

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Growth Management Act makes recreation and conservation elements optional. The County-Wide Planning Policies require an assessment of park facility needs and open space requirements for a growing population. The Policies below are drawn from the City's Parks and Open Space Plan, prepared in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan update.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND OBJECTIVES

1. *Provide and maintain a safe, attractive, enjoyable, and diverse park system that meets the needs of the City's residents, businesses and visitors.*
 - 1.1 Maintain the City's improved parks in conditions which are safe, attractive and available during as much of the year as possible.
 - 1.1.1 Use equipment, landscaping, and design which reduces long-term maintenance costs and increases safety for park users.
 - 1.1.2 Use signage and other means to notify people of general park rules.
 - 1.1.3 Make regular safety inspections of park facilities for potential safety and maintenance problems.
 - 1.2 Make maintenance of existing City park facilities the highest priority for general fund park monies.
 - 1.3 Provide a diversity of park facilities.
 - 1.3.1 Provide park facilities, including trails, picnic areas, play equipment and recreation facilities which are accessible to the disabled.
 - 1.3.2 Make the park facilities available to residents and visitors alike. Differential costs may be imposed for park users from out-of-town.
 - 1.3.3 Include in City park designs, facilities for the employees of the industrial and commercial areas.
 - 1.3.4 Make a wide variety of park and recreation facilities available to meet the desires of special needs and interest populations.
 - 1.4 Develop a cooperative, coordinated, community-based park system which makes

maximum utilization of the available resources.

- 1.4.1 Continue to cooperate with the Sumner School District to develop and maintain facilities which are available to the general public.
- 1.4.2 Promote volunteer programs to plan, develop, maintain and improve parks.
- 1.4.3 Continue to provide a recreation program with a variety of opportunities for the community and makes maximum use of the recreational facilities available within the City.
- 1.4.4 Coordinate the parks plan with the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan and City development regulations, particularly the Land Use Element and the shoreline master program. The siting and design of parks facilities should further the goals of the Comprehensive Plan whenever applicable.
- 1.5 Promote private recreation facilities within the City by making allowances for such uses in the zoning and land use regulations.
- 1.6 Cooperate in meeting the special needs of senior citizens and work to provide facilities which meet these needs.
- 1.7 Do not provide general on-site parking at community parks. These park facilities should be primarily resources to the neighborhood and should promote people walking to them. Limited parking for the disabled or for loading could be provided.
- 1.8 Recognize the critical and unique environmental features in the community such as wetlands, streams, riparian corridors, significant archaeological and historic properties, and hillsides within park facilities.
- 1.9 Encourage public participation in park management.
 - 1.9.1 Actively utilize the Parks Board for planning parks and providing guidance to staff and the City Council in the design, development and operation of parks.
 - 1.9.2 Encourage public participation in designing new parks, reviewing park rules, updating the Parks Plan, and monitoring the public's desires about parks facilities.
- 1.10 Develop a funding strategy that takes advantage of all available resources for park development and improvement.

- 1.10.1 Make new development which impacts the park system pay its fair share of the costs of providing new park facilities.
- 1.10.2 Make available information to the general public about options for donating money and services for park improvements.
- 1.11 Encourage and foster beautification on public and private property throughout the community.
- 1.12 Develop and implement an internal bicycle circulation plan.
- 1.13 Establish the levels of service provided in the Parks and Open Space Plan for park facilities.
- 1.14 Review and update the Parks Plan at least every 5 years in order to remain consistent with State funding requirements.

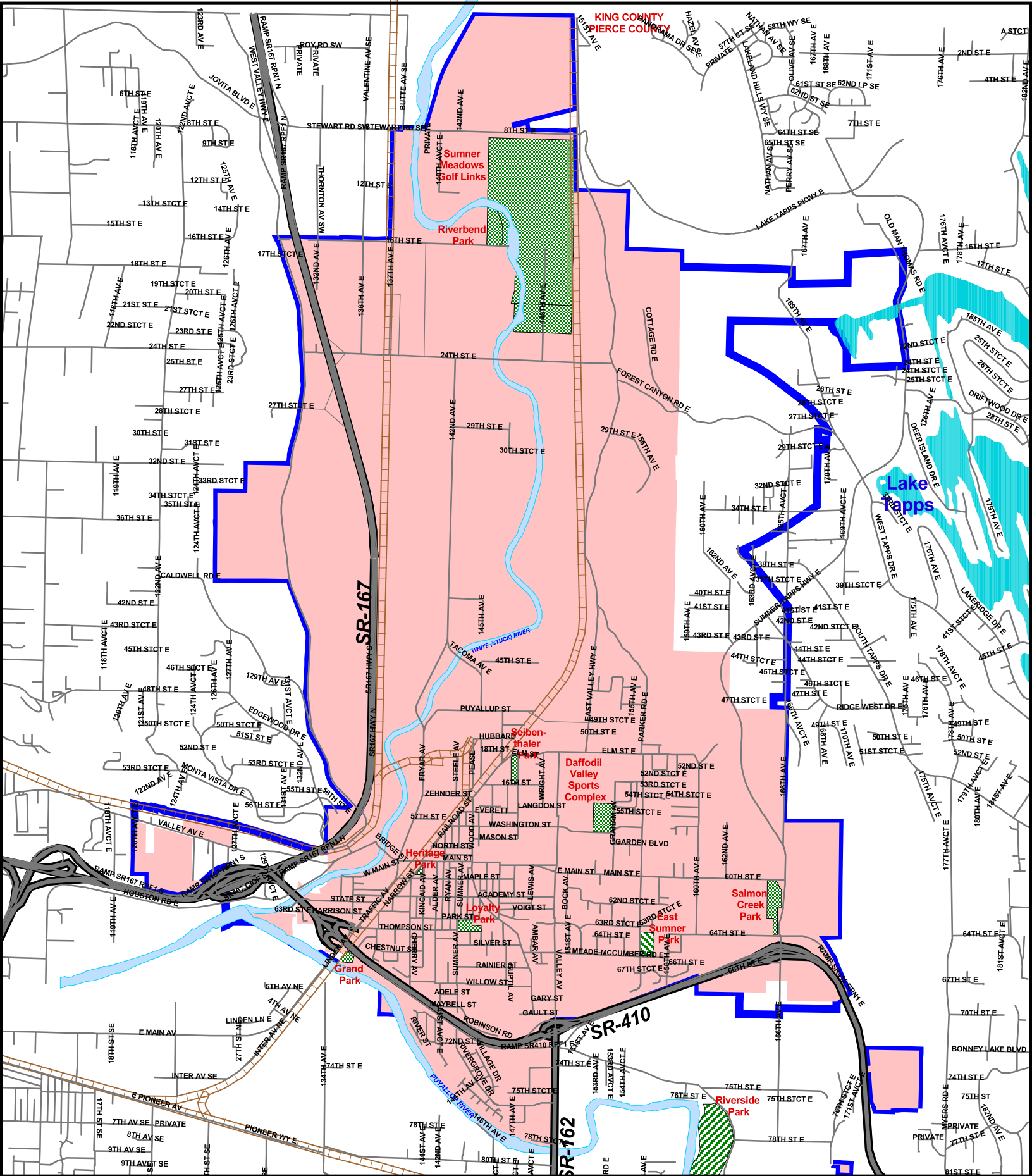
2. *Preserve, protect and enhance significant open space.*

