressions and strive to promote arts as a universal language that binds people from different backgrounds and breathes life into our communities.

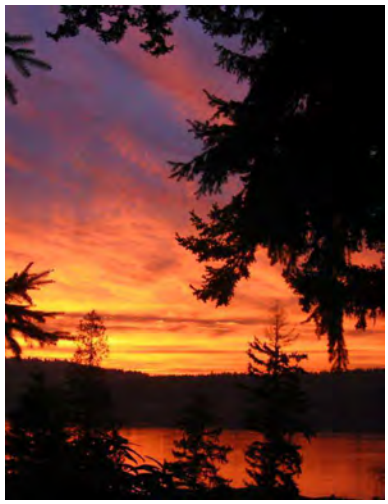
Cultural Arts

Cultural Arts in Sammamish

One of the priorities of the City Council in 2002 was to promote and expand cultural arts opportunities in the community, and the council elected to form a task force to fulfill this need. Within the year, the task force sought grant opportunities to support local cultural arts performances. A condition of these grants, however, was that they could only be awarded to official arts commissions.

At the recommendation of the Sammamish Arts Task Force, the City Council approved the formation of the Sammamish Arts Commission (SAC) in 2003. The SAC now serves as an advisory body to the City Council in matters concerning the promotion and facilitation of public art in the community. In addition to receiving city funding, the commission can apply for and receive grant money from outside sources, and it has done so successfully on numerous occasions.

Since 2003, the commission has achieved several major goals. One of the most prominent is the rotating art exhibition at City Hall. Local, regional and national artists have displayed their works throughout the building and attracted many visitors from Sammamish and other areas of Washington State.



The SAC has had many other successes, such as installing art in public parks and promoting performances, readings, classes and educational experiences. The SAC is also known for pushing the envelope of creativity. In 2009, "Trash Apes" made an appearance at the parks and recreation summer concert series, and in 2011, a stand of tree stumps on the city's main arterial was adorned with knitted tree socks.

Like many city programs, the SAC relies on a variety of partnerships to deliver programs to the community. Volunteers help produce many art events and programs. Other service agencies such as the Sammamish Heritage Society, the Chamber of Commerce, the King County Library System and the local school districts work collaboratively with the SAC and the Parks and Recreation Department to deliver cultural arts programs. A list of key partners is provided in Figure 7.1.

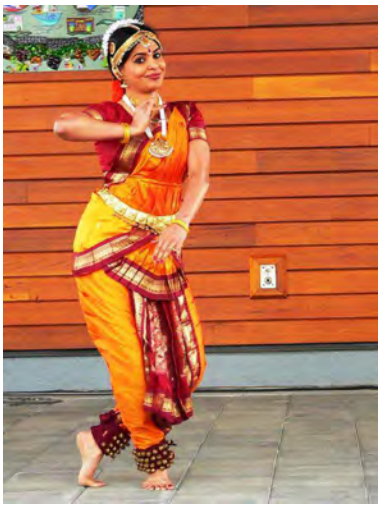


Figure 7.1 Sammamish Arts and Cultural Partners

Organization	Purpose
4 Culture	Serving all of King County, this cultural service agency provides programs, financial support and services in the area of arts, public art, heritage and historic preservation.
artEast	This Issaquah-based nonprofit organization, consisting of artists and art supporters, is dedicated to making the arts an integral part of life through regular art exhibitions and ongoing workshops.
Eastside Symphony	A community orchestra based in Redmond performs concerts in May and October with a focus on the standard classical repertoire.
Intiman Front Porch Theater	Founded in 1972 and based in Seattle, Intiman produces plays and outreach activities.
Issaquah Village Theater	Founded in 1979 and based in Issaquah, this organization is a leading producer of musical theater in the Pacific Northwest.
Master Chorus Eastside	Formerly the Issaquah Chorale, this group founded in 1991 is an all-volunteer, 50-plus-member auditioned chorus that offers a four-concert season for Eastside families.
Sammamish Heritage Society	Established in 1999, this nonprofit organization is dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of Sammamish.
Sammamish Symphony	Incorporated in 1994, the orchestra began as the Providence Point Players and has grown to a full-symphony adult orchestra made up mainly of Eastside residents.
Wooden O	Founded in 1994 and merged with Seattle Shakespeare Company in 2008, this theatrical group based on Mercer Island provides free outdoor Shakespeare plays throughout King County.

Cultural Arts

Inventory of Public Art

Although the SAC is just getting started collecting and installing public art pieces, it has already amassed a small but respectable inventory:

- "Confluence" sculpture, Deb Young: Sammamish Commons Park Plaza
- Four seasons mosaic mural: Sammamish Commons Park Plaza
- Rooster: Lower Commons Sammamish Commons Park
- "Magnetic Drawing," Nola Avienne: Sammamish City Hall
- "Late Summer," quilt, Ellin Larimer: Sammamish City Hall
- Totem poles, David Boxley, Tsimshian tribe: Beaver Lake Park
- "Two Canoes," photography/painting, Katherine Hastings: Sammamish City Hall

As new parks are developed and funding becomes available, additional art pieces will be installed throughout the Sammamish parks system and in other public spaces.

Cultural Arts: Benefits and Trends

There are a number of benefits to arts, culture and heritage programs and opportunities in the community. Some of these benefits include economic vitality, health and wellness, improved learning, and intrinsic value.

