



# Park and Recreation Visioning Plan (PRVP) Council Briefing

Overview of Public Feedback, Vision & Draft Plan Review

Carol Ohlfs, Principal Park Planner

Conservation and Natural Resources | Parks & Recreation

# Public Outreach Findings Summary



# Park & Recreation Visioning Plan

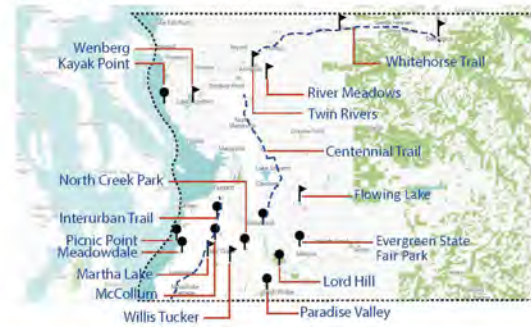
## 2021 Public Survey Results

Online Survey  
Apr 14-May 31 2021

1,815  
Respondents

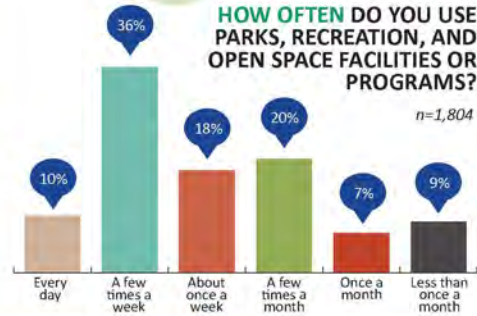
### VISIT, PLAY, RECREATE

**MOST VISITED SNOHOMISH CO. PARKS**  
Survey responses (n=1,717) and 2019 park visitor counts



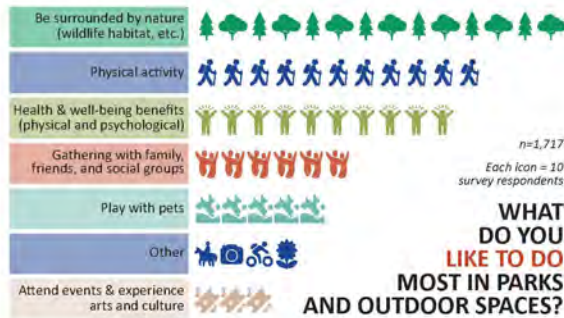
*"Parks bring value and revenue to local business and strengthen community. As population grows here, the county needs more spaces to find separation from urban pressures."*

### HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS?



### VALUES & PREFERENCES

**WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT YOUR USE OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS?**  
(Select all that apply) Ranked results n=1,581



**WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO MOST IN PARKS AND OUTDOOR SPACES?**

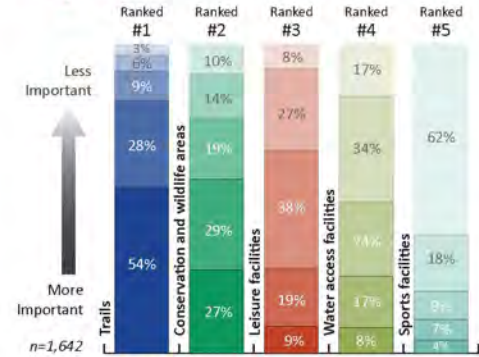
### FUNDING

**HOW LIKELY WOULD YOU BE TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS?**



*"Parks should be part of community resiliency and connected to ALL community members."*

### TOP RANKED TYPES OF PARKS



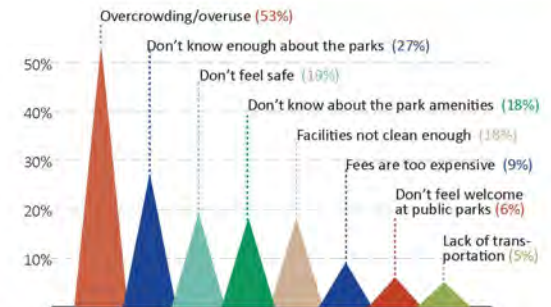
**RANK THE TYPES OF PARK SITES ACCORDING TO WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE US TO FOCUS OUR RESOURCES**



**HOW IMPORTANT ARE THESE SITE MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES?**

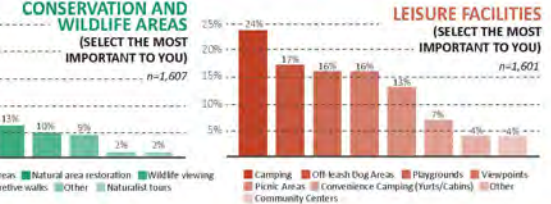


### BARRIERS TO ACCESS



**WHAT BARRIERS PREVENT YOU FROM ENJOYING SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS?**

### MOST IMPORTANT FACILITIES



### PARK MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

*"Improve and maintain current parks for safety, accessibility and functional use."*

*"Wildlife watching and knowing that the wildlife has a place to live in the parks"*



# Public Feedback Summary

- ▶ Use Patterns
  - ▶ Most respondents utilizing south-county parks
  - ▶ Visiting Sno Co parks a few times a week
  - ▶ For health and well being, physical activity, be surrounded by nature, and providing environmental benefits

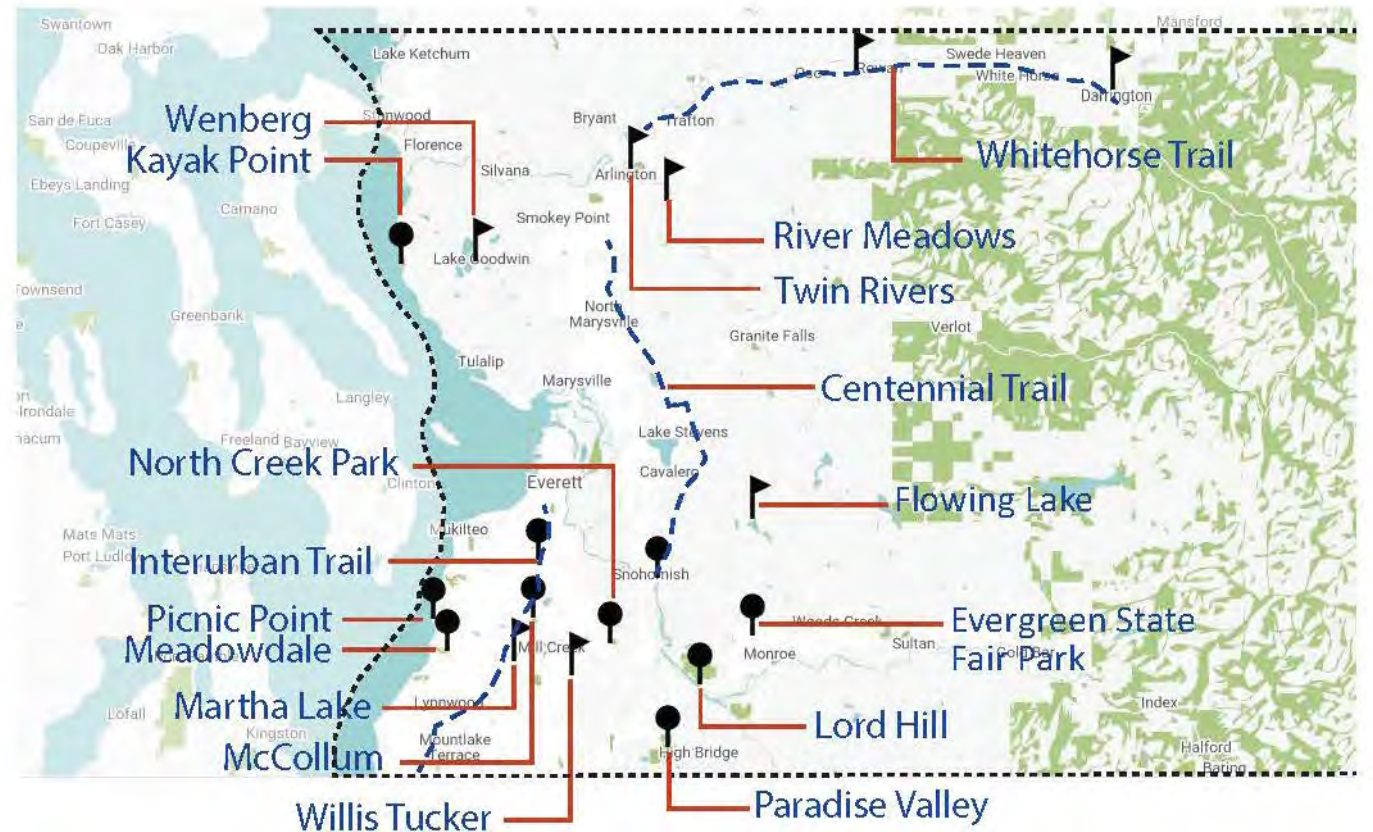
VISIT, PLAY, RECREATE

## MOST VISITED SNOHOMISH CO. PARKS

Survey responses ( $n=1,717$ ) and 2019 park visitor counts

📍 Survey Responses

🚩 Park Visitor Counts

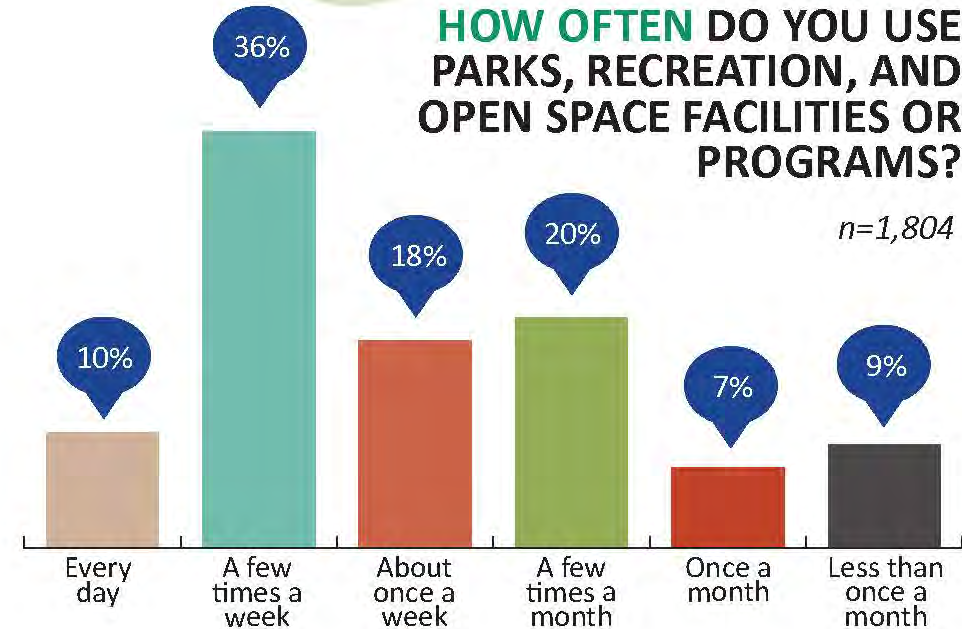


# Public Feedback Summary

## ► Use Patterns

- Most respondents utilizing south-county parks
- Visiting Sno Co parks a few times a week
- For health and well being, physical activity, be surrounded by nature, and providing environmental benefits

