

# RPOS PLAN

City of Mountlake Terrace

## RECREATION, PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN 2022-2027



**WELL-CONNECTED, VIBRANT,  
& REGIONALLY IMPORTANT**

---

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **MOUNTLAKE TERRACE CITY COUNCIL**

Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor, Position 4

Doug McCardle, Mayor Pro Tem, Position 3

Rick Ryan, Councilmember, Position 1

Steve Woodard, Councilmember, Position 2

Bryan Wahl, Councilmember, Position 5

Laura Sonmore, Councilmember, Position 6

Erin Murray, Councilmember, Position 7

## **RECREATION & PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Don Enochs, Chair

Noah Knodle, Vice Chair

Amelia Anthony

Keith Edholm

Billy McKeever

Audrey Meyer

Alana Niemi

## **CITY STAFF**

Scott Hugill, City Manager

Jeff Betz, Recreation & Parks Director

Renee Norton, Support Services Supervisor

Rose Ploeg, Aquatics Supervisor

Ken Courtmanch, Parks & Facilities Superintendent

Kevin Witte, Recreation Supervisor

## **PROJECT CONSULTANTS**

Conservation Technix, Inc.

MacLeod Reckord PLLC

Stepherson & Associates Communications

Ballard\*King & Associates

The 2022 Mountlake Terrace Recreation, Parks & Open Space Plan was adopted by City Council on January 18, 2022, via Ordinance #2802.

---

# CONTENTS

## 1 INTRODUCTION

**8 COMMUNITY PROFILE**  
provides an overview of the City of Mountlake Terrace and its demographics.

**14 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
highlights the methods used to connect with and listen to the Mountlake Terrace community.

**19 GOALS & OBJECTIVES**  
provides a policy framework for the recreation and parks system grouped by major functional or program area.

**26 CLASSIFICATIONS & INVENTORY**  
describes the existing recreation and park system.

**50 RECREATION**  
describes community feedback, trends, local needs and potential improvements for recreation services, facilities and special events.

**63 PARKS & OPEN SPACE**  
describes inventory, community feedback, trends, local needs and potential improvements for park and open space properties.

**87 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**  
describes the site master plan.

**91 TRAILS & PATHWAYS**  
describes community feedback, local interests and potential improvements for the recreational trail network.

**98 CAPITAL PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION**  
describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan.



---

# BUILDING A STRONG, HEALTHY & RESILIENT MOUNTLAKE TERRACE



# 1. INTRODUCTION

*Mountlake Terrace's Recreation, Parks and Open Space system is well-connected, vibrant, and regionally important, and encourages interaction and understanding amongst its residents.*

This 2021 Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan, or RPOS for short, reflects the city's vision of a vibrant community that responds to the needs and desires of its residents and visitors for fun, healthy, exciting and diverse activities in an award-winning Recreation and Parks system.

## PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This RPOS Plan is intended to guide the community's efforts through 2027 and beyond. It considers the recreation and park needs of residents citywide whose input was gathered through broad community engagement efforts. Based on an extensive assessment of community needs, the Plan provides a blueprint for the growth, enhancement and management of Mountlake Terrace's recreation and park system.

The 2021 Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan is designed to:

- Provide an opportunity for the community of Mountlake Terrace to express their recreational interests and their vision for the City's recreation and park system.
- Provide updated inventories, demographic conditions, and needs analyses that reflect the current state of the City and its recreation and park system.
- Establish specific goals, objectives, recommendations and actions for developing, conserving and maintaining high-quality recreation facilities and programs, parks and open spaces across the City.
- Guide City elected officials, the Recreation and Park Advisory Commission, staff and residents when making decisions or taking actions regarding planning,







acquiring, developing or implementing recreation, park and open space facilities and programs.

- Meet the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act, as well as eligibility requirements for state and local funding and grant programs.

This plan updates and builds on Mountlake Terrace's 2015 Recreation, Parks and Open Space (RPOS) Master Plan. Mountlake Terrace has experienced significant changes since the adoption of the 2015 RPOS Plan – the city has grown by over 1,000 residents and is now home to a more diverse, slightly younger, more educated and wealthier community. This 2021 RPOS update has been revised to reflect current community interests and opportunities.

The RPOS Plan is part of the City's broader Comprehensive Plan and is

consistent with the guidelines established by Washington's Growth Management Act. The RPOS Plan must be updated every six years for the City to retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which administers a variety of outdoor recreation and conservation grant programs.

## PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

In 2020, the City of Mountlake Terrace began developing a comprehensive and visionary Recreation, Parks & Open Space Plan (RPOS) to guide the development and acquisition of new recreation facilities, parks and open spaces, as well as the renovation of existing facilities over the next twenty years.

Public input is important to make sure the goals and priorities identified in the

RPOS Plan are consistent with community interests. The City hosted a series of public outreach efforts that included a random-sample mail-in survey, an online survey, focus groups, an online open house and other engagement. In addition to the public feedback gathered to understand community needs and priorities, the Recreation and Park Advisory Commission (RPAC) was heavily engaged in the preparation of the RPOS Plan. The RPAC shared their thoughts at six sessions during 2020 and 2021 on the current state of parks and recreation in Mountlake Terrace and provided guidance and direction on ideas for key projects and policy considerations.

A review of the existing park inventory became the basis for determining the current performance of the system and for identifying needed maintenance and capital repair projects. An overarching analysis was conducted for parks, trails and natural areas to assess current needs and project future demand to account for population growth and shifting demographics. The Plan's capital facilities section, and accompanying implementation and funding strategies, were then developed to guide the City toward the community's recreation and park goals, while recognizing operational realities.

This resulting RPOS Plan reflects the community's interests and needs for recreation and park facilities, trails and outdoor recreation - balanced with the realities of budgets.



## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Mountlake Terrace Recreation & Parks Department manages 293 acres of parks and open spaces that provide an array of recreational opportunities – ranging from organized sports and playgrounds to disc golf, lake activities and wildlife viewing. The City also hosts a variety of youth, teen and adult recreation programs at the City's Recreation Pavilion and other facilities. Mountlake Terrace Recreation & Parks is an award-winning department that has captured local and national honors in the Pacific Northwest for many years.

Three City divisions play critical roles in the development, management and maintenance of the City's recreation and park system:

### PARKS SERVICES DIVISION

Parks Services is responsible for maintaining and improving 293 acres of property in playgrounds, parks, open space, athletic fields, forested areas, the lake, trails and building grounds. As the steward of these valuable community assets, the City sustainably maintains these properties to protect the public investment and to provide safe, accessible parks, open space and trails. Park properties include: Ballinger Park, Evergreen Playfield Complex,

Firefighters Memorial Park, Forest Crest Playfield, Matt Hirvelä Bicentennial Park, Terrace Creek Park, Jack Long Park, Terrace Ridge Park, Veterans Memorial Park and the Interurban Trail.

### RECREATION PROGRAMS DIVISION

Recreation Programs provide the community with a wide array of quality leisure activities and events that encourage and promote positive and healthy lifestyles for all ages and abilities. Supported primarily through user fees, the Recreation Program fund supports aquatics, athletics/fitness, youth and general recreation programs. Year-round programs and activities offered include swim lessons, public swims, dance, preschool, youth camps, fitness, indoor playground, sport leagues, open gym, facility rentals and community events. Major recreation facilities include the Recreation Pavilion, Evergreen Playfield, Ballinger Playfield, Forest Crest Playfield and the Terrace Park School Gymnasium.

### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Property Management is responsible for the maintenance and operations of all city buildings and structures including custodial services, security systems, heating, cooling and ventilation, mechanical and



electrical systems, plumbing and roof repairs, carpentry and minor building modifications, as well as the monitoring and maintenance of a 160,000-gallon municipal pool. These facilities include City Hall, Police Station, Fire Station 19, Operations Facility, Recreation Pavilion, Mickey Corso Community Clubhouse, Park Facilities, Snohomish County 911 and the Library.

### RECREATION AND PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION (RPAC)

The RPAC promotes the use of recreation facilities and programs, participates in city-wide special events and volunteer park projects, including playground installations, park clean-up activities, maintaining communication with subcommittees, including reviewing recommendations from the Neighborhood Parks Improvement Subcommittee and other related volunteer organizations providing recreation services within the community. Major projects include updating the RPOS Plan as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan and making recommendations on these projects to the City Council.

### RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 2015 RPOS Plan has been a strong guide for City officials, management and staff in making decisions about planning, acquiring, developing and implementing recreation program, facility and park improvements. The following represents a short list of the accomplishments realized following the adoption of the previous plan.

- Completed the design for Gateway Plaza with construction planned in 2023-24.
- Designed and constructed artificial turf soccer field at Evergreen Playfield Complex.
- Purchased 1.78 acres of natural areas adjacent to Terrace Creek Park and completed planning for the Terrace Creek Trail connection to connect to the Recreation Pavilion/Evergreen Playfield Complex.
- Designed and constructed the Jerry Smith Town Center Plaza.
- Developed Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan.
- Implemented the Ballinger Park Master Plan, including construction of the planned waterfront amenities and universally accessible playground.
- Supported a recreation program that served 300,000 people annually, pre-COVID.
- Scheduled approximately 6,000 sport field hours to accommodate youth and adult outdoor sports organizations and City recreational programs.
- Constructed the Bicentennial Park pathway.
- Provided ongoing support for community special events including Independence Day Celebration, Tour de Terrace, National Night Out, Arts of the Terrace and Tree Lighting Ceremony.
- Increased volunteerism through the new Adopt a Park program by utilizing non-profit groups such as Boy and Girl Scouts of America, MTYAA and the Mountlake Terrace Garden Club, and sponsoring volunteer events such as the Arbor Day/Earth Day Cleanup in April and National Day of Service in September.





*"The offerings at the Recreation Pavilion are super! But it's very hard to get into the swim classes. There are no parks in the northwest section of MLT – wish we had a playground in that area!"*

*- Community survey respondent*



## CURRENT CHALLENGES

### IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated health mandates for social distancing have transformed the way municipalities plan for and conduct public engagement. To develop this Plan, the City implemented a sound public process that was compliant with health mandates by using a range of online tools for communications, engagement and community feedback. Health mandates related to the pandemic also have had dramatic impacts on the City's recreation programming and operations and may influence how the City provides recreational opportunities in the future. For example, the City has been able to re-open the Pavilion with limited capacity through a reservation system. It also now provides an array of virtual recreation programs and has expanded outdoor activities. The Kid Krew Child Care program has taken on an enhanced educational role assisting participants with distance learning curriculum. These shifts have allowed the City to continue to provide critical recreation and park services during a challenging time. Though unanticipated, they may also position the City to offer a wider array of more accessible recreation opportunities in the future.

### GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

While Mountlake Terrace has seen only moderate population growth over the past two decades, the development of a new light rail transit line with a stop in the Town Center will likely spur increased development demand. More residents and higher density development will increase the need for recreation opportunities in the City and mean existing parks will see more visitors each year. The City will need to be creative to find ways to meet growing recreational demand, as it cannot expand its boundaries and has limited options for purchasing additional parkland. For example, the City might pursue opportunities to add new amenities to existing parks, improve recreation amenities to handle more use and adapt to emerging needs, preserve and restore natural areas, and build partnerships with other local providers.

### ASSET MANAGEMENT

Established recreation and park systems require ongoing maintenance in order to safely and effectively serve the community. Public recreation providers across the country consider maintaining existing park facilities to be a key management issue. Poorly maintained assets – from benches to playgrounds to pools – can fail, either structurally or operationally, posing safety risks and reducing their recreational value. Aging infrastructure may also fail to meet community expectations or need capital upgrades to adapt to changing community needs. However, recreation providers often struggle to establish adequate funding mechanisms for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities, as well as the major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life. This Plan includes a condition assessments of City parks to provide a baseline of current conditions that then informs facility, maintenance and operations policies and improvements. Proper maintenance of recreation assets will prevent deterioration thereby reducing long-term capital and operating costs, maintaining safety, improving public perception and increasing community use.

### EQUITY, ACCESS & ACCESSIBILITY

With the intent to provide a balanced suite of recreation experiences across the City, there is a need to review levels of service in support of a robust system of recreation, parks, trails and natural areas that enhances social equity across programs and facilities. The City must continue to find ways to provide complete and safe access to recreation facilities and parks and strive to ensure that all residents have equitable access to recreational resources and services, while balancing the financial and operational capacity of the Recreation & Parks Department.

## GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for recreation, parks and trail opportunities in Mountlake Terrace. The development of each plan or study involved public input and adoption by their respective responsible legislative body.

### RECREATION, PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan (RPOS) adopted in 2015 provided direction and updates from the previous 2009 RPOS. Park standards were modified to reflect community and land uses changes. The RPOS acknowledged that the need for park land would grow as the population increases and be more difficult to acquire. The plan identified an aging park infrastructure that could not stand up to the increasing levels of use. Sports field conditions and the need for additional sports courts were identified. The existing trails and pathways were noted as needing more access and amenities to allow for varied experiences and better connections throughout the community. The limitations of the aging Recreation Pavilion were called out with the stated demand for more space and design flexibility. The RPOS vision for Mountlake Terrace states “Mountlake Terrace’s Recreation, Parks and Open Space system is well-connected, vibrant, and regionally important, and encourages interaction and understanding amongst its residents.” The RPOS recommendations for park facilities included improving sports fields, upgrading access to key trails and redeveloping the Recreation Pavilion. Recommendations for new parks centered on the Town Center Plan and new facilities at the Civic Center Campus.

### CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The City’s Comprehensive Plan was updated in 2015 to reflect the vision for development and conservation for the next 20 years. The comprehensive plan contains

a park and recreation element (updated in 2017) that illustrates how recreation, parks and open space are a critical part of a healthy community. The capital facilities plan addresses specific parks and recreation improvement projects while further support comes within the Community Values statement that firmly avows walkability (trails), the natural environment and recreation. The 2015 RPOS Master Plan and its 2016 supplement was adopted in full to be an element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan. The plan presents the future park land acquisition needs as well as existing and future levels of service for park land provision. The 2016 RPOS supplement identified a prioritized focus on the implementation of two key projects in Mountlake Terrace – the Civic Center Campus redevelopment and Town Center Plan implementation – as both projects include recreation and park facilities. Several park master plans, acquisition of public park land in underserved neighborhoods and capital improvement funding were also identified.

### A VISION FOR THE MOUNTLAKE TERRACE TOWN CENTER

Among the guiding principles for the town center design/development relative to open space and environment included:

- Design open spaces, walkways and gathering spaces that promote community interaction for people of all ages within the town center
- Create active uses outdoors in the town center, including a water feature

An objective for guiding the development of the town center includes creating an outdoor plaza with distinctive features that offer gathering places for people and enhance the special character of the town center. The public plaza was targeted for the town center district (the most dense & pedestrian friendly) where retail, coffee shops and restaurants were the predominant street level uses. The central plaza or park complete with fountain would provide a key public open space as an attractive landmark for the town center.

Among the key objectives for the town center was encouraging a healthy “green” environment that includes open spaces and landscaping. The town center vision also recognized the importance of emphasizing the nearby amenities of Veterans Memorial Park and the Recreation Pavilion. The plan provided for establishing significant pedestrian connections, recognizing the value of Veterans Memorial Park as a unique amenity by strengthening its existing northeast-southwest path.

### CIVIC FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

An Advisory Task Force appointed by the City Council examined the needs of the aging public facilities with an architectural consultant. The Task Force recommended the redevelopment of the Civic Campus to include a new community/senior center, outdoor amphitheater, farmer’s market space, a public plaza (with a water feature) and a public green area connecting with Veterans Memorial Park. Building a new Recreation Pavilion was recommended to double its current capacity and provide for growing demands for indoor recreation features. The development of a long-range business plan was suggested prior to finalization of the future Pavilion design.

### ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGIC PLAN

The City’s first Arts & Culture Strategic Plan outlines a framework for promoting arts and culture in Mountlake Terrace to improve coordination and consistency to the growth and enhancement of the arts citywide. Multiple planning efforts in the city have identified arts & culture as a community value. These related city plans have policies in place to foster a rich arts environment. One plan recommendation proposes expanding the existing arts and culture programming offered by the Recreation and Parks Department. Another recommendation focuses on the development of a dedicated outdoor performance space to host plays and/or concerts. This new space could be incorporated into the development of the Town Center and Civic Campus. The

plan identifies the City's role in building partnerships and networks within the local arts community. The plan encourages identifying new ways to integrate arts and culture in to the fabric of the city. To effectively promote arts and culture, the two major issues to consider are coordination and programming space.

### TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

The adopted Transportation Plan identifies the comprehensive needs for motorized and non-motorized connections across the city. The plan proposes some targeted street connections that would increase access to the Recreation Pavilion and parking areas for sports fields as well as direct access to Terrace Park Elementary School. This proposed street connection would link pedestrians and bicyclists across the northern tip of Terrace Creek Park. The sidewalk plan prioritizes improvements that would increase connectivity to community facilities such as schools, parks and trails. The bicycle and pedestrian plan includes a future trail across Lakeview Drive that would connect to the Interurban Trail.



*"A splash pad would be a fantastic addition to the City's park system! Also, better facilities for securing bikes at the parks. Bike racks should be available at all parks to encourage use from a wider area of MLT."*

*- Online open house respondent*

### PLAN CONTENTS

The remainder of this Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan is organized as follows:

- **Chapter 2: Community Profile** – provides an overview of the City of Mountlake Terrace and its demographics.
- **Chapter 3: Community Listening** – highlights the methods used to engage the Mountlake Terrace community in the development of the Plan.
- **Chapter 4: Goals & Objectives** – provides a policy framework for the recreation and parks system grouped by major functional or program area.
- **Chapter 5: Classifications & Inventory** – describes the existing recreation and park system.
- **Chapter 6: Recreation** – describes community feedback, trends, local needs and potential improvements for recreation services, facilities and special events.
- **Chapters 7: Parks & Open Space** – describes inventory and classifications, community feedback, trends, local needs and potential improvements for park and open space properties.
- **Chapters 8: Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan** – highlights the site master planning process for Veterans Memorial Park and illustrates the preferred site master plan.
- **Chapter 9: Trails** – describes community feedback, local interests and potential improvements for the recreational trail network.
- **Chapter 10: Projects & Implementation Strategies** – describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan and details a 10-year program for addressing park and facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- **Appendices:** Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes a summary of the community survey, stakeholder notes, funding options, among others.



# 2. COMMUNITY PROFILE

*This wonderful community with big mountain views is known for parks, trails, and first-class schools.*



**M**ountlake Terrace is a city of approximately 21,660 residents located in Snohomish County, Washington, about 13 miles north of Seattle. The city sits on a plateau with views of the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges. Divided by Interstate 5, the city is bordered by the cities of Brier to the west, Lynnwood to the north, Edmonds to the east and unincorporated King County to the south. Lake Ballinger lies in the southwest corner of the city, providing recreational opportunities on its over 100-acres of water and adjoining parkland. The city features a mix of single family neighborhoods, multi-family complexes and a few commercial areas.

Mountlake Terrace is convenient to many Seattle-area destinations, reachable by highway and three regional transit lines. In 2024, Sound Transit plans to open a new light rail station in the city. Once open, the light rail line will connect city residents to Lynnwood to the north and to the University of Washington and downtown Seattle to the south, as well as countless destinations across the region.

## **HISTORY**

The region including and surrounding Mountlake Terrace was originally inhabited by the Snohomish people, who settled along the Puget Sound and Snohomish River and hunted, fished

and trapped in inland forests. The City of Mountlake Terrace began with the development of an affordable community of single-family homes in the early 1950s, intended for veterans of World War II. Driven by a need for improved utility services, the City of Mountlake Terrace incorporated in 1954. The city began expanding through annexation and experienced significant growth in the 1960s, with the completion of Interstate 5. This period also saw the establishment of city facilities, including the original City Hall, fire and police stations, and recreation spaces. In more recent decades, the city has seen growth in multi-family and commercial development, as well as the relocation of the Premera/Blue Cross

headquarters to the City, which is now the city's largest employer.

#### **ECONOMY**

Mountlake Terrace's economy centers on the health care and education industry, as well as professional services and retail trade. Approximately seven in ten residents over 18 are employed and the remaining 30% are out of the work force, with 2.5% unemployed. Approximately 26% of residents work in health care and education and 14% work in professional, scientific or management industries. At approximately \$72,955, the median household income in the City is nearly \$14,000 lower than that of surrounding Snohomish County

*"MLT community should reflect the community culture as a whole, some diversity to meet all community desires. I would really love to see language classes offered. Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish... whatever non-English communities are prevalent here."*

*- Community survey respondent*





## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Today, Mountlake Terrace is home to many adults aged 25 to 44 and a growing number of families with children, who enjoy the recreational opportunities provided by the city’s parks and open spaces. While the city’s residents predominately identify as white (67%), 14% identify as Asian and 7.5% as Black or African American, and 11% as Hispanic

or Latino. More than one in four residents (28%) speak a language other than English at home. The city’s residents are well educated, although they generally have slightly lower incomes than other county residents. The City’s population has been relatively flat in recent years and is expected to grow modestly over the coming decades.

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: Mountlake Terrace, Snohomish County and Washington Population

Demographics	Mountlake Terrace	Snohomish County	Washington
<b>Population Characteristics</b>			
Population (2020)	21,660	830,500	7,656,200
Population (2010)	19,909	715,507	6,724,540
Population (2000)	20,362	609,093	5,894,121
Percent Change (2000-19)	6.4%	36.4%	29.9%
Persons w/ Disabilities under age 65	11.3%	11.8%	12.7%
<b>Household Characteristics (2015-19)</b>			
Households	8,557	293,823	2,848,396
Percent with children	29.8%	33.7%	30.6%
Median Household Income	\$72,955	\$86,691	\$73,775
Average Household Size	2.46	2.68	2.55
Average Family Size	2.97	3.16	3.09
Owner Occupancy Rate	53.5%	67.1%	63.0%
<b>Age Groups (2015-19)</b>			
Median Age	37.3	38	37.7
Population < 5 years of age	5.6%	6.3%	6.1%
Population < 18 years of age	19.9%	22.7%	22.2%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	67.5%	64.2%	62.7%
Population > 65 years of age	12.6%	13.1%	15.1%

Sources: Washington Office of Financial Management Population Estimates, 2020  
U.S. Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, 2015-2019 American Community Survey

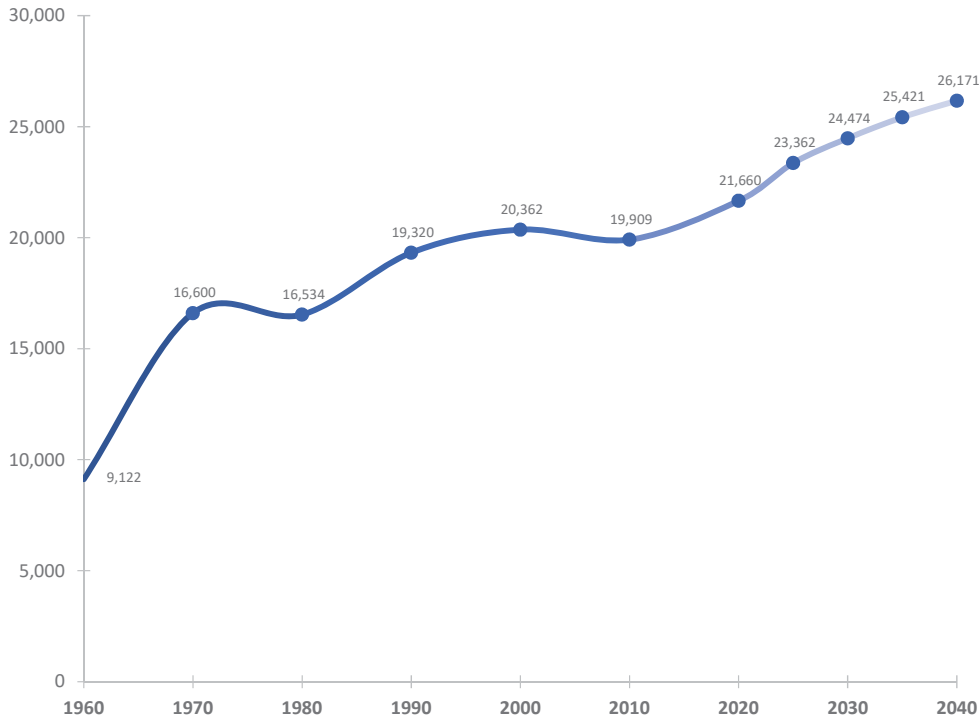
After incorporation in 1954, Mountlake Terrace grew steadily for the next five years through annexation and population growth, reaching about 9,000 residents in 1960. The completion of the Interstate 5 highway, and commercial and industrial expansion in the area, spurred significant

population growth in the 1960s, which brought the population to 16,600 by 1970. Since then, the city’s population has expanded to 21,660 (2020 OFM estimate), see Figure 2. The city has grown by about 6.4%, or approximately 0.3% annually, since 2000.

The Puget Sound Regional Council projects that Mountlake Terrace will grow to 24,474 people by 2030 and 26,171 people by 2040, which is equivalent to about 1% annual growth.



Figure 2. Population Change – Actual and Projected: 1960 – 2040



Sources: U.S. Census, Puget Sound Regional Council

## AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, Mountlake Terrace’s population has a median age of 37.3. Adults between 25 to 44 years old make up the city’s largest 20-year population group, comprising 33% of the overall population in 2019. This has important implications for park and recreation needs.

- Adults ages 25 to 34 years are users of adult programs. About 19% of residents are in this age category, see Figure 3. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families. More than 30% of households in the city are families with children.
- Adults between 35 and 54 years of age represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This age group makes up 27% of Mountlake Terrace’s population.

- Older adults, ages 55 years plus, make up approximately 27% of Mountlake Terrace’s population. This group represents users of adult and senior programs. These residents may be approaching retirement or already retired and may be spending time with grandchildren. This group also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

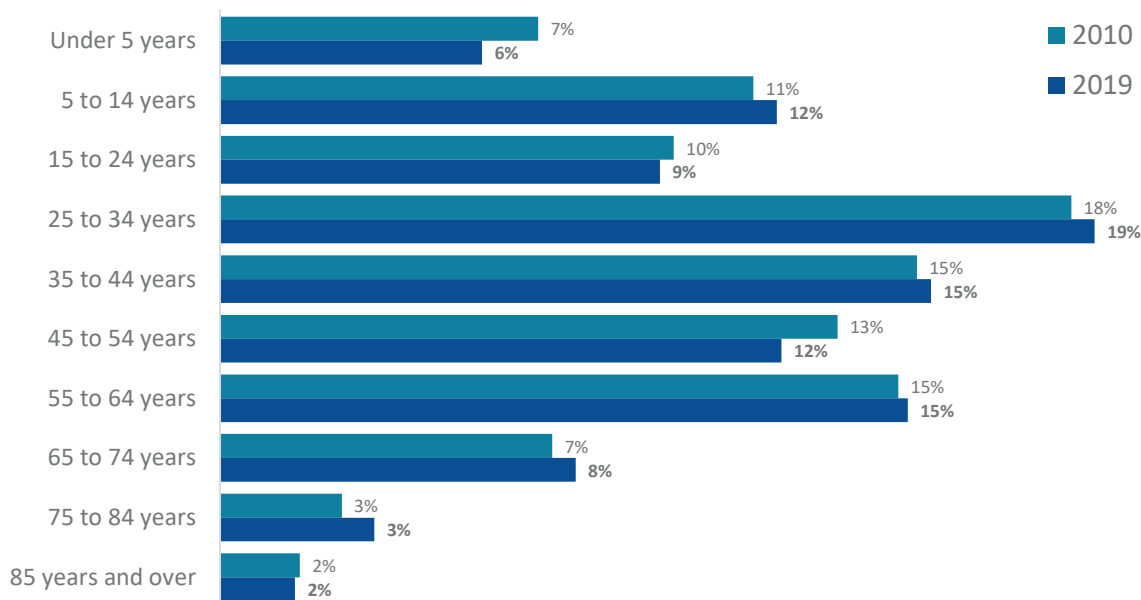
While approximately 73% of Mountlake Terrace’s residents are adults over 25 years of age, 27% are youth and young adults.

- Youth under 5 years of age make up 6% of Mountlake Terrace’s population. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- Children 5 to 14 years make up current youth program participants. Approximately 12% of the city’s population falls into this age range.

- Teens and young adults, age 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth program to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. About 9% percent of Mountlake Terrace’s residents are teens and young adults.

