Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan

These amendments show all of the changes to the existing text of the Comprehensive Plan. The sections included are only those portions of the Plan that are associated with these amendments. New text is underlined and text that is deleted is shown in strikethrough.

Open Space Habitat and Recreation Element

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Section I –
Introduction

Open Space Vision

The following is the purpose of the Open Space Habitat and Recreation Plan Element (OSHRP). The policies and other guidance contained in the Plan are intended to support achievement of this vision:

Create an integrated system of habitat and recreation lands and facilities in Tacoma that defines and enhances the built and natural environment, supports and nurtures plant and wildlife habitat, offers a well-balanced range of recreation opportunities and enriches the lives of Tacoma's current and future citizens.

The OSHRPE is both a plan for an environmentally “green” Tacoma, and for a livable and active Tacoma. As Tacoma’s green plan, the OSHRPE envisions the conservation, restoration and stewardship of the City’s invaluable habitat areas and enhancement of habitat functions city-wide. As Tacoma’s recreation and active living plan, the OSHRPE envisions a system of recreation lands and facilities that meet community expectations and promote healthy living. A balanced and well-developed system of habitat and recreation lands and facilities is an essential component of a prosperous, livable and sustainable Tacoma.

An Integrated Open Space Habitat and Recreation System

Tacoma benefits from invaluable natural assets including extensive shorelines, distinctive steep slopes and gulches, wetlands and streams and upland habitat areas, as well as a well-developed system of parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities. The City of Tacoma, Metro Parks Tacoma, other public and private organizations and Tacoma’s citizens have a long history of planning for the acquisition, conservation, enhancement and management of these assets.
The plan you are reading represents the latest update to a long line of parks and open space plans. In recognition of the need for a comprehensive guide for open space and recreation, the City of Tacoma and the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma (in short, Metro Parks Tacoma or MPT) worked together to formulate the Recreation and Open Space Facilities Plan, which was adopted in 1983 and amended in 1989, 1994 and 2000. In 2006, Metro Parks Tacoma adopted its own stand-alone Strategic Plan, and the City amended the Recreation and Open Space Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan. This Open Space Habitat and Recreation Plan Element (OSHRPOSHRE) is an element of the Comprehensive Plan which replaces and supersedes the Recreation and Open Space Facilities Element.

The OSHRPOSHRE was developed in close collaboration with MPT and in harmony with the MPT’s Strategic Parks and Program Services Plan, with active participation by community groups including the Green Tacoma Partnership. Metro Parks Tacoma and the City of Tacoma have long been partners and key providers of open space habitat and recreational lands and facilities. From the outset of this effort participants have recognized that, while playing a central role, the City, Metro Parks and other public agencies cannot bring about Tacoma’s open space vision by themselves. This plan seeks to build the framework for ongoing and broadening collaboration to bring about Tacoma’s open space goals.

The OSHRPOSHRE is Tacoma’s vision and plan for an integrated network of open space lands and facilities, including parks, habitat areas, trails, community gardens, shorelines and landscaped boulevards, as well as habitat connections provided by trees planted city-wide.

The key premise of the OSHRPOSHRE is that, irrespective of their ownership, Tacoma’s open space lands and facilities are complementary to each other, serve multiple functions, provide numerous community benefits and form a cohesive system. The many public agencies, private parties and citizens managing open space in Tacoma can benefit from an integrated open space planning perspective.

The plan’s name was chosen to emphasize the importance of two key open space functions in Tacoma—space for recreation and for habitat. These purposes are mutually supportive. Most open space lands provide habitat value as well as serving other open space functions. While some lands contain habitat for rare or endangered species, many lands with habitat value can also appropriately serve other open space functions. Likewise, lands being managed for other functions, such as stormwater retention or recreation, can also provide valuable habitat functions.

Parks, facilities and trails are more attractive, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally healthy when they are near or integrated with natural features and lands. Habitat areas, in turn, can benefit from appropriate access and low-impact recreation through increased community stewardship, safety, and a heightened sense of community ownership. The numerous functions provided by open space are a fundamental benefit contributing to a complete and livable urban environment.

Plan Objectives
This OSHREP is intended to be used in harmony with other elements of the City’s Comprehensive Plan, as well as Metro Parks Tacoma’s Strategic Parks and Program Services Plan (as updated), and will serve as a blueprint for achieving the vision and goals of Tacoma open space and in particular, the following objectives:

- Identify and communicate the City’s vision, goals and policy direction for open space.
- Call for development of coordinated strategies a Strategic Action Program to guide implementation, support partnerships and monitor progress.
• Provide a consistent and well-developed guide for future identification, acquisition, restoration and maintenance of public open space.

• Provide a clear basis to direct future capital projects and funding allocations intended to acquire, manage, maintain or restore a variety of open space lands and facilities.

• Foster active citizen involvement and community stewardship of habitat areas.

• Aid citizens in understanding the important issues, challenges and opportunities related to Tacoma’s habitat and recreation lands and facilities.

• Promote active living and foster livability through recreation lands and facilities that serve the needs and preferences of the citizens of Tacoma.

• Set a city-wide goal not only to reverse the decline of habitat functions and values, but to achieve the greatest possible net gain over the next 20 years.

• Designate Tacoma’s most valuable open space habitat areas as Habitat Corridors.

• Create a framework for wetland and stream mitigation required under the Critical Areas Preservation Ordinance to achieve greater positive habitat outcomes.

• Call for city-wide strategies that support healthy habitats, including planting and maintaining trees and low impact development stormwater techniques.

• Meet the intent and requirements of the Growth Management Act related to open space, recreation and environmental protection and restoration.

• Provide a plan which is compatible with the Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and satisfies the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office requirement to update the plan every six years to maintain eligibility for state funding.

• Maintain eligibility and improve competitiveness for funding sources including:
  o Pierce County – Conservation Futures Program
  o Department of Ecology – Hazardous Waste, Wetlands, Coastal Zone Management, and Water Quality
  o Department of Natural Resources – Urban Forestry
  o Recreation and Conservation Office -Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and Land and Water Conservation Fund
  o National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Coastal Lands and Estuarine Protection Program
Section II –
Open Space Definition, System and Functions

Open Space Definition

The term “open space” evokes a variety of connotations to different people. In its simplest, broadest definition, it is land which is unoccupied by buildings. For the purposes of this plan, and in collaboration with Metro Parks Tacoma’s Strategic Parks and Program Services Plan, “Open Space” refers to lands which are uncovered, unoccupied or undeveloped which perform one or more of the following functions:

- **Open Space for the Conservation of Natural Resources**: includes, but is not limited to, most natural areas regulated under the City’s Critical Areas Preservation Ordinance; areas used for the conservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas used for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, wetlands, bays and estuaries; forested areas, oak woodlands, meadows; areas providing important habitat connectivity, including utility easements and unimproved rights-of-way; and marine beaches, lake shores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.

- **Open Space for Public Health & Safety**: includes, but is not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as steep slopes and unstable soil areas, floodplains and watersheds; areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs; and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.

- **Open Space for Outdoor Recreation**: includes, but is not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, scientific and/or educational value; areas offering a wide spectrum of high and low-impact recreation opportunities, including play and sports facilities; areas providing access to lake shores, marine beaches, and rivers and streams; areas providing a natural separation or buffer between land-uses; areas serving as links between major recreation and open-space sites, including banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors.

- **Open Space for the Managed Production of Resources**: includes, but is not limited to, areas of importance for the production of food or fiber; areas required for recharge of groundwater aquifers; and, bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams which are important for fisheries.

Open Space System

Functioning within a highly urbanized setting, the City of Tacoma and Metro Parks Tacoma together offer a system of open spaces ranging from low-impact, natural resource-driven habitat areas to recreation-oriented, high-impact parks and sport complexes. The open space system is integrated into the overall community fabric to provide recreation, conservation, aesthetic benefits and relief from urban development and the built environment. Though open space sites can be categorized according to this system, most of Tacoma’s open space sites provide a range of benefits and support the City’s integrated open space system.

This system of open space lands 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. However, 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.

Included below are the types of open space that make up the City’s open space system, ranging from low-impact to high-impact recreational use:

- **Open Space Habitat Areas**: Lands that support, nurture and preserve natural and wildlife habitats and native vegetation. Habitat lands usually contain natural resources, 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. Aside from the gulches, wetlands and other habitat areas managed by the City of Tacoma, Metro Parks Tacoma also manages “greenspace”, a sub-component of open space habitat, used mainly for conservation, environmental education and low-impact recreation purposes, such as walking and nature viewing.

- **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; include safety and beautification benefits; create healthy soil, which helps with stormwater management; and add 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. Community gardens generally depend on local governmental support in terms of ownership, access and management.

- **Neighborhood Parks**: Neighborhood parks provide daily convenient, walking access to basic recreational opportunities for nearby residents living within a ¾-mile radius of the park. Generally small in size, neighborhood parks are a combination of playground and other amenities/facilities designed primarily for spontaneous, non-organized recreation activities. Properly designed and managed, these parks can enhance neighborhood identity, preserve neighborhood natural space, and improve the quality of life of nearby residents. Schoolyards offering playground opportunities often function as neighborhood parks to meet the recreational needs of the nearby residents.

- **Community Parks**: Designed to serve those residents living within a 1.5-mile radius of the park, community parks provide a wider range of recreational opportunities to accommodate large group activities, structured recreation programs, and major outdoor recreation facilities, such as sports facilities. Community parks can enhance neighborhood and community identities, preserve natural and green space, and enhance the quality of life of community residents. Some community parks portray a design theme. These “signature community parks” have a wider community appeal and contribute to the identity of the larger community as a whole.

- **Regional Parks**: Regional parks provide visitors with access to unique features and attractions that will draw visitors from throughout the District and beyond. Regional parks often accommodate large group activities and have infrastructure to support special events and festivals. Regional parks enhance the economic vitality and identity of the entire City or region.

- **Urban Parks**: Urban parks provide visitors with access to open space in the downtown area, mixed-use centers and corridors, and high-density residential areas. Examples of urban parks include public squares, promenades, urban plazas and landscaped courtyards. Urban amenities, a subset of urban parks, include features such as landscaped boulevards, prominent public staircases, mini parks and enhanced sidewalk and landscaping features. Urban parks sometimes serve the neighborhood park needs of surrounding residents and often provide opportunities for community events. Urban parks can enhance the quality of life of the urban dwellers and workers, create an identity for the urban core and mixed-use districts, as well as promote tourism and economic development for the entire City. Open spaces on private property, such as downtown plazas associated with an office building, can serve roles similar to those of publicly owned urban parks.

- **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. Examples of recreational facilities include:

- Multi-purpose centers
- 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.

Active Transportation and Trails: Trails, sidewalks, bicycle facilities and other active transportation facilities are part of Tacoma’s recreation and active living system. Walking, bicycling, skateboarding and other non-motorized activities play a vital role in health and well-being. Furthermore, many recreation and open space areas serve a dual role as active transportation links. The City’s Open Space System links with multiple other systems and ownerships to provide this important service.

Section III – Open Space Vision and Goals

Vision: 20-Year and 100-Year

The following statements are intended to articulate Tacoma’s open space vision. The OSHRP plan horizon is 20 years, and the 20 year vision incorporates the specific strategies and objectives of the Plan. Progress in achieving the 20 year vision is, to a greater extent, measurable, and will be incorporated in ongoing monitoring and reporting. By contrast, the hundred year vision is beyond the current planning period and not tied to specific actions. However, the long term vision informs and motivates our actions today.

20-Year Vision: By the year 2034, Tacoma will be a more livable and green City through implementing the policies in this Plan. Significant progress will have been made toward conserving Tacoma’s habitat areas. Habitat restoration efforts will be well-established and active community stewardship will play a major role. The City as a whole will have more vegetation, supporting a healthy tree canopy coverage, while achieving a decrease in invasive species. Tacoma will have achieved a net gain in overall habitat health and a reduction in the City’s environmental footprint over 2014 conditions. Tacoma’s parks and recreation facilities will be assets within each neighborhood, including the downtown business district and shoreline areas. The City will have developed and improved its trail system and established links with regional trails. Tacoma’s parks and open spaces will support a high quality of life, a healthy environment and a vital economy.

100-Year Vision: One hundred years from now, Tacoma’s citizens will enjoy the benefits resulting from long-term sustained efforts to enhance our livability and environment. Tacoma’s habitat corridors will have been conserved and restored through ongoing stewardship, providing mature, high quality habitat. New habitat connections will have been established between previously isolated areas. Natural ecological functions will be integrated into each neighborhood, reducing Tacoma’s
impact on the environment and positioning Tacoma to respond to evolving expectations and conditions. A high quality of life, supported by excellent recreational opportunities, environmentally sound practices and a healthy urban forest will make Tacoma an excellent place to live and work and help to minimize the City’s environmental footprint.

Though it is unknown what opportunities and challenges will arise over the next century, the City of Tacoma, its partners and its citizens will continue to work toward this vision, ensuring that Tacoma remains a vibrant, sustainable and beautiful community today and for the generations to follow.

### Tacoma’s Open Space Goals

The OSHRP POSHRE Management Team conducted a needs assessment, including an analysis of plan assumptions, the community benefits provided by open space and Tacoma’s Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats related to open space. The needs assessment informed the development of the following high level goals. The policies of the OSHRP POSHRE were developed in order to achieve Tacoma’s open space vision, based upon this needs assessment. A summary of the needs assessment is included below under Supporting Documents.

1. **Create an interconnected system of open space lands and facilities**
   - Conserve corridors of habitat areas
   - Create trails through, between and among open space areas

2. **Protect environmentally significant areas**
   - Conserve contiguous habitat areas and protect wildlife corridors
   - Protect habitat and species diversity
   - Protect significant natural features
   - Preserve shoreline, wetlands and streams
   - Achieve a city-wide net gain in habitat functions

3. **Foster active citizen involvement in Tacoma’s open spaces**
   - Provide education about the values, benefits, and opportunities of conservation
   - Provide technical assistance and conservation incentives to landowners
   - Keep citizens informed of conservation programs and opportunities
   - Support community restoration activities

4. **Promote citywide green infrastructure**
   - Engage in and promote tree and vegetation planting and maintenance
   - Utilize and promote sustainable development practices
   - Integrate open space and environmental considerations into design and development of public infrastructure
Section IV – Policies

Recreation Lands and Facilities

Intent

Recreational lands and facilities provide invaluable benefits to the citizens of Tacoma. The OSHRPOSHRE goal is to locate, acquire, and manage or improve an equitable and optimal distribution of both neighborhood and communitywide recreational lands and facilities, which provide for a variety of recreational opportunities that are easily accessible. The City will continue to partner with Metro Parks Tacoma and others to plan, develop and manage Tacoma’s parks and recreational facilities.