*“Parks bring value and revenue to local business and strengthen community. As population grows here, the county needs more spaces to find separation from urban pressures.”*

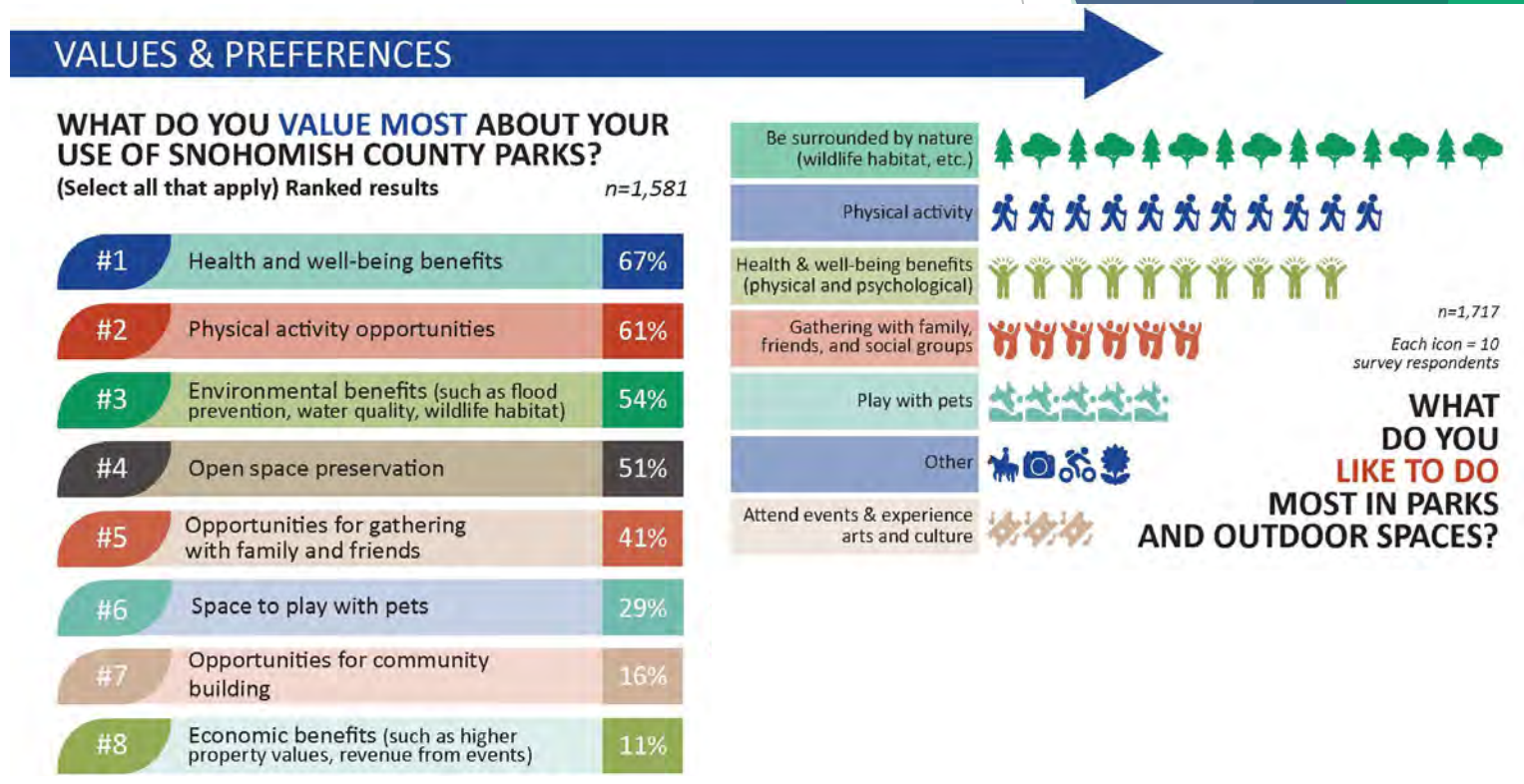




# Public Feedback Summary

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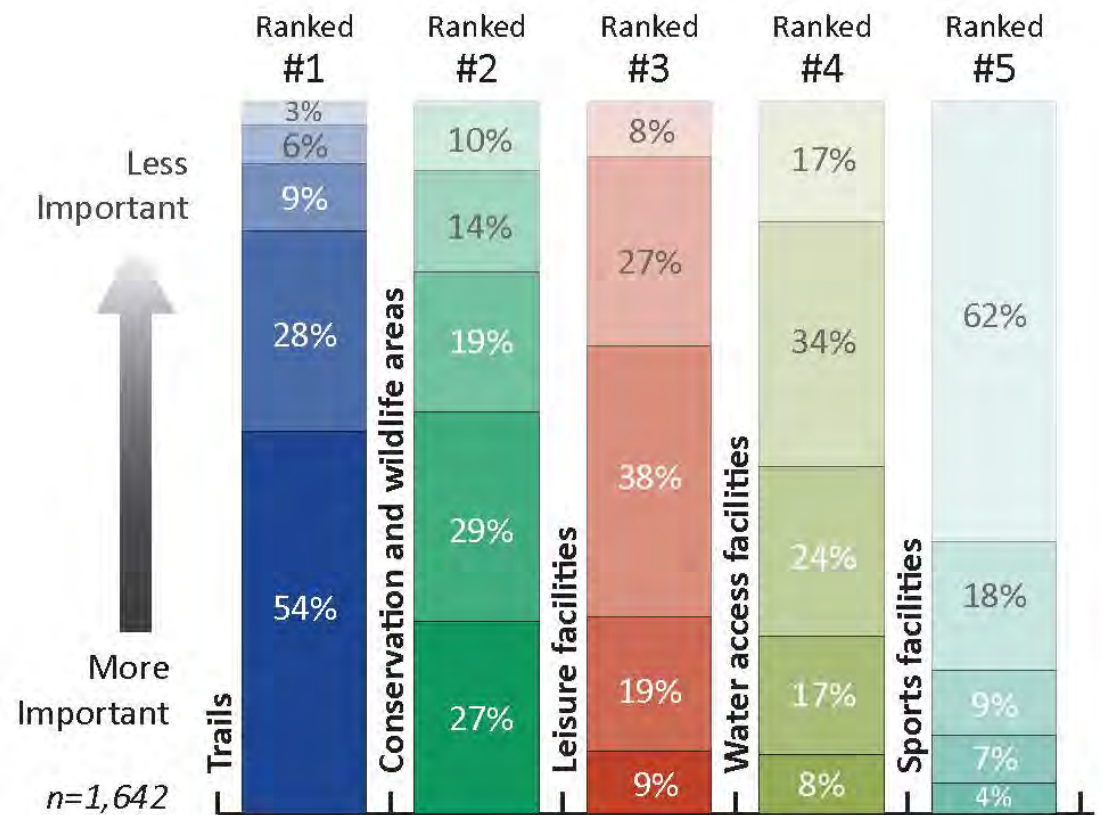
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- Visiting Sno Co parks a few times a week
- For health and well being, physical activity, be surrounded by nature, and providing environmental benefits



# Public Feedback Summary

## ► Preferences

- Prefer trails and open space natural areas over leisure, water access and sports
- Prefer maintaining existing parks and acquiring more open space and natural areas over addressing climate change, outreach to community and acquiring/building parks and playgrounds
- Prefer bond and donation systems over taxes and entry fees for additional funding sources



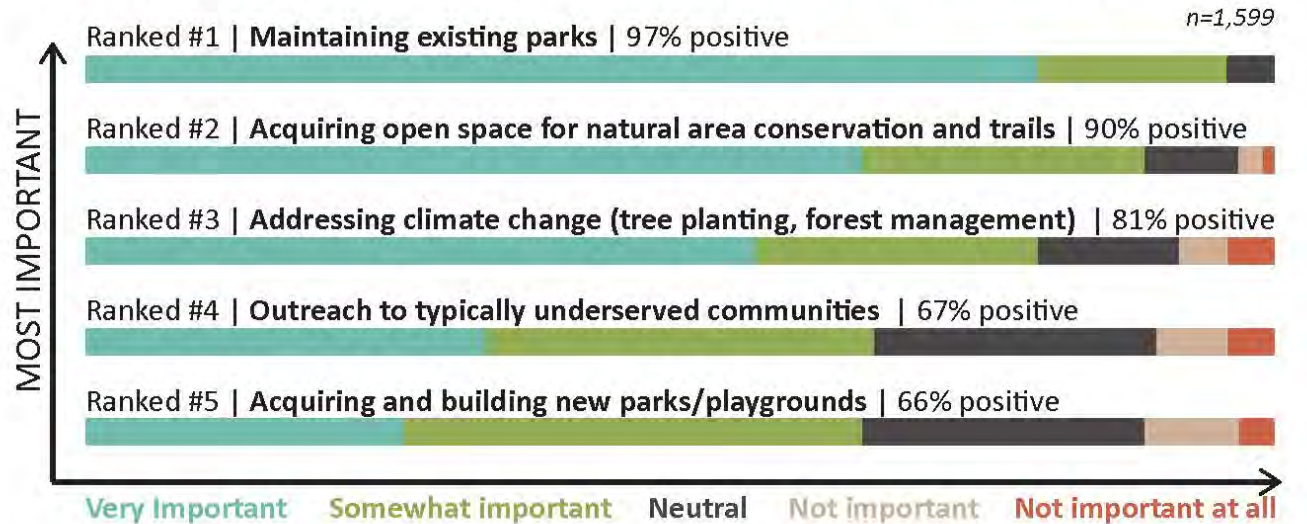
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## HOW IMPORTANT ARE THESE SITE MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES?