The city’s median age (37.3) has remained relatively constant over the past decade and is on par with that of Snohomish County (38.0) and Washington (37.7).

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2010 & 2019



### RACE AND ETHNICITY

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, 66.8% of the population of Mountlake Terrace identified as White. Nearly 14% of residents identified as Asian, including 4% as Vietnamese, 3% as Chinese, 2.5% as Filipino, 1% as Korean. About one in thirteen residents identified as Black or African American (7.5%), while few residents identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (1%) or American Indian or Alaskan Native (0.5%) alone. Approximately 7% of residents identified as two or more races and 4% identified as a race not listed in the American Community Survey options. About one in every nine residents (10.6%) identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race, with 6% identifying as Mexican.

In 2019, nearly one in four residents (24%) were born outside the United States, though most of these residents have lived in the U.S. for more than a decade. Approximately 28% of residents speak a language other than English at home and 9% speak English less than very well. Approximately one-third of residents who speak Asian languages or Spanish at home also speak English less than very well. The City should consider how it could

best provide recreational opportunities, programs and information that are accessible to, and meet the needs of, all community members.

### PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The 2019 American Community Survey reported 11% (2,387 persons) of Mountlake Terrace’s population as having a disability that interferes with life activities. This is lower than county and state averages (11.8% and 12.7% respectively). Approximately 3% of youth under 18 years of age, 10% of adults 18 to 64, and 34% of residents over age 65 live with a disability, signaling a potential need to design inclusive parks, recreational facilities and programs. Planning, designing, and operating a park system that facilitates participation by residents of all abilities will also help ensure compliance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

In 2019, the average household in Mountlake Terrace was 2.46 people, lower than the state average (2.55). The average family is larger, at 2.97 people. Of the 8,557 households in the city, 30% were families with children under 18, and 27% were individuals living alone.

### EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

The 2019 work force population (16 years and over) of Mountlake Terrace is 17,388 (82%). Of this population, seventy percent is in the labor force, 2.5% is unemployed, and 30.5% is not in the labor force. In 2019, the City’s unemployment rate was just 3.6%, lower than county (4.1%) and statewide (5%) rates. However, the COVID-19 emergency and related business closures has caused a recession with deep impacts to business earnings and viability, consumer confidence, and unemployment rates – in addition to significant health and social impacts to local residents. The near and long-term economic impacts of this crisis have yet to be fully determined.

In 2019, nearly 26% of Mountlake Terrace’s employed residents worked in the education and health care industry, whose major employers include Premera/Blue Cross and the Edmonds School District. Professional and scientific industries, retail trade, and the arts, entertainment, recreation and hospitality sectors also employ a large percentage of local workers and (14%, 12%, and 10%, respectively) and contribute significantly to the local economy.

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, 93.7% of City residents over the age of 25 have a high school degree or higher, slightly higher than the statewide average (91%). More than one in three Mountlake Terrace residents (36%) have a Bachelor's degree or higher, on par with statewide rates.

### INCOME & POVERTY

A community's level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members as well as their willingness and ability to pay for recreational services. In 2019, the median household income in Mountlake Terrace was \$72,955. This income level was about \$13,700 (16%) lower than the median income for Snohomish County households.

Higher income households have an increased ability and willingness to pay for recreation and leisure services and often face fewer barriers to participation. Approximately 36% of Mountlake Terrace households have household incomes in the higher income brackets (\$100,000 and greater), fewer than the county average (51%).

Lower-income residents can face a number of barriers to physical activity including poor access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time and poor health. Lower-income residents may also be less able financially able to afford recreational service fees or to pay for services, such as childcare, that can make physical activity possible. In Mountlake Terrace, 10% of households earn less than \$25,000 annually, and 6.7% of local families live below the poverty level (\$25,750 for a family of four), which is on par with county rates. Poverty affects 9% of youth under 18 and 6% of those 65 and older.

### CONSUMER SPENDING

The U.S. Department of Labor Statistics collects data on consumer spending each year by region and metropolitan statistical area (MSA). Mountlake Terrace belongs to the Seattle MSA. For the 2018-19 year, households in the Seattle MSA spent approximately 25% of their household income on housing, including mortgage/rental costs, utilities and maintenance. Residents spent approximately 10% of household income on each of transportation (including vehicle payments, gas, maintenance, and public transportation), insurance and pensions (including social security), and food (roughly evenly split between food at home and away). Households also spent income on healthcare (4%), entertainment (4%), apparel and services (3%) and education (2%). On average, households spent less than 2% of income on alcohol, tobacco and personal care.

### HEALTH STATUS

Information on the health of Mountlake Terrace's residents is not readily available. However, Snohomish County residents rank as some of the healthier residents in Washington (7th out of 39 counties), according to the County Health Rankings.

In Snohomish County, 86% of residents have access to adequate physical activity opportunities, which is equivalent to the average for all Washington residents. This suggests that the County has a reasonable number of places where residents can participate in physical activity, including parks, trails, and public or private community centers, gyms or other recreational facilities. Approximately 18% of Snohomish County adults age 20 and older report getting no leisure-time physical activity – a rate on par with the statewide average of 17% and equivalent to top performing counties nationwide. Approximately 29% of Snohomish County adults are overweight or obese, compared to 28% of Washington adults.

According to the County Health Rankings, Snohomish County ranks highly (7th of 39 counties) compared to all Washington counties for health outcomes, including length and quality of life, as well as for health factors like health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and the physical environment (4th of 39 counties).





CITY OF MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

Select Language

# Mountlake Terrace Park Planning

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE: APRIL 7-28, 2021

MENU

**Welcome to the Online Open House for the Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan and the Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan!**

The City of Mountlake Terrace is proud of its 19 parks and open spaces, from the 0.9-acre Fire Fighters Memorial Park, to neighborhood parks and sport fields, to the 55-acre Ballinger Park. The Recreation Pavilion has been a center for aquatics and recreation programming for thousands of patrons over the years, and the city is linked to the region's trail network, including access to the Interurban Trail.

As the area grows, the City needs to plan for the future of its parks and open spaces. The plans presented in this online open house will guide future park and recreation improvements for the next 20 years.



The purpose of this online open house is to provide a chance for you to:

- Learn more about the Mountlake Terrace Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan and the Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan.
- Share what's important to you and give feedback.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City is hosting this online open house in lieu of an in-person event.

**How to use this online open house**

There are two ways to advance through this open house:

1. Scroll down to read each page, then click the "Next Page" button at the bottom of the page.
2. Select the tab you want at the top.

Within this online open house, you will be able to give feedback through survey questions. The online open house and survey will take only a few minutes to complete.

Thank you for your participation!

## Project description

The City of Mountlake Terrace is updating its Recreation, Parks and Open Space (RPOS) Plan to establish long-term goals and priorities for park acquisition, development, and operations that reflect current community interests.

The following questions guided development of the RPOS Plan:

- How do we meet community needs now and into the future?
- What are our strengths? And what are key areas for improvement?
- Where should we focus our efforts and resources?

## Funding, planning and accomplishments

An updated RPOS Plan is required for the City to be eligible for state grants and funding opportunities, which make it possible for the City to maintain and improve the recreation and park system. In recent years, with the support of over \$13 million in state and regional grants, the City has accomplished the following:

- Operated and maintained 269 acres of park property, including neighborhood parks, sport fields, trails, and the Recreation Pavilion.
- Supported a recreation program that served 300,000 people annually, pre-COVID.
- Scheduled approximately 6,000 sport field hours to accommodate youth and adult outdoor sports organizations and...

## Existing res...

Mountlake Terrace

**LEGEND**

- City limits
- City parks
- City natural areas
- Interurban Trail
- Golf course
- Homeowner Association
- Public schools
- School district property

# 3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

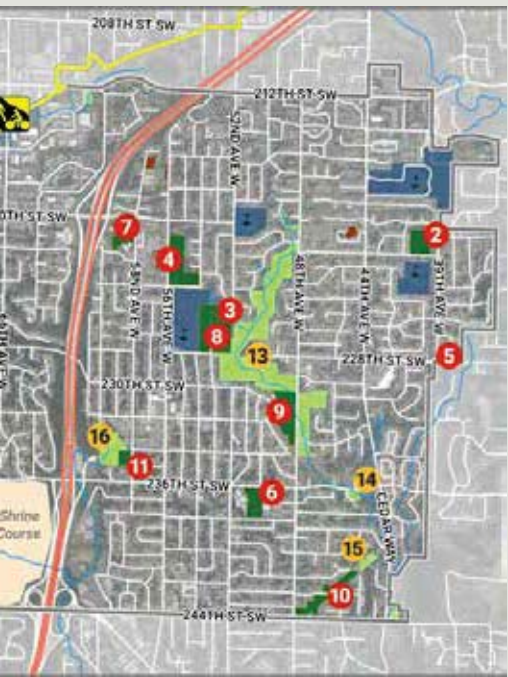
*Over 1,900 community members participated in the park system planning process.*

Community engagement played an important role in establishing a clear planning framework that reflects current community priorities. Although the planning process occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous efforts were made to connect with the community, seek their input and provide information about the project. Public outreach methods were varied and extensive, including:

- Meetings with Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission and City Council
- Five topic-oriented focus group discussions
- Three community-wide surveys
- A teen-focused survey
- Online open house for general public participation
- Mountlake Terrace newsletter, website and social media with plan information and contact opportunities

## Resources

### Terrace Park Resources




Click image to enlarge.

#### MAP LABELS

- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Ballinger Park              | 10 Terrace Ridge Park                |
| 2 Bicentennial Park           | 11 Veterans Memorial Park            |
| 3 Dog Park                    | 12 Montesa Open Space                |
| 4 Evergreen Playfield         | 13 Terrace Creek Natural Area        |
| 5 Fire Fighters Memorial Park | 14 Terrace Creek Overlook Open Space |
| 6 Forest Crest Playfield      | 15 Terrace Ridge Natural Area        |
| 7 Jack Long Park              | 16 Veterans Memorial Natural Area    |
| 8 Recreation Pavilion         |                                      |
| 9 Terrace Creek Park          |                                      |

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

A community-wide, mail and online survey was conducted to assess the recreational needs and priorities of Moutlake Terrace residents in late 2020. The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within the boundaries of the City of Moutlake Terrace on October 6, 2019. An online version of the same survey was posted to the City website a few later to allow the mail recipients to receive first notice about the survey. The online survey was available in English and Spanish. Overall, 497 responses were completed from the random sample mail survey (19.9% response rate), and 548 responses were captured via the online survey (545 in English and 3 in Spanish) for a total of 1,045 responses.

 City of Moutlake Terrace Government  
April 21 at 9:12 AM · 🌐

Please provide input at our online open house for Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan and our overall Recreation, Parks & Open Space Master Plan. We want your thoughts and ideas!  
<https://www.cityofmtr.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=937>

The survey measured current levels of satisfaction and which facilities were more used by residents. Residents were asked about future improvements and the types of recreational amenities they would like to see considered for the recreation system. Survey respondents were asked about:

- Performance and quality of programs and parks
- Usage of City parks and recreation facilities
- Overall satisfaction with the value of services being delivered by the City
- Opinions about the need for various park, recreation and trail improvements
- Priorities for future park and recreation services and facilities

## COVID-SENSITIVE ENGAGEMENT

The RPOS Plan update utilized a range of methods to engage with and listen to the Moutlake Terrace community.

Major survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the needs assessment chapters covering recreation, parks and trails (Chapters 4 - 6).

### MAJOR FINDINGS

- **Livability:** Nearly all respondents (97%) feel that public recreation and parks opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life on Mountlake Terrace.
- **Overall Satisfaction:** A large majority (92%) of respondents indicated that they are somewhat to very satisfied with the value they receive from Mountlake Terrace Recreation & Parks for parks, facilities and open space.
- **Usage:** Visitation is high, with nearly half (49%) of respondents visiting at least once a week and another 27% visiting one to three times per month.
- **Park Amenity Priorities:** Nearly all respondents (90% or more) are very or somewhat supportive of adding walking and biking trails and picnic areas and shelters. More than three in four are supportive of developing more opportunities for nature and wildlife viewing (88%), all-inclusive playgrounds (85%), commuter trails (80%), and outdoor performance spaces (78%).
- **Programming:** Respondents indicated support for improvements and upgrades to the Recreation Pavilion, particularly the pool and fitness equipment. Respondents also expressed a greater interest in performing arts and in adult and senior education, fitness and enrichment classes than in activities geared towards youth or teens.

The complete survey summary is provided in Appendix A.

Frequency of Visitation (Mail & Online Surveys Combined)



### TEEN SURVEY

City of Mountlake Terrace staff developed a short, six question survey to explore the recreational interests of local teens. The online-only survey was promoted at Brier Terrace Middle School and Mountlake Terrace High School in December 2020. In all, 66 responses were collected. Two-thirds of teen respondents (65%) indicated an interest in a space to hang out.

Approximately two in five respondents noted an interest in additional sport courts (45%), a skateboard park (41%), sport fields (38%) and improvements to the pool (38%). Also, a majority of respondents (61%) indicated interest in movies in the park, and about half indicated interest in concerts in the park. A summary of survey findings is provided in Appendix B.

**REPLACE THE RECREATION PAVILION**  
Top Priority Major Improvement



**ACQUIRE LAND FOR FUTURE PARKS**  
Top Priority Park Investment

**SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY**  
Top Priority Program Area



**EXPAND WALKING & BIKING TRAILS**  
Top Rated Community Need



## VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK MASTER PLAN SURVEY

A new site master plan for Veterans Memorial Park was conducted in parallel with the RPOS Plan update, and an online survey specifically focused on Veterans Memorial Park was conducted in late 2020. The survey explored preferences and interests in site development options for the park, and the survey was open between November 9th and December 9th, 2020. In all, 249 survey responses were received, and this feedback guided the design of three preliminary concepts for the park.

### ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

The City hosted an online open house between April 7 and April 28, 2021 for feedback on the RPOS Plan and a site master plan for Veterans Memorial Park. The purpose of the online open house was to share information about the projects and what was heard from the community during previous outreach, and to gather input.

The online open house included 19 questions that addressed ideas and priorities for the City's recreation programs and park system, and design options for Veterans Memorial Park. The online open house was available in other languages through the Google Translate webpage extension. Many questions allowed respondents to select more than one answer or write in their response.

The City used multiple methods to reach audiences and promote the online open house. Yard signs were placed throughout the Mountlake Terrace park system and emails were sent to project partners, neighborhood organizations, and immediate project stakeholders. The online open house was also promoted on the project webpage, social media, and in the City Happenings newsletter.

During the three weeks of April, 472 individuals visited the online open house.

Each question received a different number of responses:

- 148 people responded to the RPOS survey.
- 33 people responded to the VMP survey.
- 48 people signed up to receive email updates.

## VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK MASTER PLAN DESIGN CONCEPTS SURVEY

In an attempt to solicit additional feedback on the design concepts for Veterans Memorial Park, an online survey was promoted through the City's website and social media platforms and was built from the same questions and graphics used in the online open house. The survey collected 48 additional responses, which were aggregated with those from the online open house.

The combined responses from the online open house and the extended survey indicate a slightly stronger preference toward Concept 3, which illustrated more development over other concepts. Respondents were also in favor of replacing the existing gazebo, installing a restroom and having longer trail segments for walking.

A summary of findings is incorporated into the site master plan summary report, which is provided in Appendix E.

## STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

COVID-sensitive, online focus group discussions with external stakeholder were conducted to more broadly assess local needs and opportunities for partnership and coordination. Stakeholders were identified by city staff based on their past coordination their involvement or interest in the future of recreation, park, athletic or trail facilities. The group-based discussion sessions were conducted via Zoom and occurred between early November 2020

and June 2021. Representatives from the following organizations participated:

- Sport User Groups
- Veterans Memorial Park
- Park & Trail Users Group
- Underrepresented Users Group

Summary meeting notes from each focus group session are provided in Appendix D.

## RECREATION & PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission provided guidance on the planning process and feedback on Plan components during five regularly scheduled public sessions. The first session occurred on September 9th immediately after the planning project was initiated. The Commission discussed the update and provided their perspectives on a vision for the system, specific challenges, opportunities and ideas about recreation programs and parks. A second session was held on February 10th to review preliminary concept layouts for Veterans Memorial Park. Subsequent sessions in May, July and September were used to review public feedback and solicit direction from the Commission on priorities and recommendations for the new RPOS Plan.

## OTHER OUTREACH

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities described above, the Mountlake Terrace community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media platforms. The following methods were used to share information about the project and provide opportunities to participate and offer their comments:

- Project webpage – Mountlake Terrace maintained a project webpage for the RPOS Plan update and the Veterans Memorial Park site master plan project,

which provided information about each project and opportunities for the community to provide feedback and ideas.

- City Happenings Newsletter – The RPOS Plan and the Veterans Memorial Park site master plan process were highlighted in several editions of City Happenings, including information about community surveys and the online open house.
- Social media: Facebook – numerous postings were used to promote the plan and solicit community feedback for the community surveys.

- Direct outreach – City staff utilized existing contacts with local organizations, interest groups and individuals to share information about the project, solicit community feedback and solicit participation in the focus group discussions.
- Email blasts – A variety of user and stakeholder databases were utilized to share news and updates about the planning process and opportunities for participation.



Figure 6. Project webpage



Figure 7. Example Facebook post



Figure 8. City Happenings newsletter promotions

# 4. GOALS & POLICIES

*Clear goals and actionable objectives help frame the future direction for the Recreation & Parks Department.*

The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the recreation and park services that Mountlake Terrace aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from city staff, the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission and community members.

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Growth Management Act (GMA) adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 provided a foundation for land use planning in selected cities and counties throughout the state, including Snohomish County and the City of Mountlake Terrace. The GMA's purpose is to help communities deal efficiently with the challenges of growth to ensure their long-term sustainability and high quality of life. It identifies 14 planning goals to guide the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations (codified in Chapter 36.70A of the Revised Code of Washington). Four of these goals directly affect the development and implementation of this plan.

- “Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.” RCW 36.70A.020(9)
- “Protect the environment and enhance the state’s high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.” RCW 36.70A.020(10)
- “Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures, that have historical or archaeological significance.” RCW 36.70A.020(13)

- “Carry-out the goals of the Shoreline Management Act with regards to shorelines and critical areas.” RCW 36.70A.020(14)

Furthermore, the Mountlake Terrace Comprehensive Plan, the previous park system plan and county-wide planning policies provide a framework for this RPOS Plan.

A goal is a general statement describing an outcome the City wishes to provide. Goals typically do not change over time unless community values shift. Objectives are more specific, measurable statements that describe a means to achieving the stated goals. Objectives may change over time. Recommendations are specific actions intended to implement and achieve the goals and objectives and are contained in needs assessment and capital planning chapters of the Plan.

Also, the Plan’s goals align with the National Recreation and Parks Association’s Three Pillars, which are foundational concepts adopted by the national organization in 2012. These core values (below) are crucial to improving the quality of life for all Americans by inspiring the protection of natural resources, increasing opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating, and empowering citizens to improve the livability of their communities.

- **Conservation** – Public parks are critical to preserving our communities’ natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits. Local park and recreation agencies are

leaders in protecting our open space, connecting children to nature and providing education and programs that engage communities in conservation.

- **Health and Wellness** – Park and recreation departments lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of citizens, and fighting obesity. From fitness programs, to well-maintained, accessible, walking paths and trails, to nutrition programs for underserved youth and adults, our work is at the forefront of providing solutions to these challenges.
- **Social Equity** – We believe universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few. Local park and recreation agencies work hard to ensure all people have access to resources and programs that connect citizens, and in turn, make our communities more livable and desirable.







## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & PLANNING

*Goal 1: Encourage and support public involvement in recreation and park issues.*

### OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 Involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning, design and recreation program development to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- 1.2 Encourage, promote and coordinate volunteer park enhancement projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, local non-profits, faith organizations and businesses.
- 1.3 Continue to support and promote the Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission as the forum for public discussion of recreation and parks issues.
- 1.4 Conduct periodic joint sessions between the Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission and other standing City boards, such as the Planning Commission, and with the City Council to improve coordination and discuss policy matters of mutual interest pertaining to recreational resources, opportunities and funding.
- 1.5 Continue to utilize the city web site, news releases, City Happenings, CRAZE Recreation Guide, social media and the use of technology to enhance communication within the community.
- 1.6 Prepare, publish and promote a park and trail facilities map for online and print distribution to highlight existing and proposed sites and routes and promote local recreation opportunities.
- 1.7 Update the comprehensive Recreation, Parks & Open Space Plan periodically to ensure facilities and services meet current and future needs and to retain eligibility for state and federal grant programs.
- 1.8 Survey, review and publish local park and recreation preferences, needs and usage periodically to stay current with community attitudes and interests.
- 1.9 Periodically update the capital facilities plan and develop prioritization criteria to address facility improvement needs.



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & ACCESS

*Goal 2: Decrease barriers and increase opportunities for participation of under-represented communities and diverse populations to reflect the demographics of Mountlake Terrace.*

### OBJECTIVE

- 2.1 Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels and age as appropriate, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
- 2.2 Explore and pursue opportunities for alternative outreach and education to diverse groups, such as group walks and day hikes with minority communities, promotional materials through schools and faith groups, and youth mentorship or ambassador programs.
- 2.3 Coordinate with the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission to examine accessibility barriers (socio-economic, language, physical, geographic, transportation) to programs, parks and trails and develop internal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies and a priority matrix to allocate resources to address known gaps over time.
- 2.4 Strive to provide a distributed network of parks, such that all city residents live within one-half mile of a developed neighborhood or community park.
- 2.5 Provide DEI training opportunities for staff.





## RECREATION PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

*Goal 3: Provide fun and diverse recreational opportunities that support the health, wellness, lifelong play, active lifestyles and engagement of all community members.*

### OBJECTIVE

- 3.1 Enhance the diversity of programs offered, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users.
- 3.2 Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming.
- 3.3 Continue to provide and expand opportunities for seniors to engage in social, recreational, educational, nutritional, and health programs designed to encourage independence, in partnership with community agencies.
- 3.4 Provide and maintain facilities as well as recreation programs in a cost-effective manner and utilize technology to measure actual costs.
- 3.5 Study the possibility of replacing the Recreation Pavilion, along with the financing and funding requirements for capital and operations.
- 3.6 Maintain and enhance program scholarships and other mechanisms to support recreation access for low-income residents.
- 3.7 Periodically review and update the fee policy for programs, indoor facility uses and rental rates that supports the operational requirements and cost-recovery goals.
- 3.8 Continue to foster and expand partnerships with the Edmonds School District, private non-profit agencies, private recreation oriented clubs and local businesses to provide recreation services.
- 3.9 Continue to implement the Arts & Culture Strategic Plan and build partnerships within the local arts community.
- 3.10 Maintain staff development and certifications (e.g., CPR/First Aid, lifeguard certification, playground safety, Aquatic Facility Operator, etc.) to retain high safety standards in facilities and on play equipment.





## PARKS & NATURAL AREAS

*Goal 4: Acquire, develop and manage the City's park sites and facilities to ensure the safety and enjoyment of users, maximize recreational experience and minimize maintenance and operational costs.*

### OBJECTIVE

- 4.1 Proactively seek parkland identified within this Plan to secure suitable locations for new parks to serve existing and future residents.
- 4.2 Prioritize park development in areas where service gaps exist (where households are more than ½-mile from a developed park).
- 4.3 Prioritize enhancement of existing park sites in areas of the City facing population growth and residential and commercial development.
- 4.4 Consider local needs, recreational trends and availability of similar facilities within the City and region when planning for specialized recreational facilities.
- 4.5 Continue to engage, coordinate and partner with user groups of specialized facilities, such as sport fields, off-leash areas, disc golf course, skatepark, BMX/pump track, etc.
- 4.6 Support the implementation of the Town Center Plan through active use spaces, including a water feature.
- 4.7 Implement the Ballinger Park Master Plan.
- 4.8 Provide environmental educational opportunities in natural areas with interpretive signage, nature trails and related experiences.
- 4.9 Actively work to improve the condition of City-owned natural areas through invasive species removal; planting of native species; restoration of urban forests, creeks, wetlands and other habitat; and improvement of hydrological conditions.
- 4.10 Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities.
- 4.11 Utilize, as appropriate, native vegetation for landscaping in parks to minimize maintenance requirements, and control invasive vegetation through removal and other environmentally responsible means.
- 4.12 Consider the preparation of an Urban Forestry Management Plan to articulate a long-term strategy for tree protection, urban forestry management and public education and outreach.
- 4.13 Create tree planting plans or a tree canopy replacement plan for City parks and natural areas.



## TRAILS & CONNECTIONS

*Goal 5: Promote active lifestyles by providing more trail connections and coordinating with other jurisdictions and providers to create a seamless system.*

### OBJECTIVE

- 5.1 Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and Snohomish County to provide coordinated trail alignments that provide continuous walking and biking access between parks, across the City of Mountlake Terrace and other key destinations.
- 5.2 Implement the Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan to improve usage of the park, enhance the perceived sense of safety and improve the connection between the Town Center and the Transit Center.
- 5.3 Support the implementation of the Transportation System Plan for pedestrian and bicycle connections and improvements that safely link parks to other city destinations.
- 5.4 Prioritize project implementation to leverage the highest valued benefits (“most bang for the buck”), such as short gaps between existing built trails, to create longer more usable connections.
- 5.5 Expand the system of off-street recreational trails by utilizing parks, open spaces, utility corridors and sensitive areas, as appropriate.
- 5.6 Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process; require development projects along designated trail routes to be designed to incorporate trail segments as part of the project.
- 5.7 Design and construct new trails with consideration of and attention to user’s safety and a priority to accommodate multiple trail uses, when appropriate.
- 5.8 Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, wayfinding signage, benches, restrooms and other amenities.





## ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

*Goal 6: Provide a recreation and parks system that is efficient to maintain and operate, provides a high level of user comfort, safety, and aesthetic quality, and protects capital investments.*

### OBJECTIVE

- 6.1 Provide sufficient financial and staff resources to maintain the overall recreation and parks system to high standards.
- 6.2 Maintain all parks and facilities in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition; repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification. Track and monitor costs of maintaining city-owned facilities by their function including parks, trails and natural areas.
- 6.3 Continue to schedule necessary resources to maintain existing city building facilities in a safe, clean, inviting and usable condition.
- 6.4 Continue to use part-time, seasonal, and contract employees for select functions to meet peak demands and respond to specialized or urgent needs.
- 6.5 Continue to provide maintenance services at all city buildings including services in relation to the lease or contract at the Sno-Isle Mountlake Terrace Library, Snohomish County 911, Mickey Corso Community Clubhouse and Fire Station #19.
- 6.6 Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities, such as private donation, sponsorships, partnerships, state and federal grant sources, along with partnerships with service organizations, volunteer groups, businesses and other public agencies.
- 6.7 Periodically review and update the Park Impact Fee rates and methodology and utilize impact fees to accommodate growth through the expansion of the recreation system.
- 6.8 Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and engender greater commitment from staff, Commission members and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA), Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA), Association of Aquatic Professionals (AAOP), American Red Cross (ARC) and Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
- 6.9 Periodically evaluate user satisfaction and statistical use of parks, facilities and programs, including trail counts.



# 5. CLASSIFICATIONS & INVENTORY

*Parks and open space are the foundation of the outdoor recreation system for Mountlake Terrace. City parks and facilities provide residents with a variety of active and passive recreational amenities.*



**M**ountlake Terrace’s Recreation and Parks Department provides more than 190 acres of park land, including opportunities for both active and passive recreation. The City’s recreation system consists of diverse amenities that include playgrounds, sport fields, tennis courts, disc golf, a boat launch, fishing and beach access and miles of soft-surfaced and paved trails for walking, biking and hiking. In addition, the Edmonds School District and private entities provide other recreation opportunities and greenspace with at least some access for the public.

## PARKLAND CLASSIFICATIONS

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community’s recreational needs. The Mountlake Terrace park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreation and/or natural area opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system will serve the full range of community needs. Classifying parkland by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and to plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses. The classification characteristics are meant as general guidelines addressing the intended

size and use of each park type. The following seven parkland classifications are in effect in Mountlake Terrace and are defined as follows.