The improvement or development of both neighborhood parks with features including open turf and informal play fields, play equipment, picnic facilities, pathways and trails, providing residents with close-to-home recreation opportunities, as well as of regional parks, major urban parks, athletic complexes, pools, indoor multi-purpose facilities, and signature attractions which draw users from across and outside the city, both greatly improve quality of life for Tacomans. Special events such as parades, and public events such as farmers’ markets, also add greatly to community vitality.

OS-R-1 Develop and Improve Recreation Opportunities
Acquire, improve and maintain land and facilities valuable for recreation purposes that support the goals of the OSHRPOSHRE, other elements of the Comprehensive Plan and Metro Parks Tacoma’s Strategic Parks and Program Services Plan.

OS-R-2 Meet Community Needs
Work with partners to provide a broad range of recreation opportunities to serve all citizens. Adopt a proactive approach to adapting to changing community preferences, while emphasizing key long term priorities such as enhancing waterfront access and Tacoma’s parks. Customize park design to address the diverse demographic needs of the community.

OS-R-3 Recreational Distribution
Design and locate appropriate recreational developments, facilities and services within areas demonstrating a need for such facilities and services taking care to serve all people fairly and equitably.

OS-R-4 Design and Development
Promote design and development of recreation and open space facilities that provide for play that will enhance Tacoma’s natural setting and that complement the ecology and unique features of the site or area.

OS-R-5 Multiple Use
Encourage compatible, multiple use of open space and recreation facilities.

OS-R-6 Scenic Sites and Vistas
Develop and maintain a system of scenic view sites and vistas in order to take advantage of the natural beauty of Tacoma and its siting in the Puget Sound Region, while respecting and conserving natural features and habitat areas.

OS-R-7 Bicycle Facilities
Locate and develop bicycle and pedestrian facilities that provide on- and off-road recreation for the community.

OS-R-8 Skating Corridors and Facilities
Develop new corridors and facilities for rollerbladers and skateboarders that do not conflict with other recreational uses.
**OS-R-9 Public Events and Festivals**
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 temporarily closed streets, such as markets, festivals and parades.

**Multi-purpose Trails**

**Intent**
Trails serve both a recreation and an non-motorized transportation function. The OSHRPOSHRE incorporates planning for trails inasmuch as they are recreational facilities contributing to the City’s parks and open space system. The non-motorized transportation issues associated with trails are discussed in the Transportation Element.

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.

The OSHRPOSHRE Map shows existing and planned trails within the City, as well as missing trail links that would provide valuable connections. Tacoma trails include both low-impact habitat area access trails and non-motorized corridors such as the Scott Pierson and Water Ditch Trails. In addition, the City will support development of segments of regional trails within Tacoma. More discussion of trails and non-motorized policies can be found in the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

**OS-T-1 Trail Corridors**
Develop or partner with others to provide trails and trail corridors both within open space lands and connecting destinations across the City, and create trail linkages with regional trail systems. Coordinate trail planning efforts with public agencies to ensure that city and regional trails connect with major destinations, such as community and regional parks, habitats areas, schools, libraries, business districts and Mixed-use Centers.

**OS-T-2 Non-Motorized Active Transportation System**
Design trails to support and link with the City’s non-motorized transportation system, whenever feasible and appropriate to habitat area sensitivity. Design multi-purpose trails to encourage walking, hiking, bicycling, skateboarding, rollerblading and similar modes of travel.

**OS-T-3 Trail Design**
Design specific trails according to the purposes served and the location. 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. Pervious pavement and low impact development techniques are preferred, especially within habitat areas. Trails developed as non-motorized transportation corridors should be wide enough for the projected use and developed with a durable hard surface.

**OS-T-4 Hillside Pedestrian Pathways**
In areas where streets are separated by steep slopes which are not ideal for the development of streets, and where public rights-of-way are available, consider development of staircases or paths to create pedestrian connectivity while minimizing the impact on the slope and any natural features present. When appropriate, within downtown and mixed-use centers, pursue opportunities to incorporate urban amenities such as landscaping, plazas or architectural features and/or to incorporate such pedestrian connections as part of an urban park.
Urban Parks in Downtown and Mixed-use Centers

Intent

As the areas planned for the most intense and dense development within the City, downtown and the other mixed-use centers are home to many of Tacoma’s residents as well as where Tacoma residents work, shop, dine and recreate. Attractive, well-designed public parks and open spaces are essential assets to the community and economic vitality of these areas.

Urban parks should be well-designed and fitted to their unique locations. Urban parks and facilities are among the defining characteristics of their neighborhoods and the City as a whole. New recreational facilities in downtown and the centers should be designed to use land efficiently. Small but well-designed parks, plazas, gardens or other open spaces can provide invaluable relief from the built environment, as well as recreational and social opportunities.

Urban parks and open spaces serve multiple purposes and should be designed for flexible and creative uses. Open spaces in dense urban neighborhoods serve as parks, as well as providing viewpoints (such as Fireman’s Park in downtown), extensions of the pedestrian system (such as mid-block staircases or hill-climb assists), gathering places for public events like farmers markets, theatrical events and other functions. Urban park design should integrate building, landscaping, indoor, and outdoor pedestrian areas with easy access to the pedestrian network of the center, and should accommodate a diversity of activities.

Downtown and the centers also provide opportunities to pursue innovative approaches to parks and open space development. Because of the higher land values of land downtown and in centers, public-private partnerships may be a possibility. Given the complexity of issues within the centers, such projects should typically address multiple goals. In the downtown area, one significant issue is the separation from the waterfront caused by State Route Interstate 705. Some innovative examples of multi-functional open spaces include the open space and pedestrian connection between downtown and the Thea Foss Waterway via the Bridge of Glass and Seattle’s Convention Center which is built on top of Interstate 5.

Landscaped sidewalks and widened boulevards are important open spaces for pedestrians, shoppers, diners and others and should be developed attractively according to complete streets principles. Linear parks within streetscapes can be developed and improved with street furniture, gardens, court games, water features, public art and other amenities. Streets are also valuable temporary open space areas for special events such as parades and farmers’ markets.

Private open spaces such as courtyards, balconies and rooftop gardens play a vital role. The City’s zoning regulations encourage private open space by offering development incentives for the private provision of open space and public amenities. Further discussion of downtown and Mixed-use Centers can be found in the Growth Strategy, Generalized Land Use and Downtown Elements.
**OS-UPMUC-1 Open Space within Centers**
Ensure open space is provided in the Mixed-use Centers as the population in the center increases.

**OS-UPMUC-2 Siting and Design**
Recognize the primary importance of urban parks and open spaces, and invest in well-chosen designs and locations. Provide a range of urban parks suited to their unique locations and accommodating a broad range of activities and park users, ranging from small plazas and gardens to large urban attractions. Park designs should connect with and provide easy access to the pedestrian network of the center.

**OS-UPMUC-3 Identify Open Space Needs within Centers**
Work with the Green Tacoma Partnership, Metro Parks Tacoma, Neighborhood Councils, business district associations, property owners, and residents to identify open space, park, and recreation needs within Mixed-use Centers. Identify potential locations and opportunities for further action and use innovative methods and partnerships to fund the identified needs.

**OS-UPMUC-4 Partner with Public Institutions and Private Landowners**
Recognize and collaborate with public and private organizations, including schools, universities and colleges, utilities, hospitals, churches, businesses and private landowners, some of which have a large footprint incorporating open space and pedestrian features. Explore options for public-private partnerships and other innovative approaches to providing open spaces within centers.

**OS-UPMUC-5 Mechanisms to Create Urban Parks**
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.

**OS-UPMUC-6 Fee In Lieu Program**
Consider adopting a fee-in-lieu program that would allow development to contribute toward open space, park, community garden, or recreation space within a Mixed-use Center rather than providing on-site open space.

**OS-UPMUC-7 Streets and Sidewalks as Temporary Open Space**
Support and encourage the use of streets and sidewalks within centers as open space on a temporary or 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.

**OS-UPMUC-8 Public Streets as Linear Urban Parks**
Seek opportunities, including joint ventures with public or private partners, to create a park-like environment within public rights-of-way, incorporating features such as widened sidewalks, street amenities and furniture, and landscape planting. Engage in a collaborative process to identify appropriate streets for such treatment, based upon factors including current uses and travel demand, maintenance issues, adjacent land uses and partnership opportunities.

**OS-UPMUC-9 Reconnect the Waterfront**
Seek opportunities to re-connect the waterfront to abutting neighborhoods, in particular downtown and the Thea Foss Waterway, through developing multi-functional open spaces, trails and/or recreational facilities that provide or enhance pedestrian connectivity between downtown or other centers and the waterfront.
Green Infrastructure

Intent
To achieve a greener Tacoma, the OSHRPOSHRE calls for restoring and enhancing environmental functions throughout the City through planting and maintaining trees and landscaping, and reducing impacts from stormwater and environmental pollution. Enhanced vegetation along streets and freeways, as well as on private land, can help create habitat connections that support and expand the habitat areas. Vegetation, such as trees and shrubs, filter air pollutants, help to counteract climate change, produce oxygen, buffer noise, improve pedestrian safety and comfort, and provide beauty and shade. In addition, street trees add a human scale to the built environment and help soften affects of urbanization.

These strategies promote the overall health of the urban forest within which we live and improve the aesthetic experience and image of the City. Habitat areas provide cleaner air and water but their health is in turn affected by runoff, pollutants and other impacts. The benefits are very important to the health and well-being of Tacoma residents, the Puget Sound and the greater region.

These strategies require cooperation among various City departments and public agencies, as well as voluntary actions by businesses and individuals. In publicly-owned areas such as streets and utility easements, the City and its partners will lead by example. Volunteers can play a major role in planting, maintenance and habitat restoration.

Public streets and sidewalks constitute a large percentage of the City’s impervious surface, generating runoff and pollutants. Reducing the amount of impervious surface, implementing low-impact development (LID) stormwater techniques and increasing vegetation planting within City rights-of-way can assist in creating a greener Tacoma. Techniques to accomplish this include reducing the amount of pavement, utilizing pervious pavement, installing rain gardens, and installing traffic circles and medians which can be planted with vegetation. These techniques can also help to achieve traffic calming goals and a better balance between vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles, and are part of a “complete streets” approach.

“Complete streets” is a term used to describe streets designed to enable safe, attractive and comfortable access for all users. The City of Tacoma defines “green streets” as a subset of complete streets where implementation of green infrastructure practices such as reducing road widths, utilizing low impact development stormwater techniques and vegetation planting will be prioritized.

Interstate 5 and State Route 16 provide many visitors to Tacoma with their first impressions of the City. Attractive landscaping will greatly improve this impression by signaling to visitors the importance Tacoma places on the environment. Landscaping will provide a buffer from traffic impacts to nearby neighborhoods, as well as provide invaluable habitat functions. In addition to their primary function as transportation corridors, these routes can serve as green corridors connecting habitat areas across the City and beyond.

Other opportunities include engaging in habitat restoration on utility properties and corridors, and trail corridors. Often, utility properties can be maintained in a largely undeveloped state and still serve their utility function. Trail corridors may also include room for vegetation.

Additional discussion can be found in the Environmental Policy, Transportation, Land Use, Neighborhood and Capital Facilities Elements.
OS-GI-1 Green Neighborhoods
Establish an achievable goal to increase the forest canopy cover by 2028 to a citywide percentage that achieves Tacoma's vision as an environmentally sustainable community. Determine the existing canopy coverage and develop a process to monitor progress toward achieving the identified goal. Amend the Comprehensive Plan to adopt the specific canopy goal once it is established. Achieve 30 percent citywide tree canopy cover by the year 2030, as called for in the Urban Forest Policy Element. Develop a process to monitor progress toward achieving the identified goal. Update the goal as progress is made.

OS-GI-2 Green Streets
Designate specific streets, trails and other public rights-of-way which are the most appropriate for implementation of green infrastructure practices, based on their location, width, traffic volumes, adjacent uses, prominence, potential to enhance habitat connectivity, contiguity with open space areas and/or other considerations. Prioritize those streets for implementation of such measures.

OS-GI-3 Green Corridors
“Green” Tacoma through citizen mobilization, outreach, and education working to identify, designate, and green corridors throughout the city. Provide connections between habitat areas and recreational opportunities through neighborhood green corridors. Use incentives and innovation to achieve canopy cover goals. Partner with local farms and nurseries to offer options for local residents to increase tree plantings in yards.

OS-GI-4 City Leadership
The city will lead by example and seek opportunities for pilot projects and innovative designs that reduce the footprint of construction or infrastructure projects and/or green the city.

OS-GI-5 Tree Planting and Maintenance
Actively engage in tree planting, maintenance of native and climate-adapted trees and plants, and preservation of large trees city-wide. Encourage and work with partners to conserve, plant and maintain trees and landscaping. Prioritize street and freeway rights-of-way, and include utility rights-of-way, parks, school sites, and other public property when appropriate. Trees and landscaping should be appropriate to the location and conditions, and seek to avoid or minimize conflicts with existing public infrastructure and/or utility facilities.

OS-GI-6 Encourage Voluntary Plantings
Develop an incentive and/or outreach program to encourage voluntary plantings of native and climate-adapted trees and plants on private property.

OS-GI-7 Sustainable Development Practices City-wide
Encourage and support sustainable development practices throughout the City, such as low impact development stormwater management, green building and complete streets. Review and update City regulations on an ongoing basis, as new information and opportunities become available, to better achieve outcomes in terms of green infrastructure goals.

OS-GI-8 Streetscape Improvements
Recognize that streets and sidewalks provide a vast amount of public space, and develop complete streets standards and low impact development street sections for creating a balance between pedestrians, bicycles and automobiles, making sidewalks pleasant and functional public spaces, and accommodating low impact development stormwater management.
Highway Planting

Partner Engage with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to initiate and convey the high priority Tacoma sets on the quality and timeliness of installing and maintaining landscape plantings along interstate and highway routes within the City. It is very important that landscape installation and ongoing maintenance be effective in beautifying these vital gateways to Tacoma; enhancing natural function and connectivity within Habitat Corridors; providing effective screening from freeways for sensitive neighborhoods; and, making substantial progress to achieve Tacoma’s urban forestry goals through planting a mix of tree sizes and species, including large height and canopy trees. Prioritize highway planting as it offers a large opportunity for carbon sequestration as well as city beautification.

