

**Comprehensive Parks,
Recreation & Open Space Plan
Battle Ground, Washington
January 2005**

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Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Battle Ground, Washington May 2004

Mayor

John Idsinga

City Council

Bill Gangle

Mike Ciraulo

Sandra Barnes

Lisa Walters

Alex Reinhold

Chris Regan

City Manager

Eric Holmes

Parks Advisory Board

Tom Schultz

Angela Markancek

Paul Walden

Pete Lewis

Whitaker Brand

Mavis Kent

Denise Peterson

Patrick Smith

Prepared by:

Otak, Inc. (Additions and
updates to previous work by
Dygert & Simpson)
Seattle, Washington

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Introduction

Plan Approach

This update to Battle Ground’s *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan* serves as the City’s blueprint for acquiring, developing, and maintaining parks, trails, recreation facilities, and open space lands. It also guides the provision of recreation services and programs throughout the City and Urban Growth Area (UGA). This update also has provided the basis for the Parks and Recreation Element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

This plan is the third update that has occurred under the framework of the 1990 Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). It is used as an element of the City’s comprehensive land use plan, and as a resource and planning guide for the City and its residents. This edition updates and supersedes the former parks plan, which was adopted as an element of the City’s comprehensive plan in February of 1995 and updated in 1997.

The legislative findings and 13 primary planning goals of the GMA address the need for coordinated planning and for park and recreation services and facilities.

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

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

This plan lays the groundwork for a comprehensive parks and open space system by:

- assessing public attitudes toward the acquisition, development, and management of parks, open space, and recreation facilities in the City and UGA;
- involving the general public in park, open space, and recreation planning;
- establishing goals, objectives, and actions for outdoor recreation facilities and grounds, including neighborhood and pocket parks, community parks, open space, conservation areas and greenways, habitat areas, trails, special facilities, and regional parks;
- establishing priorities for the acquisition and development of parks and open space facilities, and the implementation of recreation programs, incorporate these priorities into the City’s capital facilities program;
- establishing the groundwork for obtaining funds and other resources for acquisition, capital improvements, operation and maintenance programs, and recreation activities;

Section 1 – Introduction

- planning for and developing a park and recreation system that serves the diverse recreational interests of the residents of Battle Ground;
- fostering an environmentally sensitive approach towards preservation and enhancement of the City’s valuable natural resources such as its fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, and water quality;
- considering cooperative “partnership” agreements with other government agencies, land trust organizations, and private and commercial interests in the area of park, open space, and recreation planning and development; and
- providing the framework from which the City Council can establish specific policies for the implementation of a parks facilities acquisition and improvement plan.

Past Parks Planning Efforts

Battle Ground has a long history of parks and recreation planning, development, and supportive activities. Some of the City’s past accomplishments have included:

- hosting the Clark County Fair on the site of Fairgrounds Park during the 40s and 50s;
- acquiring and developing several park and recreation properties throughout the years;
- establishing a Park Advisory Board that implemented a parks and recreation plan as early as 1977;
- updating the plan as part of the Washington’s 1990 Growth Management Act;
- adopting a new comprehensive land use plan in 1995 incorporating the parks plan;
- completing a Community Action Plan that identified the need for more parks and greenspaces in 1996; and
- completing the Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan to become certified by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) for grant funding in 1997.

Recent Planning Efforts

The City of Battle Ground adopted the *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan* in 1997. The purpose of this plan was to serve as a “blueprint” for acquiring and developing parks, trails, recreation facilities, and open spaces. Since the City’s ownership of park lands and its general population have grown since the 1997 plan was adopted, there was an increased need to enhance and develop existing parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities to better serve the community. To address this need, City Council members and staff assembled a Parks Improvement Committee (PIC) in early 2003. This committee was comprised of citizens from various organizations and interest groups throughout the community. The PIC was tasked with working closely with a consultant team (Otak, Inc.) to develop the *Parks Improvement Plan*. The information in the 1997 plan, including in particular the results of the public meetings and surveys, served as an important resource in the development of the *Parks Improvement Plan*.

Guided by broad and comprehensive community involvement, the *Parks Improvement Plan* was created “by the community, for the community”. An intensive public involvement program

Section 1 – Introduction

engaged and involved community representatives and the public-at-large during the development of the plan. The plan also confirmed estimated costs of implementing the parks improvements, funding recommendations for the construction of improvements and maintenance, and operations for the city-wide parks program. This 2004 plan update incorporates the parks improvement program and budget estimates developed as part of the *Parks Improvement Plan*.

Other Plan Coordination – Open Space, Trails, Sports Fields, Habitat

Since the early 1990s, Clark County and the City of Battle Ground have prepared several resource documents that focus on specific types of park, recreation, and open space needs.

These include:

- 1992 *Battle Ground, Lewisville, Chief Umtuch, Captain Strong Recreation Plan*;
- 1992 *Clark County Trails & Bikeway System Plan*;
- 1992 *Clark County Open Space Commission Final Report*;
- 1995 *Urban Wildlife Habitat Plan*;
- 1996 *Battle Ground Community Action Plan*;
- 1997 *Lewis & Clark Railroad Study*;
- 1998 *Clark County Sports Field Master Plan*;
- 1999 *City of Battle Ground Wetlands Management Framework Plan*;
- 2000 *Framing a Community Vision for Open Space in Vancouver and Clark County*;
- 2000 *Clark County Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan*;
- 2001 *Interim Comprehensive Plan Policies*; and
- 2003 *Battle Ground Parks Improvement Plan*.

These documents provide extensive, detailed information regarding land and facility inventories, demand and need, and project priorities. These documents continue to provide valuable planning guidelines for the City of Battle Ground community. Elements from these plans are incorporated into this document to maintain consistency and coordinated planning.

This plan includes important findings and recommendations that have been established through the development of these past documents and data sources. These planning processes include an extensive public involvement and review which will provide an essential foundation to help meet the needs of parks, recreation, and open space for the current and future community of Battle Ground.

Section 2 – Planning Area Description

Planning Area Description

Physical, Social, and Economic Setting

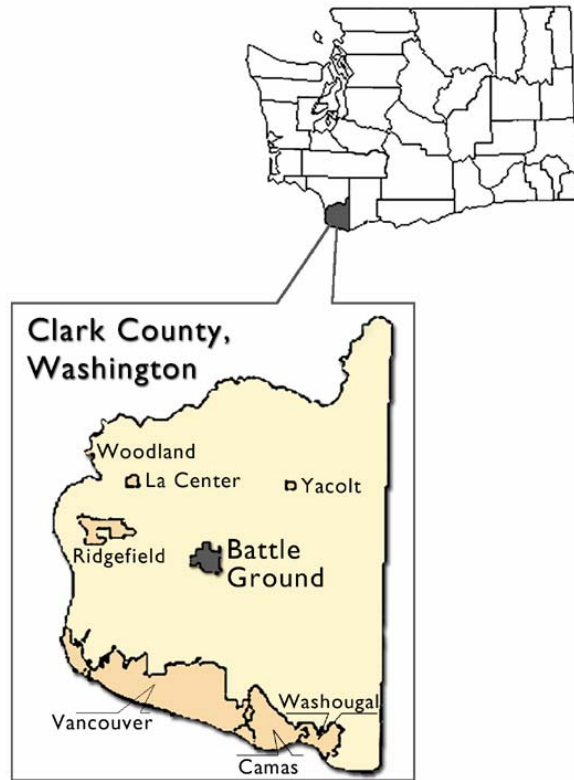
Battle Ground – Yesterday and Today

From the first post office in 1871, through incorporation in 1951, to a bustling community in 2004, Battle Ground traditionally has served as a center for commerce for much of central Clark County. The first known settler to homestead in the area was John Tuke. In 1862, he chose the area near the hill now known as Tuke's Mountain for his farm. Historically, Battle Ground's economy was based on the timber and dairy industries. The setting offers peaceful contry living, nearby lakes, streams, and nearby forests and parks that provide abundant recreational opportunities. Today, Battle Ground is a rapidly growing community that offers a desirable quality of life and picturesque views of Mount St. Helens. While the town continues to serve as commercial hub in the local region, many Battle Ground residents commute outside the area to work. Battle Ground's proximity to the Vancouver/Portland metropolitan region provides opportunities for residents to enjoy "small town" lifestyles, as well as access to "big city" resources, employment, and activities.

The City is easily accessible from the Interstate 5 (I-5) corridor and located 15 to 20 miles northeast from the major metropolitan region encompassing Vancouver, Washington and Portland, Oregon. Battle Ground's population has more than doubled in the last ten years. A growing number of residents live in Battle Ground and work in the Vancouver or Portland areas.

Section 2 – Planning Area Description

Figure 2.1 Vicinity Map



Population

Battle Ground has experienced significant population growth in the past 10-15 years. In fact, it is one of the fastest growing cities in Clark County. The City grew from 888 people in 1960 to 3,758 in 1990. By 2000, the population had grown to 9,296. In 2003, the City’s population reached 12,560. Current projections call for a population within the City’s urban growth area of 32,870 in 2024. The City’s population is demographically homogeneous, consisting primarily of middle-class, working families, well distributed in age.

The community of Battle Ground was incorporated on May 28, 1951. In its first U.S. Census in 1960, the town boasted a population of 888—ranking fourth in size among Clark County’s seven towns and cities. Over the next 40 years, Battle Ground experienced population growth increase of 946%. This was the fastest growth rate of any area in Clark County, and over twice the county’s overall growth rate of 168% during the same period.

Table 2.1

Population — 1960 to 2000		
Year	Battle Ground	Clark County

Section 2 – Planning Area Description

1960	888	93,809
1970	1,438	128,454
1980	2,774	192,227
1990	3,758	238,053
2000	9,296	345,238
40-Year Growth	8,408	251,429

Table 2.2

Population — 20-Year Growth Projections		
Year	Battle Ground UGA	Clark County
1990	4,573	238,053
2002	11,100	363,400
20-Year Population Growth	+20,870	+170,791
20-Year Growth Rate	174%	50%
20-Year Total Population	32,870	534,191

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Battle Ground’s racial distribution is similar to that of Clark County as a whole, with slightly higher percentages of Whites. Also in the 2000 U.S. Census, Battle Ground’s age distribution is also similar to that of Clark County as a whole, with slightly higher percentages of people between 25-44 years (32%) and under (5) five years (11.5%). These statistics may show a trend for the need of parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of both a young and older population in the next twenty years.

Between 2000 and 2003, Battle Ground’s population grew another 34.7%, once again exceeding the county’s overall growth rate of 7.8%. In 2003, Battle Ground moved ahead of Washougal to become Clark County’s third largest City. The population of Battle Ground and its urban growth area will continue to grow. Forecasts provided by Clark County and the Washington State Office of Financial Management project 20,870 new residents within the Battle Ground UGA during the next 20 years.

Climate

The climate in the vicinity of Battle Ground is influenced by the Coast Range to the west and Cascade Range to the east. The Coast Range provides limited shelter from the Pacific Ocean. Then, as moist heavy air from the west rises up the steep-sloping Cascade Range the air is cooled creating moderate rainfall in the lower lying areas and heavier rainfall on the west slope of the

Section 2 – Planning Area Description

Cascades. Normal annual precipitation ranges from 38 inches on the western floodplains to 114 inches in the mountainous northeastern part of the Clark County. The area has a very definite winter rainfall climate, with 63 to 70 percent of the total precipitation occurring in the five months of November through March. Most precipitation falls as rain; normal annual snowfall ranges from less than six inches on the western plains to over 22 inches in the northeast portion of the Clark County (Population and Economic Handbook, 1998).

Generally, Battle Ground has wet mild winters and warm dry summers. The temperature in the Battle Ground area averages 37 degrees in January and 65 degrees in July. Prevailing surface winds are generally from the northwest in the months of April through September and from the east-southeast during October through March. There are occasional winds from the east that are part of extremes in either cold or hot weather. Winter storm tracks are generally from the southwest with infrequent snowstorms dropping down from the Gulf of Alaska. Major wind events also occur infrequently. Two of the more famous events were the 1962 Columbus Day Storm and the 1972 Peter Ogden Tornado.

Section 3 – Definitions and Standards

Definitions and Standards

Introduction

The City of Battle Ground's system of parks and open space is divided into the following categories:

- pocket parks,
- neighborhood parks,
- community parks,
- regional parks,
- urban open space,
- conservation and greenway systems,
- trails,
- community schools and centers, and
- special facilities.

