

# Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long Range Plan

2023 - 2043



**Ordinance 2477**

December 5, 2023



## **Acknowledgements**

Special thanks to all who contributed to this effort.

### **CITY COUNCIL**

Council President Tom Merrill

Lea Anne Burke

David Flynn

Karen Guzak

Judith Kuleta

Felix Neals

Donna Ray

Linda Redmon, Mayor

### **PARK & FORESTRY BOARD**

Chair Alice Armstrong

John First

Paul Kaftanski

Jessica Newkirk

Richard Patton

Jesse Podoll, *previous member*

### **CITY OF SNOHOMISH STAFF**

Heather Thomas, City Administrator

Brooke Eidem, AICP, Planning Director

Nova Heaton, PE, Public Works Director

Thomas Kreinbring, Assistant Planner

Leah Chulsky, Planner

Brennan Collins, Project Manager

Natalie Furness, GIS Coordinator

Tim Cross, Public Works Operations Manager

James Pullen, Parks Department Lead

Ann Ray, Community Service Program Specialist

### **SNOHOMISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **WASHINGTON RECREATION & CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO)**

### **AND THE SNOHOMISH COMMUNITY**



**Contents**

**Introduction ..... 1**

**Element 1: Goals and Objectives ..... 2**

    Level of Service Standards ..... 6

        Analysis of Level of Service Performance ..... 6

        Park Amenities Offered ..... 7

**Element 2: Inventory ..... 8**

    Physical Setting and History ..... 8

    Community Demographics ..... 9

    Programs and Resources ..... 10

    Recreational Facilities ..... 10

    Facilities Condition Assessment ..... 13

    City Parks and Trails ..... 14

    Future Recreational Facilities ..... 30

    Habitat Conservation ..... 31

    Annual Maintenance and Operations Cost ..... 34

    Capacity Considerations ..... 35

        Sports Field Rentals ..... 35

        Park Facility Rentals ..... 35

        Vehicle Counts ..... 36

        Windshield Surveys ..... 36

        Wildlife Habitat Capacity ..... 44

**Element 3: Public Involvement ..... 45**

**Element 4: Demand and Need Analysis ..... 47**

**Element 5: Capital Improvement Program ..... 51**

    CIP Funding and Prioritization ..... 55

**References ..... 56**

## Tables

Table 1: Population Race/Ethnicity .....	10
Table 2: Park Properties .....	11
Table 3: Future Park Properties .....	30
Table 4: Applicable Development Regulations.....	32
Table 5: Annual Parks Department Budget.....	34
Table 6: Parks Department Maintenance Sites.....	34

## Maps & Figures

Figure 1: Population Pyramid .....	9
Map 1: City Park Inventory .....	12
Map 2: Open Space .....	33
Figure 2: Park Use Based on Windshield Survey Data .....	44
Figure 3: Major Themes Derived from Elementary School Outreach.....	46
Map 3: Current and Future Neighborhood Parks LOS.....	48
Map 4: Community and Regional Parks LOS.....	48
Map 5: Open Space and Trails LOS .....	49
Map 6: 1/2-Mile Walksheds .....	50
Figure 4: CIP Annual Budget Totals .....	54

## Appendices

Appendix A: 2022 PROS Plan Update Public Survey Report

Appendix B: 2023 Interactive Parks Preferences Survey Report

## Introduction

Founded in 1859, the City of Snohomish is a unique place with both natural beauty and historic identity. The city's National Historic District, waterfronts, agricultural setting, small town feel, and strong sense of community create an environment where natural and urban landscapes are in balance.

Prominent aspects of the city's distinctive character can be found in its parks, trails, and open spaces. The City has worked hard throughout its history to ensure equitable access and availability of parkland and green space, even as it continues to grow through annexation and population increases.

This plan provides a framework for parks, recreation, and open space within Snohomish, based on an analysis of existing conditions, community demographics, the stated preferences of its residents and community members, and regional trends for parks and recreation activities.

Parks and open spaces play a critical role in quality of life, especially for city-dwellers. These lands provide an important respite from the urban environment. Parks, trails, and open space have environmental, aesthetic, recreational, economic, and social benefits. They can boost civic pride and cohesion within the community. They contribute to the distinctive sense of place. There are many studies documenting the benefits of parks and open spaces.

- **Economic benefits:** parks can increase property values, improve tourism, and bolster the local economy as new businesses and residents are attracted to the area.
- **Environmental benefits:** parks and open spaces provide ecosystem services, sustain and support biodiversity, provide important wildlife habitat, regulate temperature, reduce air and water pollution, retain rainwater, prevent urban flooding, and reduce urban noise.
- **Social benefits:** parks support physical and mental health through social cohesion and neighborhood interaction, physical activity, improved cognitive functioning, reduced healthcare costs, and reduced prevalence of chronic diseases and health conditions.

In addition, parks remain one of the few places in a city where one can go without the expectation of spending money. Parks can be a peaceful retreat from the bustle of urban life, or they can provide a center of activity and social interaction with friends and neighbors.

**VISION: Parks, recreation, and open spaces protect and enhance the economic, environmental, and social health of the community. They are essential services of local government. The City of Snohomish is dedicated to providing high-quality parks and open space over the next twenty years to meet the needs of the community.**

## Element 1: Goals and Objectives

### **PRO 1 Provide a high-quality park system that is diverse, accessible, interconnected, and focused on sustainability.**



- 1.1** Provide an equitable and reasonable distribution of parks facilities throughout the city to facilitate access for all residents regardless of socioeconomic status.
- 1.2** Ensure that universal access to parks facilities does not fall below the established Level of Service standards of section 1.1 for accessibility and available amenities.
- 1.3** Maintain diverse parks facilities that meet the varied needs of the public, including opportunities for sports, fishing, exercise, playgrounds, passive recreation, view corridors, water access, dog parks, and gathering areas.
- 1.4** Ensure the availability of sufficient active recreation facilities, including sports fields and courts, to adequately meet the practice and competition needs of the community.
- 1.5** Identify unmet demands in the community's parks, such as recreation activities for disabled children, community gardens, bike facilities, food trucks, and off-leash dog parks. Explore potential solutions for integrating these resources into the system, either through the allocation of City resources or by collaborating with other agencies and organizations to meet the needs of residents.
- 1.6** Ensure elements that provide ecosystem services are integrated into City parks.

### **PRO 2 Provide an interconnected trail system that facilitates mobility, walkable neighborhoods, recreation, exercise, and access to nature corridors across the city.**



- 2.1** Emphasize connections between existing and future parks, residential, commercial, schools, and employment areas.
- 2.2** Foster active lifestyle choices by offering interconnected non-motorized trails and outdoor opportunities that promote physical activity, connect people and places, and encourage a healthy lifestyle.
- 2.3** Incorporate non-motorized circulation, including trails, bike routes, walkways, and safe street crossings, into transportation planning through Complete Streets to encourage active lifestyles, conserve resources, and safeguard the environment.
- 2.4** Support walkable neighborhoods by adopting a bike and pedestrian plan to connect residential streets and cul de sacs with each other and to walksheds.
- 2.5** Maintain trails and the multi-modal transportation system in a state of natural beauty, integrating shading from the urban canopy, urban design, and public art, in conjunction with design standards and zoning regulations, the Urban Forestry Plan, and the Complete Streets program.

**PRO 3 Protect and preserve open space areas that are scenic, ecologically significant or sensitive, or serve as fish and wildlife habitat.**



- 3.1** Meet the City's established Level of Service for open space.
- 3.2** Promote the preservation and/or restoration of native vegetation in natural areas and open space throughout the city to conserve ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, improve ecological and climate resilience, and maintain the natural beauty of our environment for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.
- 3.3** Require the establishment of open space and/or Native Growth Protection Areas as part of the plat process as appropriate, ensuring the preservation of ecologically valuable areas, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing the overall well-being and quality of life for residents.
- 3.4** Native Growth Protection Area easements or tracts are the responsibility of the residents of the development within which they are located and shall be maintained in a substantially natural state in accordance with applicable critical areas regulations.
- 3.5** Ensure that the dedication of ecologically sensitive areas through a tract or easement does not substitute as fulfilling other development requirements for recreation or park purposes.
- 3.6** Vegetated medians, landscape strips, and street planters shall be designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with the Complete Streets program, the Urban Forestry plan, and the Engineering Design and Construction Standards.

**PRO 4 Strengthen and enhance the City's connection to its shorelines.**



- 4.1** Enhance and/or expand park and trail opportunities and other public access in strategic locations along the City's shorelines.
- 4.2** Expand public ownership and access along shorelines through targeted purchases and/or land dedication.
- 4.3** Provide public access to key shoreline areas, consistent with the public safety, private property rights, and sensitive resource protection needs. Maintain natural vegetation with restricted physical access to shoreline areas as appropriate.
- 4.4** Enhance downtown building facades and properties facing the Snohomish River to improve visual access and aesthetics. Implement "keep clean" initiatives to maintain the beauty of the Riverfront Trail and the Snohomish River shoreline. Encourage re-orientation of downtown buildings to take advantage of their proximity to the river and improve public access to the shoreline.
- 4.5** Encourage community use of the shoreline trails through urban design, revitalization efforts, and public activities.

**PRO 5 Ensure park facilities are maintained consistently in a condition of cleanliness and public safety through best management practices and use of City resources.**



- 5.1** Partner with the local police department, Neighborhood Watch programs, and residents to ensure public safety and security at City park facilities.
- 5.2** Use measures such as lighting, police patrols, vegetation management, and locking essential facilities at night to increase and maintain park security.
- 5.3** Maintain vegetation and control the spread of noxious weeds through proper use of the Integrated Pest Management Program, and by consulting the WSDA's Pesticide Sensitive Persons List before application.
- 5.4** Design and develop facilities that are durable and low maintenance to maximize equipment lifespan, enhance public safety, and reduce ongoing requirements and costs.
- 5.5** Unless trash collection is provided as part of a reservation facility or in select locations, parks will maintain a "pack in, pack out" policy.

**PRO 6 As a core City service, ensure parks and trail facilities remain financially sustainable as the City changes and grows by leveraging new and existing resources.**



- 6.1** All new residential development shall be required to pay park impact fees and/or dedicate parkland to ensure new development does not diminish the adopted Level of Service standards.
- 6.2** Land and facilities may be provided by a developer in lieu of an equivalent portion of the required Park Impact Fee only where such land or facilities are identified as necessary to serve the demands of growth in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Long Range Plan.
- 6.3** Identify potential land for future City parks, trails, and open spaces according to adopted Level of Service standards, prioritizing the acquisition of key parcels of land needed to fulfill the needs of the public.
- 6.4** Distribute costs and benefits of park and recreation facilities and programs to public and private interests.
- 6.5** Parks will be free and open to the public. Select park programs and uses such as sports fields and shelters will be available for private reservation for a rental fee.
- 6.6** Seek opportunities for grant funding wherever possible to enhance the park system and improve park facilities.
- 6.7** Establish and adhere to an equipment and facility replacement schedule that plans ahead for replacement and repair.

**PRO 7 Coordinate and partner with other agencies and organizations to provide recreation programs, facilities, and opportunities.**



- 7.1** Maintain close coordination and communication with regional partners.
- 7.2** Identify recreational demand not currently met in the community and determine potential solutions for adding these resources to the system, either through use of City resources or coordination with other agencies and organizations.
- 7.3** Collaborate and partner with the Snohomish School District for use of recreational facilities to supplement existing City facilities.
- 7.4** Encourage the transition of public properties proposed for surplus into City parks, recreation, and open space where it is in the best interest of the City.

**PRO 8 Provide opportunities for community involvement and participation in the parks system.**



- 8.1** Foster and promote environmental stewardship, responsibility, and awareness within the city.
- 8.2** Provide opportunities for public input and involvement in new park designs and development.
- 8.3** Encourage community volunteerism in park improvement projects to leverage resources effectively and foster connections to and stewardship of parklands.
- 8.4** Provide opportunities for community members to utilize public land for community planting gardens and native species gardens.
- 8.5** Improve parks signage and wayfinding signs to direct people to parks and trails.
- 8.6** Use public education and outreach campaigns to involve the public in responsible parks stewardship to assure City resources are being used properly.

## Level of Service Standards

Type	LOS Standard	2023 LOS	
<b>Neighborhood</b>	75% of population live within ½ mile of a neighborhood park	55% of population within ½ mile of neighborhood park	
<b>Community</b>	75% of population live within 2 miles of a community park	100% of population within 2 miles of community park	
<b>Regional</b>	75% of population live within 25 miles of a regional park	100% of community within 25 miles of regional park	
<b>Trails</b>	90% of population live within ½ mile of a trail	63% of population within ½ mile of a trail	
<b>Open Space</b>	10% of City of Snohomish maintained as dedicated open space	9.6% of City of Snohomish maintained as dedicated open space	

### *Analysis of Level of Service Performance*

The City is performing well in two of the five LOS standards, and is within reach of meeting the standard for Open Space. The entire City is within the standard distance for Community and Regional Parks.

At this time, only 55% of the population is within a ½-mile distance of a Neighborhood Park. This is below the 75% standard and requires attention, particularly as new residential growth is expected to be primarily focused on the northern part of the City, where there are no Neighborhood Parks located nearby.

The City is also significantly below the LOS standard for trails, with only 63% of the population within ½-mile of a public trail. While there are other trails throughout Snohomish, they are not included in this analysis because they are privately-owned and maintained. Extending the Centennial Trail to the south will improve the LOS and will also make the trail more functional, but more trails are needed on the west side of Snohomish to improve accessibility for the community. The City will be actively looking for opportunities to provide additional trails over the coming planning period.

There are several properties that are identified as future parks in the Inventory. Homestead Park in particular will improve the LOS for Neighborhood Parks, as it is the only property located on the west side of SR-9. Adding a trail in this area will be a priority for future park development.

