



# City Council Committee Meeting Agenda

## Parks and Trails Advisory Committee

This meeting will be conducted in person at Stanwood City Hall with an option for participants to join by telephone or online as well.

Connection information will be posted on the City Website

<https://www.stanwoodwa.org>

Monday, October 16, 2023, 3:00 PM

1. Call to Order & Roll Call
2. Citizen Comments
3. Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes
4. Communication Boards Presentation – Allison Jones, Chairman, Walk for Apraxia
5. Downtown Park Design – Patricia Love/Tansy Schroeder, Community Development
6. PROS Plan Draft – Patricia Love/Tansy Schroeder, Community Development
7. Park Policies – Patricia Love/Tansy Schroeder, Community Development
8. Heritage Park Dog Park Design
9. Park Rental Policies
10. Park/Trail Updates
  - Hamilton Park construction
  - Ovenell Park Public Farm proposal
  - Stanwood/Port Susan Trail
11. Committee Member Comments

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### Zoom Information:

#### Parks and Trails Advisory Committee

Please click this URL to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85751722998?pwd=T25lVXpSMnFXZDZGZEpHQVF6eStSdz09>

Webinar ID: 857 5172 2998

Passcode: 304123

Telephone: (253) 215-8782



## Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes September 18, 2023

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call: 3:04 PM

#### Members Present:

Matt Withers  
Cathy Wooten  
Judy Williams  
Dave Hall  
Meagen Watne  
Lisa Bruce

#### Members Absent:

Gordy Holmes

#### Others Present:

Carly Ruacho, Parks Planning Manager  
Kevin Pellham, Parks Maintenance Lead  
Tansy Schroeder, City Planner  
Peter Kamb, public  
Caitlin Hepworth, Atwell

### 2. Citizen Comments

Meagen Watne and Peter Kamb had a comment to the committee about Stanwood joining the Leafline Trails coalition to make it easier for them to connect to the PTAC. This is a coalition that is working to create an interconnected network of shared use trails across the Central Puget Sound region.

### 3. Approval of May 2023 Meeting Minutes

Amend the minutes to remove Matt Withers from members present and add Lisa Bruce and Meagen Watne's last name to the list of members present. Minutes were approved as amended.

### 4. PROS Plan Update- Parks Recreation and Open Space

Caitlin Hepworth with Atwell came to the PTAC meeting to review the community survey that was done regarding the PROS plan, the proposed Capital Improvement Plan and to receive PTAC comments.

- PTAC asked to make an additional Heritage Park parking lot a priority.
- A committee member suggested making lights on the sports fields a priority.
- Suggestion was made to prioritize the parks projects on the CIP based on incoming revenue projects.
- Previous PTAC park project prioritization lists will be used for CIP.

### 5. Church Creek Striping Plan

The committee reviewed the quotes for striping the Church Creek Park parking lot. The Committee is generally in favor of striping the lot, but they would like staff to look into wider stalls (larger than 8.5').

### 6. Park/Trail Updates



## Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes September 18, 2023

HAMILTON - Hamilton Park is under construction. Boat launch is complete.

OVENELL PARK - Public Farm project still moving forward. Carly will be getting him a lease document.

PORT SUSAN TRAIL – Design complete. Grant expires November 30. Carly will be asking for an extension from Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for 1 additional year.

DOWNTOWN PARK - Survey with 3 designs is currently out and closes September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### 7. Committee Member Comments

Lisa Bruce commented that she would like to see more focus given to teen needs at parks. She identified functional art as a possible solution to the need for spaces for teens to sit and hang-out, especially near other uses (skate park, etc.) where they can watch and engage from nearby. Statues, large letters that allow climbing and sitting were suggested.

Meagen Watne asked if Playgrounds Northwest could come give a presentation on accessible playgrounds. Carly indicated that they are one of several companies that designed and install local playgrounds, it would not be appropriate to have them come as it may show favoritism for future projects.

**Adjourn:** 5:12 PM



**CITY OF STANWOOD  
PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

**DATE:** October 16, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** PTAC Meeting Agenda Topics  
**FROM:** Carly Ruacho, Parks Planning Manager

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Item 4 – Communication Boards Presentation

Allison Jones, the Chairman of the Walk for Apraxia will provide the Committee with a presentation on communication boards and the purpose and value of including them in our local playgrounds.

Item 5 – Downtown Park Design

Introduction

The City of Stanwood purchased a 0.11-acre parcel on the eastern edge of Stanwood's main street business district and near the Amtrak train station for an urban business district park and entry point for visitors arriving by train.



The downtown park is located on 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Florence Road) next to the Amtrak Station and is bordered by historic commercial buildings on the west side of the property and the railroad line used by Amtrak and general freight to the east. During the 1950s, an auto repair and parts buildings, a filling station, and an area for auto grease and oil storage were located on the site. During the 1980s and early 1990s, an antique business and later a hair salon operated on the Site. During the early 1990s, buildings on the site were destroyed by a fire and the site has since remained a vacant, undeveloped lot.

In 2022 the City began the downtown revitalization project referred to as the Twin City Mile. The City spent nearly 20 years planning for a vibrant and economically robust downtown. Applying "complete streets" concepts the City is reimagining how main street could look and function by connecting City Hall to the Train Station: The Twin City Mile.

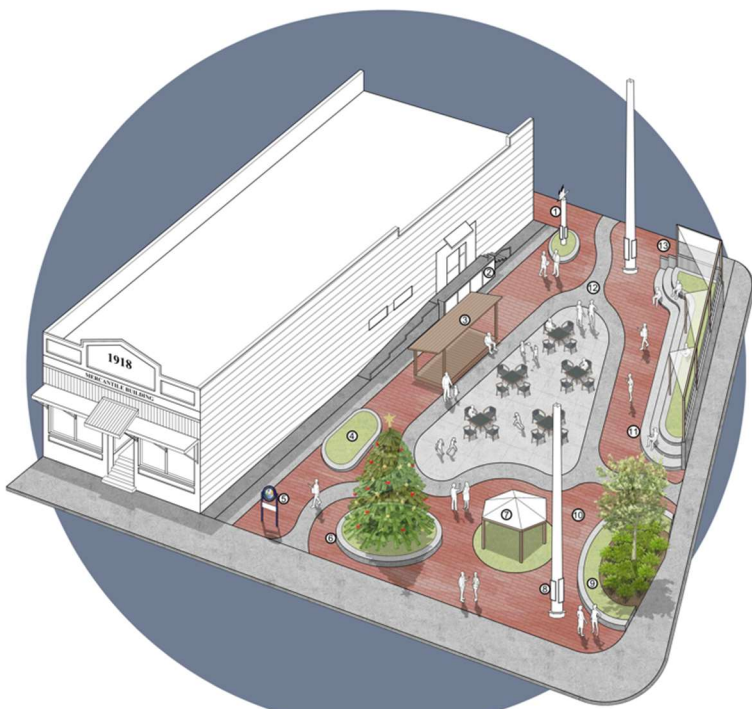
The City purchased the downtown park site as part of the Twin City Mile downtown revitalization project. 271<sup>st</sup> Street project elements include improving pedestrian safety and comfort, reconfiguring travel lanes and parking, building wider sidewalks and plaza areas, improved street lighting, adding wayfinding signage, building park areas and gateway features, and installing street trees, art, and other curb appeal amenities.

Design Concepts

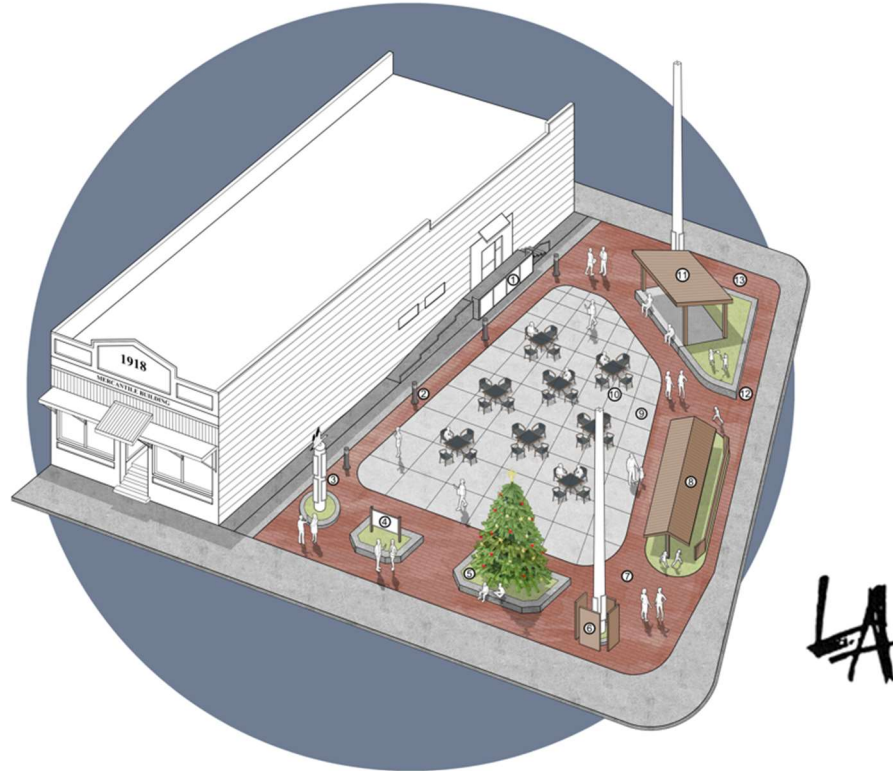
The City envisions an urban, hard surface downtown park, that can be used by shoppers and tourists as a place to stop, rest and enjoy the day. It should also be designed to accommodate / supplement the many special events held along 271<sup>st</sup> Street including art festivals, Twin City Idlers Car Show, Stanwood Camano Fair parade, National Night Out, Concerts, Ghouls Night Out (Halloween), Holiday Tree Lighting and Festivities, and potentially the Farmers Market.

Initial project ideas were discussed with the Economic Development Board (March 17, 2023) and Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (May 15, 2023); their ideas included a gazebo, seating, band stage, hardscape play areas, accessible walkways to the rear parking lot, and/or any combination of public gathering space. The intent of the project is to create a “place” within the downtown area that promotes a strong business district and useable community space.

Using the ideas generated by the Committees, Scott Lankford of Lankford Associates, prepared the following three concept designs.

|                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Concept 1: Raised Seating/Circuit Design</b></p>  | <p><b>Park Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Covered Bandstand</li><li>Open and Raised Seating</li><li>Holiday Tree</li><li>Covered Play Train Area</li><li>Brick Road Plaza</li><li>Circular Path</li></ul> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Concept 2: Open Concept/Depot Play Fixture**



**Park Elements:**

Depot Style  
Bandstand and  
Covered Play  
Shelter

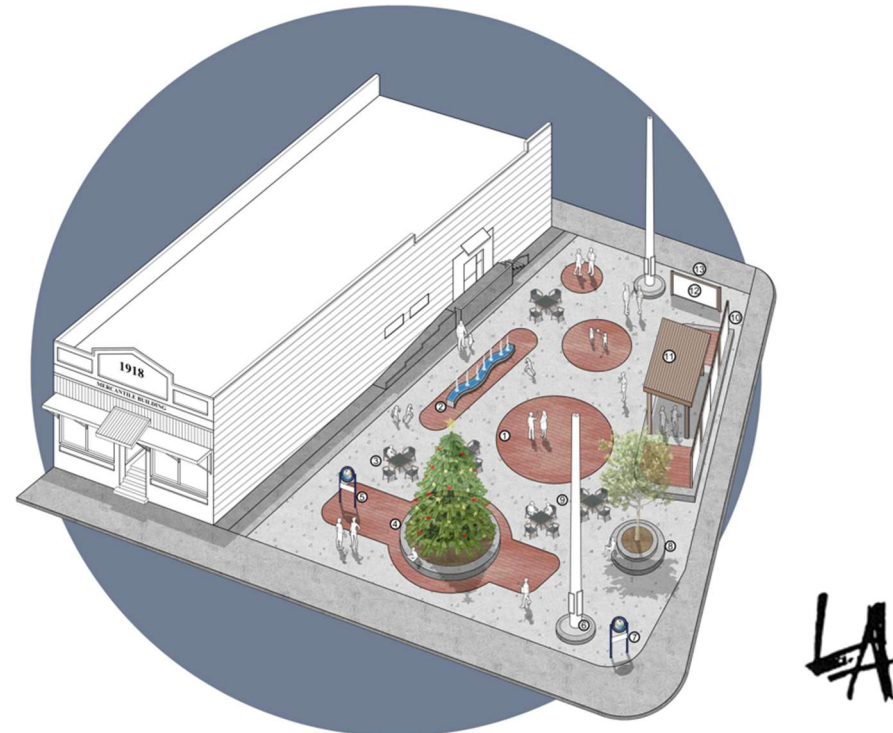
Scored Concrete  
Plaza with Open  
Seating

Brick Accent Around  
Plaza

Holiday Tree

Park Signage and  
Artistic Weathervane

**Concept 3: Water Feature/Fixed Seating**



**Park Features:**

Water Feature

Brick Road Inserts

Fixed In Place  
Seating and Tables

Holiday Tree

Bandstand

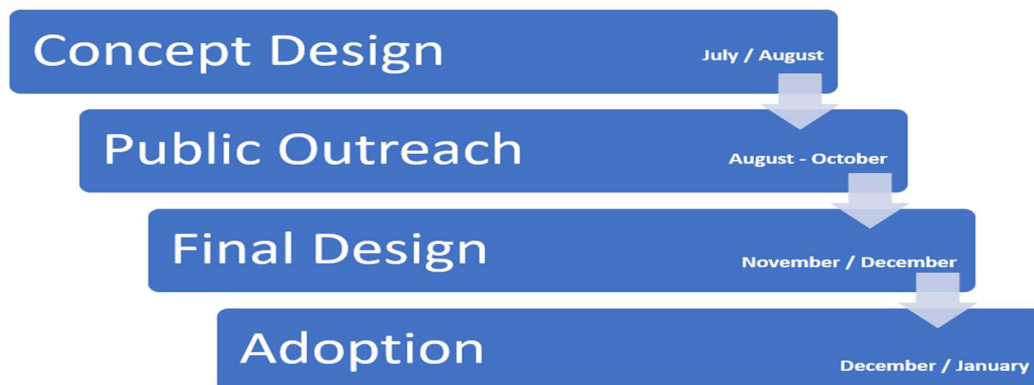
Park Signage and  
History Boards

A public survey has been posted on the City's website and social media to get feedback on the concepts. This survey was open August 25 – September 22.

Over 300 responses to the survey were received. The results of the survey will be shared with City Committees and updated designs will be prepared or a new hybrid design may emerge. Staff would like to obtain the boards comments on the concepts which will be included and considered for the final design.

### Project Schedule

Below is the preliminary project schedule.



### Item 6 – PROS Plan Draft

See attached draft V2 of the PROS Plan for your review and comment.

### Item 7 – Park Policies

As part of the Comprehensive Plan Update process, the parks goals and policies need to review and updated. In June, staff brought to you the 2015 Park Plan Goals and Policies. Staff has updated the policies following that discussion. The policies were revised to reflect current conditions, simplify into “plain language” and to reduce redundancy. Below are the revised policies for your review.

#### **PROSG 1 - Equally distribute a park system throughout the City that provides a variety of park types, facilities, and uses to the residents of Stanwood.**

PROSP 1.1: Prioritize development and implementation of existing park master plans over development of new parks.

PROSP 1.2: Maintain and expand Heritage Park as a regional attraction while providing community and neighborhood parks to meet the needs of City and UGA residents and businesses.

PROSP 1.3: Provide a variety of active and passive facilities, trails and open space to meet the needs and desires of the community.

PROSP 1.4: Identify City owned parcels and underutilized public rights-of-ways that are not currently part of the park and recreation system and evaluate them for potential public access, trails, or other public use where appropriate.

PROSP 1.5: Incorporate historical and cultural lands, public art, historic sites, structures, and facilities into the park system to preserve these features and provide a balanced recreational and social experience.

PROSP 1.6: Design and renovate city parks, trails and facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age, income, and recreational interests.

PROSP 1.7: Emphasize user input in planning, design, and development of park and trail facilities.

PROSP 1.8: Support the development of private recreation facilities as part of the platting process that are accessible, walkable and provides some form of space or equipment for physical activities.

**PROSG 2 - Work in collaboration with local, county and state agencies, special districts and businesses to provide a network of park facilities in Stanwood and in neighboring communities to accommodate the recreational needs of the greater Stanwood-Camano region.**

PROSP 2.1: Work with the Snohomish County, State agencies, local Tribes, and other public and private agencies, to purchase land and open space areas necessary to provide high quality, convenient park and recreation lands before the most suitable sites are lost to development.

PROSP 2.2: Pursue an agreement with the Stanwood Camano School District to create opportunities for joint ventures to develop and use of combined school, playground, and athletic facilities.

PROSP 2.3: Support and partner with private and non-profit agencies that provide active and passive recreation opportunities, public health, and other facilities that support community needs.

PROSP 2.4: Pursue the acquisition and development of a new community park serving the community in the uptown area of the city.

PROSP 2.5: Consider joint ventures with the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation, Island County, Stanwood Camano School District, Washington State Department of Wildlife, and local public and private agencies to provide coordinated and quality recreational activities and programs in the City where feasible and desirable.

PROSP 2.6: Provide a means for private philanthropy and business participation in supporting parks and recreation including legacy donations funding and volunteerism.

**PROSG 3 - Reconnect Stanwood to the Stillaguamish River.**

PROSP 3.1: Acquire and develop shoreline properties or easements for waterfront access and parks when opportunities become available.

PROSP 3.2: Develop watercraft access opportunities including a mixture of canoe, kayak, rowboat, raft, and power boating.

PROSP 3.3: Prioritize use of the City owned property on the shoreline of the Stillaguamish River for park, recreation, educational or open space uses.

PROSP 3.4: Connect City waterfront park land and recreation uses with Downtown Stanwood.

**PROSG 4 - Provide for the active and passive recreational needs of the Stanwood community.**

PROSP 4.1: Provide a variety of quality active recreation facilities sufficient to serve Stanwood residents and area visitors.

PROSP 4.2: Improve and maintain existing recreation facilities to meet the needs of all local citizens, including barrier free access.

PROSP 4.3: Expand, upgrade, and diversify support facilities (restrooms, parking, picnic areas, shelters, and playground equipment, etc.) in recreational areas.

PROSP 4.4: Support the development of indoor community and recreational centers that provide for community usage, athletic uses, and multiuse activities on a year-round basis.

PROSP 4.5: Promote a healthy community by providing an opportunity for exercise and recreation on a local trail system.

PROSP 4.6: Develop a comprehensive, high-quality system of multipurpose trails and corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists that provides access to downtown, public facilities, local neighborhoods and connects to Warm Beach, the Centennial Trail in Arlington, Conway, and Camano Island.

PROSP 4.7: Implement the Stanwood Port Susan Loop Trail in Downtown connecting parks to businesses with connections to the Uptown area.

PROSP 4.8: Apply a wayfinding system as a means of identifying and advertising trail systems.

**PROSG 5 - Promote recreation facilities and activities that will attract visitors and enhance the City's economic development initiatives.**

PROSP 5.1: Encourage and promote the use of parks for sport tournaments, special events, community festivals, art shows, concerts, or other economic development activities that attract visitors to the City and that are complementary to recreational uses.

PROSP 5.2: Encourage healthy food production such as community gardens or pea patches in city parks where these uses do not conflict with established recreation uses.

PROSP 5.3: Allow concessionaires in park facilities to support recreation uses with rental of equipment and food vendors.

**PROSG 6 - Establish a network of open spaces that enhance the livability of the community.**

PROSP 6.1: Acquire, preserve, and protect natural areas, critical areas, shorelines, historical sites and areas of ecological significance for open space, recreation and educational opportunities for the community and visitors.

PROSP 6.2: Encourage the preservation of unique areas and/or site features including natural and exemplary built features such as the Hamilton Smokestack.

PROSP 6.3: To the maximum extent possible connect open space areas on adjacent plats to create open space and wildlife corridors.

**PROSG 7 – Regularly review and update Level of Service Standards for Parks and Recreation Facilities.**

PROSP 7.1: Identify the amount of land needed to meet Level of Service standards for future park development and types of facilities needed to meet recreation standards.

| Facility                  | Level of Service                         |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Regional Parks</b>     | 0.002 - 0.003 acres per 1,000 population |
| <b>Neighborhood Parks</b> | 2.5 acres per 1,000 population           |
| <b>Community Parks</b>    | 2.5 acres per 1,000 population           |
| <b>Trails</b>             | 2.0 acres per 1,000 population           |

PROSP 7.2: Update the inventory, surplus and/or deficiency of City park lands based on the official population estimates from the Washington State Office of Financial Management.

PROSP 7.3: Identify parklands for acquisition in advance of its actual need based on: a) level of service standards, b) population growth, c) neighborhood benefit, and d) regional demand.

**PROSG 8 – Incorporate principles of sustainability in the site development, maintenance, operations and programming of park facilities.**

PROSP 8.1: Incorporate green stormwater runoff development techniques into park design as mitigation when converting land to recreational use.

PROSP 8.2: Develop guidelines for park users to encourage sustainable practices with park activities, and events techniques such as use of compostable plastics, composting, and carpooling.

PROSP 8.3: Work with the Snohomish County Conservation District to identify and implement opportunities to incorporate conservation techniques in park design and ongoing maintenance and operations.

PROSP 8.4: Maintain the wetland area in Heritage Park as a location for offsite mitigation, and potentially convert to a wetland mitigation bank, to encourage sustainable development throughout the City.

**PROSG 9 – Implement the 2022 Parks and Recreation Feasibility Study through a phased approach balancing community desires with budget constraints.**

PROSP 9.1: Implement a phased and scalable approach to improving city parks and services prior to formally creating a City Parks Department.

PROSP 9.2: Focus the Public Works Parks Division on park planning and maintenance around the following generalized actions:

- Increase maintenance levels to have tournament-ready ballfields

- Increase signage and wayfinding around the city
- Improve trails and walkability
- Increase parking capacity and improved parking maintenance
- Increase park development and planning

PROSP 9.3: Consider forming a City Parks Department once recreational programming is provided which includes, but is not limited to providing recreation classes, hosting / managing tournaments, and / or building a community center or other buildings that support parks and recreation.

### ***Draft 2024 PROS Plan***

Staff and consultants have been working on updating the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The plan is intended to serve as a tool for improving parks and recreation services and facilities within the City of Stanwood while coinciding with the Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan. It reflects the desire of the residents of Stanwood to develop a Parks Department, retain natural resources, and improve recreational opportunities in the community.

The PROS Plan is organized into the following sections:

- Introduction
- Goals and Policies
- Community Profile
- Parks Classification and Standards
- Public Engagement Summary
- Facility Demand
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Conclusion: Investing in Our Future

The next steps will be to migrate the draft plan into inDesign to finish the visual details, and then begin the adoption process.

### **Item 8 - Heritage Park Dog Park Design**

The design is for a 1 acre fenced area to the west of Field #3 at Heritage Park. There will be a small dog enclosure approximately the same size as the existing dog park. The current dog park will remain until the new park entrance is constructed, likely in 2025/2026. All fencing is proposed to be 5' in height. The project is currently out for bid and is expected to be constructed before spring.



## Item 9 - Park Rental Policies

See attached draft revised Park Rental Policies for your review and comment.



# City of Stanwood

## *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan*



Updated November 2023  
*with Appendices*

Adopted XXXX 2024



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth. —Henry David Thoreau

There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter. —Rachel Carson

Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you. —Frank Lloyd Wright



A group of schoolchildren on a quest in Church Creek Park (2022)  
Credit: Lisa Bruce



# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Acknowledgements

### **Mayor**

Sid Roberts

### **City Council**

Dani Gaumond  
Marcus Metz  
Darren Robb  
Timothy Pearce  
Steve Sherpro  
Andreena Bergman  
Tim Schmitt

### **Planning Commission**

Patrick Hosterman, Chair  
Justin Burns, Vice Chair  
Eric Warnat  
Robert Hicks  
Melissa Toner  
Cody Davis  
Jeff Wheatley

### **City Staff**

Patricia Love, Director of Community Development  
Carly Ruacho, Parks Planning Manager  
Tansy Schroeder, Planner  
Kevin Pellham, Parks Team Lead/Engineering Technician

### **Parks and Trails Advisory Committee**

Dave Hall, Chair  
Gordy Homes, Vice Chair  
Cathy Wooten  
Matt Withers  
Lisa Bruce  
Judy Williams  
Meagen Watne

### **Consultant – Atwell, LLC**

Andrew McAndrews, Director of Planning  
Caitlin Hepworth, Senior Planner  
Cyrus Oswald, Planner I  
Tanner Machala, Planner I

### **Thank you for Making This Possible**

The City of Stanwood sincerely appreciates and thanks each member of the community that has participated and provided insights on developing the *2024 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan*. Your input throughout this process is invaluable and the impacts of this plan will be felt by the community over the next 6 years and beyond.



# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan is to serve as a tool for improving parks and recreation services and facilities within the City of Stanwood. It is a complimentary and coinciding document with the City's Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan which provides a policy framework to guide the City's growth in the residential and commercial areas, provision of adequate public facility uses, and management and development of its park and recreation system. The PROS plan presents an implementation guide for City's resources to operate and maintain existing facilities as well as provide new facilities that increase Stanwood's park's performance and meet the future parks and recreation needs of the area's growing population. It reflects the desire of the citizens of Stanwood to develop a Parks Department, retain natural resources, and improve recreational opportunities in the community.

As part of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan efforts, the City has adopted PROS and Parks Element goals, objectives, policies, and strategies that serve as a guide to decisions about parks, recreation, and open space land and facility investment. In general, a thorough review of the Parks and Recreation Plan is done every six years to ensure that the plan remains current and reflects the community's needs. The last update was made in June of 2015. The 2024 PROS Plan makes major changes that align with the Comprehensive Plan growth projections established by Snohomish County and current Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) guidance.