OS-GI-10 Stormwater Nexus

Recognize and leverage the role that natural open spaces play in achieving stormwater management and water quality goals.

Community Gardens

Intent

Community gardens are locations for individuals to grow food on public or communally held land—an innovative approach to incorporating small-scale agriculture into the lives of city dwellers. Such practices can support Tacoma’s open space goals in a number of ways, including bringing a positive community use to underutilized urban open spaces, adding to the City’s vegetation and green canopy, preventing undesired or illegal activities through fostering community ownership of open spaces, aiding stormwater management by improving soil quality, raising awareness of both urban open space and regional farmland issues, creating a sense of community, and improving health. Community gardens provide residents with access to fresh produce while supporting physical activity and general well-being. The affects of bringing residents together at a literal grassroots level results in a more closely knit, safer and more visually pleasing neighborhood.

Metro Parks Tacoma currently manages three community gardens – Kandle, Franklin and North 21st & Proctor – which at the time of this writing are filled to capacity. Other community gardens, such as Neighbors Park, are run by community groups, nonprofits or educational institutions – and the interest continues to grow.

Strong community interest and programmatic support from the City, MPT and the Pierce Conservation District has lead to a rapid increase in the number of community gardens. Tacoma is now (2014) home to more than 38 community gardens, including 11 on City-owned property. Gardens are managed by the City, MPT, Pierce Conservation District, churches, community groups, schools and other organizations. While demand has been met in some neighborhoods, in others current garden space is not yet sufficient to meet the community’s interest. The public agencies continue to develop the program, with a focus on increasing effectiveness through closer collaboration and shared resources. The Pierce Conservation District’s Harvest Pierce County Program is the primary interface for the public.

Community Gardens

Make Tacoma a model for city and community-supported Community Gardens. Support and develop existing and new community gardens within parks and on appropriate public and private lands. Consider Continue to enhance Tacoma’s existing gardens, and support creative approaches to managing community gardens, such as support by education institutions or volunteer management by community organizations.
Waterfront Open Spaces and Shoreline Access

Intent

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. 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. Major parks and open space improvements have been and continue to be made, including the Thea Foss esplanade and parks, Chinese Reconciliation Park, Ruston Way promenade, Point Defiance Park, Titlow Beach boardwalk, and other sites. 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.

Waterfront areas attract a variety of people and uses, from community events attracting thousands of people from Tacoma and the region, including the 4th of July and the Tall Ships Festival, to regular visitors seeking recreational and cultural opportunities. For others, shorelines are the site of daily life and a place to meet daily needs—a place where they live, work and travel. Recreation activities on and in the water, including fishing, SCUBA diving and boating, are also important, with marinas and boat launch facilities on the Thea Foss, Point Defiance Park, Titlow Beach and elsewhere. Shoreline areas are also highly valuable as community heritage sites and for the very important environmental and habitat functions they serve.

Shoreline open spaces and parks will only increase in importance as Tacoma grows. Tacoma has a legacy of industrial and railroad development along the shorelines that has reduced public access and environmental functions. At the same time, the Port of Tacoma and other industrial areas are major economic assets to the City. Continued partnerships with a range of stakeholders to reclaim shoreline areas for public access, recreation, educational and interpretive displays, public art, community events, habitat restoration and other open space purposes are important. Further discussion and policies and regulations for shorelines are contained within the City’s Shoreline Master Program (SMP).

To more effectively plan for and implement a unified network of waterfront open spaces, trail systems and recreation facilities, the City has developed a waterfront Public Access Alternatives Plan (PAAL). The PAAL should be utilized for coordinating public and private efforts, prioritizing waterfront public access projects, and guiding permit applications in accordance with the goals and policies of the Shoreline Master Program.

In addition, the Tacoma Waterfront Design Guidelines ensure that new waterfront access sites are designed with consideration given to the view, aesthetic, and design objectives of the Shoreline Master Program.

The Public Access Alternatives Plan and Tacoma Waterfront Design Guidelines are...
herein incorporated by reference as implementation strategies of the Comprehensive Plan.

OS-SH-1  Prioritize Tacoma’s Shorelines and Waters
Recognize the strong community connection to Tacoma’s shorelines and waters as cultural, historic, recreational, educational, economic, natural and aesthetic assets of tremendous value. Work with partners to undertake a broad range of activities that 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.

OS-SH-2  Shoreline and Water Access
Develop opportunities for public access to the Puget Sound for water-oriented recreation and enjoyment of shorelines, including public access to both natural and man-made waterfront features such as beaches, tidelands, wharfs, piers, esplanades, parks, heritage sites, and waterfront trails and paths.

OS-SH-3  Shoreline and Water Activities
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.

OS-SH-4  Reconnect Shorelines and Uplands Habitat
Recognize the critical habitat functions and the loss of historic habitat connectivity between shorelines and upland areas and water courses, and seek to re-create these connections through habitat conservation and restoration efforts.

OS-SH-5  Shoreline Trail Connections
Recognizing that many of Tacoma’s existing and planned trails follow the shoreline or connect shoreline and upland areas, partner to develop and maintain trails oriented to the shorelines, slopes and gulches. Development of trails should be coordinated with habitat restoration efforts.

OS-SH-6  Shoreline Public Access Alternatives
Implement the priority actions identified in the Shoreline Master Program Public Access Alternatives.

Habitat Areas and Habitat Corridors

Intent
Open Space Habitat Areas are lands that support, nurture and preserve natural wildlife habitats and vegetation. Habitat areas can range in size from a few hundred square feet to many acres and provide a broad range of benefits to the people of Tacoma, including low-impact recreation; health benefits; storm water retention; waterfront access; bird and wildlife observation; climate regulation; increased property values; improved air and water quality; and, a greener, more livable city. Often referred to as “ecosystem services”, these are benefits that, without functional and healthy habitat areas, would not be available or would have to be provided by human actions. Ecosystem services provide not only local benefits, but also enhance the health of the Puget Sound by filtering stormwater and air.

Over time, fragmentation of habitat areas and proliferation of invasive non-native plants in those areas has diminished the value of Tacoma’s open space habitat lands. Non-native species of wildlife have moved in. This is not necessarily an irreversible condition. Over time, with acquisition, restoration, backyard wildlife enhancements, native wildlife species can reestablish themselves in urban Tacoma.
Habitat lands add to the quality of our lives in economic, environmental and public safety terms. Many open space habitat areas are undeveloped because they are inherently less developable. Steep slopes are not only more expensive to build on, but are also susceptible to slope failure. Wetlands and riparian corridors are periodically subject to flooding. Leaving geologically hazardous and flood-prone areas undeveloped improves public safety, as well as allowing the natural systems to perform functions which benefit the environment. Vegetation stabilizes steep slopes, reducing erosion and slope failure. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and supply oxygen, thus counteracting human-caused climate change. Foliage captures dust and airborne pollutants, cleaning the air. The shade and transpiration of vegetation cools air and stream temperatures.

Habitat areas, especially in highly developed urban areas, are often treasured and can be the focus of community building activities. Undeveloped places within urban areas often have groups loosely organized to advocate their conservation or restoration – or they provide an opportunity to coalesce such groups. They are a focus for community building and for strengthening relationships between neighbors and public agencies responsible for acquiring, managing and maintaining them.

Many of the functions and values provided by habitat areas are dependent on connectivity with other habitat areas. Habitat Corridors are generally larger, geographically connected or contiguous, defined areas that typically combine multiple habitat functions and features (such as streams, wetlands, slopes and larger contiguous habitat areas). Tacoma’s Habitat Corridors were identified based on factors including the size of the undeveloped area, the presence of environmental features, potential connectivity with other habitat areas, and current ownership and land uses (see map Figures 1 and 2).

The Habitat Corridors contain Tacoma’s most valuable habitat lands. The vision is to conserve and restore habitat for as much of these areas as possible. Reflecting their greater degree of habitat features and connectivity, the designated Habitat Corridors are considered priority areas for habitat-related open space programs, including habitat acquisition and restoration. Habitat-related open space projects within Habitat Corridors, all things being equal, will be given priority over similar efforts outside the corridors. Habitat areas outside the designated Habitat Corridors do provide valuable habitat functions and should also be conserved when possible. It should be noted that the Corridors also encompass existing development—if feasible, such sites should be managed to enhance the habitat function of the overall Corridor via vegetation planting and maintenance and other approaches.

Critical areas regulations pertaining to development proposals within the designated Habitat Corridors should be evaluated. For instance, currently, these regulations apply to development impacts on steep slopes for hazards such as slope stability, but do not consider the habitat value of natural vegetation and topography. Thus, vegetation removal and slope stabilization can potentially lead to a complete loss of habitat functions. The review should consider regulatory and/or incentive-based measures to provide greater protection to undeveloped land within the Habitat Corridors.

OS-HA-1 Citywide Gain In Habitat Functions
Proactively seek not only to reverse the decline but to achieve the greatest possible gain in habitat functions city-wide over the next 20 years.

OS-HA-2 Habitat Corridors
Target habitat-related resources and programs within the designated Habitat Corridors—the City’s priority areas for habitat conservation and stewardship depicted on the Open Space System Map.
OS-HA-3  **Delineate High Value Habitat Lands**

Work with the Green Tacoma Partnership and other partners to delineate and designate all habitat lands with high natural habitat values within the City, in order to guide their future land use and management.

**OS-HA-4  Acquire, Conserve and Restore Habitat Areas**

Acquire ownership or interest in all high value habitat lands depicted on the Open Space System map, or otherwise delineated, by 3428. Proactively seek permanent conservation and restoration. Lands acquired for their habitat functions and values, including new acquisitions and those currently owned by the City, shall be conserved as habitat lands in perpetuity, or in rare circumstances replaced by acquisition and conservation of habitat areas elsewhere in the City of greater habitat value.

**OS-HA-5  Funding for Habitat Acquisition**

Use innovative, creative methods to fund opportunities to conserve habitat areas. Consideration should be given to developing a fund that would provide match for any privately raised funds.

**OS-HA-6  Low-impact Access and Recreation**

Develop low-impact access and recreation/education opportunities within publicly-owned habitat areas, such as hiking, bird and wildlife observation, and waterfront access, when such access is desired by the public, appropriate to the habitat and site conditions and will minimize or avoid impacts to the habitat. Seek to prevent public access, including off-leash pets, that is harmful to habitat functions. Access is not appropriate to sites that contain endangered species or other similarly sensitive features.

**OS-HA-7  Sustainable Development Practices for City Properties within Corridors**

Strive to minimize development of new public infrastructure and improvements on valuable habitat lands within the designated Habitat Corridors. On-going maintenance, alterations and redevelopment of currently developed sites is acceptable. However, new development, with the exception of low-impact recreation or environmental education facilities such as interpretative signage and trails, of previously undeveloped city-owned habitat lands is strongly discouraged and should be considered only if other feasible alternatives are not available. When new development of such lands is deemed necessary, design and construct, to the extent feasible, to minimize the impacts to habitat functions through use of low impact development stormwater techniques, alternative routes and siting, green building techniques and other approaches.

**OS-HA-8  Conserve Threatened Properties**

Partner with non-profits, private parties and public agencies to conserve habitat areas from development both permanently and temporarily, until such time as they may be permanently conserved.
OS-HA-9  Habitat Area Acquisition Strategy

Habitat area acquisition strategy and alternatives ranking will place the highest priority on acquiring properties with the following characteristics:

- A high degree of habitat health and quality, location within Habitat Corridors, presence of threatened or endangered species or habitats, presence of wetlands, stream, lake or shoreline, and the probability of loss of the property.
- Also significant in ranking are the site’s habitat restoration potential, offered sale price, and manageability issues.
- Of lesser but still relevant significance are the site’s proximity to other protected sites, the presence of a volunteer restoration group, whether the site serves one or more valuable open space functions in addition to providing habitat, whether conservation of the site would support habitat health within or near a designated Wetland or Stream of Local Significance, and whether the site is within an area underserved by open space.

OS-HA-10  Habitat Restoration Strategy

Habitat restoration strategy and alternatives ranking will place highest priority on areas with the greatest potential to reach their target habitat community and condition, and will factor in costs, available resources, and the presence of a volunteer stewardship group. Restoration shall be completed according to applicable Best Management Practices.

OS-HA-11  Habitat Stewardship Outreach and Training

Continue to pPartner with other public and non-profit organizations to inform citizens of the stewardship needs of habitat areas, and to develop, offer and support habitat restoration training opportunities and practical information resources. Develop effective, innovative and collaborative programs with an emphasis on empowering volunteers by providing guidance, oversight, tools and support tailored to fostering volunteerism and achieving the desired habitat restoration outcomes.

OS-HA-12  Development Standards within Habitat Corridors

Identify potential regulatory and/or incentive-based approaches to providing greater protection for the habitat functions of habitat lands located within the designated Habitat Corridors. Update regulations, if appropriate.

OS-HA-13  Habitat Corridor Identity and Connections

Engage in and encourage activities that improve environmental connectivity, enhance the profile of, and encourage public access to Habitat Corridors, including converting landscaped areas on developed sites to native plantings and expanding such landscaped areas, and developing interpretive signage and thematic streetscape design features.

Critical Areas Preservation

Intent

The GMA requires that local jurisdictions adopt regulations based on the best available science that ensure there will be no net loss in critical areas functions and values, which the City has accomplished through adoption of the Critical Areas Preservation Ordinance (CAPO). Open space habitat areas often contain critical areas such as streams, wetlands, steep slopes, and animal and plant habitat. Thus, there is a strong link between the City’s environmental and open space goals and the CAPO.

The CAPO requires that activities that have impacts on wetlands or streams mitigate those impacts. However, mitigation options are often limited if the site is small or disconnected from
other wetlands or streams. The designation of the Habitat Corridors creates the framework for allowing required mitigation to occur within an area that has been pre-identified as having a higher priority for mitigation. Thus, the positive benefits from the mitigation can be magnified by concentrating them within Tacoma’s most valuable habitat areas. This landscape approach can in certain situations be more effective than the standard approach which emphasizes onsite, in kind mitigation. Another application of this concept is a fee-in-lieu program for wetlands, which allows mitigation to occur offsite by collecting a fee which will be used to pay for mitigation in a pre-designated site within the Habitat Corridors.