- Regional parks
- Community parks
- Neighborhood parks
- Pocket parks
- Natural areas/greenways
- Linear parks
- Special use areas

## REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks are intended to serve residents and visitors. Regional parks have mix of recreational amenities for both active sports and passive play. These parks provide parking, restrooms, picnicking facilities, large open lawn areas for informal gathering and outdoor play activities. Special features such as community gardens, trail networks, natural areas, public art and waterfront can be located on regional parks. They are much larger in size than most community parks, typically greater than 30 acres, and draw park users from a larger geographic area. Ballinger Park is the only regional park in Mountlake Terrace, and this regional park offers myriad outdoor recreational opportunities and connects to a regional Interurban Trail.

## COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are larger parks, typically between 5 and 20 acres, that provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community. Typically, these sites are designed for active recreation, supported by facilities such as sport fields, outdoor courts, skate parks and recreation centers. Community parks can accommodate large numbers of people and offer a wider variety of facilities than neighborhood parks, such as disc golf, volleyball, tennis courts, dog parks and group picnic areas. These parks may also include significant natural areas and trails. For this reason, community parks require more support facilities, such as off-street parking and restrooms. Community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks for their immediate areas, and they may be connected to schools or other community facilities.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are the backbone of the local, walk-to, outdoor play areas for limited active and passive recreation for surrounding neighborhoods. Generally, these parks serve neighborhoods in close proximity and within pedestrian or bicycle access and are generally 1 to 5 acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including neighborhood need, physical location and opportunity. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity (generally up to ½-mile walking or biking distance) of the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Developed neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as paved pathways, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, a multi-use open field for informal play, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas and landscaping.

## POCKET PARKS

Pocket parks are small parks, less than one acre and are often designed as play lots to serve nearby young children and their parents. Pocket parks are the smallest park classification and are used to address limited or isolated recreational needs. These parks serve a limited radius (generally up to ¼-mile) from the site and provide passive and play-oriented recreational opportunities. Amenities are usually limited to small playground facilities, small open grass areas, and minimal site furnishings such as picnic tables or benches. Passive uses may include picnic areas and sitting areas. Parking typically is not provided at pocket parks.

## NATURAL AREAS/GREENWAYS

Natural areas and greenways are permanent, undeveloped greenspaces, which are managed primarily for their natural resource value and secondarily for recreational use. Natural areas and greenways may include wetlands, wildlife habitats, steep hillsides or stream corridors. Natural areas and greenways may preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas and can provide opportunities for nature-based recreation, such as trail use, bird watching and environmental education. The size and shape of natural areas vary depending on the resource it protects, whereas greenways tend to follow a linear form and link multiple open space parcels.

## LINEAR PARKS

Linear parks include natural or built corridors, generally providing trail-related recreation and to link together features in a city. Linear parks may include abandoned railroad lines and active transportation or utility rights-of-way. Linear parks vary in widths and acreage, and these narrow corridors typically support facilities such as trails, viewing areas and trailheads.

## SPECIAL USE AREAS

Special use areas include single-purpose recreational areas or stand-alone sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. Special facilities include community recreation centers, swimming pools, sport complexes, urban plazas and/or historic areas. Since special use areas vary widely in function, there are no minimum sizes, but special use areas must be large enough to accommodate the intended use. Support facilities such as parking and restrooms are often included.

Figure 9 is the park inventory of Mountlake Terrace using the above classifications. The inventory is illustrated on Map 1: Existing Parks & Open Spaces.

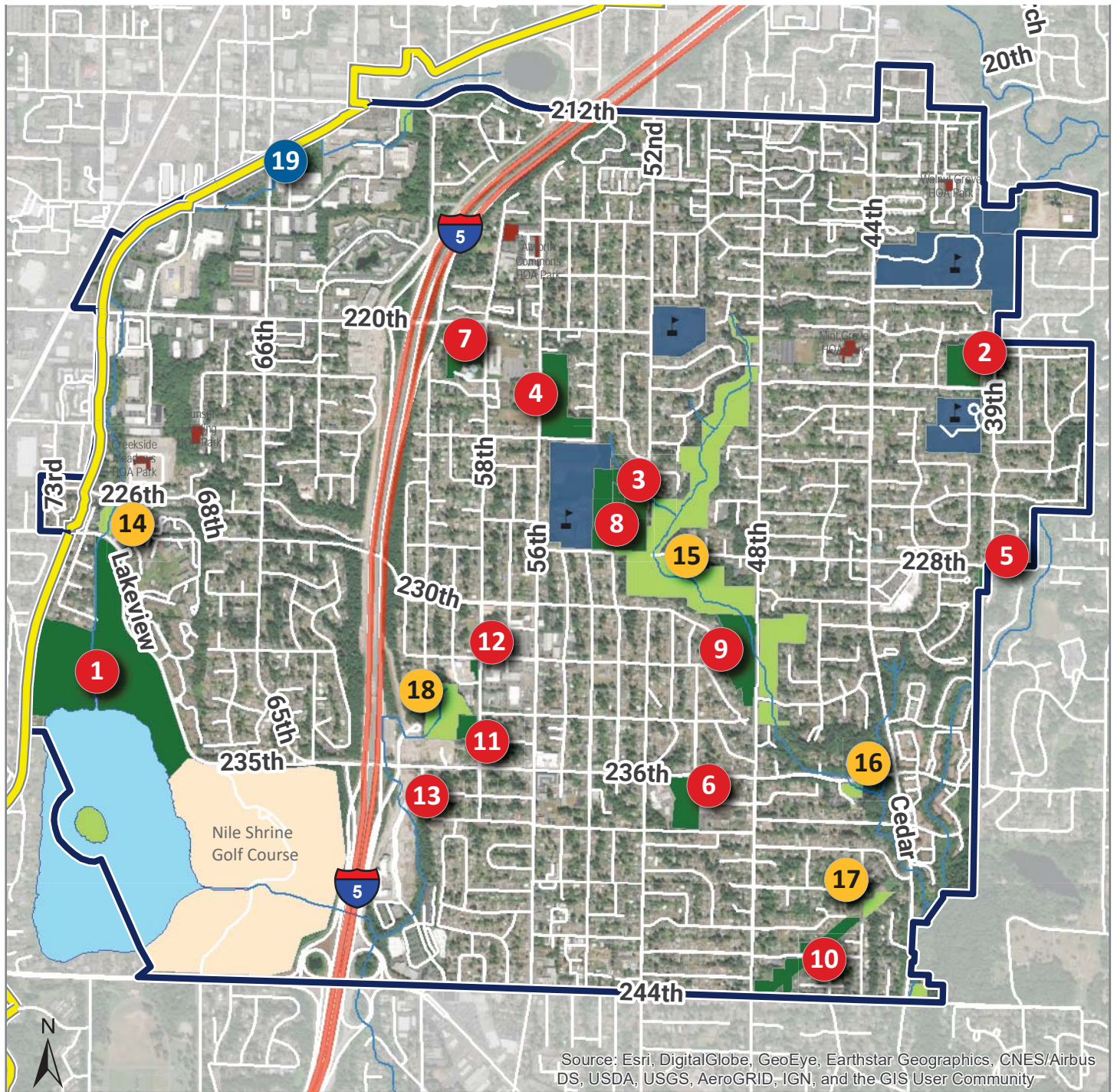
Figure 9. City Park & Open Space Inventory

Park	Classification	Acreage
Ballinger Park	Regional	54.90
Evergreen Playfield	Community	13.89
Forest Crest Playfield	Community	4.60
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>73.39</b>
Fire Fighters Memorial Park	Neighborhood	0.90
Jack Long Park	Neighborhood	3.33
Matt Hirvela / Bicentennial Park	Neighborhood	4.72
Terrace Creek Park	Neighborhood	8.67
Terrace Ridge Park	Neighborhood	6.11
Veterans Memorial Park	Neighborhood	2.21
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>25.94</b>
Dog Park*	Special Use Areas	-
Gateway Plaza	Special Use Areas	0.05
Jerry Smith Town Center Plaza	Special Use Areas	0.32
Recreation Pavilion	Special Use Areas	9.24
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>9.61</b>
Interurban Trail	Linear Park	15.69
Ballinger Island	Natural Area	7.84
Montesa Open Space	Natural Area	1.11
Open Space (Cedar & 244th)	Natural Area	1.15
Open Space (212th & 61st Pl)	Natural Area	0.92
Terrace Creek Natural Area	Natural Area	48.64
Terrace Creek Overlook Open Space	Natural Area	1.97
Terrace Ridge Natural Area	Natural Area	1.29
Veterans Memorial Natural Area	Natural Area	6.06
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>84.67</b>
<b>Total City Acreage</b>		<b>193.61</b>

\* Dog park acreage included in Recreation Pavilion acreage

Private HOA Park	Classification	Acreage
Sunset Landing HOA Park	HOA Pocket Park	0.67
Mint Grove HOA Park	HOA Pocket Park	0.88
Atworth Commons HOA Park	HOA Pocket Park	1.14
Creekside Meadows HOA Park	HOA Pocket Park	0.45
Walnut Grove HOA Park	HOA Pocket Park	0.30
<b>Total HOA Acreage</b>		<b>3.43</b>





1. Ballinger Park
2. Matt Hirvela / Bicentennial Park
3. Dog Park
4. Evergreen Playfield
5. Fire Fighters Memorial Park
6. Forest Crest Playfield
7. Jack Long Park
8. Recreation Pavilion
9. Terrace Creek Park
10. Terrace Ridge Park

11. Veterans Memorial Park
12. Jerry Smith Town Center Plaza
13. Gateway Plaza
14. Montesa Open Space
15. Terrace Creek Natural Area
16. Terrace Creek Overlook Open Space
17. Terrace Ridge Natural Area
18. Veterans Memorial Natural Area
19. Interurban Trail

**Legend**

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| City Limits        | Homeowner Association Parks |
| City Parks         | Schools                     |
| City Natural Areas | School District Property    |
| Interurban Trail   | Golf Course                 |

# MAP 1: EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACES

## RECREATION FACILITIES

### RECREATION PAVILION

The Recreation Pavilion is a multi-purpose facility with an indoor 25-yard swimming pool that has a leisure pool with zero-depth entry, spray toys, lazy river with current, teach pool area with a submerged bench, deep area, easy access with a wheelchair ramp, a therapy pool with a dedicated lift, dry sauna, fitness room, racquetball courts, dance studios, preschool room, and interchangeable multi-purpose rooms for programs or rentals, and an indoor playground. The lobby features vending machines, a barista stand and a retail area to purchase swim wear.

### MOUNTLAKE TERRACE COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER

The Mountlake Terrace Community Senior Center seeks to improve the quality of life for aging adults in our community by providing an enlivened, friendly environment promoting health and wellness. Established in 1997 as the Mountlake Terrace Senior Group, the organization agreed to a partnership with the City of Mountlake Terrace and relocated to the 7,000 square foot Mickey Corso Clubhouse in Ballinger Park. The City owns the building, and room rentals are operated by the Senior Group.

## PROGRAM COORDINATION

The Cities of Mountlake Terrace and Edmonds print a joint recreation program guide (The CRAZE) that highlights recreation programs offered in both communities and the recreation facilities that are available nearby. These nearby facilities provide opportunities for aquatics, athletics/fitness, gymnastics, sports, general recreation, facility rentals and special events.

## PRIVATE HOA PARKS

Private homeowner associations (HOAs) parks contribute to the City's total park acreage, providing small-scale recreation opportunities for certain subdivisions. Private HOA parks provide another four small parks across the city, totaling 6 acres. Although these private parks may not open to the general public, they are still considered an element of the overall park system, since they provide recreational amenities.

## NEARBY MUNICIPAL PARK SYSTEMS

The City of Edmonds has more than 450 acres of parkland, over two miles of saltwater shoreline. The city offers some unique facilities, such as Sierra Park with nature pathways with braille signs and the underwater dive park at Brackett's Landing in downtown.

The City of Lynnwood has over 350 acres of park land, 100 acres of open space, an 18-hole public golf course, 14 miles of trails, a recreation center, senior center, Heritage Park and two athletic complexes. Lynnwood's parks offer a wide range of active and passive recreation opportunities, including innovative playgrounds, spray pools, a skate park, hiking trails, forests, streams, wetlands and wildlife habitat.

The City of Brier has approximately 70 acres of parkland at nine sites, including Brier Patch Park adjacent to the Mountlake Terrace city limits.

West of Mountlake Terrace, Snohomish County owns and manages Esperance Park, located within a small unincorporated area within the city limits of Edmonds. Esperance Park is a 9.6-acre county park with athletic fields, accessible walking paths, off-leash dog area, playground, sport court and community garden.





## BALLINGER PARK

54.9 acres



### AMENITIES

- Ball field/soccer field
- BBQ grills
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Boat ramp
- Drinking fountain
- Fishing dock
- Interpretive sign
- Kiosk
- Lake
- Natural areas
- Open lawn
- Parking
- Paved paths
- Picnic tables
- Playgrounds
- Restrooms
- Senior Center
- Shade trees
- Storage shed
- Swings
- Tennis court
- Trash receptacles
- Vegetable planters at Senior Center

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- A master plan for the park has been completed to address design opportunities. Improvements should ensure that ADA guidelines are followed to provide universal access for proposed improvements. Current ADA parking provision is missing elements of designated travel aisles and required signage.
- Additional/new park furnishings (benches, picnic tables, etc.) should be compliant with ADA guidelines and at least 50% of provided site furnishings should have universal access.
- New boat dock and fishing pier being designed with full ADA compliance. Universally accessible playground being installed.







## DOG PARK AT RECREATION PAVILION

0.66 acres (included with Recreation Pavilion acreage)

### AMENITIES

- Benches
- Dog park sign
- Fenced area with two (2) double-gated entries
- Message board
- Natural area with tree canopy
- Trash dumpster
- Water with drinking bowls

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Gated entries are not ADA-compliant and provide a tight fit for owners with larger dogs. Consider improving at least one entry to provide for easier access and reduced barriers for disabled or limited mobility dog owners.





## EVERGREEN PLAYFIELD COMPLEX

13.9 acres



### AMENITIES

- Benches
- Bike racks
- Concession building
- Office/restroom building
- Parking lots with lighting
- Paved pathways
- Picnic tables
- Playground with lighting
- Soccer field with lighting
- Softball field with lighting
- Tennis courts with lighting
- Trash receptacles

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- The park facility should have a master plan to guide and prioritize needed upgrades and improvements. Specific improvements have been identified and are being pursued to address immediate needs: soccer field conversion to all-weather turf surfacing; and replacements of office/restroom building and concession building.
- Park identification signs could be added at side entries.







## FIREFIIGHTERS MEMORIAL PARK

0.9 acres

### AMENITIES

- Benches
- Bike rack
- Firefighter Monument
- Little free library
- Parking
- Paved paths
- Picnic tables
- Playgrounds (2)

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Connect public concrete sidewalk to park path pavement along 228th.
- Room for more play features in rear playground.
- Move bike rack to edge of parking area (or place new rack closer to parking area).







## FOREST CREST PLAYFIELD

4.6 acres

### AMENITIES

- Ballfields
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Bleachers
- Parking lot with lighting
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Trash receptacles

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add ADA compliant accessibility to major park amenities.





## GATEWAY PLAZA

0.055 acres

### AMENITIES

- Informal plaza
- Water feature
- Benches
- Gardens
- Entry sign

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted.





## INTERURBAN TRAIL

15.7 acres

### AMENITIES

- Paved Trail

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Following the former trolley line from Seattle to Everett, the Interurban Trail is paved and travels through Mountlake Terrace, generally following Hall Creek. The City is responsible for maintaining the asphalt pavement and 12.5 feet on either side of the centerline (25' total). The City mows significantly more than the interlocal agreement dictates to help maintain the Trail's aesthetic appearance and deter transient camping.
- With numerous road crossings, a system of wayfinding would greatly improve Trail users' navigation and walking and biking experiences.





## JACK LONG PARK

3.3 acres

### AMENITIES

- BBQ grill
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Climbing rock play area
- Horseshoe pit
- Little free library
- Park sign
- Paved trail loop
- Picnic tables
- Stairs (side park entry)

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Park is adjacent to water storage tank where there is an opportunity to create a large mural that complements the park setting.





## JERRY SMITH TOWN CENTER PLAZA

0.32 acres

### AMENITIES

- Terraced seating & seatwalls
- Stage
- Flexible plaza space
- Water feature
- Public art
- Flagpole
- Entry sign

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted.







## MATT HIRVELA / BICENTENNIAL PARK

4.7 acres

### AMENITIES

- Benches
- Bike rack
- Flagpole
- Little free library
- Open grass
- Parking (2 – handicapped spots)
- Parking (on-street)
- Paved loop path
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables
- Playgrounds
- Shade trees
- Swings

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Park has room for more recreational amenities. New Playground scheduled for Summer 2022 (funded).
- Add BBQ grills.
- Upgrade play equipment and expand swing set to accommodate four (4) seats. (currently underway)







## MONTESA OPEN SPACE

1.1 acres

### AMENITIES

- Gravel and natural pathways
- Wetlands
- Split rail fence
- Signs

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Interpretive signage could add some value to visitor experience.



## OPEN SPACE (CEDAR WAY & 244TH)

1.2 acres

### AMENITIES

- Natural wetlands area
- “Welcome to Mountlake Terrace” sign
- Public sidewalk

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Story-telling interpretive signage along public sidewalk on Cedar Way.

## OPEN SPACE (212TH & 61ST PL)

0.9 acres

### AMENITIES

- None

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted.





## RECREATION PAVILION

9.24 acres

### AMENITIES

- Basketball courts
- Disk golf (part of Terrace Creek Park)
- Dog park
- Little free library
- Natural area
- Parking
- Picnic tables (within Recreation Pavilion fencing)
- Playground (within Recreation Pavilion fencing)
- Recreation Pavilion building
- Shade trees
- Soccer/ballfield with lighting

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Outside of the fenced area of the Recreation Pavilion, there are no amenities for groups or individuals to gather or enjoy picnicking or outdoor celebrations. Consider locating a picnic shelter that complements the existing park amenities and provides for all-weather relaxing, sitting, picnicking, and gathering.
- No signage or (obvious) pathways connect the Recreation Pavilion to the Terrace Creek Trail system. Consider a wayfinding system that enhances the existing park facility by better connecting it to the Terrace Creek Natural Area and Trail.
- The facility is no longer able to adequately support present let alone future indoor recreation program needs and expectations. The Pavilion either needs to undergo a full renovation/ expansion or be totally replaced.





## TERRACE CREEK NATURAL AREA

44.7 acres

### AMENITIES

- Trail system aligned with Terrace Creek that extends from Terrace Creek Park to 221st.
- Natural area
- Terrace Creek

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Wayfinding signage system should be designed and added to trail to improve users experience and help new trail users to navigate the trail and find the connections that help them enjoy it.
- Add signage at ends of streets (like 228th) where side trails connect to the Terrace Creek Trail.
- Consider some environment &/or story-telling interpretive signage along the Trail.





## TERRACE CREEK OVERLOOK OPEN SPACE

2.0 acres

### AMENITIES

- Lyon Creek natural area
- User-added trampoline
- User-added bench
- Pathway around natural area
- Split rail fence

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Potential for some environmental story-telling interpretive signage.
- Section of park just above creek area (where trampoline and bench are currently located) could have room for small neighborhood park amenities that could provide more publicly-accessible and safe recreation.





# TERRACE CREEK PARK

8.7 acres

## AMENITIES

- Access to Terrace Creek Trail
- BBQ grills
- Benches
- Disc golf course
- Park sign
- Parking
- Paved paths & loop
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Portable toilet with enclosure
- Soccer field
- Swings

## DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Playground structure is missing a play element. Consider replacing missing pieces or how to add some other play element in the vacant space.
- Consider installing permanent restroom.
- Disc golf course could benefit from better signage system and some “caution” warnings for park and trail users.







## TERRACE RIDGE NATURAL AREA

1.3 acres

### AMENITIES

- None noted

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Area beneath overhead utility lines can be used to create a trail that can connect neighbors to the Terrace Ridge Park and beyond.
- Formalize a trail alignment and add signage to help users connect to nearby facilities and neighborhoods.



# TERRACE RIDGE PARK

6.1 acres

## AMENITIES

- BBQ grill
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Open grass
- Park sign
- Parking area (5 spaces)
- Paved paths
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Swings
- Trash receptacle
- Trees
- Volleyball court (sand)

## DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Park could provide a more formal connection (i.e., paved trail) for access to the Terrace Ridge Natural Area. A formalized pathway could better connect nearby residences and provide more opportunities to walk and bike.







## VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK & NATURAL AREA

8.3 acres

### AMENITIES

- Playground
- Swings
- Climbing net
- Open grass
- Natural area
- Paved paths & loop
- Benches
- Picnic shelter
- Veterans Memorial
- Picnic tables
- Drinking fountain
- Natural surfaced trails
- Forested area
- Stream corridor

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- A master plan is being initiated for this park site. ADA improvements will be a required part of that design process and will improve current non-ADA compliant park elements.
- Re-connecting the Park through the natural area to the Transit Center should be a strong consideration for this master plan to enhance walkability in the neighborhood.



# 6. RECREATION

*The recreation facilities and services available within Mountlake Terrace are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members.*

The City currently offers or promotes programming, including fitness, sports, education and general interest classes, aquatics, day camps and special events to reflect the wide ranging diversity of the Mountlake Terrace community.

The City of Mountlake Terrace provides several major community facilities, including the Recreation Pavilion, Senior Center and developed sport fields, all of which are heavily used. Recent conversations with community members suggest a strong interest in replacing and expanding the Recreation Pavilion.

The City of Mountlake Terrace's Recreation and Parks Department has an extensive offering of recreation programs and services for its citizens.

- The Department has a long history of providing a broad range of recreation programs and services to its residents.
- The Department focuses much of its programming efforts on youth while offering some level of programming for all age groups.
- Most of the programming is currently provided by part-time staff with only a small number of programs being provided by contract providers. However, the Department does have a significant number of program partners.
- The majority of indoor recreation programs and services are delivered out of the Recreation Pavilion.
- Programs and services are generally the more traditional recreation offerings.

- A number of programs and services are provided by other community organizations that utilize Department facilities.
- The Department has a relatively strong number of performance measures and good record keeping regarding recreation programs.

## RECREATION MACROTRENDS

A variety of resources have been assembled and summarized to offer a comprehensive overview of current trends, market demands and agency comparisons in the provision of recreation programs and facilities. The following national and state data highlights some of the current trends in recreation and may frame future considerations in Mountlake Terrace's recreation programs. Additional trend data are provided in Appendix H.

- Nationwide, eighty-two percent of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation are essential. <sup>(1)</sup>
- Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space or recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live. <sup>(1)</sup>
- Nearly all (93%) park and recreation agencies provide recreation programs and services. The top five most commonly offered programs include holiday or other special events (65%), educational programs (59%), group exercise (59%), fitness programs (58%), and day or summer camps (57%). <sup>(2)</sup>







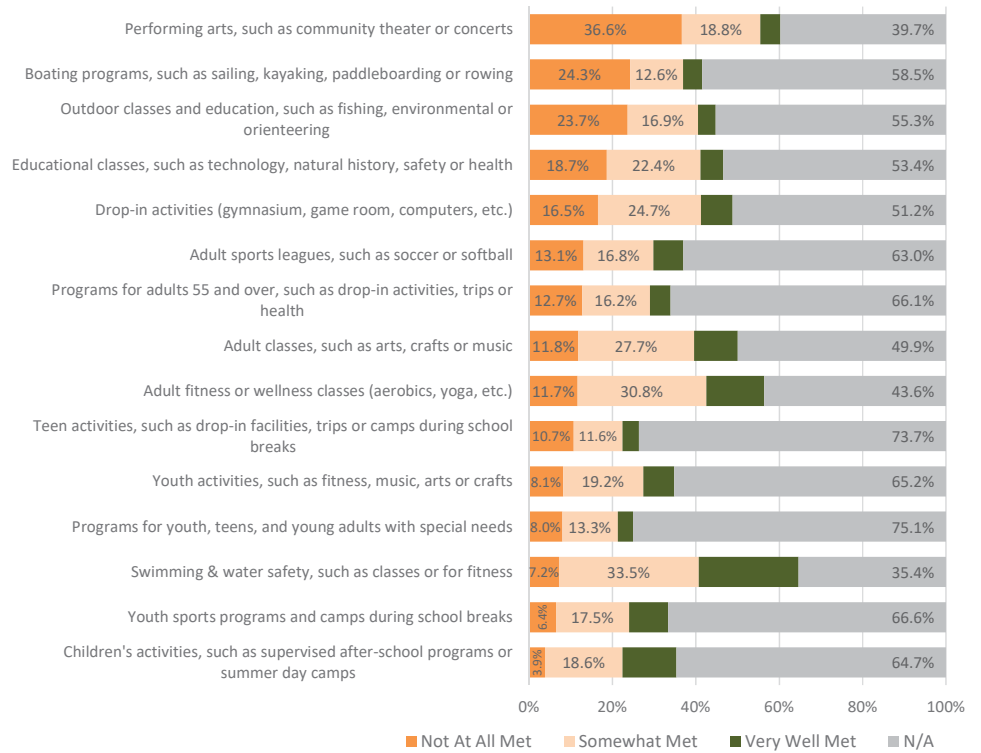
- Just over half of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. However, the number of outings per participant declined – continuing a decade-long trend – resulting in fewer total recreational outings. <sup>(4)</sup>
- Youth aged 6 to 17 were active outside far less in 2019 than in previous years – the average number of outings per child dropped 15% between 2012 and 2019. <sup>(4)</sup>
- Nearly all park and recreation providers in the U.S. experienced declined in revenue in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As early as May 2020, most providers had to close facilities temporarily in accordance with health and safety directives. Nearly half had also furloughed or laid off staff due to the funding and facility impacts of the pandemic. <sup>(3)</sup>

Sources:

- (1) American Engagement with Parks Survey
- (2) 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review
- (3) 2020 State of the Industry Report
- (4) 2020 Outdoor Participation Report

Respondents to the community survey expressed a greater need for adult programs and activities than those geared towards youth or teens. In particular, respondents had a higher interest in seeing more swimming and water safety programs, adult fitness and wellness, adult enrichment classes, and performing arts.

Figure 10. Levels of Fulfillment of Recreation Program Types from Community Survey



## LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

As a part of the overall recreation programming recommendations, a number of public input mechanisms (including surveys, focus groups and an on-line open house) were utilized to gain input from the community regarding parks and recreation needs. Key public input findings regarding recreation programs included the following priorities:

- Performing Arts
- Aquatics
- Outdoor Education
- Education Classes/Programs
- Fitness/Wellness
- Drop-in Activities

Respondents to the online open house identified swimming and water safety as their top priorities, followed by adult fitness or wellness classes, and outdoor classes and education. Educational classes and performing arts were prioritized lowest by respondents.

Figure 11. Recreation Program Preference Results from September Open House



## PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

### PROGRAMMING CLASSIFICATIONS:

The categories below represent the major areas of focus for current Mountlake Terrace recreation programs and services by categories commonly found in parks and recreation agencies nationally. Program lists are based on a review of program offerings for 2019-2020, that were provided by the Department.

Figure 12. Existing City Programs by Classification

Area	Focus	Programs
Sports	Youth Sports	Sports Camps, Soccer, Tennis Team, Tennis Lessons, Skyhawks Sports Camps
	Adult Sports	Tennis Lessons, Softball, Basketball, Volleyball, Racquetball Tournaments
Fitness	Youth	Fitness Classes
	Adult	Fitness Classes, Yoga, Tai Chi, Personalized Training
Cultural Arts	Youth	Dance Academy, Dance Classes, Dance Camps, Dance Workshops, RockStars, Oil Painting Workshops
	Adult	Dance Classes
Aquatics	Youth	Swim Lessons, Marlins Summer Swim Team, Jr. Lifeguard Training, Adaptive Swim Lessons
	Adult	Swim Lessons, Water Fitness, Lifeguard Training
Youth		Kids Krew Before & After School, Kindergarten Readiness, Preschool, Summer Camps, School Break Camps, Non-School Days,
Education	Youth	CPR/AED/First Aid
	Adult	CPR/AED/First Aid
Specialty / General Interest	Youth	N/A
	Adult	Dog Training
Special Needs		Adaptive Swim Lessons
Special Events		Arts of the Terrace, South County Walks, National Night Out, April Pools Day, Tree Lighting Ceremony, Earth Day Community Clean-Up, National Day of Service, Independence Day Celebration, Tour De Terrace, Egg Hunt, Concerts in the Park, Winter Gala, Dance Recitals
Outdoor Recreation	Youth	Fly Tying Class.
	Adult	Fly Tying Class.
Seniors		Silver Sneakers Classes, Drop-in Volleyball, Water and Land Fitness Classes
Teens		Swim Lessons, Dance, Fitness, Lifeguard Training Courses
Self-Directed	Youth	Open Swim, Lap Swim, Indoor Playground, Racquetball
	Adult	Open Gym, Open Swim, Lap Swim, Facility Rentals, Racquetball, Cardio Equipment
Social Services		Kids Krew (Daycare), Parents Night Out

### Program Area General Definitions (national basis):

- Sports – Team and individual sports including camps, clinics, and tournaments. Also includes adventure/non-traditional sports.
- Fitness – Group fitness classes, personal training, education, and nutrition.
- Cultural Arts – Performing arts classes, visual arts classes, music/video production and arts events.
- Aquatics – Learn to swim classes, aqua exercise classes, competitive swimming/diving, SCUBA, and other programs (synchro, water polo, etc.).



