



eight



PARKS + RECREATION



PARKS + RECREATION GOALS

.....

GOAL P-1 Strive to provide safe, convenient, and equitable access to high-quality parks, natural areas, trails, and recreational opportunities and contribute to the health and well-being of all Tacomans.

GOAL P-2 Promote public and private partnerships that expand the variety of community services and programs, provide open space, and enhance the quality of life for Tacomans.

GOAL P-3 Preserve and expand parklands and facilities to ensure the long-term viability of the park system to serve Tacoma's current and future population.

GOAL P-4 Develop and operate park and recreational facilities in a manner that is responsive to the site and the needs of the community.

GOAL P-5 Facilitate a multi-faceted inclusive community conversation to ensure that park and recreation facilities are responsive to community interests and needs.

GOAL P-6 Manage natural areas and urban forest to protect unique urban habitats and offer Tacomans an opportunity to connect with nature.

GOAL P-7 Establish and maintain a complete park and recreation system to serve the diverse needs of Tacoma residents.

GOAL P-8 Provide specific area and signature facilities according to adopted master plans.

EIGHT

PARKS + RECREATION

WHAT IS THIS CHAPTER ABOUT?

The goals and policies in this chapter convey the City's intent to:

- Set clear standards for service delivery and expansion of parks and recreation facilities and services.
- Achieve interagency and intergovernmental coordination in the provision of park and recreation facilities.
- Provide more equitable service delivery in areas that are currently deficient in services or are anticipated to be deficient in services based on anticipated growth and development.
- Promote park and recreation facility design that reflects the City's unique cultural communities and ecological settings.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Good parks and recreation services foster economic benefits and promote tourism. Environmentally, they provide green infrastructure and help manage climate change. Socially, they revitalize communities, create safer neighborhoods, help children learn and grow, improve public and environmental health, and support smart growth. Culturally, open space and program services can nurture a sense of place in the community, and provide opportunities to engage the public of diverse backgrounds.

The City of Tacoma and Metro Parks Tacoma together manage more than 3000 acres of developed parks and natural areas, as well as local and regional trails, the urban tree canopy, and community gardens. Programs

Book I: Goals + Policies

- 1 Introduction + Vision
- 2 Urban Form
- 3 Design + Development
- 4 Environment + Watershed Health
- 5 Housing
- 6 Economic Development
- 7 Transportation
- 8 **Parks + Recreation**
- 9 Public Facilities + Services
- 10 Container Port
- 11 Engagement, Administration + Implementation
- 12 Downtown

Book II: Implementation Programs + Strategies

- 1 Shoreline Master Program
- 2 Capital Facilities Program
- 3 Downtown Regional Growth Center Plans
- 4 Historic Preservation Plan

METRO PARKS TACOMA

is an independent government agency, created in 1907, providing park and recreation services to Tacoma and adjacent areas. The City and MPT work very closely together in planning for park services. In preparing the element of the Comprehensive Plan, MPT's current strategic plan, Green Vision 2030, was consulted to ensure consistency between plans.



Pooch pool party at Stewart Heights Pool

are offered for all ages at community centers, swimming pools, and other recreational facilities. Parks and natural areas give life and beauty to the city and are essential assets that connect people to place, self and others.

The following policies ensure this legacy is preserved for all Tacomans and future generations and that the City and Metro Parks will rise to meet the challenges posed by growth and change within the City and region.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The community assessment that supports the Parks and Recreation Element includes a review of demographics in Tacoma, input from Tacomans about parks and recreation interests and needs, and an inventory of park and recreation facilities. This assessment also incorporates the needs assessment conducted by Metro Parks Tacoma as part of the *MPT Green Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*. Key information is summarized below.

Demographic Profile. Please see the Housing Element for a summary of Tacoma’s demographics and opportunity maps developed by the Puget Sound Regional Council illustrating Tacoman’s access to critical opportunity structures and social infrastructure to succeed in life.

Public Input. In 2014 and 2015, the City conducted an integrated and wide ranging public outreach effort in support of several planning initiatives, including *Tacoma 2025*, the *Transportation Master Plan*, and the Comprehensive Plan update. Collectively, these efforts touched over 2,000 Tacomans and included valuable input on parks, recreation and open space usage in Tacoma. Outreach activities were specifically designed to reach out to broad range of community interests and included interactive booths at farmers’ markets, festivals and special events, one-on-one interviews, an online community forum and comment opportunities, presentations to community groups, community meetings and workshops, Tacoma 2025 Steering Committee meetings, Transportation Commission meetings and Planning Commission meetings. In 2014, the City also conducted a community wide survey of the quality of life in Tacoma (see sidebar). In addition, prior outreach efforts by Metro Parks Tacoma, including email blasts, e-newsletters, webpage updates and workshops, have been reviewed and considered as part of the planning process.