Standards

Each category is composed of facilities that serve a community function; that is, they serve the entire City. Pocket parks, neighborhood park, community parks, regional parks and urban open spaces are based on a minimum service standard measured in acres per population for the acquisition and development of these facilities. Conservation areas, greenways and trails are based on a specific resource, such as a river system or a sensitive habitat area, independent of population. Special facilities can be either population- or resource-based.

17.128.010 Purpose and applicability.

A. The purpose of this chapter is to assure implementation of the comprehensive parks and open space plan ("parks plan") in new development.

B. Any residential development that meets any of the following criteria shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter:

1. Any development with a gross land area of ten acres or greater, and
2. Is bordered on two or more sides by vacant or underdeveloped land, and
3. Is located within a neighborhood park service area (NPSA) as identified in the comprehensive parks and open space plan ("parks plan"); or

C. Any development that meets the following applicability criteria in addition to those included in subsection B of this section shall also comply with the provisions of this chapter:

1. Any development that is in excess of one mile from any existing park facility, or
2. Any development which includes fifty or more single-family units, or one hundred or more multifamily units, or
3. Any development that is on a parent parcel with any dimension of .25 miles or greater. (Ord. 01-002 § 1 (part), 2001)

Section 3 – Definitions and Standards

These park categories, as well as the population-based standards, have evolved with each update of the City's *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan*. These standards were derived through evaluation of local needs and conditions, in combination with standards identified by Clark County, the Battle Ground Municipal Code, and the standards published by the National Recreation and Parks Association (*Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 1983*).

Definitions

The following is the definitions for each category:

- ***Pocket Parks***
 - These parks serve a limited, isolated, or unique recreational need.
 - They are located in residential and commercial areas.
 - They generally serve an area within 1/4 mile of the park site.
 - Minimum size for a pocket park is between 2500 square feet and one acre.
 - Access is by walking primarily.
 - Pocket parks provide active and passive uses play areas, trails, and picnic areas, scenic overlooks, sitting areas.
 - Gardens, and landscaping.

- ***Neighborhood Parks***
 - These parks serve residential areas within walking distance (1/3 to 1/2 mile radius).
 - The minimum size is three to five acres to accommodate typical facilities.
 - The maximum size is 20 acres.
 - Access is primarily pedestrian. Persons within the service area should not have to cross major arterial roadways to get to the site.
 - Children between ages five to 12 are primary users. Facilities for teens and adults may also be provided.
 - Development typically includes landscaping, irrigation, play fields, pedestrian paths, picnic tables, play equipment and sports courts.
 - Schools meet an important part of the neighborhood recreational need.
 - Neighborhood parks complement and expand on the services provided by school grounds.

- ***Community Parks***
 - These parks serve groups of neighborhoods within a one to five-mile radius.
 - Minimum size is 20 acres. Maximum size is 100 acres.
 - Access is by car, bicycle or on foot.
 - The range of facilities is greater than neighborhood parks.

Section 3 – Definitions and Standards

- Junior and senior high schools meet an important part of the community recreational need.
 - Community parks complement and expand on the services provided by school grounds.
 - The range of facilities provided will be greater than in neighborhood parks and will generally appeal to more diverse user groups.
 - Development typically includes landscaping, irrigation, picnic shelters and tables, tennis courts, covered activity areas, soccer and baseball fields, bike and pedestrian trails, restrooms and parking lots. Swimming pools and recreation centers may be located on these sites.
- ***Regional Parks***
 - These parks include areas with natural or man-made qualities for outdoor recreation, or with unique qualities or historical significance.
 - These parks serve several communities with one hour driving distance.
 - They range in size from 100 to more than 325 acres. However, no minimum is recommended.
 - Typically provided by Clark County, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, and the National Park Service in the Battle Ground area.
 - Development typically includes: picnicking, play areas, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail uses, or other unique qualities or historical significance.
- ***Urban Open Space***
 - These areas provide visual and psychological relief from man-made development within the urban area.
 - Their size is based on resource values and intended uses.
 - Public access for passive recreational opportunities where compatible with resource protection.
 - When connected along stream corridors, open spaces areas provide valuable wildlife habitat.
 - These areas may or may not be improved, but can include trails, greenway corridors, farmed areas, buffers between land uses, and natural areas within community or neighborhood parks.
- ***Conservation and Greenway Systems***
 - The *Clark County Open Space Commission Final Report* identifies four categories of conservation, greenway, and open space lands. Each category includes lands that provide multiple benefits and high functional value:
 - a) River systems and associated floodplains provide low-intensity recreation, natural vegetation, shorelines, and fish and wildlife habitat. Examples include North and East Fork Lewis River, Lacamas Lake and Creek, Washougal River, Burnt Bridge Creek, and Salmon Creek.

Section 3 – Definitions and Standards

- b) Columbia River lowlands provide low-intensity recreation, natural vegetation, shorelines, and fish and wildlife habitat, similar to that of river systems and associated floodplains, but on a larger scale.
- c) Cascade foothills provide significant wildlife habitat, natural vegetation, watersheds and waterways, and remote, low-intensity recreation opportunities.
- d) Dispersed open space areas are site-specific and may include resource, economic, and urban benefits.
- Conservation and greenway systems are resource-based open spaces. They are acquired with the intent of little or no development.
- Conservation areas may act as a buffer for an existing park, industrial or residential area, or may protect a sensitive natural area.
- Greenways are similar to conservation areas, but are typically long, relatively narrow lands which follow roads, creeks, ridges, ravines and other natural or transportation corridors.
- Conservation and greenway systems serve various functions, including protection of environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitat, wildlife viewing, environmental education and trails.
- ***Trails***
 - Clark County has completed a comprehensive trails and bikeway system plan that identifies hiking and biking trails within Battle Ground and its UGA.
 - Any “path, route, way, right-of-way, or corridor posted, signed or designated as open for (non-motorized) travel or passage by the general public.”
 - Five trail types are identified:
 - a) regional multi-use trails, which provide the major access networks across the county;
 - b) local multi-use trails, which provide access from neighborhoods to regional multi-use trails;
 - c) rustic trails, which are smaller in scale than the local trail and are intended to provide access to natural features and to provide loop trail opportunities;
 - d) semi-primitive trails, which are intended for rural or forest settings; and
 - e) bike lanes and pedestrian walkways, which are located on City, county and state road rights-of-way.
 - May be a separate facility or part of a larger park development. Surfaces vary with location and use.
- ***Community Schools and Centers***
 - Community schools and centers are public school facilities designed and operated jointly between the school district and the City.
 - Through joint use agreements, school facilities become available for recreation programs and services during non-school hours.
 - Community schools and centers are strategically located within the service area.

Section 3 – Definitions and Standards

- When used in combination with a full-service recreation center located in the same service area, community schools and centers provide an effective mechanism for the delivery of recreation services and programs at the community and neighborhood level.
- ***Special Areas and Facilities***
 - Special areas and facilities generally serve a single focused activity or user group.
 - Special areas are locations that generally have a particular theme or purpose, such as Officers’ Row in Vancouver.
 - Special facilities are amenities that reside within a park, such as a boat launch.
 - Recreation facilities are large activity centers, such as the Battle Ground Senior Center.
 - They have no minimum or maximum size.
 - Support facilities may be included, such as restrooms or parking.
 - These facilities may stand alone—such as the senior center—or they may be recreational amenities that reside within an existing park or special area, such as a tennis court or ballfield complex.

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Existing Areas and Facilities

City of Battle Ground Inventory

Introduction

This section identifies the various recreation sites—land and facilities—that are located in or near the Battle Ground area. Each listing includes the facility name, category (e.g., regional park, special facility), neighborhood service area (NSA), number physical location, size, and management agency.

The City of Battle Ground owns approximately 184 acres of parkland located on 35 parcels within the City limits. Approximately 66 acres of these lands consist of wetland areas and creek corridors. Several small open space parcels associated with subdivision developments are also included in City ownership. Eight park sites, shown on Figure 3.1 and listed below, make up the remaining acres of the City’s parkland. These include five new parks that were added to the City’s inventory since 1997.

Parks dedicated before 1997:

- Central Park (.50 acres)
- Fairgrounds Park (5.59 acres)
- Kiwanis Park (8.16 acres)

Parks dedicated after 1997:

- Florence Robison Park (5.57 acres)
- Gardner Oaks Park (12.89 acres)
- Hidden Glen (3.56 acres)
- Lindberg Park (2.3 acres)
- Parkview Trails Property (2.1 acres)
- Remy Property (79.48 acres)

Central, Fairgrounds, Florence Robison, Kiwanis, Hidden Glen Park, Lindberg, and Parkview Trails property are either developed or partially developed for active recreation uses. Gardner Oaks and the Remy Property are currently undeveloped. Additional upland was combined with the 2.4 acre Woodin Creek open space to create Hidden Glen Park. The 2003 *Parks Improvement Plan* discusses and prioritizes park development projects for these parks to meet the needs of the growing population for active recreation activities. Potential development projects are discussed in more detail in the Demand and Needs Analysis section. In addition to parks, the City also has an inventory of urban open space, conservation areas, and greenways to provide areas of passive recreation and wildlife habitat.

Parks

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Central Park

Category: Neighborhood Park/Special Facility
NSA: 8
Location: West of Woodin Creek between Main & East 1st Street
Size: ½ Acre
Agency: City of Battle Ground

Central Park is a small, one-half acre site, located in the center of the older part of Battle Ground on East Main Street. The park has recently been improved and developed. There is a great sense of community pride associated with this park and the recent completion of improvements there. The park is considered to be one of the community’s gems as a centrally located civic open space. The park currently provides benches and seating areas, paved pathways, landscaping, gardens, lawn area, public art, and interpretive/historic signs.

Fairgrounds Park

Category: Community/Special Facility
NSA: 15
Location: 1012 East Main Street
Size: 5.59 acres
Agency: City of Battle Ground

Fairgrounds Park is 5.59 acres in size and is located at the corner of Main Street and NE Fairgrounds Avenue at the east end of Battle Ground adjacent to the Lewis and Clark Railroad. The site currently contains a mix of older buildings and shelters, 3 baseball fields with backstop and sideline areas, outfield fencing, three additional baseball fields with backstops only, and a Park and Ride. The buildings on site house activities and also function as storage areas. There is a picnic shelter and concession stand, as well as restrooms. The parking and circulation area is unpaved with drainage issues. Although the park is being maintained as well as possible given available funding and resources, the overall condition of the buildings and site features indicate a need for improvements, upgrading and renovation.

The park is the home of Battle Ground Harvest Days and is viewed by Battle Ground citizens as *the* gathering place for the community. Though it was once the Clark County Fairgrounds, the fair outgrew the site, and now the park has become a community resource where all kinds of activities take place throughout the year. Fairgrounds Park provides facilities for a variety of community events including Harvest Days, the Balloon Festival, and Halloween Fun Fest. With its close proximity to downtown Battle Ground, this park could play a vital role in the sustainability of the historical aspect of the town and the anticipated construction of a new train depot for the Battle Ground, Yacolt, and Chelatchie Prairie Train, also creating a potential tourism attraction. Other activities and uses that occur on the site include the festival building, “Lion’s Den,” 4-H building, and Harvest Days facilities. Community representatives also build a float for the Rose Festival at this location each year.

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Florence Robison Park

Category: Neighborhood
NSA: 3
Location: NW 9th Street
Size: 5.57 acres
Agency: City of Battle Ground

Florence Robison Park is a 5.57 acre site located on NW 9th Street, which has been developed as part of a new subdivision in that area. Though this park is already developed, there are a few additional items that could be added to further enhance its recreational value. Currently this park contains unpaved pathways, benches, and other improvements. A proposed play area and sports court will be constructed in the near future.

Gardner Oaks Park

Category: Neighborhood
NSA: 9
Location: 10th Street
Size: 12.89 acres
Agency: City of Battle Ground

This 12.89-acre park is located on State Route 503 (10th) and has not yet been developed for public use. An old grove of oak trees is a distinguishing feature of this site, which enabled its purchase through funding from the Conservation Futures grant program. Gardner Oaks also provides an important opportunity for a link to the planned city wide trail system. Currently, a drainage ditch traverses the site. Several utility features, including a well and sewer pump station, are located on the site and would need to be protected as part of site development.