The City of Stanwood functions as the town center for to the *Greater Stanwood/Camano* region, which is the intersection of Snohomish, Skagit, and Island counties. Stanwood provides goods, services, businesses, and governmental agencies that support a diverse population of rural, suburban, and urban residents in Snohomish, Skagit, and Island counties. Stanwood is the historic center of this agricultural and rural residential area and the home of the single high school that serves the entire Stanwood/Camano School District population. Many residents outside the City come to Stanwood for shopping, services, community events, and park and recreation opportunities. Planning a parks and recreation system for the 8,585 (as of 2023) residents of the City and the surrounding area's larger populations requires consideration of important policy issues. In reviewing the park and recreation needs of the community the City asked the following questions.

- How can the City shift the parks program into a Parks and Recreation Department?
- How can we improve the quality and performance of existing park and recreation opportunities and facilities?
- What is the appropriate balance between regional, community and neighborhood facilities and services?
- How can a small town with a limited tax base provide regional services?
- What is the role of private recreation providers in the mix of services?
- How can maintenance be appropriately managed?
- What role should park and recreation services play in attracting outside visitors to Stanwood?



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

The City prioritized the six following guiding principles for investment in the parks and recreation system as follows.

1. **Finance/Economic Development:** ensure that parks & trails are financially sustainable and generate economic development for the community.
2. **Maintenance:** invest in our existing parks – starting with Heritage Park and Church Creek Park
3. **Trails:** make progress on near-term improvements such as increased signage and wayfinding and select longer-term improvements such as improved trails and walkability.
4. **Waterfront Access:** realize connections to the waterfront – via Hamilton Landing improvements.
5. **Parks System:** prioritize improvements for existing parks, while recognizing that acquiring new properties will need to be considered at the appropriate time(s).
6. **Services:** Increase the amenities and programs offered by the city such as increased parking capacity, further parks development, a more robust sports field system, and, secondarily, more recreational programming.

### USING THIS DOCUMENT

This document provides a snapshot of the state of Stanwood’s recreation facilities and guidance for the future of the city’s parks. This plan gives history of past parks planning efforts, analyzes the current Stanwood community, summarizes public engagement efforts, inventories the current facilities within the city, analyzes park needs against current facilities, and gives goals and policies to guide the development of the Stanwood parks system.

Different readers may use this document in different ways. New Stanwood residents may want to know what parks are available to them, while already deeply engaged community members may want to see where their parks system is headed. Future policymakers can use this document to understand the context from which policy has arisen or use it to apply for grant funding (this document has been developed using the Washington State Recreation and Conservation office standards). All readers can find the information they need organized by theme and type of analysis.

### RCO REQUIREMENTS FOR PROS

The RCO requires plans to include certain elements to be eligible for various grant opportunities. Jurisdictions must take an inventory of the planning area to see what the current state of facilities is, involve the public in the planning process, and conduct demand and need analysis. Using these elements, the jurisdiction must develop and adopt a series of goals and objectives which support the jurisdiction’s mission. The plan must also be accompanied by a Capital Improvement Program, which outlines the implementation of the plan through land acquisition, development, renovations, and restoration projects. The City of Stanwood has developed this plan to meet the following requirements set forth by the Recreation and Conservation Office:

1. **Goals and objectives** developed to support the City of Stanwood’s mission
2. A **parks inventory** assessing the condition and capacity of the parks system.
3. An extensive **public involvement** and input process
4. A **demand and need analysis** describing the inventory and need based on public input.
5. A **capital improvement program** that lists land acquisition, development, renovation, and restoration projects for the next six years (2024-2030).
6. **Adoption** via resolution or ordinance by the City of Stanwood City Council.



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

### THE PLANNING PROCESS

The PROS plan update has been done in conjunction with the development of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update. The planning process began in 2023 by evaluating the existing facilities, engaging the community, and determining a list of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). Robust public input opportunities were paramount to hosting an inclusive planning process, as described in Section 6 Public Engagement Summary.

The existing level of service of the parks was analyzed by surveying all the existing park amenities, structures, and facilities. These levels of service in tandem with public input gave a complete evaluation of the existing parks system in the city as described in Section 5 Facility Assessment. This engagement and examination phase was followed by an evaluation phase. Improvements to the parks system were outlined in a Capital Improvement Plan, which describes the timing, implementation steps, costs, and scope of work for each improvement project.

Public feedback influenced the city's selection and prioritization of projects. The city solicited public input and engagement through many outreach methods to maximize engagement. These included:

- Farmers Market Engagement Booth
- Community Parks Survey
- "Little Ones" Survey and Drawings
- Focus Group meeting with the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee



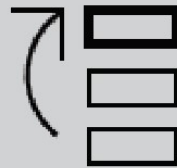
#### Public Engagement

Gather input from the community.



#### Assessment

Determine current level of service.



#### Prioritization

Create a CIP with projects organized by timing and complete with scope of work and estimated costs.



#### Implementation

Funding is allocated, and improvements begin.



# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED PLANS

### ***2015 Comprehensive Plan / PROS Plan***

Fully planning cities under the State Growth Management Act (GMA), including Stanwood, must complete a parks and recreation element in their comprehensive plans. The last update to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan was done in 2015 as part of an update to the 2015 Comprehensive Plan. Elements of the comprehensive plan must include components outlined by the GMA. Parks elements must include:

- (a) Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period;
- (b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and
- (c) an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.

The City of Stanwood's 2015 Comprehensive plan met these requirements. This plan also determined that the city's parks met their community needs for regional parks, but did not meet their needs for neighborhood parks, community parks, or linear trails. This plan adopted six- and twenty-year action items for each of the city's recreation properties. Since this plan was adopted, the population has grown by nearly 20%, up to more than 7,700 in 2021 from 6,560 in 2015. This plan evaluates if the current recreation system is against community needs and provides actions needed to improve levels of service.

## REGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT

Snohomish County's 2015 Comprehensive Plan outlines the county's vision, goals, and actions needed through 2035. This plan was developed using state guidance from the Growth Management Act and Multicounty Planning Policies from the Puget Sound Regional Council Vision 2040, and the parks element was developed using guidance from the Recreation and Conservation Office. The county followed these standards to both ensure concurrent development with surrounding jurisdictions and ensure eligibility for grant opportunities. The County's Comprehensive Plan's Parks and Recreation element includes a set of Goals and Objectives, a Capital Facility Plan, an evaluation of Parks demand and need, Implementation measures, recommended Park Improvements, and a Financing Plan, and is accompanied by the Park and Recreation Visioning Plan, and Park Inventory Report.

To ensure concurrent development and provision of services, the city is required to plan under the county's parks and recreation element. The city of Stanwood's PROS plan was developed in accordance with the Snohomish Countywide Planning Policies.

### ***2023 Washington Recreation and Conservation Plan***

Many states, including Washington, create State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs) to guide investment priorities. The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan is updated every 5 years, most recently in 2023. The state must complete this comprehensive plan to receive money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, from which the state has received more than 92 million dollars. Beyond unlocking funding, the plan guides jurisdictions across the state in their parks planning efforts. The Stanwood PROS plan operates within the broader framework of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan.

The Washington SCORP seeks to determine the top recreation needs in the state and set investment priorities to meet these demands. This plan established four priorities: providing meaningful access to



## **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan**

outdoor recreation for all, protecting natural and cultural resources while managing increasing demand, demonstrating the essential nature of parks, natural areas, and recreation infrastructure, and supporting healthy, adaptable, and connected communities.

Many outdoor recreation activities showed significant participation increases since 2019. The state, as part of their comprehensive parks planning, has collected information on what the most popular outdoor recreation activities are in Washington State. Stanwood can use this to supplement public outreach results to indicate how community members may be using the city's recreational space. Ninety-one percent of the State-surveyed respondents walk or use mobility devices on roads or sidewalks. More than 80% people also view nature, wildlife, and scenic views. Leisurely opportunities such as hanging out, picnicking, visiting gardens or farmers market, visiting cultural or historical facilities and events are also done by more than 60% of respondents. Respondents indicated that these leisure, trail and road-oriented activities are often done within local parks. The City of Stanwood can consider catering their parks facilities to meet these common needs.

### **BENEFITS OF PARKS PLANNING**

There are many benefits in planning and maintaining a parks system. Well planned parks remove barriers and allow parks users to fully engage with their open spaces. Physical barriers, such as distance, or perceived barriers, such as a lack of culturally diverse park staff, may prevent people from spending time in nature. Effective parks planning reduces these barriers to the outdoors and increases parks access. Parks planning allows communities to fully reap the benefits that can be provided by their outdoor spaces.



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

### Social

There are several social benefits to parks access. Many studies support the idea that access to green space reduces crime in urban areas<sup>1</sup>. Studies in Washington have found that more green space is linked to decreased depression and stress, especially among young people. Green space can also increase social activity and cohesion in communities by providing community space. Similarly, Parks encourage increased sense of place resulting from intimate bonds between people and the outdoor spaces they enjoy.



*Movie night at Heritage Park brings residents together during a summertime evening.*

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<sup>1</sup>[google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjXoOTOmriwAhUHmuAKHTpIAY0QFjABegQIAxAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mdpi.com%2F1660-4601%2F16%2F24%2F5119%2Fpdf&usg=AOvVaw1T0QTgQ-nR8b7tDYtffz56](https://www.mdpi.com/2016-4601/2F16%2F24%2F5119%2Fpdf&usg=AOvVaw1T0QTgQ-nR8b7tDYtffz56)



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

### Environmental

Preserving natural areas is one of the original functions of parks in the county. Parks have played key roles in the recovery of endangered and threatened species, and open spaces can sequester large amounts of carbon. On the local scale, parks and open spaces can help mitigate effects of the climate crisis as well. Trees can act as cooling oases in urban areas, lowering temperatures and removing pollutants from the air. Stormwater surges can be mitigated by open spaces, improving water quality and decreasing the risk of property damage and health risks. Park planning can make cities more resilient to the changing climate.



*Parks that help people engage with the natural world can also help them find value in protecting it for the enjoyment of future generations.*



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

### Physical

A plethora of research supports the health benefits for time spent outside. Many common active forms of recreation, such as walking, biking, or hiking, which increase cardiovascular health, may gain additional benefits when they are done in nature. People who live close to parks often walk recreationally more than their counterparts who live further from parks. Early exposure to nature for children is positively associated with less sedentary and more active adulthoods. The health benefits of nature are likely especially impactful for low-income populations, who are typically more vulnerable to poor health outcomes stemming from chronic stress. Physical health is greatly improved by contact with nature.<sup>2</sup>



*Opportunities for active recreation can increase physical health through exercise at every age.*

---

<sup>2</sup> [Health Benefits of Nature \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/health/benefits-of-nature)



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

### Financial

Planning for parks, recreation, and open space has financial benefits that enable the City to continue to improve and expand the parks system. The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) offers grant opportunities available for jurisdictions with an adopted and certified PROS plan. The RCO grant program includes a variety of different funding opportunities for both general improvements and specialized projects, such as developing boating facilities, conservation, trails, and habitat restoration. The Stanwood community benefits from this long-range planning effort as it creates more funding opportunities that can move key park infrastructure or acquisition projects forward.



*The Stanwood Farmers Market is one of many outdoor activities and events that generate tourism, economic benefits for local businesses, and tax revenue. Community events are one activity often managed by a Parks Department*



# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## SECTION II – GOALS AND POLICIES

Below are the goals that were developed for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and 2024 Comprehensive Plan – Parks Element. Goals and policies provide the structure implementing park project, programs, and operations considerations in relation to Stanwood’s concurrent growth. Policies were developed based on applicable policies from previous plans, desired level of service results, development a Parks Department, and community engagement and interests.

### **PROSG 1 - Equally distribute a park system throughout the City that provides a variety of park types, facilities, and uses to the residents of Stanwood.**

- |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Policy 1.1 | Prioritize development and implementation of existing park master plans over development of new parks.                                                                                                                          |
| Policy 1.2 | Maintain and expand Heritage Park as a regional attraction while providing community and neighborhood parks to meet the needs of City and UGA residents and businesses.                                                         |
| Policy 1.3 | Provide a variety of active and passive facilities, trails and open space to meet the needs and desires of the community.                                                                                                       |
| Policy 1.4 | Identify City owned parcels and underutilized public rights-of-ways that are not currently part of the park and recreation system and evaluate them for potential public access, trails, or other public use where appropriate. |
| Policy 1.5 | Incorporate historical and cultural lands, public art, historic sites, structures, and facilities into the park system to preserve these features and provide a balanced recreational and social experience.                    |
| Policy 1.6 | Design and renovate city parks, trails and facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age, income, and recreational interests.                                 |
| Policy 1.7 | Emphasize user input in planning, design, and development of park and trail facilities.                                                                                                                                         |
| Policy 1.8 | Support the development of private recreation facilities as part of the platting process that are accessible, walkable and provides some form of space or equipment for physical activities.                                    |

### **PROSG 2 - Work in collaboration with local, county and state agencies, special districts and businesses to provide a network of park facilities in Stanwood and in neighboring communities to accommodate the recreational needs of the greater Stanwood-Camano region.**

- |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Policy 2.1 | Work with the Snohomish County, State agencies, local Tribes, and other public and private agencies, to purchase land and open space areas necessary to provide high quality, convenient park and recreation lands before the most suitable sites are lost to development. |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

- Policy 2.2 Pursue an agreement with the Stanwood Camano School District to create opportunities for joint ventures to develop and use of combined school, playground, and athletic facilities.
- Policy 2.3 Support and partner with private and non-profit agencies that provide active and passive recreation opportunities, public health, and other facilities that support community needs.
- Policy 2.4 Pursue the acquisition and development of a new community park serving the community in the uptown area of the city.
- Policy 2.5 Consider joint ventures with the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation, Island County, Stanwood Camano School District, Washington State Department of Wildlife, and local public and private agencies to provide coordinated and quality recreational activities and programs in the City where feasible and desirable.
- Policy 2.6 Provide a means for private philanthropy and business participation in supporting parks and recreation including legacy donations funding and volunteerism.

### **PROSG 3 - Reconnect Stanwood to the Stillaguamish River.**

- Policy 3.1 Acquire and develop shoreline properties or easements for waterfront access and parks when opportunities become available.
- Policy 3.2 Develop watercraft access opportunities including a mixture of canoe, kayak, rowboat, raft, and power boating.
- Policy 3.3 Prioritize use of the City owned property on the shoreline of the Stillaguamish River for park, recreation, educational or open space uses.
- Policy 3.4 Connect City waterfront park land and recreation uses with Downtown Stanwood.

### **PROSG 4 - Provide for the active and passive recreational needs of the Stanwood community.**

- Policy 4.1 Provide a variety of quality active recreation facilities sufficient to serve Stanwood residents and area visitors.
- Policy 4.2 Improve and maintain existing recreation facilities to meet the needs of all local citizens, including barrier free access.
- Policy 4.3 Expand, upgrade, and diversify support facilities (restrooms, parking, picnic areas, shelters, and playground equipment, etc.) in recreational areas.
- Policy 4.4 Support the development of indoor community and recreational centers that provide for community usage, athletic uses, and multiuse activities on a year-round basis.



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

- Policy 4.5 Promote a healthy community by providing an opportunity for exercise and recreation on a local trail system.
- Policy 4.6 Develop a comprehensive, high-quality system of multipurpose trails and corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists that provides access to downtown, public facilities, local neighborhoods and connects to Warm Beach, the Centennial Trail in Arlington, Conway, and Camano Island.
- Policy 4.7 Implement the Stanwood Port Susan Loop Trail in Downtown connecting parks to businesses with connections to the Uptown area.
- Policy 4.8 Apply a wayfinding system as a means of identifying and advertising trail systems.

### **PROSG 5 - Promote recreation facilities and activities that will attract visitors and enhance the City's economic development initiatives.**

- Policy 5.1 Encourage and promote the use of parks for sport tournaments, special events, community festivals, art shows, concerts, or other economic development activities that attract visitors to the City and that are complementary to recreational uses.
- Policy 5.2 Encourage healthy food production such as community gardens or pea patches in city parks where these uses do not conflict with established recreation uses.
- Policy 5.3 Allow concessionaires in park facilities to support recreation uses with rental of equipment and food vendors.

### **PROSG 6 - Establish a network of open spaces that enhance the livability of the community.**

- Policy 6.1 Acquire, preserve, and protect natural areas, critical areas, shorelines, historical sites and areas of ecological significance for open space, recreation and educational opportunities for the community and visitors.
- Policy 6.2 Encourage the preservation of unique areas and/or site features including natural and exemplary built features such as the Hamilton Smokestack.
- Policy 6.3 To the maximum extent possible connect open space areas on adjacent plats to create open space and wildlife corridors.

### **PROSG 7 – Regularly review and update Level of Service Standards for Parks and Recreation Facilities.**

- Policy 7.1 Identify the amount of land needed to meet Level of Service standards for future park development and types of facilities needed to meet recreation standards.
- Policy 7.2 Update the inventory, surplus and/or deficiency of City park lands based on the official population estimates from the Washington State Office of Financial Management.



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

**Policy 7.3** Identify parklands for acquisition in advance of its actual need based on: a) level of service standards, b) population growth, c) neighborhood benefit, and d) regional demand.

### **PROSG 8 – Incorporate principles of sustainability in the site development, maintenance, operations and programming of park facilities.**

**Policy 8.1** Incorporate green stormwater runoff development techniques into park design as mitigation when converting land to recreational use.

**Policy 8.2** Develop guidelines for park users to encourage sustainable practices with park activities, and events techniques such as use of compostable plastics, composting, and carpooling.

**Policy 8.3** Work with the Snohomish County Conservation District to identify and implement opportunities to incorporate conservation techniques in park design and ongoing maintenance and operations.

**Policy 8.4** Maintain the wetland area in Heritage Park as a location for offsite mitigation, and potentially convert to a wetland mitigation bank, to encourage sustainable development throughout the City.

### **PROSG 9 – Implement the 2022 Parks and Recreation Feasibility Study through a phased approach balancing community desires with budget constraints.**

**Policy 9.1** Implement a phased and scalable approach to improving city parks and services prior to formally creating a City Parks Department.

**Policy 9.2** Focus the Public Works Parks Division on park planning and maintenance around the following generalized actions:

- Increase maintenance levels to have tournament-ready ballfields
- Increase signage and wayfinding around the city
- Improve trails and walkability
- Increase parking capacity and improved parking maintenance
- Increase park development and planning

**Policy 9.3** Consider forming a City Parks Department once recreational programming is provided which includes, but is not limited to providing recreation classes, hosting / managing tournaments, and / or building a community center or other buildings that support parks and recreation.



# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

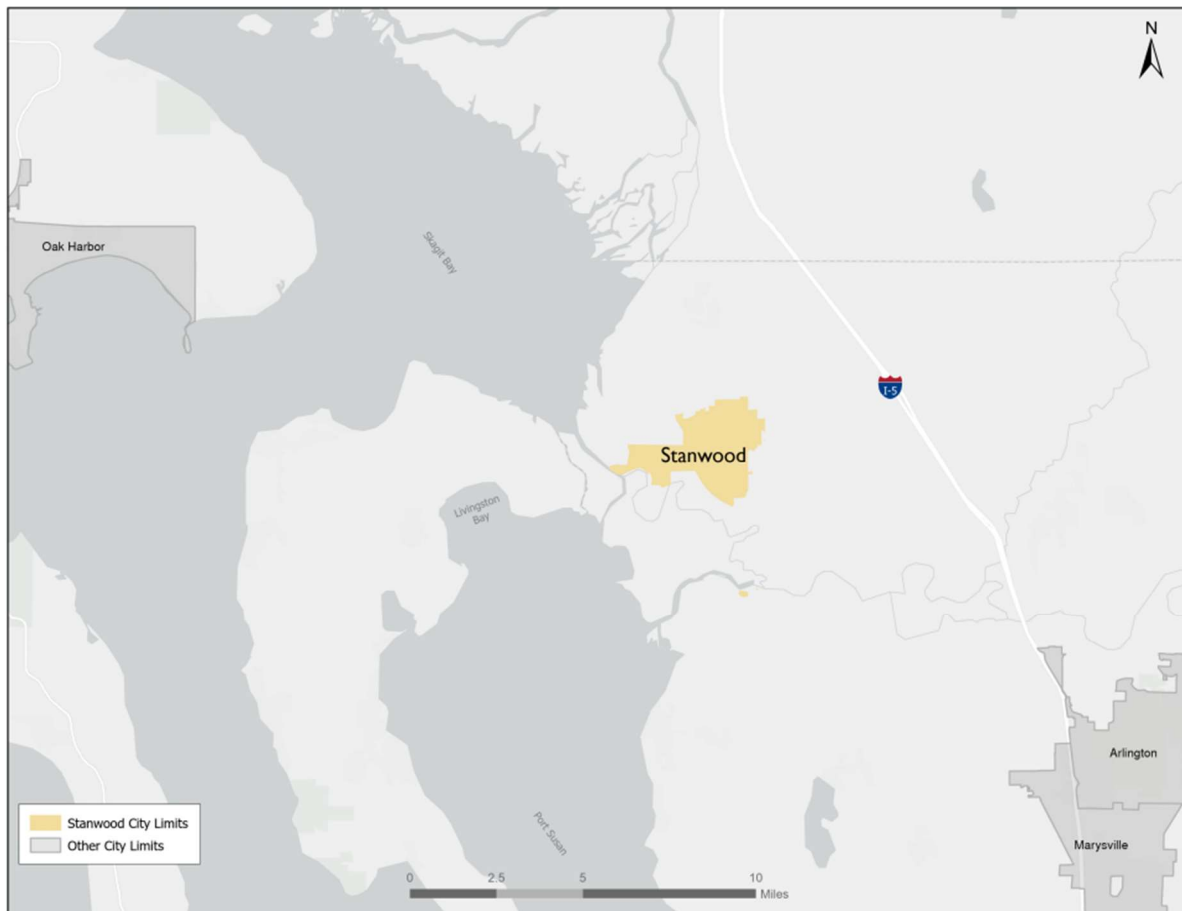
## SECTION III - COMMUNITY PROFILE

### INTRODUCTION

Stanwood is in the Northern Puget Sound region of Washington State, approximately halfway between Seattle and the Canadian border in northwest Snohomish County. Covering approximately 3.5 square miles, Stanwood is located along the Old Stillaguamish River channel, near the passage that connects Port Susan and Skagit Bay. The City lies approximately 4 miles west of Interstate 5 and provides the gateway to Camano Island.

This area is rich in both scenic beauty and natural resources. Stanwood is the northernmost city in Snohomish County and is geographically separated from other urban areas Stanwood is surrounded by unincorporated forest land, farmland, multiple sloughs, and the Stillaguamish Estuary. This setting affords a variety of both public and private recreational opportunities for both local and area populations. Stanwood is the regional center for the recreational needs of the surrounding unincorporated areas of southern Skagit, western Island and northern Snohomish Counties, including Camano Island. The proximity of the large population on Camano Island creates additional demand for City Park and recreation services that is not accounted for in the typical level of service analysis for city facilities.

**Figure 3.1 Vicinity Map**



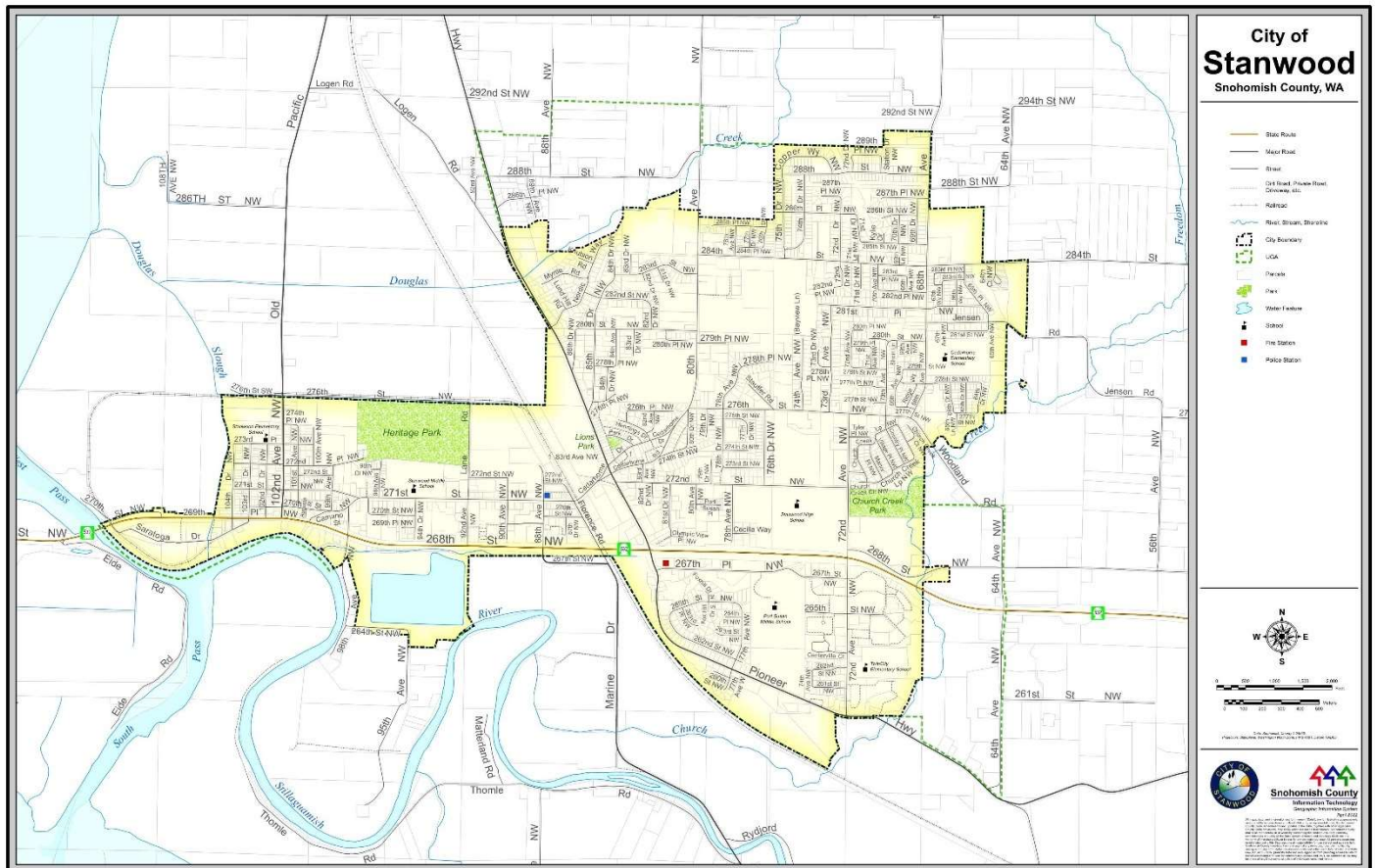


# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## PLANNING AREA

The planning area for this plan is the corporate limits of Stanwood and the unincorporated urban growth area. The existing Heritage Park facility serves as a regional park for a tri- county area including portions of Snohomish, Island and Skagit Counties.