Collectively, this information provided guidance for the goals and policies contained in the Parks and Recreation Element, including the focus areas of striving to provide equitable access to park and recreational facilities that contribute to the health and well-being of all Tacomans, promoting partnerships to expand and enhance programs, protecting natural areas to offer Tacomans an opportunity to connect with nature, and establishing and maintaining a complete parks and recreation system to serve diverse needs.

Park and Recreation Facilities. Public park and recreation facilities are shown in Figure 36 on page 8-12 and trails are shown in Figure 37 on page 8-21. A description of park facility classifications is provided as part of Goal P-7 and supporting policies (Complete Park System).

The Public Facilities + Services Element contains additional information about the City’s park system including levels of service for park facilities (Table 9 on page 9-12), planned capital improvements (Tables 9.14 and 9.15) and a map of park service gaps (Figure 40 on page 9-37).

2014 TACOMA COMMUNITY SURVEY

With respect to park and recreation services, this survey found the following:

- 79% rated City parks as excellent or good
- 68% rated recreation programs as excellent or good
- 62% rated recreation centers as excellent or good
- 45% rated open space as excellent or good
- 58% report that they have used Tacoma recreation centers
- 91% report that they have visited a City park

Source: http://cms.cityoftacoma.org/finance/budget/2014_reports/Community_Survey_2014_Results.pdf



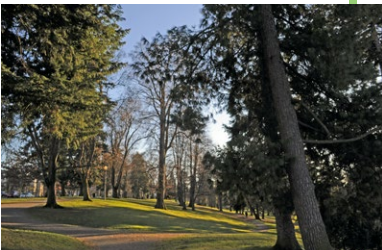
Dash Point Park



Norpoint Park



Stewart Heights Park



Wright Park



Puget Park

GOALS + POLICIES

EQUITY + ACCESS

GOAL P-1 Strive to provide safe, convenient, and equitable access to high-quality parks, natural areas, trails, and recreational opportunities and contribute to the health and well-being of all Tacomans.

Policy P-1.1 Provide and maintain an adequate supply and variety of parkland and recreational facilities to serve the city's current and future population based on identified level-of-service standards and community needs.

Policy P-1.2 Prioritize investment in acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities in areas where need is greatest, including:

- a. Where availability and access to facilities is lowest; and
- a. Where the greatest population growth is occurring or forecast, such as the mixed use centers.

Policy P-1.3 Foster social equity by providing a wide range of accessible, inclusive, affordable, convenient and safe opportunities to meet the diverse needs of the changing community.

Policy P-1.4 Provide a variety of recreational facilities and services that contribute to the health and well-being of Tacomans of all ages and abilities.

Policy P-1.5 Establish and manage specialized recreational facilities within the park system to respond to identified public needs, take advantage of land assets, and meet cost recovery goals.

Policy P-1.6 Consider the varied cultural and demographic needs of the community in park and recreational facility design and promote public involvement in all aspects of park and recreation planning.

Policy P-1.7 Encourage the multiple use of recreation and open spaces to meet community demands.



Policy P–1.8 Maintain special recreational facilities (such as golf courses and sports stadiums) as enterprises to meet public needs, ensure maximum use, and financial self-sufficiency.

Policy P–1.9 Periodically review trends in park and recreation facility use and adapt plans and investments to respond to changing community needs.

PARTNERSHIPS

GOAL P–2 Promote public and private partnerships that expand the variety of community services and programs, provide open space, and enhance the quality of life for Tacomans.

Policy P–2.1 Jointly plan for new park and recreation facilities and services that contribute to the health and well-being of Tacomans of all ages and abilities.

Policy P–2.2 Continue to work in close partnership with Metro Parks Tacoma, including supporting updates to long term plans for the parks and open space system.

Policy P–2.3 Encourage public-private partnerships to develop and operate publicly-accessible recreational facilities that meet identified public needs.

Special recreation facilities (clockwise from top left)

*Youth baseball at
Cheney Stadium*

*Foot golf at Meadow
Park Golf Course*

*Vintage Hickory International
at Meadow Park Golf Course*

Kandle Pool

*Rainier's game at
Cheney Stadium*



Norpoint Park

PARTNERSHIPS

With a history of successful partnership that extends over 100 years, the City and Metro Parks Tacoma are committed to working together to create healthy opportunities for Tacoma residents to play, learn and grow.

Other key partners include the Port of Tacoma, the Tacoma School District, Tacoma Public Utilities, and other public and private partners.

Policy P–2.4 Partner with public and private entities to encourage, sponsor, and support a range of public activities and events within appropriate open spaces, as well as within temporary closed streets, such as markets, festivals, and parades.