*"Improve and maintain current parks for safety, accessibility and functional use."*

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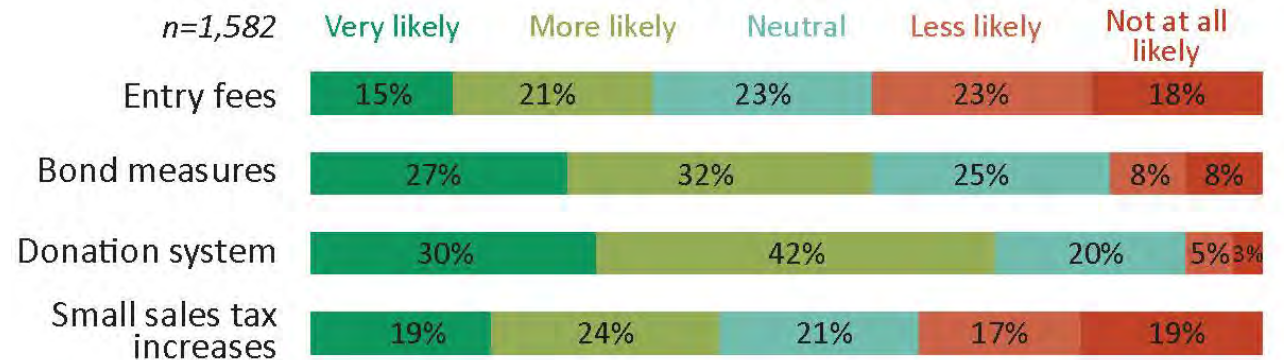
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## FUNDING

### HOW LIKELY WOULD YOU BE TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS?

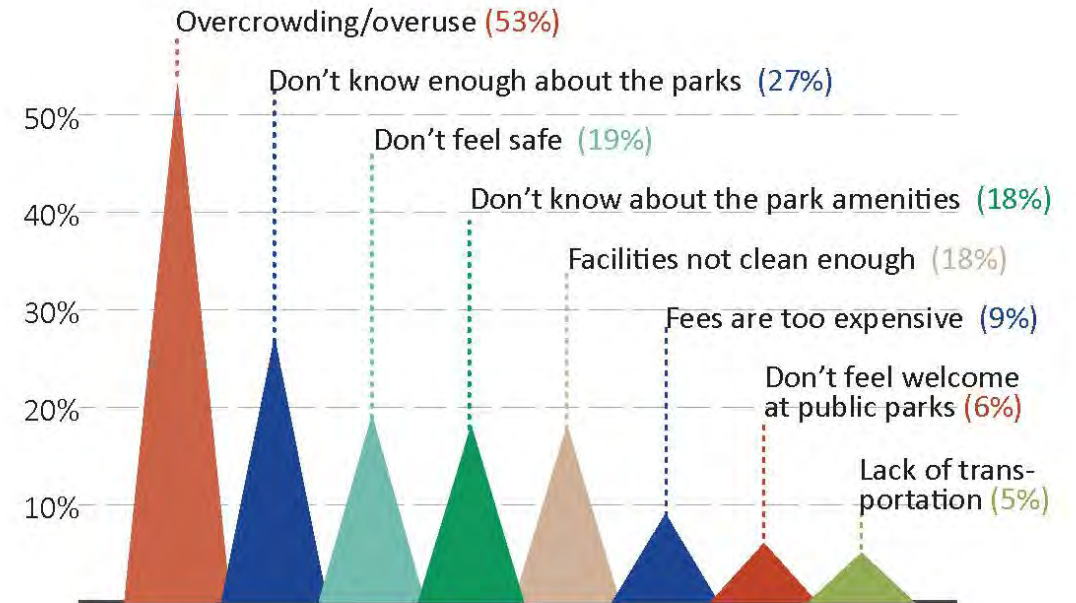


# Public Feedback Summary

## ► Concerns

- Most concerned about overcrowding and not knowing all the park options
- Questions about how the funding is being used currently
- Notes about equity and inclusion should be a priority
- Restrooms instead of portable facilities
- Litter/trash cans

## BARRIERS TO ACCESS



WHAT BARRIERS PREVENT YOU FROM ENJOYING SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS?

n=1,340

*"Parks should be part of community resiliency and connected to ALL community members."*

# PRVP 2021: Vision



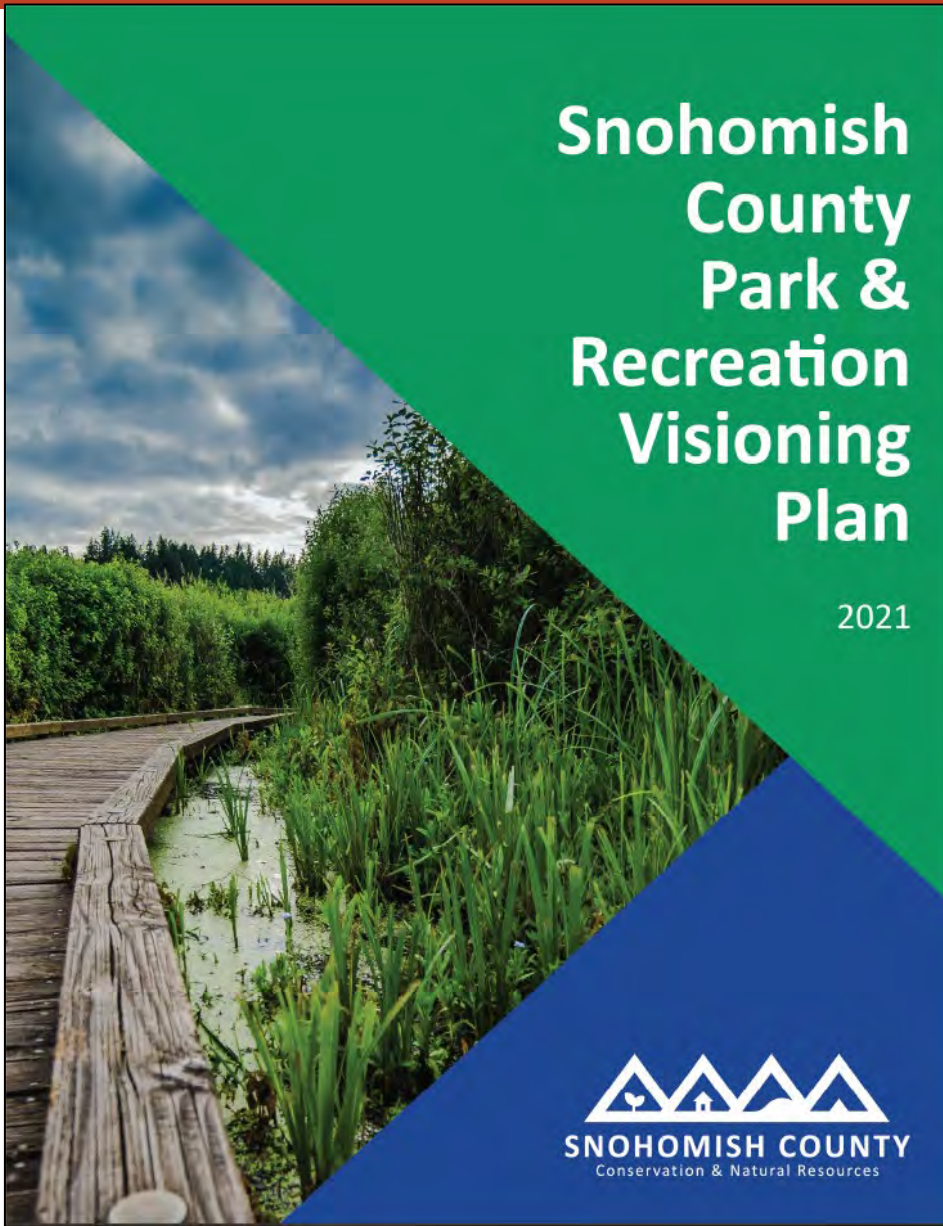


# Snohomish County Park & Recreation Visioning Plan

2021



*Cover*





### *Letter from the Director*

With the creation of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in 2020, the Parks & Recreation Division merged with the Surface Water Management Division, the Office of Energy and Sustainability and the Office of Agriculture to work together toward our goal to create a healthy environment for healthy communities. And health is all about balance. DCNR strives to bring balance between enjoyment, use and stewardship of the county's natural resources. A healthy environment means thriving salmon populations, robust forests and natural areas, and resilient landscapes. Healthy communities mean prosperous local farms, energized rural economies, people connected with nature and their culture, and responsible energy use. We prioritize finding the right balance every day, because the healthier our watersheds, farmlands, recreation spaces and communities are, the better off we all are.

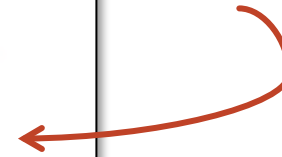
Parks play a critical role in building livable and sustainable communities. They contribute to the health and wellness of individual residents and communities by providing safe places to walk, swim, ride, run, relax and play. County parks, events, trails and open spaces are on the front line of regional economic efforts. Each year, the region receives more than \$50 million in positive economic impact through camping and lodging, special events and tournaments, environmental education, and tourism that take place in our park and recreation facilities. As stewards of the largest county-owned landscapes, our system of parks, trails and open spaces contributes to the clean water, clean air, healthy forests and great beaches that are so important to county residents.