- 2.1 Control development and activity on hillside areas in order to preserve their aesthetic qualities, reduce impacts on the valley, protect habitat, and protect sensitive areas from degradation.
 - 2.1.1 Adopt regulations to protect the hillside areas, including limitations on development on steep slopes, provisions for buffering and clustering, requirements for replanting, limitations on tree cutting, restrictions on ridgeline development, site design standards to protect viewsheds and screen structures and mining areas.
- 2.2 Adopt an urban forestry program to encourage the preservation and planting of trees on public and private property.
 - 2.2.1 Establish an urban forestry commission.
 - 2.2.2 Adopt and maintain an urban forestry strategy to encourage the preservation and protection of trees and to establish the detailed workplan for the urban forestry commission.
 - 2.2.3 Through urban forestry, street design standards, and parks programs, encourage the planting of street trees throughout the City.
- 2.3 Protect agricultural activity and long-term commercially viable agricultural land.
 - 2.3.1 Maintain protections for reasonable agricultural practices to continue without threat of nuisance actions.

- 2.3.2 Promote agricultural support businesses and markets through favorable land use regulations and permit processes and assistance with market development.
- 2.3.3 Protect critical farmlands with compensatory programs such as purchase of development rights, transfer of development rights, clustering and fee-purchase, where appropriate.
- 2.4 In conjunction with other jurisdictions, implement land use and other techniques to ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive lands, provide permanent protection of agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance, and protect the open space character of the valley between Sumner and Orting.
- 2.5 Educate the general public about the values of open space and the role it plays in the community, including education programs through the Sumner School District and area child cares, public access to critical and unique open spaces, and support for public environmental education programs.
- 2.6 Develop a trail system connecting to similar trails to the west, north and south for recreation and transportation purposes.
- 2.7 Retain City owned lands, including excess rights-of-way for open space purposes. Unnecessary lands which are surplus should be provided with open space compensation as a part of the land sale.
- 2.8 Implement flexible zoning and land use regulation techniques to encourage creative development which maximizes protection of critical areas, habitat, water quality, and open space.
 - 2.8.1 Make provision for clustering in the land use and environmental regulations.
 - 2.8.2 Work with other applicable agencies to develop a mitigation bank program for wetlands and other appropriate critical area types.
- 2.9 Work with other jurisdictions to establish open space corridors and linkages with other significant regional open spaces including the valley hillsides, Puyallup/White River corridors, and the valley south of the City.
- 2.10 Establish an open space standard of 35% for the entire City. Land use regulations and other programs should be developed to maintain this standard on a city-wide level. Open space should refer to those areas of planted surface which provide substantial open space value.
- 2.11 Seek broad and creative funding for open space protection and the furtherance of these goals and policies, including grants, utility funds, loans, conservation

futures, bond levies, donations, impact fees and any other available sources.

- 2.12 Through land use development standards and design of public facilities and improvements, establish attractive and signature gateways at the City entrances.
- 2.13 Seek to acquire the most significant parcels of property in order to protect hillside amenities, wetlands, farmlands, river and stream corridors, and other critical open spaces.
- 2.14 Through implementation of the State Shoreline Management Act and City environmental regulations, protect wetlands, riparian corridors, streams and wildlife areas.
- 2.15 Coordinate open space programs with the other Plan policies to protect plant and wildlife habitat.
- 2.16 Implement the components of the open space strategy provided in the Parks and Open Space Plan.
- 2.17 Regularly seek public input to maintain a prioritized list of open space acquisition sites.



KING COUNTY
PIERCE COUNTY

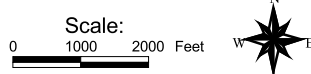


City of Sumner
**Comprehensive
Plan (Amended)**

Parks & Open Space Map

Figure: 14

Source: City of Sumner
Community Development / Parks Department



- LEGEND:
- Sumner City Limits
 - Sumner UGA

- Sumner Parks & Recreation Areas
- Pierce County Park
- Sumner Park, Under Construction