Streamlining the permit process for voluntary restoration activities occurring within critical areas or their required buffers, and utilizing Best Management Practices, will facilitate such efforts while ensuring they are done right—without inadvertently harming sensitive environments.

In addition, The development of voluntary Habitat Management Plans (HMPs), which can be used in lieu of full permitting processes for habitat restoration activities, can help facilitate restoration. “Backyard Wilds” HMPs would focus on providing approved example plans for individual homeowners that wish to remove invasive vegetation and replant native vegetation within wetland, stream or fish and wildlife habitat conservation area buffers. Community HMP’s would focus on providing a process for larger, more complex plans to be adopted or approved through a formal process. Metro Parks or Municipal HMP’s would focus on formally designated, larger open spaces such as an entire gulch or stream corridor. The HMPs would incorporate streamlined permitting and provide ongoing guidance for restoration activities.

OS-CAPO-1 Advanced Mitigation of Wetland/Stream Impacts
Develop regulations to allow the use of advanced mitigation techniques, including offsite mitigation accomplished within pre-identified mitigation sites and mitigation banks.

OS-CAPO-2 Fee In Lieu Program
Develop a fee in lieu program, to include wetlands and their buffers, and riparian corridor areas of streams, that directs required mitigation eligible for fees in lieu to appropriate high value habitat areas within the Habitat Corridors. Funds collected shall be adequate to mitigate permitted impacts, and commensurate with those impacts.

OS-CAPO-3 Streamlined Permitting Process for Restoration
Continue to review regulations to identify opportunities to streamline permitting for restoration projects, including invasive species control, hazard tree removal, and other standard restoration activities, while ensuring that impacts to critical areas and their buffers are avoided. Update regulations, if appropriate.

OS-CAPO-4 Habitat Management Plans
Continue to develop regulations and a supporting review criteria and framework for Habitat Management Plans that support and streamline habitat restoration activities.

Administration and Operation
A key objective of the OSHRPOSHRE is to provide guidance for public agencies responsible for acquiring, restoring, developing and/or managing open space lands and facilities. The following sections contain policy guidance on these administrative and operational issues. The policies apply most directly to Tacoma’s Open Space Program, but some are pertinent to the open space-related decisions of other City departments. The policies may also be useful for other public and private...
parties, in particular for City coordination with Metro Parks Tacoma.

**Strategic Action Program Implementation and Funding**

**Intent**

The City’s Open Space Program is responsible for pursuing the achievement of the City’s open space goals, and administers funds dedicated to that purpose. Policy guidance is necessary in order to enable the Program to be consistently effective in terms of utilizing funds and resources, identifying new funding strategies, and prioritizing and scheduling implementation actions.

Several City departments work in collaboration to achieve the objectives of the OSHRE, in partnership with MPT, Pierce Conservation District and other public agencies. In general, MPT is the primary provider of parks and recreation amenities. Pierce Conservation District is in a primary role for Community Gardens. For the City’s part, the Environmental Services Department is in the lead for natural open space conservation and restoration, and the Planning and Development Services Department promotes active recreation. The City, Metro Parks and other agencies collaborate in multiple ways, and continue to explore collaborative approaches to better achieve Tacoma’s parks and open space vision and goals.

Furthermore, a structured approach to developing and cooperatively implementing a work program, and to monitoring progress, promises to greatly improve results. The following policies provide guidance on the creation, funding and administration of such an approach—the OSHRP Strategic Action Program. Further guidance is contained in Section V – Implementation.

**OS-PF-1 Strategic Action Program Collaborative Implementation**

Develop and implement a Strategic Action Program collaborative strategy that directs implementation of the OSHRP, by identifying tasks and short-term objectives and specifying timing, funding and responsibilities for each. Develop an ongoing monitoring and reporting approach for progress in implementing the Program.

**OS-PF-2 Open Space Funding Allocation**

The City’s Open Space Fund will be utilized toward the achievement of the OSHRP vision and goals. The Open Space Fund will be spent, as allocated in the OSHRP Strategic Action Program, for the acquisition, restoration, development and management of open space lands and facilities, with a smaller portion allocated toward planning, outreach and education. The Wetland Mitigation Fund will be used to acquire property and/or enhance wetland and/or stream functions in order to achieve a net gain in such functions.

**OS-PF-3 Identify New Funding Sources**

Recognizing that an increase in funding is essential to the timely achievement of the goals of the OSHRP, identify and pursue new funding sources and strategies. New funding sources may include new allocations of City funds, funding from other public agencies, public bond measures, grants, non-profit or private sources, and/or other sources, as well as innovative funding mechanisms such as a Transfer of Development Rights program.

**OS-PF-4 Leverage Funding**

Utilize City funds to leverage other funding sources whenever feasible, including funds from state and federal agencies, loans, foundation gifts, grants, and private donations.
**OS-PF-5  Capital Recommendations**
Potential acquisitions, development projects and other open space habitat and recreation investments should be evaluated using the following prioritization criteria: Consistency with the goals and policies of the OSHRPOSHRE and other Comprehensive Plan elements; responsiveness to City Council priorities; ongoing maintenance and cost impacts; citizen input; multiple benefits served by the project; the availability of special funding; affordability and cost/benefit analysis; positive neighborhood impacts; suitability of the site; the geographic distribution of similar features; long-term economic impacts; and, the possibility of losing a distinct opportunity.

**OS-PF-6  Surface Water Funds**
Dedicated funds generated through surface water fees will be utilized to conserve, restore and manage the City’s natural Open Space Inventory, pursuant to achieving surface water management goals.

**Citizen Involvement, Public Outreach and Education**

**Intent**
Citizen involvement in the provision and maintenance of open space is vital to a successful open space program. Involvement can occur in many different ways. Numerous committees, boards, and advisory groups provide citizen comment and review on a variety of related topics. Citizens are also involved in planning, stewardship, maintenance and security, fundraising and advocating, and of course visiting, utilizing and enjoying habitat and recreation lands and facilities. Community groups take a direct hand in open space conservation through volunteer work parties, donations and advocacy.

**OS-CI-1  Promote Citizen Involvement**
Foster and empower citizen involvement in planning, locating and utilizing recreational services and facilities in accordance with the needs and desires of those to be served, as well as in initiating, planning and participating in habitat restoration activities.

**OS-CI-2  Volunteer Stewardship**
Support and empower citizens and community groups to adopt local habitat areas in order to engage in restoration activities. Support existing and new volunteer stewardship programs including but not limited to those established by the Metro Parks Tacoma (CHIP-in!), Citizens for a Healthy Bay (Adopt-A-Wildlife Area program, Storm Water Education program, and Citizen Keeper program), City of Tacoma Adopt-A-Spot and Splash Grant programs, Washington State Department of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway program, and others.
Partnerships

Intent

Given the scarcity of funding and staff resources for open space purposes, there is a real need to develop cooperative approaches that allow pooling of those resources. No single agency, nor indeed the public sector as a whole, has sufficient resources to achieve the OSHRPOSE vision. For this reason, cooperative arrangements and partnerships between public, private and non-profit entities and individuals are necessary. Another reason for partnerships is that natural features and trail corridors often span jurisdictional boundaries as well as multiple public and private ownerships.

The City of Tacoma and Metro Parks Tacoma are two of many agencies, organizations and individuals involved with parks, recreation and habitat conservation and stewardship in Tacoma. The following is a representative list: There are state agencies (Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Ecology and Transportation, the Recreation and Conservation Office, the Washington State Historical Society); other local governments (Pierce County, Port of Tacoma, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Tacoma Public Utilities, Tacoma Housing Authority); educational institutions (Tacoma School District, Tacoma Community College, University of Puget Sound, Pacific Lutheran University, Evergreen State College, University of Washington Tacoma); non-profit organizations (Citizens for a Healthy Bay, Tahoma Audubon Society, Cascade Land Conservancy, Sierra Club, Puget Creek Restoration Society) and site specific neighborhood groups. Each has particular interests, resources and responsibilities.

Joint use and planning for achieving multiple purposes should be pursued whenever possible, while ensuring that activities are complementary and enhance habitat and recreation goals. Joint use and planning can provide opportunities to meet multiple goals on a single site, such as habitat enhancement within a high-impact recreation park or utility property. In many cases, such cooperation can lead to efficiency gains as well as helping to create vibrant, interesting and attractive spaces where a range of activities and facilities work together synergistically. Joint use and planning is not limited only to public agencies—private organizations, businesses and land owners will be an integral part of the open space program.

Parks, habitat areas, trails and other features don’t typically end at the city limits. Habitat areas, in particular, follow the lay of the land rather than political boundaries or agency service areas. This highlights a need to coordinate with Tacoma’s neighboring jurisdictions and other political entities. The OSHRPOSE Map designates Habitat Corridors within the City, and also shows where those habitat areas extend across Tacoma’s borders into neighboring jurisdictions. The map also indicates opportunities for Tacoma to connect to regional trails.

Open Space Current Use Assessments are a program authorized by State law (RCW 84.34) to encourage and support private land conservation efforts. Current Use Assessments reduce the property tax burden on landowners who agree to conserve the open space qualities of their property. Only areas valuable as open space, and meeting state, county and local criteria, are eligible and the reduction is proportional to the public benefits of retaining the site as open space. High taxes can create a perverse incentive to develop open space properties. Current Use Assessments can be effective when public funds for conservation are limited and purchase of property or property rights is not currently possible. The cost to the public is relatively small and is proportional to the public benefits in each case. Thus, Current Use Assessments are a useful tool that can help retain open space until such time as it can be permanently conserved.
OS-P-1 Coordinate Efforts
Coordinate and cooperate with federal, state, regional and local governmental jurisdictions, non-profits and the private sector, as well as with other City departments, on the full spectrum of strategies to conserve, restore and manage our natural resources and to develop high quality recreation opportunities.

OS-P-2 Cooperation beyond Tacoma’s Borders
Work with adjacent jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations to conserve and restore habitat areas that transcend the City borders, to develop and connect to regional trails, and to explore opportunities to cooperate in planning and development of recreational opportunities.

OS-P-3 Green Tacoma Partnership
Work with the Green Tacoma Partnership and other partners to implement the habitat conservation and stewardship goals of the OSHRP.

OS-P-4 Private Organizations and Individuals
Encourage private citizens, landowners, businesses and organizations to provide recreation and open space lands or facilities for public purposes through the dedication of land or easements, private conservation efforts, donations to open space programs, sponsorship of recreational or habitat restoration activities and other actions.

OS-P-5 Joint Use for Habitat Restoration
Partner with public and private landowners to support and encourage habitat restoration on properties, such as utility corridors or sites with critical areas, which are intended to remain relatively undeveloped and can support significant habitat functions.

OS-P-6 Current Use Assessment
Encourage and support the use of the Open Space Current Use Assessment program for privately owned sites valuable as open space. Inform the public of the program and seek opportunities to streamline the review process.

Citywide Conservation Approach

Intent
The reality of habitat conservation efforts is that available funding and staffing resources rarely keep pace with the need. To illustrate this point, Tacoma’s 1965-1975 Open Space Plan indicated the City’s estimate of approximately 800 acres of open space for conservation. Though progress has been made today, the majority of those areas remain unprotected. Tacoma has a long way to go to conserve the majority of its most valuable habitat areas.

Fundamentally, the attempt to conserve Tacoma’s habitat areas is a race against the clock—development and other impacts, many of them effectively irreversible, are sure to continue as time goes on. Given this inherent urgency, efforts to remove barriers, reduce costs and streamline processes for open space acquisition, management and restoration are needed.

Some examples of practices and procedures that can have significant implications for open space habitat areas include street vacations, the surplus and sale of public property, subdivision requirements, the regulation of critical areas and utility fees. When appropriate, permit application fees could be waived for publicly beneficial permit applications. Stormwater utility fees that are charged to all property, including open space parcels, place a burden on limited funds, although habitat areas do not generate but rather infiltrate stormwater since they are undeveloped and vegetated.
Undeveloped properties located within designated Habitat Corridors in public ownership should be reviewed to determine whether such properties are important in meeting the mission of the department that owns title. If not, then the properties should be considered for inclusion in the Open Space Inventory and permanently conserved as habitat lands. Likewise, properties currently on the Open Space Inventory which are located outside the Habitat Corridors and/or provide little value as open space, could be transferred to another use or sold.

OS-CW-1 Street Vacation and Surplus Property Process
Recognizing that street vacation requests and City property identified as surplus often pertain to habitat areas, the City will take steps to ensure that such processes are reviewed in light of the goals of the OSHRPOSHRE. Sites and properties located within the designated Habitat Corridors should, whenever feasible, be retained by the City and conserved as habitat areas.

OS-CW-2 Transfer of General Government Property Designating Public Property as Open Space
General Government properties located within the designated Habitat Corridors that are deemed unnecessary for the department holding title’s primary mission, should be considered for transfer to the Open Space Inventory for conservation and stewardship purposes. Easements and other encumbrances may be retained if necessary for onsite utilities or other reasons. Likewise, properties currently on the Open Space Inventory which provide little value as open space should be transferred to another use or sold.

City properties and public rights-of-way located within designated Habitat Corridors that are deemed unnecessary for the managing department’s primary mission, shall be evaluated for designation as open space. If the best use of such lands is as open space, then consideration shall be given to transferring management responsibility to the public entity best positioned to manage them for conservation and restoration purposes, including through transfer to the Open Space Inventory, to MPT, or another responsible entity. Easements and other encumbrances may be retained if necessary for onsite utilities or other reasons.

OS-CW-3 Streamline Processes and Reduce Costs
Given the scarcity of funds and resources available for habitat area acquisition, restoration and maintenance, City fees and processes should be reviewed and modified when feasible to ensure that the minimum administrative cost is borne by public funds intended for conservation and restoration.

Acquisition and Management of Land and Facilities

Intent
The following policies provide guidance for the acquisition, development, management and maintenance of open space lands and facilities, the range of actions for which open space lands and facilities managers are responsible.
Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) is an innovative policy tool for achieving public goals, including conservation of open space. TDR uses a voluntary, market-based approach to move development rights from areas where growth is deemed less appropriate, such as farms, natural lands, historic sites, parks and recreation areas, into areas where infrastructure, roads, schools, parks and services are available to support development. Development rights are purchased from landowners in “sending areas”, in exchange for a covenant that prevents future development of the property. The development rights are then used to purchase an increase in development potential within “receiving areas,” such as urban centers where more growth is planned. Tacoma’s Generalized Land Use Element calls for Tacoma to cooperatively explore options for development of a TDR program, and indicates that if such a program is developed, the mixed-use centers are appropriate “receiving areas” for the transfer of development rights from other locations in the City, county and region. Such transfers could potentially occur within or between Mixed-Use Centers if appropriate sending sites are identified within them.

