

Chapter 4: Demand and Needs Analysis

The Fall City Metropolitan Park District's priorities include fulfilling its Vision, Mission, and Goals as they are identified in Chapter 1 - Introduction. The FCMPD does not currently own any land or assets. It does not currently operate any recreational or education programs. The FCMPD does not currently have any official partnerships or cooperative arrangements with other groups. In keeping with its Vision, Mission, and Goals, the FCMPD only seeks to change the status quo for each of these items, if there is an expressed and compelling need within the community to do so.

Based upon information outlined in previous community documents (*Fall City Subarea Plan*), formal and informal conversations with the community, personal observations, FCMPD and other community meetings, and surveys offered by the FCMPD, it is clear to the Board that recreational improvements to this community are needed because of current and future demands.

The need to act upon the requests of the community for recreational improvements in an expedited manner is also important due to the limited ability to find developable land within the District. Land that is available for recreational pursuits is in short supply within the FCMPD due to the predominance of the Snoqualmie River flood plain, the forested steep slopes flanking the valley, the numerous environmentally sensitive areas, and the fact that those areas without these constraints have principally been developed. As such, when an opportunity arises to acquire land from a willing seller, the FCMPD should explore the possibility to capitalize on the opportunity.

The need to enter into cooperative arrangements with other governmental and non-governmental groups should be explored in order to fulfill the overall Vision, Mission, and Goals of the FCMPD.

Role Responsibility by Activity

Conservation

FCMPD will work with other public and private agencies to create an effective area wide approach to conservation issues and proposals

Waterfronts, Trails, Camping and Recreation Vehicle Camping

FCMPD will work with all other public and private agencies to create and help maintain a system of interconnected countywide trails, beaches and water related facilities

Neighborhood Parks

FCMPD should work with all other public and private agencies to create other pocket parks as needed.

Motorized Boat Launch Sites

FCMPD will help other public and private agencies to develop and/or improve motorized boat launch sites.

Indoor and Outdoor Athletic Facilities

FCMPD will help coordinate and assist other public and private agencies to develop outdoor athletic facilities including football, soccer, baseball and softball, tennis, basketball and volleyball, jogging tracks and other fields and courts. When beneficial to Fall City residents FCMPD will consider building on its own facilities or entering into joint ventures with local agencies to acquire and develop a limited number of high quality, competitive athletic facilities.

Community Centers

FCMPD will help coordinate and assist other public and private agencies to develop indoor facilities that provide a multiple purpose community function.

Strategies for Environmental Preservation

FCMPD may assume some responsibility, including joint efforts where appropriate, for the preservation of public access to man-made and natural environments that have special or unique interests, impacts or relevance to/residents and tourists that may not be otherwise protected. Special activities/environments are:

- Natural environments and/or
- man-made environments or features, and/or
- man-made social or cultural developments or features, and/or
- of unique interest to residents, and/or
- of unique interest to regional or statewide tourists, and/or
- which may be accessible from major transportation systems?

Since special environments are usually privately owned and operated, FCMPD will probably not finance preservation efforts using outright purchase arrangements, or the purchase of development rights. However, FCMPD may help increase public access to these features using access agreements, shoreline management act reviews, environmental impact mitigation, and historic designations and even entering into joint ventures with private operators and developers.

Strategies for Development of Park Facilities

FCMPD should work to develop facilities in accordance with the following policies:

- have high population participation rates, such as athletic fields and equestrian facilities.
- have high user volumes, also such as pocket parks; like play grounds and skateboard parks.

- may involve joint ventures with a number of local or area wide public or private sponsors,
- may represent or provide the ultimate level play facility or experience that may not be supported or feasible otherwise

FCMPD may finance projects using a combination of current operating funds, reserve funds, non-voter approved and voter approved bonds, development grants, donations and user fees where appropriate.

Local Facilities

FCMPD may help local communities in the development, operation or maintenance of facilities that have local use benefits. In facility terms, local activities:

- are participated in by a significant but less than majority of the population, such as most athletic activities,
- have significant, but not high user volumes, such as some athletic activities,
- are oriented to local user preferences or organizations,
- are developed to a minimum level of playing skill or competition,
- are activities which provide no or low fee recapture potentials,
- are activities which are not subject to special site specific considerations or requirements, and
- are activities for which there are a number of other possible public and private local sponsors including school districts and even self-help organizations.