Policy P–2.5 Support and encourage the use of streets and sidewalks, on a temporary and intermittent basis, for a range of activities, such as markets, festivals, shopping, dining and recreation, while ensuring safety and balancing street and sidewalk use for transportation.

Policy P–2.6 Coordinate the planning and improvement of trails with corridor improvements.

Policy P–2.7 Recognize public school fields and play areas as a valuable part of the City’s park system. Seek opportunities to work with the school districts to enhance the recreational value of these facilities.

Policy P–2.8 Maintain an accurate inventory of the city’s park and recreation facilities in coordination with Metro Parks Tacoma and other providers.

With over 50 developed school campuses and school sites, Tacoma Public Schools’ play areas and fields are an important part of all Tacoma neighborhoods.

Figure 36 on page 8-12 shows both the public park system and school campuses.

Play equipment at Franklin Park, adjacent to Franklin Elementary School



FUNDING + CAPITAL PLANNING

GOAL P-3 Preserve and expand parklands and facilities to ensure the long-term viability of the park system to serve Tacoma's current and future population.

Policy P-3.1 Maintain a long-range park capital improvements program that balances acquisition, development, and operations; provides a process and criteria for capital improvements project selection; and emphasizes creative and flexible financing strategies.

Policy P-3.2 Seek funding for new parks and recreation facilities through a variety of sources and consider innovative strategies for the provision of new facilities:

- a. Develop zoning incentives, controls and/or funding mechanisms, such as transfer of development rights, to create highly functional urban parks and amenities within mixed use centers, downtown and planned residential developments.
- b. Consider adopting a fee-in-lieu program that would allow development to contribute toward open space, park, community garden or recreational space within a mixed-use center rather than providing on-site open space.

Policy P-3.3 Evaluate opportunities to acquire and/or develop lands declared surplus by other public agencies, or offered as donation by private owners, if consistent with policies herein.

MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS

GOAL P-4 Develop and operate park and recreational facilities in a manner that is responsive to the site and the needs of the community.

Policy P-4.1 Improve parks, recreational facilities and natural areas in accordance with current master plans, management plans, or adopted strategies that reflect user group needs, development priorities, development and maintenance costs, program opportunities, financing strategies, and community input.

Please see the Public Facilities + Services Element for information on parks and recreation capital facility projects



Remediation of heavy metals on the future Waterway Park site



Balloons are used to mark topography of a future 11-acre park on the peninsula at Point Defiance (left)

Citizens attend an open house to look over the draft update to the Point Defiance Park Master Plan (right)



Policy P-4.2 Encourage park and recreation facilities design that complements the natural features of the site.

Policy P-4.3 Provide amenities at parks and recreation facilities, such as restrooms, lighting, seating, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, bicycle parking, and shelters when possible, feasible and appropriate to extend the hours of use and service quality.

Policy P-4.4 Incorporate green building practices into park design and construction, including green demolition and disposal practices, use of local and recycled products and low impact development techniques.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

EXAMPLES OF DIVERSE OUTREACH METHODS:

Walking tours
*Storytelling and
listening sessions*
Social media
Video
Festivals
*Partnering with
community organizations*

GOAL P-5 Facilitate a multi-faceted inclusive community conversation to ensure that park and recreation facilities are responsive to community interests and needs.

Policy P-5.1 Regularly solicit and incorporate community members' knowledge about park and recreation needs to ensure a system that is responsive to community interests and needs.

Policy P-5.2 Employ a diverse array of outreach methods that recognize different communication styles and increase convenience for citizens.

Policy P-5.3 On a regular basis, evaluate park and recreation preferences, needs and trends through assessment of usage and participation rates, surveys and other methods.



*Fishing at
China Lake*

NATURAL AREAS

GOAL P-6 Manage natural areas and urban forest to protect unique urban habitats and offer Tacomans an opportunity to connect with nature.

Policy P-6.1 Preserve, enhance, and manage natural areas and resources to protect and improve their ecological health and to provide compatible public access.

COMPLETE PARK SYSTEM

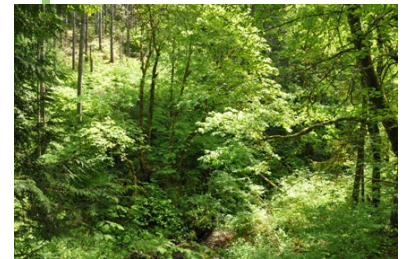
GOAL P-7 Establish and maintain a complete park and recreation system to serve the diverse needs of Tacoma residents.

Functioning within a highly urbanized setting, the City of Tacoma and Metro Parks Tacoma partner together to offer a complete park and recreation system, ranging from low-impact, natural resource-driven habitat areas to recreation-oriented, high-impact parks and sport complexes.

