

## **Parks, Recreation & Open Space Goals & Policies:**

***PROS Goal 1: The Town shall provide ongoing recreational facilities and programs.***

**Policy PROS 1.1.** The Town shall continue to provide a variety of programs and services based on demographic characteristics and recreational needs of the community. Surveys, analysis of current census data and other methods of assessment should be used to identify characteristics and preferences.

**Policy PROS 1.2.** The Town should either host or make Town facilities available for a wide variety of seasonal activities and cultural events open to all age groups and ability levels, such as the Fourth of July Celebration and the Concert in the Park Series. The Town should assist civic groups that wish to sponsor community events.

**Policy PROS 1.3.** To the maximum extent reasonable, new and upgraded park and recreation facilities and services should be accessible to physically challenged people as per the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Policy PROS 1.4.** Provide adequate funding and administer appropriate user fees for the maintenance and operation of the Town's recreational facilities and services.

***PROS Goal 2: Procure property throughout Town to be used for passive and active recreational opportunities.***

**Policy PROS 2.1.** Evaluate the park level of service standards every three to five years to reflect the projected needs of the community so that current park and recreation system deficiencies can be identified on a regular basis.

**Policy PROS 2.2.** Develop a capital improvements program to purchase property to correct identified short and long term park and recreation deficiencies.

**Policy PROS 2.3.** Acquire and improve outdoor recreational facilities to meet the need and demand for a variety of recreational experiences. Examples include community, neighborhood, and mini parks.

**Policy PROS 2.4.** Explore potential opportunities to identify, obtain, enhance, and improve the Town's unique natural areas. The protection of these areas may allow the preservation of sensitive environmental resources, while providing opportunities for park and recreation facilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, the Boise Cascade wetlands, shoreline areas, waterway corridors, and the distinctive entrances to Town like the Tunnel of Trees, Old Military Road, and the tree canopy along Union Avenue.

**Policy PROS 2.5.** Explore alternatives to public purchase of property and facilities to help meet the future recreation and open space needs of the community. These

alternatives may include flexible zoning, conservation easements, transfer of development rights, donation, and current use assessment.

**Policy PROS 2.6.** Land development regulations found in the Steilacoom Municipal Code should include measurable provisions requiring dedication of open space in new subdivisions.

**Policy PROS 2.7.** The Town will consider retaining vacant publicly owned property as open space when such property becomes available for purchase.

**Policy PROS 2.8.** The Town will seek to establish a contiguous trail system throughout Town.

**Policy PROS 2.9.** Land development regulations will require future developments to provide walkways, trails, paths or sidewalks connecting the new development with contiguous areas.

**Policy PROS 2.10.** Land development regulations will require future developments to retain and improve trails and pathways identified in the current Town Trails and Pathways Plan.

***PROS Goal 3: Actively seek control of the shoreline for active and passive recreational use.***

**Policy PROS 3.1.** Manage shoreline resources through the continued administration and amendment of the Steilacoom *Shoreline Master Program* with emphasis on public access, conservation and both active and passive recreational uses.

**Policy PROS 3.2.** Explore all opportunities to increase public access to the shoreline. Strategies that should be considered include: use of unimproved public street right-of-ways and permanent acquisition of privately-owned land.

**Policy PROS 3.3.** Public/private cooperative uses of the shoreline should be encouraged. Such efforts should involve the mill property Master Planned Development area, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, Pierce County and other public and private entities.

***PROS Goal 4: Enhance, create, and maintain a Town wide, interconnected trail system.***

**Policy PROS 4.1.** Incorporate multi-use trails and other pedestrian improvements in any new street development or redevelopment and within existing street rights-of-way. Such improvements should be consistent with the Transportation Element of the *Steilacoom Comprehensive Plan* and the Trails and Pathways Plan, linking existing trail segments, sidewalks, and bike paths whenever possible. Safety, accessibility, bicycles, and relationship to other modes of transportation should all be given consideration in planning and design of walks and paths.

**Policy PROS 4.2.** Sidewalks, trails and pathways should be permanently constructed

as streets are upgraded or as funding becomes available.

**Policy PROS 4.3.** Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions to link bike and walking trails to University Place, Lakewood, DuPont and Fort Steilacoom.

**Policy PROS 4.4.** Publish and maintain a map or guidebook illustrating Steilacoom's non-motorized circulation system.

**Policy PROS 4.5.** Consider installing fitness stations in parks and along pathways.

***PROS Goal 5: Provide and plan for the maintenance and upkeep of all parks, trails, and recreational areas.***

**Policy PROS 5.1.** Create and implement a maintenance plan and policies to ensure consistency in park/trail maintenance and staff needs.

**Policy PROS 5.2.** Organize and supervise citizen volunteer groups and other service organizations to assist in the maintenance of parks and trails.

**Policy PROS 5.3.** Educate the townspeople on the importance of taking care of their recreational areas, shorelines, parks, trails and open space.

**Policy PROS 5.4.** Install professional, consistent signing in all parks.

**Policy PROS 5.5.** Provide for the safe use of park and recreation facilities by routine inspections and adequate funding for safety improvements. Specific improvements that should be considered to increase safety include fencing and lighting.

**Policy PROS 5.6.** Pursue cooperative projects with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway to provide and maintain safe pedestrian crossings in high use areas.

***PROS Goal 6: Encourage joint use/cooperation with neighboring localities and other interest groups.***

**Policy PROS 6.1.** Allow for the use of school playgrounds as neighborhood and community parks in the overall park system of the Town.

**Policy PROS 6.2.** Work with the Steilacoom Historical School District to develop a joint use agreement that coordinates and provides for: use of school facilities, maintenance needs, equipment, staff, and identified improvements to school facilities.

**Policy PROS 6.3.** Opportunities to establish mutually beneficial joint use/cooperative agreements and financial support with other public and private agencies and institutions should be explored as a way to address local and regional recreation needs. Examples of groups include Pierce County, the cities of University Place, Lakewood and DuPont, Western State Hospital Lakewood YMCA, State of Washington Departments of Corrections, Ecology, Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources, Recreation and Conservation Office, local Native American tribes, community service organizations and local school districts.

**Policy PROS 6.4** The Town shall explore opportunities for cooperative planning with adjoining jurisdictions on opportunities to enhance parks, open spaces, trails and bicycle lanes.

***PROS Goal 7: Research and actively secure funding from public and private sources for new recreational facilities, programs, and improvements.***

**Policy PROS 7.1.** Increase public awareness of the Town Trust Fund for donations.

**Policy PROS 7.2.** Budget staff time to seek and develop appropriate grant applications.

**Policy PROS 7.3.** Establish conditions or criteria under which a limited number of revenue generating concessions such as sports equipment, dive rentals, food, and refreshments could be allowed.

***PROS Goal 8: Create a public process to review park and recreation needs and proposed policy changes.***

**Policy PROS 8.1.** The Planning Commission shall solicit public participation when reviewing park planning, funding, and implementation programs and procedures. Input from youth and youth groups should be specifically targeted.

**Policy PROS 8.2.** The Town Council should regularly review fee schedules for facilities, services, or equipment necessary to accommodate public and private events.

### **Assessment of Progress Toward Goals**

To measure the Town's progress toward achieving the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element's Goals and Policies, the Town staff shall annually compile and issue a report containing the following information:

- A description of land or development rights acquired for park or open space purposes
- A description of capital projects completed, undertaken, or not undertaken
- A description of funding sources for capital projects and programs
- A description of Town-sponsored recreational programs, including the number of persons participating, the demographics of the groups involved, the cost of the program, and other data