As a coordinator or facilitator for the development of park and recreation facilities within Fall City, FCMPD should try to help provide local organizations with technical planning and operating services.

Special Facilities

FCMPD may assume some responsibility, including joint ventures where appropriate, for the development, operation or maintenance of facilities that have special or unique use benefits to residents that may not be developed by another public or private agency. In facility terms, special activities:

- possess very specialized participation rates,
- will support high user fees,
- are activities which may attract or benefit non-area users and tourists,
- have unique or specialized location or site considerations or requirements,
- represent ultimate level play facilities or experiences,

- are activities for which there are no other public or private sponsors, or
- are activities which have concessionaire or private developer opportunities.

Level-of-Service Standards

FCMPD has established 4 categories of park land and 6 categories of park facilities that are subject to capital facilities planning:

1. Resource Conservancy (land);
2. Resource Activity (land);
3. Linear Parks/Trails (land);
4. Special Use Facilities (land);
5. Courts, Fields and Play Areas/Pocket Parks (facilities);
6. Multipurpose Trails (facilities);
7. Picnic, Camping and RV Camping Areas (facilities); and
8. Access to Water Square Feet of Area (facilities).
9. Kayak/Canoe Launch Sites (facilities);
10. Equestrian (facilities)

For each category, FCMPD must set a level-of-service standard (such as acres of Resource Activity land per 1,000 population) that it intends to meet to ensure that the amounts of park land/facilities are adequate to serve the projected population. These LOS standards are set in the Capital Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The categories are described as follows:

Categories of Park Land for LOS Standards

"Resource Conservancy Park" includes open space preservation areas designed to protect and manage a natural and/or cultural feature, environment, or facility (such as a wetland or unique habitat, a natural landmark). Resource Conservancy Parks are areas of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitat, and conservation. Recreational use may be a secondary, non-intrusive part of the property such as an interpretative trail, viewpoint, exhibit signage, picnic area, or other feature.

"Resource Activity Park" includes areas of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, equestrian activities, and camping. The site may also include play areas, such as playgrounds and open grassy play fields, and local park trails, if these areas support the primary outdoor recreational features. The site should be contiguous to or encompassing natural resources including Resource Conservancy Parks and may be easily accessible to several communities.

"Linear Park/Trail" includes built or natural corridors such as abandoned railroad lines and active utility rights-of-way or natural areas defined by drainage features, topographical changes, wooded areas, or vegetation patterns linking schools, libraries, or commercial areas with parks. Generally, linear trails may be developed for one or more modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, or horseback riding. The trail system may parallel established vehicular or other transportation systems, but apart from and usually within an adjacent or separate right-of-way. Linear trail corridors may also include active play areas or trailhead developments that are located in any of the other types of park land. Trail systems should be anchored by public facilities, like a school or park that may serve as a destination or trailhead, and extend into the surrounding areas using natural features or established roads, sidewalks, or other safe travel corridors.

"Special Use Facilities" include single-purpose recreational facilities like arboreta, display gardens, nature centers, golf courses, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arenas, fairgrounds, outdoor theaters, and gun and archery ranges. Special use facilities may include areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and other objects of historical or cultural significance, like museums, historical landmarks, and structures. Special use facilities may also include public plazas, squares, or commons in or near commercial centers, or public buildings, or other developed areas.

Categories of Park Facilities for LOS Standards

"Courts, Fields and Play Areas" include improved playgrounds and areas, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, racquetball/handball courts, indoor volleyball courts, football, soccer, baseball, skateboard parks, softball fields and basketball courts, measured in number of units.

"Multipurpose Trails" include both dirt and improved walking trails in a park, bicycling trails, and both dirt and improved horse and day hiking trails, all measured in miles.

"Picnic and Camping Areas" include the areas in a park for picnic tables and shelter, vehicle camping sites, and tent camping sites, measured in number of units.

"Access to Water Lineal Feet" includes areas for swimming at a beach, lineal feet of access to public beaches by providing for direct access to water, and immediate upland sunbathing area.

"Canoe/Kayak Launch Site" includes special use areas that are designed and constructed to facilitate ingress and egress of non-motorized watercraft to and from water.

"Equestrian" includes covered and uncovered arenas for active equestrian sports, three-day event fields and support facilities such as stabling and vehicle trailer parking.

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