This forward-looking vision plan wouldn't have been possible without the public input we received over the past 18 months. Our community visioning process was a collaborative effort for our residents, staff and partners who share a strategic vision and guiding principles that will help achieve our goals. This plan outlines a future for us as a leader in sustainable, innovative and accessible park systems. We are proud stewards of our county parks, trails and open spaces. We strive to provide equitable access for all who visit or choose to call this special place home and are eager to start the work of implementing the roadmap that emerged from this visioning effort.

Thank you for taking this journey with us. We look forward to partnering with our community as we continuously strive to create the best park system for Snohomish County.

**Jeremy Husby, Director**  
Parks & Recreation Division

## Letter from Parks



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*Document Structure*



## PREFACE

### What's the purpose of this plan?

Snohomish County residents greatly value the role that parks and open space facilities contribute to their quality of life. Whether it's the open space lot in their neighborhood that provides green space, the spray park that is visited with grandchildren, or the saltwater beach that provides the opportunity to whale watch, Snohomish County residents recognize that parks provide the opportunity to spend time with loved ones, connect with nature, get some exercise and recharge from the busy life that so many of us live.

This document summarizes input received from Snohomish County residents about what they think is important for the future provision of parks. Their comments reflect some of the unique priorities of Snohomish County (e.g. focus on equestrian recreation and access to water), but also parallel national priorities (e.g. provision of trails). The input received from Snohomish County residents was merged together with analysis completed by staff, as well as information received from other Snohomish County recreation providers, to create a long term vision for parks in Snohomish County. The vision presented in this 'Snohomish County Park and Recreation Visioning Plan' (Plan) is forward looking, considering growth anticipated to occur over the next 20 years, but it also includes priorities that can inform short-term actions that will support realization of the long-term vision.

Snohomish County is dedicated to including the public in planning for parks and language in the Snohomish County General Policy Plan specifically directs the Snohomish County Department of Natural Resources' Parks, Recreation and Tourism Division (Parks) to actively seek public input. This input is integrated into other Parks planning efforts, as summarized in this Plan, and satisfies guidance contained within Washington State Administrative Code (WAC) which suggests that the development of the Growth Management Act (GMA) based planning and development of level-of-service standards start with a public visioning process.



## II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### A. Parks Mission Statement

"Provide safe, enjoyable, attractive parks and diverse programs with responsive services which enhance our quality of life and preserve the natural and recreational resources of Snohomish County."

### B. Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives are provided for Snohomish County Parks and Recreation (Parks) through the Snohomish County General Policy Plan (GPP). The GPP currently provides goals, objectives and policies for Parks in the following areas:

- Provision of recreation services through coordination with other recreation providers
- Provision of diverse recreational opportunities
- Meeting minimum level-of-service standards
- Priorities for acquisition and development of park properties and facilities
- Provision of open and natural spaces
- Provision of recreation programs
- Support for preservation of cultural and historic resources
- Promotion of sustainability

Full language related to these goals, objectives and policies can be found in the current GPP.



Park  
system  
photos

# PREFACE

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# Summary graphics & charts

## II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

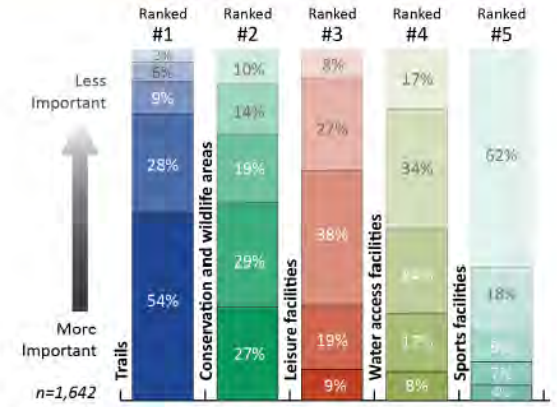
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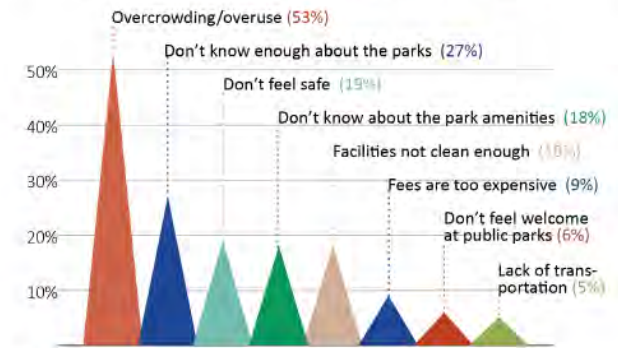
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RANK THE TYPES OF PARK SITES ACCORDING TO WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE US TO FOCUS OUR RESOURCES



WHAT BARRIERS PREVENT YOU FROM ENJOYING SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS?

n=1,340



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welcome to the 2021 Snohomish County Park & Recreation Visioning Plan (PRVP / Plan). This plan provides a forward-looking vision for the future of park facilities provided by the Snohomish County Division of Parks & Recreation (Parks). The vision provided in this plan summarizes input from residents of Snohomish County about what they think is important in the provision of parks and is paired with county-wide analysis of specific trends and needs, as well as input from other recreation providers located in Snohomish County. This Plan is intended to inform the selection of Parks' priorities over the next six years, at which time a public input process will again be conducted to check current priorities and update this vision.

### Where We Are

The Snohomish County park system is incredibly diverse and boasts almost 12,000 acres of parks and open space, over 120 park properties, over 100 miles of trails and access to fresh and saltwater shorelines. Major regional park assets such as the Evergreen State Fair Park, Kayak Point Park, Lord Hill Regional Park and the Centennial, Whitehorse, and Interurban Trail systems host local, regional and national events that draw millions of visitors each year.

Our amazing natural features contribute to a park and open space system that provides physical, mental and emotional health and supports the high quality of life for which our area is known. The park system offers places to exercise, participate in competitive sports, socialize with others, and experience the solace of the natural environment. It provides habitat for fish and wildlife, helps conserve cultural resources, maintains air and water quality, offers scenic beauty, and helps retain agriculture and forest activities in the county.

Our regional trails link the parks along travel spines that will one day connect all the communities within our county to a network of recreation, transportation and habitat corridor functions. The park system also contributes to the economic strength of the county by attracting businesses, jobs and tourists. Our mission and vision are based on these underlying principles.

### Snohomish County

Over 2,000 sq. miles and so much more.



- 10,541 ft. Highest Point
- 132 Mountain Summits
- 44 Lakes
- 19 Rivers & Streams
- 74 Miles of Coastline
- 7,000 Acres of Farmland
- 20 Waterfalls
- 662,000 Acres of National Forest

*Where we  
are now*





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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### Where We Are

The Snohomish County park system is incredible. It includes almost 12,000 acres of parks and open spaces, over 100 miles of trails and access to the coastlines. Major regional park assets such as Fair Park, Kayak Point Park, Lord Hill Regional Park, Whitehorse, and Interurban Trail provide regional and national events that draw millions of visitors.

Our amazing natural features contribute to a park system that provides physical, mental and emotional health. It supports the high quality of life for which our area is known. Our park system offers places to exercise, participate in recreation, socialize with others, and experience the natural environment. It provides habitat for fish and wildlife, cultural resources, maintains air and water quality, and helps retain agriculture and forest lands.

Our regional trails link the parks along travel corridors and connect all the communities within our county. The park and recreation system also contributes to the economic strength of the county by attracting businesses, jobs and tourists. Our plan is based on these underlying principles.

### Where We Are Going

This update to the PRVP includes a revised mission, vision, and guiding principles that provide a framework to guide acquisition, planning, development, stewardship, maintenance, and management of our complex systems of parks, regional trails, and open space. The PRVP also reflects the many changes the Parks Division has undergone in recent years and reconfirms the mission statement and goals of our work.

The vision is the product of an extensive public outreach effort and will inform policy revisions in the Park and Recreation Element (PRE) of the County's 2024 comprehensive plan update.

### Parks & Recreation Division Mission

To conserve natural and recreational resources for current and future generations, contribute to regional economic sustainability, and enhance the wellbeing of all County residents and visitors through accessible and inclusive parks, facilities, and educational programs.

### PRVP 2021 Vision

A sustainable, innovative, and accessible parks system that creates strong, connected communities through the experience and stewardship of parks and the natural and cultural environment of Snohomish County.

### PRVP 2021 Guiding Principles

The public outreach during the visioning process led to five thematic focus areas that were refined into guiding principles. These guiding principles form the foundation of our work for the next six years.

- Create an equitable and inclusive park system
- Preserve natural areas & open space
- Focus on improvements to existing parks
- Connect a regional trail network
- Efficiently and continuously improve our division

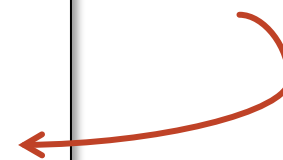
This plan works collaboratively with the annual parks inventory report and annual capital improvement program. It incorporates current policies from the 2015 comprehensive plan and provides the public involvement process which sets the stage for the 2024 Parks and Recreation Element (PRE) and updates to the demand and need analysis.



Whitehorse Trail

*"I want to see and participate in a holistic planning process, that developed a plan that balances economic opportunities with community building and ecosystem preservation."*  
- Survey Respondent

# Where we are going



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## Where We Are

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Our regional trails link the parks along travel corridors, connect all the communities within our county, and provide recreation, transportation and habitat corridors. Our park system also contributes to the economic strength of our county by attracting businesses, jobs and tourists. Our vision is based on these underlying principles.

## Where We Are Going

This update to the PRVP includes a re-examination of guiding principles that provide a framework for planning, development, stewardship and management of our complex systems of open space. The PRVP also reflects the changes the Division has undergone in recent years and a statement and goals of our work.

The vision is the product of an extensive public involvement process which will inform policy revisions in the Park and Recreation Element of the County's 2024 comprehensive plan.

## Parks & Recreation Division Mission

To conserve natural and recreational resources for future generations, contribute to regional economic development, and enhance the wellbeing of all County residents through accessible and inclusive parks, facilities, and programs.