OS-LF-1  Acquisitions
Purchase or accept donations of land or interests in land suitable for habitat and/or recreation, according to the acquisition process and ranking criteria outlined in the OSHRPOSHRE and Strategic Action Program. Avoid accepting land that has little value as open space or carries management liabilities that outweigh the benefits to the public of City ownership.

OS-LF-2  Open Space Inventory
Maintain an official inventory of City-owned open space properties. Properties on this inventory shall, whenever feasible, be permanently conserved for open space purposes and managed according to the policies of the OSHRPOSHRE. Properties shall not be removed from the inventory unless it is verified that they were added in error or determined that they do not provide significant open space benefits, they are being transferred to another party which will maintain them in permanent conservation or, in rare circumstances, they will be replaced by the addition of lands of significantly greater habitat or other open space value.

OS-LF-3  Long-term Additions to Publicly Beneficial Open Space
Develop zoning and other approaches to ensure the provision of publicly beneficial open space when redevelopment occurs.

OS-LF-4  Adaptive Management
Plan for ongoing land management at the land acquisition stage, incorporating the principle of adaptive management to allow for changing conditions or new information.

OS-LF-5  Best Management Practices
Develop and use Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the management and maintenance of habitat lands. BMPs will provide guidance on the full spectrum of issues pertinent to ongoing habitat land management. The City of Tacoma and its partners shall strive to fully implement the BMPs through management of publicly-owned habitat lands, and will support and encourage all property owners to implement them. BMPs will be updated according to advances in the field and science.
OS-LF-6 Coordinated Management Plans
Partner with public and private entities, including community groups, to develop coordinated management plans for specific habitat lands, incorporating a holistic approach to managing the unique challenges and opportunities for joint use, public access, habitat restoration and social issues. Such site-based plans may be integrated with Critical Areas Preservation Ordinance Habitat Management Plans when critical areas are present.

OS-LF-7 Renovation, Maintenance, and Security
Seek to ensure that Tacoma’s open space system provides a sense of security, safety, and well-being for its users. Partner with Metro Parks Tacoma and other stakeholders to address concerns. Proactively seek to eliminate illegal activities such as dumping, transient encampments, littering and graffiti by fostering positive community engagement in the area, application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, and other means. Recognize that community engagement is the best way to ensure safety.

OS-LF-8 Historic, Cultural, and Art Resources
Pursue incorporation, preservation and, if appropriate, display of historic, cultural and art resources within open spaces. Adopt formalized policies, procedures and criteria for accepting, siting, and designing public art, interpretive displays, historical monuments, commemorative displays, or other cultural or artistic installations within publicly-owned open space and parks. The presence of historic and/or cultural features supports the conservation of an area as open space.

OS-LF-9 Site Amenities
Provide well-designed, barrier-free and appropriate access and amenities at parks and facilities intended for public access, such as lighting, seating, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, bicycle racks, and shelters. Provide internal pathways connecting park elements and features within high-impact recreational areas.

OS-LF-10 Accommodate Non-motorized Active Transportation
Design and develop recreation lands and facilities, as appropriate to each site, to accommodate and encourage non-motorized travel modes, including walking, hiking, bicycling, skateboarding and rollerblading. Accommodate non-motorized travel to and within recreation areas, and provide ample bicycle parking at high-impact recreation sites.

OS-LF-11 Way-Finding System
Provide consistent and easily understood “way-finding” features using common architectural elements, maps, and signage to connect trails, recreation facilities, and habitat corridors with public access. Where appropriate, develop interpretive displays reflecting the historic, cultural and ecological features of the site.

OS-LF-12 Scenic Views – Private Benefit
Topping of public trees for private view benefit shall not be allowed. Removal of public trees for the purposes of retaining or creating private views should not be allowed unless as part of a coordinated plan developed by the public landowner that achieves view, habitat, environmental, slope stability and other objectives. Limited reduction pruning that does not substantially impact tree health may be considered, but limited pruning may be allowed for this purpose. The selective thinning of limbs can allow a view of an object from a predetermined point by opening “windows” through trees for a view, but such pruning must be limited to less than 20 percent of any tree’s live crown within any five-year period, to preserve the health of the tree. No view pruning will be allowed in critical areas or their buffers unless as part of a coordinated approach resulting in net habitat enhancement for the area.
OS-LF-13 Scenic Views – Public Benefit
Preserve and enhance existing public scenic views, vistas and landscape panoramas as established in the Urban Forest Policy Element (Policy UF-SA-1) or other adopted policies. Involve the public in the ongoing refinement of this list. A public survey, or other suitable public involvement techniques such as comprehensive, shoreline, or neighborhood planning, should be used to identify and nominate additional public natural and/or scenic views. Seek mechanisms to protect significant public views when planning and reviewing public and private development proposals. New planting on public property should consider potential impact on public views and seek a balance between view and habitat restoration objectives.

OS-LF-14 Harvesting of Secondary Forest Products
Harvesting of secondary forest products from City-owned open space lands shall be for personal use only. Any harvesting that has a significant negative impact on habitat health is prohibited. Commercial harvesting on City-owned land is prohibited, unless as part of a City-sanctioned site management plan.

OS-LF-15 Transfer of Development Rights
Utilize the City’s TDR Program to conserve valuable city and regional assets, and continue to develop and enhance the program. Lands meeting the City’s criteria for conservation which are located within the designated Habitat Corridors, and lands achieving other open space goals of this Plan, are appropriate “sending areas” for the transfer of development rights to other locations in the City, county and region.

OS-LF-16 Landscape Conservation and Local Infrastructure Program
Implement LCLIP, a state authorized policy tool combining TDR with tax increment financing, to bring resources to bear that can support Tacoma’s conservation goals.

Plans for Specific Areas

Over time, the City and partners 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. The plans are available from the City Planning and Development Services Department.

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 OSHRE. 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.

OS-SP-1 MPT Green Vision 2030
MPT’s 2012 update to their 2006 Strategic Plan provides the Parks District’s plans for their parks and open space system.

OS-SP-2 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.

**OS-SP-3** 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.

**OS-SP-4** 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.

**OS-SP-5** 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.

**OS-SP-6** 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.

**OS-SP-7** 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.

**OS-SP-8** 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.

**OS-SP-9** 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.
Section V – Implementation

This section provides guidance for the development and implementation of the Strategic Action Program OSHRE.

The OSHRE is an action-oriented plan, and actions will be phased over the 20 year planning horizon. The OSHRE is somewhat distinct from most other Comprehensive Plan elements in that it is also the guidance document for a specific City program—the Open Space Program.

OSHRP Strategic Action Program

The City will collaborate in coordination with multiple partners including Metro Parks Tacoma, the Green Tacoma Partnership, the Tacoma School District, the Pierce Conservation District and others to implement this plan and other partners will develop a Strategic Action Program to assist in achievement of the OSHRP goals. To make that collaboration effective, joint planning and coordination on many levels is warranted. The OSHRP is somewhat distinct from most other Comprehensive Plan elements in that it is also the guidance document for a specific City program—the Open Space Program.

The Strategic Action Program will identify funding and staffing resources, lay out tasks to implement the OSHRP, and designate key partnerships and timelines for each task. These tasks will be those identified as the highest priorities and/or most effective steps toward fulfilling the goals of the OSHRP. The Strategic Action Program is the guidance document for the utilization of the City Open Space Fund, Wetland Mitigation Fund, and other funds allocated in the future. The Program will be reviewed and updated, typically on a biennial basis, by City staff in coordination with Open Space Program partners. This review will include a progress report summarizing success in completing the tasks identified in the Program for the 2 previous years.

While the Strategic Action Program will incorporate activities related to the full range of open space goals, the primary focus of the City’s Open Space Program is on habitat-related efforts. The Strategic Action Program will be coordinated with MPT’s Strategic Plan, which serves as the primary guidance for implementation of recreation-related goals.

The Strategic Action Program will be organized according to the policy groupings of the OSHRP. Below is additional guidance on development, implementation and tracking of the Program.

Measuring and Reporting Progress

The OSHRP is both a long range and a results-oriented plan for the shorter term. Therefore, in order to gain an understanding of its effectiveness, the OSHRP calls for ongoing monitoring and reporting of progress. This practice will provide invaluable feedback to be used to refine the approach and improve
results. In addition, monitoring and reporting on both successes and challenges will increase the accountability of the City and its partner agencies, and help build public knowledge and understanding of issues, goals and challenges.

A “progress report card” approach will be used to measure success and effectiveness in implementing OSHRPOSHRE goals for habitat areas. The report card will summarize the most important outcomes, i.e., acres of habitat areas placed in conservation status, acres of habitat areas restored, and provision of low-impact recreation and access to habitat areas. The progress report card will also report on achievement of city-wide green infrastructure strategies, trail development, code updates and other goals. Finally, the progress report should also report on achievements in developing the Open Space Program’s organizational capacity, including development of partnerships, education and outreach efforts, and new or leveraged sources of funding.

Volunteer Coordination and Management

Volunteers have long played a major role in Tacoma’s habitat restoration, community gardens, park cleanups and other efforts. That role is expected to grow. As has been stated above, the OHSRP is based on the premise that public agencies alone cannot achieve the goals and vision. One of the major purposes of the OHSRP is to provide support and direction to empower volunteer efforts, and to ensure that volunteer restoration is accomplished according to the appropriate best management practices. Active volunteer restoration activities have additional benefits, including increased community presence and sense of ownership of habitat areas, discouragement of unwanted or illegal activities, and building an active constituency in support of open space issues.

Volunteer coordination, training and management is a key function under the OSHRP Strategic Action Plan. The City, Metro Parks Tacoma and the Green Tacoma Partnership will work together to provide leadership and support to existing and new volunteer groups.

Education and Outreach

Public education and outreach is a very important strategy to promote open space goals. Education can include training of volunteer stewards who help maintain or restore habitat value to open space properties. Environmental education can be a full time job, as well, coordinating with schools, writing curricula and organizing educational opportunities and programs. The City, Metro Parks Tacoma and the Green Tacoma Partnership all conduct this activity and should formulate a coordinated approach. In addition, the open space partners should coordinate with ongoing efforts from other departments and agencies, including the City’s EnviroChallenger program and Metro Parks Tacoma’s Environmental Education Program, the Zoological and Environmental Education Program, and the Surface Water Utility Public Education Program.
The GTPGreen Tacoma Partnership, or a future organization filling a similar function, is the ideal organization well positioned to coordinate education and outreach programs for the habitat-related functions of the OSHREP, as well provide the support and training functions for a coordinated stewardship program. The GTP could support restoration activities in multiple ways, including by creating a library of education and outreach materials for use by local stewardship groups. This can conserve resources that are better spent on other projects and will help to create a unified image for the coordinated programs.

### Ongoing Review of the OSHRP Strategic Action Program

The OSHRP Management Team is an inter-agency and inter-departmental work group which has led the effort and done the work of crafting this plan. The group includes key staff from the Green Tacoma Partnership, Metro Parks Tacoma and the City of Tacoma. As such, the team has a unique familiarity with the issues and expertise in the pertinent fields. In particular the group should provide key input into updates to the Strategic Action Program, and coordinate regularly on the work tasks currently underway.

The City and partners will coordinate through the Green Tacoma Partnership and other avenues to solicit public input. In addition, printed and web-based materials should be developed to inform and engage the public. Consideration may be given in the future to other approaches, such as supporting a community-based advisory group, will be vital to future plan amendments and Strategic Action Program updates. The Green Tacoma Partnership is an ideal forum to provide that input. The GTP represents a broad spectrum of community groups and professionals and has a broad expertise and perspective on open space issues. The GTP, or a future organization filling a similar function, will serve on an ad hoc basis, providing input and guidance as needed on policy and program issues. The coordinating body of the GTP, the GTP Steering Committee, will coordinate opportunities for GTP review and participation.

### Section VI – Open Space Maps

The maps on the following pages depict the City of Tacoma's open space system. The maps are based on an inventory updated and maintained by the Community and Economic DevelopmentPlanning and Development Services Department.
Figure 1 - Tacoma’s Open Space System

This map shows Tacoma’s existing and planned system of open space lands and facilities. The areas indicated are public open spaces valuable for the habitat and/or recreation benefits they provide - including recreation lands, habitat areas and restoration sites, schools and community gardens. Also shown are private cemeteries and golf courses, recreation facilities, and existing, planned and potential trails, including water trails. The Habitat Corridors contain the City’s most valuable undeveloped habitat areas - generally areas that are larger, connected or contiguous to other habitat areas, and combining multiple valuable functions and features (such as wetlands, streams, slopes and forests). Potential Joint Habitat Planning Areas are areas where habitat features span the City’s borders, calling for inter-jurisdictional planning and coordination.

City of Tacoma
Community & Economic Development

NOTE: This map is for reference only.
Designated Habitat Corridors contain the City’s most valuable undeveloped habitat areas - generally areas that are larger, connected or contiguous to other habitat areas, and combining multiple valuable functions and features (such as wetlands, streams, slopes and forests). Habitat Corridors will be the priority areas for Tacoma’s habitat conservation and stewardship efforts. The vision is to conserve and restore habitat functions within the Corridors and, where appropriate, foster low-impact access and recreation. Restoration sites in shoreline and marine habitat areas are also shown. Potential Joint Habitat Planning Areas are areas where habitat features span the City’s borders, calling for inter-jurisdictional planning and coordination.

NOTE: This map is for reference only.
This map shows Tacoma's existing and planned open space recreation assets - including parks, schools, community gardens, recreation facilities, and existing, planned and potential trails, including water trails. Also shown are private cemeteries and golf courses.
Section VII—
Supporting Materials

Open Space Needs Assessment

Background

Tacoma benefits from invaluable natural assets including extensive shorelines, distinctive steep slopes and gulches, wetlands and streams, upland habitat areas, as well as a well-developed system of parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities. The City of Tacoma, Metro Parks Tacoma, other public and private organizations and Tacoma’s citizens have a long history of planning for the acquisition, conservation, enhancement and management of these assets.