This system is made up of both public and private ownerships. On the public side, the City and Metro Parks are the primary owners of most of those lands categorized below. In addition, the Tacoma School District owns school properties that serve residents' recreation needs during non-school hours. The Port of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Utilities and other public agencies also manage open space and recreation assets. This spectrum of publicly-owned open space is complemented by lands managed by private landowners, with whom the City will continue to partner.

A brief description of each different type of facilities, together with supporting policies is provided below. Please see also Figure 36, Park and Recreation Facilities for more information.

*Please see the
Environment + Watershed
Health Element for a
discussion of natural
open space areas and
the urban forest*



*Canopy (top) and
pedestrian bridge (bottom)
at Swan Creek Park*

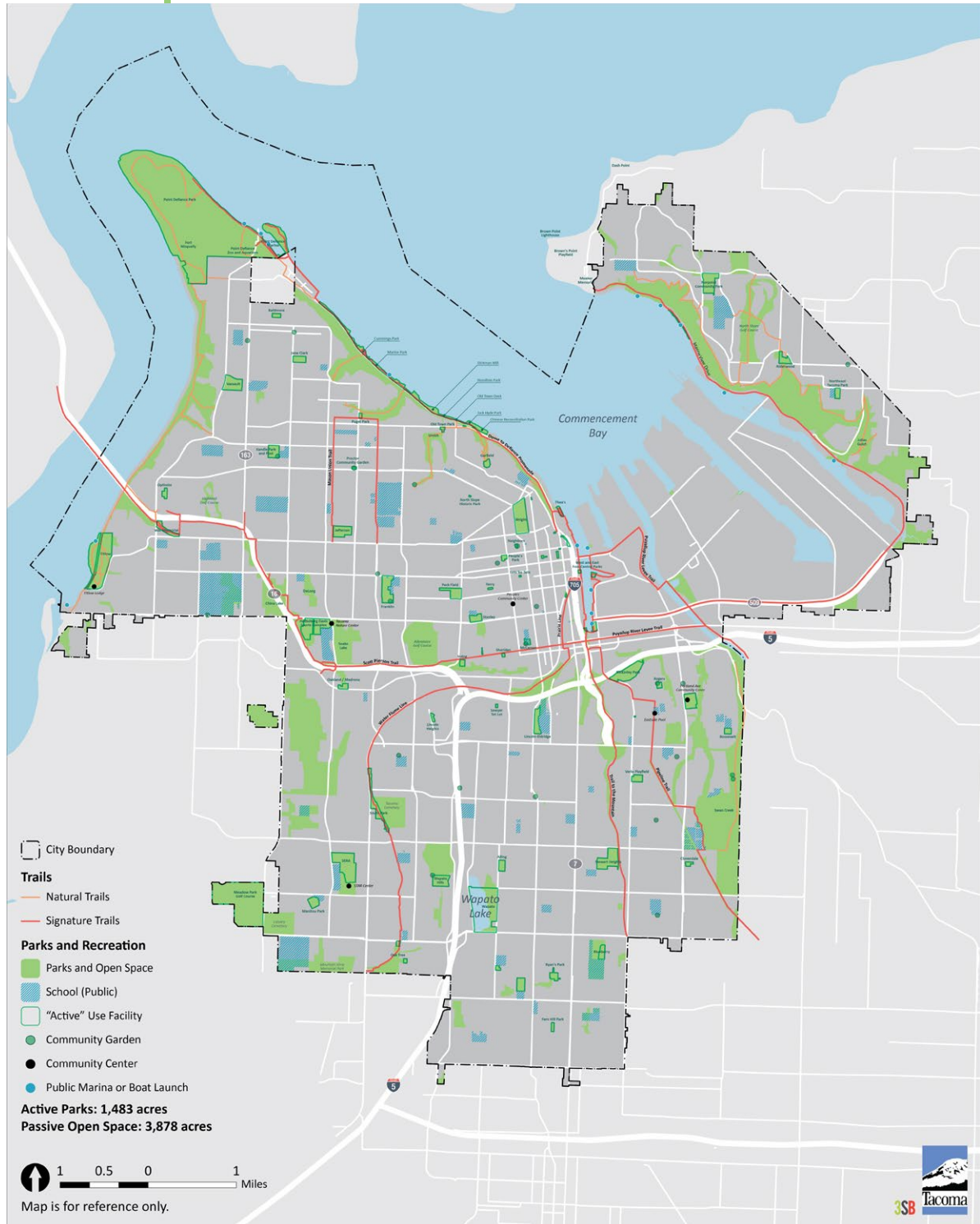


FIGURE 36. Park + Recreation Facilities



Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide daily convenient access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents by foot or bicycle. Generally small in size, neighborhood parks are developed primarily for spontaneous and non-structured recreation activities. Sawyer Tot Lot and Optimist Park are examples of neighborhood parks.

