

An abstract painting featuring a complex composition of overlapping geometric shapes and soft, blended colors. The palette includes warm tones like orange, red, and yellow, as well as cooler tones like blue, green, and teal. The overall effect is a textured, layered visual experience.

PARKS

shadows lengthening

overtheskatepark—

first leaves of autumn

Painting by Anna Macrae
Haiku by Michael Dylan Welch

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Goals

- Goal 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.
- Goal P.2 Identify financing strategies for the development and operations of parks and recreation facilities to serve the citizens of Sammamish.
- Goal P.3 Enhance citywide planning for parks, athletic fields, trails, and open space.
- Goal P.4 Acquire and develop parks and recreation land, facilities, and open space areas to meet the needs of the Sammamish community.
- Goal 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.
- Goal A.1 Construct new athletic fields, giving priority to the construction of synthetic-turf multipurpose athletic fields.
- Goal A.2 Improve existing Sammamish athletic fields to increase field capacity.
- Goal A.3 Explore partnership opportunities to improve or upgrade non-city fields.
- Goal A.4 Continually evaluate field usage data and modify and review field scheduling processes to maximize community use and ensure system wide coordination.
- Goal 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.
- Goal F.2 Develop a new, comprehensive indoor community center to serve both the active and passive recreation needs of the community.
- Goal F.3 Determine the future use of the SE 8th Street Park house and barn.
- Goal F.4 Explore the establishment of equity partnerships with other public, nonprofit and private indoor recreation service providers.
- Goal F.5 Identify financing strategies for the development and operation of indoor recreation facilities to serve the citizens of Sammamish.
- Goal F.6 Develop and operate pavilions and shelters in a manner that effectively and efficiently serves the residents of Sammamish.

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PARKS

Introduction

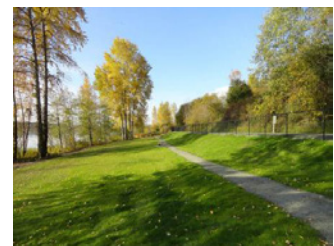
The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element contains goals and policies regarding how Sammamish's parks will be acquired, designed, managed, and programmed. The City parks system contains 14 parks totaling 611 acres of park land (2017). These include open space preserves, athletic fields, a dog off-leash area, areas for informal play and recreation, and rental facilities.

The goals and policies in this element are taken from, and must be consistent with, the City's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PRO) Plan, which is required by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to remain eligible for grant funding. This element also connects and supports other comprehensive plan elements, such as the Transportation Element (through the discussion of trails, bikeways, and paths) and the Environment & Conservation Element (through the objectives on water conservation and recycling.)

Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's framework for sustainability and healthy communities, this element plays an important role in promoting good public health. Parks provide opportunities for physical activity through the use of trails and athletic fields, countering national trends toward physical inactivity and obesity. Studies have also shown that parks can provide mental



East Sammamish
Park playground



Central landing at
Sammamish Landing



While the entire element supports sustainability and healthy community principles, please see this icon for goals and policies that are specifically focused on these principles



Big Rock Park



Skate park at Sammamish Commons



Off-leash dog area at Beaver Lake Park

health benefits, including reduction of depression and anxiety.

Background information for this element is found in the PRO Plan and include estimates of demand for parks, a needs assessment, as well as a discussion about opportunities to coordinate with other jurisdictions to provide parks. Please see the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Background Information for this information.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

- Goal 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.
- 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.



Seating area at Pine Lake Park (credit: Eric Willhite)

Goal 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.



Rock climbing at Sammamish Commons



Students at Samantha Smith Elementary School contribute their ideas and vision for Big Rock Park

Goal 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.

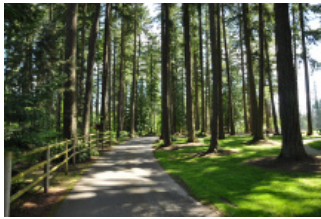
Objective P.3.3 Develop and adopt a park classification system.

Objective P.3.4 Adopt a six-year capital improvement plan (CIP) every two years.

Non-motorized planning can be found in the latest version of the PRO Plan and Transportation Master Plan.



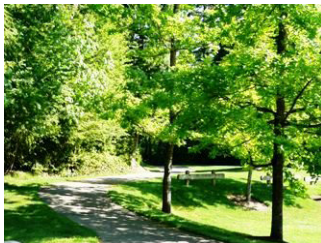
Public meeting for the Big Rock Park project



Pine Lake Park trail
(credit: Eric Willhite)



Evans Creek Preserve
boardwalk (credit:
Eric Willhite)



NE Sammamish
Neighborhood Park trail



Hiking trail at Beaver Lake
Park (credit: Eric Willhite)



East Lake Sammamish Trail
(credit: Sammamish Walks)

- Objective P.3.5 Inventory and map all park lands, open spaces, 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.
- 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.).
- 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.
- Objective P.3.10 Promote safe trail use and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other trail users.
- Goal 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.
- 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.

Samamish Landing is the only stretch of land along the shoreline of Lake Sammamish that is in public ownership within the City limits

Left: central lawn

Right: shelter at pocket beach at Sammamish Landing and East Lake Sammamish Trail (credit: Mike Collins)



Goal 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.



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



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

Trail building at Evans Creek Preserve (credit: Sammamish Walks)

Sammamish youth working to remove invasive species



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.

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

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.

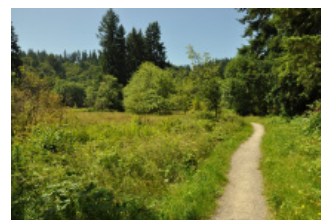
Objective P.5.7 Incorporate sustainable practices into park maintenance procedures by reducing use of pesticides and herbicides, maintaining equipment in good working order, purchasing green maintenance equipment when feasible, replacing existing lighting fixtures with high-efficiency fixtures, and keeping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

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.



Teaching children how to make recycled newspaper seedling pots at Earth Day

- 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.



Evans Creek Preserve
(credit: Eric Willhite)

Athletic Fields

- Goal 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.
- Objective A.1.2 Purchase or develop two or three additional field sites suitable for the construction of new synthetic turf multipurpose fields.
- Objective A.1.3 Complete master plans for undeveloped park land that may accommodate additional athletic fields.
- Goal 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.



Ball field at Beaver Lake Park



Soccer field at East Sammamish Park



Ball fields at East Sammamish Park

Community sports field at Eastlake High School



Tennis and basketball courts at NE Sammamish Neighborhood Park

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

Recreation Facilities

- Goal 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.
- Objective F.1.2** 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.1.3** Provide indoor recreation facilities that are centrally located. Minimize or eliminate the development of neighborhood focused facilities.
- Objective F.1.4** 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.1.5** Provide barrier-free (ADA-compliant) facilities, where readily achievable, by modifying existing facilities or when designing or constructing new facilities.
- Objective F.1.6** 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.
- Goal 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.



Samamish EX3 Teen
& Recreation Center



Beaver Lake Lodge

Ground breaking ceremony for the Sammamish Community and Aquatic Center



Construction progress on the Sammamish Community and Aquatic Center

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.

Goal 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.

Goal 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.



Grand Opening of the
Sammamish EX3 Teen &
Recreation Center



Soccer field at Skyline
High School

- 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.
- Goal 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.



Shelter at pocket beach
at Sammamish Landing
(credit: Mike Collins)



Beaver Lake Pavilion
(credit: Eric Willhite)



Shelter at Ebright Creek Park



Shelter at East
Sammamish Park

Goal 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.