

# Snohomish County 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

---

May 21, 2024

*Snohomish County Council  
Public Infrastructure and Conservation Committee Briefing  
Parks and Recreation Element (PRE)*

*Carol Ohlfs, Principal Park Planner*

## PRE Requirements (WAC 365-196-440)

- i. Consistency with the capital facilities element;
- ii. Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period;
- iii. An evaluation of facilities and service needs; and
- iv. An evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand



*Robe Canyon Park*

## In addition, Parks' long-range plan aims to...

- Conserve natural and recreational resources for current and future generations
- Contribute to regional economic sustainability
- Enhance the wellbeing of all county residents and visitors through accessible and inclusive parks, facilities, and educational programs



## Key Amendments in the PRE



Emphasizes regional park facilities while meeting the needs of the current County vision

Updates strategic planning priorities that reflect the County, the GMA Comp Plan, and Parks/DCNR

Reformats the PRE structure around 9 goals

Updates level of service methodology

Explores options to seek innovative funding approaches



## Policy Amendment Findings

- 1) Retains emphasis on providing regional park facilities, while also valuing:
  - Healthy environments
  - Growth within the urban growth areas
  - Equitable public access to parks
  - Countywide/multicounty planning policies
  - Regional plans and initiatives such as the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan





## Policy Amendment Findings

2) Integrate strategic planning priorities that reflect the mission/vision of Snohomish Co, the GMA Comp Plan, and the Parks Division

### **Parks' guiding principles:**

- Provide equitable service and access to parks, trails, and open space
- Consider parks and natural open space assets in the larger context of the county's environmental and conservation priorities
- Incorporate climate change resilience and adaptability into the park system while improving existing parks and meeting identified needs
- Connect communities and recreation amenities with a regional trails network
- Streamline the park system and create efficiencies in managing county properties that provide important community benefits



**Wenber Regional Park**



## Policy Amendment Findings

3) The reformatted structure of the document uses the goals to lead the explanatory narrative through contextual subjects

- Park system classification, demand and need
- Implementation strategies for meeting the demand:
  - Level of service methodology
  - Acquisition priorities
  - Sustainable operations initiatives



Whitehorse Campground

## Policy Amendment Findings

### 4) Updates the level of service (LOS) Methodology in three ways:

- Removing 'waterfront miles' from the metrics
- Adding 'urban open space/preserve acres' as a new LOS metric
- Allowing all park properties, including special use and open space/preserve properties to qualify as 'necessary to support development,' and therefore allow any type of park classification to feature the facilities that are required to meet demand and LOS minimum standards



Kayak Point Disc Golf Course



## Policy Amendment Findings

5) Enables the County to continue to seek innovative funding approaches to fund the parks and recreation system as needed to meet demand

### Examples of funding strategies

- Voter-supported bond or levy
- Partnerships with endowment funds or a community foundation model
- Implementing a new park district for the urban core subarea
- Updating the park impact fee code so that park mitigation fees apply to commercial and residential development
- Utilizing transportation impact fees to fund regional trail development



### April 30

Planning Commission  
Recommendations on  
Docket and Council  
Motions

DR1 UGA Swap  
SW10 CS Real Estate  
Development  
SW12 Mietzner  
SW17 Town of  
Woodway  
Motion No. 22-134  
SWUGA Expansion  
Future Land Use  
Map/Zoning Map  
Changes – Infill/Other



### May 7-PICC

Transportation

### May 7-Planning

Land Use/  
Housing/FEIS  
Direction



### May 21-PICC

Parks and  
Recreation

### May 21-Planning

Natural  
Environment  
Element  
Economic  
Development  
Element  
Interjurisdictional  
Coordination  
Element  
FEIS direction



### June 4

Tribal Coordination  
Element  
Climate Change  
and Resiliency  
Element  
Capital Facilities  
and Utilities  
Element



# Questions

[snohomishcountywa.gov/5597/2024-Update](https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5597/2024-Update)

**Carol Ohlfs | Principal Park Planner**

[carol.ohlfs@snoco.org](mailto:carol.ohlfs@snoco.org) | 425-388-6609



*Evergreen State Fair Park*