## PRVP 2021 Vision

A sustainable, innovative, and accessible park system that connects strong, connected communities through stewardship of parks and the natural and cultural resources of Snohomish County.

## PRVP 2021 Guiding Principles

The public outreach during the visioning process identified five focus areas that were refined into guiding principles that form the foundation of our work.

- Create an equitable and inclusive park system
- Preserve natural areas & open spaces
- Focus on improvements to existing parks
- Connect a regional trail network
- Efficiently and continuously improve our division

This plan works collaboratively with the current report and annual capital improvement plan to update current policies from the 2015 comprehensive plan through a public involvement process which sets the stage for the Park and Recreation Element (PRE) and update the vision analysis.



Figure 1: PRVP 2021 Guiding Principles

## How We're Going to Get There

Realizing the PRVP's 2021 vision will require funding, innovation, and collaboration within the county government, with its partner agencies and the public. As partners with DCNR's Division of Surface Water Management, Office of Energy and Sustainability, and Office of Agriculture, we are well situated to continue addressing the significant open-space and environmental challenges and opportunities in our midst.

## Implementation Strategies

- Emphasize outreach and communication to build trusting relationships while we create a parks system that is inclusive and equitable to all our residents and visitors.
- Prioritize strategic acquisition and preservation of natural areas serving rapidly urbanizing communities.
- Address accessibility issues and climate impacts through renovation to existing, aging park facilities.
- Connect our residents by filling in regional trail gaps.
- Work collaboratively to create parks that are environmentally and financially sustainable.

While we are excited about new beginnings and closer working relationships, we must also acknowledge existing and new challenges.



Meadowdale Beach Park

How we are going to get there



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Our amazing natural features contribute to a park system that provides physical, mental and emotional health benefits. It supports the high quality of life for which our area is known. Our park system offers places to exercise, participate in recreation, socialize with others, and experience the beauty of our environment. It provides habitat for fish and wildlife, preserves cultural resources, maintains air and water quality, and helps retain agriculture and forest lands.

Our regional trails link the parks along travel corridors and connect all the communities within our county. Our park and recreation, transportation and habitat corridors also contribute to the economic strength of our county by attracting businesses, jobs and tourists. Our plan is based on these underlying principles.

## Where We Are Going

This update to the PRVP includes a set of guiding principles that provide a framework for planning, development, stewardship and management of our complex systems of open space. The PRVP also reflects the changes the Division has undergone in recent years and a statement and goals of our work.

The vision is the product of an extensive public input process that will inform policy revisions in the Park and Recreation Visioning Guiding Principles of the County's 2024 comprehensive plan.

## Parks & Recreation Division Mission

To conserve natural and recreational resources for future generations, contribute to regional economic development, and enhance the wellbeing of all County residents by providing accessible and inclusive parks, facilities, and recreation opportunities.

## PRVP 2021 Vision

A sustainable, innovative, and accessible park system that connects strong, connected communities through stewardship of parks and the natural and cultural resources of Snohomish County.

## PRVP 2021 Guiding Principles

The public outreach during the visioning process identified focus areas that were refined into guiding principles that form the foundation of our work.

- Create an equitable and inclusive park system
- Preserve natural areas & open spaces
- Focus on improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities
- Connect a regional trail network
- Efficiently and continuously improve our division

This plan works collaboratively with the County Executive's report and annual capital improvement plan. It updates current policies from the 2015 comprehensive plan through a public involvement process which sets the vision for Park and Recreation Element (PRE) and updates the plan through analysis.



Figure 1: PRVP 2021 Guiding Principles

## How We're Going to Get There

Realizing the PRVP's 2021 vision will require collaboration within the county government, agencies and the public. As partners with DNR, Water Management, Office of Energy and Sustainability, and Office of Agriculture, we are well situated to address significant open-space and environmental challenges in our midst.

## Implementation Strategies

- Emphasize outreach and communication to build relationships while we create a parks and recreation system that is equitable to all our residents and communities
- Prioritize strategic acquisition and development of areas serving rapidly urbanizing communities
- Address accessibility issues and climate change through renovation to existing, aging park facilities
- Connect our residents by filling in regional trail gaps
- Work collaboratively to create parks and recreation facilities that are financially sustainable.

While we are excited about new beginnings and relationships, we must also acknowledge the challenges.

Among the most pressing challenge is maintaining a growing system of parks, trails, forests, and shorelines while fulfilling our commitment to efficiently provide recreational access to natural areas, staying responsive to our community and balancing funding limitations.

Parks Division is financed in combination by traditional general-tax funding but more significantly by becoming an entrepreneurial, efficient, and performance-driven organization. We strive to continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our public services.

Accomplishing the division's long-range plans will require significant effort on the part of DCNR and the support of the Snohomish County Executive, the County Council and involvement of the public. We remain committed to stewarding and enhancing the landscapes, trail corridors and access points that make up Snohomish County's remarkable park and recreation system.



Centennial Trail



*Prepared to keep working to accomplish our goals*



# I. INTRODUCTION

## A. Background Context

### *Purpose of the Plan*

Snohomish County residents greatly value the role that parks and open space facilities contribute to their quality of life. Whether it's the open space lot in their neighborhood that provides green space, the spray park that is visited with grandchildren, or the saltwater beach that provides the opportunity to whale watch, Snohomish County residents recognize that parks provide the opportunity to spend time with loved ones, connect with nature, exercise and recharge from the busy life that so many of us live.

This 2021 Snohomish County Park and Recreation Visioning Plan (PRVP) summarizes input received from Snohomish County residents about what they think is important for the future provision of parks. Their comments reflect some of the unique priorities of Snohomish County (e.g., focus on equestrian recreation and access to water), but also parallel national priorities (e.g., provision of trails). The input received from Snohomish County residents was merged with analysis completed by staff, as well as information received from other Snohomish County recreation providers, to create a long-term vision for parks in Snohomish County. The vision presented in this plan is forward looking, considering growth anticipated to occur over the next 20 years, but it also includes priorities that can inform short-term actions that will support realization of the long-term vision.

Parks' planning is centered on public engagement and input. In capital improvements, acquisitions, and ongoing maintenance, we are anticipating and responding to public needs. Public participation is also a key tenant of the Growth Management Act (GMA) and the county's comprehensive plan. Public input is integrated into ongoing park planning and satisfies guidance in the Washington State Administrative Code (WAC) which suggests that development of the GMA-based planning and level-of-service (LOS) standards start with a public visioning process.

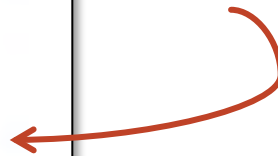
### *Washington State Regulatory Requirements*

This plan also contains content that documents completion of park planning requirements stipulated by the Washington State



*Skykomish River near Sultan*

*Start with  
the why*



# I. INTRO

## A. Background C

### Purpose of the Plan

Snohomish County residents use open space facilities for recreation. The open space lot in the center of the site is the spray park that is a beach that provides the County residents recognize spend time with loved ones and recharge from the busy

This 2021 Snohomish County Park and Recreation Visioning Plan (PRVP) summarizes input from residents about what they think is important for their community. Their comments reflect a focus on equity and also parallel national trends received from Snohomish County staff, as completed by staff, as Snohomish County recreation for parks in Snohomish County forward looking, consider next 20 years, but it also term actions that will su

Parks' planning is centered on capital improvements, and are anticipating and responding is also a key tenant of the county's comprehensive park planning and state Administrative Code (WAC) GMA-based planning and a public visioning process

### Washington State R

This plan also contains planning requirements

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for agencies that seek to receive funding from it. The RCO is a major grant source for Parks and past awards to Snohomish County have supported many of the facilities that are now enjoyed by the public (e.g., portions of the Centennial Trail, Lake Goodwin and Cavalero Hill Skate Park). Grant funding from the RCO helps Parks provide facilities requested by the public and support by the RCO for these efforts is invaluable. Addressing RCO planning requirements with this visioning document is appropriate, as the RCO encourages regular public input into park planning and provides a shorter planning horizon than that which is considered by GMA plans. It is anticipated that this plan will be updated at least every six years so that current public interests can be captured and incorporated into Parks' efforts. This document is organized around RCO planning requirements and incorporates, by reference, other documents which address certain RCO planning requirements.

### RCO Recreation Planning Requirements

The RCO provides the following planning requirements:

1. Goals & Objectives
2. Inventory
3. Public Involvement
4. Demand & Need Analysis
5. Capital Improvement Program
6. Plan Adoption

These requirements are similar to some of those stipulated for Growth Management Act (GMA) planning. Currently, Snohomish County's GMA plan for parks provision is contained in the 2015 Snohomish County Park and Recreation Element (PRE). The PRE is centered around future population projections and planning for capital facilities required to meet the need that is anticipated to be generated by that population. GMA planning typically considers anticipated population change over a twenty-year timeframe.

### Regional Planning

Parks visioning begins from understanding the regional context of long range planning and tailoring the responses to our local Snohomish County experience.

Snohomish County Parks visioning process embraces the overarching principles listed in the regional Vision 2050. We intend for the guiding principles within our PRVP vision to further the regional goals for the climate, environment, equity, health, natural resources, public facilities and services, resilience and enhancing rural areas.



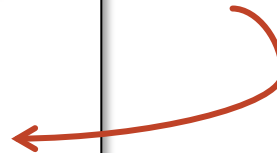
Rafting the Sauk River

What should we prioritize?

"Easy and equitable access to green space for physical and mental health"

—Survey Response

Locate this work within the county, the region, and the state





# I. INTR

## A. Background C

### Purpose of the Plan

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### Regional Planning

Parks visioning begins from ur long range planning and tai Snohomish County experience.

Snohomish County Parks vision principles listed in the regional V principles within our PRVP visio climate, environment, equity facilities and services, resilience

### Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Vision 2050

As part of the central Puget Sound region, Snohomish County signed on to the regional growth plan and the Multicounty Planning Policies adopted in 2020 as part of the PSRC's Vision 2050. These policies provide the direction for implementing regional transportation and economic strategies and sets the stage for countywide and local comprehensive plan updates.