Economic Vitality
Cultural arts programming and opportunities play an important role in economic vitality. According to the 2010 Creative Vitality Index Survey, there were over 100,000 art-related jobs in Washington. Overall, the state of Washington remains above the nation as a whole as measured by the 2010 Index.[1] Art shows, displays, performances and programs attract visitors to Sammamish, supporting the local economy as patrons visiting performances and programs stay in the community for dinner or coffee.

Health and Wellness
A growing body of research shows that active participation in the arts promotes mental and physical health among older adults living independently in the community, improves the quality of life for those who are ill, and reduces risk factors that increase the chances that older adults will need long-term care.[2]

Improved Learning
There is strong evidence that youth involved in arts programs such as drama, music and dance do better in reading, writing and math than those who focus solely on academics.[3] Una McAlinden, executive director of ArtsEd Washington, says "students in band or orchestra throughout middle and high school were twice as likely to get top scores in math as their peers not involved in music."[4]

Intrinsic Human Value
Art sets out to "engage us, to inspire us, to challenge us, to comfort us," says Rocco Landesman, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.[5] Very few of us go untouched by art. Heritage opportunities educate others about our past and instill civic pride and community spirit.

Trends in Cultural Arts
In 2010, a scientific phone survey was conducted to help us better understand community patterns and interest in cultural arts. Figure 7.2 indicates the type of cultural arts programs residents attended over a 12-month period. The most frequently attended events were music performances, followed by theater performances and participatory events such as art classes. Figure 7.3 indicates the types of cultural arts programs residents would like the City of Sammamish to offer. Music performances received the most first-choice votes, as well as the highest percent of total votes. Theater performances were second, and visual arts third. Dance and other performing arts received the lowest percentages.

Figure 7.2 Number of Arts and Cultural Programs Attended By Residents in the Last 12 Months (July 2010)

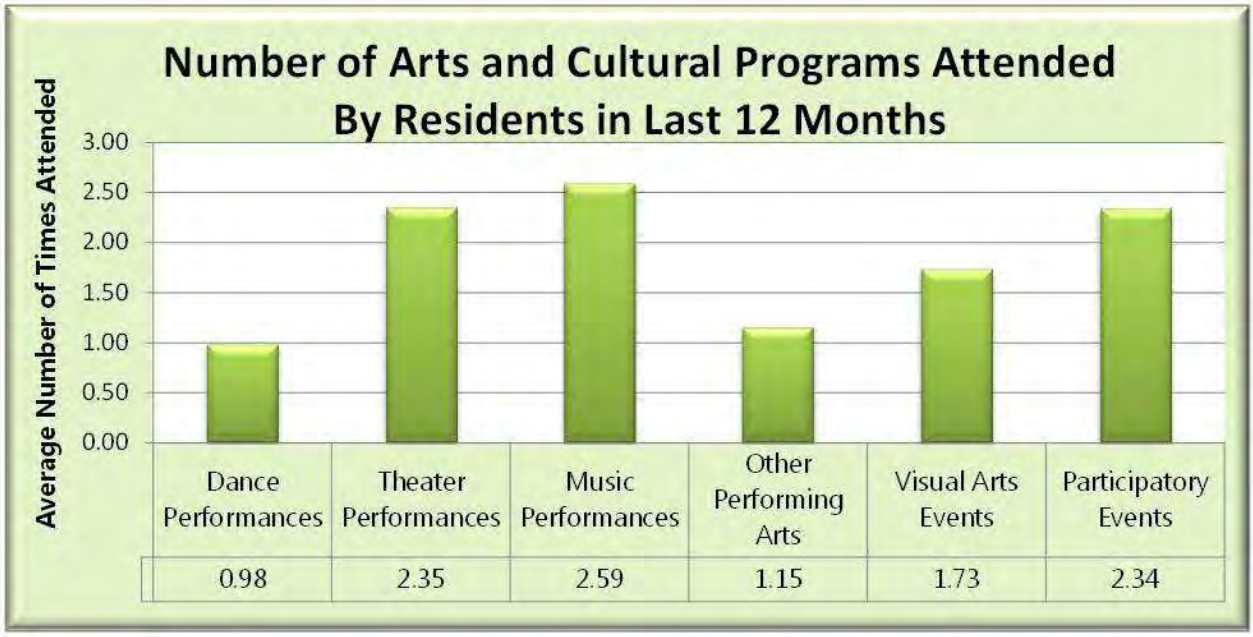
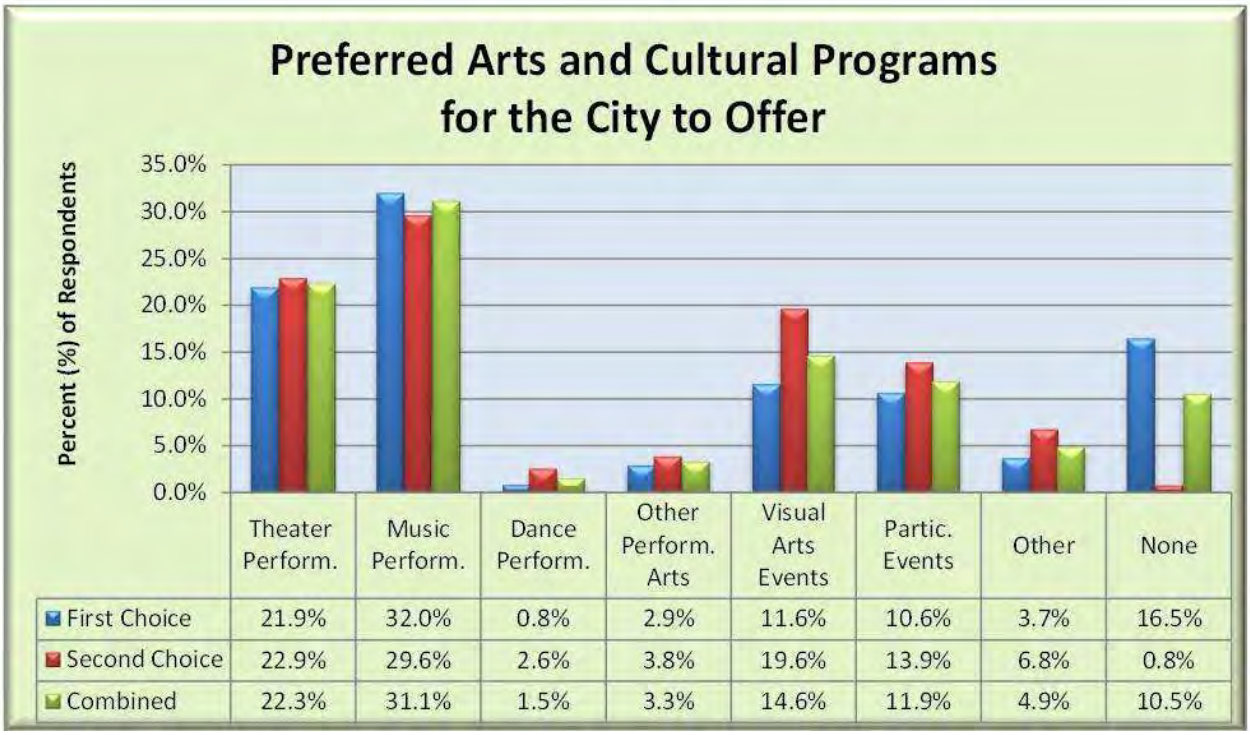