Policy P-7.1 Neighborhood parks should be designed to enhance neighborhood identity, preserve neighborhood open space and improve the quality of life of nearby residents.

Policy P-7.2 Neighborhood parks should be located and distributed to provide convenient, daily walking access to basic recreational opportunities for nearby residents living within a 3/4-mile radius of the park.

Neighborhood parks (clockwise from top left)

Old Town Park dock

Manitou Park

Optimist Park

*Play equipment at
Sawyer Tot Lot*

Baltimore Park field

Festivals held at Wright Park



Music and art festival



Ethnic Fest



Food truck festival



Titlow Park

Community Parks

Community parks are usually more than five acres, preferably ten to 15 acres, providing visitors with access to high and low impact recreation opportunities. Community parks should be designed to enhance community identity and preserve community open space. As a sub-category of community parks, Signature Community Parks have a wider community appeal providing a unique benefit which often contribute to the identity of a planning area and enhance the quality of life of District residents. McKinley Park is an example of a community park and Wapato Park a signature community park.

Policy P-7.3 Community parks should be sited and designed to serve those residents living within a 1.5-mile radius of the park and to provide a wider range of recreational opportunities to accommodate large group activities, structured recreation programs, and major outdoor recreation facilities, such as sports facilities.

Policy P-7.4 Community park sites should front onto a public street, preferably a collector or arterial street complete with sidewalks and bicycle lanes, or easily accessible by public transit.



Community parks (clockwise from top): Wright Park conservatory; Parks Appreciation Day at McKinley Park; Summer bash events at Norpoint Park; Basketball court at Franklin Park; Skate park at Kandle Park; Wapato Park



Thea's Park



21st Street Park

NODAL + LINEAR URBAN PARKS



Examples of nodal urban parks include public squares, urban plazas, landscaped courtyards and community gardens. Linear urban parks include widened boulevards and landscaped promenades adorned with street furniture, water features and art work, and completed with bike facilities.

Urban Parks

Offering outdoor breathing space in an otherwise concrete built environment, urban parks are a special type of open space serving the unique lifestyles and recreation needs of those who live or work in or close to downtown and designated centers. While urban parks often serve as neighborhood parks for their nearby residents, they may also provide opportunities for community events and district-wide gatherings. They contribute to place-making by enhancing the quality of life and the identity of the urban core and the mixed-use districts. Creating a network of linear urban parks connected with public squares, gardens and plazas will allow urban residents or workers to walk to public spaces or destinations designed for art displays and other leisure pursuits. Urban parks may be developed and/or managed by other public or private agencies or in partnership with them, depending on their locations and forms of development. Thea's Park is an example of an urban park.

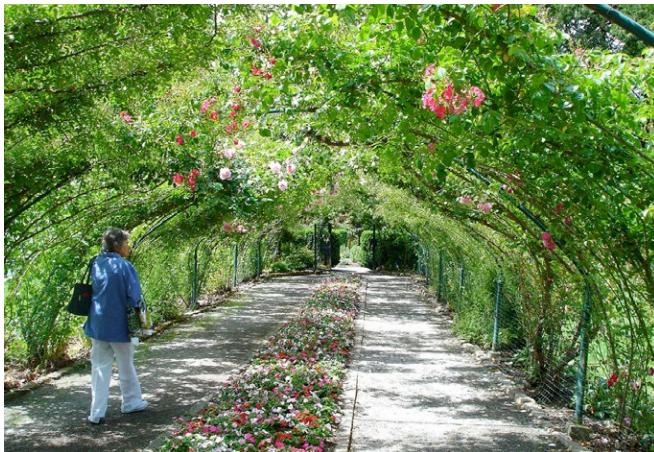
Policy P-7.5 Plan for the acquisition and design of urban parks within the Downtown and designated centers based on forecast growth and adopted growth assumptions.

- a. Establish specific targets for open space, park, and recreation facilities to meet needs within mixed-use centers.
- b. Identify potential locations and opportunities for further action and use innovative methods and partnerships to fund the identified needs.
- c. Ensure park and recreation opportunities are provided in the mixed-use centers as the population in the center increases

Policy P-7.6 Develop nodal urban parks for social gathering and linear urban parks for active recreation such as walking and bicycling.

Policy P-7.7 Locate and design nodal urban parks to create a focal point and distinctive sense of place for each center.

Policy P-7.8 Coordinate the development of linear urban parks with the design of designated corridors and signature trails.



Regional Parks

Regional parks, usually over a hundred acres, provide visitors with access to unique regional features and attractions. Regional parks often accommodate large group activities and have infrastructure to support special events and festivals. Contributing to economic development through tourism, regional parks can enhance the economic vitality and identity of the entire region. Point Defiance Park, with 760 acres and a wide variety of attractions, is an example of a regional park.