"VISION 2050 is the shared regional plan for moving toward a sustainable and more equitable future. It encourages decision-makers to make wise use of existing resources and planned transit investments while achieving the region's shared vision. VISION 2050 sets forth a pathway that strengthens economic, social, and environmental resiliency, while enhancing the region's ability to cope with adverse trends such as climate change and unmet housing needs. As the region experiences more growth, VISION 2050 seeks to provide housing, mobility options, and services in more sustainable ways. Most importantly, VISION 2050 is a call to action to meet the needs of a growing population while considering the current needs of residents. VISION 2050 recognizes that clean air, health, life expectancy, and access to jobs and good education can vary dramatically by neighborhood. VISION 2050 works to rectify the inequities of the past, especially for communities of color and people with low incomes." (PSRC 2020)



View of the Cascades from Whitehorse Park

*"As population grows, parks and trails and nature areas must grow. Trails for people of all ages to safely bike and walk and commute in nature are wildly important and why we live here."*

*-Survey Respondent*



Regional planning nested process diagram (PSRC 2020)

Regional planning context



# I. INTR

## A. Background C

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Regional planning nest

The PSRC Vision for 2050 states:

## A Vision for 2050

*The central Puget Sound region provides an exceptional quality of life and opportunity for all, connected communities, a spectacular natural environment, and an innovative, thriving economy.*

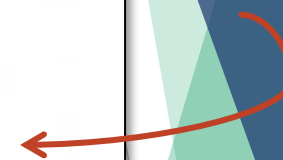
### In 2050...

- **Climate.** The region's contribution to climate change has been substantially reduced.
- **Community.** Distinct, unique communities are supported throughout the region.
- **Diversity.** The region's diversity continues to be a strength. People from all backgrounds are welcome, and displacement due to development pressure is lessened.
- **Economy.** Economic opportunities are open to everyone, the region competes globally, and has sustained a high quality of life. Industrial, maritime, and manufacturing opportunities are maintained.
- **Environment.** The natural environment is restored, protected, and sustained, preserving and enhancing natural functions and wildlife habitats.
- **Equity.** All people can attain the resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life and enable them to reach their full potential.
- **Health.** Communities promote physical, social, and mental well-being so that all people can live healthier and more active lives.
- **Housing.** A range of housing types ensures that healthy, safe, and affordable housing choices are available and accessible for all people throughout the region.
- **Innovation.** The region has a culture of innovation that embraces and responds to change.
- **Mobility and Connectivity.** A safe, affordable, and efficient transportation system connects people and goods to where they need to go, promotes economic and environmental vitality, and supports the Regional Growth Strategy.
- **Natural Resources.** Natural resources are sustainably managed, supporting the continued viability of resource-based industries, such as forestry, agriculture, and aquaculture.
- **Public Facilities and Services.** Public facilities and services support the region's communities and plans for growth in a coordinated, fair, efficient, and cost-effective manner.
- **Resilience.** The region's communities plan for and are prepared to respond to potential impacts from natural and human hazards.
- **Rural Areas.** Rural communities and character are strengthened, enhanced, and sustained.



Figure 2: PSRC Vision 2050 summary. (PSRC 2020)

Parks are an important part of the vision for an exceptional quality of life





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Figure 2: PSRC Vision 2050 summary. (PSR

## B. Parks' Vision for the Future

In 2020, Executive Somers created a new Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to consolidate multiple county functions, offices and divisions into one organization to achieve more of our environmental sustainability goals. Snohomish County's efforts to manage, protect and enhance natural resources previously took place in multiple departments, with varied levels of cross-department collaboration. This included important county programs related to parks, salmon and Puget Sound recovery, agriculture, food systems, sustainability and climate action, recreation, water quality, and flood protection, to name a few. By consolidating Parks and Recreation with Surface Water Management (SWM), Energy and Sustainability, and Agriculture, we can take a holistic view of the work and enhance alignment.

Within the new department, Parks continues to provide the same core services to residents. The new department's mission and vision are overarching statements to our division mission and vision. The Parks visioning plan starts from a place of DCNR's themes and guiding principles and focuses them on the parks and recreation vision for the next six years.

### DCNR Mission

The Department of Conservation & Natural Resources partners with Snohomish County communities to steward resources and manage infrastructure for the purpose of protection, enhancement, use, and enjoyment of our land, air, and water now and into the future.

### DCNR Vision

Through the stewardship of the natural and built environments, the DCNR fosters inclusive, thriving communities across the county.

### DCNR Guiding Principles

- Dynamic Balance (balancing growth and the natural environment)
- Proactive Climate Crisis Response
- Social Equity & Accessibility
- Community & Partner Outreach
- One Connected Department
- Funding & Resources



Lake Cassidy along the Centennial Trail

"I really enjoy birdwatching, so my priority will always be keeping bird populations healthy. To do that their habitats need to be protected and restored."

-Survey Respondent

Summarize the department's vision

### Values

As part of the public outreach for this PRVP update, the survey asked respondents what they value most about Snohomish County parks. The top values for park visitors were health and well-being benefits, opportunities for physical activity and environmental benefits, as well as open space preservation. These values ranked higher than social activities such as gathering with friends and family.

Many of the open-ended comments and quotes throughout the PRVP reflect this value ranking. Many members of the public stated throughout the process that they wanted Parks to focus on preserving open spaces for natural habitat areas.

*"I love the PNW and was born and raised here. I am extremely grateful and appreciative of our parks and natural resources. We need to preserve and restore as much as possible while educating people about biodiversity, sustainability and how to honor our ancestors and the planet."*

*—Survey Respondent*

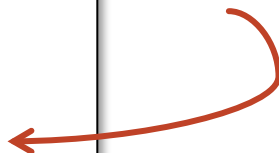
### WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT YOUR USE OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS?

(Select all that apply) Ranked results n=1,581



Figure 3: "What do you value most" survey results.

*Intro to our division's values and the public's priorities*





### Values

As part of the public outreach, we asked respondents what they value most in parks. The top values for parks are opportunities for physical activity, as well as open space for social activities such as walking, biking, and playing.

Many of the open-ended responses reflect this value rank throughout the process, with a strong emphasis on preserving open space.

### WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST IN THE USE OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS? (Select all that apply)

- #1 Health
- #2 Physical Activity
- #3 Environmental Preservation
- #4 Open Space
- #5 Opportunities with Family/Friends
- #6 Space for Recreation
- #7 Opportunities for Building Community
- #8 Economic Property Value

Figure 3: "What do you value most in the use of Snohomish County Parks?"

### Where do we see ourselves in ten years?

The vision for Snohomish County Parks is focused on building a better future for our residents and the landscapes where we recreate.

### PRVP 2021 Vision

**A sustainable, innovative, and accessible parks system that creates strong, connected communities through the experience and stewardship of parks and the natural and cultural environment of Snohomish County.**

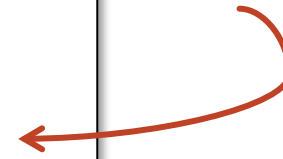
### PRVP 2021 Guiding Principles

The public outreach during the visioning process led to five thematic focus areas that were refined into guiding principles. These guiding principles form the foundation of our work for the next six years.

- Create an equitable and inclusive park system
- Preserve natural areas & open space
- Focus on improvements to existing parks
- Connect a regional trail network
- Efficiently and continuously improve our division



## The Parks 2021 Vision update summary statements



### Values

As part of the public outreach, we asked respondents what they value most in parks. The top values for parks are opportunities for physical activity, as well as open space for social activities such as walking, biking, and playing.

Many of the open-ended responses reflect this value ranking throughout the process of preserving open space.

### WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST IN THE USE OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS? (Select all that apply)

- #1 Health and fitness
- #2 Physical activity
- #3 Environmental preservation
- #4 Open spaces
- #5 Opportunities with family and friends
- #6 Space for children
- #7 Opportunities for building relationships
- #8 Economic development

Figure 3: "What do you value most in the use of Snohomish County Parks?"

### Where do we want to go?

The vision for Snohomish County's future for our parks and recreation is to be a leading model of sustainable, innovative, and accessible park systems.

### PRVP 2021 A sustainable park system that creates experiences and cultural opportunities for all.

### PRVP 2021 Guiding Principles

The public outreach process identified focus areas that will guide the principles forming the future of our parks and recreation.

- Create a park system that is inclusive and accessible to all our residents and visitors.
- Preserve and enhance the natural resources of our parks and recreation.
- Focus on providing high-quality, safe, and enjoyable experiences for all.
- Connect our parks and recreation to the community and the region.
- Efficiently and cost-effectively improve our parks and recreation.

Efficiently & cost-effectively improving our parks and recreation.

Coordinated by the trail system.

Snohomish County Parks and Recreation

By 2030, we want Snohomish County Parks to be considered a leading model of sustainable, innovative, and accessible park systems. Because of the work we've begun with this plan, we will have integrated outdoor recreation and an appreciation for open spaces into the lives of all who choose to call this special part of Washington home or choose to visit. These efforts contribute to a broader awareness of the importance of open space preservation and access and its interconnection with our community health and well-being.

The following tables summarize the guiding principles, relevant implementation strategies and a vision for potential outcomes.

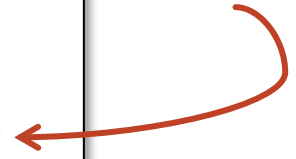
Equity & Access	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Create an equitable and inclusive park system.
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Emphasize outreach and communication to build trusting relationships while we create a park system that is inclusive and accessible to all our residents and visitors.
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	10 years from now, awareness and accessibility of Snohomish County's park system and programs looks much different. Not only do our residents know about all the open spaces and programs into which they invest their tax dollars, but their ability to access them has greatly increased. New trail development connects the county park system and allows seamless exploration of the largest trail corridor in the country.  Everybody, regardless of restrictions or obstacles, can experience the natural world equally because of our commitment to 100% accessibility at parking areas, trailheads, playgrounds and other facilities. We have also eliminated day-use fees so costs don't limit access to things everyone should enjoy. Accessibility also encompasses someone's feeling of safety when using park facilities. In the future, we have vastly improved our ability to ensure our visitors feel safe. Improving security measures of park common areas allows visitors relief from safety concerns.