Hidden Glen Park

Category: Neighborhood/Urban Open Space
NSA: 10
Location: Intersection of 5th Street & Woodin Creek
Size: 3.56 acres
Agency: City of Battle Ground

Additional land was added to the Woodin Creek Urban Open Space to create Hidden Glen Park. This a 3.56 acre park is accessible from SE Fifth Circle. The park is currently used for access through the neighborhood and passive recreation activities. Existing improvements include picnic tables, a paved walking path, as well as unimproved trails, and a bridge over Woodin Creek. Currently, Hidden Glen Park has only been partially developed. “Hidden” Glen lives up to its name, because it is likely that many residents who live adjacent to this park do not even realize that it is a public park owned by the City.

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Kiwanis Park

Category: Neighborhood
NSA: 9
Location: SW 2nd Avenue & SW 4th Street
Size: 8.16 acres
Agency: City of Battle Ground

Kiwanis Park is an existing developed park in the heart of Battle Ground. It is located in a heavily developed residential area south of Main Street and west of Parkway Avenue and is accessible from 2nd Avenue. The park provides a variety of day-use recreation facilities. These include children's play equipment, a hard-surface play court with two basketball hoops, five picnic tables (three with concrete pads), three benches, eight horseshoe pits (four covered), open play fields, off-street parking with 26 spaces, a community building with attached shelter, and restrooms. The park is equipped with five additional concrete picnic table pads and hard-surfaced trails extend through the east part of the park.

Lindberg Park

Category: Neighborhood
NSA: 11
Location: 199th Street & 4th Street
Size: 2.3 Acres
Agency: City of Battle Ground

Lindberg Park is a 2.3-acre site located at 199th Street and 4th Street. This park has recently been developed as part of a new subdivision in that area. The amenities in the park currently include: benches, picnic tables, trail, play structure, bike racks, and an open grass field area.

Parkview Trails Property

Category: Neighborhood
NSA: 2
Location: NW 10th Street & NW 25th Avenue
Size: 2.1 Acres
Agency: City of Battle Ground

Parkview Trails property is a 2.1-acre site located at NW 10th Street and 25th Avenue, which has been recently developed as part of a new subdivision in that area. Currently this park contains two park benches, one picnic table, an open grass field area, one large play structure, and one tot structure.

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Remy Property

Category: Community/Regional
NSA: 19
Location: SE 20th Avenue
Size: 79.48 acres
Agency: City of Battle Ground

Located on SE 20th Avenue, the Remy property is comprised of a 79.48-acre site that was most recently a farm. During its use as farmland, drain tiles were installed to dry the originally wet ground. About 50 percent of this property would be considered wetlands. The last wetland report was completed in 1999. Currently, this City-owned parcel houses equipment utilized by the Public Works Department. There is no park development on the site. Residential and agricultural buildings exist on the site as a result of its prior use.

Regional Parks outside the Urban Growth Area

Battle Ground Lake State Park

Category: Regional
Location: 18002 NE 249th Street
Size: 280 acres

Battle Ground Lake State Park is located 2.0 miles northeast of Battle Ground. Twenty-eight acre Battle Ground Lake, an ancient caldera that has filled with water, is located in the center of the park. The park provides a variety of day-use and overnight facilities.

Lewisville Park/Camp Julianna

Category: Regional/Special Facility
Location: Lewisville Highway (SR503)—one mile north of Battle Ground
Size: 152 acres/90 acres

Initially developed by WPA crews in the 1930s, Lewisville Park is located one mile north of Battle Ground on the East Fork of the Lewis River. The park provides a variety of day-uses.

Open Space Inventory

Urban Open Space

Category: Urban Open Space
Total Size: 0.93 acres
Location: Lewisville Meadows, Winchester Ranch, Clover Meadows
Agency: City of Battle Ground

Battle Ground Urban Open Space, their location and acreage are:

- Lewisville Meadows (0.14 acres), NW 3rd Way;
- Winchester Ranch (0.56 acres), SW 24th Avenue; and
- Clover Meadows (0.47 acres), SE 13th Street.

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Conservation Areas and Greenways

Category: Conservation Areas and Greenways
Location: See Below
Total Size: 66.03 acres
Agency: City of Battle Ground

Greenways are similar to conservation areas, but are typically long, relatively narrow lands which follow roads, creeks, ridges, ravines, and other natural or transportation corridors. Conservation and greenway systems serve various functions, including protection of environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitat, wildlife viewing, environmental education, and trails. The Battle Ground Conservation Areas, their location and acreage are:

- Parkview Trails (21.02 acres), NW 20th Avenue and NW 29th Avenue;
- Lewisville Meadows Areas (16.16 acres), NW 3rd Way;
- Horsethief Canyon Areas (7.38 acres), SW 11th Street/SW 23rd Avenue;
- Robyn Wood Areas (5.72 acres), SW 24th Avenue, SW 4th Street;
- Crestwood Meadows Areas (4.63 acres), NW Onsdorff Boulevard;
- Melrose Park Areas (4.18 acres), NW Onsdorff Boulevard;
- Quail Hollow Areas (2.89 acres), SE Rasmussen Boulevard;
- Hidden Creek Area (2.48 acres), SE 5th Circle;
- Woodin Run Area (1.35 acres), SE 18th Street; and
- Creekview Pointe Area (0.57 acres), SE 2nd Avenue.

Trails

Lewis and Clark Railroad Trail Corridor

Category: Trails
Location: Vancouver Lake to Chelatchie Prairie
Size: 26 Miles
Agency: Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation

Acquired in 1985, the Lewis and Clark Railroad right-of-way extends diagonally through the county from Vancouver Lake to Chelatchie Prairie extending through the City of Battle Ground on the east side and borders Fairgrounds Park. Identified as one of the five top priority “natural corridor” trails in Clark County, it was acquired both for commercial transportation uses and as a trail corridor. The corridor connects Battle Ground Lake State Park, Lucia Falls Park, Moulton Falls Park, and many other major recreation sites.

Schools

The BGSD serves more than 11,000 students within the Battle Ground UGA and rural Clark County. Boundaries include the towns of Brush Prairie, Yacolt, Amboy and Battle Ground. The district includes six primary schools, five middle schools and three high schools. The BGSD also has Homelink for home-school families and the Center for Agriculture, Science, and Environmental Education. The district is governed by a five-member citizen school board and advised at the local level by site-based councils (Program Delivery Councils) in each school.

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Individual public schools include Battle Ground High School, Maple Grove Primary and Middle Schools, Lewisville Middle School, Chief Umtuch and Captain Strong Elementary Schools, HomeLink and HomeLink River, and Cam Jr/Sr High School. The total average enrollment for the 2002-2003 school year was 6,587 students.

Table 3.2

School	Grades	2002-2003 Enrollment
Battle Ground High School	9-12	2,014
Lewisville Middle School	6-8	736
Captain Strong Elementary	3-5	703
Chief Umtuch Elementary	K-2	645
Maple Grove Middle School	6-8	671
Maple Grove Elementary	K-5	808
HomeLink	K-8	217
HomeLink River	K-12	335
CAM	6-12	458

The Battle Ground School Campuses provide a variety of recreation opportunities for area residents. Facilities include play courts, soccer fields, baseball fields, football stadium and track, open play meadows, and children’s play equipment. The general public can utilize school-based recreation facilities during non-school hours. In addition, the Battle Ground School Board has adopted policies that allow organizations to reserve and rent school buildings, playgrounds, and athletic fields. Currently, both youth soccer and baseball groups utilize the rental/reservation opportunity. Schools have been identified as possible partners in increasing the available recreation and open space needs for the community. The inventory of available land for recreation on school property in the Battle Ground UGA is listed below.

Battle Ground Schools Main Campus

- Captain Strong Elementary
- Chief Umtuch Elementary
- Lewisville Middle

Battle Ground High School

Category: School
 NSA: 7
 Location: 416 West Main Street (High School Address)
 Size: 50 acres
 Agency: Battle Ground School District

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

The main campus of the Battle Ground School District serves students in grades K-12. Approximately 35 acres of the campus consist of open space and developed recreational facilities. Outdoor recreation facilities include a variety of sports fields and active and passive play areas. These include soccer fields, baseball fields, children’s play equipment, and hard-surfaced play courts with basketball standards. The high school campus includes six tennis courts, a lighted football stadium and track, four one-wall handball courts, and various practice and multi-purpose athletic fields.

Maple Grove School Campus

Category: School
NSA: 9
Location: 12500 NE 199th Street
Size: 20 acres
Agency: Battle Ground School District

The Maple Grove Primary and Elementary Schools serve students in grades K-8. Approximately ten acres of the campus consist of open field areas and approximately three acres consist of hard-surfaced play areas. Playground facilities include a swings, slides, other children’s play apparatuses, a fitness circuit, basketball standards, and sand volleyball courts (middle school).

Special Facilities

Daybreak

Category: Special Facility
Location: NE 82nd Avenue at Daybreak Bridge
Size: 35 acres
Agency: Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department

The Daybreak Special Facility is a popular fishing and water-access site located approximately four miles northwest of Battle Ground via NE 72nd/82nd Avenue and Daybreak Road. The special facility includes a boat launch and day-use area. The boat launch, a joint project of Clark County and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, includes a launch, restroom, 36 parking slots (28 for car/trailer), four picnic tables, and informational signing. The day-use area includes children’s play equipment, eight picnic tables, restroom, off-street parking for 63 cars, and a caretaker’s residence. The day-use area provides extensive shoreline access.

Durkee Environmental/Recreation Area

Category: Special Facility
Location: NE 219th Street—one mile east of Battle Ground
Size: 35 acres
Agency: Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department

This 35-acre property, located near Tukes Mountain, is undeveloped and has been designated for passive recreation, outdoor education, and open space. Proposed facilities include viewpoints, picnic areas, and interpretive shelter. The north and west sides of the property are forested with

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Douglas fir and cedar; the site also supports an old holly orchard. The remainder of the property consists of improved pasture, with moderately hilly topography. The site encompasses the headwaters of a small tributary to Salmon Creek.

Cedars Golf Course

Category: Special Facility
NSA: Special Study Area 1
Location: 15001 NE 181st Street
Size: NA
Agency: Private

Cedars Golf Course is a privately owned facility located one mile south of the City of Battle Ground. The facility provides a full-size, 18-hole golf course, two putting greens, a driving range with grass tees, and clubhouse. The golf course is open to the public on a fee basis. In addition, lessons are available from staff.

Prairie Field

Category: Special Facility
Location: 14500 NE 137th Avenue
Size: 18 acres
Agency: Prairie Field Association (Private/Nonprofit)

This ball field complex is located approximately one mile south of Battle Ground. The facility primarily serves adult slow-pitch softball. (Little League teams sometimes utilize the fields for practice when this does not conflict with softball.) Amenities include six softball fields, four batting cages (two baseball/two softball), a concession stand, 20 RV hookups, an open camping area which accommodates about 200 tents, restrooms, washers, dryers, showers, and off-street parking.

Other Park and Recreation Areas

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department

The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department now manages a combined inventory of approximately 6,025 acres of park and open space lands. These lands are divided into eight categories: regional parks, trails, conservation and greenway systems, wildlife habitat, special facilities, community parks, neighborhood parks, and urban open space.

Special facilities include the Vancouver Tennis and Racquetball Center and the Rudy Luepke Senior Center. Recreation programming is provided directly by department staff. Most facilities and services are intended to serve the urban population. Columbia River Renaissance Trail and Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway also address regional needs. Some of the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation facilities just outside the Battle Ground UGA are listed below.

Lucia Falls Park

Category: Regional

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Location: Lucia Falls Road—2.5 miles east of Heisson Bridge (Entrance)
Size: 55 acres
Agency: Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department

Lucia Falls Park is located approximately six miles northeast of Battle Ground on the East Fork of the Lewis River. The park encompasses both sides of the river and Lucia Falls is centrally located within the property. Historically, the property on the north side of the East Fork was operated for over 60 years as a private park and was one of the most popular fishing areas for salmon and steelhead in southwest Washington. (Today, the areas immediately above and below the falls are closed to fishing.) Improvements include trails, picnic sites, restrooms, and off-street parking.

Moulton Falls Park

Category: Regional
Location: Lucia Falls Road—5 miles east of Heisson Bridge
Size: 354 acres
Agency: Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department

Moulton Falls Park is located approximately eight miles northeast of Battle Ground on the East Fork of the Lewis River. Moulton and Big Tree Creek Falls are both located within park boundaries. A 27-acre day-use recreation area has been developed at the upstream end of the property. Moulton Falls Park is a popular location for swimming, fishing, hiking, and picnicking.