Figure 7.3 Preferred Arts and Cultural Programs for the City to Offer



	Theater Perform.	Music Perform.	Dance Perform.	Other Perform. Arts	Visual Arts Events	Partic. Events	Other	None
First Choice	21.9%	32.0%	0.8%	2.9%	11.6%	10.6%	3.7%	16.5%
Second Choice	22.9%	29.6%	2.6%	3.8%	19.6%	13.9%	6.8%	0.8%
Combined	22.3%	31.1%	1.5%	3.3%	14.6%	11.9%	4.9%	10.5%

Planning for the Future/ Identifying Cultural Arts Needs

Cultural arts play a vital role in the community. The offerings of the SAC in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department have helped to stimulate a renewed interested in performing arts, art shows and other educational and programming opportunities. The following long-term cultural arts goals have been identified:

Cultural Arts Goal #1 (C.1): Ensure the visibility and viability of cultural arts organizations, artists and art educators in the Sammamish community.

Cultural Arts Goal #2 (C.2): Continue to develop and support partnerships with local arts organizations for the promotion and delivery of cultural arts programs in Sammamish.

Cultural Arts Goal #3 (C.3): Support the installation of permanent art pieces in public spaces, including City Hall and parks.

Cultural Arts Goal #4 (C.4): Present participatory, performing, and visual arts programming for families.

Cultural Arts Goal #5 (C.5): Establish ongoing, collaborative planning relationships with other city departments to ensure the community arts program closely aligns with other planning objectives.

Cultural Arts Goal #6 (C.6): Solicit financial assistance from private, nonprofit and government agencies, to assist the delivery of arts programs and the acquisition of art pieces in Sammamish.

Conclusion

Cultural arts and heritage programs consist of a wide range of artistic, cultural and historical offerings that benefit the public. The SAC, along with city leaders and members of the community, will continue to work to foster creative expression, display works of art, support educational endeavors, and provide many other cultural arts opportunities to further enrich the Sammamish community.

Notes

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2. Cohen, G. M.D., Ph. D. "The Creativity and Aging Study: The Impact of Professionally Conducted Cultural Programs on Older Adults." Center on Aging Health and Humanities, George Washington University, April 2006.
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Volunteers & Partnerships 8

Volunteers & Partnerships

Introduction

Residents were actively involved in the community long before Sammamish became a city. Their ongoing dedication has been evident in tireless work on issues such as incorporation and in generous giving of time for sports, school programs, and local politics. Since incorporation, the City has built upon this foundation by establishing a formal volunteer program and partnering with a number of community groups to continue the tradition of grass-roots community service.