- Youth – Before and after school programs, summer/school break camps, and preschool.
- Education – Language programs, tutoring, science (STEM) classes, computer, and financial planning. Also included is CPR/AED/First Aid.
- Specialty/General Interest – Personal development classes and dog training classes.
- Special Needs – Programs for the physically and mentally impaired. Also, inclusion programs.
- Special Events – City wide special events that are conducted throughout the year.
- Outdoor Recreation – Environmental education, hiking, camping, kayaking, and other activities.
- Seniors – Programs and services that are dedicated to serving the needs of seniors. This can include all of the activity areas noted above plus social service functions.
- Teens – Programs and services that are focused on serving the needs of teens. This can include all of the activity areas noted above (except seniors).
- Self-Directed – This includes the opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own. This can include activities such as open gym, use of weight/cardio space and lap/recreational swimming. Although not an organized program, time and space must be allocated for this purpose.
- Social Services – This can include nutrition and feeding programs, job training, life skills training, childcare, and other activities such as health screenings.

### PROGRAMS AVAILABLE BY AGE GROUPS

Below is listed the basic program categories that are available for different age groups.

Figure 13. Segmentation of City Programs by Age Group

Program Category	Preschool	Youth	Teen	Adults	Senior
Sports	●	●	●	●	●
Fitness		●	●	●	●
Cultural Arts	●	●	●	●	
Aquatics	●	●	●	●	●
Education	●	●	●	●	●
Specialty / General Interest					
Special Needs		●			
Special Events	●	●	●	●	●
Outdoor Recreation					
Self-Directed	●	●	●	●	●
Social Services	●				

Most of the program categories that the Department provides programming in serves most major age groups. Education, Special Needs, Specialty/General Interest, and Outdoor Recreation have limited organized programs in place.

Additional data and analysis is provided in Appendix I.

## PROGRAM PARTNERS & OTHER PROVIDERS

In addition to the programs and services that are offered directly by the Department, there are also a number of program partners, include the following organizations:

Figure 14. Recreation Program Partners & Roles

Partner Organizations	Role
Premera Blue Cross	Partner on employee discount program to run fit-ness classes
Mountlake Terrace Seniors Group	Rent Mickey Corso Community Clubhouse from the city and they offer senior services to the community.
Edmonds School District #15	Current interlocal agreement covers programs and facility use of fields, pool, gym, etc.
Mountlake Terrace Library	Provides reading and other education programs for both youth and adults.
Cedar Park School	Adult basketball programs utilize their gym for leagues.
Mountlake Terrace Youth Athletic Association Baseball	In exchange for use of Forest Crest baseball fields, they maintain the infields.
Terrace Brier Soccer Club	In exchange for use of Forest Crest soccer fields, they line the fields.
St. Pius X Church	City utilizes their parking lot for major events.
Seafair	Sanctions Tour de Terrace as official Seafair event
Cheeseburger Babies Foundation	Runs the 3rd of July event.
Skyhawks	Runs youth sports camps and programs as a contractor for the City.
Kidz Love Soccer	Runs youth soccer programs as a contractor for the City.
Mountlake Terrace Business Association	Assists with events to promote local businesses and kid friendly activities.
Snohomish County	Has many cross-participation groups and provides grant funding and other support.
City of Edmonds	City partners on a joint recreation program brochure (Craze).
Verdant Health Commission	Provides grant funding for programs and facilities.
Hazel Miller Foundation	Provides grant funding for programs and facilities.
Mountlake Terrace Community Foundation	Provides grant funding and leadership for programs and facilities.
Snohomish County Sports Commission	Cross promotes activities with the City.
Friends of the Arts	Assists with Arts of the Terrace event.
Evergreen Junior Tennis League	Coordinates private clubs and public providers for cross county tennis league and tournament.

There are significant other providers of a variety of recreation programs and services. The communities that border Mountlake Terrace all have strong parks and recreation departments with considerable indoor and outdoor space for a wide range of recreation programs and services. There is a full-service YMCA in the area that also has a wide range of services available to its members and the community. Beyond these providers there is also a long list of private providers including dance studios, martial arts studios, fitness centers and specialty facilities such as ice rinks, tennis facilities and gymnastics studios. There are also a number of senior living communities that provide activities for their residents including fitness.

## PROGRAM IMPACTS DUE TO FACILITY LIMITATIONS

The ability of Mountlake Terrace Recreation and Parks to deliver a wide range of recreation programs and services is impacted by the facilities that are available to support these activities. This includes the following program areas:

- Youth Sports – Although most youth team sports are offered by other organizations, most of them are highly dependent on City athletic fields and school fields and gyms as locations for their programs. This limits the size of existing programs and makes it difficult to add new programs such as lacrosse, ultimate and other sports.
- Adult Sports – With an emphasis on serving the needs of youth team sports that utilize athletic fields, it has been difficult to grow adult team sports. With additional sports fields there could be an increase in adult soccer and other emerging field sports. The lack of indoor gym space also limits the growth of adult sports such as basketball and volleyball as well as pickleball.
- Fitness – The Pavilion has limited fitness amenities to support a comprehensive fitness program. Adding additional weight/cardio space and a group exercise studio would help, along with the possibility of a teaching kitchen. Utilizing outdoor spaces for fitness classes should also be promoted.
- Cultural Arts – Without a facility that supports drama and other performing arts activities it will be difficult to increase programming offerings in this area. Also, the visual arts require specialized program space such as an arts and crafts room.
- Aquatics – Even though the Recreation Pavilion has a significant indoor pool, the amount of deep and mid water depth is insufficient to support some larger water exercise classes and limits starts from blocks for competitive swimming. There is also an acute shortage of storage space for program equipment. Aquatics would also benefit from a wet classroom for certain programs.
- Outdoor Recreation – To really have a successful program in this interest area, it is important to have a covered outdoor classroom space that provides a “home” for these types of activities to take place.
- Teens – Although not essential, having dedicated teen space in a community recreation center can be a foundation to developing a strong teen program.

## GENERAL FACILITY ASSESSMENT

Based on the information noted above, the primary facility concerns are the following:

- Recreation Pavilion – Despite the presence of the center as the hub for most indoor recreation services, the facility is no longer able to adequately support present let alone future indoor recreation program needs and expectations. This facility either needs to undergo a full renovation/expansion or be totally replaced.
- Athletic Fields – The City has a number of athletic fields available for team sports, but the demand for fields is greater than the supply. This is particularly true for sports that require rectangular fields and has only been exacerbated by new team sports.
- Gymnasium Space – One of the greatest needs for indoor space in most communities is for gymnasiums. Whether this is to support team sports such as basketball and volleyball or emerging sports such as pickleball or futsal, there is a strong need for additional gyms.



*"Pool is old and too small! Not enough lap swim time, often share lanes with multiple people floating. We need a new bigger pool. Also I am in Lake Ballinger Park 2x every day. It is amazing. We need more nature parks."*

*- Community survey respondent*





## CURRENT PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

The following is an assessment of the major program areas as outlined in the national program categories.

- Youth Sports – Currently, the Department provides introductory programs for a select number of team sports, as well as limited programs for individual sports (tennis). Most sports camps and team sports programs are offered by Skyhawks and Kidz Love Soccer. However, most competitive youth sports leagues and programs remain the responsibility of community-based youth sports organizations in the area.
- Adult Sports – The Department provides several adult sports leagues, including softball, basketball and volleyball. In addition, there are a few individual sports such as tennis and racquetball.
- Fitness – Despite the fact that the Department has the Recreation Pavilion there is limited fitness programming due in part to inadequate fitness amenities, and a lack of emphasis on more general wellness services. This area will likely need additional focus in the future.
- Cultural Arts – The main focus of this program area is on youth and, in particular, youth dance. There are also a significant number of adult dance classes but no other major cultural program offerings. There are only a few visual art programs offered. There are very limited facilities to support this type of programming as well.
- Aquatics – With the aquatics facility that is part of the Recreation Pavilion, the Department has a strong focus on aquatic programs and activities. There will need to be a continued emphasis on aquatic programming, especially learn to swim classes for youth, as a primary program area.
- Youth – With the Department’s large before and after school, preschool and summer camp program, youth programming is a primary area of emphasis for recreation, and it is anticipated that this will remain so well into the future. The ability to integrate education, social services and even fitness/wellness into these programs will be critical in the future.
- Education – Currently, the Department does not have stand-alone education programming for adults or youth, but this is integrated into the before and after school program, preschool and Kids Krew programs. There are CPR/AED and first aid classes, however. More formal type of programming in this area is often being provided by local school districts, specialized non-profits, libraries or private providers.
- Specialty/General Interest – With the exception of dog training, there are no other programs in this category.
- Special Needs – The Department does not currently offer organized programming for special needs beyond adaptive swim lessons. Most of this programming is filled by other organizations in the area.
- Special Events – The Department does conduct a number of special events on a city-wide basis.
- Outdoor Recreation – There currently is very little emphasis given to this program area by the Department.
- Seniors – The Recreation and Parks Department has a limited number of programs and services that are focused on seniors. Most senior programming is the responsibility of the Mountlake Terrace Seniors Group which operates out of the Mickey Corso Community Clubhouse.
- Teens – There are relatively few programs offered in this area that are specifically targeted to teens. Most all of the programs are adult, or youth based that are also open for teens to participate in as well. In the future additional services and programs will likely need to be targeted to this age group.
- Self-Directed – Even though these types of activities are not formal programs they do require that the Department provide the opportunities and time in facilities for this to occur. With the Recreation Pavilion and other facilities, self-directed activities remain as a significant program area.
- Social Services – Although there is only one main program area, day care (Kids Krew), that is dedicated to this category, some social service functions are being integrated into most youth program areas on a regular basis.

## FUTURE RECREATION PROGRAM DIRECTIONS

Based on the analysis of existing programs, the demographic characteristics and the input received from the public, the following are basic recommendations for future recreation programs and services.

### ESTABLISH A PROGRAMMING PHILOSOPHY

The Recreation and Parks Department should develop an overall programming philosophy with the following objectives:

- Provide recreation program and service opportunities to all ages, incomes, abilities, gender, and ethnic groups in an equitable and inclusive manner.
- Provide recreation program and service opportunities in areas of interest that are identified as a need in the community.
- Partner with other providers to bring a full spectrum of recreation programs and services to the community.
- Recreation program and service offerings will be delivered on a community wide basis and a neighborhood level where appropriate.
- Recreation and program service offerings will respond to identified community needs in a cost effective and efficient manner.
- Recreation Programming efforts must be viewed through a DEIA lens that ensures recreation program and service access to all ages, incomes, abilities, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnic groups in an equitable and inclusive manner.

### DEVELOP A PROGRAM PLAN

Developing a program plan for the Department that includes the general direction of recreation programming for the next five-plus years should be undertaken. This would include the following areas of programming focus:

- Identify priorities for increasing programming to include:
  - Outdoor Education
  - Fitness/Wellness
  - Performing Arts
  - Aquatics
  - Education Classes/Programs
  - Drop-in Activities
- Commit to continuing the focus on the following program areas:
  - Youth Programs – before & after school, preschool, summer camps.
  - Dance
  - Kids Krew
  - Sports – Youth and adult
- Programming should include virtual options in addition to traditional in-person offerings.
- Determine the role of other organizations and recreation providers in the area. Establish key partnerships with other providers to expand program offerings.
- Clearly identify areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation.
- Determine clear staffing and operational budget requirements to support the program plan.
- Establish an implementation plan:
  - Determine how recreation programs and services will be provided and the role of the Department as well as other providers.
  - Establish a method of delivery for Department based programs. Are they hourly/class paid staff or contract service providers?







- Determine the facility, staffing and budget requirements for new programs.
- Incrementally develop new programs for the first few years with a limited number of programs being directly offered by city staff.
- Commit to contracting for many of the new programs for the first couple of years to lower the financial risk.
- Grow programs first that can be offered in existing facilities or parks and do not require extensive capital investment.
- Enhance key performance measures to gauge program success.

### PROGRAM PLAN FOCUS

The program plan for the Department includes the general direction of recreation programming for the next 5 plus years. This should include the following areas of programming focus for expansion:

- Outdoor Recreation (Outdoor Education) – There are currently very few programs that are being offered by the Department in this area. However, through the public input process this was identified as a priority. Increasing the level of programming in this area in the coming years will be important. This will likely require partnering with other outdoor education providers in the area.
- Fitness/Wellness – This area will need special emphasis and should include more than just fitness classes. There will need to be a strong focus on wellness and healthy living activities and events. It is realized that without physical alterations to the Recreation Pavilion (or a new center), it will be difficult to effectively serve this need. Developing partnerships with prominent healthcare providers in the market will provide important expertise and credibility to this effort.
- Cultural Arts – Currently the Department’s programming in this area is mostly dance classes. Adding additional programming in the performing arts is being requested by the public. There may also need to be an emphasis on visual arts as well. It will be important to utilize the findings from the Arts & Culture Strategic Plan as a foundation for developing additional programs. This should include the reliance on other cultural arts groups as contributors to programming of this type. Without facilities that are able to support these types of programs, it will be difficult to significantly increase programming in the area of performing arts.
- Aquatics – This is already an area of emphasis for the Department and needs to continue to be so in the coming years. Programs such as Learn to swim and water exercise classes will need continued focus and enhancement but also should include expanding to other programming.
- Education – Other than integrating education into before and after school programs, preschool, and Kids Krew, there have not been any specific education programs offered by the Department. Determining the types of education-based programming that the community is looking for will be required to adequately serve this need. Partnering with the school district or other education organizations will be essential to provide the expertise that is needed for this type of program.
- Self-Directed (Drop-in Activities) – Another priority for the community was the availability of parks and recreation amenities for drop-in activities. Continuing to allocate time at the Recreation Pavilion and other facilities for this purpose will be essential. This includes the use of facilities for community rentals.





Program areas for continued emphasis should include:

- Youth Sports – The Department currently provides a number of sports programs and most of these are introductory team sports for youth with some individual sports programs and camps. It is expected that the Department will continue to offer these programs and may add emerging sports or non-traditional offerings. Most competitive youth team sports will continue to be offered by community-based youth sports organizations. If the City is going to significantly increase its commitment to youth sports, there will need to be additional athletic fields and gymnasiums.
- Adult Sports – While the Department has a small base of adult team and individual sports currently, it is not expected that there will be much growth in this area unless there is an increase in athletic fields and gymnasiums and a stronger commitment to adult sports.
- Youth Programming – It is expected that youth programming will continue to be the cornerstone of offerings by the Department in the future. Updating these programs to meet today's youth needs and broadening the focus to include education, social services and fitness/wellness will be important.
- Social Services – The primary program in this area will continue to be Kids Krew, but it is not anticipated that there will be other areas of significant growth in the future.

Other programming areas, such as the following, could be considered, but they should be a lesser emphasis:

- General Interest – This program category includes programming that does not fit into the other categories. It is not anticipated that this will be an area of program growth in the future for the Department.
- Special Needs – This is not a significant program area for the Department currently but there is certainly a need to have these types of services available for this segment of the community. It is anticipated that the vast majority of programming will be provided by other agencies that specialize in these services, but this will need to be coordinated by the Department.
- Special Events – Currently the Department offers a few special events, but this was not identified as a high priority for future programming needs. The primary responsibility for providing additional special events (especially on a city-wide basis) should reside with other organizations and entities in the future, but the Department will need to assist with the identification of the types of events that would meet community needs.

The need for demographic-specific programming should include:

- Youth – The majority of current programming focuses on youth services, and this is primarily through the preschool, after school and summer camp programs. This will need to continue but there needs to be broader range of services to other age groups in the future.
- Teens – This age category has not received the same level of programming focus as younger youth age groups and as a result will need to see an increase in the type and number of programs that are offered. However, the Department does not necessarily have to be the lead agency on the actual provision of services.
- Seniors – The Department currently has a limited number of senior services and programs. Yet, with the presence of the Mountlake Terrace Seniors Group, it is not anticipated that the Department will have a significant role in providing seniors services. Still in the future there needs to be a greater focus on the more active, younger senior (the Baby Boomers). This is a significant market segment that is not being adequately served at this time by other providers.
- Intergenerational/Multi generational – Offering programs and services that have an appeal to multiple generations or across generations should become an area of focus with the number of households with children in the community.





- Ethnic Based – With the ethnic makeup of Mountlake Terrace, there needs to be an effort to offer programs and services that are appropriate for the cultural orientation of the area.

## PROGRAM CLASSIFICATIONS

Based on the Program Plan Focus, the following is the projected programming classifications for Mountlake Terrace Recreation and Parks. It is important to realize that while certain program areas may be a focus for growth in programs and services, the Recreation and Parks Department’s role in providing the actual service may be different as indicated below.

### CLASSIFICATION DEFINITIONS

- Core Programs – are those programs that are a primary responsibility of the Recreation and Parks Department to provide as city-based activities.
- Secondary Programs – are those programs that are a lower priority to be provided directly by the Recreation and Parks Department but may be offered by other organizations through contract with the city.
- Support Programs – are programs that are not a priority for the Recreation and Parks Department to be providing directly to the community but where the city may provide support through facilities, program coordination, and promotion of activities for other organizations.

The following chart identifies and summarizes recommended future core programs, secondary programs and support program areas for the Recreation and Parks Department

Figure 15. Recommended Future Program Types by Focus Area

Core Programs	Secondary Programs	Support Programs
Aquatics	Adult Sports	Education
Fitness/Wellness	Cultural Arts	General Interest
Self-Directed	Outdoor Recreation	Seniors
Youth	Social Services	Special Needs
Youth Sports	Special Events	
	Teens	

Program delivery, partner provider roles and other issues are noted in more detail in Appendix I.





## 7. PARKS & OPEN SPACE

*The RPOS planning process assesses recreation and park activity, facility needs and priorities for Mountlake Terrace and relies heavily on public input, park inventory conditions and gives consideration to state and national recreation trends.*

**T**he assessment includes a discussion of specific, local needs and how they might be considered within the City's broader parks, trails and recreation system.

By considering the location, size and number of facilities by type and use, along with community interests and priorities,

this plan evaluates the latent and potential demand for park and recreation amenities. The six-year Capital Improvement Plan, which identifies and prioritizes crucial upgrades, improvements and expansions is founded on this work of assimilating all the park system information and the needs expressed by residents.





## PARKS & OPEN SPACE MACROTRENDS

A variety of resources have been assembled and summarized to offer a comprehensive overview of current trends, market demands and agency comparisons in the provision of parks and recreation. This information provides perspectives that are helpful when balancing with local insights and feedback from the community to identify the demands and establish public needs during the planning process.

The following national and state data highlights some of the current trends in recreation and may frame future considerations in Mountlake Terrace's recreation system. Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and

opportunities that may create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future. Additional trend data and summaries are provided in Appendix H.

- Nationwide, eighty-two percent of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation are essential. <sup>(1)</sup>
- Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space or recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live. <sup>(1)</sup>
- Just over half of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. However, the number of outings per participant

declined – continuing a decade-long trend – resulting in fewer total recreational outings. <sup>(2)</sup>

- Running, jogging and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities across the nation, based on levels of participation, followed by fishing, hiking biking and camping. <sup>(2)</sup>
- Trail running, day hiking, recreational kayaking are rapidly increasing in popularity – participation in each increased more than 5% per year between 2014 and 2019. <sup>(3)</sup>
- Walking, running, hiking, and cycling saw significant increases in participation in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic (March to June 2020). <sup>(2)</sup>
- People of all ages and income levels are interested in outdoor activities like fishing, camping, hiking, biking, bicycling, and swimming. Younger people are more interested in participating in team sports, such as soccer, basketball and volleyball, while older adults are more likely to aspire

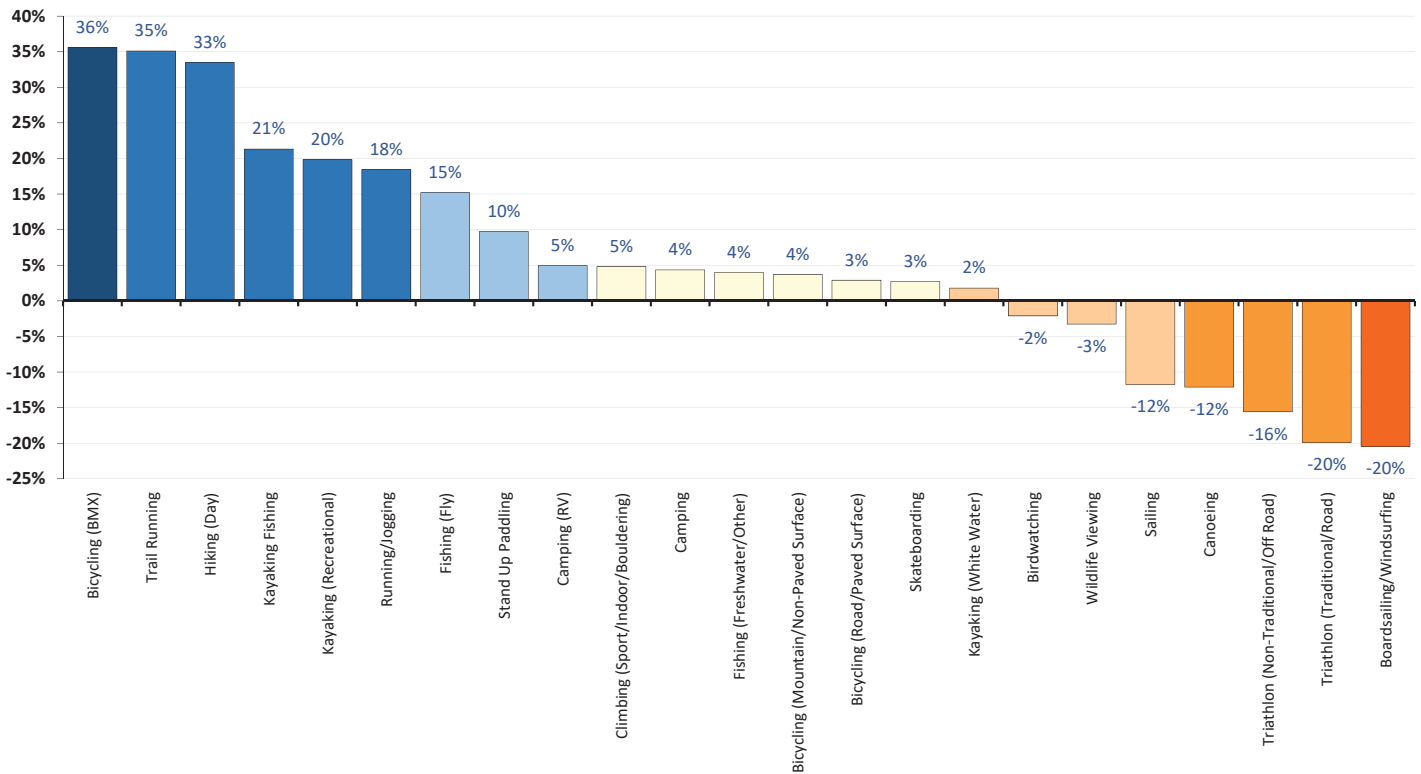
to individual activities like swimming for fitness, bird and nature viewing, and canoeing. <sup>(3)</sup>

According to 2020 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, just over half of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. These outdoor participants went on a total of 10.9 billion outdoor outings – a 12% drop from the 2012 high-water mark of 12.4 billion outings. Participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual’s age.

Sources:

- (1) American Engagement with Parks Survey
- (2) 2020 Outdoor Participation Report
- (3) 2020 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

Figure 16. 5-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation by Major Activity (2020 Outdoor Participation Report)





## STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

The 2018–2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State provides a strategic direction to help assure the effective and adequate provision of outdoor recreation and conservation to meet the needs of Washington State residents. The plan identified near and long-term priorities with specific actions within each priority to help meet the outdoor recreation and conservation needs within the state. Five priority areas:

1. Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
2. Improve Equity of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
3. Meet the Needs of Youth
4. Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics
5. Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

## OPERATIONAL & SERVICE CHALLENGES DUE TO COVID-19

A statewide survey of park and recreation agencies was conducted in the second half of 2020, with a focus on service demand and operational challenges, both preceding and as a result of COVID-19. City, county and parks and recreation special purpose district leaders were asked to complete the survey, and the survey was sent to 227 agencies – 109 cities, 39 counties, 79 Special Purpose Park Districts with 73 responses. The project was a collaboration between the Washington Recreation & Park Association, the Washington State Association of Counties, the Association of Washington Cities, and Metro Parks Tacoma.

In a question that asked the agency about how stable its outlook in for 2020 pre- and during COVID-19, the percentage of agencies that stated their outlook as very strong and stable decreased by 25 points, with 27.8% indicating as very stable at the beginning of the year to 2.8% indicating as very stable by August 1, 2020.

Similarly, agencies that felt moderately or significantly underfunded and unstable rose from 5.5% to 50% by August 1, 2020.

Also, significant majorities of agencies indicated service delivery impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the following ways.

- Reduced ability to manage, maintain, operate and secure passive parks to safety standards and control access (87%).
- Cancellation of special events and tourism campaigns that support local employment and drives the local economy (87%).
- Inability to operate critical community programs, pools, attractions and facilities, including services for vulnerable populations (81%).
- Lack of ability to hire/maintain seasonal employees & offer programs/services allowable under Safe Start (74%).
- Addressing public use and behaviors that put the community at risk, such as tearing down caution tape, using fields (85%).

## LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

Local recreation demands and needs were explored through a variety of public engagement to gather feedback on strengths and limitations of existing recreational resources and parks available to Mountlake Terrace residents. Public outreach included community surveys, online open house and group stakeholder discussions to explore project priorities and opportunities to enhance the city's park system.

### COMMUNITY SURVEY

In October 2020, a community survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within Mountlake Terrace, followed a few days later by an online survey posted on the City website. In all, 1,045 responses were completed from the combined mail and online surveys.

## ENJOYING THE WATERFRONT

Lake Ballinger is a significant community asset, and Ballinger Park offers year-round recreation.





Both versions of the survey confirmed that local parks, recreation options and open space opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Mountlake Terrace. Respondents with children at home were significantly more likely to find parks and recreation as essential to their quality of life. The majority of respondents were very satisfied with Mountlake Terrace’s recreation facilities, parks and open spaces.

Respondents visit their local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, the most common reason and most popular activity was for walking or running. Relaxation, dog walking, waterfront activities and playgrounds were the next most common reasons for park visits.

The survey inquired about potential park amenities that Mountlake Terrace should consider adding to the park system. Recreation walking and biking trails were identified as most important features to be added to the park system. Strong support was indicated for more picnic shelters and areas with wildlife or nature viewing. Respondents also indicated the need for all-inclusive, accessible playground, commuter trails, outdoor performance spaces, and more off-leash dog areas. The survey showed support for adding outdoor fitness equipment, sports courts and splash pads. The complete list of preferred additions are listed in the figure below.

When asked to prioritize a list of park and recreation facility projects, survey respondents favored a top three set of options: acquiring land for future parks or natural areas, developing new amenities in parks and expanding recreational or commuter trails. When considering the adequacy of number and variety of park and recreation options offered by Mountlake Terrace, respondents identified that adding more walking and biking trails could be beneficial.