East Fork Lewis River Greenway

Category: Conservation Area/Greenway
Location: Entrance points include La Center Bottoms, Lucia Falls, Moulton Falls
Size: 1,032 acres
Agency: Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department

This greenway includes various waterfront properties that extend from Paradise Point to Daybreak Park. These properties are part of an interconnected, 10-mile greenway system on the East Fork Lewis (1032-acres). The area provides state-designated priority habitat for large concentrations of migratory waterfowl, wintering bald eagles, and high-quality riparian habitat.

Bells Mountain Trail

Category: Trails/Regional
Location: NE Lucia Falls Road—5 miles east of Heisson Bridge
Size: 7.5 linear miles
Agency: Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department

This 7.5-mile hard-surfaced, shared-use trail serves hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. It extends from Moulton Falls Park to the Department of Natural Resource's Cold Creek Campground and connects to Lucia Falls Trail on the East Fork of the Lewis River. Trailheads are located at Hantwick Road off NE Lucia Falls Road and Moulton Falls Park.

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Other Cities and Towns

There are seven other incorporated cities in Clark County: Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, Ridgefield, La Center, Yacolt, and part of Woodland, which overlaps Clark and Cowlitz Counties. Each City provides its own park facilities. These facilities are intended to serve City residents; however, they occasionally serve a regional need. For example, both Camas and Washougal have been active in acquiring open space lands in the Washougal River Greenway, and Camas owns portions of and manages the 3.5-mile Lacamas Heritage Trail.

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

In Clark County, the department manages four wildlife and public hunting areas. These areas include: Jenny Creek (20 acres located 3/4 mile north of La Center), Pigeon Springs (127 acres located on Cedar Creek west of Amboy), Vancouver Lake (477 acres on La Frambois Road at the south end of Vancouver Lake), and Shillapoo (1,684 acres between Lower River Road and SR501 west of Vancouver Lake). In addition, the department has developed boat launches and public access areas on many of the areas lakes and rivers. These include, for example, Daybreak Boat Launch on the East Fork of the Lewis River that was developed through a partnership between Clark County and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the largest public landowner in Clark County. DNR's most extensive land holdings cover about 60,000 acres within the 73,000-acre Yacolt Multiple Use Area (YMUA). The YMUA lies in eastern Clark County and Skamania County. Recreational opportunities include fishing, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, off-road vehicle use, and motorcycle riding. DNR has developed eight camping and/or picnic areas within the Multiple Use Area, six of which are located in Clark County.

DNR also manages Caterpillar Island and the Woodland Special Campground for the handicapped. Caterpillar Island is located in the Columbia River four miles northwest of downtown Vancouver. Access is by boat only and facilities include four picnic sites. The Woodland Special Campground is located three miles east of Woodland on County Road 38. Facilities include 10 camp sites, five picnic sites, trails, and playground equipment.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission owns and manages four park sites in Clark County: Battle Ground Lake, Paradise Point, Reed Island, and Wormald. Total property holdings in Clark County are 1,044 acres. Of these, three are in general proximity to Battle Ground (Battle Ground Lake, Paradise Point, Wormald).

Facilities at Battle Ground Lake State Park were described previously. Paradise Point State Park encompasses 96 acres and 6,180 feet of freshwater shoreline on the East Fork of the Lewis River immediately east of Interstate 5. Facilities include 70 drive-to camp sites, nine walk-in camp sites, swimming beach, picnic tables, trails and a primitive boat launch. Paradise Point State Park is located at the downstream end of the Lower Lewis River Greenway System. This system encompasses almost 2,000 acres and includes ten miles of shoreline on the East Fork Lewis.

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Land managers include state parks, WDFW, Clark County, and private conservation groups. Wormald State Park encompasses 160 acres. The park is located near the East Fork of the Lewis River, east of Moulton Falls, and is undeveloped. Wormald is surrounded by private property and access is walk-in only.

US Forest Service

Approximately 1,180 acres of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest are located within Clark County. The majority of the National Forest is located east and north of Clark County and extends from the Columbia River to Mount Rainier. Overall, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest contains 1,366,000 acres and includes the 110,000-acre Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Forest Service lands provide a variety of recreational opportunities including camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and snowmobiling.

National Park Service

The National Park Service operates and maintains the 209-acre Fort Vancouver National Historic Site located in Vancouver near the Columbia River. The fort was established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1824 and was the earliest Euro-American settlement in Clark County. A visitor center has been built and portions of the fort have been reconstructed. The National Park Service also maintains parade grounds and a play area.

US Fish & Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, located on the Columbia River in northwest Clark County. The refuge covers 5,149 acres and is the largest wildlife preserve in the county. The refuge includes a wide range of habitats, including emergent, scrub/shrub, and forested wetlands, and riparian and upland forests. Some parts of the refuge are leased for crop production and managed to support wildlife species such as Canada geese and sandhill cranes. While some parts of the refuge are closed to public access, other areas provide a variety of recreation opportunities. These include wildlife observation, hiking, environmental education, fishing, and seasonal waterfowl hunting in designated public hunting areas. A 1.5-mile nature trail extends through the "Carty Unit" at the north end of the refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also manages the 974-acre Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge located on the Columbia River east of the Port of Camas/Washougal Industrial Park.

Private and Nonprofit

Private recreation facilities exist throughout Clark County. They provide a wide range of recreation activities generally on a membership or fee basis. For example, the Cedars Golf Course is open to the public on a fee basis. This facility provides a full-size, 18-hole golf course, driving range, putting greens, and pro shop. The private recreation industry influences recreation planning by providing needed facilities, thereby easing the burden on public recreation facilities. However, when these facilities are not available for general public use, they are not considered in the overall assessment of public demand and need.

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Nonprofit organizations provide a variety of recreation facilities in Clark County. These facilities are typically dedicated to a single use, such as baseball or soccer, and are reserved for the teams and leagues that developed them. When located on park land, these facilities are available to the public when not in use by the nonprofit organization. The Salmon Creek Sports Complex north of Hazel Dell is an example.

In addition, private land trusts are becoming increasingly involved in Clark County with the acquisition, preservation, and stewardship of habitat and open space lands.

Special Partnership Facilities

Clark County Fairgrounds

The Clark County Fairgrounds is located west of Interstate 5 near the I-5/179th Street interchange. Clark County owns the fairgrounds. Through a contract with the county, a committee consisting of representatives from the county and the Clark County Fair Association Board of Directors manages all events at the fairgrounds. Existing facilities include a stage and grandstand, equestrian center, commercial and exposition buildings, community center, animal barns, fair offices, and storage facilities. (In November 1998, Clark County signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a private vendor for the construction of an 18,000-seat amphitheater.) Recent events at the fairgrounds range from the fair itself to many other educational, agricultural, and entertainment-oriented activities. These include animal shows, the Home and Garden Idea Fair, 4-H and Future Farmers functions, community meetings, company picnics, and business fairs and trade shows. A master plan, completed in 1995, helps to guide improvements to grounds and facilities.

Tri-Mountain Golf Course

Clark County is the owner of the Tri-Mountain Golf Course, located immediately east of the I-5 corridor and south of NW 299th Street. Golf Resources Northwest, a private management company, manages the golf course under agreement with Clark County. The golf course covers 18 holes, with a putting green and driving range. Other facilities include a restaurant, clubhouse, pro shop, and banquet room.

English Pit Shooting Range

The English Pit Shooting Range is a special facility owned by Clark County and managed under lease by the Vancouver Wildlife League. The facility includes five ranges: pistol, small bore, sighting-in (25 yards), rifle/black powder (50 yards), and rifle (100 yards). Operating hours and days vary with the time of year and season. A small annual membership fee is charged to cover operating costs, plus a per-visit fee. The shooting range is located immediately west of SE 192nd Avenue, about one-half mile south of SE 18th Street.

Harmony Sports Complex

The Harmony Sports Complex is a special facility owned by Clark County and managed by the Harmony Sports Association. The existing site covers 40 acres, with plans to expand at the current location. The sports complex provides opportunities for soccer, Little League, and youth softball. The site is located at the corner of SE 18th Street and 192nd Avenue.

Section 4 – Existing Areas and Facilities

Grist Mill

The historic Cedar Creek Grist Mill was built in 1876 and restored in 1989 as a centennial project. It is the only 19th century grist mill still operating in Washington State. The mill is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is situated immediately upstream of an updated (higher and wider) covered, authentic timber-truss bridge—the only one in Clark County. The new bridge was built in 1995. The 11.8 acre site is currently owned by the Washington State Fish & Wildlife Department and leased to the Friends of the Cedar Creek Grist Mill until April 30, 2001. The site also functions as a fish-monitoring site. The creek has a fish ladder built in the 60s-70s. Clark County will continue discussions with WDFW, the leaseholder, and interested parties to clarify options for long-term ownership and management of the site.

Special Study Area

Camp Bonneville

Camp Bonneville is a 3,000+ acre federal military training facility located in southeast Clark County. In 1995, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission selected Camp Bonneville for transfer and reuse. In compliance with federal guidelines, the Clark County Board of Commissioners adopted in September 1998 a draft reuse plan for the site. The plan includes a 1,000-acre regional park, a retreat center/outdoor school, and approximately 2,000 acres for trails and nature areas. Law enforcement, cultural, and educational facilities are also identified in the plan. The Department of the Army must approve the county's reuse plan. If the plan is approved, studies of the feasibility and costs of removing unexploded ordinance from the site will govern transfer of the facility to local agencies. Camp Bonneville provides an important opportunity for meeting regional parks needs in Clark County and is considered a high priority for regional park acquisition in the Capital Improvements Program.

Section 5 – Public Involvement

Public Involvement

Introduction

Battle Ground's *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan* is a community-based plan. Public participation and input guided the plan's development and created the foundation for its goals, objectives, and project priorities.

Public involvement activities that helped shape this plan included:

- the public involvement process from the 2003 *Parks Improvement Plan* with public surveys, public meetings, stakeholder and group meetings, website postings, mailings and traveling displays;
- the 1997 plan adoption process, which included public meetings, workshops, and a public environmental review; and
- information from existing community-based plans and the public processes that shaped these.

Existing Community-Based Plans

Development of Battle Ground's 2004 *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan* was shaped by public input received as part of many previous park and recreation planning efforts in Battle Ground and Clark County:

- 2003 *City of Battle Ground Parks Improvement Plan*,*
- 2001 *City of Battle Ground Interim Comprehensive Plan Policies*,*
- 2000 *Framing a Community Vision for Open Space in Vancouver and Clark County*,
- 2000 *Clark County Regional Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan*,
- 1999 *City of Battle Ground Wetlands Management Framework Plan*,
- 1998 *Clark County Sports Field Master Plan*,
- 1997 *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Update*,*
- 1997 *Lewis & Clark Railroad Study*,
- 1995 *Urban Wildlife Habitat Plan*,
- 1995 *Battle Ground Comprehensive Land Use Plan*,
- 1992 *Clark County Trails and Bikeway System Plan*,
- 1979 *Battle Ground Parks Master Plan Study*, and
- 1977 *Battle Ground Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan*.

* These plans were referenced the most extensively in the development of this 2004 plan update.

Parks Planning Public Involvement

The public involvement activities associated with the parks plans that have been referenced most extensively as the basis for this 2004 plan update are described below. The public involvement process for the 2003 *Parks Improvement Plan* was the most recent public outreach done to assess park, recreation, and open space needs within the community. A 27-member citizens steering

Section 5 – Public Involvement

committee, the Parks Improvement Committee (PIC), led a rigorous public participation process to ensure that the plan was a community-based analysis of parks and recreation needs and priorities within Battle Ground. In addition, future development and acquisition needs and priorities were identified from the public outreach and planning process for the 1997 *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan* and the 2001 *Interim Comprehensive Plan Policies*. The goals, objectives, and actions these plans were incorporated into this updated plan.

2003 Parks Improvement Plan

Since the City's ownership of park lands and its general population growth since the 1997 plan was adopted, there was a need for more detailed planning to define a potential parks improvement program. The City Council agreed that a *Parks Improvement Plan* should be developed. Information in the 1997 plan, including the results of public meetings and surveys, served as an important resource in the development of the *Parks Improvement Plan*. This 2004 update to the 1997 plan incorporates the parks improvement program and budget estimates developed as part of the *Parks Improvement Plan*.