Our parks, playgrounds and habitat lands are essential components for the quality of life enjoyed by Tacoma’s citizens, and to the environment. Today we benefit from the foresight of early civic leaders, who conserved and enhanced some of the City’s jewels like Wright Park and Point Defiance Park. The City’s earliest plans, dating from over one-half century ago, have emphasized the importance and value of open spaces to the citizens of Tacoma. Building upon those strong beginnings, the City now counts over 450 acres in its open space inventory as well as many parks and recreational facilities, and Metro Parks Tacoma manages approximately 2,700 acres of parks, greenspaces and recreation lands. The Tacoma Public School District, colleges and universities are also major providers of recreational facilities and open space. In addition, other public agencies, private enterprises and individual citizens provide open space on private properties that augments the public open space and parks network.

To build upon Tacoma’s successes, much work remains in order to restore and manage existing open space habitat areas, to connect fragmented public ownership and to enhance and expand our system of parks and recreation facilities. Open space and parks and recreational facilities require active management in order to function properly and serve the community well.

Over the years, many habitat areas have been developed, and as Tacoma continues to grow, pressure on remaining undeveloped land will only increase. In addition, an open space management issue has become critical: Many open space areas are rapidly declining in habitat quality due to invasive species such as English ivy, blackberry, laurel and holly that prevent the regeneration of native species. Recent studies show that, without a concerted restoration effort, Tacoma will lose significant forested canopy and biodiversity within the next 20 years. Also, these habitat areas often contain sensitive features such as wetlands and streams, which continue to be impacted by urbanization and invasive species.

Assumptions

The following list of assumptions form the basis for the OSHRP’s goals and policies.

Open space habitat and recreation lands and facilities are important, necessary, and beneficial to residents’ physical and mental health, as well as to the long-term livability and prosperity of our community.

Urban vegetation and open space plays an important role in addressing environmental challenges including climate change and stormwater runoff management.

Metro Parks Tacoma and the City of Tacoma are the primary providers of public parks and open space and will continue to work together to meet open space goals.
The natural setting and features of the city will become more valuable as urban growth and development occurs, and demand will increase for access to and conservation of open spaces throughout the City.

Due to the importance of habitat connectivity, the identification and protection of habitat corridors is important to the survival within the City of many wildlife species.

Though the OSHRP does not apply to privately-owned recreational facilities, educational institutions, or to any land or parcels owned by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the plan acknowledges that these entities play a key role in meeting the community’s open space and recreational needs and aspirations.

**Community Benefits of Open Space**

Open space plays a significant role in an urbanized city like Tacoma. Open space, ranging from high-impact to low-impact uses, contributes to the creation of livable cities in the following ways:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functions and Benefits of Open Space Habitat and Recreation Lands</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>For community engagement</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Build a sense of community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide opportunities to interact in a shared environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Channel positive community participation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Parks can help revive distressed areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>For green infrastructure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Preserve essential ecological functions and protect biodiversity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Help define the urban form and buffer incompatible uses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reduce public costs for stormwater management, flood control and other built infrastructure.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>For climate change management</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Moderate artificially higher temperatures and precipitation anomalies from the urban heat island effect through shading and evapo-transpiration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Enhance local wind patterns in cities (cooler air over parks replaces warmer air in adjacent city neighborhoods).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sequester carbon and other pollutants that may otherwise alter local and global atmospheric composition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For reduction of natural hazards</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reduce hazards in environmentally sensitive areas such as steep slopes, flood plains, shorelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For habitat conservation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Help preserve natural habitats including wetlands, streams, forestlands and native habitats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For creating safer neighborhoods</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Serve as gathering spaces where neighbors form social ties that produce stronger, safer neighborhoods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For helping children learn and grow</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Offer children a direct experience with nature and opportunities to play explore, socialize and engage in physical activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Foster a sense of place, self-identity and being part of their community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For economic development

- Raise property values.
- Contribute to attracting residents, businesses and tourists.

For non-motorized transportation

- Open spaces can link with an integrated pedestrian and bicycle system, increasing mobility choices and reducing reliance on single-occupant vehicles.

For nurturing arts, culture and heritage

- Provide opportunities for cultural and artistic events, which can play an integral role in community revitalization.
- Preserving historic assets within city parks can create continuity with the past.
For smart growth

- Enhance mixed-use development and redevelopment strategies, offsetting high density concerns with accessibility to green space.
- Strengthen the urban core, revitalize the inner city, and protect the fringe from over-development.

For food, plant and fiber production

- Community gardens and certain open space can be a good source for native plant, food and fiber production.
- Growing locally can help reduce carbon footprint, promote active living through gardening, and bring neighborhoods together.

For improving personal and public health

- Provide spaces to relieve mental fatigue and reduce aggression.
- Connect people with nature, known to confer certain health benefits and enhance well-being.
- Help increase activity level, reduce obesity and promote physical health.
- Reduce climate, air and water pollution impacts on public health.

SWOT Analysis

As part of this update, the OSHRPOSHRE management team conducted an analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT analysis). Citizen input from public meetings helped to provide information for the analysis along with input from the management team, data gathered as part of the open space inventory, and from other sources. This analysis provided the basis for development of the OSHRPOSHRE goals and policies.

Strengths:

- Tacoma’s Critical Areas Preservation Ordinance provides protection of critical areas including fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands and streams, and provides some protection for steep slopes.
- Tacoma’s existing recreation lands and facilities provide a range of high and low-impact recreation opportunities as well as habitat benefits.
- The City benefits from dedicated citizen and volunteer groups that help with maintenance and improvement of existing open spaces.
- Collaboration between MPT and Tacoma Public School District—school properties provide indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities for Metro Park Tacoma’s programs.
- The City has been doing open space planning for several decades and has built organizational capacity and expertise.
- Several related City efforts, including but not limited to Tacoma’s Clean up And Revitalization Efforts (CARES) which helps improve and maintain open space areas through clean-up and enforcement efforts, a recent update to City’s Surface Water Management Manual to encourage Low Impact Development techniques, and the Green Ribbon taskforce for Climate Change create a supportive framework for open space efforts.
Weaknesses:

• Current regulations do not fully protect vegetation and habitat in steep slope areas.

• Lack of connectivity/trail linkages between parks, schools, open spaces, neighborhoods and mixed-use centers.

• Lack of street trees and boulevards and overall tree canopy coverage.

• The City’s Open Space Program is in need of better operational guidance and understanding of conditions in order to prioritize actions.

• According to a needs assessment done by MPT, there is a need for more parks and recreational facilities in some areas.

• Funding and staff resources are limited and subject to many competing demands and needs.

• Lack of coordination between and within public agencies in open space efforts.

Opportunities:

• There is strong community interest in tree and landscape plantings to create green corridors along freeways, streets and boulevards city-wide.

• Dedicated volunteer groups and non-profits continue to work to restore degraded habitat areas with non-native plants.

• Implement Green Ribbon Task Force recommendations supporting open space goals.

• Update the baseline open space data to provide an accurate picture of open spaces in Tacoma.

• Empower City employees and citizens to safely and efficiently remove non-native invasive plant species.

• Seek grant opportunities to pursue achievement of Tacoma’s open space goals.

• Utilize Tacoma’s extensive waterfront to provide public access to the Puget Sound for water-related recreation and trail uses.

• Use MPT’s Strategic Plan to assist with siting, design and building necessary facilities.

• Partner with other public agencies to provide needed recreation programs.

• While resources are limited, there are numerous stakeholders with common open space goals who can work together.

Threats and Challenges:

• Ongoing development within open space areas not under public ownership.

• Ongoing harm to habitat areas resulting from invasive species and other threats.

• Environmental and health issues posed by loss of natural habitat areas, including impacts to air, water, stormwater runoff, and human health.

• Reduced community livability, prosperity and health in areas underserved by recreational opportunities.

• Due to limited resources and funding, these ongoing impacts may outpace achievement of open space goals.

This SWOT analysis informed the development of the OSHRPOSHRE and was utilized to target the efforts of the City and its partners through the OSHRP Strategic Action Program. Based upon this assessment, the OSHRP proposes a collaborative approach that is responsive to the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
Capital Facilities Program 2009 – 2014

(Adopted per Ordinance No. 27767, December 9, 2008)

This appendix is a compilation of selected information from the Capital Facilities Program 2009-2014, as applicable to the Open Space Habitat and Recreation Element. It provides the recreation and open space facilities inventories, demand and need analysis, and the capital improvement program to meet the eligibility requirements for local, state and federal funding. Additional information is available in the complete Capital Facilities Program.

The City’s open space inventory and projects are listed here, along with information on programs that are closely related and supportive of open space goals. However, it should be noted that the Open Space Habitat and Recreation Element contains policies calling for partnerships with and voluntary cooperative actions by various City departments, Tacoma Public Utilities, other public agencies and private parties. While it is impractical to list such actions here, they do implement the Open Space Habitat and Recreation Element.

Specifically, the appendix contains the following sections of the Capital Facilities Program 2009-2014:

- Cover
- Ordinance No. (adopted on December , 2008)
- Chapter 1 – Introduction
- Chapter 2 – Capital Facilities Program
  - Community Development – Summary of Project Expenditures
    - Economic and Community Improvement
  - Municipal Facilities and Services
    - Community and Human Service Facilities
  - Parks, Recreation and Cultural Facilities
    - Parks and Open Spaces
  - Transportation Facilities
    - Non-motorized Transportation and Streetscape
- Chapter 3 – Six-Year Spending Plan Summary
- Chapter 4 – Inventory of Public Facilities
  - Community Development
    - Economic and Community Improvement
  - Municipal Facilities and Services
    - Community and Human Service Facilities
  - Parks, Recreation and Cultural Facilities
    - Parks and Open Spaces
  - Transportation Facilities
    - Non-motorized Transportation and Streetscape
APPENDIX I: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Projects

A. High Priority Projects:

The following projects and sites are high and/or short-term implementation priorities due to the important role they will play in achieving the City’s parks, recreation and open space vision. The City will seek to allocate available resources and pursue additional funding and support to implement these projects, as feasible. Other priorities are included in the plans of partner agencies, particularly Metro Parks Tacoma, and priorities change as implementation progresses and in response to community input. Therefore, this list should not be considered exhaustive, and should be updated on a regular basis.

High Priority Projects List (in alphabetical order):

- Chinese Reconciliation Park
- Community Gardens Program
- Dome To Defiance (including Foss Esplanade, Schuster Parkway Promenade, Ruston Way promenade)
- First Creek corridor
- Garfield Gulch
- Julia’s Gulch
- Mason Gulch
- Pipeline Trail
- Point Defiance Park
- Prairie Line Trail
- Schuster Slope
- Wapato Hills
- Water Ditch Trail
## APPENDIX I-B:
### City of Tacoma Parks, Recreation and Open Space Projects

The following consolidated projects list constitutes the City's recommended parks, recreation and open space projects. These projects have been identified through multiple planning and policy development efforts. This list is intended to serve as an implementation tool in support of further project prioritization and refinement. Implementation is resource-dependent and may involve one or more public agencies. This list reflects information currently available and is intended to be regularly updated.

### Plan Core Vision

**South Downtown Subarea Plan Element**

The South Downtown Subarea Plan envisions an integrated system of habitat and recreation lands that enriches the lives of Tacoma current and future residents, enhances the environment, and nurtures habitats. As the South Downtown area grows in population and employment, open space will be critical in maintaining a vibrant, walkable, mixed-use community.

### Project List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Line Trail</td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-motorized trail</td>
<td>This project will provide open space and non-motorized connectivity through UWT campus and the Brewery District.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foss Waterway Esplanade</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open space connector</td>
<td>Long-term vision is a 1.5 mile Esplanade running from head of the Waterway to Thea's Park at its end.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open space</td>
<td>0.7 acre vacant waterfront property at 1147 Dock Street will become the site of a new &quot;Central Park.&quot; Park is not yet designed.</td>
<td>FWDA</td>
<td>3,930,000</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterway Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open Space Waterfront Access</td>
<td>Planned for the FWDA property located adjacent to D Street at the head of the Waterway.</td>
<td>FWDA/COT/MPT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge to the Foss</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pedestrian bridge</td>
<td>A bridge located near the former A Street crossing restore pedestrian connectivity to the Waterway and would provide much more convenient access from the Brewery District.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UWT Central Open Space and Grand Stairs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open space/pedestrian connector</td>
<td>The 2008 UWT Master Plan Update proposes a central open space integrated with pedestrian hill climb extending from the existing 19th Street Grand Stairs up to the corner of Tacoma Avenue and 17th Street.</td>
<td>UWT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Long-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holgate Shared-use Street</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shared-use street</td>
<td>This concept would transform Holgate Street between 23rd and 25th Streets into a shared use street and farmers market location.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hillside-to-Brewery-District Pedestrian Corridor</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pedestrian corridor</td>
<td>This concept would develop a pedestrian corridor connecting South Downtown to the Hilltop. One possible alignment would be along 23rd Ave.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Street “Gulch”</td>
<td></td>
<td>Green space corridor</td>
<td>The B Street Gulch is a swath of vacant land in and around the former East B Street right-of-way between Puyallup Ave and E 26th Street, and continuing to the south beneath I-705 interchange ramps. The location is opportune for a green space corridor with natural drainage features.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
C Street Green Street

Street

East C Street between East 27th Street and Puyallup Avenue is an opportune site for a green street.

The Water Ditch Trail

Trail

The Water Ditch Trail will connect to South C Street and run parallel to South Tacoma Way to the southwest and beyond the Subarea.

Ped/Bike trail on the east side of Foss Waterway

Ped/Bike trail

On the east side of the Foss Waterway from the D Street bridge south to the Center for Urban Waters.