Figure 3.2: 2022 Stanwood City Limits and Urban Growth Area



## HISTORY OF PARKS PLANNING

The City of Stanwood has prioritized Parks & Recreation for the past many years beginning with the purchase of the Hamilton and Ovenell properties in 2014, followed by the adoption of community-driven conceptual Master Plans for Ovenell Park and Hamilton Landing being adopted by City Council in June 2016, and the approval of the first Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) approved in November 2016. Also in 2016 a formal process was conducted to recruit seven to ten community members to the new Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTAC). The Committee was appointed by City Council to ensure citizen involvement in all aspects of the parks and trails planning and development process. The Committee meets monthly and makes recommendations to the Public Works Committee, the Planning Commission and City Council.

Since its inception the PTAC and members of the public have been requesting that the city hire a full time Parks and Recreation Director. This pressure appears to be coming from the desire to improve park aesthetics and communication with the city. However, prior to hiring a director and/or staffing a new department, the city needed a plan and vision for what the future of parks and recreation may look like in



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

the city, what types of service models should be considered, and a funding mechanism to support recreational programming.

A community survey conducted in 2019 placed a high priority on future parks and recreation program planning in Stanwood. Top priorities included trails and waterfront access. With the growth of Stanwood and the community's desire for a robust parks and recreation services and facilities, a Parks and Recreation Feasibility Study was included in the 2021/2022 biennial budget and associated work plan.

The Study found that the City's decentralized parks and recreation service model with multiple City departments responsible for discrete parts of the City's current parks and recreation operations (parks planning in the Community Development Department and parks scheduling / maintenance in the Public Works Department) resulted in a communication and policy implementation gap with regards to parks in the City of Stanwood. Identifying this key inefficiency in the city is a major step forward towards improving City parks for the community. On the recommendation of the Study, a phased and scalable approach to improving city parks and services prior to formally creating a City Parks Department was implemented. This scalable approach started with the creation of a "Parks Team" in May 2022 consisting of existing employees that will be dedicated to parks planning and maintenance that will work together, in the same space to improve communication. The intention of the scalable approach is to provide the City with a roadmap for addressing community priorities in the short-term and ultimately creating a dedicated parks and recreation department in the long-term once it is justified by the population and a funding mechanism is in place.



*Public art is a concept that Stanwood is looking into expanding at parks. Currently, there is a historical structure representing the community's agricultural beginnings on display at Ravenna Viaduct Park.*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## CLIMATE

The weather and climate conditions influence attendance at parks and the types of amenities and facilities proposed for future projects. Stanwood has a cooler climate that is moist and mild. The temperature typically ranges between 36 to 76 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the year, with an average temperature of about 50.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Rainfall in Western Washington is consistent through the wet months between October through mid-April. The annual average precipitation is about 36" with about 75 percent happening within the wet months. The frost-free growing season usually extends from April through October. Prevailing winds from the west are usually gentle (0-12 knots). Summer winds are generally southwesterly and mild. Winter storms can occur with winds up to 40 knots usually coming from the southeast.

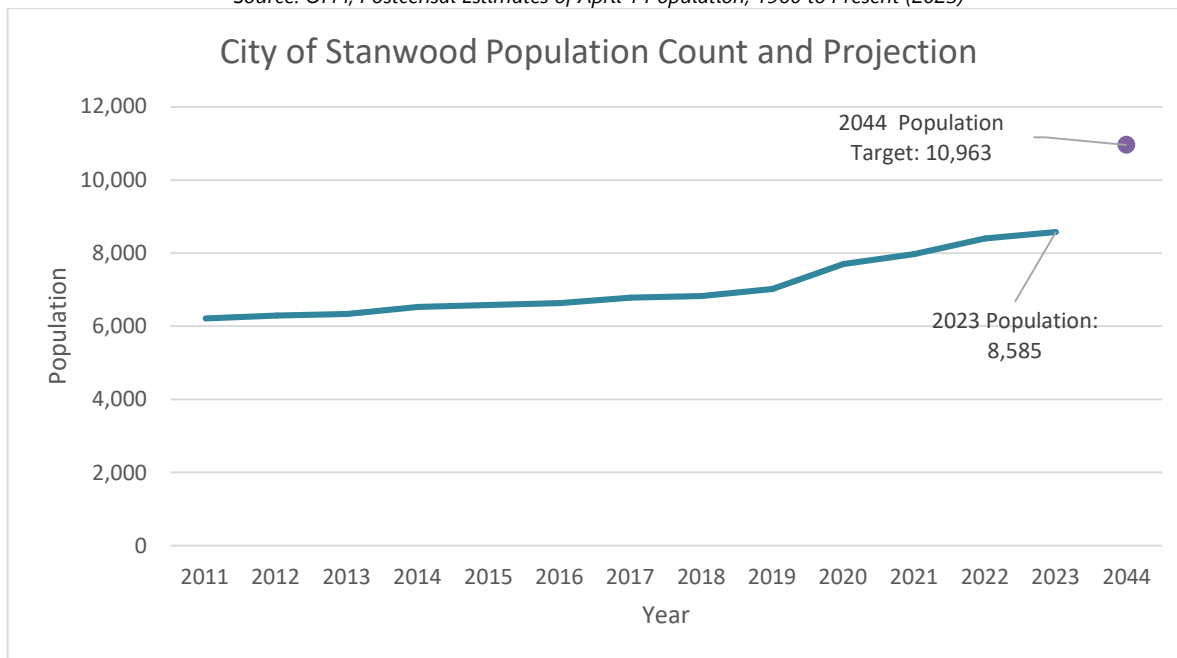
## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND PROJECTED GROWTH

### POPULATION

Within city limits, Stanwood has an estimated population of 8,585 as of April 1, 2023. The City has seen consistent growth over the past 10 years. In 2019, the City witnessed its largest uptick in annual population growth of 11.3% before returning back to more modest rates. On average, Stanwood grows 3.5% annually<sup>3</sup>. Stanwood's population is expected to increase over the next twenty years to its target population of 10,963 people in 2044. This would be a cumulative population increase of 27.7% over the next 20 years and requires an annual growth rate of 1.23% to achieve. This target has been set by the joint effort of Washington State's Department of Commerce, The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), and Snohomish County.

**Table 3.1**  
**PSRC Stanwood Population Count and Projection (2044)**

*Source: OFM, Postcensal Estimates of April 1 Population, 1960 to Present (2023)*



<sup>3</sup> Based on 2000 to 2023 populations collected from the Washington Office of Financial Management, (2003).

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## AGE

Understanding the age distribution within the community is vital in assessing recreational needs in Stanwood. Different age groups will have different interests and needs. Over one-third of the City's population are 19 and younger. Stanwood's median age is 31.5 years. People aged 35 to 54 make up the second largest age group with 25.37%, followed by those 55 and up with 19.74%. The pyramid chart in Table 1-3 further breaks down age group with a finer grain breakdown of age group by sex<sup>4</sup>.

**Table 3.2**  
**Stanwood Population Age Breakdown**  
*Source: American Community Survey 5-year Survey, Age and Sex*

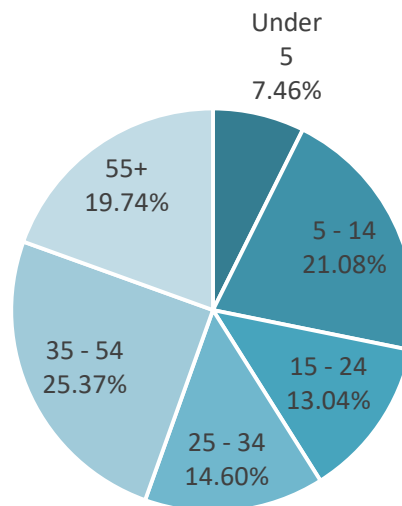
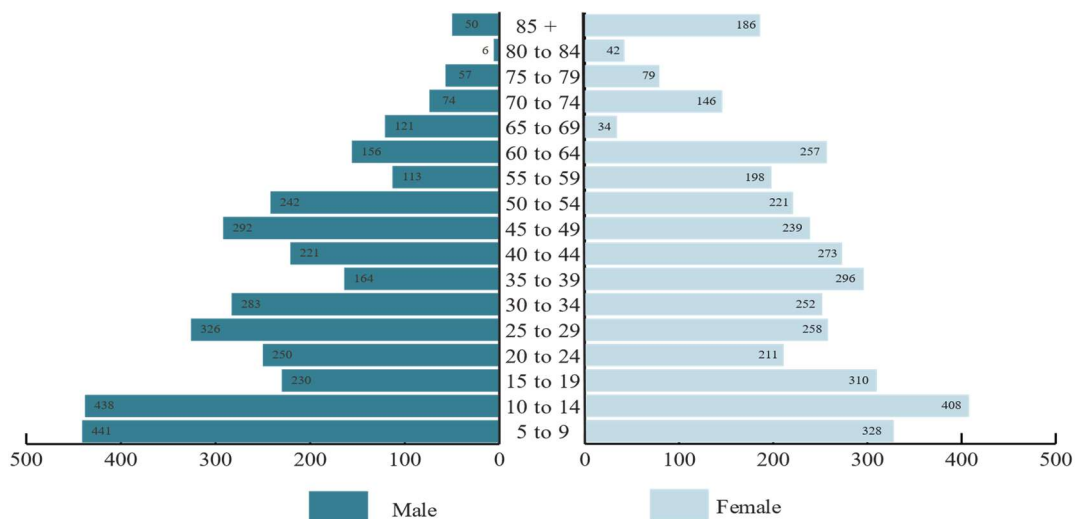


**Table 3.3**  
**Stanwood Population Gender Breakdown by Age**  
*Source: American Community Survey 5-year Survey, Age and Sex*



<sup>4</sup> The American Community Survey only acknowledges two gender choices thus why the data is represented in a binary method. It is acknowledged that our comprehension of gender is evolving to be more inclusive of non-binary persons.

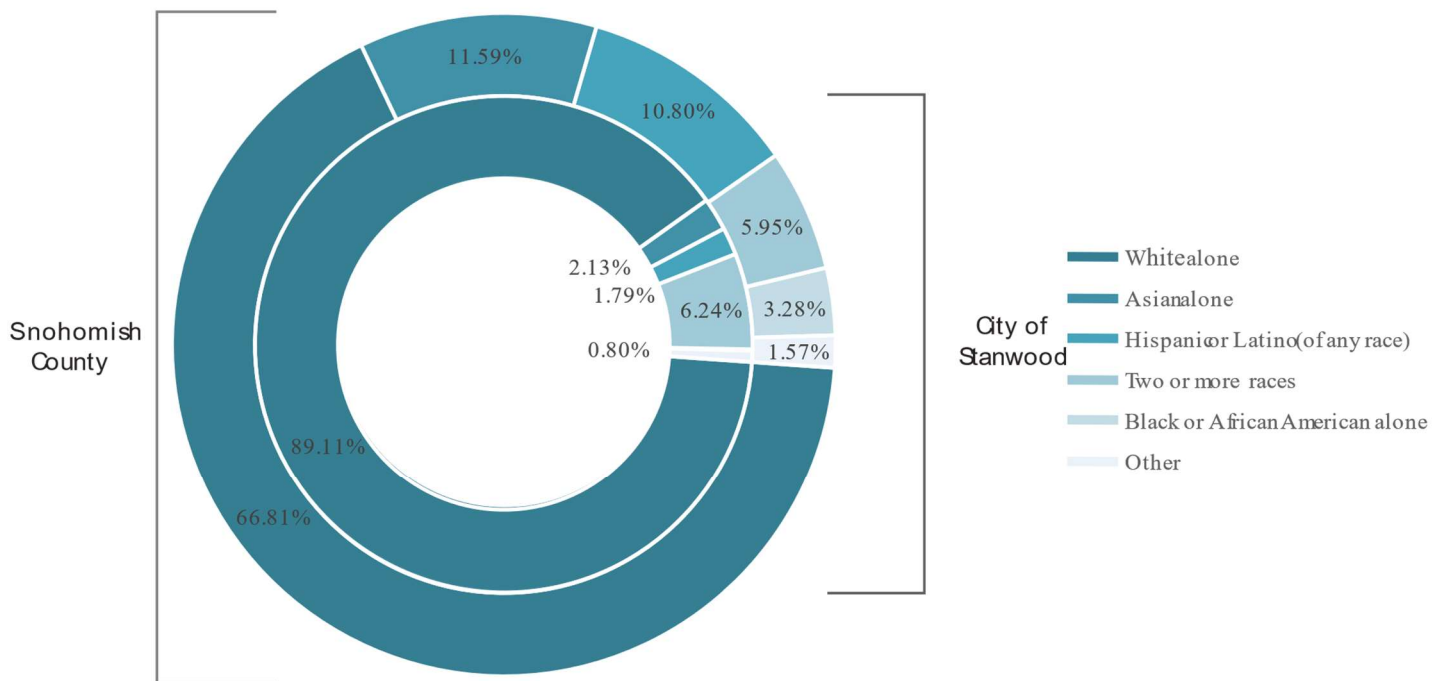
# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## RACE AND LANGUAGE

As of 2021, the City's population was 89% White, 2% Asian, 2% Hispanic or Latino of any race, and 1% American Indian or Alaska Native. Approximately 6% of the population reported two or more races. Snohomish County is slightly more diverse with increased reporting for Asian, Black, and Hispanic and Latino of any race. Only about 2% of residents reported speaking a language other than English at home. The largest portion of this is attributed to those speaking another Indo-European language (1.35% of total reported language spoken at home). Asian and Pacific Island languages make up the last portion of non-English speaking households with less than 1% of the population.

**Table 3.4**  
**Stanwood Population by Race/Ethnicity**

*Source: American Community Survey 5-year Survey, Age and Sex*



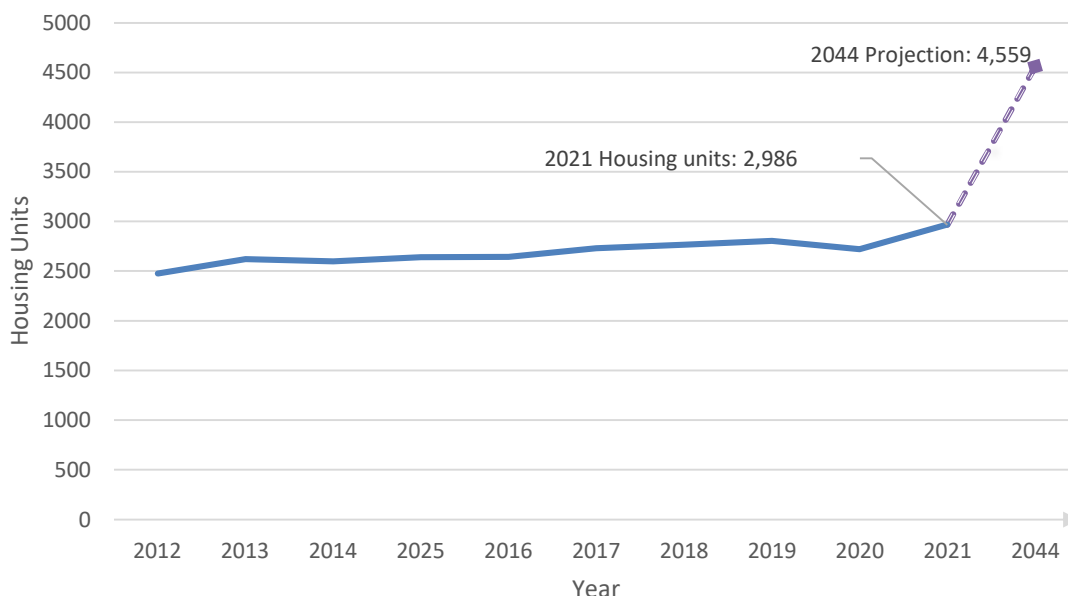
## HOUSEHOLDS AND INCOME

As of 2022, there are 3,318 housing units in Stanwood. Based on population forecasts projected for the year 2044, Stanwood will need to develop an additional 1,067 housing units to meet its share of population and employment demands. The target number of housing units assigned to Stanwood by Snohomish County is 4,385 units total by 2044.

The median home sales price for a house in Stanwood for 2022 is \$685,460.98. This is slightly below the Seattle – Tacoma – Bellevue median home sale price which is \$712,044.01. Household median income in Stanwood for 2021 is \$89,231 for family and non-family households. This is also slightly below Snohomish County's median income of \$95,618 for 2021.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

**Table 3.5**  
**Snohomish County Population by Race/Ethnicity**  
*Source: Office Financial Management, Total Housing Units*



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Approximately 843 residents, or just under 10% of the population, within Stanwood's city limits experience at least one disability. The ACS defines disability as those reporting one of the following types of disability: hearing, vision, ambulatory, cognitive, self-care, and independent living. The number of people with disability in Stanwood is like Snohomish County which has a slightly higher disability rate of 11%. Only 5.83% of Stanwood's population aged 18 to 64 experience disability compared to Snohomish County's 5.95%. Approximately 3.58% of Stanwood's senior population (65 and older) is experiencing disability compared to King County's 4.47%. The most prevalent disabilities within Stanwood are cognitive, ambulatory, and being able to live independently.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## SECTION IV: PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

### WHAT ARE CLASSIFICATIONS?<sup>5</sup>

Park classifications define the type of park based on the purpose, size, and location of a park. Classifications are a tool useful to determine what level of service metrics are appropriate for each park. Parks have unique characteristics between types indicating there is no single standard appropriate for every park type. Unique level of service standards for different park classes identify precise needs and service areas more clearly than a single standard could capture. It would be like comparing apples to oranges – they are both fruit but have different flavors, textures, and nutrients. Similarly, it is difficult to compare a regional park that serves multiple jurisdictions to a local trail.

Below is a description of each of the different classifications of parks and trails within the City and are based on current RCO guidance. Each classification has unique level of service measure that reflect the activities and amenities appropriate for the park class. The below summary is not a comprehensive list of all possible park types and only touches on facilities the City currently maintains and operates.

### ***REGIONAL/LARGE URBAN PARK***

Regional parks are the largest type of park that could be developed in the City. Regional parks serve the population of large geographical areas including rural and urban areas, providing concentrated open spaces and a respite from urban lifestyles. In the context of Stanwood, a regional facility would serve residents of Camano Island in Island County, nearby Snohomish and Skagit County residents, as well as residents of the City.

#### *General Development and Use Guidelines*

The intent of regional parks is ultimately to provide broad amenities that close community or regional gaps in recreation opportunities while preserving open spaces and unique landscapes. Regional parks are generally 50 to 75 acres or larger in size to serve the number of persons and the range of interests they serve. A facility would attract activities with a regional draw such as races, tournaments, sports leagues, and community events.

Regional parks have visual and topographic variety – they can be wooded with varying elevations and natural features, have facilities suitable for large scale events (a tournament or sports league), or can have meandering walking trails and passive recreation opportunities. Regional parks are meant to provide something for everyone to enjoy and utilize.

### ***COMMUNITY PARK***

Community parks provide a focal point and gathering place for the broader community. Community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are encouraged. Community parks usually have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park. Community parks require more support facilities, such as parking, affixed restrooms, and playgrounds, than neighborhood or pocket parks because they serve a larger area and offer more amenities.

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<sup>5</sup> Enger, S. C., & MRSC. (2005, February 1). *Planning for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Your Community*. Planning Requirements. Retrieved August 1, 2023, from <https://rcow.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/PlanningforParksOpenSpace.pdf>

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## *General Development and Use Guidelines*

Community parks are intended to serve the recreational needs of two or more neighborhoods. Where possible, they should be developed in a coordinated fashion with adjoining schools and located on or near arterial streets. Community parks should be located within one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) to 3 miles of residential units. The optimum size for a community park is 10 to 50 acres. As such, expansions to existing community parks or development of new community parks should be evaluated based on the need for the following facilities:

- Recreation/community center;
- Swimming pool;
- Lighted sports fields;
- Large group picnic areas; and
- Nature or wellness-based interpretive facilities

## **NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**

Neighborhood parks provide basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents, enhance neighborhood identity, and preserve neighborhood open space. Neighborhood parks are large enough to include both passive and active facilities but are small enough to be placed in neighborhoods where they serve the needs of residents in a local setting. Due to their location in a neighborhood, neighborhood parks are designed to minimize, noise, traffic, light and other “spill-over” impacts to adjacent residential properties. They are designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities.

## *General Development and Use Guidelines*

Neighborhood parks are typically one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) to 10 acres in size; however, neighborhood parks in Stanwood are smaller due to the built-out nature of existing neighborhoods limiting land available to dedicate to parks. In Stanwood, neighborhood parks are considered to be at least one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) acre in size. A neighborhood park should generally be located with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile walk from the residential units it serves, uninterrupted by arterial roads or other physical barriers. Ideally, all neighborhood parks shall contain more than half of the following amenities:

- Play equipment – Separate structures for 2 to 5 year olds and 5 to 12 year olds will be required
- Playground surfacing shall be engineered wood fiber or other surfacing as approved by the City
- Drinking fountain(s)
- Picnic tables, barbeques, and benches
- Open turf areas for casual play
- Trees
- Security lighting
- Waste disposal and recycling containers
- Accessible, concrete walkways that connect all of the amenities in the park
- A loop walk or trail around the park

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

A neighborhood park may include the following additional amenities based upon neighborhood preference:

- Basketball courts
- Tennis courts
- Skateboard play area
- Zero depth water play area
- A handball, volleyball, or tether ball court
- Community garden
- One or more multi-purpose fields (typically unlighted but could be lighted under certain circumstances)
- Picnic shelter
- Restroom building
- Lighted parking lot

## ***POCKET PARK***

Pocket parks are the smallest type of park in the classification system. A pocket park is intended to serve its immediate surrounding area for a specific recreational need. They may occur when the development of a larger park to meet a neighborhood need is not possible due to physical or other constraints. These parks may also be the result of historic conditions or older land patterns resulting in small pieces of land that can provide relief from development in urban neighborhoods or business areas.

### *General Development and Use Guidelines*

Pocket parks are up of any size up to one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) acres and are often developed on unused or vacant lots or unimproved right of way. Pocket parks will be located primarily based on the availability of land. Usually, these parks serve residents within one quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) mile and provide limited passive opportunities for recreation. There are rarely formal recreation facilities or amenities available, however there are typically landscaping and trees, seating areas, and a main focal point such as public art, a water feature, tot lot, or a small open lawn.

## ***SPECIAL USE PARK***

A Special Use is characterized by a park, facilities, or areas oriented towards single-purpose use that people are willing to travel for. These spaces may provide a recreational facility or an amenity unique to a community or site and may include active and/or passive activities. Special Use Parks are designed to meet the needs of the facility, site and users. They should be strategically located in the community and easily accessible.

The City currently has no Special Use facilities, but has several City-owned properties that are being evaluated for a potential special use, such as Ovenell Park. The City has been working closely with area partners including the Stillaguamish Tribe, Department of Fish and Wildlife and local farmers to acquire the Johnson Family Farm since 2017. The property is a high priority for habitat protection because of its proximity to Skagit Bay. The site presents an opportunity to acquire and manage replacement lands for estuary restoration projects for farmed waterfowl forage, walk-in hunting and

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

wildlife viewing. The 150-acre farmland preservation easement will preserve and protect high value agricultural land. This is a “multi-benefit” project protecting resource lands, preserving farmland, providing flood protection and promoting recreation. The Johnson Family Farm is adjacent to the 15-acre Ovenell Farm purchased by the City of Stanwood in 2015.

## ***NATURAL RESOURCE LAND***

Natural resource lands are categorized specifically to preserve natural, untouched lands that preserve ecosystems, ecological functions, and critical landscapes or habitats. Lands that have shorelines, critical areas, wetlands, mountains or hills, and fish or wildlife habitats are typically designated as *natural resource lands*. Jurisdictions typically acquire natural resource lands through annexation of land or through purchase/lease agreements. Intended use of natural resource lands are typically low impact recreation activities, such as hiking or walking trails.

## ***SCHOOL PARKS***

The Stanwood-Camano School District operates several passive and active recreational areas on each of its campuses. These facilities are not part of the PROS Plan Level of Service calculations, but they are available for recreational use to Stanwood and area residents.

The Stanwood-Camano School District maintains combined school-park acreage within the Stanwood city limits at the three Elementary, three Middle schools, and two High schools. that is not included for level of service analysis but do provide recreation opportunities.

## ***PARK TRAILS***

A park trail is defined as a trail located within a greenway<sup>6</sup>, park, or natural resource area. They are intended to primarily serve recreational needs within a designated park. There are three types of park trails:

**Type 1 Trail:** Type 1 park trails are hard surface trails for a single designated use, such as walking, biking, or in-line skating. The intent is that only a single use is being served – pedestrians, cyclists, or skaters.

**Type 2 Trail:** A type 2 park trail is a hard surface trail intended for multiple uses to share the pathway. Type 2 park trails are wider than other types in this category and are typically 10-12 feet wide to accommodate two-way circulation and multiple users.

**Type 3 Trail:** Also known as a nature trail, type 3 trails are intended to only serve pedestrian needs. Trails may be hard or soft surfaced. This trail type is most commonly associated with hiking trails or soft pathways through natural resource areas.