The PIC worked with the consultant team to ensure that the plan was a community-based analysis of parks and recreation needs and priorities. The PIC, City staff, and consultant team worked together in a series of meetings to develop this plan. In addition to continuous interactions with the PIC, several community outreach activities were conducted to engage the public-at-large, including a week-long series of workshops.

The 27-member PIC included a broad diversity of community interests:

- Battle Ground Parks Advisory Board Members,
- Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce,
- Battle Ground School District,
- “The Bridge” Youth Organization,
- Highlands Little League,
- Battle Ground Little League,
- Battle Ground Youth Soccer and Other Soccer Representatives,
- Battle Ground Community Education,
- Planning Commission Members,
- City Council Members,
- Boy Scouts of America,
- Fort Vancouver Regional Library,
- Youth Representatives/Skateboarding Enthusiasts,
- Senior Citizens,
- Battle Ground, Yacolt, Chelatchie Prairie Railroad, and
- Citizens-at-Large.

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PIC representatives worked with the consultant team and City staff to develop concept plans, analyze potential costs, and identify community priorities. From their various backgrounds, PIC members were able to bring unique and diverse viewpoints to the process.

A week-long series of workshop sessions were held during the week of March 24, 2003, at Kiwanis Park in Battle Ground. A series of two-hour workshop sessions were held each day, focusing on different interest groups from the community. The project team engaged each community group in discussion about needs, issues, opportunities, and ideas related to potential enhancement and development of Battle Ground parks. The discussion focused on seven park sites, but ideas and suggestions for other areas of the City were also recorded. Input received was documented through comment sheets and flip chart notes. In some cases, follow-up phone calls were made to confirm information received and to get additional input from groups and individuals who could not attend the workshops sessions.

The participating groups included:

- Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce,
- Battle Ground Community Library,
- Friends of the Library,
- Garden Club,
- Highlands Little League,
- Columbia Youth Soccer Federation,
- Battle Ground School District,
- Battle Ground Community Education Program,
- 4-H,
- Battle Ground Float Committee,
- Battle Ground Art Alliance,
- Battle Ground Kiwanis,
- Battle Ground Neighborhood Association,
- The Bridge Youth Program,
- Rock Solid Teen Center,
- Lions Club,
- Rotary Club, and
- other special interest groups and citizens.

During the workshop week, schools in Battle Ground were visited to engage students of different age levels in the process. Students from classrooms at Captain Strong Elementary, Lewisville Middle School, and Battle Ground High School were all asked about what they would like to see developed in their community's parks. In some cases, students created drawings that showed their ideas and visions for Battle Ground parks. Examples of these drawings are shown on the divider pages of this plan. At the high school level, the most popular interest was development of a skate park.

Section 5 – Public Involvement

A community “Meet and Greet” event was held on May 17, 2003 at the Fred Meyer in Battle Ground. The goal of this event was to raise awareness of the *Parks Improvement Plan* development process and to receive comments and encourage members of the community to get involved. Display boards were developed to illustrate park design concepts to “Meet and Greet” passersby. Many people expressed support and enthusiasm for the park improvement ideas displayed.

Along with the ongoing involvement of the PIC, involvement of the public-at-large was important to broaden awareness of the planning process and gain further input on concepts being developed for Battle Ground parks. A public meeting was held during the workshop week in March of 2003 to gain input on parks improvement opportunities and ideas for each of the seven park sites, as well as the general community. A public open house was held in May of 2003 to display the conceptual plans for each park and gain a sense of community priorities. Meeting announcements for these events were mailed to all residents within the City limits. These meetings were also announced/advertised in the local paper, *The Reflector*.

In addition to the public workshops and meetings, flyers, posters, and published articles helped increase the community awareness and interest in the *Parks Improvement Plan* development process. A traveling display of the parks improvement concept plans was created and exhibited at meetings and locations throughout the community. The display traveled throughout the community during the plan adoption process. In addition, signs installed at each park ask viewers what improvements they would like to see at the park and encourage the public to get involved by contacting City staff and/or accessing the City’s webpage related to the *Parks Improvement Plan*.

One of the outcomes of the planning process was identification of priorities for park improvements. The understanding gained through this process will help guide further capital facilities planning and this 2004 update of the parks plan project prioritization.

Prioritization within the *Parks Improvement Plan* was determined by the PIC in a special exercise, where committee members “purchased” parks improvement items they would like to see implemented with “Battle Ground Parks Bucks.” Each committee member was given \$12,000,000 to spend on improvements throughout the existing park sites. Committee members used careful discretion in how they spent their parks budget and tended to think about the needs of the community-at-large. There was a tendency to spread prioritization of improvements throughout the community, rather than concentrate them at any one park. A second prioritization exercise was conducted at a public open house. Participants were instructed to place these dots next to the elements they would like to see built. This exercise was much less formal and not fiscally constrained. Since participants were not limited by budget constraints, but rather by the number of dots they were given, they tended to put all of their dots on the items they were most interested in as individuals.

Section 5 – Public Involvement

Members of the Parks Advisory Board (PAB) participated in the PIC meetings. The full PAB was briefed periodically during the planning process. At a PAB meeting in September of 2003, the outcomes of the draft plan were presented. The PAB's official role was to oversee adoption of the *Parks Improvement Plan* through City Council. The prioritization processes of the *Parks Improvement Plan* and subsequent meetings with the PAB and City Council directly shaped the priorities of this 2004 plan update (see Section 9).

2001 Battle Ground Interim Comprehensive Plan Policies

Over several months in late 2001, the Planning Commission worked toward the creation of draft goals, objectives, and actions for each element of the comprehensive plan. These drafts were presented to City Council periodically during the course of the Commission work. Several methods were used to solicit public comment for the interim policies including a 30-day public comment period, numerous public workshops and two formal public hearings in October and November of 2001. In December of 2001, the Interim policies were adopted by resolution.

2000 Clark County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan

Several methods were employed as part of the 2000 parks plan to solicit public opinion about the needs and priorities for regional park facilities in Clark County. Battle Ground residents were also involved in these efforts. A statistically reliable survey of the community's attitudes and priorities related to acquisition and development of regional parks, recreation, and open space facilities and areas was conducted. Telephone interviews were conducted with 400 randomly-selected residents throughout Clark County during August and September of 1999. A separate survey, composed of fewer questions, was posted on the county's Internet site and distributed at public meetings.

Five public meetings were held at locations throughout the county to allow citizens the opportunity to ask questions, submit ideas, and make recommendations about the future of the county's regional system of parks and open spaces. Each meeting was well advertised with public notices, paid advertisements, direct mail, and letters to the editor. Participation varied among locations, with a total attendance of 52. In the meeting held in Battle Ground, the needs identified during this meeting varied widely. The need for sports fields, especially for youth, was seen as critical. Many respondents suggested that efforts to acquire land for parks in the City should be increased, although the opportunity may already be lost. Partnering with Clark County and looking outside the City for parkland was discussed, as was the importance of conserving natural areas and systems, such as wetlands, and the benefits they provide.

More than 20 interviews were held with representatives from federal, state, and local agencies that provide parks and open space facilities in Clark County, as well as from agencies responsible for water quality, wildlife preservation, and timber management. Information gathered from these interviews provided an important perspective of the community's park and open space needs. The interview process also offered an opportunity to discuss service delivery,

Section 5 – Public Involvement

partnership opportunities, project and program priorities, and implementation and management strategies.

Telephone Survey Results

Top activities identified were:

- hiking or walking with 78 percent individual participation and 84 percent household participation;
- picnicking (66 percent and 69 percent);
- wildlife observation (49 percent and 51 percent);
- camping (47 percent and 51 percent); and
- swimming (45 percent and 57 percent) completed the top activities.

The county's 1992 parks survey identified these same top activities, in the same order, but with higher individual and household participation. Bicycling and fishing ranked sixth and seventh, the reverse of the 1992 survey.

A list of the top six most needed facility, project, improvement or program in the parks and recreation system were:

- swimming pools (26 percent)—the same ranking found in the county's 1992 parks survey;
- more parks in general (19 percent);
- more hiking/walking trails (13 percent);
- new and renovated sports fields (13 percent);
- bike trails (11 percent); and
- more playgrounds for children (10 percent).

Respondents ranked the importance of park and recreation services and facilities to the quality of life in Clark County as a “5-very important” by 67 percent of survey respondents up from 52 percent in the county's 1992 parks survey. And another 25 percent of respondents ranked the importance of parks as “4.” When these two rankings are combined, 92 percent or nine out of every ten survey respondents believed park and recreation services and facilities are important to Clark County's quality of life.

Overall safety and security of parks and recreation facilities in Clark County was ranked “5-excellent” by 13 percent of survey respondents—up from 8 percent in the county's 1992 parks survey. Similarly, 32 percent of survey respondents ranked safety and security as “4,” up from 22 percent in 1992.

The reasons stated for natural areas and open lands in Clark County and the corresponding rating of each was as follows:

- improved water quality (75 percent);
- protecting wildlife habitat (63 percent);
- conserving farm and rural forest lands (61 percent);
- protecting shorelines (62 percent);

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- low-intensity recreation facilities (58 percent);
- preserving historic and archeological sites (57 percent); and
- recovering threatened salmon species (51 percent).

The level of support for additional real estate excise tax dedicated to acquisition and maintenance of natural areas and open space lands were rated 55 percent in support, 29 percent in opposition and sixteen percent undecided. In 1992, support was 58 percent, opposition was 32 percent, with 10 percent undecided.

Respondents reported visiting the following regional parks at least once during the preceding 12 months:

- Vancouver's Central Park/Fort Vancouver Historic Site (61 percent),
- Lewisville Park (45 percent),
- Lacamas Lake Park (37 percent),
- Vancouver Lake Park (37 percent),
- Salmon Creek Park (31 percent),
- Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (29 percent),
- Salmon Creek Trail (27 percent), and
- Burnt Bridge Creek Trail (25 percent).

Burnt Bridge Creek Trail and the Salmon Creek Trail received the highest frequency of use by those who indicated they had visited the sites.

Continued development of park and recreation facilities and services to meet current and future needs was supported by 91 percent of survey respondents—down slightly from 93 percent in the 1992 parks survey. Purchasing land now to be set aside for future park and recreation development was supported by 85 percent of survey respondents—up from 76 percent in 1992. And 81 percent of survey respondents supported allowing local and national businesses to sponsor park facilities (and to post signs indicating sponsorship) as a way to generate additional revenue.

Support for increased taxes to acquire and develop or preserve regional parks, natural areas, open space lands, trails, and sports facilities decreased as the amount of the annual tax increased (\$10, \$20, or \$40). The highest support (77 percent) was for acquiring and developing regional parks at a cost of \$10 per year. The lowest support (37 percent) was for acquiring, and developing sports fields at a cost of \$40 per year. For all three proposed tax increases, acquiring and developing regional parks received the highest level of support, followed by acquiring and preserving natural areas and open space lands. Next was acquiring and developing hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, followed by acquiring developing sports fields.

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Clark County Vision 2000 Symposium

The “Vision 2000” open space planning symposium was held in Vancouver on March 23, 2000. More than 200 Vancouver and Clark County residents participated in the event. Individually and in groups, participants shared ideas and developed plans for the future of open space in Clark County over the next 50 to 100 years. A summary of the ideas and suggestions generated at the symposium are contained in the report “Framing a Community Vision for Open Space in Vancouver and Clark County.” The report provides a broad framework for open space planning and addresses the major areas of trails, wildlife habitat, urban parks, urban density, views and vistas, and community landscaping/vegetation.

Other Community Based Plans

Several other community based plans helped shape the *2000 Clark County Plan*. These each had their own public involvement efforts. These plans included:

- *Clark County Open Space Commission Final Report,*
- *Clark County Trails & Bikeways System Plan,*
- *Clark County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan,*
- *Clark County Sports Field Master Plan,* and
- *Clark County 20-Year Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.*

1997 Battle Ground Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Several methods were employed as part of the 1997 parks plan to solicit public opinion about the needs and priorities for park facilities in Battle Ground. Two questionnaires were used to solicit ideas and opinions about park and recreation service needs in Battle Ground. Neither survey was designed or administered to be statistically valid. Rather, they were used as an additional avenue for public participation and input. The 1996 Parks Board survey received 140 responses. Half of the respondents lived in Battle Ground and the other half were nonresidents interested in City affairs (e.g., business owners, land owners, residents of Battle Ground's UGA).