Plan Core Vision

MLK Subarea Plan

The purpose of the MLK Subarea Plan is to anticipate, promote and guide the long-term redevelopment of the MLK subarea including the district core, hospitals, and residential neighborhoods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Location</th>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peoples Community Center Plaza</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Redevelop the green space in front of People’s Community Center into more formal plaza type park with active features such as picnic shelters, tables, benches, splash fountain, and play equipment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peoples Community Center Pool</td>
<td>Pool</td>
<td>Refurbishment, retrofit, and expand the existing facility to include indoor leisure pool elements, party rooms and concessions.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenways</td>
<td>Greenways, open space, conservation corridors</td>
<td>Designate a system of coordinated open spaces, conservation corridors, greenways and green streets to link MLK parks and community facilities, and connect the MLK district to adjacent neighborhoods, the Prairie Line Trail, UW Tacoma and the Thea Foss Waterway.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Gardens</td>
<td>Community garden</td>
<td>Plant community or pea patch gardens on vacant sites as well as other available lands within MLK.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native habitat</td>
<td>Open spaces, street corridors</td>
<td>Plant street trees, reforest open spaces, remove invasive species, and promote use of native and drought resistant plants to restore wildlife habitat in and around MLK’s public facilities and within MLK’s green, urban, and parkway street corridors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Storm water</td>
<td>Green infrastructure</td>
<td>Develop rain gardens, green roofs and walls, biofiltration swales, and other green development features in and around the MLK subarea’s public facilities and within the MLK area’s green and urban streets as well as in new project developments.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownfields</td>
<td>Open space</td>
<td>Identify all known sites of hazardous materials including former gas stations and laundries, develop appropriate mitigation strategies, and create a funding source for proactively mitigating the sites to support redevelopment.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Capital Facilities Program serves as the compilation of park and open space projects across multiple City departments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Reconciliation Park Phase III</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>4 Acre Ruston Way Chinese Garden/Reconciliation Park, Phase II includes construction of perimeter fencing, interpretive and way finding signage, parking, lighting, a multicultural pavilion, a gate, restrooms, a reflection pond, additional landscaping and irrigation systems, and various garden features with Chinese motif.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>6,895,166</td>
<td>Grants, private, Capital Projects Fund, Open Space Fund</td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site 1 Park Phase 2</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>This project will provide picnic tables, benches and signage for the Thea Foss Site 1 Park.</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterway Park</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>This project includes planning, design, permitting, remediation and construction of the future Waterway Park and rowing center on the Foss Waterway.</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,930,000</td>
<td>Debt financing, Foss Waterway Development Fund, Grants, unidentified</td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireman’s Park</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>This project will construct safety improvements.</td>
<td></td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>Capital Projects Fund</td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Town Dock</td>
<td>Old Town Dock Rehabilitation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,609,000</td>
<td>Debt Financing, Capital Projects Fund, MPT</td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space Access Improvements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Planning and development of trails, viewpoints and other access improvements within City open space areas citywide. Activities may include acquisition trail maintenance or construction, signage, fencing, lighting, trailheads, pedestrian furniture or other improvements.</td>
<td></td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>Open Space Fund, unidentified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space Acquisitions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Acquisitions of open space that meets the City’s conservation objectives. Activities may consist of fee simple purchase or the purchase of development rights. Larger individual acquisitions are listed separately in the CFP.</td>
<td></td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>Open Space Fund, unidentified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoreline Trails- West Slope</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a shoreline trail from the City’s southern boundary at Lemons Beach Rd and West 27th Street north to Titlow Park and extending from HWY 16 to Point Defiance Park. This trail will require use of City of Tacoma right of way along Seashore Drive as well as Burlington Northern Railroad right of way, with some segments traversing the slopes along the Tacoma Narrows.</td>
<td></td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Tacoma Wetlands Conservation Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Acquisition for open space conservation purposes of as much as possible of a 14-acre target area within the South Tacoma Wetlands Conservation Area. The 14 acres are located between two large block of City open space and form and important habitat linkage between them.</td>
<td></td>
<td>530,000</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The purpose of the Plan is to implement the policies of the TSMP and State SMA and guide the development of new public access opportunities along the shoreline and to increase public access to the shoreline over time. This Plan will allow for more efficient use of public and private resources by providing alternative mechanisms in addition to the standard permit requirements to provide public access to the shoreline and the public waters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Project Type</th>
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<th>Cost</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>S-1a Shoreline District: Western Slope South</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Trail Access Point</td>
<td></td>
<td>Boating - nonmotorized</td>
<td>Develop a blue trail access point where beach grade is conducive for kayak and hand launch craft.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td></td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Slope Trail- Crystal Springs Creek Segment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Linear Trail/View</td>
<td>From City’s southern boundary at Lemons Beach Road and West 27th Street north to Titlow Park at Sixth Avenue. Trail will use City of Tacoma property along Seashore Drive and will require use of Burlington Northern Railroad ROW.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Estimated to cost $1,616,000 for the entire 6 mile trail.</td>
<td>Long-term priority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S-1b Shoreline District: Western Slope South</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>West Slope Trail- Crystal Springs Creek Segment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Linear Trail/View</td>
<td>From City’s southern boundary at Lemons Beach Road and West 27th Street north to Titlow Park at Sixth Avenue. The trail will use City of Tacoma property along Seashore Drive and will require use of Burlington Northern Railroad ROW.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
<td>Long-term priority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S-2 Shoreline District: Western Slope Central</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Boat Launch</td>
<td></td>
<td>Boating - motorized</td>
<td>If the Tacoma Outboard Association site transitions to other uses, seek opportunities to improve existing launch ramp for public use.</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Slope Trail- Titlow Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>Linear Trail/View</td>
<td>The trail will use the Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way and the Titlow Park trail system to the War Memorial trail near Hwy 16.</td>
<td>COT/MPT</td>
<td>Estimated to cost $1,616,000 for the entire 6 mile trail.</td>
<td>Long-term priority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Slope Trail- War Memorial Park Segment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Linear Trail/View</td>
<td>The trail will require use of the Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way and traverse the steep slopes above. In addition, the trail will extend to a trailhead at War Memorial Park.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
<td>Long-term priority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S-3 Shoreline District: Western Slope North</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Slope Trail- War Memorial Park Segment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Linear Trail/View</td>
<td>The trail will require use of the Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way and traverse the steep slopes above.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
<td>Long-term priority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Slope Trail- Gold Creek Gulch Segment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Linear Trail/View</td>
<td>This trail segment will extend from the boundaries of Point Defiance Park to the Tacoma-Lake Cushman Transmission Line south of Gold Creek Gulch. The proposed trail will form a loop by using a portion of the Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way and traversing the steep slopes above. In order to accomplish this, a public access easement or dedication for the purpose of trail right-of-way needs to be pursued with Burlington Northern. In addition, the corridor trail will follow Gold Creek through the gulch to a trailhead at Narrows Drive.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
<td>Long-term priority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Platforms</td>
<td>View</td>
<td>In conjunction or in advance of trail development, provide viewing platforms along the West Slope that will facilitate public views of the Tacoma Narrows.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Long-term priority</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### S-4 Shoreline District Pt. Defiance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point Defiance Trail System</th>
<th>Trail/View</th>
<th>Public access to/within the park—the City will strive to coordinate/leverage resources with Metro Parks Tacoma.</th>
<th>MPT</th>
<th>Mid-Term Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### S-5 Shoreline District: Pt. Defiance

| Passenger Only Ferry Terminal/ Water Taxi | Nonmotorized Transportation | Develop a low impact terminal for water taxi or passenger only ferry access that could connect Point Defiance to other shoreline areas, including the Foss Waterway. | MPT | Long-term priority |
| Guest Moorage | Boating-Motorized | Provide additional capacity for guest moorage to serve the needs of recreational boaters. | MPT | Long-term priority |

### S-15 Shoreline District: Point Ruston/Slag Peninsula

| Peninsula Park | Trail/View/Gathering Space | Construct a public park on Slag Peninsula that will take advantage of the unique viewing opportunities and provide a large gathering and recreation area for the public. The park could include an amphitheater to promote outdoor events. | MPT | Mid-Term Priority |
| Transient Moorage | Boating-Motorized | Expand capacity for transient/guest moorage. Moorage should be clearly signed and identified for water-craft. | MPT | Long-term priority |
| Point Ruston Promenade | Linear Trail/View/Gathering Places | Construct a public promenade averaging 100' in width, the length of the Point Ruston development site, connecting the Ruston Way promenade to Slag Peninsula and Point Defiance. | COT | Near-term priority |

### S-6 Shoreline District: Ruston Way

<p>| Old Town Dock | Fishing/View | Replace the pilings, structural elements, dock surface, ramps, and floats. Improve the landscaping around the dock and accessibility of the dock. | COT/MPT | 2,000,000 | COT/MPT | Near-term priority |
| Mason Gulch Trail | Pedestrian Trail | Trail or viewpoints providing visual and/or pedestrian access to portions of the gulch and from the gulch to the Ruston Way shoreline. | COT | Mid-Term Priority |
| Puget Gulch Trail | Pedestrian Trail | Provide pedestrian access to the gulch and from residential areas and Puget Park to Ruston Way. | COT | Mid-Term Priority |
| Garfield Gulch Trail | Pedestrian Trail | Provide pedestrian access to the gulch and from residential area at the top of the slope to the Schuster Parkway | COT | Mid-Term Priority |
| Buckley Gulch Trail | Pedestrian Trail | Provide visual and/or pedestrian access to portions of the gulch and from the gulch to the Ruston Way shoreline. | COT | Long-term priority |
| Transient Moorage | Boating-Motorized | Expand capacity for transient/guest moorage along the Ruston Way shoreline. Moorage should be clearly signed and identified for water-craft. | COT | Long-term priority |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Underwater Park</th>
<th>Scuba Diving</th>
<th>Enhance existing in-water area for scuba diving and underwater recreation. Include signage and provide amenities necessary to support scuba diving, such as a facility to rinse equipment. Could include underwater trail system.</th>
<th>MPT</th>
<th></th>
<th>Long-term priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Reconciliation Park</td>
<td>Gathering Space/Educational</td>
<td>The Chinese Reconciliation Park is a planned 3.9 acre park that is located at the southern end of the 1.5-mile Ruston Way waterfront along Commencement Bay, and is in the proximity of the early Chinese settlement that was burned down during the tragic expulsion. The park design is a mixture of traditional Chinese scholar’s style gardens and beautiful natural waterfront setting. Construction of the park will proceed through IV Phases. Two phases are nearing completion.</td>
<td>COT/Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation</td>
<td>Estimated to cost $12,000,000</td>
<td>$5,000,000 in funding has been secured. Additional funds have not been identified at this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S-6/7 and S-7 Shoreline Districts: Schuster Parkway and Schuster Parkway Transition</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Esplanade/Boardwalk</strong></td>
<td><strong>Linear Walkway/Views</strong></td>
<td>Construct 15’ waterside or overwater public esplanade/boardwalk that will serve pedestrians, roller skaters, bicyclists and provide lighting, street furniture, landscaping and supporting utilities.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>$60,000 has been allocated for a feasibility study for the projects identified in the S-7 district.</td>
<td>Design and construction has not been funded at this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayside Trail</td>
<td>Linear Trail/Connector</td>
<td>Improve the Bayside Trails to provide a natural trail parallel to the shoreline with connecting access from upland residential areas to shoreline paths.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuster Parkway Multimodal Train</td>
<td>Transportatio n non-motorized</td>
<td>Construct a 10-12’ multi-use path to replace existing sidewalk. Path will require slope stability measures as well as design treatments such as bollards, rest areas, wayfinding signage, and lighting.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garfield Gulch Viewpoint</td>
<td>View</td>
<td>Construct a viewpoint/overlook at the top of the bluff in Garfield Gulch, connecting to the Bayside Trail and Garfield Gulch trail systems.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuster Parkway Overlook</td>
<td>View</td>
<td>Develop pedestrian overpass linking the improved trail to the waterside of Schuster Parkway and a scenic viewpoint overlooking Commencement Bay and with views of existing industrial users.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
<td>Same as previous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S-8 Shoreline District: Thea Foss Waterway West Foss Shoreline</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extend Esplanade</strong></td>
<td><strong>Linear Walkway/Views</strong></td>
<td>Construct public esplanade that will serve pedestrians, roller skaters, bicyclists and provide lighting, street furniture, landscaping and supporting utilities.</td>
<td>COT/FWDA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Repair Esplanade</strong></td>
<td><strong>Linear Walkway/Views</strong></td>
<td>Repair and replace deteriorated public esplanade to serve pedestrians, roller skaters, bicyclists and provide lighting, street furniture, landscaping and supporting utilities.</td>
<td>COT/FWDA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Foss Central Park Gathering Space</td>
<td>Acquire and develop a 1 acre park and recreation area for large events on the central Foss Waterway.</td>
<td>COT/FWDA</td>
<td>Mid-Term Priority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Street Park Boat Launch and Public Float Boating - Nonmotorized</td>
<td>This project will construct a kayak float on the west side of the Thea Foss Waterway, south of the State Highway 509 bridge and includes an aluminum gangway, upland concrete work, gates and landscaping.</td>
<td>COT/FWDA</td>
<td>Estimated to cost $3,000,000. Near-term priority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Street Gateway-Prairie Line Trail Connector</td>
<td>This project will design and construct a Class 1 trail along the BNSF railroad track through downtown Tacoma. The new trail segment will connect the Foss Waterway to the Water Ditch Trail project along South Tacoma Way.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Street Gateway-Murray Morgan Bridge Connector</td>
<td>This project will improve wayfinding and install design details to create a gateway from 11th street to the Foss Waterway, including improvements to the Murray Morgan Bridge.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireman's Park Hill Climb Nonmotorized access</td>
<td>Walkway, stair connection from Fireman's Park to Dock Street</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passenger Only Ferry Terminal/ Water Taxi Nonmotorized Transportation</td>
<td>Improve the Municipal Dock site to accommodate the necessary infrastructure for a passenger-only-ferry that could serve both local water taxi and regional POF service.</td>
<td>COT/FWDA</td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### East Foss Shoreline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waterway Park Gathering Space</td>
<td>Develop a park and recreation area at the 3.7 acre Berg Scaffolding site.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delin Docks View Platforms View</td>
<td>Improve signage, design elements and capacity of the Delin Docks access view point. Investigate potential for incorporation of Heritage Trail element.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Street ROW Boat Launch Boating – motorized and nonmotorized</td>
<td>Improve existing public right-of-way to accommodate a recreational and/or commercial boat launch</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Mid-Term Priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian Bridge Linear Walkway/ connector</td>
<td>Explore opportunities to develop a pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the Wheeler-Osgood that would connect future walkway improvements and create a more direct route across the waterway and a scenic viewpoint.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Long-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnny's Dock Waterfront Walkway Linear walkway/ pedestrian improvements</td>
<td>If Johnny's Dock redevelops, pursue an easement for a waterfront walkway that will enhance pedestrian access and views of downtown Tacoma.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Long-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfront Walkway Linear walkway/ pedestrian improvements</td>
<td>As an alternative to the Wheeler-Osgood pedestrian bridge, establish a walkway adjacent to the waterway, connecting the north and south ends of the Foss Waterway. Walkway would connect the Wheeler-Osgood Waterway to the Murray Morgan Bridge. Investigate opportunities to incorporate Heritage Trail elements.</td>
<td>COT/FWDA</td>
<td>Mid-Term Priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Plane Float Guest Moorage</td>
<td>Construct a moorage float designed to accommodate sea planes, to support diverse forms of transportation and recreation.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td>Long-term priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Project Type</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>COT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Foss Central Park</td>
<td>Gathering Space</td>
<td>Seek acquisition of BNSF property at the mouth of the Wheeler-Osgood for development of a nature park and open space.</td>
<td>COT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puyallup River Levee Trail</td>
<td>Linear Trail/Habitat Observation</td>
<td>Construct 2.5 mile trail along the Puyallup River levee, from the City limits with Fife to 11th Street.</td>
<td>COT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-9 Shoreline District: Puyallup River</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Construct and install transient/guest moorage on the east side of the Foss Waterway to attract recreational boaters and support the redevelopment of the east Foss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE Tacoma Trail Network-Segment 1</td>
<td>Natural Train/View</td>
<td>Construct 6 mile trail along the slope top of Marine View Dr. from Slayden Rd. to Norpoint Way, with an extension from Browns Pt. Blvd. to Northshore Parkway and a connector between Crescent Heights and Alderwood Parks.</td>
<td>COT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Peninsula Viewpoint</td>
<td>View</td>
<td>Provide viewpoint on City of Tacoma property at the head of the Foss Peninsula, as well as public amenities, including seating, waste bins, and signage.</td>
<td>COT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Trail Access Point</td>
<td>Beach Access/Boating-nonmotorized</td>
<td>Develop a blue trail access point where beach grade is conducive, for kayak and hand launch craft.</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Waterway</td>
<td>Habitat Observation</td>
<td>Construct a habitat viewing platform with associated educational signage and seating area. Site could be located at head of Middle Waterway on publicly owned properties near the Fire Station or along Middle Waterway Road.</td>
<td>COT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-10 Shoreline District: Port Industrial Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-11 Shoreline District: Marine View Drive</td>
<td>Marine View Drive Viewpoint</td>
<td>Improve a turnout and scenic viewpoint for automobiles along Marine View Drive. Provide signage and public amenities.</td>
<td>COT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE Tacoma Trail Network-Segment 2</td>
<td>Natural Train/View</td>
<td>Construct 6 mile trail along the slope top of Marine View Dr. from Slayden Rd. to Norpoint Way, with an extension from Browns Pt. Blvd. to Northshore Parkway and a connector between Crescent Heights and Alderwood Parks.</td>
<td>COT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Platform</td>
<td>View</td>
<td>In conjunction or in advance of trail development, provide view platforms along the top of the bluff and along the shoreline where possible to facilitate public views of the water. Provide wayfinding and educational signage where appropriate.</td>
<td>COT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-12 Shoreline District: Hybelos Creek</td>
<td>Hylebos Creek Trail</td>
<td>Construct a low impact habitat viewing area and a natural trail, including educational and wayfinding signage, to provide opportunities to learn about habitat and wildlife along the creek.</td>
<td>COT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### S-14 Shoreline District: Wapato Lake