Policy P-7.9 In addition to those facilities normally encouraged in community and neighborhood parks, unique and high quality amenities, landscape improvements and gardens, and infrastructure to support events and festivals should be provided. Sports fields, lit or unlit, may also be included within regional parks.

Regional parks (clockwise from top)

*Owen's beach at
Point Defiance Park*

Trail along Ruston Way

*Rose garden at Point
Defiance Park (left)*



*Point Defiance Park
ecology shoreline oblique*



**Community gardens
(clockwise from top left)**

40th Street

Proctor

Swan Creek Park food forest

Neighbors Park

*Please see the Design +
Development Element
for additional policies*

Community Gardens

Land gardened by a community group for food, plant or fiber production, either for personal or charitable uses. Community gardens provide access to fresh produce; encourage a connection to the environment; support general health and wellbeing through outdoor activity and the therapeutic benefits of gardening; provide safety and beautification benefits; create healthy soil, which helps with stormwater management; and adds to a neighborhood's livability. Properly designed and managed, community gardens can greatly enhance a neighborhood's vitality and can be created on their own or in coordination with neighborhood parks, playgrounds, housing developments or apartment complexes.

Policy P-7.10 Enhance existing and support new community gardens within parks and on appropriate public and private lands.

Policy P-7.11 Support creative approaches to managing gardens, such as support by educational institutions or volunteer management by community organizations.



Sprayground at South End Recreation & Adventure (SERA) Campus (left)

Meadow Park Golf Course (right)

Special Recreation Facilities

Outdoor or indoor facilities offer opportunities for programmed activities to promote active living, an appreciation for nature and the environment, and to foster respect for culture and heritage amongst all ages. These facilities can be free-standing or sited within a community or regional park and are usually managed by Metro Parks Tacoma.

Policy P-7.12 Give priority for the location of new special recreation facilities to areas that are currently underserved.

Policy P-7.13 To the extent feasible, locate new destination facilities within or in close proximity to designated centers.

Examples of special recreational facilities include multi-purpose centers and mission-led specialty centers, such as sports complexes, athletic fields, golf courses, outdoor and indoor pools, boathouse marinas, nature centers, zoos and aquariums, wildlife parks, botanical conservatories, and historic interpretative centers.



*Dome to Defiance
Promenade*



*Titlow Park trail between
the beach and railway*



*Natural trail in Swan
Creek Park*

Trails

Trails serve both a recreation and an active transportation function. Walking and bicycling provide many benefits to individuals as well as to the community. In Tacoma, trails provide opportunities for walking, bicycling, jogging, in-line skating, dog walking and wildlife watching. An integrated, safety-oriented multi-purpose trail increases mobility choices, reduces reliance on single-occupant vehicles, provides convenient access to schools, centers, transit, parks and other destinations, and encourages regular physical activity to enhance health and wellness.

Policy P–7.14 Establish, improve, and maintain a citywide system of public trails that are a component of a larger network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This citywide trail system should connect Tacoma’s neighborhoods, employment centers, schools, parks, natural areas, recreational facilities, commercial areas, regional trail system, and other key places that Tacomans access in their daily lives. Please see Figure 37, Citywide Trails Map.

Policy P–7.15 Utilize Tacoma’s natural topography to connect Tacomans to natural areas and the waterfront.

Policy P–7.16 Design specific trails according to the purposes served and the location.

- a. Trails developed primarily for low-impact access to or through habitat areas should be developed to minimize their impact to the environment through location choices, narrower width, and use of pervious surfaces.
- b. Trails developed as non-motorized transportation corridors should be wide enough for the projected use and developed with a durable hard surface.

Policy P–7.17 Locate and develop bicycle and pedestrian facilities that provide on- and off-road recreation for the community

Policy P–7.18 Develop new trails and recreation facilities to accommodate rollerblading and skateboarding without posing conflicts to other recreational uses.