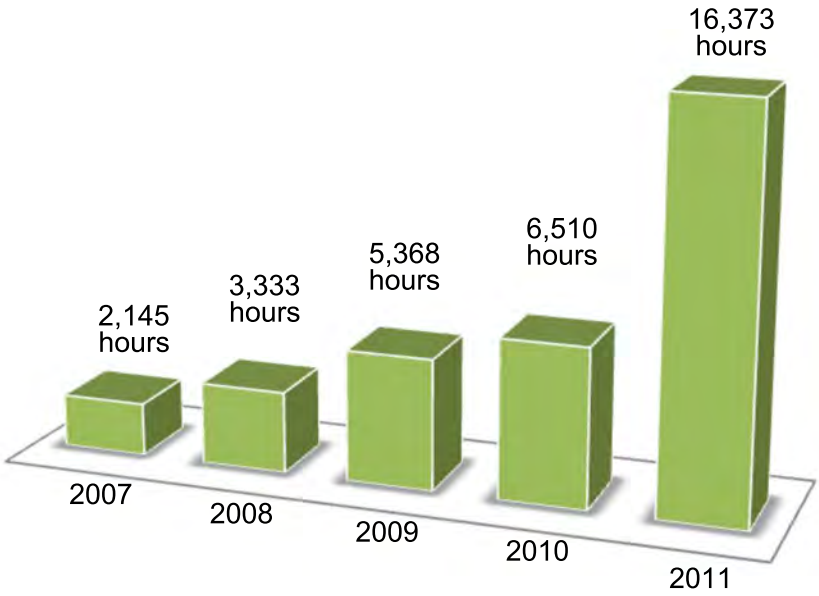
Volunteers in Sammamish

During its early years, the City of Sammamish offered small-scale programs and events, relying on staff and a handful of volunteers. In 2007, the City Council decided to host a Fourth of July event, which led to the creation of a volunteer coordinator position. By 2010, the volunteer program was booming with volunteers serving in nearly every city department and working on special projects and assignments throughout the community.

Volunteers for the City of Sammamish come from a variety of backgrounds. They include highly skilled individuals with expertise in engineering, surveying, and technical design, as well as individuals with disabilities seeking to improve their job skills. A number of businesses and civic organizations donate volunteer hours throughout the year, primarily for large-scale park-improvement projects. Volunteers provide invaluable resources to the City and the community by helping with special events, office work, and park projects such as invasive-species removal. Eagle Scouts regularly contribute physical improvements or service projects. Throughout the city, volunteer hours have dramatically increased since the program was formed in 2007, although it should be noted that the 2011 volunteer hours include the volunteer hours to help construct Evans Creek Preserve. See Figure 8.1.

Volunteers & Partnerships

Figure 8.1 Volunteer Hours by Year



According to a survey completed in 1997 by The Gallop Organization, local governments receive a third of all volunteer labor.[1] The estimated value of these services in the United States is $43.9 billion dollars. The City of Sammamish had approximately 16,373 volunteer hours in 2011. The estimated dollar value for volunteer time in 2010-2011 is $21.36 per hour.[2] Therefore, volunteers contributed $349,727 worth of time to the City of Sammamish. Figure 8.2 shows the makeup of Sammamish's volunteer corps. Teenagers, ages 11-19, are the majority (32 percent) of volunteers at the city. Of the areas served by volunteers, 70 percent is in the Parks and Recreation Department. See figure 8.3 and 8.4.

Figure 8.2 Volunteer Demographics in 2011

Age	5-10	11-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
# of Volunteers	20	579	362	142	358	212	86	23	3
Percentage	1.12	32.44	20.28	7.96	20.06	11.88	4.82	1.29	0.17

Figure 8.3 Percentage of Volunteers by Age in 2011

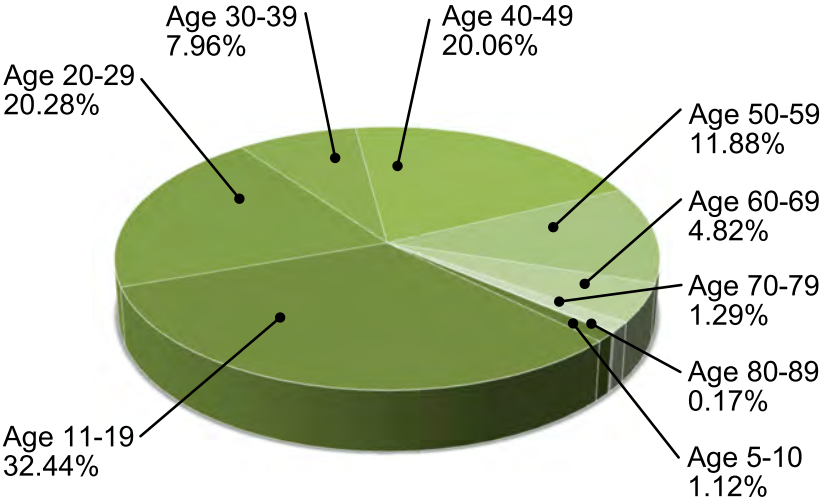
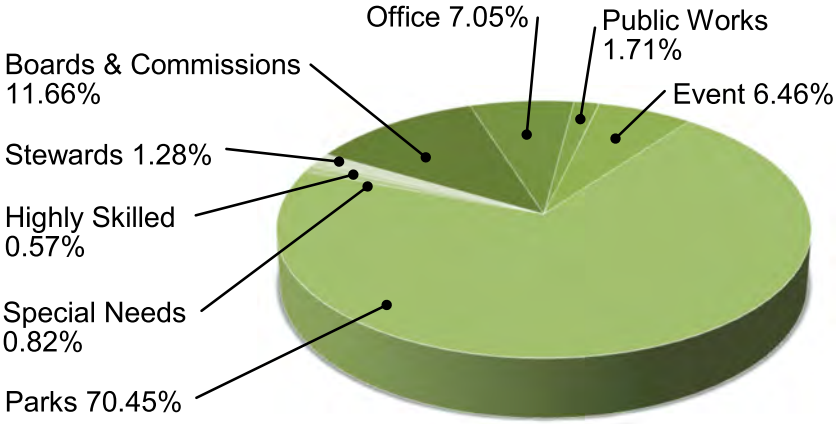