*"It's crucial that every park and playground be designed for functional accessibility for people with disabilities. We need to start going beyond the bare minimum requirements of the ADA and designing our public spaces according to principles of universal design and inclusive access."*  
- Survey Respondent



Northwest Stream Center at McCollum Park

Guiding principle 1 of 5





**Values**

As part of the public outreach, we asked respondents what they value most in Snohomish County. The top values for parks and recreation opportunities for physical activity, as well as open space and social activities such as...

Many of the open-ended responses reflect this value rank throughout the process of preserving open space.

**WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY? (Select all that apply)**

- #1 Health
- #2 Physical Activity
- #3 Environmental Protection
- #4 Open Space
- #5 Opportunities with Family/Friends
- #6 Space
- #7 Opportunities for Building Relationships
- #8 Economic Prosperity

Figure 3: "What do you value most in Snohomish County?"

**Where do we want to go?**  
The vision for Snohomish County's future for our region is...

**PRVP 2021 Vision**  
*A sustainable future that creates experiences and culture.*

**PRVP 2021 Guiding Principles**  
The public outreach identified focus areas that the principles form...

- Create a sense of community
- Preserve and enhance natural resources
- Focus on quality of life
- Connect communities
- Efficiently & cost-effectively improve our region

Efficiently & cost-effectively improving our region

By 2030, we want Snohomish County to be a model of sustainable, innovative growth. Because of the work we've done, we've integrated outdoor recreation into the lives of all who choose to live here or choose to visit. Through our awareness of the importance of nature and its interconnection with our community...

The following tables summarize the implementation strategies and outcomes for each principle.

Equity	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Create an equitable future for all
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Emphasize equity in the build trust park system and address all our residents' needs
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	10 years from now, all Snohomish County residents have access to quality programs, but the cost is less than the dollars, but the cost is greatly reduced. Connects communities and provides seamless corridor infrastructure
	Everybody has access to parks, regardless of obstacles, and everyone is equally benefited. Accessibility to playgrounds, trails, and eliminated barriers to access to parks. Accessibility to ensure a sense of safety and security for visitors and residents

Preserve Open Space	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Preserve natural areas and open space.
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Prioritize strategic acquisition and preservation of natural areas serving rapidly urbanizing communities.
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	Targeted land acquisitions ensure the continuing availability of open space in the face of population growth and urban development, preserving future access to a healthy natural world. These preserved and reserved spaces facilitate a park experience that allows freedom and escape from crowded urban centers and connection to protected forests and sustainable watersheds.  Environmental focus does not stop at the natural level. Snohomish County Parks is evolving our operational infrastructure to be more sustainable and representative of the environment we want to preserve, with carbon neutral activities centered on electric vehicles, wastewater regeneration, and full-cycle recycling programs.

*"Keeping a network of intact natural areas as the county develops is critical for both the health of our ecosystem and our population."*  
- Survey Respondent



Forest along Mountain Loop Hwy

Improve Existing Parks	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Focus on improvements to the existing park system over developing new park facilities.
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Address aging infrastructure, accessibility issues and climate change impacts with renovations; and improve outreach about current park features.
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	Snohomish County's beloved park system has renovated infrastructure to bring our parks up to modern 21 <sup>st</sup> century standards. We are maximizing the developed park lands into the best and most efficient versions of their footprint. Our renovated existing facilities incorporate water and energy efficiency measures that create an ideal visitor experience and reduce regular maintenance repairs.

*"Maintain what we have, acquire what we can over developing new."*  
- Survey respondent

*"Improve and maintain current parks for safety, accessibility and functional use."*  
- Survey respondent

**Guiding principle 2 of 5**

**Guiding principle 3 of 5**



**Values**

As part of the public outreach, we asked respondents what they value most in parks. The top values for park opportunities for physical activity, as well as open space for social activities such as walking and biking.

Many of the open-ended responses reflect this value ran throughout the process of preserving open space.

**WHAT DO YOU VALUE IN THE USE OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS?**  
(Select all that apply)

- #1 Health
- #2 Physical activity
- #3 Environmental preservation
- #4 Open space
- #5 Opportunities with family and friends
- #6 Space for recreation
- #7 Opportunities for building community
- #8 Economic development

Figure 3: "What do you value in the use of Snohomish County parks?"

**Where do we want to go?**  
The vision for Snohomish County's future for our parks and recreation system.

**PRVP 2021**  
*A sustainable future that creates experiences and culture.*

**PRVP 2021 Guiding Principles**  
The public outreach process identified focus areas that will guide the principles forming the future vision.

- Create a sense of community
- Preserve natural resources
- Focus on quality of life
- Connect communities
- Efficiently & cost-effectively improve our parks and recreation system

Efficiently & cost-effectively improve our parks and recreation system.

Coordinated trail network

By 2030, we want Snohomish County to be a model of sustainable, innovative parks and recreation. Because of the work we've done, we've integrated outdoor recreation into the lives of all who choose to live here or choose to visit. The vision is to increase the awareness of the importance of parks and its interconnection with our community.

The following tables summarize the implementation strategies and outcomes for each principle.

Equity	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Create an equitable parks and recreation system for all.
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Emphasize building trust in the park system and involve all our residents in the planning process.
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	10 years from now, all Snohomish County residents have access to parks and recreation programs, and the system is more equitable, with greater investment in underserved areas, connects communities, and provides seamless access to services along the corridor.
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Efficiently & cost-effectively improve our parks and recreation system.
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Remove physical and financial obstacles, and ensure everyone has equal access to parks and recreation opportunities.
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	Everyone has equal access to parks and recreation opportunities, and the system is more equitable, with greater investment in underserved areas, connects communities, and provides seamless access to services along the corridor.

Preservation	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Preserve natural resources and enhance the visitor experience.
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Prioritize the protection of natural resources and enhance the visitor experience through advanced mapping and educational resources.
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	Targeted investments in preservation and enhancement of park resources, including digital park information and educational resources, will enhance the visitor experience through advanced mapping and educational resources. Visitors can use interactive maps to learn and plan their outings, they know which parks have the features they want to use and they trust the information they find is up to date.

Improvement	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Focus on system improvement and enhance the visitor experience.
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Address and eliminate physical and financial obstacles, and ensure everyone has equal access to parks and recreation opportunities.
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	Snohomish County parks and recreation system is a model of sustainable, innovative parks and recreation. Because of the work we've done, we've integrated outdoor recreation into the lives of all who choose to live here or choose to visit. The vision is to increase the awareness of the importance of parks and its interconnection with our community.

As a model for park systems, our pursuit of innovation matches our commitment to preservation.

We make the most of the park system we have by providing digital park information and educational resources as part of our toolkit. We use technology to enhance the visitor experience through advanced mapping and informational resources. Visitors can use interactive maps to learn and plan their outings, they know which parks have the features they want to use and they trust the information they find is up to date.



Machias Trailhead

**Guiding principle 4 of 5**

Connect Trails	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Connected regional trail network
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Connect our communities by filling in regional trail gaps, providing trail maps and encouraging trail enhancement programs
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	Our efforts have fully cemented the connection between local communities with active transportation options that promote physical, mental, and community health and provide access to outdoor resources, open spaces and activities. We engage a wide variety of partners from the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club to local medical service providers, each committed to the benefits of outdoor activity and the connection of communities for increased health and wellbeing.
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	The success of the integrated trail network that is easy to access and fun to ride has contributed to Snohomish County being one of the healthiest places in the nation, a community centered on outdoor activity and connection. The number of volunteers and committed community trail partners is at an all-time high, and public engagement with county parks and their future is the new norm.

*"We need more trail systems for each kind of activity; separate horse riding trails from biking/vehicles to keep everyone safe"*  
- Survey respondent

*"Comprehensive bike trails/paths improve transit options, offer easily accessible recreation and exercise options, and keep kids and adult bike riders safer."*  
- Survey respondent

<i>Efficient with Resources</i>	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Efficiently and continuously improving our division
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Work collaboratively to create parks that are environmentally and financially sustainable
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	<p>In order to make all this happen, Snohomish County DCNR modified its operating model to fund the noble and valuable efforts we pursue. We will have a continuation of top-notch cost recovery efforts and a well-managed strategy for optimizing the use of our staff and maximizing their effectiveness across working groups and projects.</p> <p>We also reframed the conversation around cost to highlight life-cycle cost assessments, the value of natural capital, social cost-benefits and the cost of inaction. In addition to support from executive leadership, we re-evaluated our funding streams and sought supplemental funds from a variety of sources such as donations, revenue streams, public/ private partnerships, endowments, and grants—making us a financially stable division. We are excellent stewards of our funds and have mastered effective use of our resources to achieve our goals.</p> <p>We continue to expand our internal capacity to meet our goals for land acquisition, stewardship, and infrastructure improvements while simultaneously improving our internal processes to increase efficiencies and make our work more effective. Additionally, we continue to follow our comprehensive and coordinated resource plans that prioritize resource allocation and inter-division collaboration across focus areas. Fiscal efficiency and project completion rates are at all-time highs.</p>

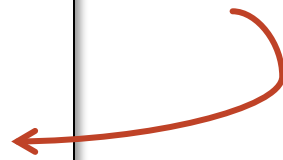
*“Making some parks be a destination where people want to travel to would help generate revenue at local businesses which means more tax dollars to also do more conservation and education at other sites.”*

*- Survey Respondent*



10th Street Boat Launch

*Guiding principle 5 of 5*





Efficient with Resources	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Efficiently and continuously improving division
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Work collaboratively to create parks that are environmentally and financially sustainable.
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	<p>In order to make all this happen, Snohomish County DCMR modified its operating model to fund the noble and valuable efforts we will have. We will have a continuation of top-notch recovery efforts and a well-managed staff for optimizing the use of our staff and maximizing their effectiveness across work groups and projects.</p> <p>We also reframed the conversation around to highlight life-cycle cost assessments, value of natural capital, social cost-benefit the cost of inaction. In addition to supporting executive leadership, we re-evaluated our funding streams and sought supplemental funds from a variety of sources such as donations, revenue streams, public/private partnerships, endowments, and grants-making us a financially stable division. We are excellent stewards of our funds and have mastered effective use of our resources to achieve our goals.</p> <p>We continue to expand our internal capacity to meet our goals for land acquisition, stewardship, and infrastructure improvement while simultaneously improving our internal processes to increase efficiencies and make us work more effective. Additionally, we continue to follow our comprehensive and coordinated resource plans that prioritize resource allocation and inter-division collaboration across focus areas. Fiscal efficiency and completion rates are at all-time highs.</p>

### Achieving the 2021 PRVP Vision

How can we help these visions become a reality? By working together. Embracing the eclecticism of the department's work groups has led to strong interconnections and collaboration. Coordination and effectiveness continue to increase across focus areas including maintenance, operations, planning, the Evergreen State Fair Park, WSU Snohomish County Extension, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Snohomish County Art Commission. All have found new ways to work together and make each other stronger.