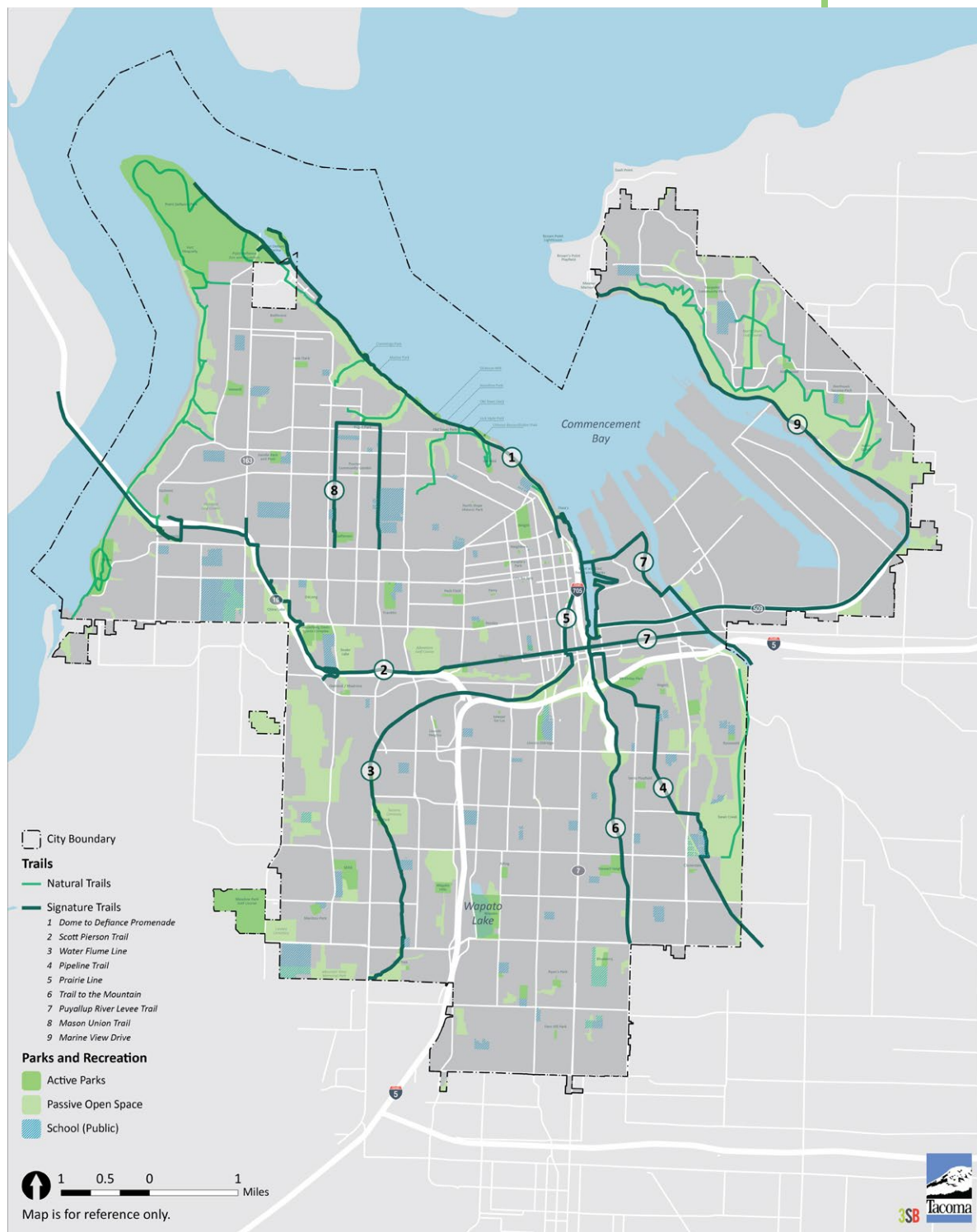


FIGURE 37. Citywide Trails

*Please see the Urban
Form Element for
additional policies*



Julia's Gulch



*Pedestrian bridge through
the Tacoma Nature Center*

Open Space Corridors

Lands that support, nurture and preserve natural and wildlife habitats and native vegetation. Open Space Corridors usually contain environmental assets, such as wetlands, streams, wildlife, native and forested habitats, that are managed for stewardship and conservation via best management practices. These lands often provide opportunities for environmental research and interpretative programs, in addition to low-impact recreational activities.

Policy P–7.19 Encourage public access provisions in open space corridors where such access will complement, not negatively disrupt fish, wildlife and plants.

Policy P–7.20 Provide opportunities for Tacomans to engage with and experience nature and wildlife amid varied natural settings.

Policy P–7.21 Provide opportunities for education and continuous learning about Tacoma's environment assets and geographic setting.

Waterfront

Tacoma's shorelines and waterfront areas are a source of economic activity, entertainment and recreation, as well as providing invaluable ecological and cultural functions. As such, the promotion of shoreline access and recreation is a major priority for Tacomans. The City's waterfront provides opportunities for recreation and the experience of nature that cannot be replicated in other areas of the City and region. Recognizing the multiple benefits and values of its shorelines, the City and others have made substantial investments to clean up environmental pollution and improve shoreline access, recreation and cultural opportunities. Given the strong connection many people feel to shorelines, investments like these will provide benefits that will be enjoyed and appreciated by a great number of people, improving Tacoma's livability and long-term prosperity.

Policy P–7.22 Recognize the strong community connection to Tacoma's shorelines and waters as cultural, historic, recreational, educational, economic, natural and aesthetic assets of tremendous value.