Figure 8.3 Percentage of Volunteers Time in 2011



Trends in Volunteerism

Nationally, volunteering has become popular for students and families. Some middle and high schools require volunteer hours for graduation or for membership in groups such as National Honor Society or Key Club. Churches encourage volunteerism in their communities, and many businesses allow employees paid time off to volunteer. A 2009 study by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 27 percent of the population, or more than 63.3 million people, had volunteered during the previous year.[3]

Volunteers & Partnerships

Statistics indicate that people with children under age 18 are more likely to volunteer than those without children. On average, Americans spend about 50 hours per year volunteering.[4] As the baby boomer generation reaches retirement age, many are volunteering more. Many volunteer programs, including those in Sammamish, are being modified to focus on and accommodate this demographic group. The City may want to consider additional ways to recruit baby boomers, who already represent a significant proportion of its volunteers, especially those who are highly skilled. The city's various volunteer programs are further described in Figure 8.5

Figure 8.5 Sammamish Volunteer Programs

Program	Description
Boards & Commissions	The Sammamish governance structure includes several boards and commissions: arts, parks and recreation, planning, and the youth board. All commissioners and board members volunteer their time to provide advocacy and policy recommendations to the City Council. Commissioners are appointed by the City Council.
Highly skilled volunteers	Highly skilled volunteers include planners, engineers, and people with a variety of other technical skills, including training in ArcGIS, AutoCAD, and other software programs.
Office volunteers	These volunteers file, enter data, and perform other office support duties. Most are students, with the exception of the regularly scheduled front desk volunteers.
People with physical and intellectual disabilities	Citizens with special needs work primarily at City Hall and follow a regular weekly schedule. Jobs include cleaning, data entry, and special-event support.
Public Works	Public Works volunteers assist with street cleanup and with placement of decals on storm drains.

Figure 8.5 continued

Program	Description
Special Events	These volunteers help to plan and recruit other volunteers for events. They help with setting up before events and taking down afterwards. Volunteers pick up garbage, direct traffic, and provide support for city staff during the event.
Stewards	Sammamish offers a variety of steward programs. Washington native plant stewards are trained by the Washington Native Plant Society and spend at least 100 hours on a project in Sammamish each year. Park stewards visit parks weekly to observe visitors, check for damage, and serve as the eyes and ears of department staff. Trail stewards are trained, in partnership with Washington Trails Association, to lead trail construction and repair projects in Sammamish parks.

Partnerships

The City of Sammamish has developed partnerships with several organizations that complement existing programs. Partnerships with the school districts include National Honor Society, Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), environmental clubs and classrooms. The City also partners with many nonprofits, including Kiwanis, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, as well as numerous faith-based organizations. The Sammamish Chamber of Commerce operates the farmers market in partnership with the City, and the Sammamish Rotary hosts an outdoor haunted house at Beaver Lake Park that raises over $50,000 annually to support community programs. Figure 8.6 provides a summary of the many organizations with which the City partners.

Volunteers & Partnerships

Figure 8.6 Overview of Sammamish Partner Organizations

Program	Description
Business	The Chamber of Commerce provides business support for community events, partnership for Sammamish Farmers Market and Sammamish Nights, and partnerships with large corporations such as Microsoft.
Churches	Organized work parties are planned by churches and often focus on opportunities for youth and families.
Library	The local branch of the King County Library System is a partner to the City in programs and special event partners.
Nonprofit	Partnership with these organizations most often includes identifying volunteers to meet one-time or ongoing project needs. Organizations include Faith in Action, SAMMI Awards, Washington Trails Association, Boys & Girls Club, and the Y (formerly YMCA).
Sammamish Citizen Corp	The Corps supports emergency-preparedness efforts community-wide and also provides staff support for community special events.
School Organizations	Organizations within the schools that include community service or civic involvement, such as the National Honor Society, Key Club, environmental clubs, and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA).
Service Groups	Groups organized for community or civic services. These include Sammamish Rotary, Kiwanis, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the National Charity League.

Planning for the Future/ Identifying Volunteer and Partnership Needs

As the City and its Parks and Recreation Department have grown, volunteers and community partnerships have become increasingly important. In the coming years, recruitment efforts will need to be expanded, training enhanced, and the operating structure improved to support a complex and diverse volunteer program.

In 2011, the City carried out its largest volunteer effort to date: constructing trails and removing invasive plants in Evans Creek Preserve, 179 acres of unimproved wetlands and forest just north of city limits. Over the year, a series of 64 work parties were held with an average of 10 to 15 volunteers participating each day. These work parties consisted of volunteers with Washington Trails Association, corporations, Eagle Scouts, and city employees. In September, a single work party of over 60 people from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held to remove invasive plants and build trails. This is just one example of how community collaboration can help support, sustain and grow the parks and recreation system in Sammamish.

The following goals have been identified for the volunteer program:

Volunteer Goal #1 (V.1): Develop and expand volunteer programs for office and highly skilled volunteers, including the creation of internships and job-shadowing opportunities.

Volunteer Goal #2 (V.2): Develop a park stewardship program to help maintain and oversee park programs and to support a variety of specialty tasks and programs.