Figure 17. Main Reasons For Visiting Local Parks and Recreation Facilities

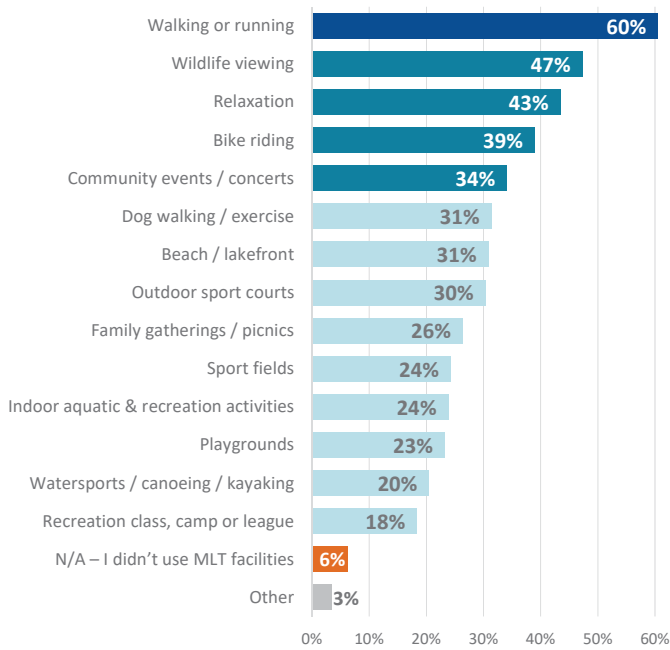
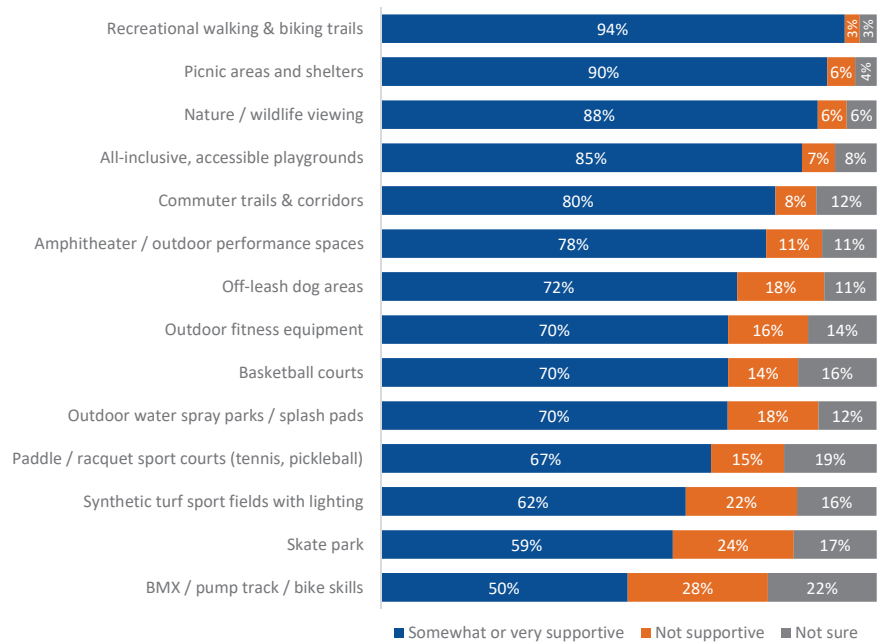


Figure 18. Park Amenities to Consider Adding to Mountlake Terrace Park System Facilities



## STAKEHOLDER INPUT

The planning process gathered focused input and feedback from identified stakeholders who represented different park and recreation user groups, supporters, and advocates.

In December, a number of sports group representatives participated in a teleconference to discuss existing challenges and future demands for sports facilities and programming. The youth sports leagues and camps active in Mountlake Terrace include youth football, youth baseball, youth basketball, junior volleyball and youth volleyball. The existing tennis program operates for 2 months and could be expanded to year-round. Disc/Ulimate Frisbee after-school programs could expand if facilities were available; the adult programs could be expanded if field lighting were available to extent evening play times. Rugby and lacrosse have been growing in popularity recently. Equitable access to recreation programs for all youth was strongly recommended. City Recreation was cited as vital to providing facilities and activities that allow equitable participation throughout the community.

City Recreation youth programs feed participants into local leagues and benefits high school sports programs. Youth sports stakeholders identified the need for better coordination and communication with the school district to optimize shared-use of sports fields and indoor gyms. Field availability is the biggest shortfall for fulfilling the programming demands. Field improvements were suggested for Evergreen Playfield, Ballinger Park and Bicentennial Park. Lighting for turf fields to extend practice and game times during fall and winter was suggested. Since the City has no additional space for fields, any additional field capacity should come from existing field improvements.

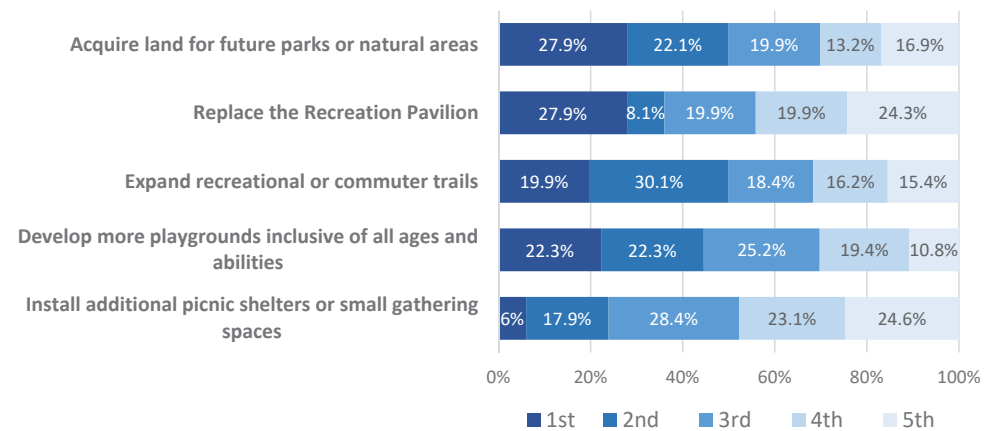
The City recognizes the lack of indoor gymnasium space. Stakeholders also identified an interest in developing a community center with multi-sport facilities and expanding the Pavilion to accommodate multiple uses. Snohomish County may have interest in an indoor sport facility.

## OPEN HOUSE

The City hosted an online open house in April 2021 to share information about the projects and to gather additional input.

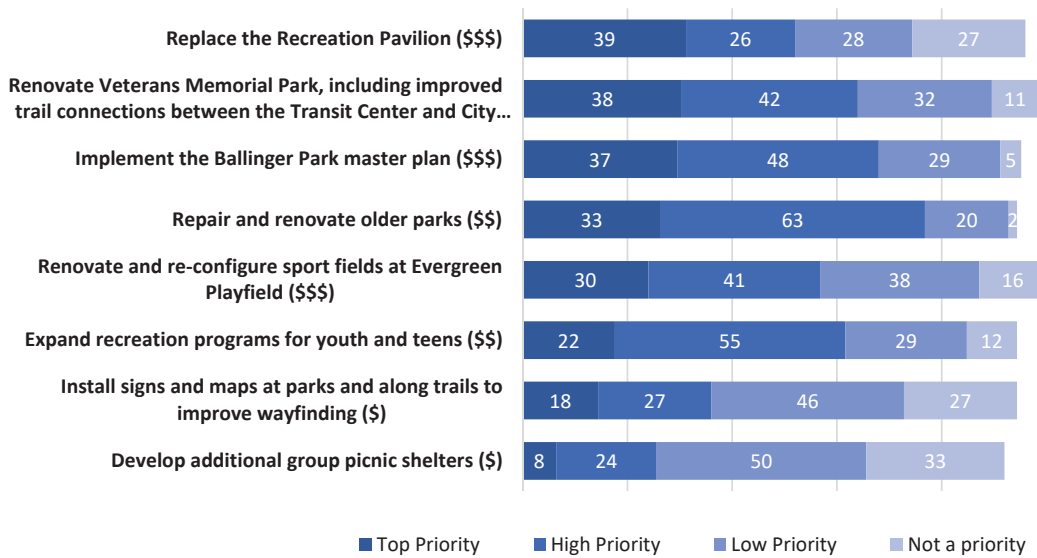
Participants were asked to rank a set of improvements identified during the community survey. Acquiring land for future parks or natural areas and replacing the Recreation Pavilion were ranked highest by respondents. When using weighted rankings, acquiring land for future parks or natural areas and expanding recreational or commuter trails were the highest ranked priorities. Installing additional picnic shelters or small gathering spaces was the lowest ranked priority by respondents.

Figure 19. Park Amenities to Consider Adding to Mountlake Terrace Park System Facilities



When considering future system investments, respondents to the online open house identified repairing and renovating older parks, replacing the Recreation Pavilion, renovating Veterans Memorial Park, and implementing the Ballinger Park master plan as their top priorities.

Figure 20. Park Amenities to Consider Adding to Mountlake Terrace Park System Facilities



## PARK CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

The condition of park infrastructure and amenities is a measure of park adequacy and a required assurance of public safety. General park infrastructure may include walkways, parking lots, park furniture, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems and vegetation. Deferred maintenance over a long period can result in unusable amenities when perceived as unsafe or undesirable by park patrons.

The existing conditions within parks were assessed to identify issues and concerns and opportunities for future improvements. The condition assessment matrix shown on the below summarizes the results of these assessments and can be used to help prioritize needed park improvements. The matrix uses a rating system that ranks the condition of the park element based on the following scale:

- Good Condition: In general, amenities in good condition offer full functionality and do not need repairs. Good facilities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features (railings, fences, etc.). Good facilities may have minor cosmetic defects. Good facilities encourage area residents to use the park.
- Fair: In general, amenities in fair condition are largely functional but need minor or moderate repairs. Fair facilities have play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or time periods where they are unusable. Fair facilities remain important amenities for the neighborhood but may slightly discourage use of the park by residents.
- Poor: In general, amenities in poor condition are largely or completely unusable. They need major repairs to be functional. Poor facilities are park features that have deteriorated to the point where they are barely usable. Fields are too uneven for ball games, safety features are irreparably broken, buildings need structural retrofitting, etc. Poor facilities discourage residents from using the park.

Generally a feature with a rating of “3” should have higher priority for resolution through maintenance, capital repairs or as a new capital project. Park amenity conditions were also averaged across park elements to indicate which types of elements are in greater need for



# Mountlake Terrace RPOS Plan

## Park & Facility Condition Assessment Matrix

Site Name	Address	Ac.*	Park Type	Recreation Amenities									Site Amenities				Park Structures					Vegetation				ADA
				Playgrounds	Paved Courts: Basketball	Paved Courts: Tennis	Volleyball	Soccer Fields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Pathways / Trails	Off-Leash Area	Waterfront/Beach	Site Furnishings	Lighting (Y/N)	Signage	Parking Areas	Restrooms	Picnic Shelters	Fishing Pier	Boat Dock / Ramp	Concession Building	Turf	Park Trees	Landscaped Beds	Natural Areas	Compliance
<b>PARKS</b>																										
Ballinger Park	23000 Lakeview Dr	54.9	REG	3		3		2	2	2		2	1	Y	1	1	2		2	2		1	1	2	1	2
Bicentennial Park	4105 222nd	4.72	NH	2						1			1	Y	1	1			1			2	2			2
Dog Park	5303 228th St	-	SPEC								1		1		1	1							2		1	2
Evergreen Playfield	22205 56th	13.89	COM	1		2		1	2	2			1	Y	1	1	2				3	1	1	2		2
Fire Fighters Memorial Park	3900 228th St	0.9	NH	2						1			2	Y	1	1						1	1			2
Forest Crest Playfield	5006 236th St	4.6	COM	1						1			1		1	1						1	1	2	1	3
Interurban Trail	Linear Park	15.69	LIN							1					2											1
Jack Long Park	22102 58th St	3.33	NH	1						1			2		1							1	1		1	2
Montesa Open Space	Open Space	1.11	NAT							2					1								1		1	3
Open Space (Cedar & 244th)	24311 Cedar Way	1.15	NAT							2															1	
Recreation Pavilion	5303 228th St	9.24	SPEC	2	1			1	1					Y	1	1						1	1	2	1	1
Terrace Creek Overlook Open Space	Open Space	1.97	NAT							1													1		1	3
Terrace Creek Park	23200 48th	8.67	NH	2						2			2		1	1	2	1				1	1		1	
Terrace Creek Natural Area	23200 48th	44.68	NAT							2															1	
Terrace Ridge Park	4600 242nd	6.11	NH	1			2			1			1	Y	1	1						1	1		1	2
Terrace Ridge Natural Area	4600 242nd	1.29	NAT																			1	1		1	
Veterans Memorial Park	23500 58th	2.21	NH	2						2			1	Y	1			2				1	1		2	2
Veterans Memorial Natural Area	23500 58th	6.06	NAT							2																
		<b>180.5</b>	<b>Average:</b>	1.70	1.00	2.50	2.00	1.33	1.67	1.53	1.00	2.00	1.30		1.08	1.00	2.00	1.33	2.00	2.00	3.00	1.09	1.14	2.00	1.08	2.08

**NOTES**  
Ratings: 1= good; 2=fair; 3=poor (see reverse side for descriptions)  
Park Types: NH= Neighborhood; COM= Community; REG= Regional; SPEC= Special Use; NAT= Natural Area; LIN= Linear Park  
\*Lake Ballinger Island = natural area not included in this conditions assessment

**PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK**

significant upgrades, renovations or overall improvements. Based on this assessment, the City's sport courts, restrooms, ADA compliance and waterfront amenities, such as fishing pier, boat ramp and beach, are in the greatest need of attention.

## Overall Considerations

### General Parks

Parks are well-used and some have aging infrastructure that requires upgrading, improvements or replacement. Master plans will help guide future upgrades and park enhancements and help eligibility for outside grant funds.

### Natural Areas

Natural areas with user-made trails and pathways may be more difficult to maintain, since many trails are not designed using best practices for trail alignments. Where feasible, existing trails that travel directly up/down steep slopes

should be targeted for re-alignment to make trail tread more sustainable and user travel safer and easier. Invasive plant species control is on-going and more difficult to recruit and enable volunteer contributions during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Wayfinding & Signage

Additional park entries, side paths to existing trails and trail intersections could all benefit from signage designed to provide a comprehensive wayfinding system for park and trail users. A unified signage system should be planned to provide directional, informational and emergency information at appropriate locations throughout the park system.

### Pavement & Amenities Conditions

Many paved asphalt pathways were compromised by tree root upheavals and need repair. Older park features showed signs of wear and needed repair or replacement. Some table tops and bench

wood pieces needed replacement. The buildings at Evergreen Playfields are aged, outdated and ready for replacement.

### Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

Older parks contain architectural barriers to universal access and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Pavement with large cracks and gaps are non-ADA-compliant. Playgrounds with edging barriers or non-accessible surfacing create barriers to children (and their parents) who may be challenged with mobility limitations. Picnic tables, benches and other park amenities should have ADA-compliant design features and pathways to ensure adequate access.





## PARK DISTRIBUTION – GAP ANALYSIS

Mountlake Terrace residents are fortunate to have access to great parks; however, continued redevelopment in a city without the option for outward expansion will place further pressure on the park system through increasing densities and reducing opportunities to secure new recreational lands. Understanding the known gaps in the park system and evaluating the City's existing levels of service for parks will provide a foundation for strategic planning as a basis for a balanced distribution of parks, trails and recreation amenities in the future.

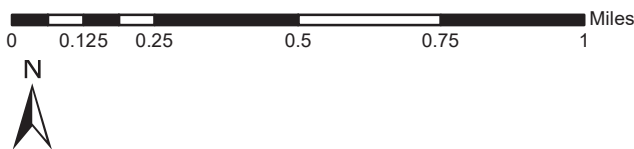
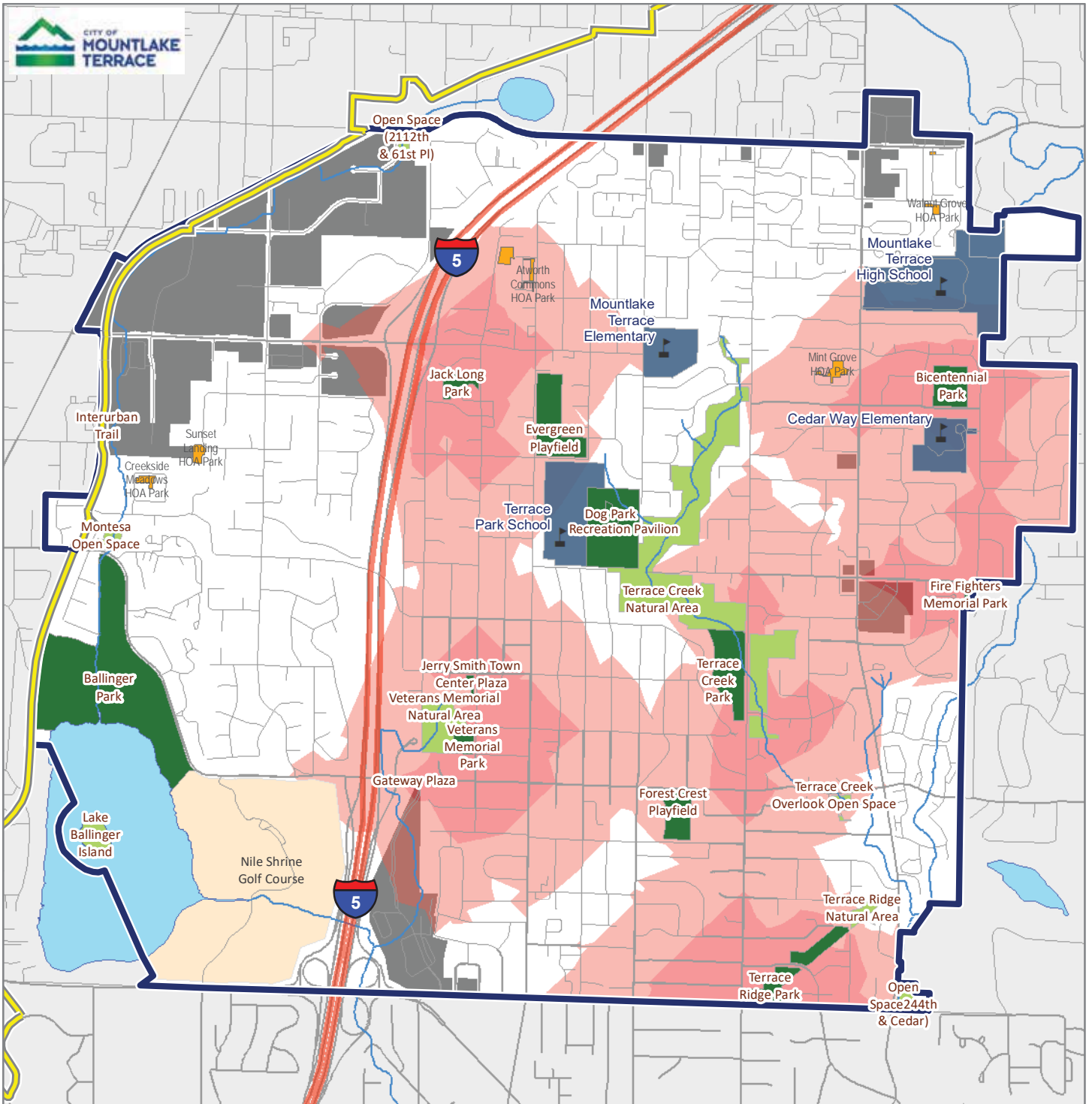
To better understand where acquisition efforts should be considered, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the current distribution of parks throughout the city. The analysis reviewed the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were isolated, since neighborhood and community parks primarily serve these areas. Additionally, walksheds were defined for neighborhood parks using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each park. Walksheds for community and regional parks were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, 1-mile and 3-mile travel distances to acknowledge that these park types (including athletic fields) serve a wider array of users and driving to such sites is typical.

Maps 2 through 6 illustrate the application of the distribution criteria from existing parks. Areas in white do not have a public park within reasonable walking distance of their home. The illustrated 'walkshed' for each existing Mountlake Terrace park highlights that certain areas within the city do not have the desired proximity to a local park.

Striving to provide a pocket or neighborhood park within a reasonable walking distance (e.g., ½-mile) may require acquiring new park properties in currently under-served locations, improving multi-modal transportation connections to allow local residents to safely and conveniently reach their local park, and evaluating the potential use of school sites as proxies for local neighborhood parks. As Mountlake Terrace develops and acquisition opportunities diminish, the City should consider taking advantage of acquisition opportunities in strategic locations and as funding allows to fill remaining gaps. In concert with the search for developable park land, the City should continue to coordinate with proposed residential land development projects to consider when and how a public park could be incorporated into the planning of newly developed residential areas.

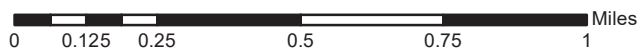
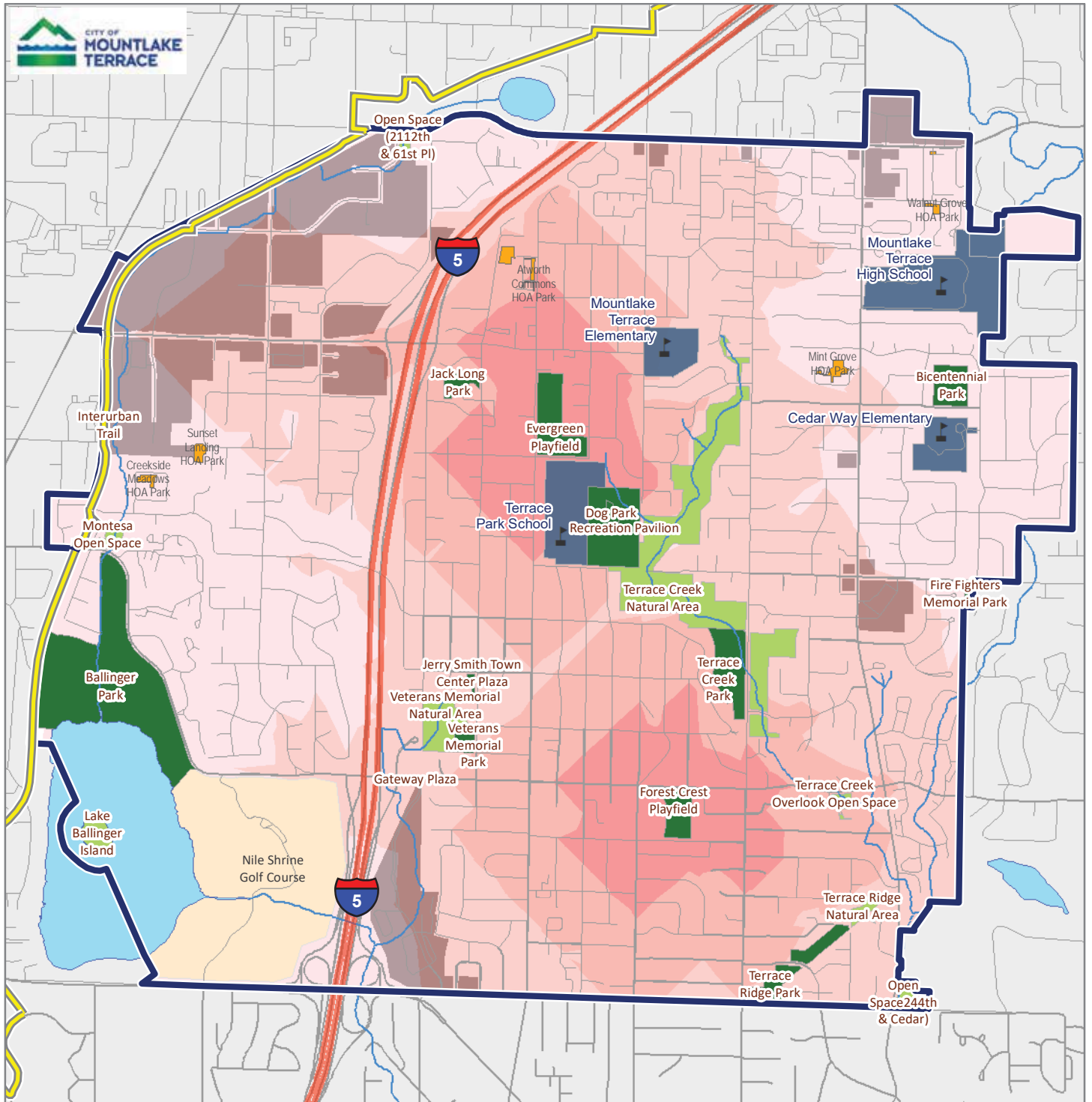
Resulting from this assessment, potential acquisition areas are identified for future parks (Map 7) and are noted in the Capital Planning chapter of this Plan. The mapping targeted three sites for future parks for the near- to long-term:

- Acquisition area A (0.5-1 acre, west-central Mountlake Terrace)
- Acquisition area B (2-4 acres, northwest Mountlake Terrace)
- Acquisition area C-D (0.5-2 acres, northeast Mountlake Terrace)



Legend			
	City Limits		Homeowner Association Parks
	1/4-mile Walkshed to Park		Schools
	1/2-mile Walkshed to Park		School District Property
	City Parks		Golf Course
	City Natural Areas		Non-Residential Zoning
	Interurban Trail		Water
	Golf Course		

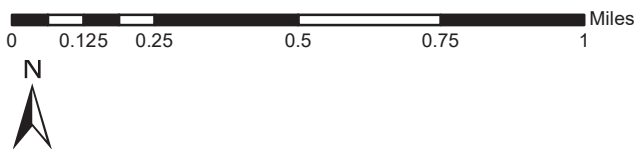
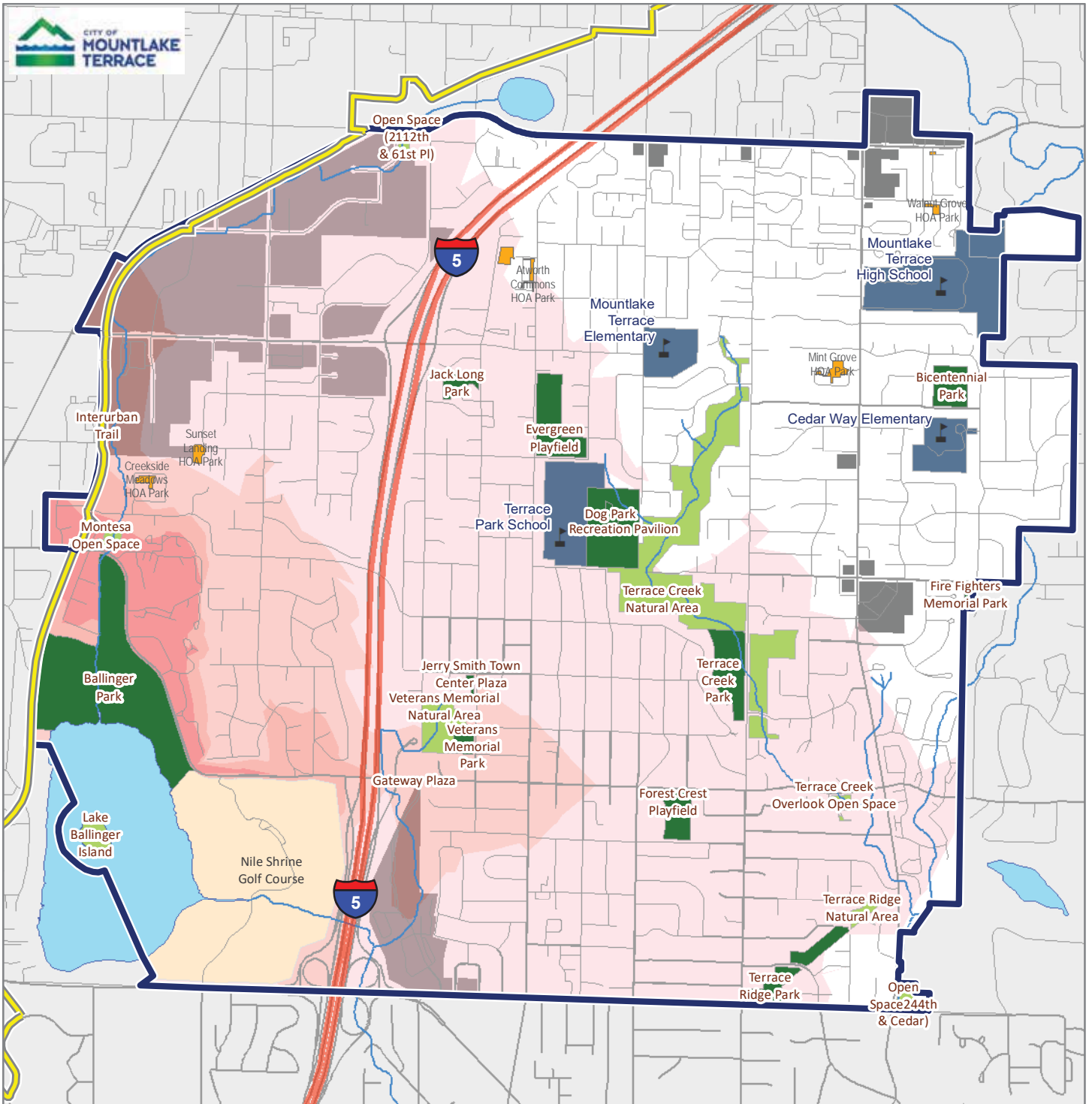
## MAP 2: WALKSHED MAP (NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS TO 1/2-MILE)



