



**I. THE FUTURE OF
RENTON'S PARK SYSTEM**





THE FUTURE OF RENTON'S PARK SYSTEM

The City of Renton is poised to renew its commitment to and investment in city parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and recreation programming. This desire is based on the community's love and enthusiasm for the places that support Renton's identity as a sustainable, interconnected community, with people who are willing to work together to promote its health and vitality, protect its natural resources, celebrate its character and ensure its long-term dedication to a higher quality of life.

The vision and goals presented in the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Plan are intended to illustrate this desired future for the community, while giving the Community Services Department the flexibility it needs to achieve these goals.

VISION

The community's vision for Renton's parks, recreation and natural areas is:

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resource Areas provide the opportunity for the community to connect to, participate in, support and encourage a healthy environment and active lifestyle.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Seven goals have emerged from this vision. These goals direct the long-term improvement, maintenance and programming of the parks and recreation system. These goals recognize the many benefits that park land, recreation facilities and programs and natural areas offer the community.

Each goal includes several objectives—also known as action statements that will help the City and community together achieve their vision for the future. Objectives describe specific implementable directions that can be used to measure the progress made towards achieving these goals. Each goal and associated objectives have grown out of the public feedback described in Chapter 3 of this plan.

Goal A: Filling gaps in service

Expand parks and recreational opportunities in new and existing locations with an identified need, in order to fill gaps in service and keep pace with future growth.



Objective A.1. Expand recreation opportunities to meet future growth needs and planned density.

Objective A.2. Develop parks that provide service to residences within ½-mile of low density residential land uses and within ¼-mile of the areas planned for high residential density.

Objective A.3. Design indoor and outdoor spaces for flexible use.

Objective A.4. Where possible, increase capacity at existing parks and recreation facilities.

Objective A.5. Utilize Decision Making Tools for future planning, acquisition, development and programming decisions to create a safe and enjoyable experience.

Objective A.6. Provide easily accessible information about the park system, expanding knowledge and awareness of recreation opportunities.

Objective A.7. Park master plans shall be completed in conjunction with public participation to guide all major park development and achieve cohesive design and efficient phasing of projects.

Objective A.8. Utilize partner organization strengths and facilities to provide recreation opportunities in areas where there are shortfalls in parks or programmable space.

Goal B: Creating a connected system

Create a connected system of parks, corridors, trails and natural areas that provides nearby and accessible opportunities for recreation and non-motorized transportation.

- Objective B.1. Link parks to other destinations in the community and region such as schools, parks, trails, natural areas, commercial areas and business districts.
- Objective B.2. Minimize barriers to create safe and convenient non-motorized park access including busy streets, railways, topography and waterways.
- Objective B.3. Complete transportation, recreation and habitat connections across the system.
- Objective B.4. Enhance the connection between local food production and the community through education, awareness and community events.
- Objective B.5. Develop and implement accessible parks, facilities and programs for all ages and abilities.
- Objective B.6. Encourage use of non-motorized transportation modes to access recreation opportunities.



Goal C: Building partnerships

Cultivate strong, positive partnerships at the local and regional level with public, private and non-profit organizations in order to unite community efforts to develop and sustain the park system.



Objective C.1. Develop, strengthen and facilitate strong partnerships with individuals, service groups, non-profits and other agencies and organizations to allow for expanded public use of facilities.

Objective C.2. Increase internal coordination between City departments to maximize the public's access to recreation opportunities.

Objective C.3. Coordinate planning, programming and operations between government agencies, local school districts and community groups to increase the availability and accessibility of recreation resources.

Objective C.4. Formalize partnerships and agreements with agencies, businesses and other organizations to increase access to recreation opportunities.

Goal D: Creating identity

Create a distinct identity that celebrates the natural, historic and diverse character of the community through park and facility design, recreation programming, interpretation and education.

Objective D.1. Offer programs and events that celebrate the unique features of Renton.

Objective D.2. Expand water access to the community through acquisition, facility design and programming.

Objective D.3. Integrate cultural and historic resources and interpretation within the park system.

Objective D.4. Create a system of parks that incorporates unique features and contributes to community identity.

Objective D.5. Provide opportunities to create and appreciate art throughout the park system.

Objective D.6. Showcase Renton as a regional trail hub that connects non-motorized transportation throughout the region.



Goal E: Ensuring a sustainable system

Ensure long-term economic and environmental sustainability in system planning, design, operation, maintenance and decision making.



- Objective E.1. Consider long-term management, operations and maintenance needs in projects and programs.
- Objective E.2. Consider the full operating cost of new park sites and features prior to their development.
- Objective E.3. Cost recovery should be considered when developing and implementing projects and programs.
- Objective E.4. Create community partnerships and encourage volunteerism that contribute to the maintenance and sustainability of the system.
- Objective E.5. Balance new acquisition and development with the sustained maintenance of existing parks and facilities.
- Objective E.6. Identify funding from a wide variety of sources for park acquisition, development and maintenance.
- Objective E.7. Minimize impacts to the environment by incorporating green infrastructure and promoting water and energy efficiency and storm water management in parks and facilities.
- Objective E.8. Enhance community awareness and involvement in natural resource area management.
- Objective E.9. Set an example in environmental awareness by employing best management practices.

Goal F: Promoting health and community through programming

Promote healthy and active lifestyles and build community through programs that are inclusive, fun and accessible for a diverse population.

- Objective F.1. Provide flexible recreation programming that is constantly improving and responding to current trends and community desires.
- Objective F.2. Expand the community's access to fitness and health through education, awareness and involvement.
- Objective F.3. Provide programs and community events that encourage interaction between neighbors and celebrate the diversity of Renton.
- Objective F.4. Increase awareness of the full range of program offerings and recreation opportunities.
- Objective F.5. Create and expand program opportunities through enhanced partnerships and volunteerism.



Goal G: Protecting and conserving natural resources

Protect, conserve and enhance the area's diverse natural resources for the long-term health of ecosystems, and for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.



Objective G.1. Inform the management of Renton's natural areas through complete inventories and management plans.

Objective G.2. Facilitate healthy stream and river corridors to protect water quality, provide wildlife habitat and connect people to nature.

Objective G.3. New development needs to be sensitive to surrounding natural systems.

Objective G.4. Monitor and maintain natural areas to minimize invasive species and improve forest health.

Objective G.5. Manage encroachments on public property and minimize degradation to the ecosystem.

Objective G.6. Utilize Renton's diverse natural areas to provide environmental education and facilitate stewardship in the community.

Objective G.7. Restore native forests to maximize ecosystem services such as stormwater management, air quality, aquifer recharge, other ecosystem services and wildlife habitat.