Volunteer Goal #3 (V.3): Build community by supporting citywide volunteerism and volunteer efforts associated with schools, churches, and local nonprofits

Conclusion

Since the formation of the volunteer program in 2007, volunteers have played a key role in city services. In 2011, nearly 70 percent of the total volunteer hours are dedicated to the parks and recreation department, and that number is growing. And given the challenging economic climate, volunteers are going to play an even more critical role in the coming years.

Notes

1. Hodgkinson,V. and Others. Nonprofit almanac, 1996-1997: Dimensions of the Independent Sector. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1996.
2. National Value of Volunteer Time. Washington State. http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time.
3. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Volunteering in the United States, 2011. U. S. Department of Labor. http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm.
4. McCurley, Steve and Lynch, Rick. Volunteer Management: Mobilizing All the Resources of the Community, 2nd Edition. Heritage Arts, 1997.

Implementation 9

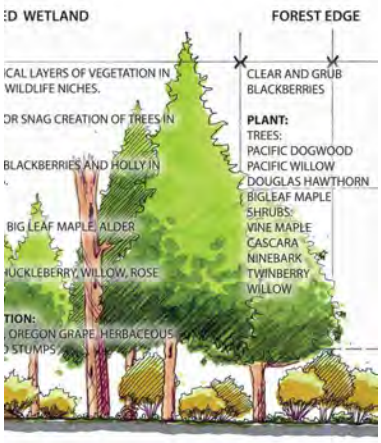
Implementation

Introduction

This chapter identifies specific projects for implementation through the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a six-year planning document that is re-evaluated every two years as part of the city's biennial budget process. It identifies specific improvement projects, funding sources and project timelines over the six-year period. Capital projects may include acquisition, repair, renovation, replacement and development. Because the entire project list cannot be completed in six years (due to limited resources), many projects are given a long-term designation. The complete Parks CIP is provided in Appendix G.

Process

The first step in developing the CIP is to identify all potential park-improvement projects. The adopted master plans for each park are one source for such projects. With the exception of NE Sammamish Park, SE 8th Street Park, and Thirty Acres (Soaring Eagle Park) the City has adopted a master plan for all park facilities. Each master plan outlines a broad vision for the park and identifies the projects needed to achieve that vision. Projects may be as simple as replacing a picnic shelter or as complex as renovating an entire park.



Projects from all the master plans are compiled into one list, including project scope and cost estimate, and presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration. In many cases, capital maintenance and replacement projects, not typically included in master plans, are also added to the list for consideration. The commission reviews the projects over three to four meetings and solicits input from the public to aid in decision making.

Ultimately, the commission must review each project and assign a priority. Maintenance, replacement and safety issues are given a higher priority than other projects and moved to the top of the list. Projects that typically fall into the high-priority category are roof replacements, structural repairs, trail repairs, playground upgrades, and improvements to meet federal standards for disabled access. Because the Sammamish parks infrastructure is starting to age, the CIP will include more and more maintenance and replacement projects in the coming years. Other projects are prioritized based on

factors such as public support, demand for the amenity or improvement, and ultimately the recommendation of the commission.

Once projects are prioritized, staff members assist the commission in assigning the projects to a calendar year. The decision on when to schedule a project is based on urgency, availability of funding, cash flow within the CIP, and the anticipated timeline for project completion.

Funding plays a key role in determining how projects are scheduled. Funds for parks capital projects come from two primary sources – the real estate excise tax (REET) and impact fees. Annual revenue projections for both sources are used to develop budget guidelines for each year. Typically, complete funding for a number of smaller maintenance and replacement projects (less than $200,000 each) is included in the CIP for any given year. Large projects, costing more than $1 million, require additional planning and may need to be scheduled over two or more years to ensure adequate funding.

Preliminary cost estimates were developed for projects on the CIP list. While every effort is made to calculate realistic estimates during the development of the CIP, costs fluctuate. We plan for these fluctuations through the allocation of contingency funds in the CIP.

In recent years, city employees have designed, managed and sometimes constructed parks capital projects as a cost-saving measure. While this saves money, it has the negative effect of extending project schedules. The preliminary cost estimates provided in the CIP assume the use of in-house resources for most elements of design and project management. It is still assumed that most construction work will be performed by outside companies contracted by the city.

The project timeline also plays a critical role in scheduling. In any year, the parks department strives to have half of its CIP projects in the planning and design phase and the other half in the construction phase. This helps balance staff time as well as the workload between staff and consultants. Unfortunately, projects don't always go according to schedule, which has led to cycles of construction years followed by planning years. To the extent possible, the goal continues to be to balance the two project phases from year to year.

Each CIP project will typically take two years to complete from start to finish. This assumes a master plan or a public process or both are already complete. If that is not the case, or if further public input is needed, the additional planning work will add about 12 months to the process. Historically, most major park capital projects ($1 million or greater) have taken two to three years to complete.

The first 12 to 18 months of a capital project are dedicated to public process (if needed), design, obtaining permits, and preparing construction documents. Once those steps are complete, the project is ready for construction. The length of construction varies, usually four to nine months for a typical park improvement project.

Not all park projects make it onto the six-year CIP list, but some are still considered important for long-term consideration and are designated as such in the CIP.

As a final step, the commission presents the recommended parks CIP to the City Council for approval.