Legend			
	City Limits		Homeowner Association Parks
	1/4-mile Walkshed to Park		Schools
	1/2-mile Walkshed to Park		School District Property
	1-mile Walkshed to Park		Golf Course
	2-mile Walkshed to Park		Non-Residential Zoning
	City Parks		Water
	City Natural Areas		
	Interurban Trail		
	Golf Course		

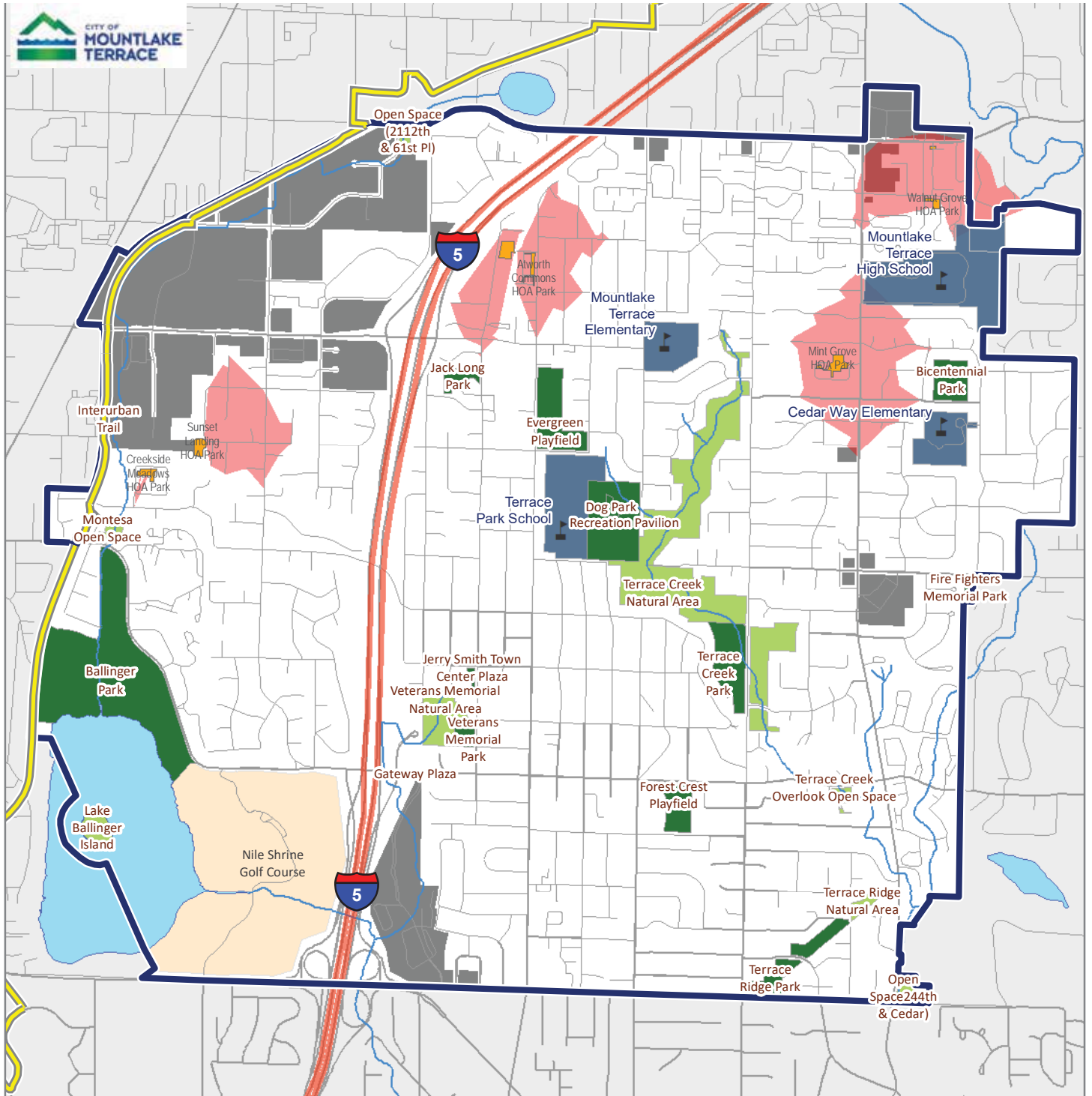
# MAP 3: WALKSHED MAP (COMMUNITY PARKS TO 2 MILES)





Legend			
	City Limits		Homeowner Association Parks
	1/4-mile Walkshed to Park		Schools
	1/2-mile Walkshed to Park		School District Property
	1-mile Walkshed to Park		Golf Course
	2-mile Walkshed to Park		Non-Residential Zoning
	City Parks		Water
	City Natural Areas		
	Interurban Trail		
	Golf Course		

**MAP 4: WALKSHED MAP (REGIONAL PARKS TO 2 MILES)**



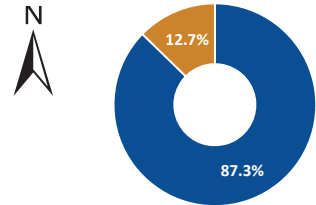
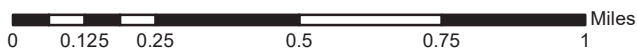
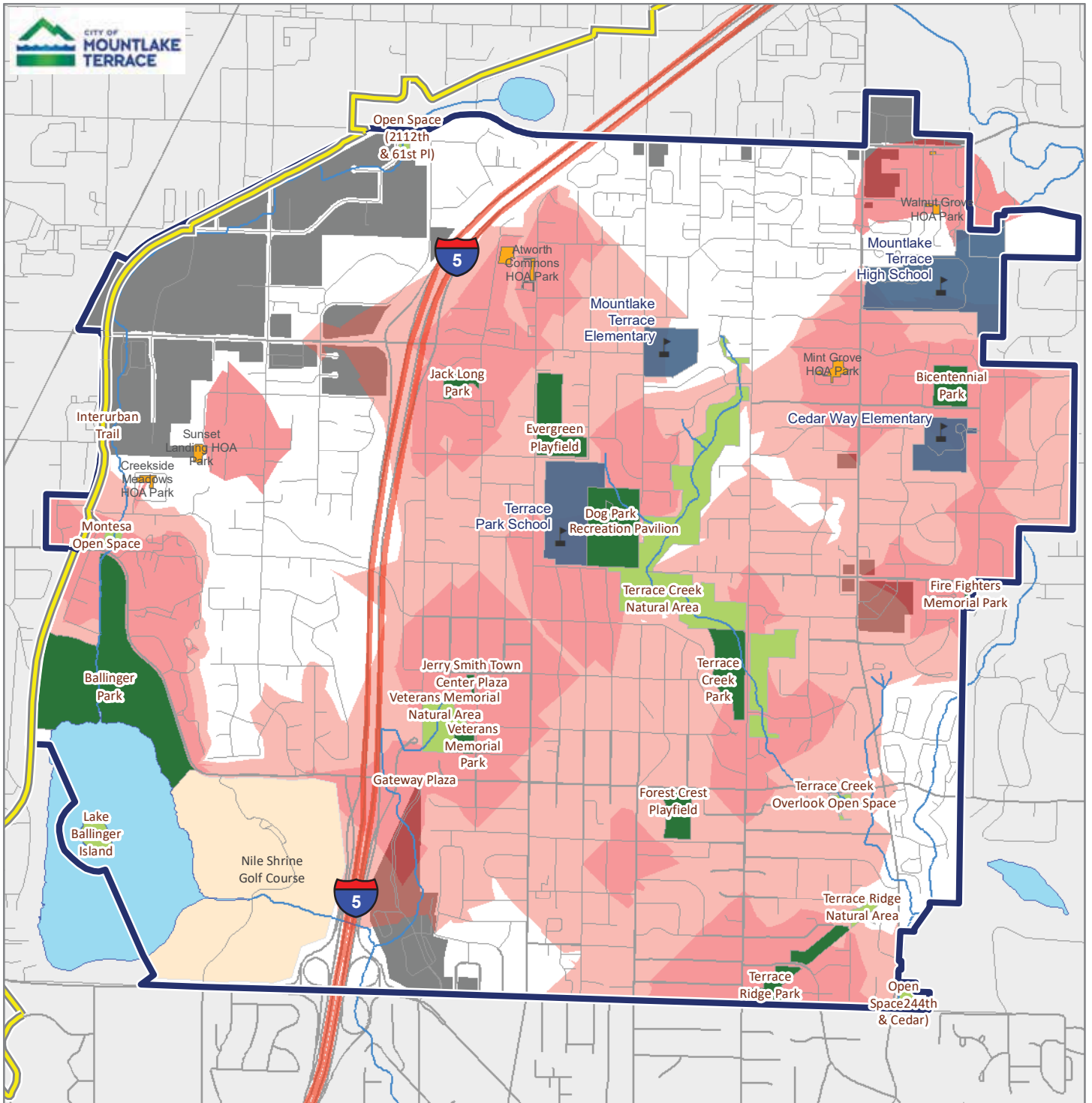
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles



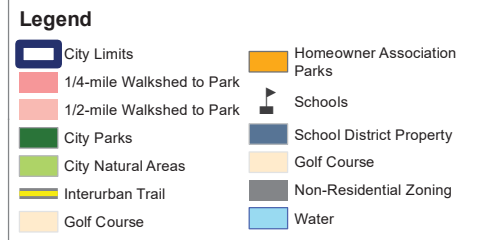
**Legend**

- City Limits
- 1/4-mile Walkshed to HOA Park
- City Parks
- City Natural Areas
- Interurban Trail
- Golf Course
- Homeowner Association Parks
- Schools
- School District Property
- Golf Course
- Non-Residential Zoning
- Water

# MAP 5: WALKSHED MAP (HOA PARKS TO 1/4-MILE WALKSHED)

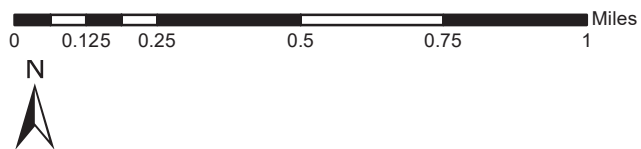
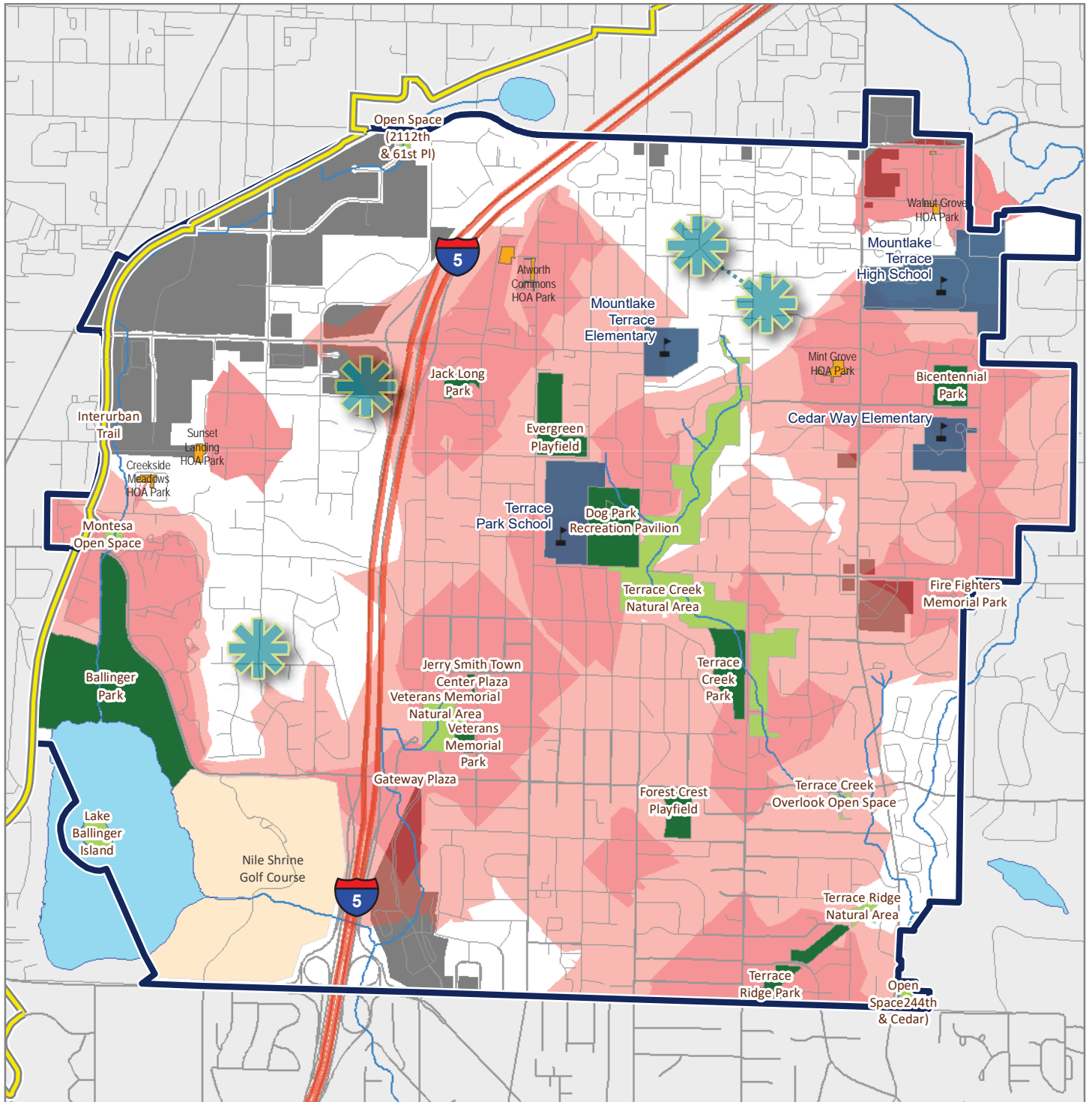


■ Population within 1/2-mile Walkshed of Park  
 ■ Population farther than 1/2-mile to Park



# MAP 6: WALKSHED MAP (ALL PARKS TO 1/2-MILE WALKSHED)





Legend	
	City Limits
	Potential Acquisition Area
	1/4-mile Walkshed to Park
	1/2-mile Walkshed to Park
	City Parks
	City Natural Areas
	Interurban Trail
	Golf Course
	Homeowner Association Parks
	Schools
	School District Property
	Golf Course
	Non-Residential Zoning
	Water

# MAP 7: POTENTIAL ACQUISITION TARGET AREAS

## DEMAND FOR RECREATION AND PARK AMENITIES

Recreational desires identified during the community survey and reaffirmed by national trends targeted the addition of new recreational amenities in park and the expansion of walking or running connections in the City's park and trail system. Among those amenities that were strongly favored recreational walking and biking trails and picnic areas or shelters were the top two highest priorities. All inclusive, accessible playgrounds ranked as the third most important amenity improvement. Among these top three amenity additions, survey respondents also identified the importance of wildlife and nature as critical to the park system and its settings.

The previous 2015 RPOS Plan identified the need for additional sports courts and the community survey reassessed that priority with 67% of respondents supportive of additional "paddle/racquet sport courts" (tennis, pickleball). The RPOS Plan also noted that trails and pathways should have more access and amenities to allow for various experiences and better connections throughout the community. In addition to the sports courts, other identified and supported amenity additions included: outdoor performance spaces, off-leash dog areas, outdoor fitness equipment basketball courts and spray/splash pads.

Overall assessments of the park system noted the need for trail connections and wayfinding to help create a more holistic and unified system of walking and biking for both recreation and desired travel corridors. The 2015 RPOS also identified the need for a system-wide wayfinding design for park locations, trail connections and community destinations.

## RECREATION PAVILION

The Recreation Pavilion plays a vital role in the provision of recreational infrastructure and programming for the City. The structure has aged and warrants replacement to ensure continued park and recreational service provision. A business and development plan is needed to determine the best approach for what facilities, services and programming this future Pavilion should be designed for.

## PARK MASTER PLANS

Several parks have gone through master planning and their adopted plans contain recommended improvement projects for consideration. Some phases of master plan improvements have been accomplished or are in progress, and other phases should be planned for the future.

### Ballinger Park Master Plan

The master plan proposed six phases for implementation of the potential park improvements. Trail system, meadow seeding and entry signage and fencing are identified as the first phase for their relatively easy implementation. Some work in this phase has been done. The second phase targets creek restoration including a new bridge and boardwalk. Permitting for creek restoration is in progress through a collaboration with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). The City will pay a 35% portion of the costs for that creek restoration and associated park improvements. The Community Terrace area surrounding the Senior Center (former golf clubhouse building) are part of Phase 3. Athletic field and habitat improvements are phases 4 and 5. Some east side improvements (Phase 6) including a new fishing pier, restrooms, ADA playground and paved pathway to Senior Center are underway. The boat launch has been installed.

## Terrace Creek Natural Area

The recent acquisition of the Tasoff property provides land ownership for a potential trail connection from east to west to link the natural areas and trails from the north-south main trail across to the Recreation Pavilion. This trail segment would require a footbridge.

### Melody Hill Sub-Area Park Master Plan

The Melody Hill Sub-Area Plan recommends the addition of a neighborhood park for that local residential community. Once some property is acquired, the site will warrant a master planning process to determine its best future development direction. The capital facility improvement for that proposed future new park should be anticipated in the coming years.

### Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan

The concept master plan for Veterans Memorial Park proposes playground upgrades, trail improvements and lighting, new picnic areas, upgraded gazebo/shelter, and restrooms. Chapter 8 and Appendix G describe the master plan process, provides an opinion of probable cost and describes guiding policies for future development.



## ACQUISITION PROJECTS

### Melody Hill Sub-Area Plan Neighborhood Park

The Melody Hill Sub-Area Plan identified park and trail needs for the subject neighborhood that includes a portion of the Interurban Trail. The plan identified a potential target acquisition for a needed future neighborhood park as a portion of the former Melody Hill School site. Another alternative neighborhood park acquisition targeted the Sunset Landing development. Trailhead development for the Interurban Trail was also recommended in the subarea plan to enhance park and recreation opportunities. Wayfinding signage to enhance trail use was another recommended.

The subarea plan recommended the development of an overall Interurban Trail Improvement Plan to help identify trail improvements, such as crosswalks, traffic

calming, lighting, bollards and signage. This trail master plan and its associated capital improvements were recommended for implementation within five to ten years from the sub-area plan adoption in 2006. A near-term recommendation is for a neighborhood trail link between 64th Avenue West and 65th Avenue West.

### Trail Connections

Future trail connections to existing parks, schools, town center, Interurban Trail and local trails should be an acquisition goal for the City. Acquiring public access easements or fee simple land purchases of corridors or connecting parcels is an important pursuit towards creating a walkable system of pathways and trails for the community. The City should continually be on the lookout for opportunities to gain parklands that help link parks, trails and schools.

### Park Connections

Public access from the north-side of Bicentennial Park has been recommended to provide better local access and walkability for the immediate vicinity of the park. Other parks could also benefit from better local access to improve connections for recreation and to promote healthy physical activity.

### Riparian Conservation

The City has acquired considerable conservation lands to protect water quality, control flooding and meet the needs for stormwater management. Whenever feasible, strategic natural lands can be added to the parks and natural areas to enhance environmental services and ecological values in the community. In some situations, natural land acquisition can provide the vital link for greenways and futures trail connections. This conservation effort should be ongoing.



## AMENITY REPLACEMENTS & UPGRADES

### Playground Equipment

A look at installation dates for the play equipment in the park system offers one measure of potential guidance toward future needed replacements. Although highly variable across manufacturers, wearing, maintenance and use, play equipment has a life expectancy. In general, life spans may be in the 15 to 25 year range. City staff regularly inspect the play equipment to ensure public safety. On occasion, play equipment parts can be replaced if worn, but often the replacement parts are either not available or feasible for simple replacement. Play equipment that is over 20 years old should be evaluated and its replacement planned within a few years based on both age and conditions.

The six play features are over 20 years old include Ballinger Park (primary play equipment), Bicentennial Park (Hey Wagon), Firefighters Truck, Recreation Pavilion (south lot), Terrace Creek playground and Terrace Ridge playground. The Ballinger Park playground is planned for conversion to a splash pad after the new ADA-accessible playground is installed. The Recreation Pavilion playground replacement could coincide with the future replacement of the Recreation Pavilion. Both Terrace Creek and Terrace Ridge playgrounds appear to be structurally sound, but these should be carefully evaluated for replacement needs. Replacements should be planned within the next ten years.

### Terrace Creek Park

The past 2015 RPOS Plan identified the need for permanent restrooms at the park. Recent swing set improvements have helped upgrade the playground, but the playground fall safety surfacing should be upgraded and the play equipment is aging (installed in 2000).

### Evergreen Playfields

Evergreen Playfield has just had new soccer field upgrades with synthetic turf and

lighting. Tennis court improvements are planned and pathways repairs and upgrades are planned for near term implementation. Additional sports field upgrades to extend use and season is fitting as Mountlake Terrace sees an increase in youth and adult sports programming. The 2015 RPOS Plan and 2016 RPOS Supplement identified the need for replacing the concession/restroom building and listed the playfield E-6 as the next ball field for conversion to synthetic turf.

### Forest Crest Playfields

Forest Crest Playfields have been identified in the 2015 RPOS Plan for field improvements, a permanent restroom and spectator seating. This need was reasserted in the 2016 RPOS Supplement. To keep the fields playable and a viable contributing element in the park system, those fields should undergo renovation and upgrading to sand-based turf in the next few years.

### Recreation Pavilion

Once the business and design planning for a replacement is conducted, the proposed new facility should be constructed as soon as funding can be secured. This project will require significant time and resources to complete the replacement of the Recreation Pavilion. A placeholder is positioned in the capital facilities program for this important facility.

### Restrooms

Supporting park and trail use through the provision of restrooms is a critical element in any park system. Through master plans and system-wide planning, a number of parks have new restrooms proposed. New restrooms are being installed at the Ballinger Park boat launch. Future restrooms at Ballinger Park would be designed for the proposed splash pad. Evergreen Playfield should have its concession/restroom building replaced in the near future. Forest Crest Playfields are planned to receive permanent restrooms among its future improvements. Veterans Memorial Park recommends restrooms in its master plan. Terrace Creek Park has

been targeted for permanent restrooms near the playground. It is recommended that all five future restroom projects be completed in the next two to three years pending available capital funding, staffing and operating budget.

## LEVELS OF SERVICE

A level of service (LOS) review was conducted to further understand the distribution and acreage needs for parkland to assess how well the community can access and enjoy parks, recreation and open space. Traditionally, the application of numeric standards for the provision of parks has applied an acreage of parkland per thousand residents as a target measurement for adopted standards. Service standards are the adopted guidelines or benchmarks the City is trying to attain with their parks system; the level of service is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting its adopted standards. This assessment also provides the future direction for ensuring adequate provision of parks for the community based on current and potential future gaps in this community infrastructure.

Many communities are developing guidelines that are customized to their community and its unique and often changing park and recreation demands, rather than solely applying the historic National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) published park standards that primarily focused on parkland acres per capita. The use and application of standards continues to evolve and develop diverse approaches. This Plan evaluates the City current park land level of service through a variety of characteristics and offers recommendations for the consideration of an adopted set of standards.

## PARKLAND ACREAGE

Mountlake Terrace's current level of service is examined using the population data and existing park acreage. The combined acreage for city-owned parks is 193.6 acres. The City is currently providing approximately 8.94 acres per 1,000 population in its park system relative to its adopted park standard of 8.32 acres per 1,000 people (representing a current performance to the standard of 107%). Also, the City has improved its parkland

level of service since the adoption of the 2015 RPOS Plan.

Considering the future growth of Mountlake Terrace, additional park acreage may be needed to accommodate the estimated 2030 population of 24,474 residents (Puget Sound Regional Council forecast). If this current level of service for city-owned parks is maintained into the future, the resulting demand for additional parkland will translate into the need for

approximately 10 acres of parkland. The inclusion of existing 6 acres of private homeowner association (HOA) parks and open space into the calculation upwardly adjusts the current level of service to 9.2 acres per 1,000 population. If this combined current level of service is held constant and applied to the projected population, the City would need to add approximately 4 acres of parkland to its system to maintain today's service levels.

Figure 22. Current (2021) Level of Service by Acreage

Classification	2021 Inventory	Current LOS (2021)	Target LOS (Standard)	Performance to Standard (2021)
Regional	54.90	2.53	1.90	133.4%
Community	18.49	0.85	1.04	82.1%
Neighborhood	25.94	1.20	1.94	61.7%
Special Use Areas	9.61	0.44	0.44	100.8%
Linear Park	15.69	0.72	N/A	N/A
Natural Area	68.98	3.18	3.00	106.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>193.61</b>	<b>8.94</b>	<b>8.32</b>	<b>107.4%</b>

Figure 23. Projected (2030) Level of Service by Acreage

Classification	2021 Inventory	Projected LOS (2030)	Target LOS (Standard)	Performance to Standard (2030)
Regional	54.90	2.24	1.90	118.1%
Community	18.49	0.76	1.04	72.6%
Neighborhood	25.94	1.06	1.94	54.6%
Special Use Areas	9.61	0.39	0.44	89.2%
Linear Park	15.69	0.64	N/A	N/A
Natural Area	68.98	2.82	3.00	94.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>193.61</b>	<b>7.91</b>	<b>8.32</b>	<b>95.1%</b>

The acreage-based discussion regarding levels of service represents a status quo approach to the City's potential demand for parkland acreage relative to today's existing level of service. The assumption reflected in the chart (Figure 23) and the plan content preceding the chart is that today's level of service would be held constant and used as a guide post to estimate the future demand for parkland acres to accommodate population growth. This section does not suggest or assume a higher level of service than is provided for the City's current population.

## FACILITY COUNTS & AVAILABILITY

In 2016, the City adopted a facility categorization of active/scheduled and passive/unscheduled uses to guide a level of service assessment. Active park facilities are characterized by specialized park development that often require scheduling because a limited number of people can use each at any one time. Passive park facilities tend to require less intensive or specialized development and involve unscheduled activities (typically non-rivalrous). A baseball field is an example of an active facility, and a nature trail is an example

of a passive facility. To reflect that hours of availability do not apply to passive/unscheduled recreation facilities, the total available hours includes only active recreation hours. The target LOS standard for active/scheduled facilities is 2.4 hours per capita, and the target LOS standard for passive/unscheduled is one facility per 226 people.

Figure 24. Recreation & Park Facility Inventory Summary

Existing Facilities							
Facility	City	Hours	Other	Hours	Total	Hours	Type
Baseball / Softball Fields	6	26,088	8	17,228	14	43,316	Active
Soccer Fields	4	16,946	9	19,146	13	36,092	Active
Golf Course	0		1	4,469	1	4,469	Active
Tennis Courts	5	18,494	10	44,690	15	63,184	Active
Gymnasiums	0		7	26,614	7	26,614	Active
<b>Subtotal (Active)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>61,528</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>112,147</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>173,675</b>	
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	2		2		4		Passive
Boat Ramp	1		0		1		Passive
Disc Golf Course	1		0		1		Passive
Playgrounds	12		7		19		Passive
Picnic Shelters	10		3		13		Passive
Dog Park	1		0		1		Passive
<b>Subtotal (Passive)</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>39</b>		

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

While this Plan uses total parkland acreage, facility usage and parkland access as primary indicators of parkland need, the City could also consider other factors as its population grows, including:

- **Park pressure, or the potential user demand on a park:** Residents are most likely to use the park closest to their home. This measure uses GIS analysis to assign all households to their nearest respective park and calculates level of service (in acres of parkland per 1,000 residents) based on the acreage of the park and the number of residents in the ‘parkshed’. Areas with lower levels of service are more likely to be underserved by parkland, and to see higher degrees of use and wear and tear on park amenities.
- **Availability of park amenities:** Park systems should include an equitable distribution and quantity of the most common amenities like playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports courts, sports fields and trails to meet local needs and help distribute the potential usage of individual parks. Working to provide well-distributed basic park amenities, while also

offering unique outdoor experiences, will result in a varied park system with a range of different recreational opportunities for residents.