When asked to rate Battle Ground's parks respondents of the 1996 Parks Board survey replied:

- 6.87 percent rated them excellent;
- 50.38 percent rated them good;
- 76 percent rated them fair, and
- 41.98 percent rated them poor.

Respondents of the 1996 Parks Board survey were also asked to rate the most important improvements needed in Battle Ground parks. Amenities receiving the highest ratings were:

- restrooms,
- forested areas,
- drinking fountains,
- play equipment,
- sports center/swimming pool,
- fitness/walking/jogging trails, and

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- quiet family parks, and open spaces.

The 1997 Dygert & Simpson survey received 40 responses. Half of the respondents lived in Battle Ground and the other half were nonresidents interested in City affairs. When asked to rate Battle Ground's parks respondents replied:

- 5.88 percent rated them excellent;
- 32.35 percent rated them good; and
- 61.76 percent rated them poor.

Respondents of the 1997 survey were also asked to rate the most important improvements needed in Battle Ground parks. Amenities receiving the highest ratings were:

- fitness/walking/jogging trails,
- forested areas,
- quiet family parks, restrooms,
- bike trails, and open spaces,
- sports center/swimming pool,
- play equipment, and
- picnic areas.

A new question in the 1997 survey asked respondents to rate the importance of nine types of park facilities. Response results are displayed in the following table.

Table 4.1

Park Facility Importance			
Type	Not at all Important	Uncertain	Very Important
Neighborhood Parks	5.00%	7.50%	87.50%
Community Parks	5.56%	27.78%	66.67%
Urban Open Space	21.05%	28.95%	50.00%
Regional Parks	21.05%	18.42%	60.53%
Trails	2.56%	2.56%	94.87%
Sports Complexes	17.95%	25.64%	56.41%
Recreation Centers/Pools	10.53%	21.05%	68.42%
Conservation & Greenway Areas	2.63%	23.68%	73.68%
School Facilities	10.81%	18.92%	70.27%

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The Parks Committee of the Battle Ground City Council and the Battle Ground Parks Advisory Board hosted two public meetings to provide opportunities for Battle Ground residents and other interested parties to discuss park, recreation, and open space needs. Agenda items included:

- an overview of comprehensive planning;
- a slide presentation on park categories and existing facilities in the service area; and
- group discussions about park needs and issues.

The PAB and City Council Steering Committee members helped facilitate discussion groups. In addition, questionnaires were available at both public meetings. Completed questionnaires were collected at the meetings, or self-addressed stamped envelopes were provided to allow later return of surveys.

Various methods were used to advertise the meetings and encourage community participation. Meeting notices were posted at the Battle Ground City Hall, the Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce, the Battle Ground Public Library, and Meyer's Market. Press releases were sent to both print and electronic media, including the *Reflector*, *Columbian*, *Oregonian*, *Lewis River News*, KTCT Channel 25, and KVAN Radio. Meeting notices for the first meeting were printed on the face of City water bills. In addition, meeting notices for the second meeting were sent by post card to all households on the water bill mailing list. The water bill mailing list covers approximately 2,000 households.

Over 15 stakeholder interviews were conducted, including group presentations (e.g., Battle Ground Kiwanis, Battle Ground Garden Club). The stakeholder interviews were designed to allow individuals, groups, and agencies with a particular interest in park and recreation services to comment on specific issues and topics and to supplement discussion opportunities at the public meetings. Stakeholders ranged from representatives of Little League and Youth Soccer to the Park Board and Battle Ground School District.

Summary of Public Interests

Public input received during the 2003 *Parks Improvement Plan* and the 1997 parks planning processes is summarized below under the basic themes that were repeated and stated most frequently.

Quality of Life

There was general consensus that Battle Ground lacks adequate park and recreation facilities, and that rapid residential growth is increasing the deficit. Both planning and action are required to maintain Battle Ground's quality of life. The community needs to develop a “vision” of how park and recreation facilities should be provided. There is a strong interest in providing a diversity of activities and facilities for the full range of Battle Ground citizens - from children to seniors, and including in particular, junior high and high school age youth.

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Land Acquisition

Acquisition of park land was seen as a priority. As the City grows, park lands continue to be purchased in order to keep up with the increasing demand for park and recreation facilities. While the City now owns a sufficient land base of community parks to meet the combined definition-and population-based standard, land acquisition for neighborhood parks will be a continuing ongoing need.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks located close to where people live were a high priority. Adults and children should be able to safely and conveniently walk to a park in their neighborhood. Although the desirable minimum size for a neighborhood park is five acres, support was expressed for smaller neighborhood parks or “pocket” parks to serve the need for close-to-home parks. Existing neighborhood parks and “pocket” parks need additional facility development.

Community Parks

Community parks were seen as important, but less so than neighborhood parks. Support was given for revitalization of Fairgrounds Park, including baseball field improvement or relocation and the expansion of areas for community events.

Open Space

Open space within Battle Ground was seen as important. Woodin Creek and Tukes Mountain are two high-priority areas that were identified. The appropriate level of public access to green spaces and open spaces was discussed, as was the appropriateness of public and private ownership. Wetland areas are examples of open space within Battle Ground that might serve multiple purposes.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are important; however, Clark County and state of Washington do a good job of providing these facilities. Battle Ground is well served by regional facilities, and there is no need to duplicate them.

Trails

Developing recreational trails was given high priority. Several types of trails received support. These include: multi-use trails for walking, running, biking, and rollerblading; special-use trails for a seniors walking and exercise course; and nature trails that parallel waterways or traverse open space areas. A system of trails connecting schools and parks throughout the City was envisioned, as well as shorter trails within individual parks. Trails through the Battle Ground Schools campus, along Woodin Creek, and parallel to the Lewis and Clark Railroad were identified as important components of a Citywide trail system.

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Special Areas & Facilities

Certain special facilities received repeated support. These are described below.

Sports Fields

During the most recent public involvement process for the *Parks Improvement Plan*, the community voiced the need for sports fields and skateboard parks most frequently. The need for more sports fields, including baseball, softball, Little League, soccer, and football was a repeated concern throughout the 2003 planning process. Support was expressed for locating fields in existing parks, on school grounds, and in complexes. Special attention was given to supporting the approved \$250,000 CDBG grant for a “challenger” baseball field for physically challenged youth.

Skateboard Park

There was a strong interest within the PIC to examine opportunities for a potential skateboard park. The high school complex, including underutilized parking areas for the potential development of a skateboard park and other facilities was one of the potential locations discussed. While the physical space existed to proceed with development of skateboard facility at the school, there was a preference that the skateboarding facility be developed on public space owned by the City and operated for general public use as a park. Fairgrounds Park became the favored location for such a facility, based on its proximity to downtown and accessibility to other activities.

Community Center

PIC members and other citizens expressed a strong interest in the potential development of a mixed-use/multi-generational community center/recreation center complex that could accommodate a multitude of civic and community functions and services. Such a facility could co-locate with the local library, the “Bridge” recreation services, community organizations, a swimming pool, and other programs.

Swimming Pool

Some citizens, including students, expressed interest in the potential development of a swimming pool. The capital costs of developing a swimming pool and the ongoing operations and maintenance costs associated with such a facility are important considerations. Typically, community swimming pools are funded through independent funding initiatives (bond measures), private organizations, or public/private partnerships.

Railroad Amenities

The county-owned railroad that runs through Battle Ground on its way from Vancouver to Chelatchie Prairie received support as an asset to Battle Ground. Multiple uses of the right-of way were suggested, including commercial rail, tourism, and recreation. Specific suggestions included dinner trains, excursions, steam locomotives, trails, and museum and park areas.

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Conservation & Greenway Systems

Preservation of open space and natural areas received support. Discussions covered the values associated with these areas, including wildlife, wetlands, drainage, water quality, and, where appropriate, trails. Special mention was made of protecting stream corridors, such as Woodin Creek. Another area given priority was the “greening” of Battle Ground. Examples include preservation and enhancement of landscaping, street trees, park trees, and other natural features. Creating an attractive entrance to the City was also discussed.

School Grounds and Facilities

Support was expressed for enhancing school grounds and facilities for public park and recreation use. The Battle Ground Schools actively support public use of school facilities. The City of Battle Ground should work closely with the school and library districts on implementation of ongoing parks and recreation needs of the community. There is an opportunity for more cooperative use of school sports fields and facilities in the Battle Ground area. Coordination between the school district and City may help to facilitate the obtainment of funding for field upgrades and ongoing maintenance so more of the school property fields can be used for baseball and soccer league practice and play.

Section 6 – Benefits of Recreation

Benefits of Recreation

Introduction

One way to express the importance of local park and recreation services and facilities is to highlight the individual and community benefits they provide. Rather than measuring the number of facilities or calculating their service capacity, this approach identifies the values and benefits of participation.

Known as the “benefits movement,” this strategy has gained popularity since its 1991 inception as a benefits-based method for evaluating, measuring, promoting, and marketing park and recreation services. Clark County first used the benefits concept in its 1994 comprehensive parks plan. The values of participation are represented here by the benefit categories: personal, social, economic, and environmental.¹

Personal Benefits

A park, recreation, and open space system provides the basis for cultivating personal benefits such as physical fitness and health, stress reduction, positive self-image, opportunities for personal growth, and a better quality of life.

- Physical recreation and fitness contributes to a full and meaningful life.
- Regular physical activity is one of the very best methods of health insurance for individuals.
- Relaxation, rest, and revitalization through the opportunity of leisure is essential to stress management in today's busy and demanding world.
- Meaningful leisure activity is an essential source of self-esteem and positive self-image.
- Leisure provides the opportunity to lead balanced lives, achieve our full potential, and gain life satisfaction.
- Children's play is essential to the human development process.
- Leisure opportunities for youth provide positive lifestyle choices and alternatives to self-destructive behavior.
- Parks and open spaces bring beauty to an area while giving people satisfaction and improving their quality of life.

¹“The Benefits of Parks and Recreation,” The Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario, Gloucester, Ontario, 1992

Section 6 – Benefits of Recreation

Social Benefits

A park, recreation, and open space system provides opportunities for social benefits such as leadership development, community involvement, ethnic and cultural harmony, stronger families, community pride, and opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged individuals.

- Leisure provides leadership opportunities that build strong communities.
- Community recreation reduces alienation, loneliness, and antisocial behaviors.
- Community recreation promotes ethnic and cultural harmony.
- Recreating together builds strong families, the foundation of a stronger society.
- Leisure provides opportunities for community involvement, and shared management and ownership of resources.
- Integrated and accessible leisure services are critical to the quality of life of people with a disability and disadvantaged individuals.
- Leisure opportunities, facilities, and the quality of the local environment are the foundations of community pride.
- Leisure services enrich and complement protective services for latchkey children through after-school and other recreational services.

Economic Benefits

Park, recreation, and open space opportunities provide economic benefits such as preventative health care, productive workforce, business relocation and expansion, reduced vandalism and crime, tourism, and investment in environmental protection.

- Pay now or pay more later! Investment in recreation as a preventive health service makes sense.
- A fit workforce is a productive workforce.
- Small investments in recreation yield big economic returns.
- Parks and recreation services motivate business relocation and expansion in your community.
- Meaningful leisure services reduce the high cost of vandalism and criminal activity.
- Recreation and park services are often the catalyst for tourism, a growing sector of our economy.
- Investments in environmental protection through the provision of parks and open spaces pay for themselves.

Environmental Benefits

Section 6 – Benefits of Recreation

Park, recreation, and open space opportunities provide environmental benefits such as greater environmental health, environmental protection and rehabilitation, and insurance for an improved environmental future.

- Through the provision of parks, open spaces, and protected natural environments, recreation can contribute to the environmental health of our communities. This is an essential, life-sustaining role.
- The public is often prepared to pay for environmental protection and rehabilitation in their communities, and to support parks and recreation organizations that play a lead role in that protection.
- Investing in the environment through parks and the provision of open space in residential areas leads to an increase in neighborhood property values through accessibility to environmentally friendly green spaces and associated recreation opportunities.
- The trend toward natural environment based leisure activities is insurance for a new and improved environmental future.

