

2024 Comprehensive Plan *Update*

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



2024 Comprehensive Plan *Update*

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



Heybrook Ridge Regional Park

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



Wenberg 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



Adopt A Stream Foundation @ McCollum Park

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

Carol Ohlfs | Principal Park Planner

carol.ohlfs@snoco.org | 425-388-6609



Evergreen State Fair Park