*Owen's beach at Point
Defiance Park*



*Dragon boat racing
at Maritime Fest*



Pier at Dash Point Park

Policy P-7.23 Enhance Tacoma's identity as a waterfront community, including designating and enhancing shoreline areas for public access, recreation, educational and interpretive displays, public art, community events, habitat restoration and other activities.

Policy P-7.24 Develop and enhance opportunities for swimming, boating including use of Tacoma's water trails, fishing, SCUBA diving, educational activities, wildlife observation and other shoreline and water-dependent activities.

Policy P-7.25 Implement the priority actions identified in the Shoreline Master Program Public Access Alternatives.



*Thea Foss Waterway
and 21st Street Bridge*



Point Defiance Zoo
& Aquarium

MASTER PLANS

GOAL P-8 Provide specific area and signature facilities according to adopted master plans.

Over time, the City and partners have identified and conducted will improve the capacity to achieve the goals of this Element by developing plans for specific areas. This list is intended for larger, signature parks and open space sites. It is not exhaustive, and is intended to be updated regularly. Other public agencies, in particular Metro Parks Tacoma, maintain separate projects lists which should be consulted as well.

Inclusion in this section is intended to convey the City Council's support for and recognition of the policy direction in these plans, and to convey that they are planning and implementation priorities. Inclusion in this section lends support to applications for City approvals such as conditional use permits, rezones and development regulation agreements meeting the intent of these plans, as well as the policies of the Comprehensive Plan. This section also provides a forum for the Council to refine their policy direction on a given site, in consultation with the Planning Commission and other stakeholders.

Policy P-8.1 Point Defiance Park. MPT's conceptual plan for their signature 768-acre park, referred to as Destination Point Defiance, was developed over multiple years with broad public input and support. It includes commercial, educational and recreational features (including the zoo, a lodge, eating establishments, gift shops, a visitor's center, additional pavilion buildings, a farmers' market, entertainment and educational facilities, and bike and kayak rental facilities) that broaden the use of the park and expand its function as a unique destination.

While the current (2014) Land Use Intensity Designation is Low, the City recognizes the unique role that Point Defiance Park plays as a citywide and regional destination. Therefore, or until the Land Use Designation changes, alternative review processes such as Development Regulation Agreements may provide an appropriate avenue for City review of more intensive, destination-oriented features within the park.

Policy P–8.2 First Creek Action Plan. In 2011–12 the City collaborated with community stakeholders to develop a consensus vision and framework for action to improve East Tacoma’s 3.5 mile First Creek corridor. The plan identifies actions to be implemented by multiple stakeholders over a 5–10 year planning period.

Policy P–8.3 Wapato Hills Conceptual Plan. In 2013 the City and MPT collaborated to update the 1996 conceptual plan for the 80-acre Wapato Hills. The final conceptual plan recognizes that Wapato Hills functions primarily as a natural area for recreational walking on a system of trails and viewpoints. The conceptual plan also includes the existing park in the southwest corner and a proposed visitor center on the eastern side.

Policy P–8.4 Downtown Subarea Plans. From 2011 to 2014, the City has worked to develop the South Downtown, Hilltop and North Downtown Subarea Plans and EIS’s. The South Downtown Subarea Plan and EIS was adopted in December 2013, the Hilltop Subarea Plan and EIS was adopted in May 2014, and the North Downtown Subarea Plan and EIS is slated for adoption in late 2014. These plans provide thorough guidance on open space and recreation issues and priorities for the respective subareas.

Policy P–8.5 Shoreline Public Access Alternatives. In 2013 the City adopted updates to the Shoreline Master Program (SMP), including the Shoreline Public Access Alternatives. This plan thoroughly addresses open space and recreation issues and priorities in Tacoma’s Shoreline Districts.

Policy P–8.6 Tacoma Landfill Land Use Plan. This 1998 plan represents incorporation of ideas gathered for the future uses of the closed portions of the City Landfill. The plan reports that over 151 acres will eventually be filled and capped. After landfilling ceases, much of the area may be utilized as a recreation and open space asset.

Policy P–8.7 Port of Tacoma Public Access Plan. In 2013 the Port Commission adopted a public access plan to identify specific needs and opportunities to provide public shoreline access. The plan will guide Port actions to meet the City of Tacoma’s SMP requirements for the Port to provide public access to shorelines.



*Dick Gilmur Shoreline
Restoration and Kayak
Launch at the Port of Tacoma*



*Swan Creek mountain
biking trail*

Policy P-8.8 *Swan Creek Master Plan.* Swan Creek Park is a 383-acre greenspace nestled on the boundary between East Tacoma and Pierce County with a salmon bearing stream, wooded canyon, upland forest, paved and natural trails, and a community garden. In 2011 MPT adopted a long-term vision and plan for future site development, stewardship, and programming.