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wapato Park</td>
<td>Gathering Places</td>
<td>Improve existing facilities and expand capacity for recreational uses, including trails, picnic areas, non-motorized boating, and viewpoints.</td>
<td>MPT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Near-term priority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Plan Core Vision

**First Creek Action Plan**

The purpose of the Plan is to provide a framework for community action to establish First Creek as a healthy, valued natural asset and center of community in East Tacoma. The plan is a collaborative effort to help realize a shared vision of a healthy First Creek.

### Projects Summary

Within the Plan are a set of detailed actions for implementation by a variety of stakeholders, including the City of Tacoma, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Tacoma Housing Authority, community stewards and residents, and more. The actions include both long-term (10 year) and short-term (immediate) goals. The action items are organized by plan objectives: access, safety, identity, habitat, water, community, and education.

A complete list of the action items can be found starting on page 11 of the First Creek Action Plan. Each action item varies from under $10,000 to over $50,000.

### Community Gardens

A thriving Community Garden culture that brings people and neighborhoods together through gardening and food to share, grow, and celebrate secure, healthy and happy communities.

### Projects Summary

Tacoma is home to more than 38 community gardens, including 11 on City-owned property. Gardens are managed by Metro Parks, churches, community groups, schools and universities, and many other organizations.

Pierce Conservation District Community Garden Program

### Open Space Program-Active Recreation

The Planning and Development Services Department manages a range of active use park and open space amenities, and provides planning and funding for access improvements such as trails.

### Open Space Program-Natural Areas

The Environmental Services Department manages the City's Open Space Inventory, and supports conservation and restoration efforts for Tacoma's natural areas.

### City-managed Urban Parks and Amenities

The City maintains a system of urban parks and amenities located primarily within downtown Tacoma.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tollefson Plaza</td>
<td>Pacific &amp; S. 17th St</td>
<td>Urban Plaza</td>
<td>Urban design and other enhancements to the plaza befitting its prominent location, to promote the public’s use and enjoyment.</td>
<td>COT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Plan Core Vision**

**Tacoma Landfill Land Use Plan**
This plan is the incorporation of ideas for the future uses of the closed portions of the City Landfill. These include parks, recreation and open space amenities.

None identified.

---

**Partner Agencies’ Plans**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Core Vision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Metro Parks</strong></td>
<td>Green Vision 2030</td>
<td>Green Vision 2030 envisions a sustainable community by focusing on 4 goals: fostering active and healthy lifestyles, stewardship, appreciation of culture and heritage, and to be an accountable agency in order to contribute to a livable city.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Projects Summary**

Included in Green Vision 2030 is the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which is one of the tools to implement the plan. The CIP was developed with extensive consultation with the public through workshops and webpage updates held in January 2012. Included in the CIP is a detailed list of 58 projects to take place over the next seven years, ranging from regional parks sites to neighborhood parks and community center sites.

Reference: For the complete list of CIP projects see Chapter Seven of Green Vision 2030, page 57.
Cost: The total capital outlay is estimated to be in excess of $53 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Core Vision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Port of Tacoma</strong></td>
<td>Shoreline Public Access Plan</td>
<td>This plan is meant to be implemented over time consistent with the Port of Tacoma’s Strategic Plan, the Port’s Port-Wide Habitat Strategy, and City of Tacoma’s Shoreline Master Program. The Shoreline Public Access Plan has identified 3 goals: to provide a streamlined and predictable permitting process, provide shoreline access in appropriate and desirable locations, and to increase public awareness of the port.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Projects Summary**

This plan examines each goal and identifies steps to reach them. Some of these include working closely with the City to create a streamlined permit process through an inter-local agreement. Another is conducting public outreach in order to better understand where public shoreline access is appropriate and desirable. The Port plans on realizing their final goal through signage at key locations, social media, e-newsletters, community events/booths and tours. The Port also lists priorities and policies that will help reach the goals of the Plan.

Reference: For the complete list of priorities and policies of the Plan see pages 3-5.
Cost: Unidentified.
# Appendix II. Parks and Open Space Inventory

## City-Owned Open Space

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Size or Capacity (Acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>34th Street Gulch</td>
<td>S. 34th St. &amp; Pacific Ave.</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9th &amp; Mason</td>
<td>S. 9th and Mason Ave.</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bantz Drumlin</td>
<td>SR 16 &amp; S. 12 St.</td>
<td>4.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bayside Trail</td>
<td>Schuster Slope</td>
<td>21.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Blix Green Space</td>
<td>E. Howe St. &amp; E. 40th St.</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Buckley Gulch</td>
<td>N. 21st St. &amp; Oakes St.</td>
<td>3.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Center Street</td>
<td>Center St. &amp; S. “J” St.</td>
<td>7.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Community Gardens</td>
<td>Various locations</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Crystal Springs</td>
<td>6th Ave &amp; Crystal Springs</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dome Slope</td>
<td>East of Tacoma Dome</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Eastside Slope</td>
<td>E. 34th St. &amp; Fairbanks St.</td>
<td>4.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Fern Hill Gulch</td>
<td>S. Park St. &amp; E. 82nd St.</td>
<td>1.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>First Creek</td>
<td>East Tacoma</td>
<td>18.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Garfield Gulch/Trail</td>
<td>Schuster Pkwy &amp; Boroughs Rd.</td>
<td>3.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Harbor Ridge Plat</td>
<td>Northeast Tacoma slope</td>
<td>10.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Hylebos Creek</td>
<td>E. 47th St. &amp; E. 57th Ave.</td>
<td>11.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Julia’s Gulch</td>
<td>Northeast Tacoma slope</td>
<td>36.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Marine View Drive</td>
<td>Northeast Tacoma slope</td>
<td>46.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Mason Circle</td>
<td>S. 40th &amp; Mason Loop Rd</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mason Gulch</td>
<td>N. Stevens St. &amp; 37th St.</td>
<td>11.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>McKinley Slope</td>
<td>McKinley Way &amp; E. F St.</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>McMurray Road Slope</td>
<td>Northeast Tacoma slope</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Mullen Wetland</td>
<td>S. Mullen St. &amp; 52nd St.</td>
<td>21.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Narrows Slope</td>
<td>Narrows Br. &amp; west slope shoreline</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Northeast Tacoma</td>
<td>Northeast Tacoma slope</td>
<td>88.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Northshore &amp; Norpoint</td>
<td>Northeast Tacoma</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Oakes Street Slope</td>
<td>S. 76th St. &amp; Oakes St.</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Parkside Plat</td>
<td>West slope – Parkside Lane</td>
<td>3.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Puget Gulch</td>
<td>N. Proctor St. &amp; 31st St.</td>
<td>6.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Rhone-Poulenc</td>
<td>Port of Tacoma Rd.</td>
<td>1.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Ruston Way Slope</td>
<td>North slope</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>South Tacoma Way</td>
<td>South Tacoma &amp; Tacoma Av</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Swan Creek</td>
<td>East Tacoma</td>
<td>15.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Tacoma &amp; Eastern Gulch</td>
<td>E. E St. &amp; E. 43rd St.</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Titlow Beach</td>
<td>Tidelands at Titlow Beach</td>
<td>5.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Trafton Slope</td>
<td>S. Trafton St. &amp; S. 70th St.</td>
<td>4.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Tyler Street Slope</td>
<td>Tyler St. south of S. 41st St.</td>
<td>3.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Wakefield Drive</td>
<td>S. Tacoma Way &amp; S. J St.</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Wapato Hills</td>
<td>S. 56th St. &amp; Tacoma Mall Blvd.</td>
<td>70.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Wapato Lake</td>
<td>S. Asotin Court – north of lake</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>West Slope</td>
<td>West Slope – various</td>
<td>26.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Westridge Plat</td>
<td>Day Island Bridge Rd.</td>
<td>17.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Woodland Glen</td>
<td>Ash St. &amp; S. 93rd St.</td>
<td>1.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 466.42 Acres

*The City departments with primary management responsibility for these properties include Public Works - Real Property Services and Environmental Services.*
# 2014 Parks and Open Spaces

## City-Owned Urban Parks and Urban Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Size or Capacity (Acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bayside Park</td>
<td>2217 Ruston Way</td>
<td>1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ben Gilbert Park</td>
<td>Market St &amp; St Helens Ave</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Broadway Plaza</td>
<td>Broadway S 9th St to S 15th St</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chinese Reconciliation Park</td>
<td>1741 Schuster Pkwy</td>
<td>6.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Division Ave Mini Park</td>
<td>1505 S 5th St.</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fern Hill Playground</td>
<td>S 84th &amp; Park Ave</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fireman's Park</td>
<td>803 A St</td>
<td>1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Frost Memorial Park</td>
<td>S 9th St &amp; Pacific Ave</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gas Station Park</td>
<td>S 48th St &amp; Park Ave</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gateway Park</td>
<td>N 30th St &amp; Starr St</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Gunderson Point</td>
<td>S 9th &amp; St Helens (NE corner)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hamilton Park</td>
<td>2319 Ruston Way</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Harbor View Park</td>
<td>929 Fawcett Ave</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Jack Hyde Park on Commencement Bay</td>
<td>1743 N Schuster Pkwy</td>
<td>8.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Janelle’s Pond</td>
<td>6th Ave &amp; Pearl St (SE corner)</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Jefferson Ave Mini Park</td>
<td>S 17th St &amp; Jefferson Ave</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ledger Square</td>
<td>S 7th &amp; St Helens (SE corner)</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Marine Park &amp; Les Davis Pier</td>
<td>3427 Ruston Way</td>
<td>1.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Mason Avenue Median</td>
<td>Mason Ave N 9th to N 28th St.</td>
<td>6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>McCormick Park</td>
<td>Fawcett Ave &amp; Ct E, 9th &amp; 11th</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Norton Memorial Park</td>
<td>Tacoma Ave &amp; S 1st St</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>People’s Community Center</td>
<td>1619 Martin Luther King Jr Way</td>
<td>1.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Point Defiance Park</td>
<td>N Pearl St &amp; N Park Ave</td>
<td>647.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ray C. Roberts Memorial Park</td>
<td>802 E Division Lane</td>
<td>0.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Ruston Way Tidelands</td>
<td>Ruston Way</td>
<td>12.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Ruston Way Slope</td>
<td>Ruston Way</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>South 23rd &amp; Alaska</td>
<td>South 23rd &amp; Alaska</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>South End Neighborhood Playfield</td>
<td>7801 S Sheridan St</td>
<td>1.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Spanish Steps</td>
<td>701 Broadway</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Tollefson Plaza</td>
<td>S 17th St &amp; Pacific Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Union Avenue Median</td>
<td>Union Ave from 9th &amp; 30th St</td>
<td>4.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>View Point Park</td>
<td>Norpoint Way &amp; Marine View Dr</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>War Memorial Park</td>
<td>6th Ave &amp; N Jackson Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Water Ditch Trail</td>
<td>South Tacoma</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total 704.03 Acres**

The City departments with primary management responsibility for these properties include Public Works - Real Property Services and Street Operations Divisions, and Planning and Development Services.
Parks and Open Spaces

Legend
- City Limits
- City Owned Open Space
- City Owned Urban Parks and Urban Amenities
- Community Gardens

Commencement Bay

A-1

Exhibit “E”: Open Space Habitat and Recreation Element