**Park Amenities Offered**

Amenity	Parks
 <b>Parking</b>	Averill Field, Cady Park, Pilchuck Julia Landing, Ferguson Park, Hill Park, Morgantown Park, Pilchuck Park
 <b>Bike Parking</b>	Ferguson Park
 <b>Restrooms</b>	Ferguson Park, Hill Park, Pilchuck Park
 <b>Grill</b>	Pilchuck Park
 <b>Drinking Fountain</b>	Morgantown Park, Pilchuck Park
 <b>Boat Launch</b>	Cady Park, Pilchuck Julia Landing, Ferguson Park
 <b>Benches/Seating</b>	Averill Field, Centennial Trail, Claytown Park, Pilchuck Julia Landing, Ferguson Park, Fischer Park, Hill Park, KlaHaYa Park, Morgantown Park, Pilchuck Park, Riverfront Trail
 <b>Picnic Table</b>	Averill Field, Cady Park, Claytown Park, Ferguson Park, Hill Park, KlaHaYa Park, Morgantown Park, Pilchuck Park
 <b>Shelter</b>	Ferguson Park, Hill Park
 <b>Dock/Pier</b>	Ferguson Park, Hill Park
 <b>Stadium seating</b>	Pilchuck Park
 <b>Trail access</b>	Averill Field, Cady Park, Centennial Trail, Interurban Trail, KlaHaYa Park, Powerline Trail, Riverfront Trail
 <b>Play structure</b>	Averill Field, Claytown Park, Ferguson Park, Fischer Park, Hill Park, Morgantown Park, Pilchuck Park
 <b>Basketball</b>	Ferguson Park, Morgantown Park, Pilchuck Park
 <b>Tennis/Pickleball</b>	Pilchuck Park
 <b>Baseball field</b>	Pilchuck Park
 <b>Volleyball court</b>	Pilchuck Park
 <b>Disc Golf</b>	Ferguson Park
 <b>Skate Park</b>	Averill Field
 <b>Horseshoe pit</b>	Morgantown Park
 <b>Water views</b>	Cady Park, Ferguson Park, Kla Ha Ya Park, Hill Park, Morgantown Park, Pilchuck Park, Pilchuck Julia Landing, Riverfront Trail

## Element 2: Inventory

### *Physical Setting and History*

The City of Snohomish is situated at the confluence of the Pilchuck River and the Snohomish River, north of a vast agricultural floodplain. The 61-acre Blackmans Lake is centrally located with two community parks located on its shore. There are over 43 acres of existing parkland, more than two linear miles of trail, and an additional 25 acres of land set aside for future parks.



Photo courtesy Snohomish Historical Society

Snohomish prioritizes its historic identity and cultural heritage. The first settlers of the area were the Sdohobsh, Native American fishermen, hunters, and gatherers who were a subdivision of the Snohomish Lushootseed-speaking Native American tribe. Originally, Snohomish was established to support the surrounding agricultural community but soon became a logging town as well because of the area's dense forests of Douglas Firs. The first sawmill in Snohomish began its operations on the Pilchuck River in 1876.

By 1884, 700 people called Snohomish home. The town had a courthouse, a school building, a church, and six saloons. Six years later in 1890, Snohomish became the first incorporated city in the county. The population had grown to 1,995 people. By 1895, there were 3,000. Today, there are 10,300 Snohomish residents.

The Snohomish train station was built in 1888. The first train to arrive in town was a Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railway train. Electric lighting followed the arrival of the first train in 1889. By 1893 the Great Northern Railway was completed from St. Paul to Seattle, with a stop in Snohomish. Around the turn of the century Snohomish's economy diversified to include the canning industry as the area's soil and climate made for superior fruit growing. A Carnegie Library was built in 1910 on the site of a one-room schoolhouse on Cedar Avenue. The Carnegie was used as the public library until 2002. As the oldest public building in the city, the Carnegie Building is now a cherished community gathering space and is available for private rentals.



Photo courtesy Snohomish Historical Society

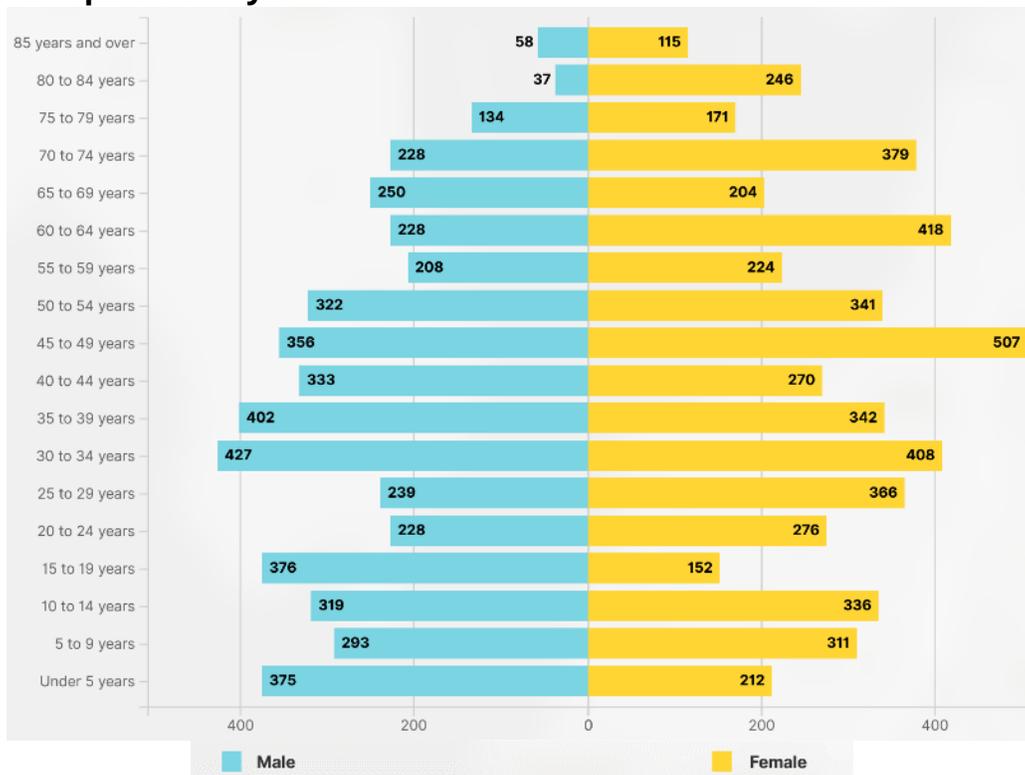
In 1973, Snohomish was the first city in the county to pass an ordinance establishing a Historic District. The Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a 26-block area along the Snohomish River, containing a mix of commercial and residential uses. Snohomish values and celebrates its history through various groups dedicated to the preservation of its heritage and unique character.

## Community Demographics

The Snohomish population is 52% female and 48% male, with a median age of 39.8, older than the County’s median of 38.3 and Washington State at 38.2. Over 18% of the population is above the age of 65, compared to 14.4% in Snohomish County, and 16.2% in Washington State. Nearly half of these are over age 75.

The population of children under the age of 18 matches the Statewide population of 21.7%, but is below the County population of 22.3%. Most of Snohomish’s children are between the ages of 5 and 14 years old (12.5%), with those under the age of 5 at 5.8% and teenagers between 15 and 17 at 3.4%. Approximately 18% of the City population is below the age of 14. This segment of the City population relies on parks and trails for exercise, play, and social development, and their needs were confirmed in the City’s community outreach efforts. As discussed in Element 3, elementary school children need more recreational opportunities, and easier ways to get around the city.

**Figure 1: Population Pyramid**



2020 Decennial Census

Snohomish’s median household income is \$77,308, appreciably less than the median household income in Snohomish County, at \$100,042. The percent of population in poverty is similar to the County overall, at just over 7%, and less than the Washington State poverty rate of 9.9%.

The Snohomish population has been steadily diversifying since the 2000 Census, with minority and multi-racial residents comprising a larger proportion of the population.

<b>Table 1: Population Race/Ethnicity</b>	
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>% of Population</b>
White, not Hispanic/Latino	79.2%
Hispanic/Latino	9.9%
Black or African American	0.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%
Asian	2.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.5%
Other	0.5%
Two or more races	6.3%

2020 Decennial Census, Table P9

Family and household size has been changing over the last two decades. In 2000 the average household size was 2.48; in 2020 it was 2.35. Family size is also trending downward. At an average of 2.94 people, the average family size in Snohomish is smaller than the County average of 3.15 and Washington State at 3.08. Household tenure in Snohomish is 55% owner-occupied and 45% renter-occupied.

### ***Programs and Resources***

An issue for Snohomish to consider is expanding the City’s role in serving unmet recreation demand by either directly providing services or actively facilitating service provision by others. The City has provided recreation programs in the past. In the 1970s, City programs included swimming lessons and a lifeguard at Hill Park, adult volleyball league and youth hiking trips. Such services have been reduced or eliminated in past decades due to lack of staff and resources.

### ***Recreational Facilities***

Snohomish has ten public parks comprising 43.3 acres and three public trails measuring 2.7 miles. Park facilities include Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Regional Parks, and Trails. The full inventory and descriptions of existing park facilities are in the following pages. Additional, property-specific information and historical records are available at City Hall.

**Neighborhood Parks** are accessed by foot or non-motorized modes for users within one-half mile, generally do not include off-street parking facilities or restrooms. Typical amenities may include open fields, playgrounds, seating, and picnic areas.

**Community Parks** are accessed by motorized and non-motorized modes from throughout the community. Typical amenities may include open fields, playgrounds, seating and picnic areas, shelters, and sports facilities. Off-street parking and restrooms may be provided.

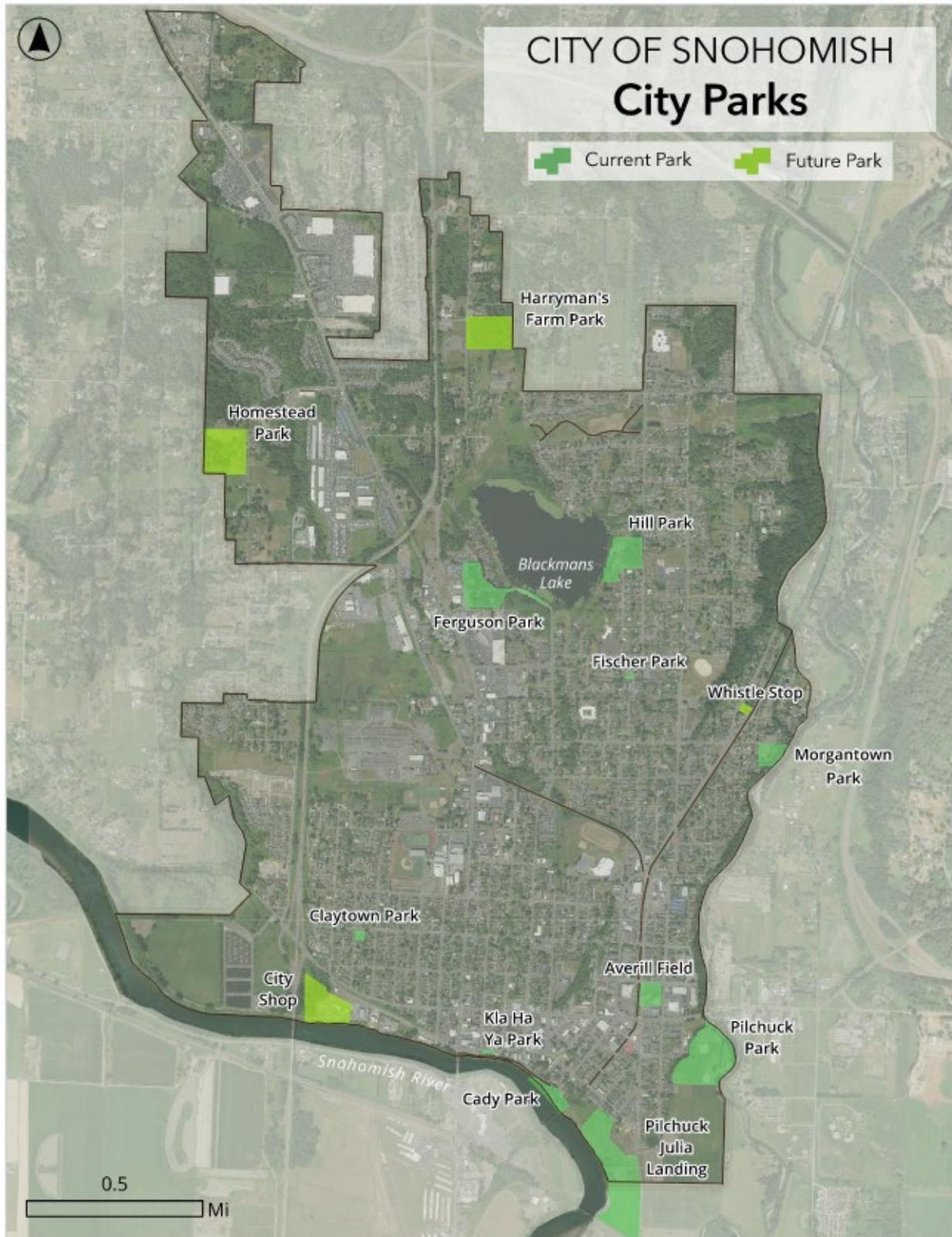
**Regional Parks** are accessed by motorized and non-motorized modes from throughout the community and outside City boundaries. Typical amenities may include open fields, playgrounds, seating and picnic areas, sports fields, and special interest activities. Off-street parking and restrooms are generally provided.

**Trails** are non-motorized routes for transportation and connectivity that serve as linear recreational facilities for exercise and activities.

Table 2: Park Properties				
Name	Location	Type	Size	Amenities
<b>Averill Field</b>	409 Third St	CP	2.3 ac	Skatepark, playground, bench, picnic table, parking
<b>Cady Park</b>	40 Maple Ave	NP	2.5 ac	Non-motorized boat launch, kayak rack, picnic table, open field, trail access, parking, water views
<b>Centennial Trail</b>	506 Fourth St	T	1.4 mi	Trash receptacles, bulletin board
<b>Claytown Park</b>	329 Avenue I	NP	0.35 ac	Playground, bench, picnic table, open field
<b>Ferguson Park</b>	1330 Ferguson Park Rd	CP	6.7 ac	Non-motorized boat launch, dock, playground, restroom, disc golf course, parking, open field, basketball hoop, pavilion, bench, picnic bench, water views
<b>Fischer Park</b>	1214 Madrona Dr	NP	0.11 ac	Playground, picnic table, open field
<b>Hill Park</b>	1610 Park Ave	CP	5.6 ac	Pavilion, restroom with exterior shower and sink, playground, dock, open field, parking, picnic table, bench, ADA ramp to dock, water views
<b>Interurban Trail</b>	600 Ford Ave	T	0.6 mi	
<b>Kla Ha Ya Park</b>	1117 First St	NP	0.37 ac	Picnic table, benches, trail access, water views
<b>Morgantown Park</b>	200 Long St	NP	2.5 ac	Playground, horseshoe pits, water access, picnic bench, bench, open field, basketball hoop, water views
<b>Pilchuck Park</b>	169 Cypress Ave	RP	12.9 ac	Picnic table, bench, bleachers, basketball court, playground, tennis/pickleball court, water access, open field, baseball field, restrooms, volleyball court, water views
<b>Pilchuck Julia Landing</b>	20 Lincoln Ave	RP	10.01 ac	Motorized boat launch, open field, parking, bench, water views
<b>Powerline Trail</b>	2100 Park Ave	T	0.46 mi	
<b>Riverfront Trail</b>	40 Maple Ave	T	0.3 mi	Benches, interpretive signage, water views
NP: Neighborhood Park   RP: Regional Park   CP: Community Park   OS: Open Space   T: Public Trail				

Future park properties can be found in Table 3.