Projects

The projects on the CIP fall into one of four categories:

- Development
- Renovation
- Repair/maintenance
- Acquisition

Development
Development projects add amenities to existing parks or establish new parks. This ensures our park system is continuing to meet the demands of the growing community.

Renovation
Renovations are improvements to existing park infrastructure. They may include upgrades to playgrounds or fields (for instance, adding new playground equipment or replacing natural turf (grass) with synthetic turf) and enhancements to restrooms or other facilities. These projects keep the park system functioning and maintain the city's investment in existing resources.

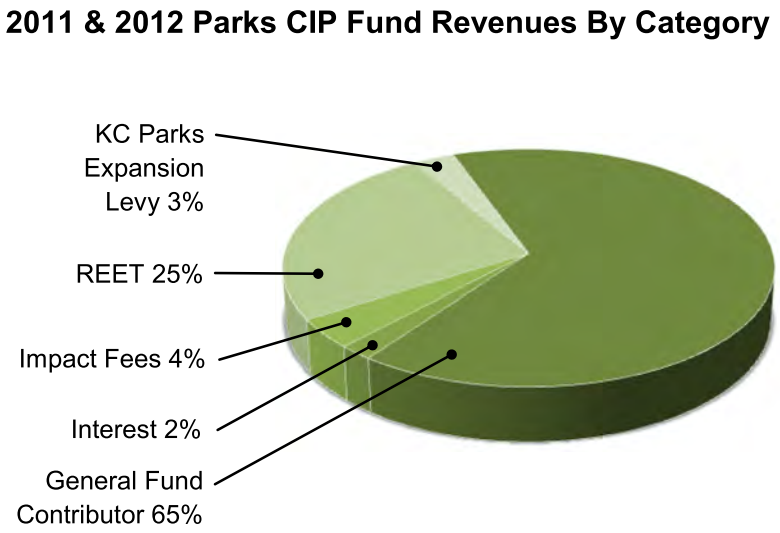
Repair and Replacement
As with all park systems, capital repair and replacement are necessary to ensure a safe and functional park system.

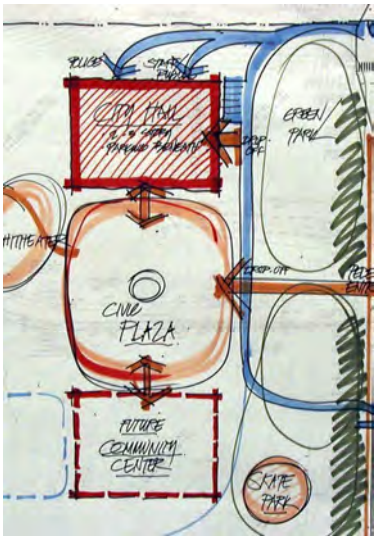
Acquisition
Funds are allocated for property acquisition, although no specific property is identified for purchase. The geographic equity analysis (Chapter 3) shows that the northeast quadrant of the city lacks park land; that area will continue to be a priority for acquisition. In addition, acquisition funding is needed to purchase parcels adjacent to other park properties to create or maintain cohesive park areas, to protect open space, and to meet future needs for active recreation.

Funding

The funding for parks, recreation, arts, volunteer programs, and services (also known as operations) comes from the city's general fund, user fees and grants. Historically, revenues for the Parks CIP are received from the general fund, real estate excise taxes, state and federal park grants, parks development impact funds, and various intergovernmental sources.[1]

Figure 9.1: Parks CIP Revenues by Category [2]





The following provides more information on the various sources of funds available for the CIP.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)
Collected from the sale of real estate in the city, REET is calculated based on the full selling price, including the amount of any liens, mortgages and other debts used to secure the purchase. The state levies its portion of this tax at 1.28 percent. Cities are also authorized to impose a local tax of 0.5 percent. Half of the city's portion must be used primarily for local capital improvements as identified in the capital-facilities plan element of the city's comprehensive plan. The other half must be used to fund capital projects in transportation. Through December 31, 2016 the greater of $100,000 or 35 percent of available funds (not to exceed $1 million dollars) may be used for maintenance and operations of existing capital projects that were eligible for REET construction funding.

Park Impact Fees
Impact fees reimburse local governments for the capital cost of creating public facilities that are needed to serve residents of new developments. Impact fees can be used only for park acquisition and development; they cannot be used for operating or maintenance expenses. [3]

General Fund
The general fund was established to provide the services typically offered by local governments and derives its funding primarily from local tax sources. The fund is allocated to nine City of Sammamish departments: City Council, city manager, city attorney, finance, administrative services, technology services, community development, parks and recreation, and public works. Funds may be transferred from the general fund to the CIP fund as designated in the city's biennial budget.

King County Parks Expansion Levy
A six-year King County levy-lid lift was approved by voters for collection beginning in 2008. The levy is 5 cents per thousand with 1 cent per thousand allocated to cities in King County. The levy amount changes annually with the Consumer Price Index. These funds may be used to acquire open space and natural lands and for development of regional trails.

Additional possible funding sources include:

Bond Financing
There are several bond mechanisms used for parks and recreation. The creation and flow of bond revenues involve public-debt financing and in some instances require legal approval, voter consideration, or both.

