

Sequim Parks Master Plan

Plan Overview

I. Vision:

To preserve Sequim's small town charm, the City of Sequim will continue to maintain and enhance its current level of park quality and the ratio of parkland and open space to population. Parks will vary from the small and cozy homeowner maintained type to larger city maintained neighborhood and community parks, and will include trail systems, natural areas, and regional sport facilities.

II. Introduction:

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is an expression of the City of Sequim's objectives, needs, and priorities for the provision of parks and recreation space, services, facilities and upkeep for its citizens. The plan was prepared by the Citizen's Park Advisory Board in association with City staff.

The Washington State Legislature directs all jurisdictions planning under the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) to plan in a coordinated and comprehensive manner to maintain and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by state residents:

RCW 36.70A.010: The Legislature finds that uncoordinated and unplanned growth, together with the lack of common goals expressing the public's interest in the conservation and the wise use of our lands, pose a threat to the environment, sustainable economic development, and the health and safety and high quality of life enjoyed by residents of the state. It is in the public interest that citizens, communities, local governments, and the private sector cooperate and coordinate with one another in comprehensive land use planning.

The Act further identifies broad goals for communities to attain including an Open Space and Recreation Goal. This plan serves to establish policies and bring forth recommendations to assist in implementing this goal.

RCW 36.70A.020 Planning Goals: Open Space and Recreation. Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.

The Parks Master Plan serves as a part of the City's overall Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan calls for a Parks Master Plan to be created by the Citizen's Park Advisory Board and updated annually. The duties of the Park Advisory Board are set out in Ordinance 96-013 and include the responsibilities of advising and making recommendations to the City Council for the acquisition, control, improvement, beautification and planning for all public squares and parks

of the City and all City recreation facilities. Members are appointed by the City Council and serve as volunteers.

This Parks Master Plan outlines recommendations and guidelines for public and private decisions related to parks and recreation. It also makes recommendations for the acquisition, development, management, and funding of public parks and recreation facilities throughout the City's neighborhoods.

The Parks Master Plan is intended to be a 20-year plan, through 2025. However, it is a living document, which will require continuous updating to meet changing conditions in a dynamic and rapidly growing community.

Discussions continue to take place between the City of Sequim and developers regarding activities for the region's children and the elderly (grandparents). The average age for citizens in the City of Sequim is 59.3 years of age, as of 2004 per US Census, with grandparents raising 27% of the children in the Sequim School District (2004-2005). With this high number of grandparents raising children, there needs to be coordinated plans and opportunities for both age groups to play, learn and grow through proper recreational facilities.

Recreation, the pursuit of leisure activities, enjoyment of the outdoors and preservation of open space, habitat and the natural environment are essential elements in maintaining a balance in the quality of life throughout the City of Sequim and the Sequim/Dungeness Valley.

III. Plan Outline:

There are seven chapters and an appendix in this plan. A brief summary for each chapter is listed below:

Chapter One: Planning Principles and Processes. This chapter addresses over-riding considerations guiding the development of this plan and includes a definition section.

Chapter Two: Goals and Policies. Chapter Two includes a Mission Statement and a set of goals and policies both for existing parks and recreation facilities and also for expected future changes during the next 20 years. Prioritized projects for the near term are also presented.

Chapter Three: History and Profile of the City of Sequim. In this chapter, there is a discussion and analysis of the City of Sequim, including historic background, demographics, geography, and economics, at both the present time and the expected changes in the future.

Chapter Four: Current Parks and Recreation Facilities. An inventory of current parks sites and facilities, including definitions of City of Sequim park categories, a listing of Clallam County, State and Federal parks available to

Sequim residents, and school and community facilities that are utilized for community recreation. Specific geographical areas within the City of Sequim are established.

Chapter Five: Projected Recreation Site and Facility Needs. Expected needs analysis for park facilities for each geographic area within the City, including location and acreage, from 2005 to 2025. Also analyzed are statewide trends, recreation survey, and public informational meetings utilized to determine need.

Chapter Six: Recommendations. Identifies recommendations for both site and facility improvements and projects to be completed to address the recommendations.

Chapter Seven: Implementation. Funding sources for parks acquisition as well as operations and maintenance. Government grants, special taxes, user fees, State Environmental Policy Act project mitigation requirements and impact fees for developers are among options to be considered. A six-year Capital Improvement Plan (as shown herein) shall also be included in the Capital Facilities Element of the *Updated Comprehensive Plan (2006)*.

Appendices:

- A - Carrie Blake Master Plan Map
- B - Ordinance 96-013 Establishing Citizen's Parks Advisory Board
- C - History of Sequim Parks
- D - Sequim/Dungeness Valley Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Summary, November, 1997.
- E - Maps
- F – City of Sequim Recreation Survey - 2001
- G - Adopting Ordinance 2006-005