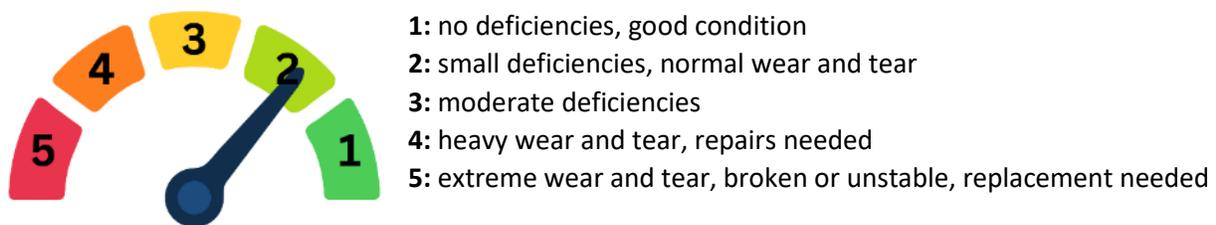
Map 1: City Park Inventory



## **Facilities Condition Assessment**

In general, City parks and trails are in good condition. Park facilities span many decades of growth and development, so some variability is expected. With some exceptions, City facilities are in adequate condition to meet the needs of visitors. Parks and trails are consistently maintained by City crews as issues arise to continue to provide quality facilities for the community.

In order to assess the current condition of each park facility, two separate analyses were conducted in summer of 2023. One assessment was performed by the City Parks crew, which visited each park and evaluated the facilities on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the best condition. Trails were not assessed by City crews.



While none of the facilities assessed scored the best condition rating, the overall average of all facilities assessed by staff was 3 (moderate deficiencies noted). Only two facilities scored a 5; these were both play structures and were noted as needing replacement. The tennis/pickleball courts and baseball fields at Pilchuck Park are in process for resurfacing. Bathroom stall doors in Pilchuck and Hill Parks are also scheduled for replacement. The average assessment for all facilities within each park is noted in the inventory below.

The second, concurrent analysis was performed by consultant MENG Analysis to assess all City-owned buildings and facilities. Recommended improvements for parks were presented to the Parks & Forestry Board in September, 2023, and are incorporated into the following inventory and the Capital Improvement Program in Element 5.

Older parks in Snohomish are Ferguson Park, Hill Park, and Pilchuck Park. These were all developed prior to the 1980s and have a relatively large service area as Community or Regional Parks. These facilities tend to have more improvements planned over the next 20-year period. Parks that were developed in the late 1980s and 1990s are also beginning to show their age, with certain facilities or elements needing repair or replacement. The newest park is Averill Field, which is being redeveloped in 2023. This park also includes the skate park, constructed in the early 2000s, and the Kiwanis playground.

Two of the three public piers on Blackmans Lake were replaced in 2013 with fish-friendly materials. The third pile-supported pier is planned for replacement with a floating pier in the next two to three years.

**City Parks and Trails**

<p><b>Averill Field</b> 409 Third Street</p>	<p><b>Community Park</b> 2.3 acres</p>
	
<p>Staff facility assessment score: <b>2</b></p>	
	

**Averill Field** is a 2.3-acre site in the heart of the Pilchuck District, adjacent to the Centennial Trail, and north of the Boy & Girls Club. The northern parcel was once the site of the Hal Moe Pool, a community pool operated by the Snohomish School District. The structure was demolished in 2018 after the Snohomish Aquatic Center was built on Maple Avenue. In 2023 the old pool site was developed for a multi-use park.

**Amenities:** public parking, picnic tables, benches, skate park, playground equipment, trail access.

**Facility improvement opportunities:**

- Install play equipment

**Preferred amenities from public survey:**

- Play Equipment
- Restrooms
- Trees/shade
- Picnic Tables



Earl Averill, photo from City of Snohomish collection

<p><b>Cady Park</b> 40 Maple Avenue</p>	<p><b>Neighborhood Park</b> 2.5 acres</p>
<p>  </p>	
<p>Staff facility assessment score: <b>4.5</b></p>	
	

**Cady Park** is a 2.5-acre site on the Snohomish riverfront, with direct access to the Riverfront Trail. Cady Landing served as the City boat launch until the Pilchuck Julia Landing boat launch was constructed in 2015. Now it serves as a launch site for non-motorized boats, and features a kayak rack. The site also has a sewer lift station.

**Amenities:** parking lot, non-motorized boat launch, picnic tables, trail access, open field, water views.

**Preferred amenities from public survey:**

- Boardwalks
- Benches
- Parking

**Facility improvement opportunities:**

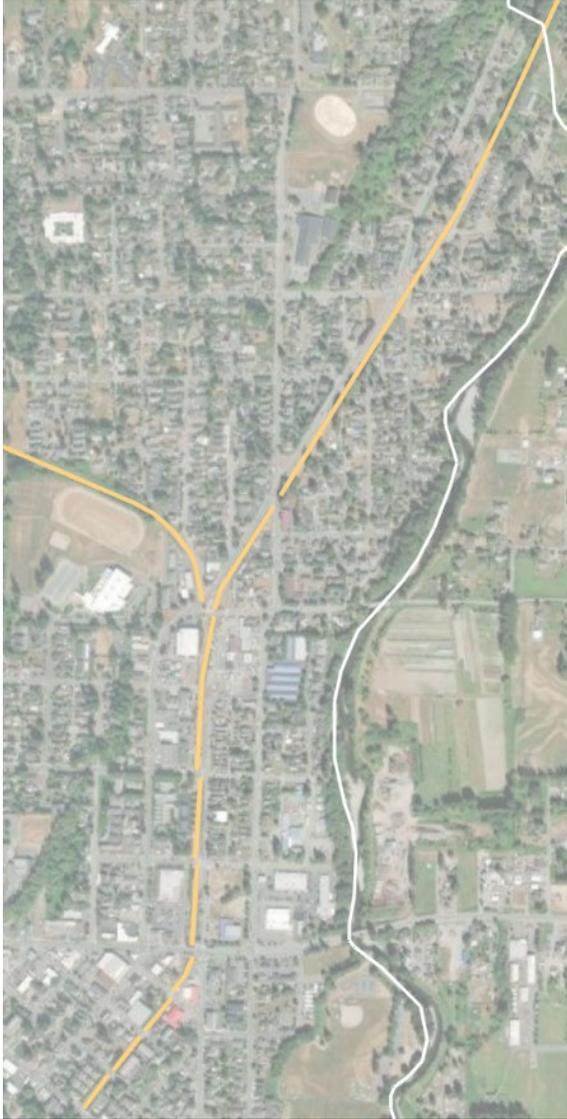
- Repair pavement
- Replace site furnishings

## Centennial Trail

506 Fourth Street

Public Trail

1.4 miles



The **Centennial Trail** is a 30-mile-long, multi-use trail that runs through Snohomish County. The portion within City limits is 1.4 miles long. The trail is constructed on the site of the old Burlington North Santa Fe Railroad; the train tracks were removed from within the City and the trail was dedicated in 2012. The trail now features benches and story boards maintained by Sno-Isle Library.

### Facility improvement opportunities:

- Repair/replace vehicle barricades
- Trees/shade

<p><b>Claytown Park</b> 329 Avenue I</p>	<p><b>Neighborhood Park</b> 0.35 acres</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">    </p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Staff facility assessment score: <b>2</b></p>	
	

**Claytown Park** is located in a residential neighborhood and offers playground equipment for small children. The site is 0.35 acres and was developed for park use in 1991.

**Amenities:** playground equipment, picnic table, bench

**Facility improvement opportunities:**

- Repair irrigation system
- Resurface play area
- Repair damaged sidewalk panels
- Install site lighting
- Install dog fountain

**Preferred amenities from public survey:**

- Upgraded play equipment
- Benches
- Picnic tables

<p><b>Ferguson Park</b> 1330 Ferguson Park Road</p>	<p><b>Community Park</b> 6.7 acres</p>
<p>Staff facility assessment score: <b>3.3</b></p>	

**Ferguson Park** is a popular park in Snohomish, according to the community survey conducted in 2022. The park is 6.7 acres and located on the southwest section of Blackmans Lake. To the northeast are residences and Blackmans Lake and to the south and west is the Avenue D commercial corridor. The boat launch and fishing dock are located off Avenue A, and though contiguous with the recreational facility, cannot be accessed through Ferguson Park by vehicle.

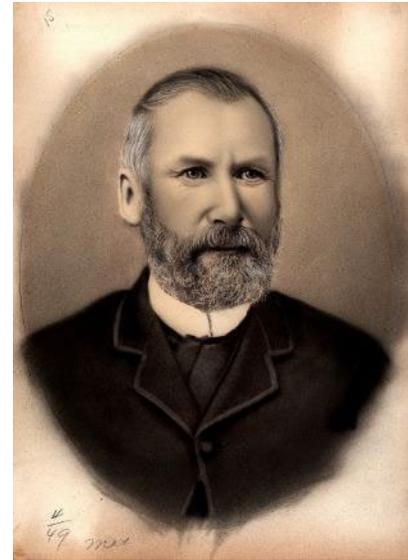
**Amenities:** parking lot, bike parking, restroom, boat launch, dock/pier, shelter, picnic tables, benches, playground equipment, basketball hoop, disc golf course, water views

**Facility improvement opportunities:**

- Restroom repairs
- Repair road base course to boat launch
- Resurface parking lot and walkways
- Add ADA access to play area
- Replace/upgrade play structure

**Preferred amenities from public survey:**

- Upgraded play equipment
- Trees/shade
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Dock



Emory C. Ferguson, photo courtesy Snohomish Historical Society

<p><b>Fischer Park</b> 1214 Madrona Drive</p>	<p><b>Neighborhood Park</b> 0.11 acres</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;">   </div>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Staff facility assessment score: <b>3.3</b></p>	
	

**Fischer Park** is a small neighborhood park serving the surrounding residential area. At 0.11 acres in size, it offers playground equipment for children and seating. There is no off-street parking.

**Amenities:** playground equipment, benches

**Facility improvement opportunities:**

- Replace concrete surfacing
- Fencing improvements
- Replace/upgrade play structure
- Resurface play area
- Trees/shade

**Preferred amenities from public survey:**

- Upgraded play equipment
- Picnic tables
- Benches

<p><b>Hill Park</b> 1610 Park Avenue</p>	<p><b>Community Park</b> 5.6 acres</p>
	
<p>Staff facility assessment score: <b>3.1</b></p>	
	

**Hill Park** is one of the more popular City parks. At 5.6 acres, the lakeside park is located on the eastern shore of Blackmans Lake in a largely residential area. The park is separated from the street by a stand of large evergreen trees and features a beach as well as docks for swimming and fishing.

**Amenities:** parking lot, restrooms, picnic benches, shelters, dock/pier, benches, playground equipment, water views

**Facility improvement opportunities:**

- Restroom repairs
- Repair lower shelter
- ADA improvements
- Resurface walkways
- Revitalize stormwater swale
- Fishing dock repairs

**Preferred amenities from public survey:**

- Upgraded play equipment
- Restrooms
- Dock
- Trees/shade

## Interurban Trail

600 Ford Avenue

Public Trail

0.6 miles



The **Interurban Trail** is an important connector between the Avenue D commercial corridor and the residential neighborhoods on the east side of the City. The trail is 0.6 miles in length and runs along the north side of the Snohomish Aquatic Center, with adjacent ecologically sensitive areas.

### Facility improvement opportunities:

- Property acquisition connecting to Avenue D
- Site lighting installation
- Native planting installation
- Evaluate surfacing for ADA accessibility

<p><b>Kla Ha Ya Park</b> 1117 First Street</p>	<p><b>Neighborhood Park</b> 0.37 acres</p>
	
<p>Staff facility assessment score: <b>2.8</b></p>	
	
	

**KlaHaYa Park** is a riverfront park that is split between the street level and the Riverfront Trail on the lower end. At street level there is a wide section of sidewalk with benches and a drinking fountain. Trees, picnic tables, and a lawn area with Riverfront Trail access can be found at the lower level.

**Amenities:** Benches, picnic tables, trail access, water views

**Facility improvement opportunities:**

- Improve shading
- Site lighting installation

**Preferred amenities from public survey:**

- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Play equipment

<p><b>Morgantown Park</b> 200 Long Street</p>	<p><b>Neighborhood Park</b> 2.5 acres</p>
	
<p>Staff facility assessment score: <b>3.5</b></p>	
	

**Morgantown Park** is a 2.5-acre multi-use park in a residential area on the east side of the City. It has access to the Pilchuck Riverfront and is well used by nearby residents.

**Amenities:** parking lot, drinking fountain, picnic tables, benches, basketball court, horseshoe pit, playground equipment, water views

**Facility improvement opportunities:**

- Site lighting installation
- River access improvement
- Resurface play area
- Sports court resurfacing
- Replace/upgrade play equipment
- Repair or remove horseshoe pit

**Preferred amenities from public survey:**

- Upgraded play equipment
- Water access
- Restrooms

## Pilchuck Park

169 Cypress Avenue

**Regional Park**

12.9 acres



Staff facility assessment score: **3.1**



1922 Pilchuckers; photo credit David Eskenazi collection, courtesy Snohomish Historical Society

**Pilchuck Park** is a 12.9-acre, multi-use riverfront park located on the Pilchuck River in a mixed use neighborhood near the Pilchuck District. The park has water access and sports fields, in addition to sports equipment storage. The ball fields are used by Little League teams throughout the County, making it a regional park.

**Amenities:** parking lot, barbecue grill, drinking fountain, restrooms, bleachers/stadium seating, picnic tables, benches, baseball fields, volleyball court, tennis/pickleball courts, playground structure, basketball court, water views

**Facility improvement opportunities:**

- Restroom improvements
- Resurface parking lot and walkways
- Replace benches
- Replace/upgrade play equipment
- Resurface play area
- Remove invasive plants
- Site lighting installation in tennis/pickleball courts
- Trees/shade

**Preferred amenities from public survey:**

- Upgraded play equipment
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Water access

## Pilchuck Julia Landing

20 Lincoln Avenue

Regional Park

10.01 acres



Staff facility assessment score: **2**



**Pilchuck Julia Landing** is the site of the City boat launch on the Snohomish River. It is located at the southern extent of City limits. The site is 10 acres and features an edible forest planted in partnership with the Snohomish Conservation District in 2022. The boat launch is widely used by fishermen during the fishing season. The site is also an important stop for the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Canoe Journey. Canoe families paddle down the Snohomish River to the site and spend two days camping and resting, trading their river dugout canoes for oceangoing canoes, then continuing on to the year's host Nation on routes traveled since time immemorial.