General Obligation Bond Funds
These are primarily used for developing public facilities when it is appropriate to finance long-term debt with a new revenue source. Typically, general obligation bonds are funded through an increase in property tax for a specified time. This financing is subject to voter approval. Under a voted general obligation bond, voters would authorize a city to increase property taxes to pay debt service on the bond. To be approved, the ballot measure must receive 60 percent approval and the total number of yes votes must at least be equal to 40 percent of the number of voters who turned out for the most recent general election. State law limits the amount of voted general obligation bonds that a city can issue to 2.5 percent of the city's assessed value.

Councilmanic (Limited Tax) Bonds
The governing body of a city can vote to issue limited tax bonds. These bonds do not need a dedicated source of payment, such as a property tax levy, but rather would be secured by pledge of the city to pay debt service from existing revenues. State law limits the amount of limited tax bonds that a city can issue to 1.5 percent of the city's assessed value.

Special Assessment
Special assessments may be created where the public benefit can be clearly defined, there is a public purpose, and the total assessment does not exceed the cost of the improvement and related bond financing.

Revenue Bond Funds
Revenue bonds encompass a range of financing mechanisms and are a form of debt that is retired by means other than taxes. For the purposes of project development, revenue-bonding procedures may be used based on authorizing statutes or based on leasehold values of land, facilities, and operating entities that create a cash flow

sufficient to pay the bond principal and interest. Leasehold is a property held by a lease.

User Fees

The funding structure usually preferred by recreation agencies is a system of individual activity fees. Such a system allows the parks department to offer some activities free of charge while defraying operating costs for intensive activities such as league sports, aquatics, and specialized recreation activities. In most cases, user fees cover operating costs only, but in some cases excess revenues may be applied to pay down capital debt.

Also, the department may charge fees for special-use park facilities as well as entrance fees, plus activity fees, at other facilities such as athletic fields or recreation centers.

The actual fee schedule is established by policy and may be subject to periodic review. User fee schedules should take into account market values for public recreation services. User fees typically do not cover all costs for parks and recreation and thus should be considered an offset of a portion of program operations and maintenance expenses.

Metropolitan Park District (MPD)

The City may request public support for the formation of an MPD, a special-purpose district similar to other special purpose districts such as a water or sewer district. Formation of an MPD authorizes an additional property tax to support parks and recreation services. Although the MPD is technically a separate entity, state law allows an MPD formed wholly within a city to be governed by its city council. In other words, formation of an MPD does not require creation of a separate governing body.

Joint Development/Partnerships

Partnerships with public, private or nonprofit entities can stretch development dollars for acquisition, operations and maintenance, or infrastructure development. Examples include golf courses, aquatic centers, amusement parks, sports centers, theater or performing arts facilities, arenas and many other partnerships tied to recreation services. A recent example of a joint venture is the partnership between the city and the Boys & Girls Club to remodel and operate the Recreation Center.

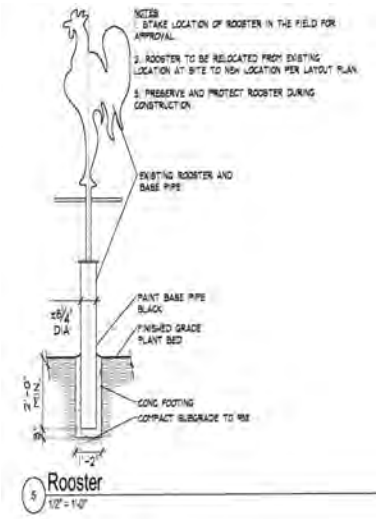
Joint Use
Short of jointly developing a project, there may be opportunities for partnership such as creating joint-use parking with an adjacent public or private facility, reducing the cost of the new facility (parking, surface-water retention, etc.).

Philanthropy
Contributions from private donors may provide an excellent source of capital and operation funding as well as leverage to obtain matching funding.

Easements
Interlocal agreements, rights of way, conservation areas and property used for utilities or other public purposes where parks and recreation assets such as trails, pathways and open playfields may be developed may provide partnership opportunities to help offset the cost of development.

Grants

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
This state agency manages grant programs to support outdoor recreation opportunities, protect the best of the state's wildlife habitat and farmland, and help return salmon from near-extinction. Funding is awarded on a competitive basis for several recreation grant programs.



Conservation Futures
A portion of property taxes collected throughout King County and its cities goes for the purchase and permanent protection of open-space lands.

King Conservation District
The King Conservation District awards grants for projects that directly improve the condition of natural resources, provide education, and implement pilot or demonstration projects.

Conclusion

The City of Sammamish maintains a high-quality parks system, a source of pride for the community and city leaders. But a good parks system requires maintenance, renovation, redevelopment and expansion, especially as the community continues to grow. As such, the City has developed a list of parks improvement projects, and it is expected that the list will grow.

Because the City cannot fund all of the projects, prioritizing has helped to identify the most important projects for the next six years. The public, city staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission all contributed to the development of the CIP. Those projects that cannot be funded in the six-year plan will remain on the list for reconsideration in the future.

The City Council approved the 2013 – 2018 CIP at a regular meeting on May 14, 2012. The CIP is updated every two years as part of the biennial budget process.

Notes

1. City of Sammamish 2011 – 2012 Biennial Budget, "Investing in Our Community." City of Sammamish Finance Department.
2. City of Sammamish Finance Department.
3. Henderson, Young & Company. Rate Study for Impact Fees for Parks and Recreational Facilities, City of Sammamish, Washington, November 2, 2006.