- **Park condition:** The City should assess the condition of each park’s general infrastructure and amenities on a regular basis. The condition or quality of park amenities is a key measure of park adequacy and a required assurance of public safety. General park infrastructure may include walkways, parking lots, park furniture, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems and vegetation. Deferred maintenance over a long time period can result in unusable amenities when perceived as unsafe or undesirable by park patrons.

### PARKS STAFFING CONSIDERATIONS

With new transportation improvements and housing projects, the City’s density will increase, and the future population will increase park usage and visitation. With this increase, additional maintenance tasks will be added to existing staff load. Also, the City is improving its park facilities through site master plan developments

that will add amenities to Ballinger Lake Park, Evergreen Playfields and Veterans Memorial Park. More time and staff power will be needed to ensure that Mountlake Terrace facilities retain the current high level of service expected by residents.

As new amenities or land area is provided, operational staff capacity will need to expand to keep up with the need for administration and maintenance of the larger park system. The City will need to consider when and how many additional full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) should be budgeted, hired and trained to perform the duties necessary to maintain and operate a safe and clean park system.

Parks maintenance staff currently perform all park and city building grounds care, mowing, restroom cleaning, vandalism clean-up and litter removal on daily and weekly schedules. Irrigation operations and repairs, other janitorial duties, edging, pruning, mulching and specialized maintenance tasks also require maintenance staff time.



## NATIONAL RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA) COMPARISONS

In a preliminary assessment of Recreation and Parks Department operational staffing levels, a comparison to other jurisdictions of similar population density and/or jurisdiction size was conducted with the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review data. The NRPA Parks Metrics system provides data from municipalities across the country to enable comparisons on performance and service loads.

Some key responsibilities reported in the data reveals that park and recreation agencies take on many responsibilities for their communities, beyond their “traditional” roles of operating parks and facilities and providing recreation programming and services. In addition to those two functions, the top responsibilities for park and recreation agencies are as follows:

- Have budgetary responsibility for their administrative staff (83 %)
- Offer themed special events to the public (88 %)
- Operate, maintain or manage trails, greenways and/or blueways (77 %)
- Operate, maintain or manage special purpose parks and open spaces (72 %)
- Operate and maintain indoor facilities (61 %)
- Administer or manage tournament/event-quality outdoor sports complexes (56 %)
- Operate, maintain or contract outdoor swim facilities/water parks (50.9 %)
- Operate, maintain or contract tennis center facilities (52 %)
- Administer community gardens (47.2 %)

The report offers a snapshot view of how Mountlake Terrace compares with peer agencies. It should be noted that not all comparable agencies provide recreation programming, and many park systems have differing sizes, amenities and standards. Some statistics apply to population density, while others apply population size. Population variations

can create inconsistent comparisons. In general, this snapshot offers suggestions and a benchmark for Mountlake Terrace to consider, rather than concrete targets for future staffing.

Highlighted observations from agency comparisons should be considered for Mountlake Terrace’s park system as it grows:

- Higher population densities tend to require increasing park operating expenditures per acre of parkland. This factor seems intuitive as more people uses a park, that land may require more attention and maintenance. The population density in Mountlake Terrace is much higher than in comparable jurisdictions within the same 20,000+ population size.
- Mountlake Terrace park operations have 4 FTE’s with the additional 0.5 FTE equivalent for the shared staff position supervising parks and other non-park city facilities. To compare with the NRPA average of 41.9 FTE’s in a park and recreation agency, adding the 37 recreation FTE’s brings the Mountlake Terrace park and recreation staffing comparative to 41.5 FTE’s. Compared to the median (27.3 FTEs) for park agencies with a comparative 20,000 to 49,999 population, Mountlake Terrace had 152% of the staffing level of park and recreation FTEs. This staffing difference relates more to agencies with recreation centers and associated recreation staffing. Park operations staffing should be compared to number of facilities, types of amenities and acreage actively maintained.
- The typical park and recreation agency has 8.1 FTEs on staff for each 10,000 residents living in the jurisdiction served by the agency. Agencies tend to have fewer FTEs on staff when located in less populated areas. Jurisdictions with similar populations (20,000–49,999 residents) have a median of 8.9 FTEs/10,000 residents. Mountlake Terrace park and recreation staffing provide 18.8 FTE’s per 10,000 residents. Population density, however, rapidly increases the demand for park and recreation services, and Mountlake Terrace

has a higher population density (4,908.5 residents per square mile) than comparable city populations across a variety of Washington communities.

- The NRPA data reveals that, while there are many responsibilities covered by an agency’s park and recreation professionals, more than half of all primary work responsibilities involve operations and maintenance.
- Mountlake Terrace park operations division has responsibility for the maintenance of 272 acres in 11 park/site facilities. As those facilities add more amenities and expand their offerings, more staffing will be needed.

The table below offers some direct comparison from the NRPA agency performance report for Mountlake Terrace park and recreation operations. The PRORAGIS agencies often included full recreation facilities and programs in their submitted data, so direct staffing comparisons are not always interchangeable.

The most driving comparison shows Mountlake Terrace with responsibility for more park acreage, and non-park sites using less staffing to operate and manage. This staffing level should be weighed against the number of residents per park (much higher in Mountlake Terrace) that indicates the heavy use of parks and suggests the potential need for higher levels of maintenance.

Throughout most of its data, the NRPA Park Metrics system does not separate park operations from recreation services. However, in the operational reporting, some staffing comparisons reveal that agencies with fewer than 250 acres to maintain had an average of 15.9 FTEs. Parks and recreation departments with fewer than ten parks to maintain had 12.9 FTEs. Agencies with operating expenditures under \$500,000 had 3.7 FTEs. In higher density communities of more than 2,500 population per square mile, agencies had 79.1 FTEs.

Figure 25. NRPA Agency Performance Report Comparisons

NRPA Agency Metrics	All Agencies	20,000 to 49,999 pop.	Mountlake Terrace
Park/OS Facilities	21	32	11
Total Park/Facility Acres	458	500	272
Operating \$/Acre Parklands (2020)	\$7,160	\$8,522	\$2,989
Acres of non-park sites	10	6	2
Total Acres (Both)	565	634	274
Total Trail Miles Managed	11	8.5	15.8
FTEs/10,000 pop.	8.1	8.9	18.8
FTE's (R&P combined)	41.9	27.3	40.2
FTE's (Parks Ops only)	-	-	4.4
Parks & Rec Operating Expenses (2020)	\$4,342,495	\$2,885,847	\$3,781,312
Capital 5-yr Budget	\$5,000,000	\$2,933,650	\$5,000,000
Capital Budget for fiscal year	\$1,100,000	\$2,550,000	\$716,314
Population (2020)	-	-	21,660
Residents/Park (2020)	2,281	2,204	1,969
Operating \$/Capita (2020)	\$81.19	\$95.34	\$174.58
Operating \$/FTE	\$97,093	\$104,318	\$94,062
Parklands: Acres/1,000	9.9	9.6	12.6
Population Density (#/sq.mi.)	-	>2,500	5,335

**WASHINGTON STATE COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

While no two agencies provide identical facilities or services, comparisons aim to help predict needs for Mountlake Terrace and their human resources that contribute to the ongoing maintenance of parks facilities. A more focused comparison

included the review of six similarly-sized cities in western Washington to see how population density, number of park facilities and acreages, and household income might affect demands on staffing or budgets. Figure 26 compares Mountlake Terrace with selected communities with

population sizes of 20,000 to 28,000 residents. Population densities across these comparable cities were much lower than Mountlake Terrace, but the rates of growth for five out of six communities were much higher.

Figure 26. Comparable Traits of Western Washington Cities with Similar Population to Mountlake Terrace

	Mountlake Terrace	Camas	Covington	Mercer Island	Port Angeles	Battle Ground	Maple Valley
Population, 2020, OFM	21,660	25,140	20,530	24,690	19,710	22,180	26,630
Population/sq.mi., 2010	5,334.98	1,863.60	3,503.41	3,906.65	1,842.06	3,097.77	4,655.59
Land Area, 2010	4.06	13.49	5.86	6.32	10.7	7.16	5.72
Population % Change 2010-2019	7.30%	23.20%	20.60%	14.10%	6.20%	19.40%	19.70%
Median Household income	\$72,955	\$111,584	\$105,154	\$147,566	\$47,256	\$75,208	\$114,159

Examining the recreation and park services across all seven communities demonstrates the high degree of variability in provision of services, allocation of resources and staffing relative to population and system acreage. There is no 'one size fits all' approach, and each jurisdiction may have some outstanding facility that defines its department and distinguishes it from other

providers. Additionally, many cities have separated recreation and parks services from parks maintenance operations, where facility care is managed under public works. Also, communities that provide an aquatic center or recreation center provide significantly more FTEs to successfully operate and program these facilities.

As with agency comparisons, different types of parks with different levels of development and unique characteristics create additional variability in comparing across agencies the amount of labor required for annual care. Parks with extensive multi-purpose mown grass fields will demand higher labor hours than parks with natural areas and much smaller mown

grass areas. More intensive park labor tasks are typically associated with mowing and janitorial/restroom cleaning. Parks without restrooms or irrigated turf grass would have significantly lower demands on labor time. Parks with water features, splash

pads, and spray parks require regular daily monitoring and inspections to ensure that the public exposure to water meets public health and safety requirements. With specialized park amenities, increased labor will be required.

Figure 27. Park System Comparisons of Western Washington Cities with Similar Population to Mountlake Terrace

NRPA Agency Metrics	All Agencies	20,000 to 49,999 pop.	Mountlake Terrace	Camas	Covington	Mercer Island	Port Angeles	Battle Ground	Maple Valley
Park/OS Facilities	21	32	11	14	4	41	23	8	9
Total Park/Facility Acres	458	500	272	600	53.8	479	270	200	323.77
Operating \$/Acre Parklands (2020)	\$7,160	\$8,522	\$2,989	\$1,782	\$15,491	\$6,937	\$13,352	\$4,141.46	\$10,731
Acres of non-park sites	10	6	2	650	110.48	-	-	-	-
Total Acres (Both)	565	634	274	1250	164.28	479	270	200	323.77
Total Trail Miles Managed	11	8.5	15.8	20.7	3.84	29	8.5	-	2.6
FTEs/10,000 pop.	8.1	8.9	18.8	4.5	11.9	10	12.7	-	5.0
FTE's (R&P combined)	41.9	27.3	40.2	11	25.3	26.04	25.6	1	13.5
FTE's (Parks Ops only)	-	-	4.4	6	-	11.7	8	-	7.5
Parks & Rec Operating Expenses (2020)	\$4,342,495	\$2,885,847	\$3,781,312	\$2,227,162	\$2,544,914	\$3,322,724	\$3,605,000	\$828,291	\$3,474,320

### PREDICTING FUTURE STAFFING NEEDS

To help predict the future staffing need as new parks and additional amenities are developed, an example (see Figure 28 below) from a Pacific Northwest park system offers a look at the labor hours and costs on a per park basis with distinctions made for type of park being maintained. This park provider was not involved with recreation programming, so the

park operations could be examined across the park system with more clarity. This per acre information can be extrapolated to predict how much staffing might be necessary per new park. A new, 5-acre neighborhood park would require the time of ¼ FTE equivalent. For every four new neighborhood parks, one FTE should be added to cover necessary labor needs. For a 20-acre community park, one full time

staff would be needed to ensure proper care and maintenance of the new facility. This comparison includes mowing time as part of the labor need. The agency in the table below uses in-house labor for mowing services. Mountlake Terrace could compare their full-time equivalents when using the sample park system for predicting future labor needs.

Figure 28. Example of labor costs & hours from a Pacific Northwest park agency

Type of Facility	Average Acreage per Park	Annual Cost per Acre	Annual Labor Hours per Acre	Total park acres	Total labor hours	Equivalent FTE # 1,820hr/yr
Neighborhood Parks	4.8	\$5,500	110	24	2,640	1.5
Community Parks	26.2	\$4,400	112	131	14,672	8.1
Regional Parks	63.4	\$3,330	100	317	31,700	17.4
Green Spaces/Undeveloped Parks	5.6	\$2,400	16	28	448	0.2

While the regional parks in the sample park system contained significant natural areas, the developed portion of those parks were intensely used by a large population, thus requiring daily maintenance and cleaning of picnic shelters, restrooms, litter, etc. The park system was staffed with 27 FTEs across 500 acres of parkland. When combining the manpower with acreage,

the resulting ratio is 0.05 FTE per acre. If the same ratio was applied for Mountlake Terrace (4.4 FTEs across 274 acres), the result is 0.017 FTEs per acre – considerably less staffing for park operations.

In addition to general operations and maintenance for a park system in a growing population, Mountlake Terrace

is planning to accomplish a significant amount of capital improvement projects in the next three to ten years to upgrade facilities, develop parks and improve the trail system. To achieve the required level of development, parks operations will likely require additional maintenance staff.



# 8. VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK



**A**s a component of this RPOS Plan, the City of Mountlake Terrace initiated the development of a conceptual master plan for Veterans Memorial Park, a treasured park and natural area located in the heart of the City's Town Center. The conceptual master plan will guide future decision-making for the park, and the overarching goal is to balance the development of recreation opportunities and pedestrian connections through the site with retention of the park's urban forest.

## SITE CONTEXT & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The 8.3-acre park boasts a dense forest populated with second growth trees, walking trails, a play area, gazebo, picnic areas, a veterans memorial, a drainage feature and varied topography that includes steep slopes. Veterans Memorial Park is flanked by the Sound Transit Light Rail Station (Transit Center) to the west, which is currently under construction, the rapidly developing Town Center to the east, and the Civic Campus development to the north, which houses City Hall, Police Station, Fire Station, Library, and the new Jerry Smith Town Center Plaza.

A primary component of the park is the main trail that traverses the site in an east/west orientation and connects 58th Ave W to the Transit Center. Other trails, both formal and informal, spiderweb through the site and connect to 60th Ave W and the Civic Campus. The City has secured a grant through the Sound Transit Access Fund to improve the trail which will enhance pedestrian access to the Transit Center. The grant includes funding to upgrade the trail to an 8-foot wide, asphalt paved ADA accessible route with lighting and a new footbridge across the drainage feature.

Participants in the planning process highlighted the importance of this park for its woodland character, as a gathering area, for dog walking, trail walking, running, picnicking and other recreational uses. Some community members have expressed concerns regarding safety in the park due to transient use, unauthorized encampments, lack of lighting, degraded trails and an overgrown understory that restricts visibility. Despite these challenges, the park remains an asset valued by the community for its beautiful forest and incredible potential.

A number of planning documents provided guidance applicable to the development of conceptual alternatives for Veterans Memorial Park, including the following:

- Previous Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan (1984)
- Previous Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plans (1993, 2009, 2015)
- Veterans Park Forest Management Plan (1992)
- Town Center Plan (2009)
- Sound Transit System Access Fund Grant
- Comprehensive Plan (2017)
- Mountlake Terrace Municipal Code

Through multiple engagement efforts, community members provided insights and direction toward preferences and site plan concepts. Based on results from both surveys the highest priority potential improvements to the park include:

- Trail improvements with trail lighting
- Restoration of natural areas / invasive species removal / supplemental native plantings
- Restroom installation
- Gathering place / picnic areas
- Upgraded play equipment
- Veteran Memorial or tribute improvements

## CONCEPTUAL ALTERNATIVES

Three site plan concepts were drafted to illustrate different options for the future of Veterans Memorial Park. The conceptual alternatives illustrated a graduated level of development, ranging from minimal development (Conceptual Alternative 1), to moderate development (Conceptual Alternative 2), to maximum development scenarios (Conceptual Alternative 3). Each of the three alternatives presented a different way to achieve ADA compliance in the main trail, as required by the Sound Transit Access Fund grant, resulting in very different aesthetics and varying impacts to the surrounding topography and tree cover.

## PREFERRED CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

Based on public and staff input, a final preferred concept was developed, which was a variation of Concept Alternative 3. Preferences noted from the public include a longer, flatter main trail without the need for handrails even if the removal of some trees was necessary. Other preferences of note include:

- Replacing the existing gazebo with a new structure
- Adding a restroom
- Surfacing selected trails in gravel to improve durability
- Upgrading the play equipment
- Accommodating connections to the future development to the south of the park
- Frontage improvements along 58th Ave W.

In July and August, a Preferred Conceptual Master Plan was presented to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission, the Planning Commission and the City Council that incorporated all prior input. The graphic on the following page is the Preferred Concept Plan.

Guiding Policies, as a result of more in-depth discussion among City staff, are identified below and are intended to assist with implementation and planning for phased development.

- Primary Connector Trails will be built to accessibility standards, will be lit, and provide connection between these important destinations: Civic Campus, 60th Ave W, 58th Ave W, and the Transit Center.
- A Vegetation Management Plan should be developed with a detailed Tree Survey as a component to more fully ascertain the location and scope of selective thinning based on trail alignment, park design, and health of forested areas.
- The interface between buildings and the park edges should be designed in detail using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. These areas should have an open, welcoming feel towards the park and should not locate parking, utility or maintenance facilities facing park.
- Direct pedestrian access between the park and adjacent private properties that is supported by private property owners shall be integrated into the park trail system to the greatest extent possible.
- Nature themed play area and natural building materials that reflect the character and quality of the site and City branding should be incorporated into the park design.
- Maintenance levels of park should reflect goals of design, CPTED, and results of vegetation management plan.

Appendix G more completely describes the master plan process, provides an opinion of probable cost and describes guiding policies for future development.





# VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK | PREFERRED PLAN

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE RPOS | October 2021





**PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK**

# 9. TRAILS & PATHWAYS

*Trails and pathways are critical links in Mountlake Terrace’s active transportation network – connecting people to parks, schools and other key destinations and creating opportunities for active lifestyles. Providing access to public places and routes is a critical piece of infrastructure for this healthy and livable community.*

The assessment and recommendations described in this chapter provide an overview of the system of walking and biking trails and pathways for outdoor recreation.

- Sports Participation Survey by the National Sporting Goods Association
- State of the Industry Report by the Recreation Management Magazine
- Outdoor Recreation in America by the Recreation Roundtable

## TRAIL USE TRENDS

Walking and hiking continue to be the most popular recreational activities nationally and regionally, with approximately 47% participating in these activities based on statewide data. Furthermore, over the past ten years national recreation studies have consistently ranked walking and hiking as the most popular form of outdoor recreation. These studies include:

According to the 2020 Outdoor Participation Report published by the Outdoor Foundation, running (including jogging and trail running) was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by number of participants and by number of total annual outings. Running was also the most popular outdoor activity for all ethnic groups. Walking for fitness is the most popular crossover activity. The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise. For these outdoor recreation trends and preferences, trails are a required infrastructure.



The COVID-19 pandemic caused a radical change in park agencies across the country. Indoor facilities and in-person programming were shutdown and then only partially restarted in 2020. Local and regional park and recreational agencies that managed trail systems were pressed to adapt to heavy use and crowded trailhead parking, as many people shifted their daily exercise routines to outdoor walking and bicycling. These higher demands for outdoor recreation facilities and access coincided with park and recreation staffing reductions.

The 2020 Sports & Fitness Industry Topline Report identified sports that made great strides in the last six years to include trail running, cardio tennis, BMX biking and day hiking. For most age segments, activities that households aspired to (e.g., fishing, camping, biking, and hiking) related to the need for supporting trail infrastructure.

An August 2020 report from the Outdoor Industries Association indicated the COVID-related impacts to participation in April, May and June that revealed Americans flocking to outdoor recreation amid COVID restrictions. Americans took up new activities in significant numbers with the biggest gains in running, cycling and hiking. Walking, running and

hiking were widely considered the safest activities during pandemic shutdowns. Reviewing just April, May and June 2020, participation rates for day hiking rose more than any other activity, up 8.4%.

## LOCAL INSIGHTS

### COMMUNITY SURVEY

In October 2020, a mail and online community survey was conducted and promoted through the City’s social media and City Happenings newsletter. Respondents reported that their most common reason and most popular activity for visiting a park was for walking or running. The survey also identified that recreation walking and biking trails were the most important features to be added to the park system. One of the top three priorities for future park and recreation projects was expanding recreational or commuter trails. When considering the adequacy of number and variety of park and recreation options offered by Mountlake Terrace, respondents identified that adding more walking and biking trails could be beneficial.

### ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

An online open house was conducted in April 2021 to gather input on community preferences and priorities for parks and recreation resources. Consistent with the community survey, expanding recreational or commuter trails was one of the top priorities. Considering a list for future system investments, the installation of signs and maps at parks and along trails to improve wayfinding was ranked as a top or high priority by 45% of respondents.

Most directly related to trail considerations, the online open house asked participants to identify potential bike routes and trail system improvements by asking what destinations need to connect in Mountlake Terrace. Listed in the Figure 29 below, the responses were ranked by identified locations needing trail connections. Respondents identified 236th St SW between I-5 and 56th Ave W, as well as 66th Ave W from Interurban Trail to 236th St SW, as the most needed trail and pathway connections.

Figure 30. Priority Connections for Biking/Walking Routes from Online Open House

Segment Indicated on Map	Responses	Percentage
A: 236th St SW connection (I-5 to 56th Ave W)	50	52%
C: 66th Ave W (Interurban Trail to 236th St SW)	44	46%
B: 56th Ave W and 58th Ave W	28	29%
D: 228th St SW/230th St SW (66th Ave W to 56th Ave W)	27	28%
H: 220th St SW (58th Ave W to 52nd Ave W at Mountlake Terrace Elementar	26	27%
E: 48th Ave W (212th St SW to 236th St SW)	24	25%
G: 228th St SW (48th Ave W & 44th Ave W)	23	24%
F: 44th Ave W (212th St SW to 228 St SW)	21	22%
Other:	1	1%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>96</b>	



Also in the online open house, questions were included about the conceptual master plan designs being proposed for Veterans Memorial Park. Trails were identified as an important element for park users. In answer to a question about Veterans Memorial Park's main trail, most respondents (76%) preferred a re-design of the trail to create a longer, flatter, less expensive path (not fully ADA-compliant & without handrails) that may involve removal of a few trees. The majority of respondents (61%) also indicated a preference for some of the other Veterans Memorial Park trails to be resurfaced with gravel to improve durability.

## KEY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The City of Mountlake Terrace Transportation Master Plan, adopted in November 2007, addresses streets, transit, walkways, and bicycle facilities to guide the development of surface transportation in the City consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Transportation Master Plan assesses future needs and proposes projects to address identified issues and deficiencies within the limits of available funding. Walkability and convenient bicycling are the two defined categories for goals and policies in the Plan that relate to a more comprehensive trail system for Mountlake Terrace. The Plan Elements include a Sidewalk Plan and a Bicycle Plan. Both elements provide an inventory of existing facilities, an assessment of needs and recommended improvements.

### SIDEWALK PLAN

The Sidewalk Plan identified the current inventory of sidewalks and curb ramps, the need for future sidewalk connections, and ADA accessibility improvements. The City has developed a prioritization process to evaluate potential walkway projects using eight walkway selection criteria: pedestrian safety, distance from schools, connectivity with community facilities and commercial centers, arterial walkways, connectivity

to transit routes and facilities, existing infrastructure, continuity – link, and public support. Each criteria are weighted by points to combine a scoring for ranking projects for future implementation. The top three ranked sidewalk projects were along 48th Avenue SW, extending from 214th Street SW to 219th Street SW in three separate sections. Sidewalk projects totaled 62 sidewalk segments estimated to cost \$14,506,100 in total. Due to the high implementation cost, the Plan recommended that the City fund an annual sidewalk program of \$100,000 over an 18-year period to accomplish approximately 8 of the potential sidewalk locations. Annual program review and the pursuit of state and federal grant funding was also recommended.

### BICYCLING PLAN

As part of the City Transportation Plan, a bicycle plan was conducted to examine existing bicycle routes and consider several types of bicycle facility improvements including shared roadways, bicycle lanes and separated bicycle trails. The separated bike trails were shared use, non-motorized pathways either separated from or outside of a road right-of-way. The Bicycle Plan identified specific designated bike routes and recommended facility improvements. Bicycle parking was needed and additional bike parking was proposed for City-owned properties as well as a standard bicycle parking rack for new commercial developments on private parking. Most of the recommended implementation projects proposed in the Bicycle Plan involved bicycle lane and shared roadway improvements. A multi use path was recommended for the Nile Temple Golf Course with an estimated cost of \$1.6 million. The need for enhancing safe bicycle and pedestrian connections to the Interurban Trail was also recognized in both plans.

### INTERURBAN TRAIL

The Interurban Trail travels through Snohomish and King Counties generally following the route of former Interurban

Trolley that ran from Seattle to Everett from 1910 through 1939. The Trail starts in northwest Seattle and ends on a sidewalk at the intersection of Colby Avenue and 41st Street in Everett. The 24-mile trail goes through the communities of Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace, Edmonds, and Lynnwood. Along its route there are gaps where the 10-12-foot paved path is detoured into bike lanes, wide shoulders, low-traffic shared streets and sidewalks. Detours should be marked with the Interurban Trail signs showing a red arrow on a green circle. In Snohomish County, the 11.8-mile segment of the Trail is a joint project between Snohomish County, the cities of Everett and Lynnwood and Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County. The District granted an easement to Mountlake Terrace for the extension of the Trail along the right-of-way of the former trolley line from 212th Street SW to 226th Street SW. As part of the easement, the City agrees to maintain the Trail corridor and it responsible for the trail amenities within its jurisdiction.

The Trail aligns approximately with the City's western boundary. A spur trail opened 2015 that extends from the Interurban Trail at 228th and follows eastward along Lakeview Drive and the frontage of Ballinger Park to I-5, near the Transit Center.

As it travels through numerous jurisdictions and continues to be composed of off-road separated multi use path and shared on-road alignments, the Interurban Trail hosts a variety of signage styles, messaging and inconsistent wayfinding. Once completed and connecting all sections of the former trolley alignment on Snohomish and King Counties, a consistent wayfinding signage system should be applied to help users navigate all the segments of the Trail. The Trail provides opportunities for each community along its route to add place-making, unique public art displays that add interest and character to sections of the route.

## TRAIL DESIGN & STANDARDS

Trails are non-motorized recreation and transportation networks ideally separated from roadways. Trails can be developed to accommodate multiple or shared uses, such as pedestrians and bicyclists, or a single use. Walking routes may combine off-road and on-road facilities. Recreation trail alignments aim to link to natural systems, public and civic activity centers, neighborhoods, schools and commercial centers. The City is working to develop an interconnected system of trails, sidewalks and bicycle routes that allow alternative modes of travel for the community. The City seeks to provide a trail network comprised of local trails and connections to the Interurban Trail. These interconnected linkages enable recreational trail users to create loops or individualized routes depending on desired travel distances or specific destinations.

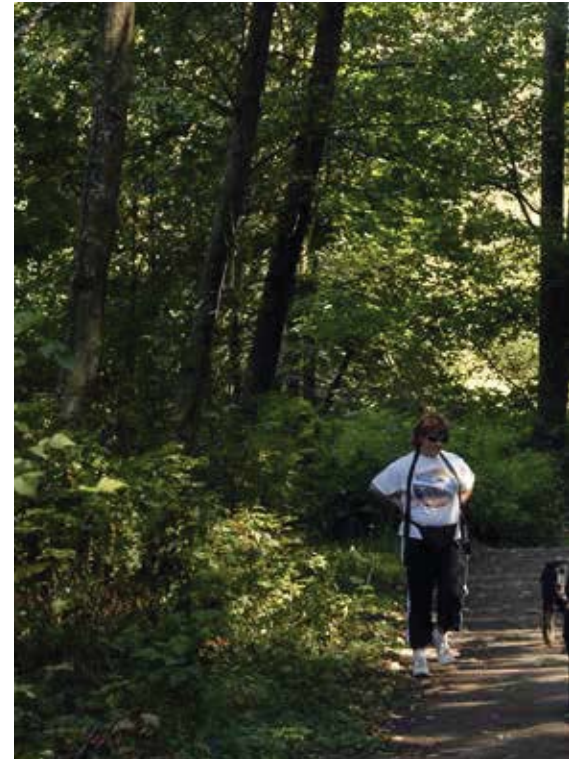
The following should be considered in future planning to expand the trail network.