Appendix A

Section 7 – Goals, Objectives and Actions

Goals, Objectives and Actions

Introduction

The goals, objectives and actions included in this plan build a community-based vision for the City's park and recreation system. Together with this plan's park definitions and standards, they guide the determination of demand and need and set the community's priorities for implementing the plan.

The primary sources that were used to create the goals, objectives and actions are the:

- 2003 Draft Battle Ground Parks Improvement Plan;
- 2001 Interim Comprehensive Plan Policies Resolution No. 01-25;
- 2000 Clark County Regional Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan;
- 1997 Battle Ground Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan;
- 1996 Battle Ground Community Action Plan; citizen input from public meetings and surveys, and citizen and agency input from stakeholders interviews; and the
- 1995 Battle Ground Park and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Planning Goals

With the adoption of the Growth Management Act in 1990, the Washington State Legislature prescribed land use planning guidelines for selected cities and counties in the state. The Legislature identified 13 planning goals to guide the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations (now codified in Chapter 36.70A of the Revised Code of Washington). Two of these goals directly affect the development and implementation of this plan.

RCW 36.70A.020(9) covers parks, recreation, and open space:

“Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.”

RCW 36.70A.020(10) covers the environment:

“Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.”

Parks Mission Statement

Section 7 – Goals, Objectives and Actions

Through the adoption of this comprehensive plan update, the City of Battle Ground has the opportunity to establish a mission statement as a guiding principle and overall goal for the parks, recreation and open space program for the community.

Maximize the quality of life in Battle Ground by providing parks, open space, trails, and recreational opportunities and facilities, and by planning to acquire, restore, enhance, preserve, develop and manage these facilities and natural resources in such a manner as to afford the maximum benefit to the community.

Goals, Objectives and Actions

The specific goals, objectives, and actions have been developed for this 2004 Battle Ground Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan updated, referencing previous relevant planning documents. The 2001 Interim Comprehensive Plan Policies, Resolution No. 01-25 was the overall guiding reference for these goals, objectives and actions. The plan's general goals are listed first. They are broad, inclusive, and focus on long-term results. The objectives support and further refine the goals. Then finally, implementing actions are listed below each objective.

Collectively, the goals, objectives and actions create a community-based vision of the services and facilities needed to serve the City's residents. They promote stability and predictability to ensure that the efforts of citizens, staff and elected officials are focused on common outcomes. Individually, they provide policy direction for implementing the parks plan. They provide guidance in setting priorities and allocating limited resources to serve as a benchmark for measuring success or failure.

Goal#1 Partnerships and Public Involvement (PG 5)

- 1.1. The City encourages cooperative efforts to preserve and enhance open space, trails, parks and recreation opportunities in the community. (ICP)

Objective #1.1 Community Participation (PO 5.2)

- 1.2. The City shall work in partnership with the residents of Battle Ground and organized groups to preserve and maintain parks, open spaces and trails and increase recreational opportunities. (ICP)

Actions

- 1.2.1. The City shall identify volunteer activities that are suitable for citizen and organized group participation. (ICP5.2.1)
- 1.2.2. *The City shall promote and coordinate the use of volunteers, neighborhoods and community organizations to improve, enhance and maintain parks, open spaces and trail facilities. (ICP 5.2.2 and 1997)*
- 1.2.3. The City shall develop relationships with non-profit organizations, land trusts and other public and private entities to increase the opportunity for parks. (ICP5.2.3)

Section 7 – Goals, Objectives and Actions

- 1.2.4. The City shall continue to seek public ideas and evaluate the needs and suggestions of current city residents, persons living within the Urban Growth Area, and visitors in further comprehensive plan development. (1997 other)
- 1.2.5. *The City shall seek active involvement of affected individuals, neighborhoods, and organizations when creating a master plan or site plan for development of a new park facility or redevelopment of an existing park facility. (1997 other)*

Objective #1.2 Cooperative Efforts (PO 5.1)

- 1.3. Maintain and enhance working relationships with other jurisdictions. (ICP)

Actions

- 1.3.1. The City shall identify key open spaces outside the City limits, but within the Area of Influence, and work in partnership with other jurisdictions and agencies to preserve those open spaces. (ICP5.1.1)
- 1.3.2. The City shall identify key regional trail connections and work with other jurisdictions to provide regional trails. (ICP 5.1.2)
- 1.3.3. The City shall work with the Department of Natural Resources to preserve and enhance the area of public ownership on Tukes Mountain. (ICP 5.1.3)
- 1.3.4. The City shall work with Clark County to preserve park space outside of the City limits but within the 50-year growth area, such as the Durkee property. (ICP5.1.4)
- 1.3.5. The City shall work with the School District to provide recreation and park opportunities for the community on school property. (ICP5.1.5)
- 1.3.6. *The City shall take an active role in promoting both the public and private recreation industries in Battle Ground. (1997 other)*
- 1.3.7. *The City shall encourage the development of recreational facilities via private enterprise—in particular, tourist facilities and those facilities involving spectator and participant sporting events. (1997 other)*

Goal #2 Park Acquisition and Development (PG 3)

2. The City shall seek to provide parks to meet the diverse needs of the residents of Battle Ground. (ICP)

Objective #2.1 Neighborhood Parks (PO 3.1)

- 2.1. The City shall provide adequate neighborhood parks appropriate to the neighborhood. (ICP)

Actions

- 2.1.1. The City shall determine the appropriate number, location and size of future neighborhood parks and establish criteria for park development. (ICP 3.1.1)
- 2.1.2. The City shall determine where park deficiencies exist and explore methods for creating new neighborhood parks, including development dedication, purchase, lease, conservation easement or donation. (ICP 3.1.2)
- 2.1.3. Residential areas should be served by neighborhood parks that are within walking distance. (ICP3.1.3)

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- 2.1.4. *The City shall follow standards for neighborhood parks that include scale, character and available land. (ICP 3.1.4)*
- 2.1.5. Neighborhood parks shall incorporate historic or cultural plaques and markers as appropriate to celebrate Battle Ground's past. (ICP 3.1.5)
- 2.1.6. The City shall establish, in new and existing neighborhoods, neighborhood parks with active recreation facilities. (ICP2.2.2)
- 2.1.7. The City shall review its development code to determine if changes are needed to encourage and/or require neighborhood parks as part of new development. (ICP 2.2.3)
- 2.1.8. *The City shall provide neighborhood parks for all city residents within a one third-mile to a half-mile walking distance and shall be located to provide safe and convenient access. (1997)*
- 2.1.9. The City shall make every effort to meet minimum size standards for neighborhood parks of three to five acres; however, when physical or other conditions do not allow sites that meet the minimum size standard, neighborhood parks smaller than three acres shall be provided. (1997)
- 2.1.10. *The City shall place a high priority on the acquisition of neighborhood parks when opportunities become available. (1997)*
- 2.1.11. The City shall acquire neighborhood park sites as early as possible to ensure that opportunities for providing these sites are not lost. These sites shall be held for future park development. (1997)
- 2.1.12. The City shall coordinate with Clark County on the acquisition of neighborhood park sites outside the city limits but within the urban growth boundary. (1997)
- 2.1.13. The City shall implement the recommended improvements of the 2003 Parks Improvement Plan at neighborhood parks, including Kiwanis Park, Central Park, Hidden Glen, Florence Robison Park. (Adapted from 1997 and PIP)

Objective #2.2 Pocket Parks (PO 3.3)

- 2.2. The City shall strive to provide adequate pocket parks. (ICP)

Actions

- 2.2.1. *The City shall determine the appropriate number, location and size of future pocket parks. (ICP3.3.1)*
- 2.2.2. The City shall investigate a wide range of methods for acquiring new pocket parks and implement as appropriate range of methods for acquiring new pocket parks. (ICP3.3.2)

Objective #2.3 Community Gardens (PO 3.4)

- 2.3. The City shall facilitate the creation of community gardens. (ICP)

Action

- 2.3.1. The City shall explore methods for promoting and regulating community gardens and implement as appropriate. (ICP 3.4.1)

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Objective #2.4 Community Parks (PO 3.5)

2.4. The City shall strive to provide adequate community parks. (ICP)

Actions

- 2.4.1. *The City shall determine the appropriate number, location and size of future community parks. (ICP3.2.1)*
- 2.4.2. The City shall explore a wide range of methods for acquiring new community parks including coordination with Clark County and implement these methods as appropriate. (Adapted ICP3.2.2)
- 2.4.3. Community Park design will integrate and preserve the natural landscape to the extent possible. (ICP 3.2.3)
- 2.4.4. The City shall determine the infrastructure needed to support community parks and insure it is in place as part of the park's development. (ICP3.2.4)
- 2.4.5. The City shall coordinate with Clark County on the acquisition of community park sites outside the city limits but within the urban growth boundary. (1997)
- 2.4.6. The City places a high priority on the retention and enhancement of Fairgrounds Park as a center for community events and recreational activities. (1997)
- 2.4.7. *The City shall support the ongoing planning and design efforts for Fairgrounds Park and address coordinated development with the Lewis and Clark Railroad and other tourism opportunities. (1997)*
- 2.4.8. The City shall implement the recommended improvements of the 2003 Parks Improvement Plan for Community Parks including Garden Oaks Park and the Remy. (Adapted from 1997 and PIP)

Objective #2.5 Regional Parks (1997)

2.5. The City shall support Clark County, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and other agencies in providing regional park and recreation facilities within the Battle Ground Urban Growth Area (UGA). (1997)

Goal # 3 Trails (PG3)

3. The City shall seek to provide a safe and accessible community-wide trail system to meet the recreation needs of Battle Ground residents. (ICP)

Trails Objective #3.1 (PO 3.1)

3.1. The City shall work to provide trails that meet the recreation needs of Battle Ground residents. (ICP)

Trails Objective #3.2 (PO 4.2)

3.2. The City shall work to establish a trail system that connects parks, residential areas and commercial areas and helps serve the transportation needs of the residents of Battle Ground. (ICP)

Trails Objective #3.3 (PA 4.2.2)

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- 3.3. *The City shall include trail connections to parks, schools, and other community destinations, as well as commercial areas in its transportation system plan. (PA 4.2.2, TA2.1.1, TA2.2.1)*

Actions

- 3.3.1. The City shall develop a comprehensive trail map that identifies opportunities for recreational trail uses separated from vehicle traffic and that integrates the sidewalk system as appropriate. (ICP 4.1.4)
- 3.3.2. The City shall identify key trail connections to parks, public uses and commercial areas that currently exist and that are required in the future. (ICP 4.1.2)
- 3.3.3. The City shall review its development regulations to determine if there is a clear connection between the need for trails and the dedication of trails. (ICP 4.1.3)
- 3.3.4. The City shall review its trail development standards to insure a wide variety of non-motorized recreational users can safely use the trails together. (ICP 4.1.4)
- 3.3.5. The City shall develop a wide variety of public and private financing methods for trail development and take action as appropriate. (ICP 4.1.5)
- 3.3.6. The City shall identify key connections that will enable residents to travel safely throughout the City separated from motorized vehicle traffic. (ICP 4.2.1)
- 3.3.7. Planning for urban parks shall address trail systems for walking, biking, and other recreational uses. (1997)
- 3.3.8. The City places a high priority on acquiring and developing an interconnected system of trails that links schools, parks, and other public facilities. (1997)
- 3.3.9. The City shall coordinate with Clark County to provide regional trail access and encourage the continuity of trail corridors within and outside the UGA to include valuable natural corridors such as Woodin and Salmon Creeks. (1997)
- 3.3.10. The City supports the identification by Clark County of the Lewis and Clark Railroad corridor as a priority regional trail system and supports incorporating the corridor into the City's urban trail system. Every effort shall be made to coordinate trail planning with tourism, excursion, and commercial rail uses. (1997)
- 3.3.11. The City shall coordinate with the State Department of Transportation to plan, acquire, and develop trail systems along and across state highway corridors. (1997)

Goal #4 Open Space, Conservation and Greenway Systems (PG 1)

4. The City shall seek to provide and preserve open space in the community for present and future generations. (ICP)

Objective #4.1 Natural Habitat Preservation (PO 1.1)

- 4.1. Natural habitat areas should be preserved for passive recreation opportunities and wildlife values. (ICP)