**Amenities:** parking lot, boat launch, benches, water views

**Facility improvement opportunities:**

- Develop physical connection to Cady Park and the Centennial Trail
- Install sidewalks along the property frontage

**Preferred amenities from public survey:**

- Restrooms
- Boardwalks
- Trees/shade



Pilchuck Julia, photo courtesy Snohomish Historical Society

## Powerline Trail

2100 Park Avenue

Public Trail

0.45 miles



The **Powerline Trail** is a 0.45-mile pedestrian trail located within a residential area, under the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) overhead easement. The trail provides connectivity between the adjacent neighborhoods, and an exercise opportunity for residents. The BPA restricts what can be done in the easement. As such, improvement opportunities on this trail are limited largely to the ground level.

### Facility improvement opportunities:

- Evaluate surfacing for ADA accessibility

<p><b>Riverfront Trail</b> 40 Maple Avenue</p>	<p><b>Public Trail</b> 0.3 miles</p>
	
	
	

The **Riverfront Trail** runs parallel to the Snohomish River along its north bank, extending from Avenue D to Cady Park. The 0.3-mile paved trail provides a natural setting and view corridors in the downtown commercial area, and an alternative route to the bustle of First Street. There are several mid-trail access points, including a staircase from the public gazebo on Avenue A, and a paved trail leading to the street level in KLaHaYa Park. There is no physical access to the Snohomish River from the Riverfront Trail due to steep slopes and thick vegetation. A concrete retaining wall is inset with interpretive signage at several points along the trail, with a benches for taking a rest.

**Facility improvement opportunities:**

- Bank stabilization
- Install public art and murals
- Install wayfinding signage
- Encourage reorientation of buildings through construction of decks, balconies, and windows
- Site lighting installation

**Future Recreational Facilities**

The City owns a number of properties that are planned for future park development. This will be critical as the population continues to grow, to ensure equal access to recreational facilities.

Table 3: Future Park Properties				
Name	Location	Type	Size	Future Park Type
Harryman’s Farm	2411 Lake Avenue	FP	7.4 ac	To be determined
Homestead	2000 Ludwig Rd	FP	10 ac	To be determined
City Public Works Shop*	1801 First St	FP	8.2 ac	To be determined
Whistle Stop	1119 Maple Ave	FP	0.39 ac	To be determined

*\*Not yet named; subject to Parks Naming Committee.*

**Harryman’s Farm**

Harryman’s Farm is a rectangular-shaped, densely wooded parcel located just east of SR-9 in a large-lot residential area with several nearby places of worship. The site contains wetlands, so intense park development is not feasible. Passive recreation is more likely, integrating boardwalks and interpretive signage. The 2023 Interactive Parks Preferences Survey revealed boardwalks and play equipment were highest priority for respondents.

**Homestead**

Homestead is a square-shaped parcel located in a residential area that is currently redeveloping into more urban densities. A 2022 critical areas study found three wetlands on the site; two in the property center and one along the western boundary. The site is otherwise maintained lawn, grasses, and trees, including several fruit trees. There is one house at the eastern side of the property that is currently rented to a private party. According to the 2023 Interactive Parks Preferences Survey, trees, play equipment, and boardwalks were the highest priority for respondents.

**City Public Works Shop**

The Public Works Shop is an irregularly shaped riverfront site near the historic downtown area that is currently used by the Public Works Department for offices, equipment storage, and other operations. There is potential for much of the City operations to vacate the site, making park development feasible within the planning period. The site is accessed via First Street and is adjacent to SR-9 to the west, with intervening wetlands and vegetation. A trail connects the site to the Wastewater Treatment Plant utility maintenance trail, also known as the “poop loop”. According to the 2023 Interactive Parks Preferences Survey, water access and a dock, trees, restrooms, and the Farmer’s Market were the highest priority for respondents.

## Whistle Stop

Whistle Stop is a rectangular lot along the Centennial Trail located in a residential area. There is a vacant structure on site that is planned for removal in the next two to three years. Play equipment, benches, trees, drinking fountains, and bike storage were the highest priority for respondents of the 2023 Interactive Parks Preferences Survey.

## Habitat Conservation



Habitat conservation is supported through multiple City policies. Habitat conservation areas are considered critical areas under Chapter 14.280 SMC. Buffer areas adjacent to streams and rivers are protected and are generally enhanced as a condition of development to preserve natural habitat. Wetland areas are similarly protected from development activities in Chapter 14.260 SMC, and wildlife-enhancing plant species are required as part of critical area mitigation plans.

Native Growth Protection Area Easements (NGPAs) or Tracts are commonly required as part of residential development. These areas are declared on the face of the plat and are physically separated from the rest of the development through split-rail fencing and appropriate signage declaring the presence of native growth, as shown in the image. There are currently approximately 30 acres of such protected native lands within City limits.

An Urban Forestry Plan is being developed to create policies for further protection of the City's urban canopy, which will enhance wildlife habitat throughout the City. Additional code requirements will follow adoption of the plan. Code updates arising from the new plan are planned for 2025-2026.

There are more than 125 acres of protected open space in the City of Snohomish. These are wetlands and buffers, steep slopes, densely wooded areas, grass fields, and shorelines. Nearly 92 acres are owned by a public agency, typically the City; the other 34 acres are privately-owned, primarily by Homeowner's Associations, but are protected from development activities through NGPA easements. The publicly-owned properties include future parks, which are included in the inventory of Element 2.



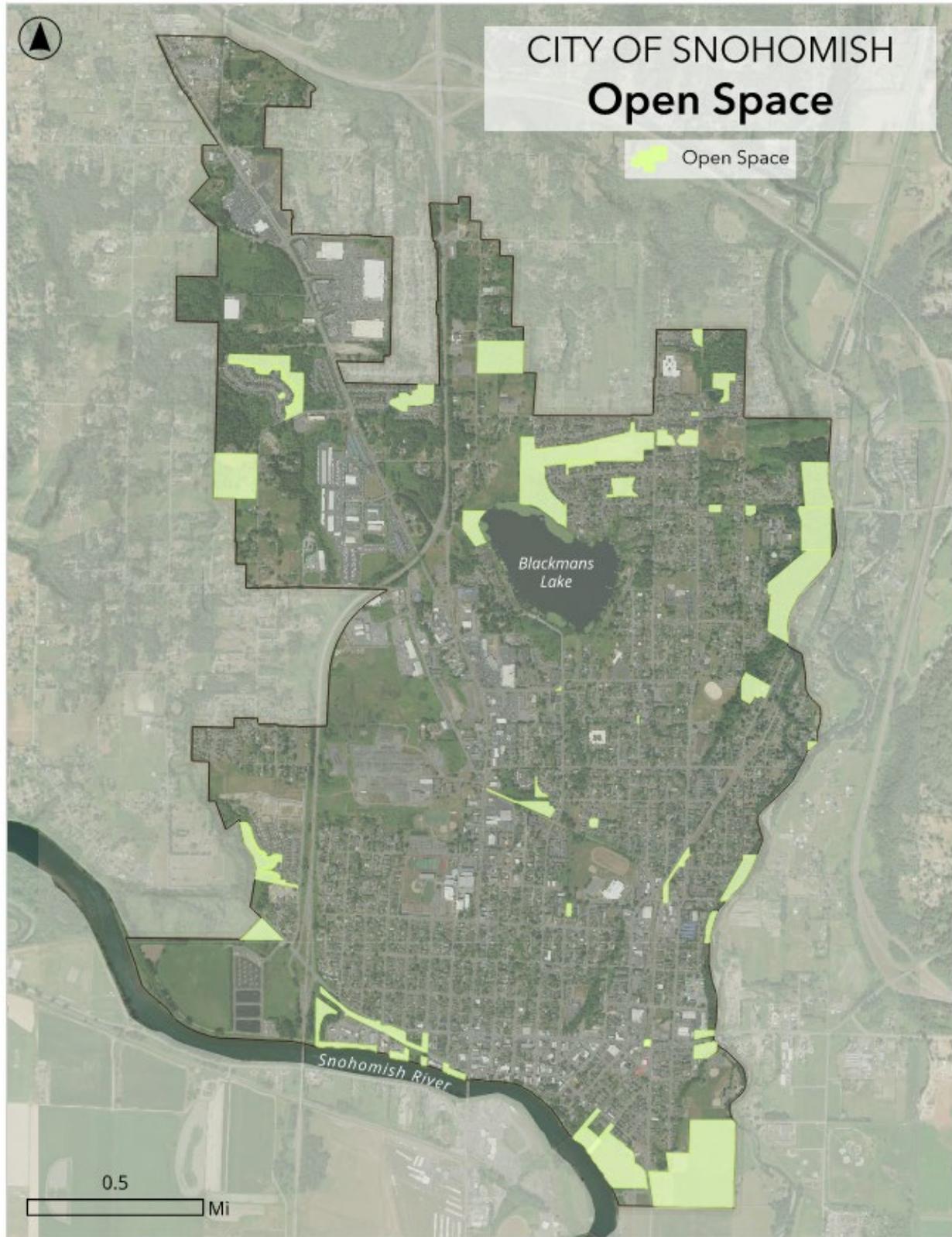
Snohomish Birds of Winter festival, City of Snohomish staff photo

The Riverview Wildlife Refuge and the adjacent Wastewater Treatment Plant are unique due to the variety of bird species that can be found there. Though only the Riverview Wildlife Refuge is included in the inventory acreage (2.3 acres), the Wastewater Facility adds approximately 71 acres of publicly-owned land incorporating wetlands and lagoons that are also used by bird species. Because it is operated by the Utility, it cannot be considered park or open space property, however it is a large, continuous parcel owned by the City of Snohomish.

The Riverview Wildlife Refuge is an important site to view migratory bird species in their winter habitats. This location has been a stop for the Snohomish Birds of Winter festival, which incorporates guided and self-guided tours, workshops, and educational opportunities for bird lovers in the area.

<b>Table 4: Applicable Development Regulations</b>	
<b>SMC 14.210.240</b>	Requires open space as a percentage of the site for development projects.
<b>SMC 14.211.030</b>	Requires open space for development in the Business Park zone.
<b>SMC 14.212.700</b>	Requires open space for development in the Pilchuck District.
<b>SMC 14.220.110</b>	Provides for retention of existing natural features in a Planned Residential Development.
<b>SMC 14.237.060</b>	Requires preservation of existing natural features as part of grading activities.
<b>SMC 14.250.170</b>	Requires critical areas and buffers within the Shoreline jurisdiction to be placed in a separate tract or conservation easement designated as Native Growth Protection Area as condition of residential development.
<b>SMC 14.250.330</b>	Prohibits tree removal within Shoreline Jurisdiction critical areas.
<b>SMC 14.255.050</b>	Requires retention of trees within a critical area or its buffer.
<b>SMC 14.255.100</b>	Requires critical areas and buffers to be placed in a separate tract or conservation easement designated as Native Growth Protection Area as condition of development.
<b>SMC 14.260.030</b>	Regulates activities in wetland areas.
<b>SMC 14.280.050</b>	Prohibits development in habitat conservation areas, emphasizes restoration of degraded fish and wildlife functions.

Map 2: Open Space



**Annual Maintenance and Operation Cost**

The annual Parks Department budget is allocated to staff time to perform regular operations and maintenance of parks, trails, and open spaces throughout the city, in addition to vehicles and equipment costs, and regular services to keep these facilities in a quality state. The costs in Table 5 are estimated based on the 2023-2024 biennial budget.

<b>Table 5: Annual Parks Department Budget</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Annual Cost</b>
Mowing	\$97,500
Weeding and spraying	\$71,500
Vegetation maintenance	\$97,500
Planting	\$65,000
Facility and structure repairs	\$32,500
Bathroom cleaning	\$65,000
Garbage and litter removal	\$65,000
Inspection	\$32,500
Resurfacing	\$32,500
Irrigation	\$65,000
Planning	\$26,000
Vehicles and equipment	\$200,000
Utilities, garbage, professional services	\$177,500
First Street flower baskets	\$7,500
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,035,000</b>

Operations and maintenance duties are performed across the sites listed in the parks inventory, in addition to several public spaces that are not considered recreational facilities. Those sites are listed in Table 6. Although not parks, these spaces are owned by the City and are recognized as important and beloved public spaces. The maintenance and operations of these sites is within the budget of the Public Works Streets Department. As the City adopts Complete Streets and Urban Forestry policies, maintenance and operations of these sites will become more distinct and separate from Parks and Recreation facilities.

<b>Table 6: Public Works Department Maintenance Sites</b>		
<b>Maintenance Site</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type</b>
Avenue A Gazebo	10 Avenue A	Special Use Facility
Carnegie Green	105 Cedar Ave	Special Use Facility
Pioneer Cemetery	171 Cypress Ave	Memorial Park
Riverview Wildlife Refuge	1819 First St	Open Space
Casino Royale	2100 Park Ave	Open Space
Machias Slope	7100 S Machias Rd	Open Space
Avenue D Roundabout	N/A	Right-of-Way

First Street Planters	N/A	Right-of-Way
City Hall	116 Union Ave	Municipal Facility
Engineering Building	112 Union Ave	Municipal Facility
Police Department	230 Maple Ave	Municipal Facility
Public Works Shop Frontage	1801 First St	Municipal Facility
CSO Rain Garden	1801 First St	Special Use Facility
Avenue A & 13 <sup>th</sup> Vegetated Median	N/A	Right-of-Way
Second Street & SR-9 Ramp Vegetated Median	N/A	Right-of-Way
Boys & Girls Club	402 Second St	Special Use Facility
Senior Center	506 Fourth St	Special Use Facility
East 11 <sup>th</sup> Street at Pilchuck River	N/A	Open Space
Sixth Street & Pine Vegetated Median	N/A	Right-of-Way
Pine & Maple Avenues Triangle	N/A	Right-of-Way

### ***Capacity Considerations***

A capacity analysis was conducted in the summer of 2023. The analysis consisted of regular windshield surveys and car counters installed at park entries. Facility rental data from previous years was also evaluated.

### **Sports Field Rentals**

The baseball fields at Pilchuck Park are used by Little League teams in the region. In the 2021 season (March to August), fields were reserved every day except holidays until mid-August. However, with three available fields and multiple time slots, no teams were turned away. This level of accommodation is not always the case, as prior to the pandemic some teams were turned away if they were scheduled late in the season. Field reservations typically begin in February for the season beginning in March. Apart from some instances of conflicting team schedules and late reservations, there do not appear to be significant capacity issues with the sports fields. Teams that rent the fields generally come from Snohomish, Monroe, Mill Creek, Lake Stevens, Woodinville, and Snohomish County.