### What could the future look like?

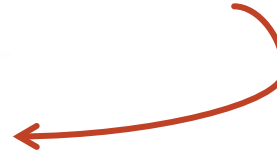
When we achieve this ambitious vision, the public will have a better understanding and appreciation for the connections between the county's cultural and natural environment. The Evergreen State Fair Park will host not only the most visited and celebrated county fair in the region but also numerous events and activities year-round. Additionally, collaborations between park work groups and WSU Snohomish County Extension faculty will have increased the number of community members engaging in department-driven educational programs. Initiatives will benefit from a holistic approach to preserving space and developing recreational opportunities that balance the needs of residents and visitors.

Snohomish County Parks is focused on realizing our vision for improved quality of life and a sustainable future and we are engaged in enhancing our community one park at a time.



Snohomish River

*How we will need to work together to achieve these goals*



Efficient with Resources	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Efficiently and continuously improving division
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<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	<p>In order to make all this happen, Snohomish County DCMR modified its operating model to fund the noble and valuable efforts we will have. We will have a continuation of top-notch recovery efforts and a well-managed staff for optimizing the use of our staff and maximizing their effectiveness across work groups and projects.</p> <p>We also reframed the conversation around to highlight life-cycle cost assessments, value of natural capital, social cost-benefit, and the cost of inaction. In addition to supporting executive leadership, we re-evaluated our funding streams and sought supplemental funds from a variety of sources such as donations, revenue streams, public/private partnerships, endowments, and grants-making us a financially stable division. We are excellent stewards of our funds and have mastered effective use of our resources to achieve our goals.</p> <p>We continue to expand our internal capacity to meet our goals for land acquisition, stewardship, and infrastructure improvement while simultaneously improving our internal processes to increase efficiencies and make us work more effective. Additionally, we continue to follow our comprehensive and coordinated resource plans that prioritize resource allocation and inter-division collaboration across focus areas. Fiscal efficiency and completion rates are at all-time highs.</p>

### Achieving the 2021 PRVP Vision

How can we help these visions become a reality? Together. Embracing the eclecticism of the department's has led to strong interconnections and collaboration. and effectiveness continue to increase across focus areas maintenance, operations, planning, the Evergreen State WSU Snohomish County Extension, the Historic Commission, and the Snohomish County Art Commission found new ways to work together and make each other

#### What could the future look like?

When we achieve this ambitious vision, the public will have a better understanding and appreciation for the connections between the county's cultural and natural environment. The Evergreen State Park will host not only the most visited and celebrated park in the region but also numerous events and activities. Additionally, collaborations between park work groups and Snohomish County Extension faculty will have increased the number of community members engaging in department-driven programs. Initiatives will benefit from a holistic approach to preserving space and developing recreational opportunities that balance the needs of residents and visitors.

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Snohomish River

## II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### A. Comprehensive Planning

Parks has identified and developed park priorities through public planning processes since the its inception in 1963. The public process seeks input from stakeholders, including county residents, cities and towns, school districts, user groups, and others to assist in identifying park land and facility needs. These stakeholder-identified needs are paired together with further analysis to define long-term priorities to provide parks and park facilities.



Centennial Trail

Parks summarizes park needs, and long-range strategies for meeting those needs, in the Park and Recreation Element (PRE). The PRE addresses planning requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA) and includes a list of capital projects to meet the needs identified in the document. The 2015 PRE was informed by the 2013 PRVP. This PRVP update will inform the next PRE, scheduled for 2024.

The next comprehensive plan update is scheduled for adoption in 2024 and that process will include updates to the goals, objectives and policies governing the Parks Division. Those updated policies will replace the ones shown below. While we anticipate the goals, objectives and policies to be similar in nature to the current ones, they will be updated to reflect the visioning process documented in this PRVP update and the guiding principles and implementation strategies recommended here.

### B. Adopted Goals and Objectives

Goals, objectives and policies for Parks are adopted by County Council through the comprehensive planning process. The current Snohomish County General Policy Plan (GPP) provides the following eight goals for Parks:

- PR 1 Provide recreation services to Snohomish County's residents in the most effective and efficient way possible.
- PR 2 Provide diverse recreational opportunities through neighborhood parks, community parks, special use parks, regional parks, and regional trails.

*"County Parks are vital for mental and physical health of people. They are also vital for the health of our native critters that inhabit them. All things are connected, but we need parks and wild places to co-exist, together."*

- Survey Resident

Updated through the Parks Element in the Comp Plan 2024 Update



Efficient with Resources	
<b>Guiding Principle</b>	Efficiently and continuously improving division
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	Work collaboratively to create parks that are environmentally and financially sustainable.
<b>Envisioning the Outcomes</b>	<p>In order to make all this happen, Snohomish County DCMR modified its operating model to fund the noble and valuable efforts we are making. We will have a continuation of top-notch recovery efforts and a well-managed staff for optimizing the use of our staff and maximizing their effectiveness across work groups and projects.</p> <p>We also reframed the conversation around the value of natural capital, social cost-benefit, and the cost of inaction. In addition to supporting executive leadership, we re-evaluated our funding streams and sought supplemental funds from a variety of sources such as donations, revenue streams, public/private partnerships, endowments, and grants-making us a financially stable division. We are excellent stewards of our funds and have mastered effective use of our resources to achieve our goals.</p> <p>We continue to expand our internal capacity to meet our goals for land acquisition, stewardship, and infrastructure improvement while simultaneously improving our internal processes to increase efficiencies and make us work more effective. Additionally, we continue to follow our comprehensive and coordinated resource plans that prioritize resource allocation and inter-division collaboration across focus areas. Fiscal efficiency and completion rates are at all-time highs.</p>

**Achieving the 2021 PRVP Vision**

How can we help these visions become a reality? Together. Embracing the eclecticism of the department's has led to strong interconnections and collaboration. and effectiveness continue to increase across focus areas maintenance, operations, planning, the Evergreen State WSU Snohomish County Extension, the Historic Commission, and the Snohomish County Art Commission found new ways to work together and make each other

**What could the future look like?**

When we achieve this ambitious vision, the public will have a better understanding and appreciation for the connections between the county's cultural and natural environment. The Evergreen State Park will host not only the most visited and celebrated parks in the region but also numerous events and activities. Additionally, collaborations between park work groups and Snohomish County Extension faculty will have increased the number of community members engaging in department-driven programs. Initiatives will benefit from a holistic approach to preserving space and developing recreational opportunities that balance the needs of residents and visitors.

Snohomish County Parks is focused on realizing our vision of improved quality of life and a sustainable future and we are committed to enhancing our community one park at a time.



Snohomish River

**II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**A. Comprehensive Plan**

Parks has identified and developed comprehensive planning processes since the its inception. It seeks input from stakeholders, including citizens, towns, school districts, user groups, park land and facility needs. These processes are paired together with further analysis to provide parks and park facilities.

Parks summarizes park needs, and those needs, in the Park and Recreation Division's (GMA) and includes a list of capital projects identified in the document. The 2021 PRVP. This PRVP update will inform the next comprehensive plan update in 2024 and that process will include reviewing and policies governing the Parks and Recreation Division to replace the ones shown below, and objectives and policies to be similar to the ones they will be updated to reflect the changes in this PRVP update and the guiding principles and strategies recommended here.

**B. Adopted Goals and Objectives**

Goals, objectives and policies for the Parks and Recreation Division Council through the comprehensive plan. Snohomish County General Policy Plan includes eight goals for Parks:

- PR 1 Provide recreation services in the most effective and efficient manner.
- PR 2 Provide diverse recreational opportunities in neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and regional parks.

- PR 3 Maintain and monitor minimum level-of-service standards for parks and for park facilities that are necessary to support development.
- PR 4 Acquire park properties and develop park facilities that meet existing and projected growth needs of the County and that meet priorities identified in other Snohomish County plans.
- PR 5 Provide open space and natural areas with appropriate public access to promote understanding and support of the natural environment and of the benefits these lands provide.
- PR 6 Support recreation programs and provide programs on a case-by-case basis.
- PR 7 Assist in preserving the cultural and historic resources of Snohomish County.
- PR 8 Promote sustainable operation by considering financial, environmental and social implications of the Parks and Recreation Division's actions.

To view the associated objectives and policies, the current GPP can be accessed online or request a copy through Parks or the Snohomish County Department of Planning and Development Services.

Weblink to the General Policy Plan:  
<https://snohomish.county.codes/CompPlan/GPP>



Kayak Point pier




*More to come in 2022-2023*

# Next Steps

## ▶ Timeline

- ▶ Council Briefing - January
- ▶ Council Adoption - February
- ▶ RCO submittal to meet grant funding deadline: **March 1, 2022**
- ▶ Sharing the updated vision plan with the public



A scenic view of a forest with a waterfall and a wooden bridge. The image is split into two horizontal panels. The top panel shows a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The bottom panel shows a waterfall cascading over rocks, with a wooden bridge made of logs and posts in the foreground. A person wearing a red cap and a blue jacket is standing on the bridge, looking down. Another person is visible in the background, also on the bridge. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Comments, Feedback and Questions?  
Thank you!