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<sup>6</sup> A greenway is defined by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office as a park system that ties together nearby parks together to form a continuous park environment.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan



*The trail in the Church Creek Park is considered a Type 3 Park Trail because it is a recreational trail with a soft surface.*

## **CONNECTOR TRAILS**

Connector trails primarily serve to connect residents or park users to points of interest throughout the City. They are intended to serve both recreational and non-motorized transportation needs. Connector trails typically connect residents to parks from neighborhoods reducing the demand for parking and roadways. There are two types of connector trails:

**Type 1 Trail:** A type 1 connector trail separates pedestrians and cyclists from the right of way on a hard-surfaced trail located independently from a right-of-way. While a sidewalk would not be considered a type 1 connector trail, the Stanwood Camano Loop Trail falls into this category.

**Type 2 Trail:** A type 2 connector trail separates pedestrians and cyclists from the right of way on a hard-surfaced trail located within the right of way. The Pioneer Highway Trail or a sidewalk would be considered a type 1 connector trail.

## **PRIVATE PARKS/FACILITIES**

Private facilities include recreation areas such as trails, open space and neighborhood parks including play areas such as “Tot” Lots. These parks are often established through the development process to meet neighborhood recreation needs as new neighborhoods are created, they serve only the residents

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

of neighborhoods and are maintained by homeowners' associations.

The City also has several private recreation clubs providing workout facilities as a business activity. In addition, a YMCA facility opened in 2017 in uptown Stanwood. The City has one private non-profit community center, the Community Resource Center, which is located in downtown Stanwood. This facility specializes in serving middle school teens with afterschool, recreation and job training, and also supports low-income families within the school district attendance area. These private parks and facilities are not included in the City's inventory for purposes of establishing the Level of Service necessary to support development under the Growth Management Act.

**TABLE 4.1: Classification Standards for Recreation Facilities**

| <b><u>Classification</u></b> | <b><u>Description</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b><u>Size Range</u></b>                   | <b><u>Service Area</u></b>                                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pocket Park</b>           | A park that fulfills limited, isolated, or unique needs on a smaller property. Typically a beautification effort.                                                                                                              | Less than 0.5 acres                        | Within ¼ mile                                                                   |
| <b>Neighborhood Park</b>     | The basic unit of the park system that serves as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation opportunities.                                                        | 0.5 – 10 acres                             | Within ½ mile                                                                   |
| <b>Community Park</b>        | A park that serve broader purposes than a neighborhood park. A community park closes gaps on unmet recreational needs as much as preserving unique landscapes or open spaces.                                                  | 10 - 50 acres                              | Within 3 miles                                                                  |
| <b>Regional Park</b>         | Regional parks serve as a main focal point and are used for broad active or passive recreation purposes. Regional parks typically have sports fields, trails, and supportive amenities such as flushable toilets and lighting. | 50 – 75 acres                              | Determined case-by-case. Likely the entire community and adjacent jurisdictions |
| <b>Natural Resource Area</b> | Dedicated lands intended to preserve significant natural resources, untouched landscapes, and visual aesthetics/buffering.                                                                                                     | Variable, dependent on the resource        | Determined case-by-case. Likely the entire community and adjacent jurisdictions |
| <b>Special Use</b>           | A facility, park, or area that addresses specific community needs. Special uses are typically oriented toward single-purpose visits.                                                                                           | At least 25 acres, determined case-by-case | Depends on use, determined case-by-case                                         |
| <b>Park Trail</b>            | Multipurpose trail(s) located within an existing greenway, park, or natural resource area. Focus is on recreational value and interface with natural environment.                                                              | Not Applicable                             | Determined case-by-case                                                         |
| <b>Connector Trail</b>       | Trails intended to emphasize safe travel for non-motorized transportation between parks or around the community. Focus is equal between passive recreation and transportation.                                                 | Not Applicable                             | Within ½ mile                                                                   |

*Source: National Park Recreation and Open Space Standards, National Recreation and Park Association, Washington D.C., (1997).*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## ***CLASSIFYING STANWOOD'S PARKS***

The City of Stanwood presently operates one regional park, one community park, one neighborhood park, and several designated trails. The City also owns several small parcels of land that have potential for more productive public use. Some are developed as small plazas or are parts of parking lots, and others remain undeveloped. The City has no community center facility. See *Appendix A* for a map of city-owned facilities and images of the facilities.

**Table 4.2: Park Summary by Classifications**

| <b><u>Name</u></b>                | <b><u>Size</u></b>  | <b><u>Type</u></b>                         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Heritage</b>                   | 44.05 acres         | Regional                                   |
| <b>Church Creek</b>               | 15.39 acres         | Community/Natural Resource                 |
| <b>Lions</b>                      | 0.68 acres          | Neighborhood                               |
| <b>Lindstrom</b>                  | 4.59 acres          | (Undeveloped Neighborhood)                 |
| <b>Riverfront</b>                 | 0.66 acres          | (Undeveloped)                              |
| <b>City Hall</b>                  | 0.28 acres          | (Undeveloped Pocket/Mini Park)             |
| <b>Hamilton Landing</b>           | 2.84 acres          | Neighborhood                               |
| <b>Ovenell</b>                    | 17.65 acres         | (Undeveloped/Special Use)                  |
| <b>Ravenna Viaduct Triangle</b>   | 0.38 acres          | (Undeveloped Pocket/Mini Park)             |
| <b>Stanwood Camano Loop Trail</b> | 1 mile in length    | Connector Trail / Expansion In Development |
| <b>Pioneer Highway Trail</b>      | 1 mile in length    | Connector Trail                            |
| <b>Heritage Park Trail</b>        | 0.5 miles in length | Park Trail                                 |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## PARK PROFILES AND INVENTORY

### Hamilton Landing – In Construction

Hamilton Landing Park on the southwest side of Stanwood off 98<sup>th</sup> Ave NW is currently under construction. It's approximately two acres, with the southwest side fronting the Old Stillaguamish River channel. This park has an obvious and somewhat quaint historical industrial character which will be incorporated into the park's design. The park's design incorporates this industrial character by maintaining the Hamilton landing stack and protecting the existing bunker.

The new site design provides access to the water both through a hand carry boat launch and a trailered boat launch. A trail around the site provides access to views of the water and the Zisaba estuary. Park users are also able to use open space provided by the site. The city plans to begin improvements on this site shortly.

#### *History:*

From the 1880s to the 1960s, the Hamilton Mill operated along the Stillaguamish river divergence. The smokestack, which still stands, was associated with a refuse burner. After the company stopped operating in the 1960s the property lied vacant. The was acquired by the city in 2014. In 2015 the city began envisioning use of the site as Hamilton Landing Park, with feasibility, planning, and design running through 2023. Construction began in August 2023, with park development completion anticipated by the end of the year.



*Prior to park construction looking west from the south end of the park down the Old Stillaguamish River channel past the old dock. The sign reads Danger No Trespassing. The dock structure will be removed, and a new boat launch will be constructed in its place with the park development.*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## INVENTORY:

| <b>FURNISHINGS</b>                                    | <b>No.</b> | <b>Details /Notes</b>                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BENCH                                                 | 10.        | 9 typical benches, 1 seatwall                                                                   |
| PICNIC TABLE                                          | 3.         | Including 1 accessible picnic table                                                             |
| SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)         | 1          | Existing bunker will be saved                                                                   |
| RESTROOM                                              | 1          | Two units within one structure.                                                                 |
| DRINKING FOUNTAIN                                     | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| PARK SIGNAGE                                          | 1          | Park entry sign                                                                                 |
| INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC) | 2          | Interpretive signs                                                                              |
| PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)                 | No         |                                                                                                 |
| RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)                          | 1.         | Two units within one structure.                                                                 |
| LIGHT POSTS                                           | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| BIKE PARKING                                          | 1.         | In the parking lot                                                                              |
| COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)        | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| PARKING LOT/STALLS                                    | 24         | 9 Trailer stalls, 15 standard length                                                            |
| TRASH RECEPTACLE                                      | 1          | One trash can and one dog waste station                                                         |
| RECYCLING RECEPTACLE                                  | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED                       | 1.         | Holiday light storage fenced enclosure                                                          |
| OTHER                                                 | 1          | The Hamilton Landing Tower                                                                      |
| SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)                          | No         |                                                                                                 |
| SPORTS COURT                                          | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| PLAYGROUND                                            | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| TOT LOT                                               | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| GRASS LAWN                                            | 1          | There is a grass lawn in the center of the site                                                 |
| OPEN SPACE                                            | 1          | The center of the site is a grass open lawn                                                     |
| PAVED PATHWAYS                                        | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)                             | 1          | A trail winds around the site, providing access to the major features, including the waterfront |
| COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)                         | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)            | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK                                  | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| SHORELINE ACCESS                                      | 1          | Pedestrian access to the Stillaguamish diversion                                                |
| BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NONMOTORIZED)                 | 1          | Access to the diversion for both trailered boats and hand carry boats.                          |
| DISC GOLF                                             | No.        |                                                                                                 |
| OTHER                                                 | No.        |                                                                                                 |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## City Hall Park

City Hall Park is a 0.28-acre undeveloped pocket park on the west end of Stanwood next to the City Hall. There are a few haphazardly placed furnishings on site, including an old bench, two picnic tables, and a labyrinth path with instructional signage. There are no restrooms, drinking fountains, parking, trash cans, or other similar facilities in the park, however, the city hall just next door has a number of these amenities available. A grass lawn occupies most of the site. The labyrinth, bench, and one of the picnic tables are located on a remnant concrete pad pathway that runs across much of the south side of the site. There are three fruit trees on site, and there has been interest in creating a community garden in the park. While there are currently very limited recreational opportunities available on the site, the great location and interest from the surrounding community give this park a high potential for redevelopment.

### *History:*

This lot previously was developed with a single-family structure which was acquired by the City in 1994. The residence was demolished in 2009.



*A fruit tree in City Hall Park.*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## INVENTORY:

| <b>FURNISHINGS</b>                                           | <b>No.</b> | <b>Details /Notes</b>                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BENCH</b>                                                 | 1          | Older, wood on concrete                                                                                                   |
| <b>PICNIC TABLE</b>                                          | 2          | One typical in the dirt, one with concrete top and metal chairs                                                           |
| <b>SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>RESTROOM</b>                                              | No.        | But city hall is adjacent, which has restrooms                                                                            |
| <b>DRINKING FOUNTAIN</b>                                     | No.        | But city hall is adjacent, which has water available                                                                      |
| <b>PARK SIGNAGE</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)</b> | 1          | One sign for the labyrinth path                                                                                           |
| <b>PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>LIGHT POSTS</b>                                           | No.        | While there are no light posts on site, the surrounding streetlights likely provide enough light.                         |
| <b>BIKE PARKING</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)</b>        | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>PARKING LOT/STALLS</b>                                    | No.        | Technically the parking is for "city hall business" but it seems like the park can use them too                           |
| <b>TRASH RECEPTACLE</b>                                      | Yes.       | one trash receptacle is available                                                                                         |
| <b>RECYCLING RECEPTACLE</b>                                  | No.        | But city hall is adjacent, which has it                                                                                   |
| <b>MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED</b>                       | No.        | But city hall is adjacent, which has it                                                                                   |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>SPORTS COURT</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>PLAYGROUND</b>                                            | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>TOT LOT</b>                                               | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>GRASS LAWN</b>                                            | Yes.       |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>OPEN SPACE</b>                                            | Yes.       |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>PAVED PATHWAYS</b>                                        | 1          | one paved pathway goes through the site on the south side, it's broken up concrete, and likely doesn't meet ADA standards |
| <b>TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)</b>                             | 1          | just the one mentioned above                                                                                              |
| <b>COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)</b>                         | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)</b>            | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>SHORELINE ACCESS</b>                                      | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NON MOTORIZED)</b>                | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>DISC GOLF</b>                                             | No.        |                                                                                                                           |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | 1          | A painted labyrinth is present                                                                                            |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Heritage Park

Heritage Park is a 44-acre regional park on the northern edge of the downtown. It has a variety of amenities, including two soccer/lacrosse fields, three baseball fields, two pickleball courts, two horseshoe pits, a playground, a skate park, a dirt pump track, and large amounts of grassy open space. In addition to the many opportunities for structured recreation, there is a trail that runs along the south side of the park, a small dog park, a wetland complex and several sheltered picnic tables. The trail on the south side of the park joins with sidewalks on either side and could easily be integrated into a larger trail system. The park features a large parking lot and a storage facility for the city as well as restrooms for public use.

This large park is in excellent condition and appeals to a wide variety of park users. Snohomish County has identified Heritage Park as a major regional complex in the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Plan. There are ample opportunities for structured, active recreation through the many sports fields and courts on site, active and less structured recreation through the playground, skate park, and bike pump track, and unstructured or passive recreation through the many picnic tables, shelters, and expanses of grassy open space.

### History

The City, Snohomish County, and Stanwood School District jointly purchased the site in 1991. Two agreements were signed: an interlocal agreement between the City and the County and another between the City and the School District which provides for continued non-resident use of this facility. An Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) grant was secured for both acquisition and Phase I & II construction of the Heritage complex. Phase I & II construction included baseball/softball fields, a children's play area, a major east-west section of walking/jogging trail and paving the existing parking area. The skate park, individual picnic tables under small shelters, a small dog park, and wetland areas were added in 2013.

As part of the 2012 PROS Plan update Heritage Park was reclassified from a community park to a regional facility. Although it is shy of the National Recreation and Parks Association recommended acreage standard for a regional facility, it was funded as a regional park and operates as regional facility with regular usage from residents across the tri-county area.



*The Skate Park gives new opportunities to skate, board, and scooter at Heritage Park  
Photo Credit: Discover Stanwood Camano*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## INVENTORY:

| <b>FURNISHINGS</b>                                           | <b>No.</b> | <b>Details /Notes</b>                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BENCH</b>                                                 | 6          | 2 in the dog park, 2 by the playground, one on the trail, one by the soccer field                           |
| <b>PICNIC TABLE</b>                                          | 4          |                                                                                                             |
| <b>SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)</b>         | 4          | All shelters have picnic tables                                                                             |
| <b>RESTROOM</b>                                              | 1          | One structure, two facilities                                                                               |
| <b>DRINKING FOUNTAIN</b>                                     | 1          |                                                                                                             |
| <b>PARK SIGNAGE</b>                                          | 1          | Safety and rules in various locations                                                                       |
| <b>INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)</b> | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)</b>                 | 2          |                                                                                                             |
| <b>RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)</b>                          | 1          |                                                                                                             |
| <b>LIGHT POSTS</b>                                           | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>BIKE PARKING</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)</b>        | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>PARKING LOT/STALLS</b>                                    | 95         | 5 ADA, 90 standard                                                                                          |
| <b>TRASH RECEPTACLE</b>                                      | 4          |                                                                                                             |
| <b>RECYCLING RECEPTABLE</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED</b>                       | 2          | 4 bay garage, a roybo storage box, landscaping materials                                                    |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)</b>                          | 5          | Soccer and lacrosse, baseball 3, grass field                                                                |
| <b>SPORTS COURT</b>                                          | 4          | pickleball 2, horseshoe 2                                                                                   |
| <b>PLAYGROUND</b>                                            | 1          | Standard age                                                                                                |
| <b>TOT LOT</b>                                               | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>GRASS LAWN</b>                                            | Yes        | Large areas of grass lawn                                                                                   |
| <b>OPEN SPACE</b>                                            | Yes        | Large areas of grass lawn, a wetland area on the east side of the site                                      |
| <b>PAVED PATHWAYS</b>                                        | Yes        | Provide access to all amenities                                                                             |
| <b>TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)</b>                             | 1          | Gravel and concrete, and some cow trails. One trail goes into the wetland on the east side of the property. |
| <b>COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)</b>                         | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)</b>            | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK</b>                                  | 2          | Skate park, dirt pump track                                                                                 |
| <b>SHORELINE ACCESS</b>                                      | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NON MOTORIZED)</b>                | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>DISC GOLF</b>                                             | No.        |                                                                                                             |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | 1          | Dog park                                                                                                    |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Lions Park

Lions Park is a neighborhood park in central Stanwood just off Ceaderhome Drive. A playground and basketball court are the main recreation opportunities on site, accompanied by a gently sloping grass open space. There are seven benches, a lit concrete pathway that runs from the parking lot to the playground, a portable restroom, and two picnic tables, one of which is covered. There is a small parking lot with one ADA stall, a bike parking pole, and a covered trash receptacle. This tidy park is nestled in the middle of a neighborhood and provides standard recreation opportunities in an efficient space. Several large trees on the southeast corner provide shade and a natural aesthetic.

This park has an accessible layout for a variety of users, with recreation opportunities available for many patrons. This park provides the surrounding neighborhood with structured and unstructured recreation opportunities in a neat and accessible setting. City branding on the playground along with donated park benches demonstrates the park's community integration.

### *History*

This site has been owned by the city since the 1980s.



*The three main amenities in this neighborhood park are the playground, basketball court, and grassy open space.*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## INVENTORY:

| <b>FURNISHINGS</b>                                           | <b>No.</b> | <b>Details /Notes</b>                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BENCH</b>                                                 | 7          | Wrought iron                                                                                                                            |
| <b>PICNIC TABLE</b>                                          | 2          | 1 uncovered, 1 covered                                                                                                                  |
| <b>SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)</b>         | 1          | One cover                                                                                                                               |
| <b>RESTROOM</b>                                              | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>DRINKING FOUNTAIN</b>                                     | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>PARK SIGNAGE</b>                                          | 2          | Safety and dog-oriented signage, one city of Stanwood Lion Park sign on the play structure                                              |
| <b>INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)</b> | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)</b>                 | 1          | Honey bucket                                                                                                                            |
| <b>RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>LIGHT POSTS</b>                                           | 5          | Ground-level light posts to illuminate the path (5)                                                                                     |
| <b>BIKE PARKING</b>                                          | 1          | One bike-locking spot                                                                                                                   |
| <b>COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)</b>        | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>PARKING LOT/STALLS</b>                                    | 8          | 1 ADA                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>TRASH RECEPTACLE</b>                                      | 1          | 1 covered                                                                                                                               |
| <b>RECYCLING RECEPTACLE</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED</b>                       | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>SPORTS COURT</b>                                          | 1          | Basketball, a short full court                                                                                                          |
| <b>PLAYGROUND</b>                                            | 1          | Typical age                                                                                                                             |
| <b>TOT LOT</b>                                               | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>GRASS LAWN</b>                                            | 1          | Most of the site is a mowed grass/clover mix                                                                                            |
| <b>OPEN SPACE</b>                                            | 1          | The open space is mostly lawn. Some mature cedar and Douglas fir trees with their needle ground cover on the southeast side of the site |
| <b>PAVED PATHWAYS</b>                                        | 1          | Parking to playground                                                                                                                   |
| <b>TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)</b>                             | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)</b>                         | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)</b>            | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>SHORELINE ACCESS</b>                                      | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NONMOTORIZED)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>DISC GOLF</b>                                             | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                                                                                         |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Church Creek Park

Church Creek Park sits east of Stanwood high school, providing structured and unstructured recreation opportunities to the community. This park provides an 18-hole disc golf course, a trail system, a baseball field, a playground, a full-size basketball court, and several educational or interpretive signs. There is a two-sided restroom at the park, along with a large, covered shelter, and a grill at one of the five uncovered picnic tables provides a basic cooking facility. A municipal storage shed on site can be accessed without entering the main park entrance from an external facing gate.

This park offers opportunities for lots of different recreation, including structured, unstructured, active, and passive uses. The 18-hole disc golf course provides an active amenity not found in other Stanwood public parks, and the large shelter on site provides a gathering space for larger groups than in other parks. Several signs throughout the park provide instructional, educational, and interpretive content. The park generally has two sides: a more structured half and a less structured half. The structured half features pastoral landscaping, a baseball field, a basketball court, a playground, and a large shelter. The unstructured half is a trail system through a natural wooded landscape. Church Creek runs through the wooded unstructured half on the east side of the park.

### *History*

In 1971, the city purchased the Church Creek Park property. The next year, the city received State and Federal grants to develop the park, and in 1973 park redevelopment began. In 1974, a cabin as old as 1890 was moved to the park site. In 1985-1986, a baseball field was constructed on site. In 2015, a series of disc golf holes were added and expanded four years later. The original playground equipment was replaced in 2020 and the basketball court was reconstructed in 2023.



*Wooded open space dominates the east half of the park.*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## INVENTORY:

| <b>FURNISHINGS</b>                                           | <b>No.</b> | <b>Details /Notes</b>                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BENCH</b>                                                 | 2          |                                                                                                              |
| <b>PICNIC TABLE</b>                                          | 5          | Uncovered                                                                                                    |
| <b>SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)</b>         | 1          | Large wood framed shelter. Includes 4 more picnic tables inside                                              |
| <b>RESTROOM</b>                                              | 1          | Two individual restroom facilities                                                                           |
| <b>DRINKING FOUNTAIN</b>                                     | No.        | None                                                                                                         |
| <b>PARK SIGNAGE</b>                                          | 1          | Various purposes. The structure uses disc golf instructions, etc.                                            |
| <b>INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)</b> | 1          | Rocket your future signage. Disc golf signage, no nature signage seen                                        |
| <b>PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                                                              |
| <b>RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)</b>                          | 1          | One structure, two restrooms                                                                                 |
| <b>LIGHT POSTS</b>                                           | No.        |                                                                                                              |
| <b>BIKE PARKING</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                                                              |
| <b>COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)</b>        | 1          | One grill next to a picnic table                                                                             |
| <b>PARKING LOT/STALLS</b>                                    | 27         | 3 ADA, ~25 more spots (curb stops line the parking area, but no stall markings)                              |
| <b>TRASH RECEPTACLE</b>                                      | 7          | Various forms. One bear-proof, one dumpster                                                                  |
| <b>RECYCLING RECEPTACLE</b>                                  | 1          | 1 bear proof                                                                                                 |
| <b>MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED</b>                       | 1          | Vehicle access from outside park, inside has a mural on it                                                   |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | 1          | The access to the creek is a unique aspect of this site.                                                     |
| <b>SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)</b>                          | 1          | Baseball field (grass outfield)                                                                              |
| <b>SPORTS COURT</b>                                          | 1          | Full-size basketball court                                                                                   |
| <b>PLAYGROUND</b>                                            | 1          | Typical structure and swings                                                                                 |
| <b>TOT LOT</b>                                               | No.        | But there is a small sandbox                                                                                 |
| <b>GRASS LAWN</b>                                            | Yes.       | Mowed pastoral-style lawn goes around the front side of the park                                             |
| <b>OPEN SPACE</b>                                            | Yes.       | Lawn, pastoral, and forest land covers                                                                       |
| <b>PAVED PATHWAYS</b>                                        | Yes.       | From parking area to picnic shelter, restrooms, and baseball field                                           |
| <b>TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)</b>                             | Yes.       | Both natural land covers go down to the creek area and around disc golf. Paved on the front side of the park |
| <b>COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)</b>                         | No.        |                                                                                                              |
| <b>WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)</b>            | No.        |                                                                                                              |
| <b>SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                                                              |
| <b>SHORELINE ACCESS</b>                                      | No.        | There is creek access.                                                                                       |
| <b>BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NONMOTORIZED)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                                                              |
| <b>DISC GOLF</b>                                             | 1          | Explanatory sign, 18 holes                                                                                   |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | Yes        | Two sets of horseshoe pits                                                                                   |
| <b>Ovenell Park</b>                                          |            |                                                                                                              |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

The Ovenell property is planned future park located on the west end of Stanwood south of Highway 532. It is the site of an old dairy farm and contains several barns as well as a prior residence. It remains closed to the public while park plans are developed. The property technically includes water access, but a railroad right of way disconnects the main acreage from the water-facing portion, so likely water views will be the only benefit recognized from the shoreline proximity. The property is largely open space with antiquated farm facilities. These farm facilities create some safety hazards for visitors and will have to be addressed before opening the park to the public. The onsite wetlands also represent a significant site constraint for new development. There are no public amenities or features available, but the park's large size, waterfront location, and level topography provide multiple opportunities for future development.

There are several directions the City could choose for a future park: a walking/nature park, a dog park, a community farm, or an event space. This large 18-acre property could provide a lot of room for visitors to use, be separated into multiple uses, or something in between. Significant decisions will have to be made about what infrastructure, if any, will remain as the park is developed. While issues must be resolved before the property can be developed as a park and opened for public use, Ovenell Park is a site with high future potential.

## *History*

The Ovenell property is a former dairy, berry, and fruit farm with a long history. The site includes old barns which were used by the Ovenell farm for milk production. The farm was recognized in 1989 by the Washington State Department of Agriculture as a "Centennial Farm". The property also has one unoccupied home and fallow agricultural land.

Purchasing the Ovenell property was part of a larger effort by the City of Stanwood, Stillaguamish Tribe, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nature Conservancy, Marine Resources Committee and others to preserve, restore and enhance estuarine habitat and provide public access to a unique environment. The Stillaguamish Tribe has also purchased the Matterand property to the south of the Ovenell property. The Tribe has received funding from the State Legislature and Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Partnership to restore about 40 acres to intertidal estuary. Setback levees will be built on the south and east ends of the property to reconnect Port Susan Bay with the Stillaguamish River.



*One of several agricultural buildings on the Ovenell property.*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## INVENTORY:

| <b>FURNISHINGS</b>                                           | <b>No.</b> | <b>Details /Notes</b>                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BENCH</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>PICNIC TABLE</b>                                          | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)</b>         | Yes        | The old farm infrastructure                                  |
| <b>RESTROOM</b>                                              | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>DRINKING FOUNTAIN</b>                                     | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>PARK SIGNAGE</b>                                          | yes,       | Future site of Ovenell city park                             |
| <b>INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)</b> | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)</b>                 | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)</b>                          | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>LIGHT POSTS</b>                                           | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>BIKE PARKING</b>                                          | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)</b>        | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>PARKING LOT/STALLS</b>                                    | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>TRASH RECEPTACLE</b>                                      | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>RECYCLING RECEPTACLE</b>                                  | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED</b>                       | Yes.       | This is what this site is used for, both by the city and PUD |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)</b>                          | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>SPORTS COURT</b>                                          | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>PLAYGROUND</b>                                            | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>TOT LOT</b>                                               | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>GRASS LAWN</b>                                            | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>OPEN SPACE</b>                                            | Yes.       |                                                              |
| <b>PAVED PATHWAYS</b>                                        | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)</b>                             | Yes.       | Several unmaintained paved/gravel trails traverse the site   |
| <b>COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)</b>                         | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)</b>            | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK</b>                                  | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>SHORELINE ACCESS</b>                                      | Yes.       | Unimproved and access is prohibited due to railroad ROW      |
| <b>BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NONMOTORIZED)</b>                 | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>DISC GOLF</b>                                             | No.        |                                                              |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                              |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Ravenna Viaduct Park

Ravenna Viaduct Park is a landscaped area within a right of way around the intersection of Cedarhome Road and Pioneer Highway. The grass lawn, sculpture, and landscaping frame the underpass under Pioneer Highway along Cedarhome. There is a staircase that brings pedestrians down from Pioneer Highway to Cedarhome on one side of the park. This park provides no structured recreation opportunities and almost no unstructured opportunities. The small amount of open lawn space in the park is irregularly shaped and almost entirely hemmed in by streets. The park features no real amenities.