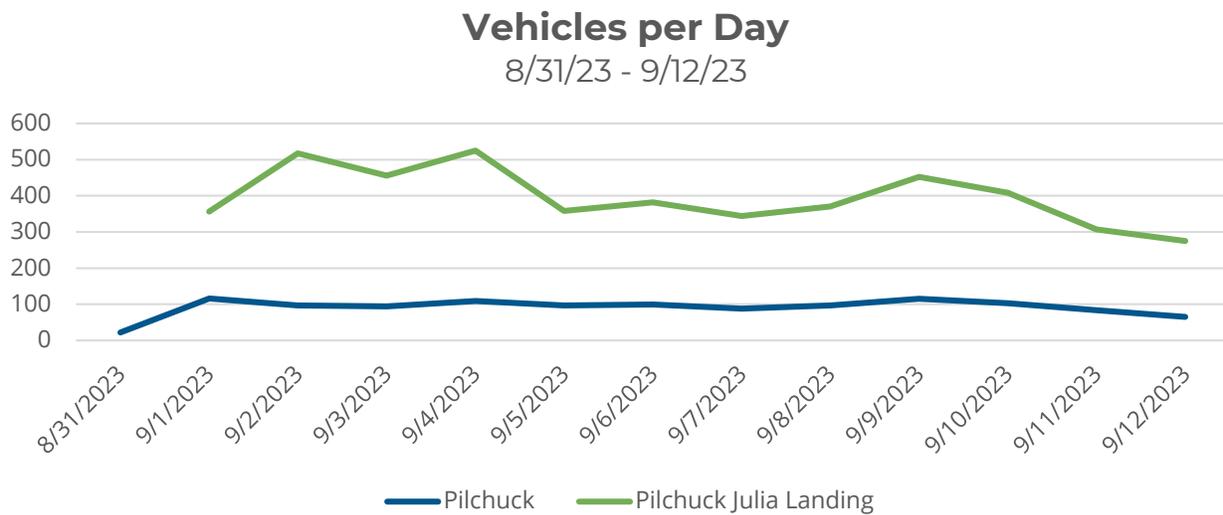
### **Park Facility Rentals**

Hill Park and Ferguson Park have shelters that can be reserved by private parties. There are three shelters between the two parks that can be rented for a half-day or a full day. Shelter reservations generally begin in early spring, although some reservations can begin as early as January. Shelter facilities do not fill up immediately. Rental data from previous years was extracted and evaluated. In 2019 there were 95 rentals. Park facilities were closed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and upon re-opening facility reservations dropped to 54 rentals each in 2021 and 2022. There do not appear to be any significant capacity issues with these facilities.

### Vehicle Counts

Vehicle counter strips were installed for a two-week period at the entry to Pilchuck Park and Pilchuck Julia Landing, the two regional parks in Snohomish. Pilchuck Julia Landing features a motorized boat launch to the Snohomish River. The park is popular during fishing season, especially Pink Salmon (humpback or humpy) season, which falls in August and September of odd years due to their migratory habits. The vehicle counters coincided with the 2023 “humpy” season. More than 500 vehicles accessed the park over Labor Day weekend, then visits tapered off. The park has paved parking for eight trailers and 11 regular stalls, with overflow parking for many more vehicles at the south end of the site. No parking complaints were received by the City over the busy weekend, so capacity does not appear to be an issue for this park.

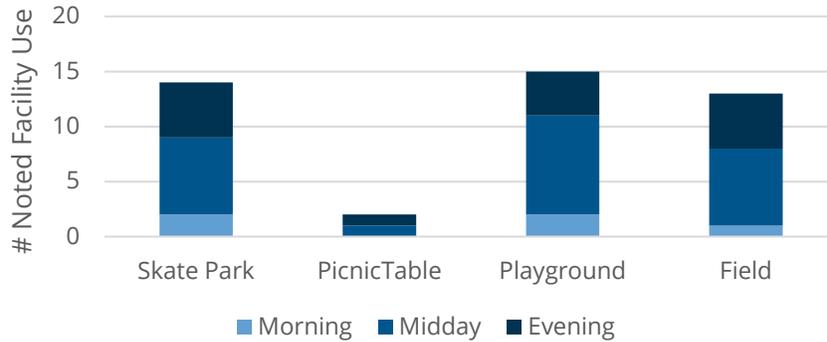
Pilchuck Park was closed for much of the 2023 summer due to a roadway realignment project. Vehicle counter installation coincided with the park reopening in late August. Park visits remained steady around 100 per day during the data collection period.



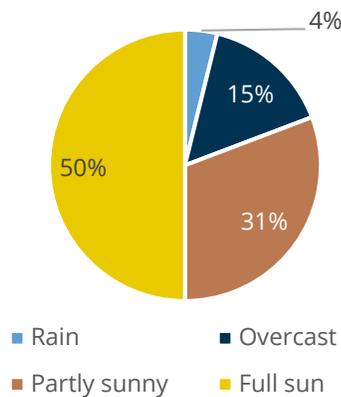
### Windshield Surveys

Park capacity was also assessed through a combined effort of City staff and the Parks and Forestry Board throughout the summer of 2023 via a windshield survey. A surveyor would visit each park facility and fill out the windshield survey form, noting several important data points such as time of day and weather, in addition to parking lot capacity and which facilities were being used at the time. That data was then analyzed and findings collected. Those findings are displayed in the following pages.

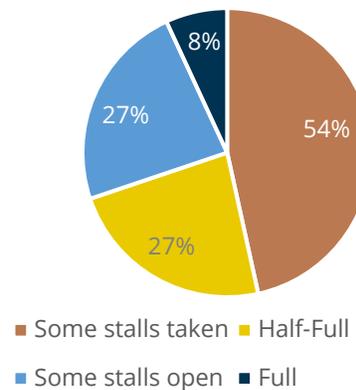
### Averill Field Use



### Weather Conditions

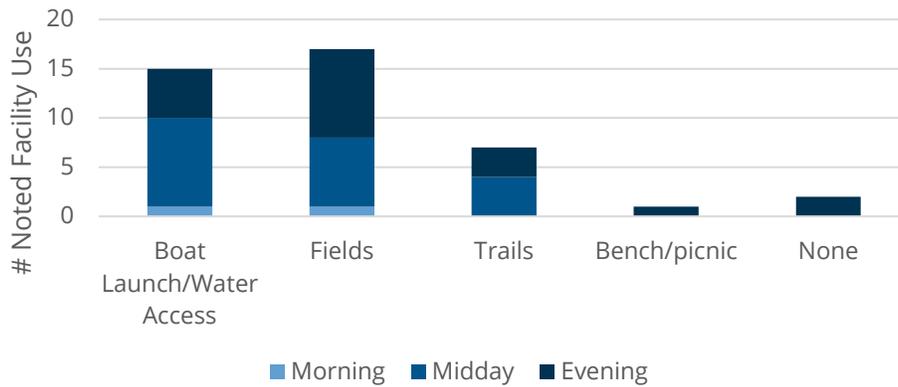


### Parking Lot

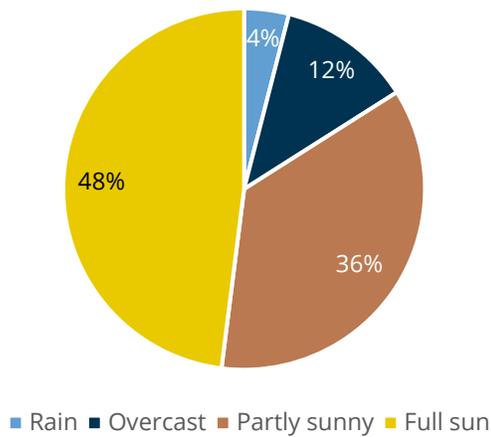


The most popular facilities at Averill Field are the playground and the skate park. These facilities have the most use during midday, between 11am and 4pm. In general, the park is busiest during sunny weather. The parking lot was noted as full only 8% of the time. More than half the time, the parking lot only had some stalls taken. This park shares a parking lot with the Boys & Girls Club, which could put additional pressure on capacity. However it appears the park is operating with plenty of capacity.

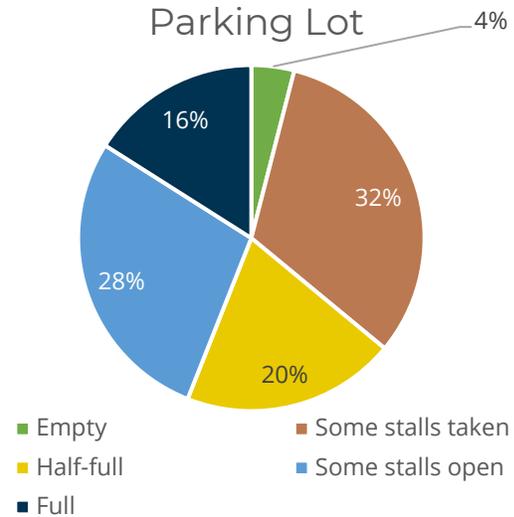
### Cady Park Use



### Weather Conditions

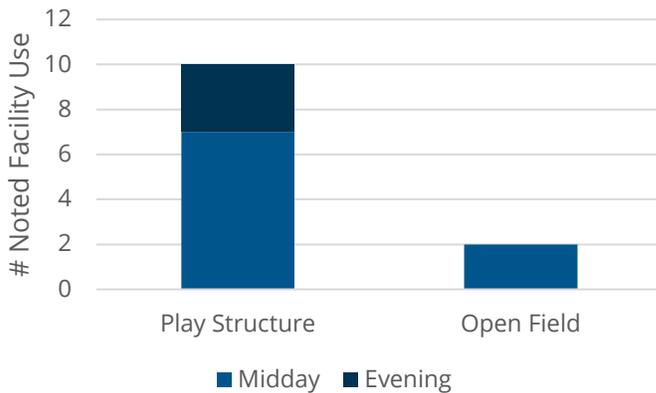


### Parking Lot

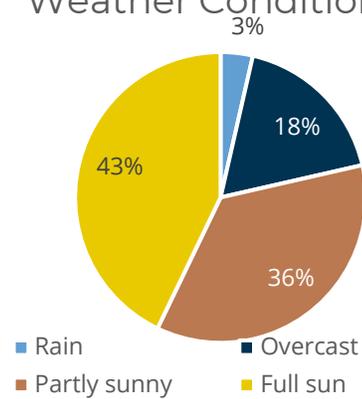


The most popular facilities at Cady Park are the open grass fields and the boat launch. Midday is the busiest time for park use, as are sunny or partly sunny days. The parking lot was noted as being full 16% of the time. This park also serves as a trailhead for the Riverfront Trail, so vehicles parked in the parking lot with no apparent park visitors is fairly common.

### Claytown Park Use

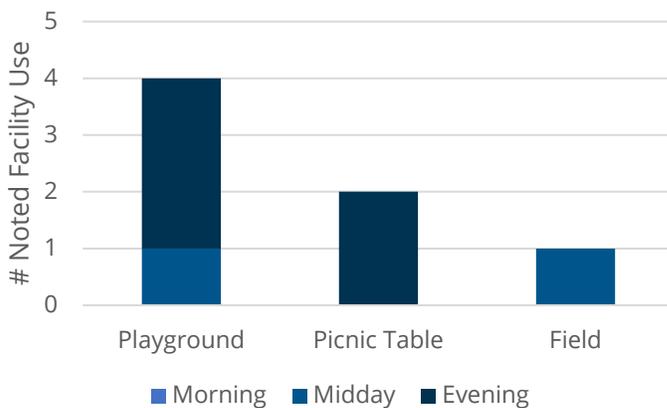


### Weather Conditions

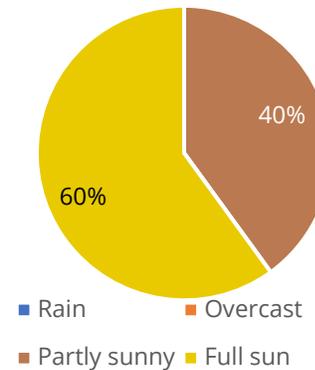


The play structure is the most popular facility at Claytown Park. The park is used primarily during midday, between 11am and 4pm. Park visitors prefer sunny or partly sunny weather conditions. Claytown does not have off-street parking, so that level of capacity could not be assessed. This park appears to be operating below capacity.

### Fischer Park Use

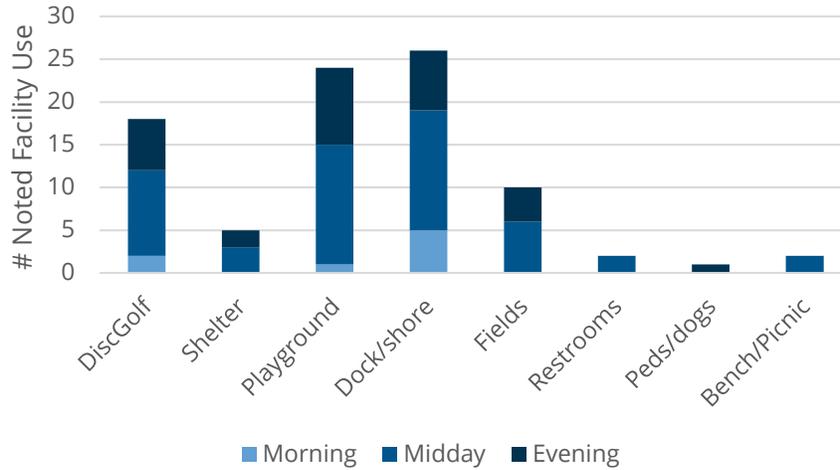


### Weather Conditions

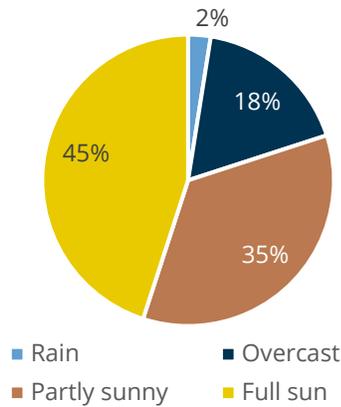


The play structure is the most popular facility at Fischer Park; the park is primarily used in the evening, after 4pm. No visitors were present at the park on overcast or rainy days during the survey period. Fischer Park does not have off-street parking, so that level of capacity could not be assessed. This park appears to be operating below capacity.