Actions

Section 7 – Goals, Objectives and Actions

- 4.1.1. *The City places a high priority on preservation of open space including wildlife habitat, wetlands, drainage, water quality and where appropriate, trails and other educational and recreational uses. (1997 UOS)*
- 4.1.2. The City shall work to identify Critical Areas within the City that can serve as open space. (ICP 1.1.1)
- 4.1.3. The City shall identify Critical Areas within open spaces that can be preserved, enhanced or restored. (ICP 1.1.2)
- 4.1.4. The City shall investigate installing informative signs and displays at appropriate places within open spaces to educate citizens about the environmental history of the community and the value of the environment to the community. (ICP 1.1.3)
- 4.1.5. The City places a high priority on the values provided by flood plains, high-quality wetlands, and other critical areas; these areas should be considered for educational and light-impact recreational uses. (1997 CGS)
- 4.1.6. The City shall consider co-locating greenways, high-quality wetlands, stormwater facilities, and light-impact recreation facilities to maximize public use and natural resource opportunities. (1997 CGS)
- 4.1.7. The City shall attempt to provide appropriate levels of public access along streams and other natural corridors while respecting private property interests. (1997 CGS)
- 4.1.8. The City places a high priority on the preservation of open space values along Woodin Creek, Salmon Creek, and other stream corridors. (1997 UOS)
- 4.1.9. The City shall coordinate with Clark County to provide greenway systems within and outside the Urban Growth Area for valuable natural corridors such as Woodin Creek and Salmon Creek. (1997 CGS)
- 4.1.10. The City shall identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas, including lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of Critical Areas. (1997 CGS)
- 4.1.11. *The City shall work jointly with Clark County and the Department of Natural Resources to develop a plan for the Tukes Mountain area acknowledging interest of all parties while protecting the natural character of the area. (1997 CGS)*

Objective #4.2 Open Space Integration in the Community (PO1.2)

- 4.2. Open Spaces shall be integrated into the design of the community. (ICP)

Actions

- 4.2.1. The City shall conduct an inventory of potential open spaces within the city and the Urban Growth Area and establish criteria to rate those open spaces to determine priorities. (ICP 1.2.1)
- 4.2.2. The City shall develop strategies to preserve identified open space that cannot be preserved through development actions. (ICP 1.2.2)
- 4.2.3. The City shall develop strategies to protect and preserve gateways and open spaces identified in the 50-year Vision, including the East Fort of the Lewis River, Salmon Creek, the Mill Creek Swale and Durkee property. (ICP 1.2.3)

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Objective #4.3 Open Space in New Development (PO1.3)

4.3. The City shall encourage the inclusion of open space in new developments. (ICP)

Actions

4.3.1. The City shall review its development code to determine if changes are needed to encourage and /or require open space in new developments. (ICP1.3.1)

4.3.2. The City shall continue to show appropriate concern to adjacent land use when planning a park or recreation area. Buffer areas or other modifications may be required in the planning process. Such buffer areas or other modifications as required shall be located on the land being proposed as the recreation area. (1997 Other)

Goal #5 Parks, Trails and Open Space Maintenance

5. *The City shall insure that all parks, trails, and open spaces are maintained in good condition. (ICP)*

Objective 5.1 Parks Maintenance (Adapted from PO 3.5)

5.1. The City shall insure that all parks are maintained in good condition.

Actions

5.1.1. The City shall review its parks maintenance policies to determine maintenance priorities, deficiencies and improvement opportunities. (ICP3.5.1)

5.1.2. *The City shall develop a maintenance level of service for each types of parks. (ICP3.5.2)*

5.1.3. The City shall work to provide the necessary funding to address park maintenance issues or seek alternative means to improve maintenance and meet the identified maintenance level of service. (ICP3.5.3)

5.1.4. The City shall assess the financial impact of maintaining the proposed park facilities at the time of acquisition and/or development. (1997 other)

5.1.5. The City shall maintain park facilities in a manner that promotes safety and cleanliness. (1997 other)

5.1.6. *The City shall explore opportunities for beautification and “greening” by identifying and enhancing entry points and other locations such as the Main Street corridor and major roadways. Enhancements may include signing, street trees, landscaping, public art and other amenities. (1997 other)*

Objective #5.2 Open Space and Trail Maintenance (PO1.4)

5.2. Open spaces and Trails shall be maintained in an environmentally appropriate manner and public access and amenities should be kept in good condition. (ICP)

Actions

5.2.1. The City shall review its maintenance practices in open spaces to ensure the preservation of habitat areas and to prevent unnecessary environmental impacts. (ICP 1.4.1)

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- 5.2.2. The City shall require the use of native plants in identified habitat areas and require the removal of non-natives to the extent practical. (ICP 1.4.2)
- 5.2.3. The City shall review the budget requirements for open space maintenance and research methods for reducing costs. (ICP 1.4.3)
- 5.2.4. The City shall review its open space maintenance policies to determine maintenance priorities, deficiencies and improvement opportunities. (ICP 1.4.4)
- 5.2.5. The City shall explore using community services programs from the State Correctional Department to maintain open spaces. (ICP 1.4.5)
- 5.2.6. The City shall work to develop a coordinated program for volunteers and service organizations to help provide open space maintenance. (ICP 1.4.6)
- 5.2.7. *The City shall establish a maintenance level of services for trails. (ICP 4.1.6)*
- 5.2.8. The City shall identify funding or other means to adequately maintain the trail system for the intended purpose and to the identified maintenance level of service. (ICP 4.1.7)

Goal #6 Recreational Needs (PG 2)

- 6. The City encourages opportunities to meet the diverse recreational needs of the community. (ICP)

Objective #6.1 Recreational Services (PO2.1)

- 6.1. The City shall investigate creating recreational opportunities through partnerships with the school district and other organizations. (ICP)

Actions

- 6.1.1. The City supports the use of school grounds and facilities to help provide recreation opportunities for the general community. (1997 CS&C)
- 6.1.2. The City supports recreation opportunities provided through the Battle Ground Community Schools Program. (1997 CS&C)
- 6.1.3. The City shall investigate partnering with the school district to provide summer youth programs and after school programs. (ICP 2.1.1.)
- 6.1.4. The City shall investigate the opportunities for providing adult recreation programs. (ICP 2.1.3)
- 6.1.5. The City shall determine the feasibility of establishing a permanent budget line item to pay for City sponsored recreational opportunities. (ICP 2.1.4)
- 6.1.6. The City shall coordinate with the Battle Ground School District on the development, renovation, and enhancement of recreation facilities that serve both school and urban park needs and shall explore opportunities to co-locate park and recreation facilities. (1997 CS&C)
- 6.1.7. The City places the highest priority on the acquisition and development of a “challenger” baseball field and other recreation opportunities for physically challenged youth. If possible, these facilities should be incorporated into a larger youth sports field complex, which serves the general community. (1997 SF)

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- 6.1.8. The City shall support the coordinated development of recreation and tourism opportunities associated with the Lewis and Clark Railroad. Opportunities may include interpretive signing, museum, historic equipment, passenger station, and similar facilities. (1997 SF)

Objective #6.2 Meeting Ongoing Needs (PO2.2)

- 6.2. *The City shall use neighborhood and community parks to meet local recreation needs. (ICP PO2.2)*

Actions

- 6.2.1. *The City shall survey park users periodically to determine any new recreational amenities desired in the City's parks and strive to meet those needs. (ICP 2.2.1)*
- 6.2.2. *The City shall continue to seek public ideas and evaluate the needs and suggestions of current city residents, persons living within the UGA, and visitors in further comprehensive plan development. (1997 other)*
- 6.2.3. The City shall establish, in new and existing neighborhoods, neighborhood parks with active recreation facilities. (ICP 2.2.2)
- 6.2.4. *The City shall continue to evaluate existing facilities for possible modification for people with disabilities and physical challenges and older adults. (1997 other)*
- 6.2.5. *The City shall continue to design all new facilities with appropriate standards, which will meet the needs of handicapped persons and senior citizens. (1997 other)*
- 6.2.6. The City shall evaluate the suitability of any Department of Natural Resources land for parks and open space. (1997other)

Goal #7 Special Facilities

7. The City encourages cooperative efforts to plan, acquire, develop and maintain special facilities that meet identified needs and are otherwise unavailable to the community. (Adapted from CCP)

Objective #7.1 Sports Fields

- 7.1. The City Shall join the County, other cities, school districts, and local sports organizations in Clark County to develop a countywide system of sports fields and sports field complexes to serve the baseball, softball, soccer, and football needs of youth and adults. (Adapted from CCP)

Actions

- 7.1.1. The City places the highest priority on the acquisition and development of a youth sports field complex to include baseball, softball, soccer, and other compatible activities. (1997 SF)
- 7.1.2. The City shall promote the development of athletic fields in new parks, particularly in larger community parks and regional parks in Battle Ground. (Adapted from CCP)

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- 7.1.3. The City shall cooperate with Clark County in the acquisition and development of any new sports complex in the vicinity of Battle Ground. (Adapted from CCP)
- 7.1.4. The City shall support the County, school districts, and local sports organizations in identifying and acquiring land for sports field complexes, particularly land for regional field complexes. (Adapted from CCP)
- 7.1.5. The City shall consider participation in a County organized sports field council to help develop and adopt countywide design standards for construction of athletic fields. (Adapted from CCP)

Objective #7.2 Skateboard Parks

- 7.2. The City shall seek opportunities for developing a skateboard park facility in the near term to fulfill an explicit need identified in the Parks Improvement Plan. (Adapted from PIP)

Objective #7.3 Community Center (Adapted ICP PA 2.1.2 and PIP)

- 7.3. *The City shall explore the potential need for building a community recreation center serving all age groups or partnering with other organizations to provide a center to accommodate a multitude of civic and community functions and services for the residents of Battle Ground. (ICP 2.1.2)*

Actions

- 7.3.1. *The City places a high priority on and shall work with the Battle Ground School District, Clark County, and other public and private agencies on the potential development of and funding options for a community center in the Battle Ground UGA. (1997)*

Objective #7.4 Swimming Pool

- 7.4. Investigate the potential need for a swimming pool (public or private) for the residents of Battle Ground. (Adapted from PIP and CCP)

Actions

- 7.4.1. The City places a high priority on and shall jointly explore with the Battle Ground School District, Clark County, and other public and private entities the potential development of and funding options for an indoor swimming pool in the Battle Ground area. (1997SF,CCP,PIP)

Section 8 – Demand and Needs Analysis

In late 2002, the Battle Ground City Council unanimously agreed that enhancement and development of parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities will be critical to serving the community's growing population and diverse needs. The Council determined the need to define a parks improvement program and assess potential costs of such a program, including capital costs as well as annual maintenance and operation costs. The *Parks Improvement Plan* (PIP) was created to establish an important vision and framework for the future development of parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas in Battle Ground. The information in the plan documents and justifies the need for a potential parks improvement initiative. The assumed planning horizon of the PIP was 20 years, consistent with a long-range planning cycle and typical debt cycle for bonds. In addition to seeking funding through a bond measure, City leaders, citizens, and staff have expressed a strong interest in continuing to seek strategic funding opportunities through public/private partnerships, maintenance agreements, user fees, sponsorships, grants, donations, and other sources. With this level of commitment and interest in seeking additional funding, the City may be able to build the majority of the improvements envisioned by this PIP over the next 20 years.

Development of the *Parks Improvement Plan* resulted in the following outcomes:

- involvement of the community throughout the parks planning, conceptual design, and decision-making process;
- definitive understanding of the Battle Ground community's desires and needs for parks, recreation, and open space facilities;
- analysis of existing City park lands and their general suitability for the development of needed improvements;
- development of conceptual designs for the City's existing park properties, forming the basis of an updated parks capital improvement program;
- comparative analysis of other municipal parks and recreation programs;
- development of planning-level cost estimates for implementing the parks improvement program (including both anticipated capital development costs and maintenance and operations costs);
- timeframe for development of the parks improvement program, including phasing and prioritization suggestions and identification of a strategic project or projects could be implemented immediately for timely, tangible results; and
- analysis of funding and financing opportunities to implement the parks improvement program, including financing scenarios related to a potential bond measure.

Pocket and Neighborhood Parks

This plan divides Battle Ground's urban growth area (UGA) into 19 neighborhood service areas and three special study areas based on certain definitional criteria. These include a maximum service area radius of 1/2 mile and establishing service area boundaries whereby visitors do not have to cross major roads, highways, or other impediments to access a site. Since the last update of the *Comprehensive Parks Plan* in 1997, the City has acquired available park lands in various