This park operates as landscaping best viewed while in transit. The site placement, grade, and usable area provide little opportunity for more recreational uses. This park will likely remain valuable as an aesthetic improvement to the transportation system.



*The park is divided by Cedarhome Road and overlooks the historic downtown core.*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## INVENTORY:

| <b>FURNISHINGS</b>                                           | <b>No.</b> | <b>Details /Notes</b>                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BENCH</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>PICNIC TABLE</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)</b>         | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>RESTROOM</b>                                              | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>DRINKING FOUNTAIN</b>                                     | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>PARK SIGNAGE</b>                                          | Yes.       | Big "S" landscaped in rocks                                              |
| <b>INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)</b> | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>LIGHT POSTS</b>                                           | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>BIKE PARKING</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)</b>        | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>PARKING LOT/STALLS</b>                                    | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>TRASH RECEPTACLE</b>                                      | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>RECYCLING RECEPTACLE</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED</b>                       | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>SPORTS COURT</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>PLAYGROUND</b>                                            | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>TOT LOT</b>                                               | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>GRASS LAWN</b>                                            | Yes.       | There is grass lawn that dominates most of the site, mowed               |
| <b>OPEN SPACE</b>                                            | Yes.       | Open space                                                               |
| <b>PAVED PATHWAYS</b>                                        | Yes.       | One paved pathway goes through the site, connecting two adjacent streets |
| <b>TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)</b>                             | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)</b>                         | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)</b>            | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>SHORELINE ACCESS</b>                                      | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NONMOTORIZED)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>DISC GOLF</b>                                             | No.        |                                                                          |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                          |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Lindstrom Park

Lindstrom Park is a developed 4.6-acre piece of park land located on the southeast edge of Stanwood. One concrete path runs from 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW through the site to the north side of the site. This park is mostly comprised of a stormwater pond facility which serves the Lindstrom development. The rest of the park area is a wooded landscape. Besides these three features, no amenities or facilities exist. While there is no parking explicitly for this park, the large commercial development adjacent to the site contains a large parking area.

There are likely no opportunities for structured recreation at this park, and very few opportunities for additional unstructured recreation are available. Currently, the main recreational opportunity of the park is its use as a trail. There are some opportunities for unstructured passive recreation provided by picnic tables, benches, and artwork along the trail. Streetlights provide lighting at night, and benches and picnic tables provide patrons with places to rest. The trail could be used for running, walking, biking, or some form of immobile passive recreation. The surface of this trail is variable through the length of the trail. There is a potential to develop more of the land adjacent to the trail with shaded resting and open space recreation.

### *History*

The undeveloped land where Lindstrom Park is sited was dedicated to the city as part of the Stanwood-Camano Village Development.



*The trail runs between a small stand of trees and the stormwater detention pond on the park property.*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## INVENTORY:

| <b>FURNISHINGS</b>                                           | <b>No.</b> | <b>Details /Notes</b>                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BENCH</b>                                                 | 4.         | All grouped in a circle along path                                                                                                          |
| <b>PICNIC TABLE</b>                                          | 3          | Square style along path                                                                                                                     |
| <b>SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)</b>         | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>RESTROOM</b>                                              | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>DRINKING FOUNTAIN</b>                                     | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>PARK SIGNAGE</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)</b> | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>LIGHT POSTS</b>                                           | Yes.       | Light bleeds from the adjacent parking lot                                                                                                  |
| <b>BIKE PARKING</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)</b>        | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>PARKING LOT/STALLS</b>                                    | No.        | But it is directly adjacent to a large commercial area with several associated parking lots                                                 |
| <b>TRASH RECEPTACLE</b>                                      | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>RECYCLING RECEPTACLE</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED</b>                       | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>SPORTS COURT</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>PLAYGROUND</b>                                            | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>TOT LOT</b>                                               | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>GRASS LAWN</b>                                            | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>OPEN SPACE</b>                                            | Yes.       | This is a stormwater retention site with a path. There is some mowed area, which is fenced off and likely just there for maintenance access |
| <b>PAVED PATHWAYS</b>                                        | Yes.       | One goes around the site. It is in fair condition.                                                                                          |
| <b>TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)</b>                             | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)</b>                         | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)</b>            | Yes.       | The retention pond. Visual only, no public access.                                                                                          |
| <b>SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>SHORELINE ACCESS</b>                                      | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NONMOTORIZED)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>DISC GOLF</b>                                             | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                                                                                             |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Pioneer Trail

The Pioneer Trail runs along the southern edge of Stanwood, below several residential developments located upslope of the trail.



*The Pioneer Trail currently runs along residential neighborhoods, the Anderson Cemetery, and will eventually be built out to connect to SR 532.*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## INVENTORY:

| <b>FURNISHINGS</b>                                           | <b>No.</b> | <b>Details /Notes</b>                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BENCH</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>PICNIC TABLE</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)</b>         | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>RESTROOM</b>                                              | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>DRINKING FOUNTAIN</b>                                     | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>PARK SIGNAGE</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)</b> | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>LIGHT POSTS</b>                                           | Yes.?      |                                                                   |
| <b>BIKE PARKING</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)</b>        | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>PARKING LOT/STALLS</b>                                    | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>TRASH RECEPTACLE</b>                                      | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>RECYCLING RECEPTACLE</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED</b>                       | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>SPORTS COURT</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>PLAYGROUND</b>                                            | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>TOT LOT</b>                                               | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>GRASS LAWN</b>                                            | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>OPEN SPACE</b>                                            | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>PAVED PATHWAYS</b>                                        | Yes.       | This park is a paved pathway with some landscaping to either side |
| <b>TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)</b>                             | Yes.       | This park is a paved pathway with some landscaping to either side |
| <b>COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)</b>                         | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)</b>            | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>SHORELINE ACCESS</b>                                      | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NONMOTORIZED)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>DISC GOLF</b>                                             | No.        |                                                                   |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                   |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Stanwood/Port Susan Trail

The Stanwood/Port Susan Trail currently runs along Highway 532 and will be built out in five phases to encircle the downtown area of Stanwood. This trail is in largely good condition and provides a bike and pedestrian connection between the east and west halves of the City. There is one bench along the trail, landscaping in the median, and an informative sign, but besides those features, there are no amenities or facilities. The path along Highway 532 provides a smooth surface for bicyclists and other forms of wheeled transportation.

There are views of nature looking south from the path, however, there is little opportunity to engage with nature while on this portion of the trail. The main use presented by this park is as a corridor for non-motorized forms of transportation. The expansion of this trail around the rest of the city will help users access more recreation opportunities.

### *History*

Transportation infrastructure and parks and recreation opportunities have been established as priorities for Stanwood residents. This trail, which will join several historic sites such as Hamilton Landing Park and Heritage Park together with the downtown businesses, helps to implement this vision.



*Looking east along the SPS trail. A large, landscaped area with stormwater features separates the trail from the roadway.*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## INVENTORY:

| <b>FURNISHINGS</b>                                           | <b>No.</b> | <b>Details /Notes</b>                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BENCH</b>                                                 | 1          | Facing out towards the farmland and Stillaguamish River             |
| <b>PICNIC TABLE</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)</b>         | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>RESTROOM</b>                                              | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>DRINKING FOUNTAIN</b>                                     | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>PARK SIGNAGE</b>                                          | 1          | Informative/safety oriented                                         |
| <b>INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)</b> | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>LIGHT POSTS</b>                                           | Yes.       | For the road, likely spill over                                     |
| <b>BIKE PARKING</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)</b>        | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>PARKING LOT/STALLS</b>                                    | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>TRASH RECEPTACLE</b>                                      | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>RECYCLING RECEPTACLE</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED</b>                       | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)</b>                          | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>SPORTS COURT</b>                                          | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>PLAYGROUND</b>                                            | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>TOT LOT</b>                                               | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>GRASS LAWN</b>                                            | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>OPEN SPACE</b>                                            | Yes.       | Landscaping between the elevated trail and the road, relatively new |
| <b>PAVED PATHWAYS</b>                                        | Yes.       | This is a paved multi-use trail                                     |
| <b>TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)</b>                             | Yes.       | This is a paved multi-use trail                                     |
| <b>COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)</b>                         | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)</b>            | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK</b>                                  | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>SHORELINE ACCESS</b>                                      | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NONMOTORIZED)</b>                 | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>DISC GOLF</b>                                             | No.        |                                                                     |
| <b>OTHER</b>                                                 | No.        |                                                                     |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Trails

Four designated trails exist in the area:

- The Lindstrom Loop Trail consists of a one-mile, paved connector trail that weaves around the perimeter of the development.
- The Pioneer Highway Trail consists of an approximately one-mile paved trail on the north shoulder of Pioneer Highway and runs from SR-532 southward to within 200 yards of 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW. The trail functions as a connector trail.
- The Heritage Park Trail consists of approximately one half (½) mile paved trail running east/west along the southern perimeter of the park and north/south between the play fields. The Heritage Park Trail is considered a park trail.
- The Stanwood/Port Susan Trail currently consists of .25 miles along SR-532 with 2 additional miles planned for construction in 2024 to connect to the new Hamilton Landing Park. Future phases will connect to Heritage Park and create a 5 mile loop system around the downtown portion of the city.

## Stanwood School District Facilities

The district has baseball, football, soccer fields, six tennis courts, a track, gymnasiums, and playground equipment located at the high school, two middle schools, and three elementary schools. For a fee, the district lets the public use their outdoor facilities for organized events when they are not in use by the schools.

## Pocket Parks/Tot Lots

The City currently requires new subdivisions and multifamily developments to provide open space and recreational areas. Most developers choose to provide tot lots, off-setting some public neighborhood park deficiencies.

## Facilities outside the City Limits

There are a number of existing parks and recreational facilities, outside of City of Stanwood corporate limits that provide service to Stanwood residents. These facilities are not included in the Level of Service analysis for the Stanwood Parks Plan but are presented here to provide a summary of all of the facilities available in the region.

### Washington State Parks:

- |    |                            |                                                                  |
|----|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Cama Beach State Park      | 383 acres — cabins, lodge, boating, trails, fishing              |
| 2. | Camano Island State Park   | 134 acres — camping, boating, picnic areas, viewpoint, restrooms |
| 3. | Leque Island Wildlife Area | 427 acres – hunting, wildlife observation, photography, walking  |

### Island County Parks:

- |    |                              |                                                                                                                                                     |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Utsalady Point Vista Park    | 1 acre — picnic area, barbecue, viewpoint, historical information board                                                                             |
| 2. | English Boom Historical Park | 6.8 acres — undeveloped beach & forest. Planned facilities include: parking, viewpoint, ADA access, trail, historical interpretive board, restrooms |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

- |    |                            |                                                                                                                    |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3. | Cavalero Beach Park        | .5 acre — picnic tables, small boat launch                                                                         |
| 4. | Freedom Park               | 3.5 acres — Pearl Harbor memorial, sculpture garden                                                                |
| 5. | Hutchinson Park            | 5 acres — trail and picnic area                                                                                    |
| 6. | Four Springs Lake Preserve | 50 acres — natural habitat preserve with Four Springs                                                              |
| 7. | Iverson Spit Waterfront    | 330 acres — waterfront preserve, birding area, trails                                                              |
| 8. | Barnum Point County Park   | 167 acres — waterfront preserve, beach access, birding area, trails, fishing, mountain biking, leashed dog-walking |

## **Snohomish County Parks:**

- |    |                         |                                                                                                                    |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Kayak Point Golf Course | 250 acres — public golf course with 18-holes                                                                       |
| 2. | Kayak Point Park        | 400 acres — fishing pier, boat launch, trails, restrooms, picnic facilities, beach access, yurt, cottages, camping |
| 3. | Wenberg County Park     | 45 acres — Beach, boat launch, campsites, fishing, lake access, picnic tables, wading area                         |

## **Privately Owned:**

- |    |                      |                                             |
|----|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Camaloch Golf Course | 79 Acres — public golf course with 18-holes |
|----|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|

## **Washington State**

- |    |                      |                                                                                          |
|----|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Cascade Marine Trail | Segment of water trail passes through the South and West Pass of the Stillaguamish River |
| 2. | Eide Road Trail      | 0.7 mile trail along the Leque Island Levee with benches and interpretive signage        |



*Wave your hands like you just don't care! Bring your kids along the Heritage Park trail for a bike ride rain or shine.*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## SECTION V PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

A major component of PROS planning is identifying the operational, functional and physical components of Stanwood parks as envisioned by its community. The City has undertaken a public participation strategy to encourage feedback from users of all backgrounds. The public outreach strategy was broken down into three components: surveying, public meetings, and community event activities. These methods were employed to provide the community with overlapping opportunities to increase participation in the planning process.

Feedback generated by the on-going process was relayed to City staff and members of the planning commission and City Council. This section describes the extent of the outreach effort and key takeaways from each phase.

### **COMMUNITY SURVEY**

A community survey was conducted to help the City understand local values, priorities, and desired changes to the parks system. The survey was opened on June 14, 2023 and closed on July 21, 2023. The adult survey received 384 electronic responses, five hard copy responses, and four email responses. The youth survey received 72 electronic responses and one hard copy response. In total, 466 responses were received for the 2023 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Survey.

The purpose of the two-survey approach was to gather and separate input between adults and youth. Survey questions collected information on demographics, perceptions, and activity preferences. Respondents were asked to rate the cleanliness, quality, and accessibility of parks and to describe their preferred activities. The questions and results for both the adult and youth surveys can be found in *Appendix C*. Short answer responses from the adult and youth survey have been included in *Appendix D*. Responses included in this section were selected randomly from the survey.

### **SURVEY FINDINGS**

Community perceptions on existing facilities were mixed: approximately 40% of adult respondents indicated neutral feelings towards local park facilities with some respondents demonstrating somewhat satisfaction with the parks. Between 15% - 20% of adult respondents are somewhat unsatisfied with the availability and quality of parks facilities and the cleanliness of bathroom facilities. Youth respondents indicated strongly that parks are not well maintained or available. Over a third of youth respondents said that local parks don't have the activities they want, and an additional quarter of respondents said parks are out of reach from their homes.

#### *Perceptions of Facilities*

Respondents were given the opportunity to report which park facilities are the most important to respondents. 73% of adult respondents value open space, trails, and nature viewing in City parks. A majority of adult respondents also value playgrounds, picnic or seating areas, Under half value grassy sports fields for organized sports like soccer, football, and lacrosse. An additional 15% indicated value in skate parks and disc golf courses as well. 78% of youth participants indicated the value of local playgrounds. A majority of youth also indicated the importance of grassy field areas. Between a quarter and a third of youth participants indicated the value of paved courts, skate parks, dirt bike courses, nature areas, and baseball fields. Less than 12% showed value in dog parks or disc golf courses.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## *Perceptions of Programming and Activities*

When asked which activities are important to park users, 63% of adult respondents responded with farmers markets, community events, and concerts. A majority of adults also showed strong value in organized sports and water recreation. Under half of respondents indicated value in youth programs, fitness or wellness programs, environmental stewardship and outdoor programs, and arts-and-crafts programs. The youth survey shows that 64% of respondents enjoy participating in organized sports while just under half enjoy farmers market activities. An additional third indicated movies in the park, summer camp or day camp activities as important.

## *Perceptions of Park Access*

When asked what challenges or barriers prevent respondents from using Stanwood's parks, 41% of adults indicated a lack of park amenities. A quarter of adult participants indicated regular usage of park facilities. 59% of youth survey participants indicated unmaintained parks as a barrier while another 38% indicate parks don't host activities that interest them.

In terms of most popular and regularly used facilities, grassy fields and playgrounds are used most frequently by both adults and youth respondents. Both groups also indicated walking trails, open space areas, and picnic areas as second most used. Youth participants also indicated skate parks, paved courts, baseball fields, and movies in the park.

Survey participants were also asked what would increase parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services if addressed by Stanwood. Nine key themes were identified through the survey process, as described below and in *Appendix B* for survey result summaries.

- |                                                               |                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. ADA Accessibility                                          | 5. Shade and Covered Areas |
| 2. Safety                                                     | 6. Events and Activities   |
| 3. Outdated, Unmaintained playground Equipment and Facilities | 7. Cleanliness             |
| 4. Communication and Signage                                  | 8. Trails and Fields       |
|                                                               | 9. Parking                 |

## *Planning Café*

A Planning Café was hosted on May 26, 2022, consisting of city officials of the Administrative, Economic Development and Planning Departments. The Planning Café is based on the World Café Method used to create special environments for hosting dialogue. City staff broke into small groups for a twenty-minute period to discuss specific topics. At the end of these conversations, a participant from each group would share topics touched in the small groups period. Topics discussed included ranged from land-use to economic development to parks.

## *Farmers Market*

In June through August of 2022, the City reserved a booth at three Stanwood Farmers Markets. The purpose was to solicit feedback on different topics related to the upcoming Comprehensive Plan periodic update. The August booth granted residents the opportunity to provide open feedback on infrastructure and amenities they would want to see over the next 20 years. Comments on parks primarily were focused on acquisition, new equipment and activities, and maintenance.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## ***PTAC Focus Group***

On September 22, 2023, the City of Stanwood held a public engagement meeting to review the public engagement results to date and gather feedback from the participants. A presentation gave an overview of PROS plans generally, the public engagement process, and key results from the survey effort. The city asked participants what they felt was left out of previous engagement results, what seemed inaccurate, and what survey findings they wanted to emphasize. The group reviewed the next six years of planned parks capital improvements, suggested additional projects, and provided input on their prioritized order.

## ***PTAC Focus Group Findings***

The PTAC group largely agreed with the survey findings. The group was surprised by how many survey respondents like walking trails but agreed that there was a need for greater pedestrian access. The major topics discussed by the group were park access through transportation connectivity and the desired amenities and services.

### *Park Access*

Participants felt that increasing the connectivity between the community and the parks system would increase the overall parks level of service. Throughout the conversation, there were several mentions of pedestrian and driving access to the parks system. Some members mentioned a disconnect between where people live and where parks are located, creating issues such as increased travel time, a lack of accessibility for children, and lower park usage. Greater connectivity was proposed through multiple methods, such as registration with the Leafline Trails Coalition to encourage pedestrian tourism in Stanwood, increased signage, guided tours, improved sidewalk infrastructure, and parks closer to population centers in town. Some members of the group felt that parks were accessible, especially to school-aged children. Overall, there was a perceived mismatch between the location of parks and the populations they serve which could be improved through better pedestrian and bike infrastructure connectivity.

### *Desired Amenities and Services*

The group highlighted several amenities and services they felt would greatly increase community satisfaction with the parks system. Several participants mentioned environmental and nature-oriented programs, especially for children. Church Creek Park was mentioned as a site for educational programs. Many participants also highlighted the need to improve the structured recreation facilities based on the increasing community needs. The group mentioned high use of parking lots during sports events and frequent fully booked fields. As the community expands sports leagues, the need for additional parking will only increase. Parking at Heritage Park was perceived by the group as especially in need. Heritage Park's use as a sports center could also be strengthened by adding concession stand services. Court and field lighting were recognized as expensive but necessary investments to improve and expand service. Similarly, some participants felt that turf fields are needed to increase the availability of fields to sport leagues.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## SECTION VI FACILITY DEMAND

Parks and recreation facility demand involves many different variables that influence recreation participation by the public. Many factors have influenced recreational trends. There is an increased need to address the traditional recreation needs as well as newer sports. Projects were determined based on a mixture of community input generated from the public engagement process and level of service (LOS) results. For a summary of the public engagement process, see *Appendix B*. Level of service (LOS) analysis is described in *Section VI* below which describes how Stanwood's parks are performing from a service area and equipment/facility availability analysis.

### ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

Stanwood's access to terrestrial and aquatic natural spaces defines its historic and present character. But measuring the importance of parks can be difficult for communities to do, considering the many intrinsic values and benefits parks provide.

This analysis evaluates existing parks, current demands, and gaps in service. This provides standards to quantify park function and use to improve Stanwood's understanding of its parks and parks programs' performance. Tracking standards allows the city to create benchmarks and trends to track progress over time. This assessment, along with public input and facility inventory, determines how Stanwood's funds should be appropriated in the next six years.

Parks and recreation amenities typically do not have measurable features, we enjoy, value, and experience parks in a way that can be difficult to quantify. Measurable standards provide specific feedback on service shortcomings and can evaluate progress made on improvement projects or plan objectives. Standards also provide a platform for comparison against previous parks systems and similar jurisdictions systems.

Level of Service (LOS) standards are inherently flexible and unique to each jurisdiction. The city can select the type of service standard that appropriately evaluates how the park's program operates. By tailoring specific metrics and standards to Stanwood's community, the city has a plan that represents local values and needs. LOS standards are required by the Growth Management Act, and the standards found in this PROS Plan will be incorporated and used within the Parks and Recreation chapter. Standards provide guidance on how park projects within the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) should be prioritized as the city continues to see population growth and accompanying rising parks demand.

National standards for classifying park facilities were previously developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association (Table 6.1) for assessing parkland needs and are commonly used by jurisdictions for Level of Service (LOS) standards. Stanwood's 2023 population of 8,585 and projected 2044 population of 10,963 have been used for the analysis of the needs section. All population figures, analyses, and calculations in this section include the city limits as well as the urban growth area (UGA). The 2044 population estimate is based on the Countywide Planning Policies for Snohomish County, *Appendix B*.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

**Table 6.1 Classification Standards for Recreation Facilities**

| <b>Recreation Facility Classification</b> | <b>Acres/1,000 Pop.</b> | <b>Size Range</b> | <b>Pop. Served</b> | <b>Service Area</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Neighborhood Park                         | 2.5                     | 5-20 acres        | 560-2,000          | ¼-½ mile            |
| Community Park                            | 2.5                     | 20-100 acres      | 2,000-10,000       | ½ mile              |
| Regional Park*                            | .002-.003               | 50-75 acres       | 25,000             | Multi County        |

*Source: National Park Recreation and Open Space Standards; National Recreation and Park Association; Washington, D.C., 1983.*

*\*Based on community facility standard Neighborhood Parks Future Need*

## **Existing LOS for Neighborhood and Community Parks**

The greatest deficiencies include neighborhood and community parks, and trails including bicycle, walking, and jogging trails. In addition, the existing two neighborhood parks are not dispersed adequately throughout the City to provide equal local access. The only developed neighborhood park (Lions Park) is in the Cedarhome area, while the larger undeveloped Lindstrom Park is in southeast Stanwood.

The existing LOS for neighborhood parks is calculated by dividing total inventory of facilities (5.27 acres) by the total city population of 8,585 to understand how many people likely rely on each park facility. This results in a current LOS of 0.61 acres per 1,000 people. The existing LOS for community parks is calculated the same way. The City of Stanwood has 17.4 acres of community parks. The current level of service is 2.03 acres per 1,000 people.

Stanwood has one regional park, the 44-acre Heritage Park. A typical Level of Service Analysis is not used for regional parks because the population served includes the entire area of the Stanwood-Camano School District. The 2020 School District service area population was approximately 25,050 residents, about three times the Stanwood population. In addition, there are other regional park facilities within this school district attendance boundary making it difficult to correlate Stanwood population and levels of service. Although there are other parks within the district, Heritage Park is the only non-school facility offering fields for team sports such as baseball, football, lacrosse and soccer.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Future LOS for Neighborhood and Community Parks

### Neighborhood Parks

The following table describe projected neighborhood park needs now and in 2044.

**Table 6.2 National Standard LOS**  
**Neighborhood Parks Needs**  
**(LOS=2.5 acres per 1,000 population)**

| Time Period | Pop.   | Acreage Needed | Acreage Avail. | Net Reserve (Deficit) |
|-------------|--------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 2022        | 8,585  | 21.5           | 8.11           | (13.4)                |
| 2024-2044   | 10,963 | 27.4           | 8.11           | (19.3)                |

Stanwood will require additional neighborhood park facilities -more than 19 acres- over the planning period to meet the neighborhood park level of service needs in 2044.

### Community Parks

Table 6.3 describes projected community park needs between now and 2044.

**Table 6.3 National Standard LOS**  
**Community Park Needs**  
**(LOS=2.5 acres per 1,000 population)**

| Time Period | Pop.   | Acreage Needed | Acreage Avail. | Net Reserve (Deficit) |
|-------------|--------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 2022        | 8,585  | 21.5           | 15.4           | (6.1)                 |
| 2024-2044   | 10,963 | 27.4           | 15.4           | (12.0)                |

The City will require additional community park facilities- more than 12 acres- over the planning period to meet the community park level of service needs in 2044.

### Linear Parks and Trails

The national standard LOS for trails is 2 acres per 1,000 people. This equates to a trail 8 feet wide and approximately two miles long for each 1,000 people. The City presently has .5 mile of trail at Heritage Park, 1 mile of trail at Lindstrom Park, 1 mile of designated trail along Pioneer Highway, and 0.25 miles of developed Stanwood/Port Susan loop trail, for a total of 2.75 miles (2.4 acres). Table 6.4 shows the projected future trail needs.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

**Table 6.4**

**Trails Needs Assessment (LOS=2 acres per 1,000 population)**

| Time Period      | Pop.   | Acreage Required | Acreage Available | Deficit in Acres |
|------------------|--------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>2022</b>      | 8,585  | 17.2             | 2.6               | (14.6)           |
| <b>2024-2044</b> | 10,963 | 21.9             | 7.5               | (14.9)           |

While the planned 5 miles of total trail for the Stanwood Port Susan trail will add trail capacity, the City will need to add additional trail facilities over the planning period in order to resolve the projected deficit based on existing trails.