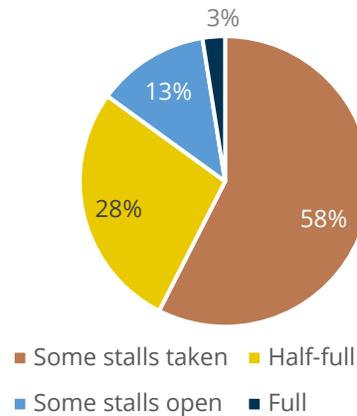
### Ferguson Park Use



### Weather Conditions

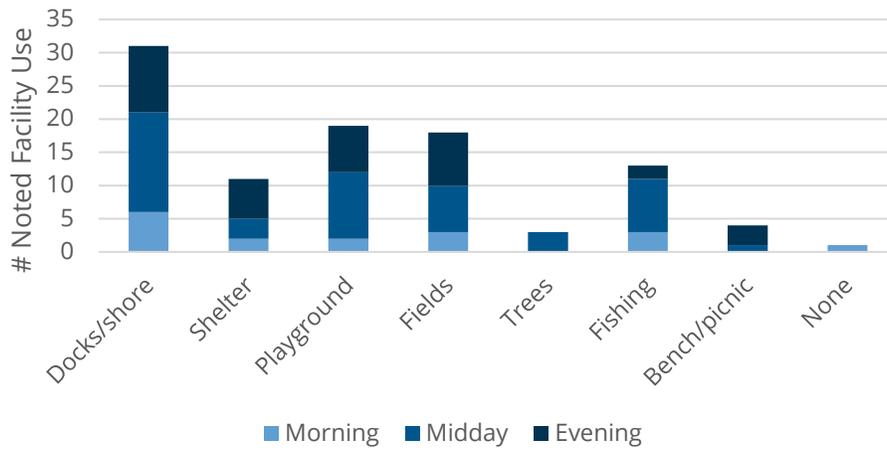


### Parking Lot

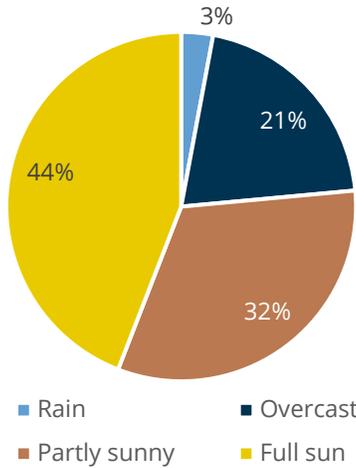


The most popular facilities at Ferguson Park are the dock, the playground, and the disc golf course. These facilities have the most use during midday, between 11am and 4pm. The park is busiest during sunny weather, with only 20% of park visits occurring during overcast or rainy conditions. The parking lot was noted as full only 3% of the time. More than half the time, the parking lot only had some stalls taken. It appears the park is operating with plenty of capacity.

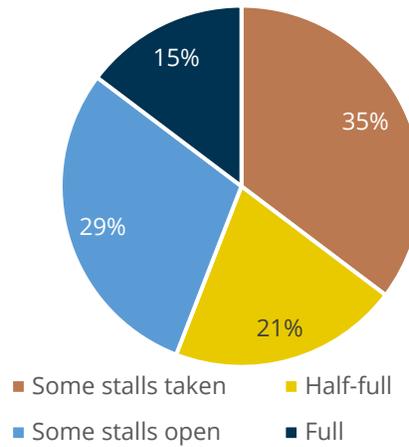
### Hill Park Use



### Weather Conditions

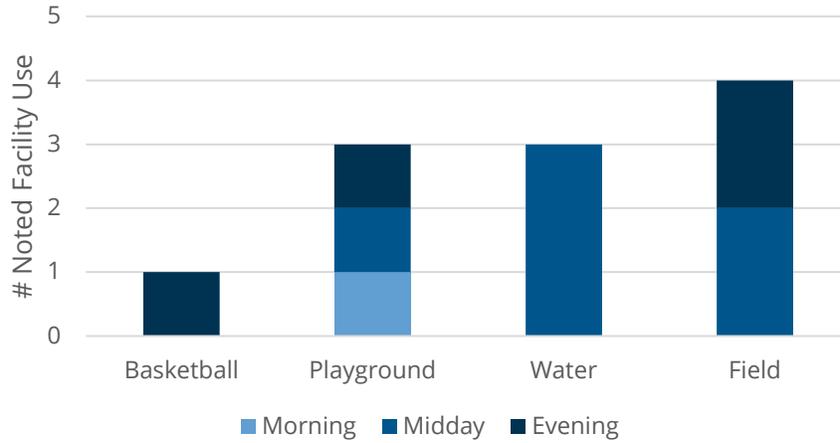


### Parking Lot

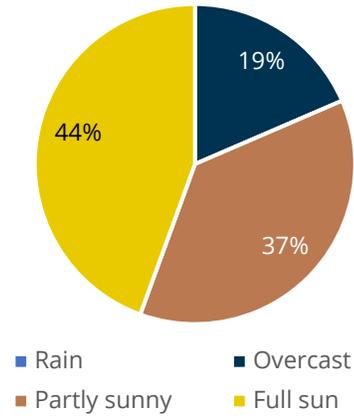


The most popular facilities at Hill Park are the docks, the playground, and the open fields. These facilities have the most use during midday, between 11am and 4pm. The park is busiest during sunny weather. The parking lot was noted as full 15% of the time, and was never noted as being empty. It appears the park is operating below capacity.

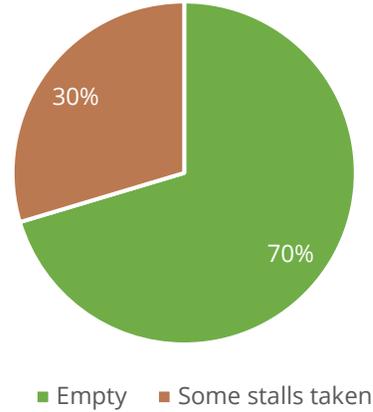
### Morgantown Park Use



### Weather Conditions

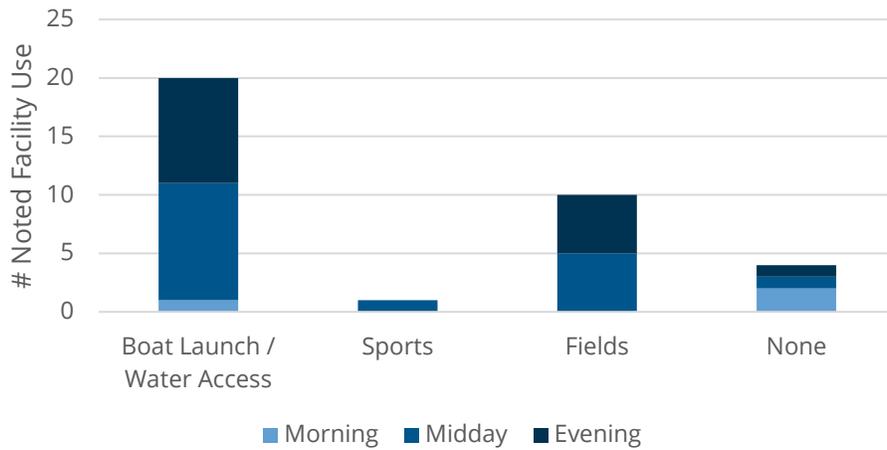


### Parking Lot

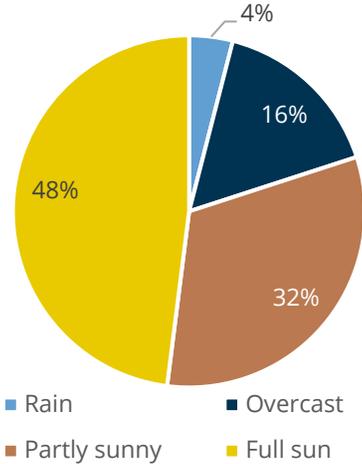


The most popular facilities at Morgantown Park are the open fields, the playground, and the access to the Pilchuck River. The park is used most during midday, between 11am and 4pm. The park is busiest during sunny weather; 19% of visits were noted during overcast conditions, and no visits were noted in the rain. The parking lot was noted as being empty 70% of the time. It appears the park is operating below capacity.

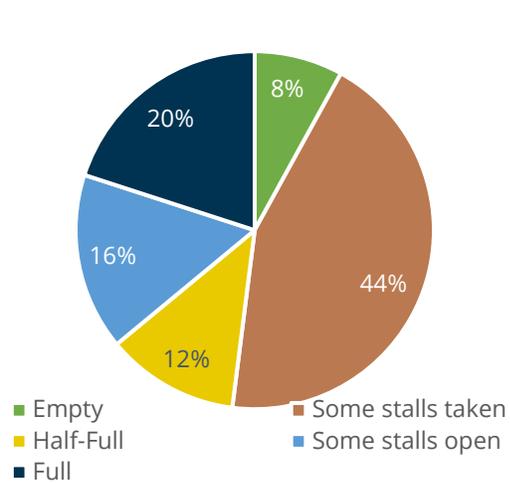
### Pilchuck Julia Landing Use



### Weather Conditions



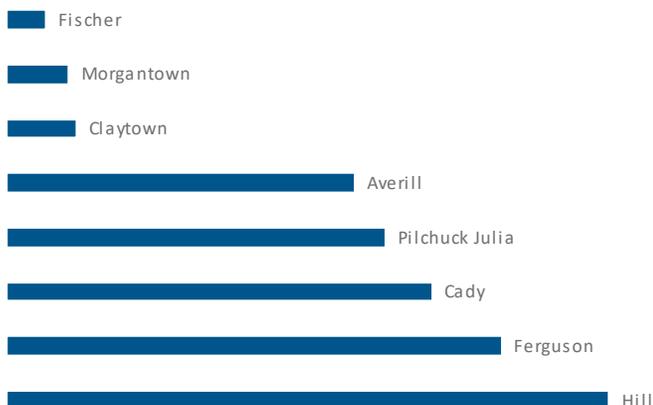
### Parking Lot



The most popular facility at Pilchuck Julia Landing is the boat launch. The facility gets the most use during midday, between 11am and 4pm. The park is busiest during sunny weather. The parking lot was noted as full 20% of the time. It appears the park is operating below capacity.

**Figure 2: Park Use Based on Windshield Survey Data**

Overall, there are no capacity concerns for park properties in the City. Pilchuck Park was closed during the windshield survey period, but the vehicle counter data shows no real capacity issues resulting from the number of daily visits upon its reopening. Of the parks that were assessed, the most popular is Hill Park, followed by Ferguson Park. Pilchuck Park is also known for its popularity and is generally noted as a favorite among City residents.



**Wildlife Habitat Capacity**

The City has various protected natural areas through dedicated open space properties, critical areas easements or tracts that provide protection, and wildlife corridors associated with rivers, streams, and Blackmans Lake. The Riverview Wildlife Refuge, owned by the Audubon Society, provides habitat for a wide variety of bird species.

Protected open spaces are found throughout the City, but particularly along shorelines. This is largely due to regulations requiring critical areas protection as part of development, coupled with the City’s ownership of several key properties. Wildlife habitat capacity continues to be met through these sites, while balancing the need for habitat with protection of private property rights.

Future open space corridors will be prioritized along water courses, such as Cemetery Creek, the Pilchuck River, and the Snohomish River, as well as on steep slopes and wetland areas that are inappropriate for urban development. Densely wooded areas, wetlands, and water bodies are vital for their ecological services and their contribution to climate mitigation, acting as carbon sinks and reducing ambient air temperature.

### Element 3: Public Involvement

Community outreach for this project began in 2022 with a web-based survey. Signs were posted throughout the City’s parks to solicit feedback from park users about what they like most about Snohomish’s park facilities and what they would like to see in the future (Appendix A). This information was then brought directly to the community at the weekly Farmers Market in the 2023 season. Market attendees were asked to identify their number one priority from a list of the top four responses to a specific survey question. The question changed each week, rotating through the survey several times during the Farmers Market season.

Parks were also one of the stations at the City’s *Our Future Snohomish* Carnival and Open House in July, 2023. The carnival was planned around community involvement and input for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update; the PROS Plan community input was integrated for a more holistic feel for the public. The Design-a-Park station asked children and families to create an image of their ideal park using art supplies such as paper cut-outs, ink stamps, stickers, and markers. The Parks station was a popular feature at the event that had more than 150 attendees.

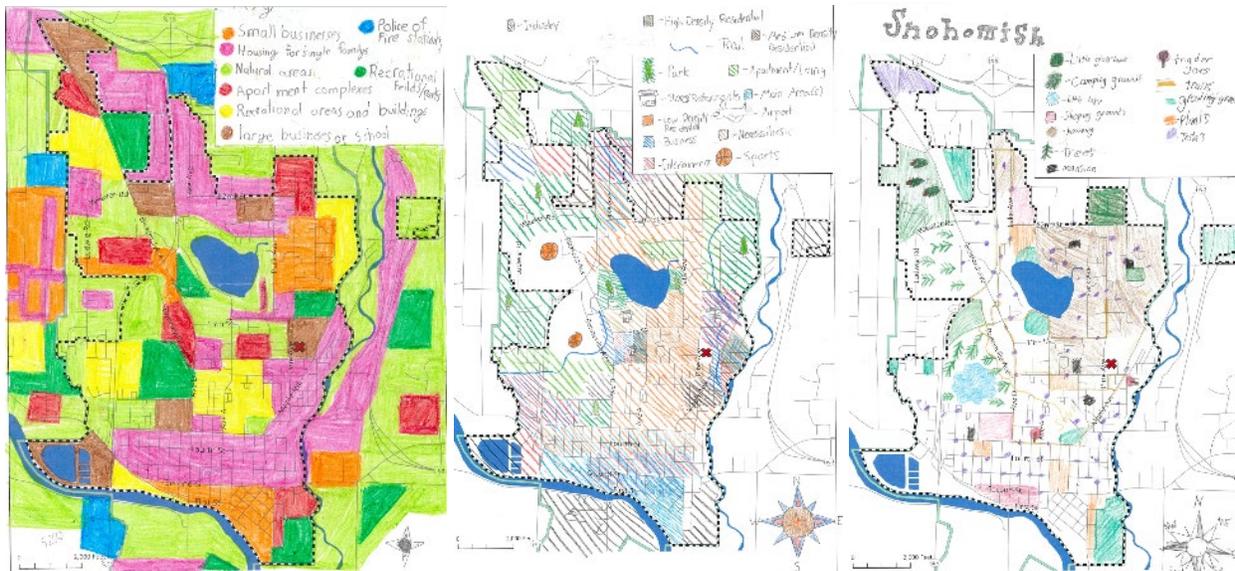
An interactive map of the parks system was published in late summer of 2023 to gain input about preferred amenities for each park, including future parks (Appendix B). The interactive map was coded with a unique hyperlink on each park property that directed the respondent to a prioritization survey using the Balancing Act platform. Each survey offered a list of possible amenities and asked respondents to select their preferred amenities for the specific park and then sort them into ranked order.