- Trails should be located and designed to provide a diversity of challenges. Enhance accessibility wherever possible, the high priority being loop or destination opportunities on portions of trails near staging areas.
- Local trails should be required in residential subdivision planning and should connect to the City's trail system and neighboring local trails. Trail locations can be determined during the land use review process.
- During the land development approval process, dedication of right-of-way for recreational trails should be required.
- Additional trail easements or dedications should be sought to complete missing trail segments, link parks and expand the overall trail network into areas that are already developed. If no other means can be found to provide missing links, on-street trail links should be used.
- Whenever possible, recreational trails should be separated from the roadway. Where routes use existing streets, the trail should be designed to minimize potential conflicts between motorists and trail users.

## TRAIL CLASSIFICATION / DESIGN

Defining and reinforcing a recreational trail classification establishes a framework for trail design and enables the prioritization of proposed trail enhancements and development. The recreational trail classification system is based on a tiered network and includes five trail categories: regional, connector, local, park trails and pathways and special use trails.

- **Regional Trail:** Regional trails act as the spine of the trail network and provide major connections to adjacent communities and significant natural features, such as rivers and streams, public facilities and areas of interest. The Interurban Trail serves as the regional trail connecting Mountlake Terrace to Lynnwood, Edmonds and beyond.
- **Connector Trail:** Connector trails provide recreational benefits by linking to regional trails and important land uses and areas of interest, often within a neighborhood, sometimes along street right-of-way. They also create recreation loops to public parks, natural areas and other environmental destinations. These trails serve the community and help connect the trail system to provide needed access and recreational options. The Terrace Creek Trail is a north-south connector trail. A spur of the Interurban Trail along Lakeview Drive and 228th is an east-west connector trail.
- **Local Trail:** Local trails are located within neighborhoods and typically cover short distances. Local routes can serve several functions. They can provide connection to the regional or connector trails, provide a local recreational loop or provide access to and connect local features such as parks, community centers and schools. As the City continues its progress in connecting sidewalks, parks, schools, and retail centers, local trails can provide the links across neighborhoods to help create a network of walking/biking opportunities.





■ **Park Trail:** Park trails are interior loops or point-to-point routes within parks, plazas or other public properties and include paved or unpaved walking paths. Depending on use, location and underlying conditions, the trail surface material may be native soil, forest duff, wood chips, gravel or crushed rock, asphalt or concrete. Within Mountlake Terrace parks, walking trails provide connections and access to park amenities as well as connections across neighborhoods and, in some case, trailheads to other trails. These park trails are an amenity within parks as destinations for local residents. Loop trails that follow the perimeter of a park are especially popular for park users, as demonstrated by the loop trail in Bicentennial Park.

### TRAIL STANDARDS

Mountlake Terrace does not have adopted standards for the provision of trail mileage for measuring the performance of its network of trails and pathways. Rather, the city has adopted an approach to creating a comprehensive active transportation network to provide access to all citizens in a variety of modes of travel. Instead of setting a standard of miles per thousand residents, the target is an interconnected system of sidewalks, bike routes and trails to link neighborhoods, parks, schools, businesses, destinations, adjacent communities and the Interurban Trail. As in many communities, the major limiting factor for reaching the fully complete and interconnected trail network is available resources to support implementation in an existing built environment.

### TRAIL HIERARCHY

The City's Transportation Plan can be reinforced and enhanced with connections provided through off-street trails and pathways. This plan's focus is primarily on recreation and access to local and regional destinations without replicating the designated bike lanes and alternative transportation element. This recreational trails system uses a trail hierarchy (Figure 31) to create a series of interconnected linkages throughout and connecting to Mountlake Terrace represents a trail framework based on the planned users' volumes and intensity. This hierarchy conceptualizes a circulation network of connected non-motorized routes - ranging from regional and community-wide primary corridors, to secondary neighborhood corridors and minor local spurs. These interconnected linkages enable recreational trail users to create loops or individualized routes and enable community members to connect to their important places depending on desired travel distances or specific destinations.

The Interurban Trail provides the regional connection as the main 'spine' or backbone of the network. Connector, local and park trails can link neighborhoods and destinations across the city.

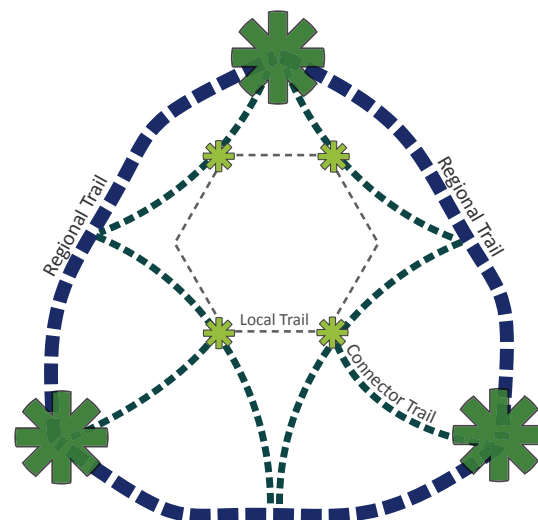


Figure 31. Trail Hierarchy Concept



## WAYFINDING & SIGNAGE

A good wayfinding system can provide a consistent identity and display effective and accessible information to orient the user. As bike routes, new sidewalks and trail connections are developed, a system of signage and other wayfinding techniques can help community members navigate their public spaces and link to schools, retail centers and recreational activities. This guidance system ensures efficient use of the trail, park or other public space and conveys safety to the user by translating the environment into a known geography. Signs, symbols, mapping, color, standardized site amenities combined with good design of the physical environment (i.e., trail or park) helps the user navigate the space and stay comfortably oriented.

Mountlake Terrace should develop a wayfinding program to include both visual graphic standards and site furnishing standards. The use of consistent graphics and a coordinated hierarchy of sign types and sizes can provide park and trail users with wayfinding information to enhance their access and knowledge of the recreational system available for their enjoyment. A good wayfinding system applies the “simpler is better” concept.

Coordinated signage plays a crucial role in facilitating a successful trail system. A comprehensive and consistent signage system is a critical component to the trail network and is necessary to inform, orient and educate users about the trail system itself, as well as appropriate trail etiquette.

Such a system of signs should include trail identification information, orientation markers, safety and regulatory messages and a unifying design identity or element for branding. The following signage types should be considered and consistently implemented throughout the network:

- Directional and regulatory signage
- Continuous route signage for route identification and wayfinding
- Mileage markers or periodic information regarding distance to areas of interest
- Warning signs to caution users of upcoming trail transitions or potential conflicts with motor vehicles
- Interpretive information regarding ecological, historical and cultural features found along and in proximity to the trail

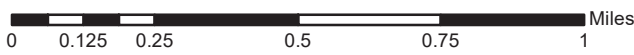
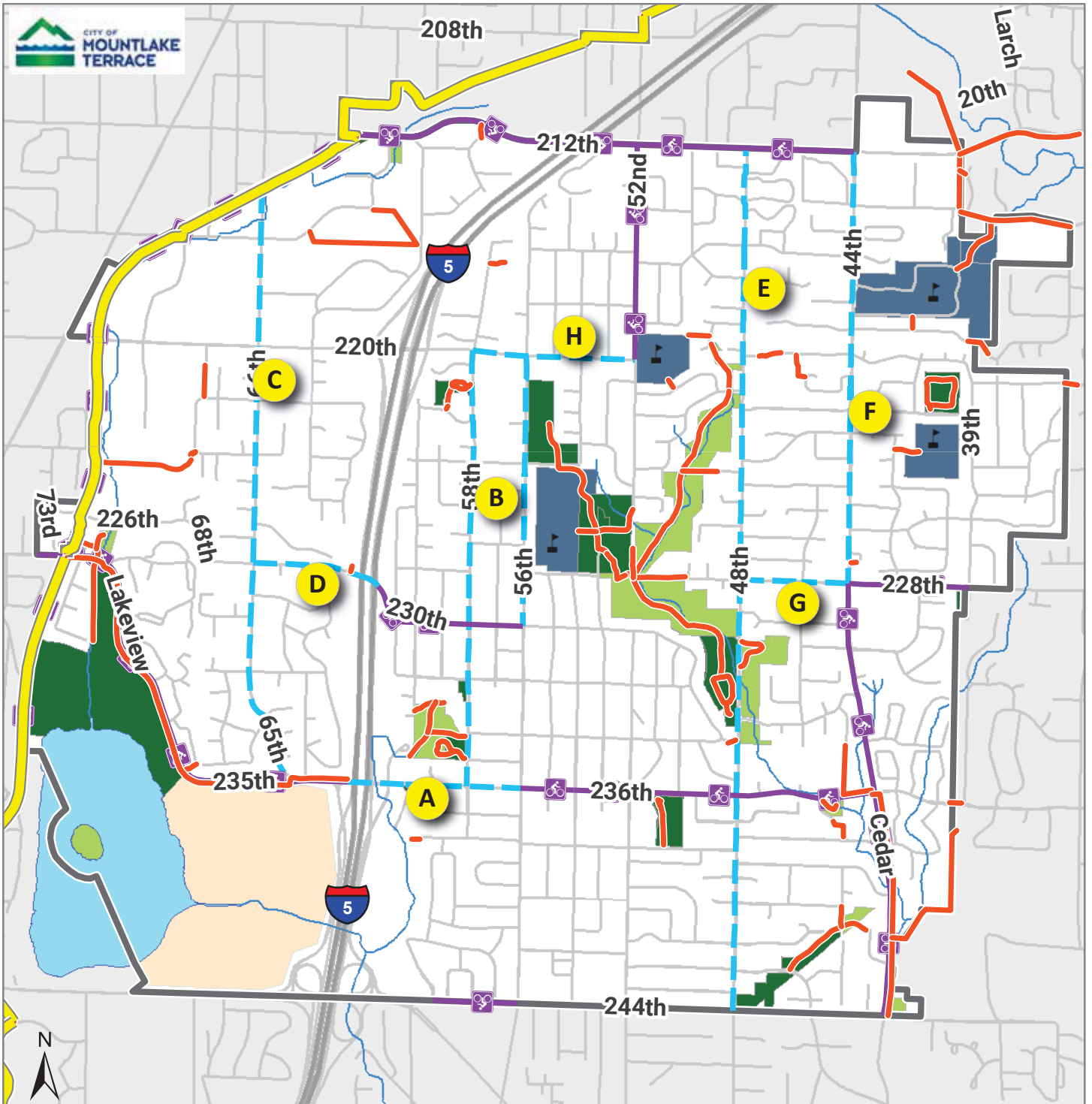
## RECOMMENDED CONNECTIONS

The public outreach and the 2007 City Transportation Plan identified the need for better walking and biking connections along 236th Street. The route traverses several hills and is an excellent cross-town route attracting trips to the Interurban Trail and Park and Ride Lot. The Transportation Plan recommended the additional of bicycle lanes along this route and estimated the cost at \$626,451 (Note: 2007 cost estimate). Additional public preferences for bike/pedestrian improvements are listed in the Figure 32 below in the order of ranking from the public online open house. These alternative transportation routes were also identified in the Transportation Plan as recommended city improvements.

Figure 32. Future Trail and Pathway Improvements for Better Bicycle & Pedestrian Mobility

Identified in PROS Plan Outreach	Listed in Transportation Plan	2007 Cost*	2021 Cost (3% ann. Inflation)
A: 236th St SW connection (I-5 to 56th Ave W)	236th St/Lakeview Drive	\$626,451	\$947,600
C: 66th Ave W (Interurban Trail to 236th St SW)	66 Avenue W	\$398,651	\$603,000
B: 56th Ave W and 58th Ave W	56th Avenue W & 58 Avenue W	\$443,758	\$671,200
D: 228th St SW/230th St SW (66th Ave W to 56th Ave W)	230th/228th Stree/226 Place SW	\$24,394	\$36,900
H: 220th St SW (58th Ave W to MLT Elementary School)	220th St SW / 39th Ave W	\$17,741	\$26,800
E: 48th Ave W (212th St SW to 236th St SW)	48th Avenue W	\$569,501	\$861,400
G: 228th St SW (48th Ave W & 44th Ave W)	228th St SW - east & west of 44th Ave SW	\$90,969	\$137,600
F: 44th Ave W (212th St SW to 228 St SW)	44 Avenue W/Cedar Way	\$569,501	\$861,400

\* Costs were listed from the 2007 Transportation Plan. Estimates should be reassessed for current values.



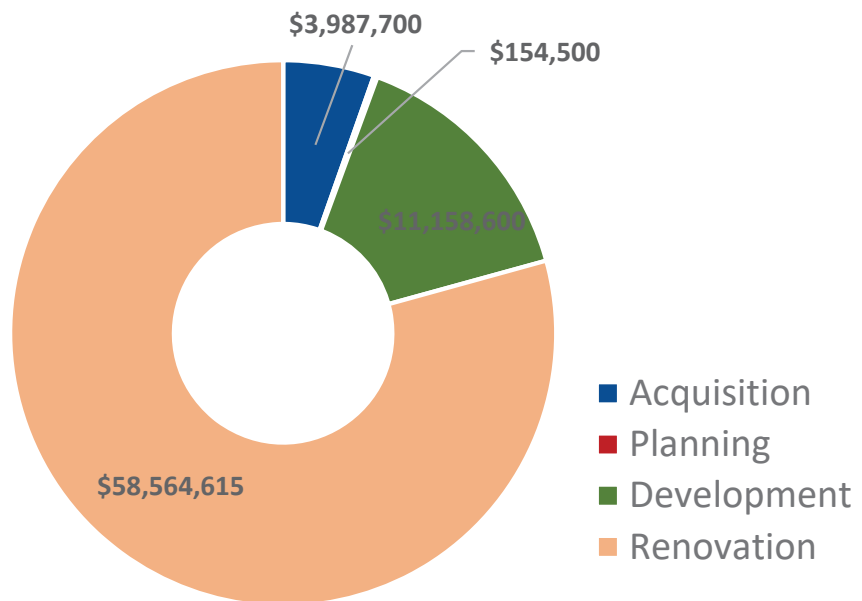
Legend			
	City Limits		City Natural Areas
	Interurban Trail		Golf Course
	Existing Park Trails		Schools
	Existing Bike Route		School District Property
	Potential Connections		Golf Course
	City Parks		

# MAP 8: EXISTING & POTENTIAL TRAILS & PATHWAYS

# 10. CAPITAL PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

The following Capital Improvements Plan identifies the park, trail and facility projects considered for the next six years or more. The majority of these projects entail the maintenance, acquisition and development of parks, special recreation amenities and trails. Based on survey results and other feedback, Mountlake Terrace residents have indicated an interest in park facility upgrades, enhanced trail connections and acquisition for future parklands as priorities, and the Capital Improvements Plan is reflective of that desire. The following table summarizes the aggregate capital estimates by park types for the next six years.

Figure 33. Potential Projects List Expenditures Summary



The following Capital Improvements Plan provides brief project descriptions and priority ranking to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

Overall, the current costs for projects identified in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) total over \$53 million. As projects are phased over the next six to ten years, the planning-level project costs have been inflated at

an increase of 3% annually. The proposed project list focuses primarily on improving existing facilities through timely repairs, replacements and upgrades to ensure an ongoing, healthy and safe recreation system for Mountlake Terrace. Over 85% of the total CIP is aimed at repairing, replacing or upgrading existing infrastructure facilities and amenities. Of the 44 proposed CIP projects, 20 projects target the replacement

or upgrade of existing facilities and infrastructure. These projects include the Recreation Pavilion, sports field upgrades to synthetic turf, and the shared cost of the stream restoration at Ballinger Park, all with significant implementation costs.



**Mountlake Terrace RPOS**  
**2021 Capital Facilities Plan**  
**2022-2031**

Costs factored using 3% inflation rate

Project Type	Site	Project	Current (2021) Cost	% Related to Growth	Cost Related to Growth	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028-'32
D	Ballinger Park	North- Splash pad (@ old playground)	\$ 1,000,000	70%	\$ 700,000			\$ 1,092,700				
R	Ballinger Park	North- Splash pad restrooms/showers	\$ 300,000	70%	\$ 210,000			\$ 327,800				
D	Ballinger Park	North- Splash pad amenities	\$ 50,000	30%	\$ 15,000			\$ 54,600				
R	Ballinger Park	North- Entire Parking Lot Improvement	\$ 750,000	8%	\$ 60,000			\$ 819,500				
R	Ballinger Park	North- Playfield conversion: lights & turf	\$ 2,200,000	30%	\$ 660,000							\$ 2,705,700
D	Ballinger Park	East- Big Swings w/ Soft Surface	\$ 50,000	30%	\$ 15,000				\$ 56,300			
D	Ballinger Park	East- Large Shelter and Seating	\$ 350,000	25%	\$ 87,500				\$ 393,900			
D	Ballinger Park	East- Concrete Steps and Beach	\$ 2,000,000	10%	\$ 200,000				\$ 2,251,000			
D	Ballinger Park	West- Meadow development	\$ 173,000	10%	\$ 17,300			\$ 189,000				
D	Ballinger Park	West- Viewing Platform	\$ 510,000	70%	\$ 357,000		\$ 541,100					
D	Ballinger Park	Entry/perimeter fencing and signage	\$ 150,000	0%	\$ -		\$ 159,100					
D	Ballinger Park	Entire Park- Boulders/Bands/Pads	\$ 100,000	10%	\$ 10,000				\$ 112,600			
D	Ballinger Park	Entire Park- asphalt/gravel/nature trails	\$ 500,000	70%	\$ 350,000				\$ 562,800			
R	Ballinger Park	Center- USCOE stream project - City-share	\$ 1,898,050	0%	\$ -		\$ 2,013,600					
D	Ballinger Park	Center- Community Garden/Shed	\$ 300,000	10%	\$ 30,000					\$ 347,800		
D	Ballinger Park	Center- Runnel and Rain Gardens	\$ 100,000	10%	\$ 10,000					\$ 115,900		
D	Ballinger Park	Center- Plaza South of Clubhouse	\$ 400,000	20%	\$ 80,000					\$ 463,700		
R	Bicentennial Park	Playground replacement	\$ 85,000	10%	\$ 8,500	\$ 87,550						
A	Bicentennial Park	Acquire north side access	\$ 55,000	10%	\$ 5,500				\$ 61,900			
R	Bicentennial Park	Reforest - tree canopy plntgs	\$ 30,000	0%	\$ -		\$ 31,800					
R	Evergreen Playfields	New concession & restroom buildings	\$ 463,710	20%	\$ 92,742		\$ 491,900					
R	Evergreen Playfields	Pathway and site improvements	\$ 100,000	5%	\$ 5,000		\$ 106,100					
R	Evergreen Playfields	Playfield E-6 upgrade: lights & turf	\$ 2,200,000	30%	\$ 660,000					\$ 2,550,400		
R	Evergreen Playfields	Playfield E-4/5 upgrade: lights & turf	\$ 2,200,000	30%	\$ 660,000						\$ 2,626,900	
R	Evergreen Playfields	Playfield E-3 upgrade: lights & infield turf	\$ 1,479,000	30%	\$ 443,700		\$ 1,569,100					
R	Evergreen Playfields	Tennis Courts Restoration	\$ 559,000	0%	\$ -		\$ 593,000					
R	Firefighters Memorial Park	Playground addition/soft surface upgrade	\$ 75,000	15%	\$ 11,250			\$ 82,000				
R	Firefighters Memorial Park	Amenity upgrades (tables, benches, signs)	\$ 10,000	10%	\$ 1,000			\$ 10,900				
R	Forest Crest Playfields	Field improvements-sand-based	\$ 200,000	0%	\$ -					\$ 231,900		
D	Forest Crest Playfields	Spectator seating	\$ 45,000	0%	\$ -		\$ 47,700					
D	Forest Crest Playfields	Restroom/concession bldg	\$ 400,000	50%	\$ 200,000					\$ 463,700		
D	Forest Crest Playfields	Playground replacement	\$ 100,000	20%	\$ 20,000							\$ 123,000
D	Gateway Plaza	Public Plaza adjacent to Light Rail	\$ 1,200,000	75%	\$ 900,000		\$ 1,273,100					
D	Interurban Trail	benches, trash cans, signage	\$ 50,000	5%	\$ 2,500					\$ 58,000		
D	Interurban Trail	security lighting	\$ 50,000	0%	\$ -					\$ 58,000		
D	Interurban Trail	trailhead improvements	\$ 50,000	20%	\$ 10,000					\$ 58,000		
D	Interurban Trail	Small scale recreation equip: fitness	\$ 20,000	10%	\$ 2,000					\$ 23,200		
D	Jack Long Park	Added paved path, amenities & play eqt.	\$ 60,000	30%	\$ 18,000						\$ 71,600	

Project Type	Site	Project	Current (2021) Cost	% Related to Growth	Cost Related to Growth	Costs factored using 3% inflation rate						
						2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028-'32
A	Melody Hill Sub-area	parkland acquisition	\$ 2,500,000	75%	\$ 1,875,000			\$ 2,731,800				
P	Melody Hill Sub-area NH Park	master plan neighborhood park	\$ 50,000	75%	\$ 37,500				\$ 56,300			
P	Recreation Pavilion	Business & design plan	\$ 150,000	40%	\$ 60,000	\$ 154,500						
R	Recreation Pavilion	New facility development (replacement)	\$ 35,000,000	40%	\$ 14,000,000				\$ 39,392,800			
R	Recreation Pavilion	Playground replacement	\$ 175,000	40%	\$ 70,000					\$ 202,900		
D	Recreation Pavilion	Outdoor performance space	\$ 350,000	75%	\$ 262,500						\$ 417,900	
R	Terrace Creek Park	playground surfacing	\$ 165,000	50%	\$ 82,500				\$ 185,700			
R	Terrace Creek Park	restrooms	\$ 250,000	50%	\$ 125,000				\$ 281,400			
R	Terrace Creek Park	play equipment replacement/upgrade	\$ 400,000	50%	\$ 200,000				\$ 450,200			
R	Terrace Creek Park	Main trail upgrades (Asphalt)	\$ 550,000	10%	\$ 55,000					\$ 637,600		
D	Terrace Creek Park/Natural Area	Connector Trail (thru Tasoff property)	\$ 120,000	30%	\$ 36,000		\$ 127,300					
D	Terrace Ridge Park	ADA enhancements	\$ 20,000	10%	\$ 2,000	\$ 20,600						
R	Terrace Ridge Park	play equipment replacement/upgrade	\$ 125,000	30%	\$ 37,500		\$ 132,600					
R	Veterans Memorial Park	MP - Trail improvements, lighting, demo	\$ 2,673,073	50%	\$ 1,336,537	\$ 2,753,265						
D	Veterans Memorial Park	MP - Site Furnishings, utilities, amenities	\$ 1,730,560	40%	\$ 692,224			\$ 1,891,000				
R	Veterans Memorial Park	MP - Restoration & tree plantings	\$ 405,600	0%	\$ -		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
A	System-wide	Acquisitions for trail connections	\$ 500,000	50%	\$ 250,000						\$ 597,000	
A	System-wide	Acquisitions for riparian conservation	\$ 500,000	50%	\$ 250,000						\$ 597,000	
R	System-wide	Pathway Repair/Replacement	annual	0%		\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000		
R	System-wide	Fencing Repair/Replacement	annual	0%		\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
R	System-wide	Parking Lot Repair	annual	0%			\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000	
D	System-wide	Tree Canopy Program	annual	0%		\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 50,000
D	System-wide	Integrate public art projects	annual	0%		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 25,000
D	System-wide	Wayfinding program	annual	0%		\$ 15,000					-	\$ 15,000
<b>Total Estimated Project Costs</b>			<b>\$ 65,926,993</b>	<b>28.7%</b>	<b>\$ 25,213,753</b>	<b>\$ 3,085,915</b>	<b>\$ 7,141,400</b>	<b>\$ 7,254,300</b>	<b>\$ 43,864,900</b>	<b>\$ 5,266,100</b>	<b>\$ 4,365,400</b>	<b>\$ 2,943,700</b>

**Project Type**

- A Acquisition
- P Master planning
- D Development - new
- R Replacement/Upgrade

**NOTES:**

This list identifies planning-level cost estimates and does not assume the value of volunteer or other non-City contributions. Detailed costing may be necessary for projects noted.

This list is not an official budget and intended as a guiding document for City staff in the preparation of departmental budgets.

CFP does not include current projects (in planning or underway for 2021) such as Civic Campus/Jerry Smith Plaza, Ballinger Park boat docks, restroom, fishing pier, east-side asphalt pathway, Ballinger ADA playground and Evergreen Playfield #1 turf & lighting.

## IMPLEMENTATION TACTICS

A number of strategies exist to enhance and expand park and recreation service delivery for the City of Mountlake Terrace; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community willingness to offer financial support is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life.

The recommendations for park and recreation services noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Recreation and Parks Department is finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed objectives, programs and projects. While grants and other efficiencies will help, these alone will not be enough to realize many ideas and projects noted in this Plan. The following recommendations and strategies are presented to offer near-term direction to realize these projects and as a means to continue dialogue between City leadership, local residents and partners.

### INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

Internal coordination with the Public Works and Community & Economic Development Departments can increase the potential of discrete actions toward the implementation of the proposed recreational trail network, which relies in part on street right-of-way enhancements, and in the review of development applications with consideration toward potential parkland acquisition areas, planned trail corridors and the need for easement or set-aside requests.

### VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION

Volunteers and community groups already contribute to the improvement of recreation services and parks in Mountlake Terrace. Volunteer projects include

wildlife habitat enhancement, invasive plant removal, park clean-up days and community event support, among others. Mountlake Terrace should maintain and update a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects for the website, while also reaching out to civic groups and the high schools to encourage student projects. While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals continues to add value to the Mountlake Terrace recreation and parks system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time, and additional resources may be necessary to more fully take advantage of the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

### ENHANCED LOCAL FUNDING

According to the City budget, Mountlake Terrace maintains reserve debt capacity for local bonds and voter approved debt. The City's non-voted general obligation debt is under its debt capacity limit of \$34 million for non-voted debt, and the City currently has no voted debt. Community conversations regarding the need to replace or significantly renovate the Recreation Pavilion, along with the potential to bundle several projects from the Capital Improvements Plan, warrant a review of debt implications for the City, along with the need to conduct polling of voter support for such projects.

### PARK IMPACT FEES & REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX

Park Impact Fees (PIF) are imposed on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. PIF can only be used for parkland acquisition, planning and/or development. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of Mountlake Terrace currently assesses impact fees, but the City should review its PIF ordinance and update the methodology and rate structure, as appropriate, to be best positioned to obtain future acquisition and development financing from the planned growth and

redevelopment of Mountlake Terrace. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to secure new park properties and finance park or trail development consistent with the priorities within this Plan.

The City currently imposes both of the one-quarter percent excise taxes on real estate, known as REET 1 and REET 2. The REET must be spent on capital projects listed in the City's capital facilities plan element of their comprehensive plan. Eligible project types include planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation or improvement of parks, recreational facilities and trails. Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2. REET funds currently are transferred for use on other City projects, such as streets and debt service. Through annual budgeting and with discussions with City Council, the Recreation and Parks Department should seek access to REET funds and leverage the Capital Improvements Plan to identify compelling projects to enhance service delivery of the amenities the community has provided voice to.

### CONSERVATION FUTURES

Snohomish County assesses the maximum allowable excise of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 assessed value to fund the Conservation Futures program and provides cities a venue to access these funds through a competitive, local grant process. The City should continue to submit grant applications for support in financing the acquisition of additional natural areas along creeks to facilitate the protection of these lands and enable improved linkages to expand the trail network.

### GRANTS & APPROPRIATIONS

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including WWRP, ALEA, and LWCF. Pursuing grants is not a panacea for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the



granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Mountlake Terrace should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly relevant on regional transportation projects, and the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on projects.

### OTHER IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

Appendix J identifies other implementation tools, such as voter-approved funding, grants and acquisition tactics, that the City could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the Capital Improvements Plan.



**MLT**

23204 58th Avenue W  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043  
[www.cityofmlt.com](http://www.cityofmlt.com)