## Recreation Opportunities LOS

City of Stanwood residents want more structured recreation opportunities. Creating more fields for active recreation, increased signage and wayfinding, and improving recreation programming and events will raise quality of life for residents in the city. The following analysis in Table 6.5 compares recreation facilities provided within Stanwood to the average provided by jurisdictions with less than 20,000 residents. Table 6.6 describes how Stanwood performs under LOS ratios provided by different jurisdictions on the 2044 planning horizon.

**Table 6.5 Structured Recreation Assessment: 2023**

|                                       |       | Average among comparable jurisdictions |                                 |                                | Within Stanwood     |                          |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Facility Type                         | Pop.  | Residents per Facilities               | Facilities per 10,000 Residents | Facilities per 2023 Population | Facilities Provided | Residents per facilities | Facility Difference (Deficit) |
| <b>Ballfields</b>                     | 8,585 | 3,378                                  | 3                               | 3                              | 4                   | 2146                     | 1                             |
| <b>Soccer Fields</b>                  | 8,585 | 3,411                                  | 3                               | 3                              | 1                   | 8585                     | -(2)                          |
| <b>Multipurpose Rectangular Field</b> | 8,585 | 3,875                                  | 2                               | 2                              | 1                   | 8585                     | -(1)                          |
| <b>Community Centers</b>              | 8,585 | 8,829                                  | 1                               | 1                              | 0                   | NA                       | -(1)                          |
| <b>Playgrounds</b>                    | 8,585 | 2,269                                  | 4                               | 4                              | 3                   | 2862                     | -(1)                          |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

**Table 6.6 Future Structured Recreation Assessment: 2044**

|                                |        | Average among comparable jurisdictions |                                 |                                | Within Stanwood |                          |                                          |
|--------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Facility Type                  | Pop.   | Residents per Facilities               | Facilities per 10,000 Residents | Facilities per 2044 Population | Number Provided | Residents per facilities | Facility Difference (Deficit) / +Surplus |
| Ballfields                     | 10,963 | 3,378                                  | 3                               | 3                              | 4               | 2,741                    | 1                                        |
| Soccer Fields                  | 10,963 | 3,411                                  | 3                               | 3                              | 1               | 10,963                   | -(2)                                     |
| Multipurpose Rectangular Field | 10,963 | 3,875                                  | 3                               | 3                              | 1               | 10,963                   | -(2)                                     |
| Community Centers              | 10,963 | 8,829                                  | 1                               | 1                              | 0               | NA                       | -(1)                                     |
| Playgrounds                    | 10,963 | 2,269                                  | 5                               | 5                              | 3               | 3,654                    | -(2)                                     |

# **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan**

## **NEEDS SUMMARY**

### **Neighborhood Parks Need**

Based on the national standards, Stanwood does not have adequate acreage for neighborhood parks and much of the current inventory is undeveloped and/or not accessible as a park. The undeveloped parks need facilities and improvements to function as recreation areas for their neighborhoods. There is a projected net deficit of 19.3 acres of neighborhood parks in the city. The city owns additional undeveloped area dedicated to parks, and this could meet some of this unmet need. Lindstorm Park, which has been included in this analysis, is primarily undeveloped and has a lot of area which could be developed to provide better service. In terms of acquisition needs, the north and northeast section of Stanwood lacks neighborhood park facilities and the town lacks a facility serving downtown residents and the commercial area.

### **Community Parks Need**

Based on national standards, Stanwood will need to acquire and develop acreage for community parks over the planning period. The city is projected to have a net deficit of 12 acres of community park in 2044, but like Neighborhood Parks, the city could leverage existing undeveloped areas devoted to parkland to meet this deficit. While the deficit of community parkland is not as high as it is for neighborhood parks, the city should investigate strategies to meet this need.

### **Linear Trails Need**

The city's already large linear trail deficit is expected to grow through the year 2044 to more than 20 acres. This is ten times the amount of linear trail area currently provided (2.4 acres). The Stanwood Camano loop trail, which is anticipated to be expanded, should help provide some of this deficit in demand. Residents identify trail systems as in high demand and want more placemaking and wayfinding signage to engage with. The city should prioritize creating linear trails to meet desire levels of service.

### **Regional Park Need**

The community need is met and will be met by the 43.6-acre Heritage Park recreation complex. The intent for this facility is to serve the regional population for sports league play, serving the Stanwood Camano School District, and providing a location for multi-county tournaments league play for teams from Stanwood and Camano Island in Island County, regional bicycle events and major community. The addition of further facility improvements would bring the park to completion to fully serve this need. The park also has ongoing maintenance needs.

### **Structured Recreation Need**

There is demand for additional structured recreation opportunities in Stanwood. Public outreach has determined that additional programmed recreation is desired, however a lack of level of service averages from similar jurisdictions makes level of service analysis and comparison difficult. Stanwood needs significant parks funding moving forward to perform similarly to neighboring jurisdictions.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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## SECTION VII CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

### Introduction

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) summarizes projects under consideration for the next six (6) years. A Parks CIP is included in *Appendix E* and describes projects the City is pursuing for parks through 2029. The CIP includes project name, description of work, estimated costs, and start dates.

The majority of projects focus on enhancing access, walkability, and creating new opportunities to get outside. The following recommended actions are based on the facility demand and needs analysis and results from public engagement, and are consistent with the goals and objectives contained in this document. To aid in budget planning and qualifications for financial assistance, the City of Stanwood has prioritized the action items and developed both six-year and twenty-year action plans. More detail on the six-year action items can be found in the City's Capital Facilities Plan.



*Wildlife is within Stanwood's fingertips. English Boom Deer and Bald Eagles soar along the Stillaguamish River in the vicinity of Leque Island.*

*Photo Credit: Issac Martin*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## SECTION VIII CONCLUSION: INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Cities and towns face a challenge in meeting growing demand for new recreational opportunities, increasing lands available for a greater number of residents, and meeting diverse needs for all age groups, ability levels, and interests. This section summarizes how Stanwood is addressing growing needs programmatically, including developing a Parks Department and summarizing historic funding and federal, state, or local funding options.

### ***PARKS DEPARTMENT – 3 PHASE PLAN***

Currently, Stanwood operates a Parks Program under the Public Works Department and has a Parks Manager lead on all projects and Public Works Technicians coordinating operations and maintenance. With a growing population, the City has invested in understanding *when* and *how* a Parks Department should be established. In 2021, the City contracted *Berk Consultants* to develop a feasibility study evaluating when it is possible to develop an independent Parks Department and even begin offering opportunities for recreation programs. The *Parks and Recreation Feasibility Study*, published in March 2022, evaluated the City's current model for parks and recreation and determined a phased approach Stanwood is utilizing to establish a full-fledged Parks Department. The following describes the three phase plan and identifies which phase the City is currently in.

**Phase 1:** Phase 1 describes the 2022 existing conditions of the Parks Program, which was a decentralized program with staff from different departments coordinating with one another.

**Phase 2:** The City is currently in Phase 2 of the plan to develop a department. A dedicated parks team is needed to provide maintenance, capital facility design, and construction coordination. Additionally, a parks manager that worked part or full time on parks planning, including but not limited to feasibility studies, engagement, acquisition, and grant management, is needed to have designated, focused leadership on park projects and program maintenance.

**Phase 3:** The final phase of the plan would develop a Parks Department with independent departmental annual funding, operate a recreation program, and expand the parks system. There are no dates anticipated for Park Department development since it is highly dependent on the rate of population growth. More residents and businesses mean the City has a greater general fund to work with and invest in projects. It is anticipated that a Parks Department would require between \$1.1 and \$1.5 million per year to effectively operate.

### ***Recreation Programming***

Residents continuously expressed excitement and interest in developing a recreation program with both youth and adult programming. Development of a recreation program requires consistent funding, full-time and part-time staff, and designated indoor and outdoor spaces to conduct programs. While Stanwood has parks staffing, there are not enough residents to fund a recreation program and there are no indoor spaces available for recreation programs at the time of this report.

Recreation programs can be sources of City revenue and are not typically developed unless there is a larger population to support recreation services. Other similar sized cities, such as Sedro-Woolley, do not currently possess a recreation program and it can be assumed a recreation program is currently not financially possible at this time. It is recommended that a feasibility study on recreational programming happens when Phase 3 of the Parks Department Plan becomes viable. A greater population is needed to increase local tax revenue and potential participants in recreation programs.

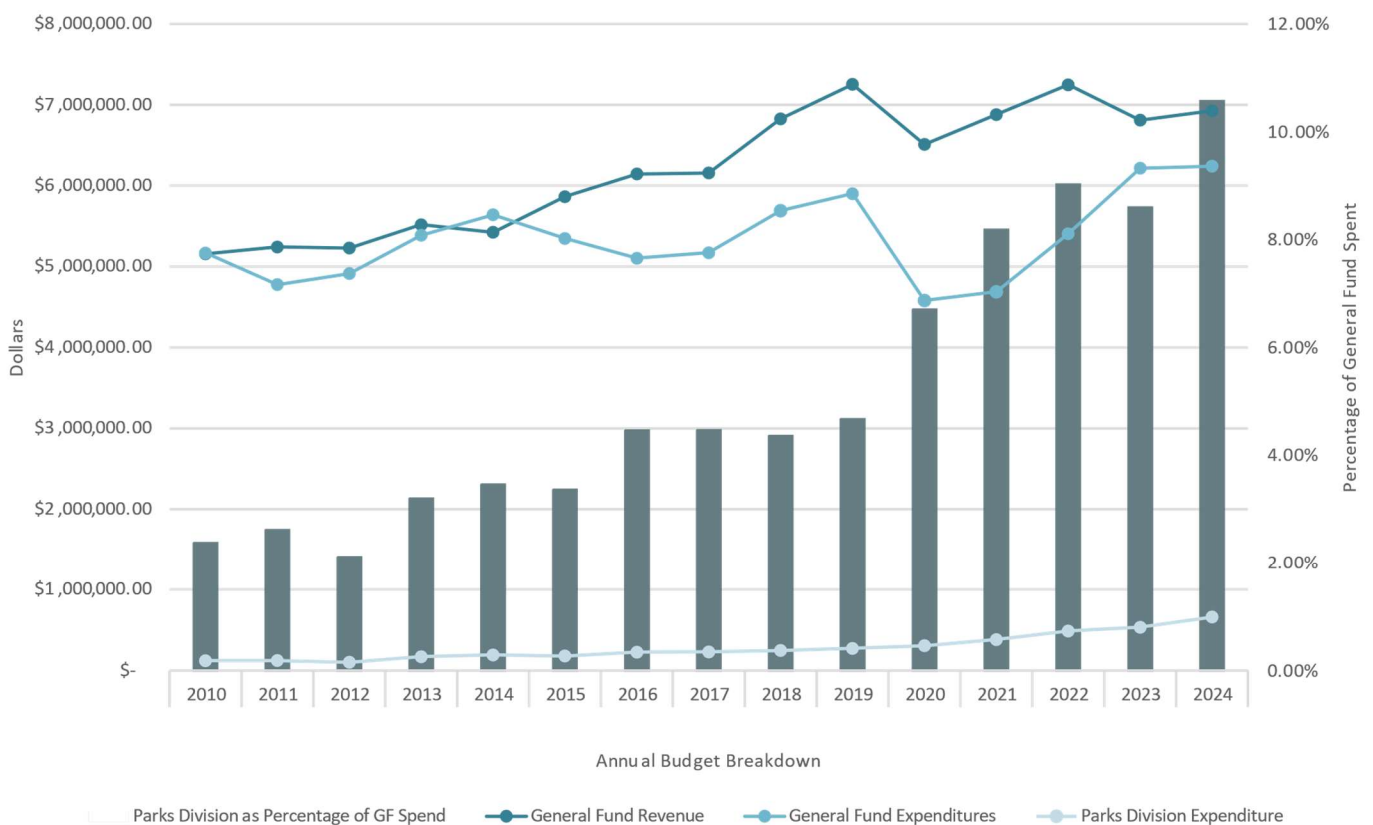
# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## CITY BUDGET ANALYSIS

The City of Stanwood has set its budget for the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years. For 2023, the City is operating with a budget of \$69 million based on the projected \$35.8 million in revenue. Of this budget, just over \$6.8 million is allocated to the General Fund which pays for the general operation and maintenance of non-capital projects. \$\$.5 million or 8.59% of the projected revenue has been allocated through the General Fund to the Parks Division of the Public Works Department. The City is expecting to further increase Park Division funding to approximately \$660,000 (10.56% of the General Fund) in 2024 while the General fund grows at a smaller rate of 2%. 2023 and 2024 have the largest revenue allocations for parks in recent history compared to the 4.9% allocated on average over the past ten years.

**Table 8.1**  
**Stanwood Park Division Funding Compared to Overall General Fund**

Source: City of Stanwood



Starting in 2022, the Parks Division has made progress towards fully integrating and operating a Parks Department. Currently, Stanwood is implementing a phased approach recommended by *Berk Consulting LLC*. Per Berk's recommendation, it is estimated that the first of three phases will have a total operating cost of \$1.2 to \$1.4 million, the second phase totaling at \$1.7 to \$2.1 million, and the third/final phase totaling between \$2.3 and \$2.7 million. On a biennial basis, phase one may not change spending or increase by as much as \$150,000 above current expenses. Phase two would cost between \$500,000 and \$900,000 above current levels. Phase three would cost \$1 million to \$1.5 million more than current levels. It is important here to note the importance of maintaining concurrent growth within Stanwood and the neighboring region to promote full implementation of a Parks Department. The increased operations

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

and functions intended for the Parks Department will be entirely dependent on Stanwood's ability to grow its tax base. Snohomish County has indicated that Stanwood is expected to grow in the next 20 years in population, employment, and housing. It is integral that the City promotes sustainable growth in order to maintain concurrent and future development.

## ***PARK IMPACT FEES, IMPROVEMENT FUNDS, AND REET***

Funding for parks can come from a variety of revenue sources including the General Fund, Park and Trail Improvement Fund, Park Impact Fees, Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET), among other sources. General Funds are specifically used for the operations of the Parks Division including salaries, benefits, office expenses, and ongoing park maintenance. All other funds can be used towards expanding and improving park programming and access.

The Park and Trail Improvement Fund is a catch-all used to accumulate the various funding methods into one fund. The fund is made of grants, transfers from special revenue funds, impact fees, utility funds, and potentially debt proceeds. These funds are then allocated to various projects identified in the Capital improvements section of the budget.

Park Impact Fees are funds accumulated through on-going land-use development stimulated by growth. Park Impact fees specifically fund new park facilities based on impacts to existing parks and increased demand for park space. In Washington, impact fees are authorized for those jurisdictions planning under the Growth Management Act (RCW 82.02.050-.100) as part of "voluntary agreements" under RCW 82.02.020, and as mitigation for impacts under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA – CH. 43.21C RCW). GMA impact fees are only authorized for: public streets and roads; publicly owned parks, open space, and recreation facilities; school facilities; and fire protection facilities in jurisdictions that are not part of a fire district.

Determining impact fees for a specific project is based on an equation considering the cost of land, the standard level of service for park type average number of occupants per dwelling unit, and adjustments of rate portion of anticipated tax revenue resulting from that development. Per Snohomish County Buildable Lands Report, Stanwood needs to plan to accommodate an additional 1,067 housing units by the year 2044; increase the housing supply from 2,986 to 4,559 housing units. Park Impact Fees will continue to play an important role in expanding equal access to park facilities.

REET funds are special revenue funds used to accumulate the proceeds from real estate sale transactions. There are two REET funds in Stanwood as is authorized to municipalities in Washington State. REET 1 gathers funding for capital projects for park and trail development. REET 2 is authorized to fully planning cities under the GMA and used for street maintenance as well as park and trail projects.

## ***GRANT OPPORTUNITIES***

Public grants create additional funding opportunities that can supplement a city's local budget for parks acquisition, planning, design, and construction. The City of Stanwood has successfully obtained parks grants in the past to assist with capital improvements and development. Regional, state, or federal funding are available options to consider alternative methods of funding local projects.

The grant process is competitive and should not be relied upon for annual parks funding. Grants have specific requirements to be eligible or apply for the program. The adoption of the Stanwood PROS Plan opens opportunities at the Washington State level for funding programs that would otherwise be unavailable to the city. Grants typically require a match, or equal funding, from the city between 20 to

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

100 percent of the requested grant funds which is a major consideration the city must make prior to investing resources into a grant application and signing a grant contract. Grant funding reduces the overall burden of a project's gross cost on the city's taxpayers and can be critical to provide financial resources to smaller jurisdictions. The following is a list of grant programs the City is currently eligible to pursue in the future:

## **SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

### **Local Funding Programs:**

#### **America the Beautiful Challenge 2023 –**

Enables applicants to conceive and develop large-scale projects that address shared funder priorities including connecting wildlife corridors, restoring rivers and coasts, expanding outdoor access particularly for underserved communities, and more

#### **Snohomish County Conservation Futures Program Grants –**

\$10 million is being allocated to preserve agricultural land, timberland, and open space

## **WASHINGTON STATE**

### **Washington RCO Grants:**

#### **Local Parks Maintenance Grant**

Provides funding opportunities to address maintenance backlogs for key local parks facilities

#### **Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities**

Provides funding to build. Expand, or renovate outdoor athletic facilities

## **NATIONAL PROGRAMS**

### **National Parks Service – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program**

While this program does not provide financial assistance, it does provide technical assistance in the planning and design process for locally led conservation and outdoor recreation projects.

### **National Fish and Wildlife – National Fish Passage Program**

Provide financial and technical assistance to support projects that improve fish passage.

### **National Fish and Wildlife –Fisheries Innovation Fund**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Fisheries Innovation Fund supports effective participation of fishermen and fishing communities in the implementation of sustainable fisheries in the United States. The Fisheries Innovation Fund releases two requests for proposals (RFP) each year to work towards sustainable fisheries in the United States: a Fisheries Innovation Fund RFP and an Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grant Program RFP.

### **National Fish and Wildlife – Youth Engagement, Educations, and Employment**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS, Service) is committed to building and retaining a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the ethic, age, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, and language diversity of contemporary America. The Service operates a variety of programs that promote wildlife conservation and public land management under the Public Lands Corps Act (PLC, FWS Youth Corps) through engagement, employment, and education of our nation's diverse youth and veterans.

### **National Fish and Wildlife – Killer Whale Conservation Program**

The program supports efforts to advance the knowledge and protection of killer whales with a primary focus on activities that aid in the recovery of the southern resident killer whale distinct population segment. The program may also support catalytic projects in other killer whale populations

### **Non-Profits – Miscellaneous Programs**

While the federal government does not currently provide consistent grant opportunities for city jurisdictions, there are non-profits that administer privately operated grant funding programs, partnerships, and assistance on park projects. Organizations such as the National Recreation and Park Association, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the National Park Trust offer annual grant funding opportunities.

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## ***LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS***

Local partnerships provide another avenue for achieving the goals of the PROS Plan through a joint approach to park programming. They can improve park programs through contributions including land donations, providing funds, and potentially volunteer-driven park stewardship groups. This collaborative approach allows for communities to jointly approach issues in park access, programming, and funding through the pooling of resources. The Snohomish County Rangers is exemplary of this. Along with law enforcement duties, rangers also provide general maintenance and environmental education programs that reach out to park visitors, schools, and community organizations.

### **Did You Know:**

Stanwood once hosted a State Parks Day back in 1949, 500 residents from Stanwood and Camano Island held a unique community effort to build a park in one day. This effort resulted in the creation of the Camano Island State Park, the first public park and public access to the shoreline on the island. By day's end, the volunteers created picnic tables, cleared paths, and leveled a road and parking lot. From then on, beach access was publicly accessible!

## ***DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS***

Developing accessible and enriching park facilities can be advanced further through development agreements. Development agreements are contracts negotiated between a developer and a city to specify the terms for a proposed project to be approved. Usually, they are used to resolve site specific issues not addressed through existing development standards. They can also be utilized so that the developer provides certain public benefits in return for concessions on regulatory flexibility. Lindstrom Park in Stanwood is an example of a successful development agreement. In this agreement, the applicant developed the detention ponds and funded the creation of the park for the right to develop the commercial retail center.



# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Appendix B: Public Engagement Results Summary



### 2023 PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE SURVEY RESULTS

In conjunction with updating the Comprehensive Plan, the City of Stanwood is updating its 2016 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROs Plan). This survey aims to help the City understand local values, priorities, and desired changes to the parks system. Feedback will inform how the city can improve its parks system, facilities, and programs and shape what projects and services the city will invest resources in over the next twenty years.

The survey was formatted into a youth survey for park users 17 or younger, and an adult survey for park users 18 or older with both an electronic option and hard-copy option. The survey was advertised on the City's website, social media, an in-person Farmer's Market event, and an in-person tabling event at the local library. The survey was open June 14, 2023 through July 31, 2023. The City received 384 electronic responses, five hard copy responses, and four email responses to the adult survey. The City also received 72 electronic responses and one hard-copy response to the youth survey. In total, 466 responses were received for the 2023 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Survey. Below is a condensed summary of the comments received.

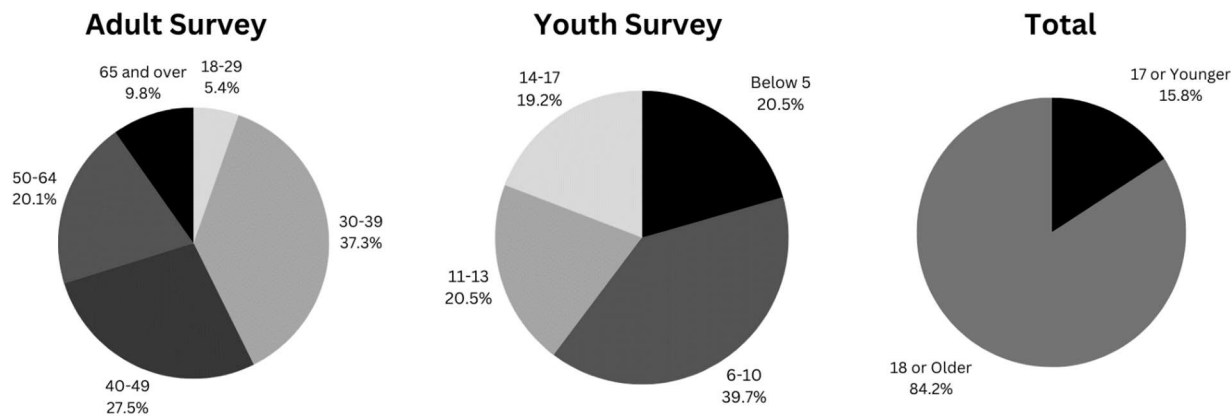
# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan



Photo Credit: Lisa Bruce

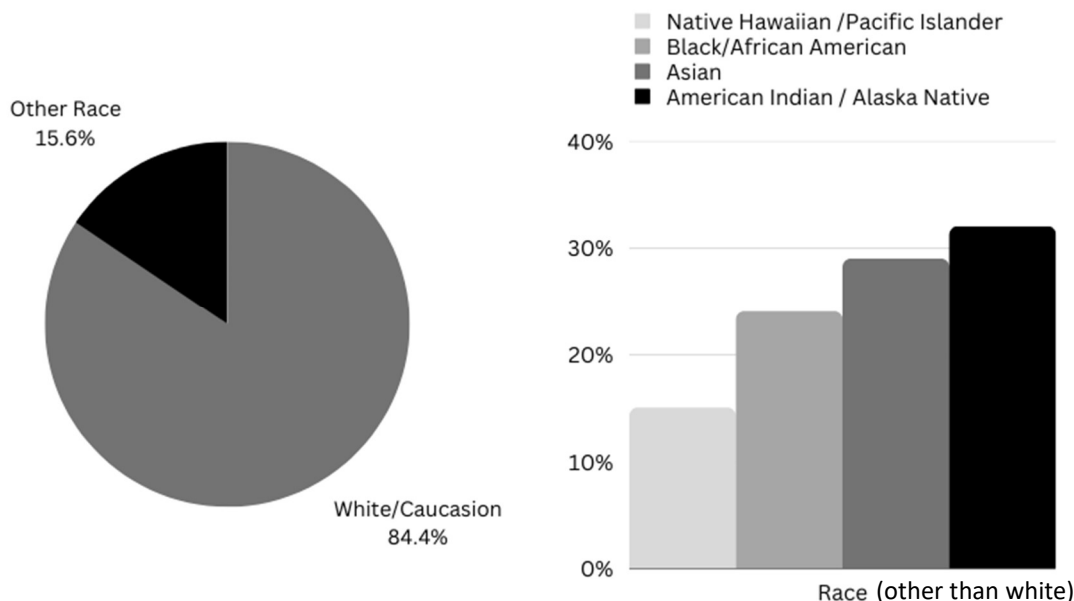
## Survey Demographics

### Respondent Age Breakdown



### Respondent Race Breakdown

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan



Approximately 7% of respondent park users speak a language other than English with Spanish, French, and German being the tree most common.

Other dominant languages spoken include American Sign Language, Tagalog, Russian or Ukrainian, and Czech.

The majority of respondent park users either drive (over 90%) or walk (15-22%) to the parks.