The information collected through all the above methods was analyzed by staff and shared with the Parks and Forestry Board at public meetings. Input was used to develop the goals and objectives in Element 1 of this plan.

In the spring of 2023, City staff visited elementary schools to discuss future growth and gather input from Snohomish’s youth about what they want to see in their city as they grow up. The students were asked to draw a map of their future Snohomish, with all the things they hoped to see. Overwhelmingly, parks, trails, and recreational opportunities were identified as a priority.

**Figure 3: Major Themes Derived from Elementary School Outreach**

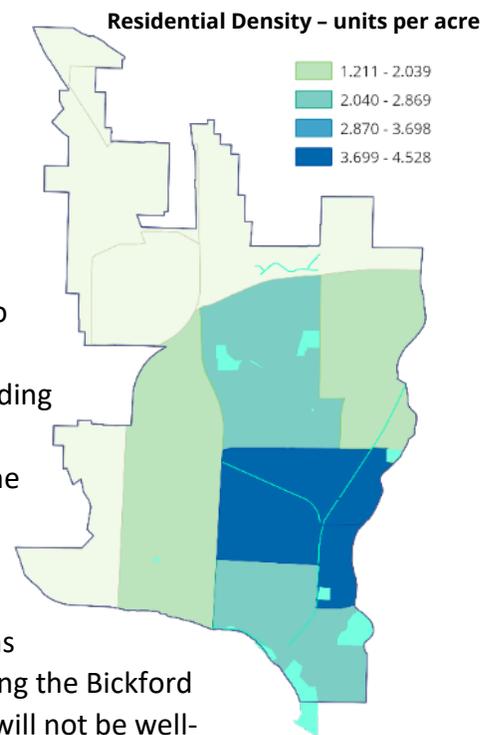


Three maps prepared and submitted by elementary school children to illustrate the “Snohomish of the Future” that they hoped to see.

## Element 4: Demand and Need Analysis

Park needs are identified through geospatial analysis using anticipated growth targets during the planning horizon and adopted Levels of Service. Equitable access to quality park facilities is a priority for future growth planning.

Residential density varies throughout the City. The map to the right illustrates this variability. The darker color corresponds to more residential units per acre. Parks and trails need to be located near where people live. In this regard, the City is providing park facilities in a manner that appears to meet the highest need. Two Neighborhood Parks and two trails are located in the areas with highest density, while other current park facilities are located nearby.



Much of the City’s growth is expected to be north of Blackmans Lake, west of SR9, in Midtown, in the Pilchuck District, and along the Bickford Avenue corridor. The parks inventory maps show these areas will not be well-served by Trails or Neighborhood Parks until Homestead Park is developed. Homestead is a Future Park located on the north end of Ludwig Road, west of SR-9. This area is currently in the process of developing into more urban residential use after being annexed to the City in the early 2000s.

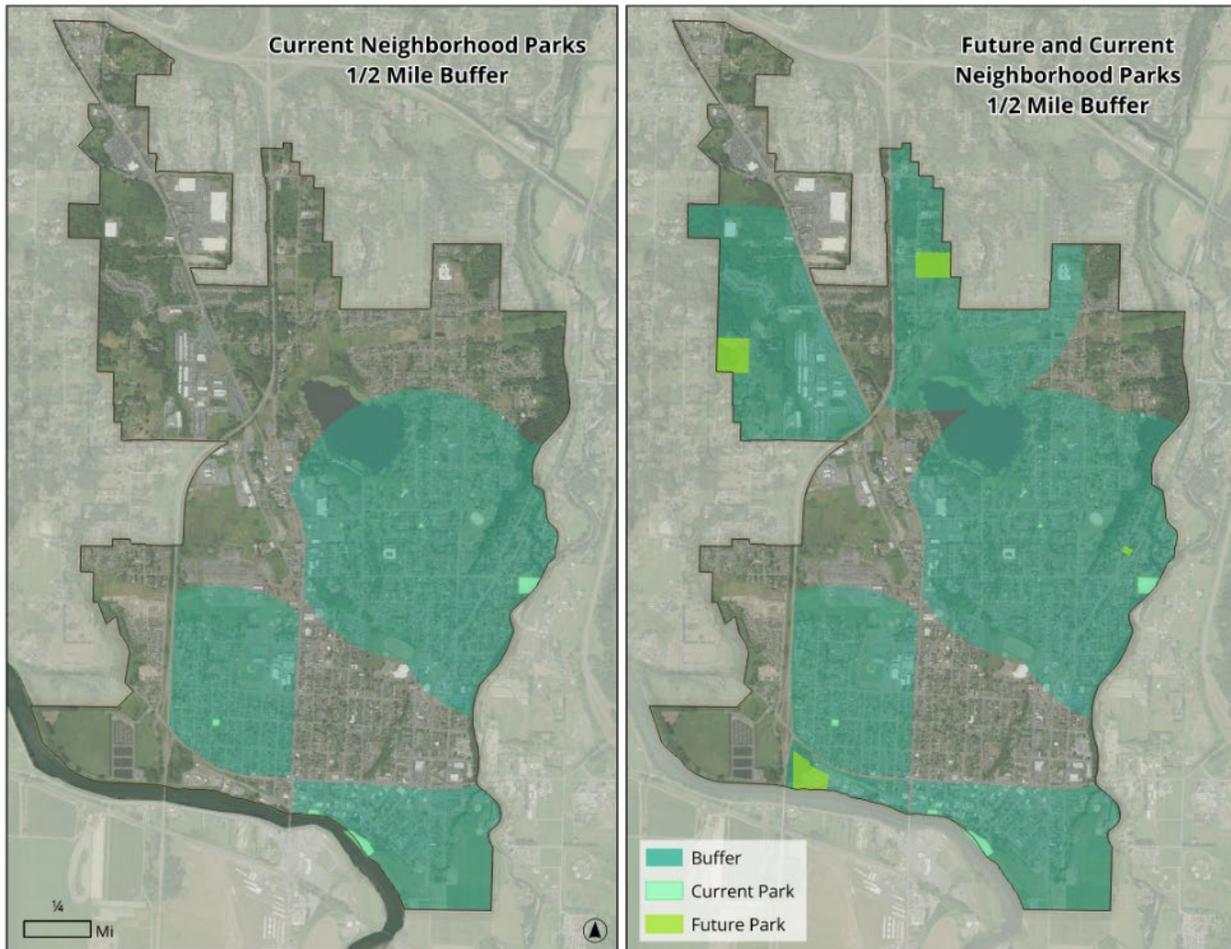
The established Levels of Service for park facilities are:

- 75% of population within ½-mile of a Neighborhood Park
- 75% of population within 2 miles of a Community Park
- 75% of population within 25 miles of a Regional Park
- 90% of population within ½-mile of a Trail
- 10% of City of Snohomish is dedicated as Open Space

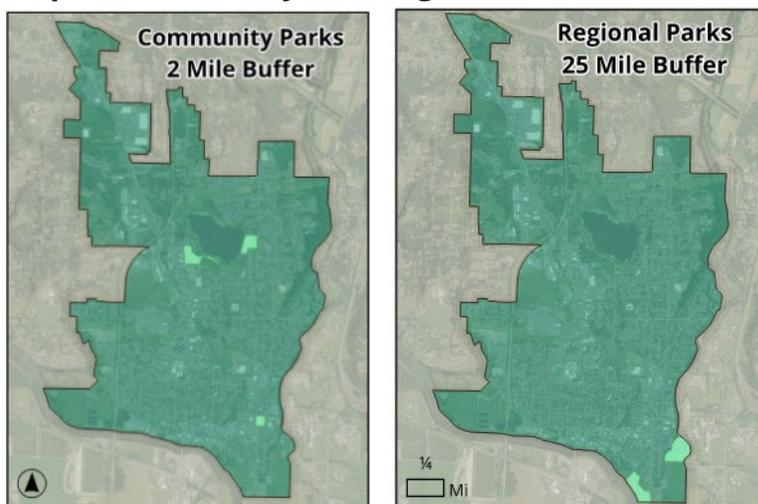
According to the Level of Service Analysis, 55% of the City population is within ½-mile of a Neighborhood Park. With development of the future parks identified in the inventory of Element 2, a much larger portion of the City will be served by Neighborhood Parks.

There are two areas of Snohomish that have been identified through this analysis for additional park property acquisition. The first is the east side of the Bickford Avenue corridor, north of the SR-9 crossing. This area is expected to continue to grow, and as Bickford Avenue itself is not easily crossed by pedestrians, a park facility for these future residents will be important. The second is within the Pilchuck District. While Averill Field is located in this area, an additional public gathering space will be needed as the Pilchuck District develops in the future.

**Map 3: Current and Future Neighborhood Parks LOS**



**Map 4: Community and Regional Parks LOS**

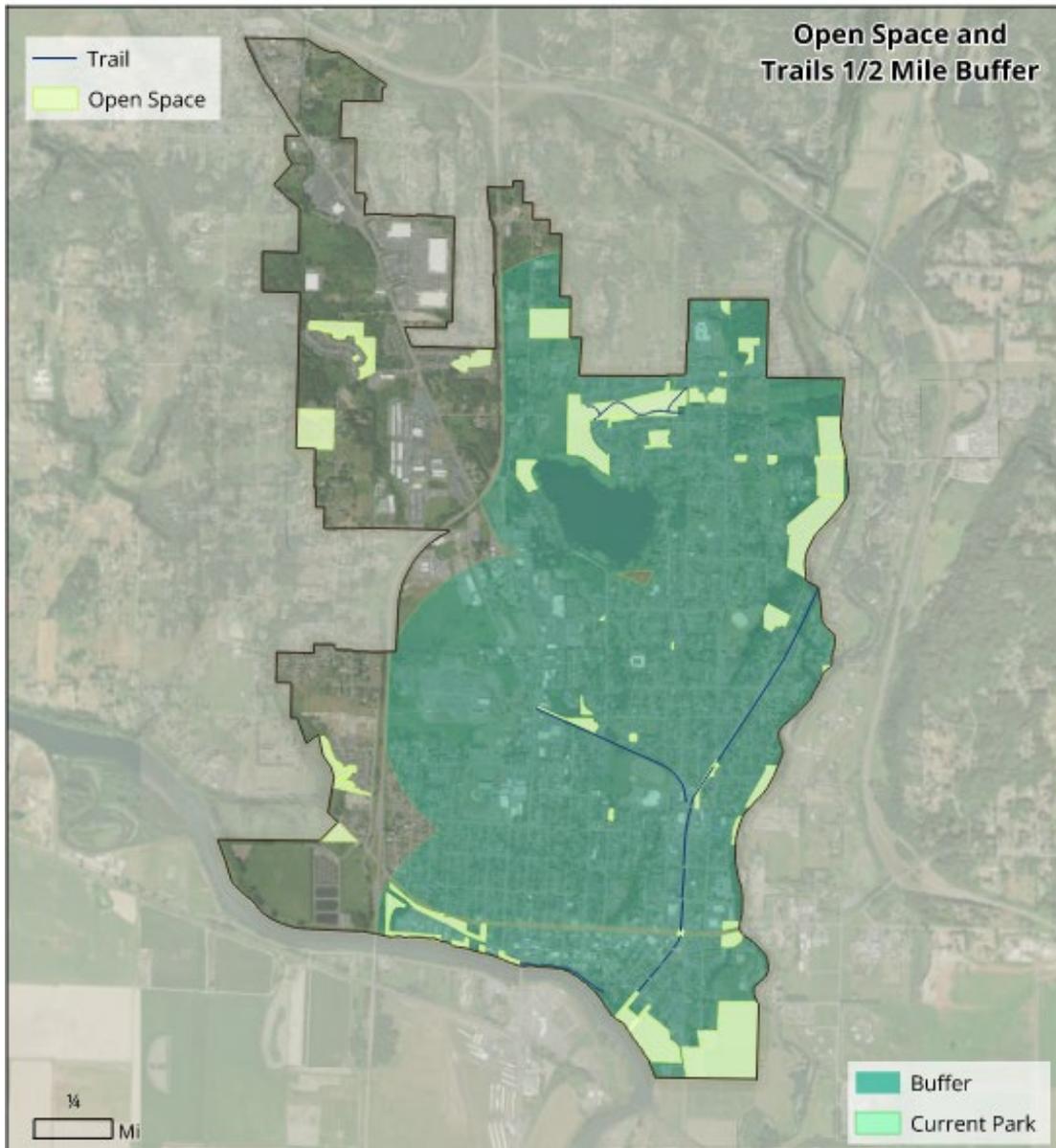


According to the Level of Service Analysis, 100% of the City population is within 2 miles of a Community park, and within 25 miles of a Regional Park. With Pilchuck Park and Pilchuck Julia Landing categorized as Regional Parks, the community is well-served for both park types.

Only 63% of the population is within ½-mile of a trail. A future public trail will be prioritized on the west side of the City to provide an accessible facility for future residents. Providing connections to residential development, parks, schools, and commercial destinations as well as other trails will also be a priority in future planning for multi-modal connectivity.