**13% of respondent park users have a need for accessible park facilities and / or have been unable to use the City's parks due to physical or sensory limitations**

## Park Usage

Which park facilities are the most important to respondent park users?

| Adult Respondents                                                    | Youth Respondents           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 73% value open space, trails, and nature viewing in the city's parks | 78% value local playgrounds |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

|                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The majority of adult respondents also value playgrounds and picnic or seating areas      | The majority of youth respondents also value grassy field areas                                                                 |
| Just under half value grassy sports fields for sports like soccer, football, and lacrosse | Between a quarter to a third value paved sport courts, skate parks and dirt bike courses, nature areas, and the baseball fields |
| A third value paved sport courts and a quarter value dog parks                            | Less than 12% value dog parks or disc golf courses                                                                              |
| Less than 15% value skate parks or disc golf courses                                      |                                                                                                                                 |

## What other activities are important to respondent park users?

| Adult Respondents                                                                                                                                               | Youth Respondents                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 63% value the farmer's market, community events, and concerts                                                                                                   | 64% value participating in sports                                     |
| The majority of adult respondents also value organized sports and water recreation                                                                              | Just under half value the farmer's market                             |
| Between a third to just under half value youth programs, fitness or wellness programs, environmental stewardship and outdoor programs, and arts/craft programs. | A third value movies in the park and summer camp or day camp programs |

## What challenges or prevents respondents from using Stanwood's parks?

| Adult Respondents                                                          | Youth Respondents                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 41% stated that lack of park amenities prevent them from using local parks | 59% stated that the parks are not maintained                    |
| A quarter of adult respondents use Stanwood parks regularly                | 38% stated local parks don't have activities that interest them |

## How often are park facilities used?

Grassy fields and playgrounds are used the most frequently by all ages

Walking trails, open space areas, and picnic areas are the second most frequently used by all ages

Youth respondents also use the skate park, paved courts, baseball fields, and movies in the park

## Other facilities important to park users include:

Clean and accessible bathrooms  
 Parking and electric vehicle charging stations  
 Covered areas and BBQ's  
 Water access and boat launch  
 Sculpture gardens and labyrinths  
 Accessible playground equipment  
 Amphitheater and / or permanent stage area  
 Interpretative center and educational opportunities

Indoor sports facility and covered courts  
 Swings and slides at playgrounds

Trees and shaded areas  
 Splash pad and water features  
 Community gardens  
 Paved bike trails and pump tracks  
 Paved walking and running trails  
 Turf fields  
 Tennis Courts  
 Public pool  
 Large dog area  
 Recreational activities  
 Events like glass quest

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan



What would increase your usage of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services, if addressed by Stanwood?



### ADA Accessibility

Many comments spoke to the inaccessibility of Stanwood's parks including inaccessible access and walkways, inaccessible restrooms, and inaccessible playgrounds.

### Safety

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Church Creek Park has the largest amount of safety concerns ranging from troublesome teens to drug use and abandoned needles.

**Increased lighting** in the parks (including field lighting) was a significant comment for both safety and usability.

Outdated, unmaintained playground equipment and facilities

Many existing playgrounds are older and outdated. There is a large need for more, updated playgrounds for a variety of ages including toddlers and older children to use.

Multiple community members expressed desire for a larger dog park with shade and seating areas in a location that is less distracting for the dogs.

Communication and Signage

There is a lack of knowledge in the community regarding Stanwood's parks and amenities. Many comments spoke to the need for improved signage, publicity, and communication of park facilities to the public.

Interpretative signage, educational opportunities, and art installations are all passive ways of improving the parks

Shade and Covered Areas

More shade is needed at the parks, especially Heritage Park. Additional trees, plantings, and nature areas are desired in addition to having covered seating/picnic areas and covered sports courts.

Events and Activities

There is a strong desire to have more city events and activities hosted at the parks. Consider hosting farmer's market and summer concerts at parks instead of closing main street.

Cleanliness

Lack of clean restrooms and lack of trash cans prevent people from wanting to use the parks

Trails and Fields

Improved trails and walking paths/biking are needed both within the city's parks and trails connecting city parks throughout town

One of the most common comments was a need for turf fields to accommodate a variety of sports in addition to more green space areas in general

Parking

Church Creek Park needs more parking or safe pedestrian connectivity from off-site parking areas

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure should be installed in parks

*What are the most important existing facilities and amenities the city should maintain?*

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan



What does the community want to see that Stanwood currently does not offer?



The most commonly requested facility that the City currently does not offer is a playable water feature such as a splash pad or pool. At this time, the City does not have staff capacity to appropriately manage

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

a playable water feature but it could be considered for long term growth.

The second most common requested is for organized recreational and community activities. Comments ranged from requesting adult and youth sport programs, wellness programs, special events and concerts, outdoor education opportunities, and more.

## Park Satisfaction

### How satisfied are respondents with Stanwood's parks?

Approximately 40% of adult respondents feel neutral towards local park facilities

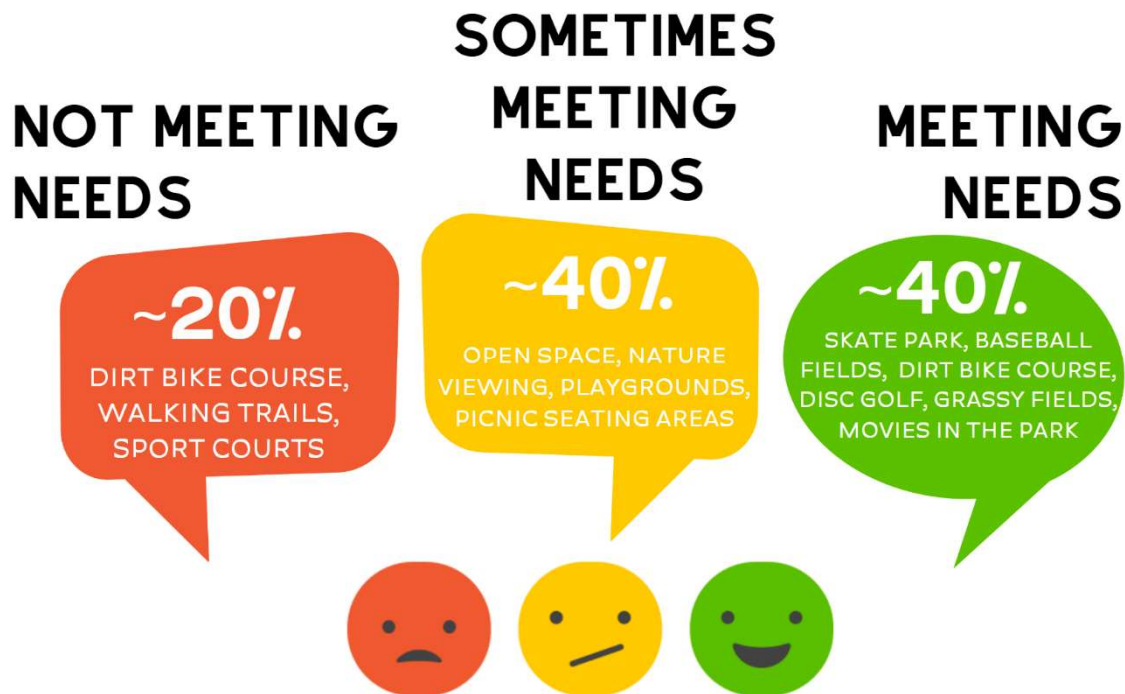
A quarter to a third are somewhat satisfied with parking and safety at local parks

15-20% of adult respondents are somewhat unsatisfied with the availability and quality of park amenities/facilities and the cleanliness of bathroom facilities

A majority of youth respondents feel that parks are not well maintained

Over a third of youth respondents said that local parks don't have the activities they want to do and a quarter said parks are too far away from their homes

### Are Stanwood's existing park facilities, amenities, and services meeting the needs of the community?



### How the city can improve its parks and recreation system, facilities, and programs in different ways than what has already been mentioned?

Tree coverage has both positives and negatives. It provides shade and nature viewing as positive features. Too much tree coverage can result in undesirable activity in parks and stinging insects. Strong community support for additional parks throughout the City and a parks and recreation department

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Consider a parks volunteer program

Provide amenities and park facilities for a variety of ages and needs (toddlers, children, teenagers, adults, and caregivers)

Consider partnerships with local organizations, local sport groups, and regional agencies for recreational and educational park opportunities

Communication of park facilities and events is essential

More swings and larger slides in playgrounds are desired

Current soccer fields are in poor condition with uneven ground and overgrown lawn

Make sure there's upkeep trash cans in all parks

Add more art to local parks

Accessibility should always be included in park design

The need for fields significantly outweighs the supply and many local sport groups are being forced to leave town for games/tournaments

Also consider construction of rentable concession stands

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Appendix C: Adult and Youth Public Engagement Survey Questions and Results

### *2023 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Survey (Youth)*

Q1. How old are you?

| Answer Choices | Response Percent | Responses |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| Below 5        | 19.44%           | 14        |
| 6-10           | 40.28%           | 29        |
| 11-13          | 20.83%           | 15        |
| 14-17          | 19.44%           | 14        |
|                | Answered         | 72        |
|                | Skipped          | 0         |

Q2. How do you get to the park? (Select all that apply)

| Answer Choices                                  | Response Percent | Responses |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| I walk to the park                              | 15.28%           | 11        |
| I ride my bicycle to the park                   | 6.94%            | 5         |
| A family member or friend drives me to the park | 84.72%           | 61        |
| I drive myself to the park                      | 12.5%            | 9         |
| I ride the bus to the park                      | 0.0%             | 0         |
|                                                 | Answered         | 72        |
|                                                 | Skipped          | 0         |

Q3. What do you like to do at the park? (Select all the activities you enjoy)

| Answer Choices                                                        | Response Percent | Responses |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Walking around and watching nature                                    | 29.17%           | 21        |
| Going to the playground                                               | 77.78%           | 56        |
| Playing sports in the grassy fields (soccer, football, lacrosse, etc) | 50.0%            | 36        |
| Playing sports on the paved courts                                    |                  |           |

## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

|                                          |          |    |
|------------------------------------------|----------|----|
| (basketball, pickleball, etc)            | 36.11%   | 26 |
| Using the baseball fields                | 22.22%   | 16 |
| Using the skate park or dirt bike course | 27.78%   | 20 |
| Playing disc golf / frisbee golf         | 11.11%   | 8  |
| Going to the dog park                    | 11.11%   | 8  |
| Other (please specify)                   | 11.11%   | 8  |
|                                          | Answered | 72 |
|                                          | Skipped  | 0  |

Q4. What other kinds of activities do you enjoy in Stanwood? (Select all the activities you enjoy)

| Answer Choices                         | Response Percent | Responses |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| After school programs                  | 25.0%            | 18        |
| Summer Camp or Day Camp programs       | 29.17%           | 21        |
| Participating in sports                | 63.89%           | 46        |
| Going to the farmers market            | 41.67%           | 30        |
| Learning about the environment         | 19.44%           | 14        |
| Dance or Theater programs              | 18.06%           | 13        |
| Movies in the Park                     | 33.33%           | 24        |
| Summer Concerts                        | 22.22%           | 16        |
| Cultural Events or Programs            | 12.5%            | 9         |
| Special needs programs or quiet events | 6.94%            | 5         |
| Other (please specify)                 | 6.94%            | 5         |
|                                        | Answered         | 72        |
|                                        | Skipped          | 0         |

Q5. How frequently do you use the following park activities? (Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Frequently)

| Answer Choices   | Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Frequently |
|------------------|-------|--------|-----------|------------|
| Playgrounds      | 7     | 5      | 24        | 34         |
| Skate Park       | 38    | 9      | 16        | 7          |
| Dirt Bike Course | 49    | 8      | 9         | 3          |
| Walking Trails   | 12    | 8      | 34        | 16         |
| Disc Golf Course | 54    | 7      | 8         | 1          |

## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

|                                                                       |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Dog Park                                                              | 47 | 11 | 10 | 1  |
| Grassy athletic fields<br>(soccer, baseball, football, lacrosse, etc) | 11 | 8  | 29 | 23 |
| Paved athletic courts (pickleball, basketball, etc)                   | 24 | 17 | 22 | 7  |
| Baseball Fields                                                       | 32 | 13 | 17 | 10 |
| Picnic or seating areas                                               | 4  | 15 | 31 | 20 |
| Movies in the Park and Summer Concerts                                | 27 | 10 | 23 | 9  |

Q6. What don't you like about the city's parks? (Select all that apply)

| Answer Choices                                                     | Response Percent | Responses |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Parks are not well maintained<br>(broken playgrounds, litter, etc) | 59.72%           | 43        |
| Parks don't have activities that I want to do                      | 38.89%           | 28        |
| Parks are not accessible to me                                     | 6.94%            | 5         |
| Parks are too crowded                                              | 11.11%           | 8         |
| Parks are too far away from my home                                | 23.61%           | 17        |
| I don't feel safe in the parks                                     | 13.89%           | 10        |
| I like everything about Stanwood's parks                           | 13.89%           | 10        |
| Other (please specify)                                             | 20.83%           | 15        |
|                                                                    | Answered         | 72        |
|                                                                    | Skipped          | 0         |

Q7. What do you wish Stanwood had more of in its parks? (Write N/A if you have no comments)

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Answered | 72 |
| Skipped  | 0  |

Q8. How can Stanwood make its parks better? (Write N/A if you have no comments)

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Answered | 72 |
| Skipped  | 0  |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## *2023 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Survey (Adults)*

Q1. Please select your age range.

| Answer Choices | Response Percent | Responses |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| 18-29          | 5.47%            | 21        |
| 30-39          | 37.5%            | 144       |
| 40-49          | 27.86%           | 107       |
| 50-64          | 20.05%           | 77        |
| 65 or over     | 9.11%            | 35        |
|                | Answered         | 384       |
|                | Skipped          | 0         |

Q2. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

| Answer Choices | Response Percent | Responses |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 4.69%            | 18        |
| No             | 95.31%           | 366       |
| Answered       | 384              |           |
| Skipped        | 0                |           |

Q3. What race do you consider yourself to be? (Check all that apply)

| Answer Choices                          | Response Percent | Responses |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| White/Caucasian                         | 89.32%           | 343       |
| Asian                                   | 2.6%             | 10        |
| American Indian or Alaska Native        | 2.86%            | 11        |
| Black or African American               | 2.08%            | 8         |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island | 1.3%             | 5         |
| Other or two races                      | 7.81%            | 30        |
|                                         | Answered         | 384       |
|                                         | Skipped          | 0         |

Q4. What languages, other than English, are spoken at home? (Write N/A if not applicable)

Answered 384

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Skipped

0

Q5. How long have you lived in Stanwood or the surrounding areas of Stanwood?

| Answer Choices   | Response Percent | Responses |
|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Less than a year | 1.04%            | 4         |
| 1-3 years        | 14.58%           | 56        |
| 3-5 years        | 13.02%           | 50        |
| 6-10 years       | 21.35%           | 82        |
| 11-20 years      | 18.23%           | 70        |
| Over 20 years    | 31.77%           | 122       |
|                  | Answered         | 384       |
|                  | Skipped          | 0         |

Q6. Does your household have a need for ADA-accessible facilities, programs, and parks?

| Answer Choices | Response Percent | Responses |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 12.76%           | 49        |
| No             | 87.24%           | 335       |
|                | Answered         | 384       |
|                | Skipped          | 0         |

Q7. Have there been challenges to anyone in your household in accessing parks or programs due to physical or sensory limitations?

| Answer Choices | Response Percent | Responses |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 12.5%            | 48        |
| No             | 87.5%            | 336       |
| Answered       | 384              |           |
|                | Skipped          | 0         |

Q8. Who do you go to the parks with? (Select all that apply)

| Answer Choices | Response Percent | Responses |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| Myself         | 66.41%           | 255       |
| My partner     | 68.75%           | 264       |
| My children    | 77.08%           | 296       |
| Friend(s)      | 57.55%           | 221       |
| My pet(s)      | 35.68%           | 137       |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

|                      |          |     |
|----------------------|----------|-----|
| Other family members |          |     |
| (ie grandparents)    | 42.45%   | 163 |
|                      | Answered | 384 |
|                      | Skipped  | 0   |

Q9. How do you get to the park? (Select all that apply)

| Answer Choices        | Response Percent | Responses |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Bicycling             | 9.9%             | 38        |
| Driving               | 97.14%           | 373       |
| Public Transportation |                  |           |
| (Bus)                 | 1.82%            | 7         |
| Walking               | 21.88%           | 84        |
|                       | Answered         | 384       |
|                       | Skipped          | 0         |

Q10. How far do you travel to your preferred park or activity?

| Answer Choices                                  | Response Percent | Responses |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Less than a quarter mile, or a 10 minute walk   | 5.21%            | 20        |
| Quarter to half mile, or a 10 to 20 minute walk | 8.85%            | 34        |
| Half mile to one mile, or a 40 minute walk      | 8.33%            | 32        |
| One to five miles                               | 32.55%           | 125       |
| Greater than five miles                         | 45.05%           | 173       |
|                                                 | Answered         | 384       |
|                                                 | Skipped          | 0         |

Q11. Which park facilities are the most important to you and your household (Select all that apply)

| Answer Choices                                         | Response Percent | Responses |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Open space, trails, and nature viewing                 | 73.44%           | 282       |
| Grassy sports fields (soccer, football, lacrosse, etc) | 44.53%           | 171       |
| Paved sports courts (basketball, pickleball, etc)      | 31.77%           | 122       |
| Baseball fields                                        | 20.05%           | 77        |
| Skate Park                                             | 13.28%           | 51        |
| Disc Golf Courses                                      | 11.46%           | 44        |
| Dog Park                                               | 24.22%           | 93        |

## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

|                         |          |     |
|-------------------------|----------|-----|
| Playgrounds             | 64.06%   | 246 |
| Picnic or seating areas | 55.21%   | 212 |
| Other (please specify)  | 21.09%   | 81  |
|                         | Answered | 384 |
|                         | Skipped  | 0   |

Q12. What other activities are important to you and your household? (Select all that apply)

| Answer Choices                                                          | Response Percent | Responses |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Youth programs (after school, daycare, summer camp)                     | 46.35%           | 178       |
| Adult fitness or wellness programs                                      | 40.36%           | 155       |
| Senior programs and services                                            | 16.93%           | 65        |
| Environmental stewardship and outdoor programs                          | 34.11%           | 131       |
| Farmers market                                                          | 63.54%           | 244       |
| Arts or crafts programs                                                 | 34.11%           | 131       |
| Dance or theater programs                                               | 20.57%           | 79        |
| Organized sports (adults or youth)                                      | 54.17%           | 208       |
| Community concerts or events (movies in the park, summer concerts, etc) | 62.5%            | 240       |
| Culturally specific events or programs                                  | 17.19%           | 66        |
| Adaptive/special needs programs                                         | 10.68%           | 41        |
| Water recreation (swimming, boating, fishing, kayaking, etc)            | 58.07%           | 223       |
| Other (please specify)                                                  | 7.03%            | 27        |
|                                                                         | Answered         | 384       |
|                                                                         | Skipped          | 0         |

Q13. How frequently do you or a member of your household visit or use the following park facilities provided by Stanwood? (1 = have not visited and 5 = once a week).

| Answer Choices                                                     | Have never used | A few times a year | Once a month | Once a week | Multiple times a week | Total | Weighted Average |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------|------------------|
| Open space, trails, and nature viewing                             | 32              | 145                | 91           | 64          | 48                    | 380   | 2.87             |
| Playgrounds                                                        | 64              | 103                | 66           | 79          | 57                    | 369   | 2.9              |
| Skate Park                                                         | 224             | 84                 | 33           | 13          | 15                    | 369   | 1.67             |
| Dirt Bike Course                                                   | 294             | 37                 | 22           | 4           | 8                     | 365   | 1.34             |
| Walking Trails                                                     | 49              | 145                | 86           | 54          | 44                    | 378   | 2.73             |
| Disc Golf Course                                                   | 298             | 45                 | 10           | 6           | 9                     | 368   | 1.32             |
| Dog Park                                                           | 259             | 62                 | 28           | 10          | 12                    | 371   | 1.53             |
| Grassy athletic fields (soccer, baseball, football, lacrosse, etc) | 110             | 89                 | 40           | 37          | 98                    | 374   | 2.8              |

## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

|                                                        |     |     |    |    |    |          |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|----------|------|
| Paved athletic courts<br>(pickleball, basketball, etc) | 204 | 78  | 33 | 23 | 35 | 373      | 1.95 |
| Baseball Fields                                        | 225 | 66  | 17 | 13 | 48 | 369      | 1.9  |
| Picnic or seating areas                                | 50  | 172 | 90 | 36 | 25 | 373      | 2.5  |
| Movies in the Park and<br>Summer Concerts              | 207 | 134 | 21 | 8  | 5  | 375      | 1.59 |
|                                                        |     |     |    |    |    | Answered | 384  |
|                                                        |     |     |    |    |    | Skipped  | 0    |

Q14. How satisfied have you and your family been with the quality of Stanwood parks? (1 = not satisfied, 3 = neutral, and 5 = very satisfied)

| Answer Choices                                             | Not<br>satisfied | 2  | Neutral | 4       | Very<br>satisfied | Total    | Weighted<br>Average |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----|---------|---------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Selection of<br>amenities/facilities available<br>in parks | 69               | 69 | 156     | 69      | 18                | 381      | 2.73                |
| Quality of amenities/facilities<br>in parks                | 65               | 82 | 159     | 60      | 18                | 384      | 2.7                 |
| Parking                                                    | 36               | 33 | 130     | 11<br>2 | 73                | 384      | 3.4                 |
| Safety                                                     | 26               | 39 | 160     | 97      | 61                | 383      | 3.33                |
| Cleanliness and restroom<br>facilities                     | 51               | 62 | 171     | 72      | 27                | 383      | 2.9                 |
| Overall                                                    | 45               | 60 | 173     | 83      | 21                | 382      | 2.93                |
|                                                            |                  |    |         |         |                   | Answered | 384                 |
|                                                            |                  |    |         |         |                   | Skipped  | 0                   |

Q15. What challenges prevent you or your household from accessing or using the city's parks, recreation opportunities, or open spaces? (Select all that apply)

| Answer Choices                                                     | Response<br>Percent | Responses |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Lack of park maintenance                                           | 15.36%              | 59        |
| Lack of park amenities                                             | 41.15%              | 158       |
| Lack of water access                                               | 23.44%              | 90        |
| Parks are too crowded and insufficient parking                     | 16.41%              | 63        |
| Parks are too far away or located inconveniently                   | 17.19%              | 66        |
| Parks are not ADA-accessible                                       | 5.47%               | 21        |
| I'm too busy and don't know what is offered at Stanwood's<br>parks | 12.76%              | 49        |
| I feel unsafe in Stanwood's parks                                  | 9.11%               | 35        |

## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

|                                                                  |          |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----|
| None, I regularly use Stanwood's parks and recreation facilities | 26.56%   | 102 |
| Other (please specify)                                           | 17.71%   | 68  |
|                                                                  | Answered | 384 |
|                                                                  | Skipped  | 0   |

Q16. What would increase your usage of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services, if addressed by Stanwood? (Example: Better signage/wayfinding, enhanced access for persons with disabilities, better safety and security measures such as lighting, etc. Write N/A if you have no comments)

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Answered | 384 |
| Skipped  | 0   |

Q17. What are the most important existing facilities and amenities the city should maintain? (Write N/A if you have no comments)

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Answered | 384 |
| Skipped  | 0   |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Q18. How do you think existing facilities, amenities, and services are meeting the needs of the community?  
(1 = not meeting needs of the community, 3 = meeting needs of the community, and 5 = exceeding needs of the community)

| Answer Choices                                                           | Not<br>impor-<br>tant | Not meeting<br>needs of the<br>community | 2 | Sometimes meeting<br>needs of the<br>community | Neutral | Meeting needs<br>of the<br>community | 4 | Sometimes<br>exceeding needs of<br>the community | Very<br>important | Exceeding<br>needs of the<br>community | Total    | Weighted<br>Average |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Open space, trails, and<br>nature viewing                                | 2                     | 56                                       | 1 | 169                                            | 7       | 107                                  | 1 | 23                                               | 4                 | 7                                      | 377      | 2.36                |
| Playgrounds                                                              | 2                     | 65                                       | 1 | 149                                            | 5       | 117                                  | 2 | 13                                               | 4                 | 6                                      | 364      | 2.32                |
| Skate Park                                                               | 2                     | 21                                       | 1 | 66                                             | 9       | 193                                  | 1 | 24                                               | 1                 | 22                                     | 340      | 2.88                |
| Dirt Bike Course                                                         | 3                     | 63                                       | 1 | 60                                             | 9       | 144                                  | 2 | 15                                               | 0                 | 18                                     | 315      | 2.56                |
| Walking trails                                                           | 2                     | 78                                       | 1 | 146                                            | 5       | 95                                   | 2 | 20                                               | 5                 | 10                                     | 364      | 2.3                 |
| Disc Golf Course                                                         | 6                     | 28                                       | 1 | 68                                             | 5       | 165                                  | 2 | 22                                               | 1                 | 34                                     | 332      | 2.87                |
| Dog Park                                                                 | 3                     | 62                                       | 1 | 98                                             | 8       | 129                                  | 1 | 11                                               | 2                 | 19                                     | 334      | 2.48                |
| Grassy athletic fields<br>(soccer, baseball, football,<br>lacrosse, etc) | 2                     | 68                                       | 0 | 87                                             | 3       | 153                                  | 3 | 19                                               | 7                 | 12                                     | 354      | 2.53                |
| Paved athletic courts<br>(pickleball, basketball, etc)                   | 1                     | 71                                       | 1 | 107                                            | 6       | 129                                  | 3 | 18                                               | 4                 | 10                                     | 350      | x                   |
| Baseball Fields                                                          | 3                     | 38                                       | 0 | 69                                             | 3       | 177                                  | 4 | 23                                               | 5                 | 17                                     | 339      | 2.76                |
| Picnic or seating areas                                                  | 1                     | 65                                       | 0 | 149                                            | 4       | 107                                  | 4 | 10                                               | 6                 | 8                                      | 354      | 2.32                |
| Movies in the Park and<br>Summer Concerts                                | 3                     | 58                                       | 0 | 95                                             | 7       | 147                                  | 1 | 16                                               | 3                 | 11                                     | 341      | 2.5                 |
| Answered<br>Skipped                                                      |                       |                                          |   |                                                |         |                                      |   |                                                  |                   |                                        | 384<br>0 |                     |

## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Q19. What programs, activities, or facilities have you seen elsewhere that are unavailable in the city? What should be considered a priority for future investment into Stanwood parks? (Write N/A if you have no comments)

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Answered | 384 |
| Skipped  | 0   |

Q20. Please share any additional comments or suggestions on what the city can improve in its parks and recreation system, facilities, and programs. (Write N/A if you have no comments)

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Answered | 384 |
| Skipped  | 0   |

Q21. Would you like to be added to a contact list for future updates on the city's 2024 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan update?

| Answer Choices    | Response Percent | Responses |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
| No                | 60.42%           | 232       |
| Yes (enter email) | 39.58%           | 152       |
|                   | Answered         | 384       |
|                   | Skipped          | 0         |

# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

## Appendix D: Public Engagement Survey Written-in Responses

This appendix includes the random sampling of raw responses written in by survey participants.