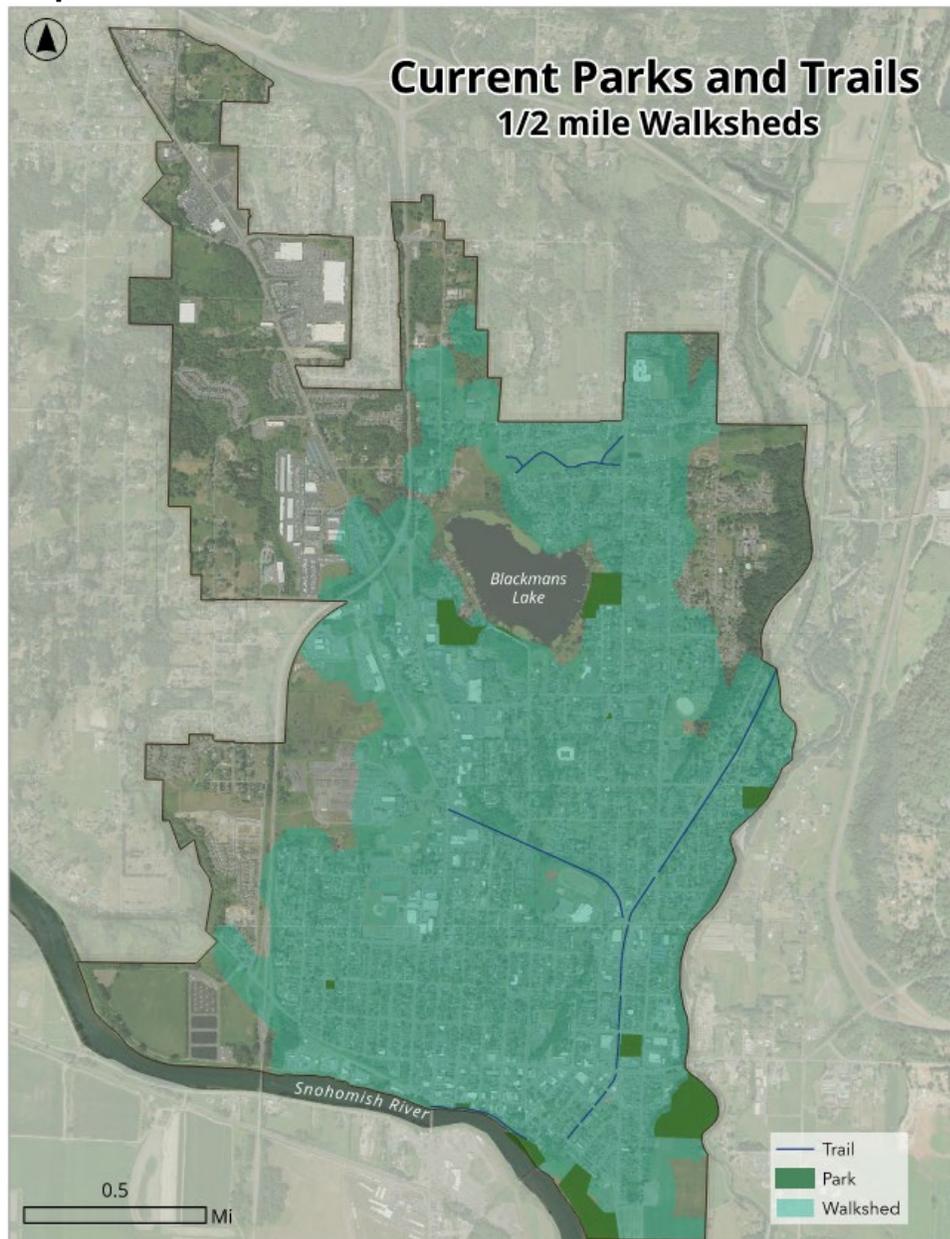
The City is close to meeting its LOS goal for Open Space, at 9.6% land cover. Open space areas will continue to expand as the City grows, due to development regulations requiring open space tracts or easements as a condition of certain development types.

### Map 5: Open Space and Trails LOS



Another way to assess park needs is through non-motorized accessibility. Half-mile walksheds were created through a geospatial analysis of pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks and trails to determine whether park facilities are within a walkable distance for City residents. The half-mile distance was chosen because it typically equates to roughly a 10-minute walk for most pedestrians. While the LOS metric shows only 55% of the population is served by Neighborhood Parks, it is important to note that park categories do not necessarily correlate to park use. A Regional Park may serve as a neighborhood park for those within walking distance to it. However, under the walkshed metric, large areas of Snohomish remain underserved. Future property acquisition will be focused on expanding non-motorized and multi-modal accessibility.

**Map 6: Half-Mile Walksheds**



# Element 5: Capital Improvement Program

Funding needs stated in 2023 dollars. Dollars noted in 1,000.

Park/Project	Project Year																				Totals
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	
<b>Averill Field</b>																					
Install new playground equipment	1,200																				1,200
Install new sports courts																	600				600
Third Street frontage improvements										2,000											2,000
Install public restrooms				250																	250
Skate Park Improvement Project (20 year cycle)																					0
Parking and surface repair (10 year cycle)											80										80
Sports court resurfacing (10 year cycle)																					0
Replace/Update playground equipment											50									50	100
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)																	80				80
Restroom Improvement (10 year cycle)																	40				40
<b>Cady Park</b>																					
Repair asphalt				60																	60
Replace site fixtures/furnishings				10																	10
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)				25															25		50
Maintenance and Repair (10 year cycle)															60						60
<b>Centennial Trail</b>																					
Repair/replace vehicle barricades			100																		100
Wayfinding signs				50																	50
Crossing Improvements							2,000														2,000
Resurfacing and Repair (10 year cycle)								150									150				300
Surface Marking Updates (4 year cycle)			20			20				20					20				20		100
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)	10					50														50	110
<b>Claytown Park</b>																					
Repair irrigation system				40																	40
Install site lighting																			400		400
Replace play surface wood chips			50																		50
Install dog fountain				20																	20
Repair damaged sidewalk panels				80																	80
Replace/Update playground equipment											1,000									50	1,050
Fencing Improvement							80														80
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)						15														15	30
<b>Ferguson Park</b>																					
Restroom repairs	17																				17
Add ADA access to play area				40																	40
Repair road base course to boat launch		75																			75
Replace/Update playground equipment			800										20								820
Parking and surface repair (10 year cycle)			120										120								240
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)						30															30
Restroom improvement (10 year cycle)											40									40	80

**Project Year**

Funding needs stated in 2023 dollars. Dollars noted in 1,000.

Park/Project	Project Year																				Totals
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	
<b>Fischer Park</b>																					
Repair concrete surfacing					50																50
Fencing Improvement															80						80
Playground and surfacing replacement					500																500
Replace/Update playground equipment															20						20
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)			10															10			20
<b>Hill Park</b>																					
Restroom repairs	17																				17
ADA improvements					50																50
Replace/Update playground equipment									1,200										60		1,260
Stormwater improvements (10 year cycle)											15									15	30
Shelter Repair/Replacements (10 year cycle)								40									40				80
Fishing dock repairs			50																		50
Parking and surface repair (10 year cycle)				160											160						320
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)					30															30	60
Restroom improvement (10 year cycle)											40									40	80
<b>Interurban Trail</b>																					
Property Acquisition							200														200
Native planting installations									120												120
Lighting installation													500								500
Crossing Improvements												2,000									2,000
Resurfacing and Repair (10 year cycle)											150										150
Surface Marking Updates (4 year cycle)														20				20			40
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)		20															20				40
<b>KlaHaYa Park</b>																					
Native planting installations							30														30
Lighting installation					50																50
Wayfinding Signs			10																		10
Gateway Signs				50																	50
ADA Improvements																120					120
Resurfacing and Repair (10 year cycle)					45																45
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)			10																10		20
Restroom improvement (10 year cycle)								20											20		40
<b>Morgantown Park</b>																					
Lighting installation							100														100
Replace wood chips			30																		30
River access improvement project																			800		800
Sport court/horseshoe resurfacing (10 year cycle)					20										20						40
Replace/Update playground equipment							500											20			520
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)		30														30					60

**Project Year**

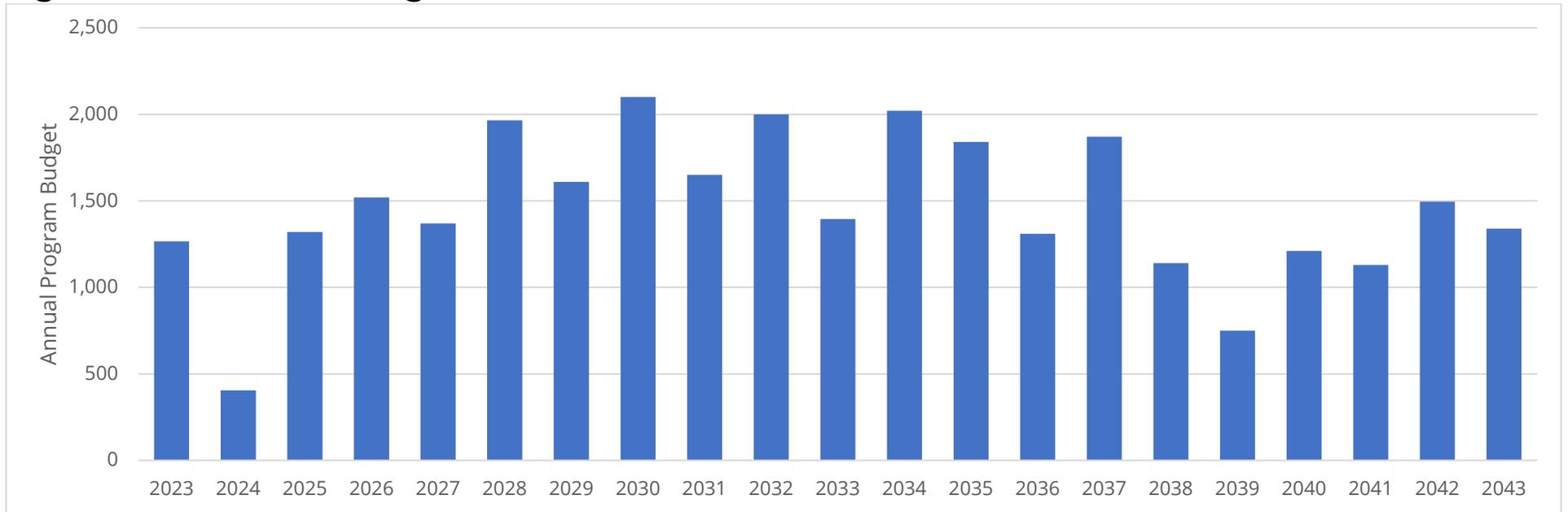
Funding needs stated in 2023 dollars. Dollars noted in 1,000.

Park/Project	Project Year													Funding needs stated in 2023 dollars. Dollars noted in 1,000.										Totals
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043			
<b>Pilchuck Park</b>																								
Restroom repairs	17																					17		
Sports court resurfacing (5 year cycle)		80					10					10					10					110		
Restroom Improvement (10 year cycle)				150										30								180		
ADA improvements		80																				80		
Resurfacing and Repair (10 year cycle)					150										150							300		
Replace/Update playground equipment				600										20								620		
Lighting installation	5			200																		205		
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)		10															10					20		
Fence Maintenance		20										10										30		
<b>Pilchuck Julia Landing</b>																								
Improve multimodal connectivity																				1,000	1,000	2,000		
Sign installation			50																			50		
ADA Improvements																				400		400		
Resurfacing and Repair (10 year cycle)								30									30					60		
<b>Riverfront Trail</b>																								
Bank stabilization													1,200									1,200		
First Street master plan improvements									60													60		
Art and mural installation				80																		80		
Native planting installations				100																		100		
Lighting installation						500																500		
Wayfinding signs			20																			20		
Gateway signs			50																			50		
ADA improvements														600								600		
Resurfacing and Repair (10 year cycle)																					80	80		
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)																			50			50		
<b>Homestead Park</b>																								
Park Master Plan		90																				90		
Install new playground equipment						800																800		
Active recreation improvements							400															400		
Parking and paving						600																600		
Install public restrooms								250														250		
Replace/Update playground equipment																40						40		
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)					80															40		120		
Resurfacing and Repair (10 year cycle)																30						30		
Restroom improvement (10 year cycle)																	20					20		

Park/Project	Project Year																							Totals
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043			
<b>Bob Heirman Park (potential acquisition)</b>																								
Park Master Plan									120													120		
Install new playground equipment															1,600							1,600		
Active recreation improvements																400						400		
Parking and paving														400								400		
Install public restrooms																400						400		
Replace/Update playground equipment																								
Urban Forestry Upkeep (15 year cycle)																								
Resurfacing and Repair (10 year cycle)																								
Restroom improvement (10 year cycle)																								
<b>Pilchuck District (potential acquisition, unidentified site)</b>																								
Install vendor space																			600			600		
Passive recreation/public gathering area																		200				200		
	1,266	405	1,320	1,520	1,370	1,965	1,610	2,100	1,650	2,000	1,395	2,020	1,840	1,310	1,870	1,140	750	1,210	1,130	1,495	1,340	30,706		

**Project Prioritization:** ■ Tier 1 Priority ■ Tier 2 Priority ■ Tier 3 Priority/Maintenance Item

**Figure 4: CIP Annual Budget Totals**



## **CIP Funding and Prioritization**

The 20-year Capital Improvement Program in this Element lays out an ambitious yet realistic plan for improvements to the existing park system and development of new parks to keep up with growth. The program identifies projects within each year of the planning cycle as priority projects, meaning those will receive the highest funding consideration. Prioritization for each program year is categorized into three tiers, with highest priority items identified as Tier 1. This would not preclude capitol program elements from being implemented that are not specifically identified in this plan if the Planning and Public Works Directors judge them to be consistent.

## **Replacement Program**

The CIP establishes a regular replacement program for maintenance and management of park elements such as vegetation, surfacing, and playground equipment to plan ahead for these projects, avoiding deterioration and reduced quality as well as significant budget impacts resulting from large-scale and simultaneous replacement and repair projects. The replacement program will be largely funded through the general fund but may also include grant funding if an appropriate opportunity arises.

## **Impact Fees**

The City collects Park impact fees for residential development pursuant to Chapter 14.300 SMC and 82.02 RCW. Fees were authorized in 2008 and are intended to pay for new park development to serve growth, consistent with GMA requirements. Future parks identified in this plan and the CIP will receive much of their development funding through the impact fee program. Future park development will be dependent on growth for need, prioritization, and funding.

## **General Fund**

It is anticipated that much of the work identified in the CIP will likely be funded through general fund revenues. Funds will be allocated to the replacement program through the City's biennial budget process, supplemented with impact fees where appropriate, and the balance will be funded through grant programs when a project is eligible.

## **Grant Funding**

The City will actively pursue grant programs to fund projects identified in the CIP. Some of the grants that have been preliminarily identified as appropriate for these projects are from the federal government, state of Washington, and Snohomish County, listed below.

- DNR Community Forestry Program
- RCO Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities
- RCO WA Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative
- RCO Youth Athletic Facilities
- RCO Boating Infrastructure
- USDA Community Facilities
- DAHP Heritage Capital Projects
- Snohomish County Conservation District Habitat Restoration

## References

- City of Snohomish (2015). 2015-2035 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long Range Plan. <http://snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2242>
- City of Snohomish (2022). Comprehensive Plan. <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2353/City-of-Snohomish-Comprehensive-Plan>
- City of Snohomish (2022). Housing Assessment and Gap Analysis. <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7885/Housing-Assessment-and-Gap-Analysis>
- City Parks Alliance (2023). Why City Parks Matter. <https://cityparksalliance.org/about-us/why-city-parks-matter/>
- Derr, Chawla, & Mintzer (2018). Placemaking with Children and Youth. New Village Press, NY.
- ESRI (2014). Crows Don't Walk: Mapping realistic walksheds in Denver. ArcNews. <https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/arcnews/crows-dont-walk/>
- National Recreation and Park Association (2023). <https://nrpa.org/>
- Office of Financial Management (2023). State of Washington.
- Recreation and Conservation Office (2021). Planning Guidelines.
- Trust for Public Land. (2023). The Health Benefits of Parks. <https://www.tpl.org/>
- U.S. Census Bureau (2020). Decennial Census.