### *Adult Suvery:*

#### **Q4**

Jul 27 2023 06:34 AM Spanish, svenska, and Esperanto  
Jul 26 2023 11:56 PM Tagalog (Filipino) and Spanish.  
Jul 26 2023 04:55 PM Mandarin, Vietnamese, French  
Jun 28 2023 04:44 PM Ukrainian/Russian  
Jul 26 2023 05:36 PM Scottish Gaelic  
Jun 14 2023 06:07 PM Czech  
Jun 14 2023 05:56 PM German

#### **Q11**

Jul 31 2023 09:37 AM Accessible bathrooms  
Jul 27 2023 09:28 PM Shaded areas  
Jul 26 2023 08:33 PM Splash pad. Clean bathrooms. Good parking  
Jul 26 2023 04:55 PM electric vehicle (EV) charging station?  
Jul 18 2023 06:28 PM We need more Pickleball Courts please.  
Jun 20 2023 05:50 PM Tennis courts! Pickle ball is fun, but please consider a public tennis facility for Stanwood.  
Jun 28 2023 03:21 PM We need a running trail.  
Jun 27 2023 04:20 PM Biking trails with food/drink stops closely  
Jun 16 2023 11:06 PM BBQs  
Jun 14 2023 07:08 PM Splash pads  
Jun 14 2023 05:34 PM clean plumbed bathrooms  
Jun 14 2023 05:12 PM Inclusive playground for wheelchair  
Jun 14 2023 03:04 PM Indoor sports facility. We have so much rain and cold weather. It would be amazing to have an indoor sports facility with astroturf for baseball practices, football practices, youth wrestling practices etc. Please look at the NW Sports Hub Complex in Centralia as inspiration: <https://www.nwsportshub.com/sportlayouts>  
Jun 14 2023 02:59 PM Splash pad, volleyball/bocce ball

#### **Q12**

Jul 30 2023 09:27 AM Pickering Barn in Issaquah is a good example, check it out.  
Jul 26 2023 04:27 PM It would be great to see more community events throughout the yearQ15  
Jul 26 2023 02:59 PM Ultimate frisbee  
Jul 19 2023 01:51 PM Pickleball courts  
Jul 03 2023 11:39 AM Bicycle Trails  
Jul 02 2023 08:24 AM peace and quiet  
Jul 01 2023 10:22 PM Indoor field for sports  
Jun 14 2023 07:18 PM Upgrade the baseball fields!! Heritage park could be incredible to host tournaments!  
Jun 14 2023 07:08 PM Splash pads  
Jun 14 2023 06:11 PM Equestrian  
Jun 14 2023 05:27 PM Spray park  
Jun 14 2023 04:59 PM Biking paths

#### **Q15**

Jul 31 2023 09:37 AM In line with ADA, I have mobility issues and some of the parks don't have safe walking paths from parking to play areas.  
Jul 28 2023 08:31 PM Size of amenities, ex: dog park is too small  
Jul 28 2023 09:45 AM Not enough parks. Existing playgrounds are small  
Jul 28 2023 09:12 AM Lack of clean restrooms not porta potties

## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

- Jul 27 2023 09:28 PM Lack of shade at Heritage
- Jul 26 2023 11:56 PM Church Creek parking lot since it has been redone is too close to each other and angled weirdly to where most of the time people that park are not even following the bumpers.
- Jul 26 2023 03:41 PM The park nearest me doesn't have many trees so I usually walk, not hang out
- Jul 15 2023 05:55 AM No swings at some parks, no shaded areas on hot or rainy days,
- Jul 08 2023 05:09 PM Only one pickleball area
- Jun 30 2023 10:42 AM not much of a need for city parks
- Jun 29 2023 02:14 PM Found needles at Church Creek Park while with my toddler.
- Jun 28 2023 04:44 PM Have found a slide broken and visited a few times and it was not repaired. Trash laying around. Could use fresh paint.
- Jun 15 2023 07:30 AM Parks are disconnected from other city features like restaurants, stores, shopping, food
- Jun 15 2023 07:20 AM My kids would love a splash park closer to home

### Q16

- Jul 31 2023 09:37 AM I would absolutely make parks more disability accessible. Safer paths from parking to play areas, swings where adults can swing with their children. Fences to prevent kids from wandering into parking lots. Better bathrooms (freedom park is especially gross) with changing tables.
- Jul 30 2023 04:19 AM "Access to toilets, handrails "
- Jul 29 2023 09:57 PM "Better safety/security in church creek park. More options for toddlers"
- Jul 29 2023 04:23 PM Signage and publicity
- Jul 28 2023 09:45 AM Larger playgrounds, safe space for young kids on bikes and scooters
- Jul 27 2023 10:19 PM More marked, planned walking trails, updated playground equipment, and more trash cans.
- Jul 27 2023 09:35 PM The playgrounds are so outdated and not usable for kids in wheelchairs or with physical limitations. It's too bad there's no place for these kids to interact with their peers. All the money being put into the parks and kids with physical limitations have nothing to do.
- Jul 26 2023 11:56 PM With all the land at Heritage Park, please please please enlarge the bicycle tracks and create a long, separate dirt dirt bike track with larger mounds for adult electric bikes and kids electric ride on toys. Bathrooms can be bettered with decent mirrors, automatic faucets, soaps, and hand dryers. The sink water doesn't last long enough to rinse off the soap without recontaminating your hands again by pressing the knobs. Please make the bathroom doors open backwards (pull) so you can just use your foot to open the door (pushing, from the inside) instead of holding it. It is so much more sanitary this way. Please have garbage bins in each stall.
- Jul 26 2023 04:33 PM Better lighting in parking areas and upped patrols.
- Jul 26 2023 04:55 PM Installation of EV charging stations.
- Jul 20 2023 08:34 PM Additional pickleball courts
- Jul 18 2023 01:27 PM Organized sports tournaments, increased signage, covered facilities for winter months
- Jul 07 2023 07:13 PM Enhance security measures, better signage an marketing of events at the parks and recreation.
- Jun 28 2023 02:40 PM All age activities, pickle ball, turf fields
- Jun 18 2023 08:11 AM Larger footprint and wildlife corridors. Currently, the park and open space in Stanwood is being overrun by development and required "parks" in each development are worthless for wildlife habitat. If we want to be a "city" see parks land set aside in other regional cities: i.e. Bellingham, Anacortes or even Mount Vernon.
- Jun 16 2023 07:23 PM Splash park, better play areas, shade trees, increased safety at Church Creek, less busy at Kayak Point and Lake Goodwin. Freedom Park is best in Stanwood. Haller splash pad in Stanwood would be amazing for an addition to Heritage park. Bring back fireworks show to Stanwood.

### Q17

- Jul 31 2023 09:37 AM Bathrooms, walking paths, okay equipment
- Jul 30 2023 04:19 AM Toliets, diet bike course should be larger
- Jul 28 2023 08:31 PM The sports facilities are very important to families with children. However, our daughter plays sports that the city does not provide fields for.

## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jul 27 2023 09:52 PM | Continue with developing park to East of bridge to Camano! Those at Church Creek Park (for bathrooms clean & safe to use).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Jul 27 2023 03:34 PM | Bathroom                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Jul 26 2023 08:44 PM | Open space. Just give me a big field                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Jul 26 2023 12:01 PM | soccer fields                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Jul 23 2023 06:11 PM | Ball fields and playgrounds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Jul 20 2023 10:33 PM | Pickleball                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Jul 18 2023 01:01 PM | Heritage Park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Jul 18 2023 12:50 PM | Pickleball courts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Jul 02 2023 08:24 AM | access to water and views and quiet nature viewing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Jul 01 2023 10:22 PM | Baseball fields                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Jun 28 2023 09:54 PM | grass fields & baseball/softball fields                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Jun 28 2023 09:51 PM | Soccer fields, trails and playgrounds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Jun 21 2023 09:51 PM | Baseball and soccer fields/bathroom cleanliness.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Jun 21 2023 08:53 PM | Heritage skate ramps...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Jun 16 2023 07:13 PM | Walkway at Heritage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Jun 16 2023 06:22 PM | Trashcans/dumpsters - clean bathrooms.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Jun 15 2023 09:02 PM | Love the trails in the parks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Jun 15 2023 08:00 PM | Disc golf course, baseball fields                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Jun 14 2023 09:45 PM | All of them should be properly maintained and cleaned                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Jun 14 2023 09:44 PM | Bathroom                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Q19</b>           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Jul 31 2023 07:02 AM | A large, covered, rentable outdoor space for events with tables and grills (family bbqs, for example). An amphitheater - permanent outdoor concert space; having the summer concerts move around (and on paved areas) makes it confusing and less appealing. Would turn the summer concerts into festivals, which could draw crowds.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Jul 29 2023 09:57 PM | "Larger dog park. More options for toddlers on playgrounds"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Jul 28 2023 08:31 PM | Access to the water. A complete walking track (ours is partial at best). Swimming. Sports sponsored/run by the city. Kitchen shelters - or multiple shelters to rent for events. A nice farmers market - ours often has as many craft vendors as food vendors. Believe it or not I come for the offerings of farmers and farmers don't want to come to our meager farmers market. If it is still run by a non-profit, please stop relying on non-profits to do the work of the city - they struggle with the ability to draw and maintain volunteers as well as funds. |
| Jul 27 2023 08:47 PM | Splash pad                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Jul 26 2023 05:03 PM | More open feeling, safe playground area with a fun water park for kids.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Jul 26 2023 03:07 PM | Bigger Skateparks and nicely maintained fields with lighting for evening/night games                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Jul 22 2023 01:47 PM | A dock for fishing on the river.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Jul 20 2023 08:34 PM | Pickleball is growing. Covered courts to play in Fall/Winter would be immensely popular.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Jul 20 2023 07:30 PM | Access to Water, picnic areas, concerts in the parks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Jul 08 2023 12:09 PM | Nice ballfield complex.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Jul 08 2023 10:31 AM | Full size basketball courts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Jun 30 2023 01:48 PM | Turf fields                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Jun 30 2023 10:42 AM | turf fields                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Jun 27 2023 01:35 PM | Safer connections between neighborhoods and parks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Jun 26 2023 11:07 PM | Security                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Jun 16 2023 12:51 PM | access to the beautiful water views                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Jun 16 2023 11:50 AM | Have a Parks and Rec Department with classes for all ages. They Y is crowded and people are turned away for daytime exercise classes because they're full. The facility is too small to meet the needs of the population.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Jun 15 2023 08:00 PM | Splash park, more playground equipment, better parking, better cared for baseball fields at church creek, better youth soccer fields at heritage park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

- Jun 15 2023 07:47 PM Oak harbor has an amazing waterfront Park that even includes a water treatment facility.
- Jun 14 2023 07:51 PM A splash pad would bring so many people to Stanwood! Moms are always on the hunt for splash pads but we have to drive to Everett or Arlington.
- Q20**
- Jul 29 2023 09:57 PM Clearing out tree coverage in church creek park or increasing security to promote safety after its had such a bad reputation for so long.
- Jul 28 2023 08:31 PM Get a parks and recreation department. Quit doing these surveys every so many years and run a bond or whatever needs done to get a parks department. If there is no department who cares about what is added. Nothing will be maintained if there is no department to maintain it.
- Jul 28 2023 10:02 AM More playgrounds and parks to go to. More fields for sports games.
- Jul 27 2023 08:47 PM Splash pad
- Jul 27 2023 04:58 PM Smooth grounds
- Jul 27 2023 03:34 PM Better parking at church creek
- Jul 26 2023 07:13 PM This is the first town I've ever lived in without a Parks and Rec Department that provides classes and activities. Is there a reason we don't have one and could one be created?
- Jul 26 2023 05:03 PM More open and inviting playground at church creek park. Too dark with trees and feels unsafe and un-inviting for families
- Jul 18 2023 02:35 PM Due to the weather in spring, fall and winter, pickleball players have to drive to Mount Vernon to play. The city needs to build covered pickleball courts!!
- Jul 18 2023 01:27 PM Incorporate off leash areas in dog park designs. Plan for covered courts in any future pickleball facilities that includes electrical and water access.
- Jun 30 2023 10:42 AM spend more time and energy on crime, graffiti, and the wandering crack heads we are being invaded by. Dont build nicer parks for them to ruin
- Jun 30 2023 06:58 AM Create more parks
- Jun 29 2023 09:42 AM Turf fields, lights at facilities, the baseball fields have been improved but the dirt surfaces are hard like concrete. The grass play field at heritage at times cannot be used at peak times due to maintenance or other restrictions.
- Jun 21 2023 05:36 PM City parks fall short of representing of the area's beauty and family-friendly ideals. There are no parks worthy of taking out-of-town visitors to, or saying "it's a nice day, let's take the kids to the park
- Jun 16 2023 09:30 PM We need far better sports fields access to promote healthy lifestyles for the youth in our community.
- Jun 16 2023 08:40 PM Activities that are not targeted at little kid football players. My kids hate going places if these foot ball kids are there. The bullying is ridiculous. They are in elementary school so I'd hate to see what it's like when they get older. Have more programs for kids interested in stem
- Jun 14 2023 08:08 PM Youth programs something other than the y for before and Afterschool care. Summer and school break camps.
- Jun 14 2023 08:08 PM We need a public pool and at the very least a splash pad for kids

### *Youth Survey*

#### **Q3**

- Jul 26 2023 09:52 AM Just the skate park in particular
- Jul 07 2023 06:58 PM make new friends. but sometimes that is hard because not that many people go to the park near my house, the Church Creek park because usually a lot of teenagers are there vaping and climbing on the roofs above the park benches. Parents don't want their kids around vaping teens who are doing things that they shouldn't be doing. I already hear my parents saying be careful when at the park.

## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Jun 21 2023 08:15 PM Using softball fields  
 Jun 21 2023 06:07 PM glass quest  
 Jun 18 2023 10:08 AM Bike riding  
 Jun 15 2023 12:25 AM Swings specifically  
 Jun 14 2023 05:38 PM chalk art  
 Jun 14 2023 03:57 PM Bars or swings

### Q4

Jun 18 2023 10:08 AM Shopping  
 Jun 15 2023 12:25 AM Legos  
 Jun 14 2023 08:11 PM Splash park  
 Jun 14 2023 05:38 PM there isn't much to do in Stanwood  
 Jun 14 2023 03:57 PM Meeting with friends

### Q5

Jul 26 2023 09:52 AM Needs garbage can  
 Jul 07 2023 06:58 PM At the Church Creek park, there are a lot of teens there vaping and it is to dark there.  
 Jun 30 2023 01:43 PM Fields are filled with pot holes and uncared for grass  
 Jun 28 2023 07:03 PM Soccer fields have lots of holes to trip in  
 Jun 21 2023 08:15 PM Ball fields have terrible drainage and are not kept up well  
 Jun 21 2023 06:07 PM empty hand sanitizer stations  
 Jun 19 2023 08:01 PM I don't have enough info about the parks  
 Jun 16 2023 11:09 PM Need bathrooms  
 Jun 16 2023 06:10 PM Skatepark is small and doesn't allow for flow and creativity  
 Jun 15 2023 09:14 PM Bathrooms filthy  
 Jun 15 2023 07:21 PM Not safe to walk or ride my bike to Church Creek Park, and lots of ants crawling around  
 Jun 15 2023 06:57 PM Bathroom at church creek is not well-maintained  
 Jun 15 2023 12:25 AM There have been slippery things on the skatepark, I fell walking across it. Hills and certain areas sometimes have bullies  
 Jun 14 2023 10:22 PM to many teen usings bad words  
 Jun 14 2023 09:20 PM Need more variety of play ground, obstacles, shaded area

### Q7

Jul 27 2023 04:48 PM "More swings, tetter tootter"  
 Jul 27 2023 07:36 AM Expand the bike pump track.  
 Jul 27 2023 12:56 AM Water park and more toys. Bike track for kids  
 Jul 26 2023 11:25 PM I really wish for a plash pad for the summer and a huge dirt bike and Power Wheels track for me and my friends to play in. We also need a basketball court with different hoop heights so we can start young.  
 Jul 26 2023 02:28 PM Bigger playgrounds  
 Jul 26 2023 12:52 PM Water fountains especially at heritage, i skateboard all the time there and have to go all the way to Starbucks to get water because the one at the baseball field doesn't work or is never on.  
 Jul 26 2023 09:52 AM Trash cans, an actually working seesaw, more playground  
 Jul 08 2023 02:50 PM Courts and playgrounds  
 Jul 07 2023 06:58 PM swings, monkey bars, fire poles, round a bouts ( safer versions please)  
 Jul 07 2023 06:18 PM Nicer ball fields  
 Jun 14 2023 05:38 PM I have autism and want friends and things to do with them  
 Jun 14 2023 04:36 PM Playground equipment to play on. Picnic tables close to equipment. More parks  
 Jun 14 2023 03:57 PM Splash pads or a pool!  
 Jun 14 2023 03:40 PM Bigger slide less dog poop  
 Jun 14 2023 03:34 PM More bigger playgrounds!  
 Jun 14 2023 03:19 PM Disability Inclusive park

### Q8

Jul 27 2023 04:48 PM More places to sit and have picnic. Lighting  
 Jul 27 2023 07:36 AM More things to do

## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Jul 27 2023 12:56 AM Another nice park closer to Frank waters road downtown is far

Jul 26 2023 11:25 PM More benches with shade to sit in will be good. There are not enough bike trails in Heritage Park.

Jul 26 2023 02:28 PM Bigger playgrounds

Jul 26 2023 12:52 PM I think what you are doing is great, seriously considering what the people that use them have to say is great.

Jul 26 2023 09:52 AM More playgrounds, more community artwork

Jun 23 2023 02:29 PM Better playground options, more sports options (VOLLEYBALL NET/SOCCER GOALS/PICKLEBALL COURTS)

Jun 22 2023 01:14 PM Turn the Heritage ballfields into turf like the HS and please put in lights because its hard to see the ball at night

Jun 21 2023 08:15 PM Add a softball fields since we have to share it with boy's baseball too!

Jun 21 2023 06:07 PM bigger playground, more nature, picnic tables and spots to hang out or have a birthday part, closer so I can ride my bike, little store (concession stand), bathrooms that are not gross

Jun 14 2023 08:05 PM Cleaner and less mean high schoolers.

Jun 14 2023 07:55 PM Multiple fenced basketball courts

Jun 14 2023 07:39 PM Clean them, we don't like playing on dirty toys

Jun 14 2023 04:36 PM Have more of them. Tahallah in Bonney Lake has some amazing neighborhood parks.

Jun 14 2023 03:57 PM Install a pool or splash pad

Jun 14 2023 03:40 PM Bathrooms and better

**Appendix E: Capital Improvement Plan**

**Appendix F: Adoption Ordinance**

**Appendix G: SEPA Determination and Checklist**



## City Council Committee Parks Trails Advisory Committee AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

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ITEM NO: 9

DATE: October 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Parks Rental Policies

CONTACT PERSON: Amanda Slattery, PW Office Specialist

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Field Use Policies and Guidelines Original with Edits
  - B. Field Use Policies and Guidelines with edits applied
- 

### **ISSUE:**

There are issues with the current field reservation policy, particularly during the spring baseball season. The current policy, last updated in 2013, is said to favor Residential Recreational Youth with open enrollment vs. Residential Recreational Youth select teams in terms of access to the city fields.

Issues in the current policy have caused problems making field reservations equitable for all teams. Leading to teams overbooking the fields to guarantee their teams get field time then canceling with little to no notice. In the end the fields do not get booked, the teams needing field time have since had to travel outside the city to use other fields, and the city loses revenue that helps to keep our fields maintained.

The City's main goal is to provide fair access to all local sports groups while considering the needs of the youth sport community.

In addition to changes to the policy and guidelines, the city will be moving to an online reservation system. Implementing an online reservation system will streamline the reservation process, making it easier for teams to schedule fields, as well as quickly see what fields are available.

City staff are proposing changes to the current policy and guidelines to ensure that all teams, whether residential open enrollment or residential Select organizations have fair and equal access to field scheduling.

Below is a list of the top changes to the policy and guidelines.

1. Fields must be paid at the time of scheduling them online- this will help with the slow process of issuing city invoices and keeping track of who has paid. It will also have the organization be sure they need the field before scheduling its use.
2. Refunds will only be issued if the fields use time is canceled 20+ days in advance

3. Allocation Priorities:

| CURRENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | PROPOSED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Church Creek Park</b> - resident = Stanwood Camano School District Boundaries</p> <p><b>Heritage Park</b> - resident = Snohomish County Residents including Camano Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Resident Recreational Youth</b> – Non-profit groups serving youth must have open enrollment and open participation of all ability levels, i.e. SCJAA, recreational soccerleagues, recreational Little League, recreational lacrosse leagues, etc.</li> <li>b. <b>Resident Select Youth</b> – Non-profit groups serving youth, who do not have open participation of all ability levels.</li> <li>c. <b>Resident Adult Leagues</b></li> <li>d. <b>Non-resident Leagues</b> – groups with majority of members outside the City’s identified boundaries.</li> <li>e. <b>Commercial Groups or For-profit Organizations</b></li> </ul> <p>If two groups are equal, historical identified needs or use will be used as a factor whendetermining priority.</p> | <p><b>Church Creek Park</b> - resident = Stanwood Camano School District Boundaries</p> <p><b>Heritage Park</b> - resident = Snohomish County Residents including Camano Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Non-Profit Youth Sports Groups- 75% group majority of members must be residents.</b></li> <li>b. <b>Resident Adult Leagues- 75% group majority of members must be residents.</b></li> <li>c. <b>Non-resident Leagues – groups with less than 75% of members outside the City’s identified boundaries.</b></li> <li>d. <b>Commercial Groups or For-profit Organizations</b></li> </ul> <p>If two groups are equal, the reservation will be based on first come first served basis. Excluding <b>Baseball/Softball</b>.</p> |

4. Each user group shall appoint one contact person for communication and scheduling online purposes. Informal communications between Parks staff and members of the user groups, other than the designated representative, shall be regarded as informal discussions and are not considered binding agreements.
5. Added Section 11: Baseball/Softball Field Allocation during March 1 – July 1: will now be as follows: This will be a new process for Spring baseball/softball season to ensure fair scheduling and a streamlined process. All other field time will be open yearly and open to first come first serve.

| CURRENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | PROPOSED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The current allocation gives priority to Residential Recreation Youth Teams. Having this be the priority allowed for the organization with the top priority to overschedule the use of the fields.</p> <p>Payment Due Dates: All field use fees are due, in full, Thirty [30] days prior to the start of scheduled field use unless</p> | <p>Changing the Allocation Priorities: this will still require that 75% of all players are Stanwood/Camano residents.</p> <p>Parks Manager reviewing the field request forms prior to the Spring Season and allocating fields and or field days and times to each organization. Giving the organization scheduling start and end</p> |

|                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| otherwise negotiated with the City. Any refunds/credits, because of field closures, will be processed at the end of the organization's scheduled use. | <p>dates to make online reservations. After this date the fields open to first come first serve.</p> <p>Online scheduling will not be confirmed until payment is received.</p> <p>Cancellations and requests for refunds are only if requested 20+ days in advance.</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The City sent out an email to organization coaches who currently use the sports fields asking for their opinion on the changes. The city received back 5 responses. All 5 responses were in favor of the changes and added a few suggestions.

1. Possibly having specific times and days that would be only reserved for practices and games.
2. Having a Facebook page, email group, or something to notify the public and teams when fields are open and available for use. This would be helpful for them to be aware of cancellations, as well as get the notice out of field closures due to weather.
3. Didn't understand how the city would be allocating fields. (Directed to section 11) this will be based off of the form and the information on the form will be used by the parks manager to determine an equitable number of fields, field time, or number of days that organization will be allowed to reserve during the designated scheduling period prior to the slots being open up to first come first serve.
4. Agreed with having one point of contact for each organization, felt it would streamline the process
5. Checks and balances- found some linking errors and has suggestions on formatting
6. Parking- did not mention if it was allowed around the field. For example, are coaches allowed to drive in and park near the heritage fields?
7. Field closure information- it is written to make it seem like it is the responsibility of the user to check for field closures.

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## Section 1: Purpose

Manage City of Stanwood Athletic Fields in a manner to assure equitable distribution, achieve ~~maximum max~~ use of inum ~~use of facilities~~ facilities by the public, and when necessary, to protect the fields from damage by overuse.

## Section 2: Non-Discrimination Policy

The City of Stanwood shall not discriminate in the use of City Park and Recreation facilities based on race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, sex, honorably discharged veteran or military status, status as a mother breastfeeding her child, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. In addition, neither the City nor a third party receiving a lease or permit from the City shall discriminate on the basis of sex in the operation, conduct, or administration of community athletic programs.

Persons having questions or wishing to file a complaint regarding this policy may contact the ~~City's Mayor or the City Administrator at 360-629-2181 or the~~ Public Works Director at ~~360-629-9782~~ (360) 454-5230. Persons requiring a reasonable accommodation for a disability may contact the ~~City's Human Resources Manager~~ City of Stanwood Parks Department at 360-629-2181 (360) 454- 5231.

Gender Equity – Fair Play in Community Sports: Washington State Senate Bill 5967 law requires ~~cities and~~ cities and counties to ensure equal access to sports facilities for all athletes, regardless of sex.

A third party receiving a lease or permit from a city, town, county, district, or a school district, for a community athletics program may not discriminate against any person based on sex in the operation, conduct, or administration of community athletics programs for youth or adults.

## Section 3: Definitions

Unless clearly inconsistent with the context in which used, the following definitions will apply in this manual.

**Athletic Field:** means all types of athletic fields including, but not limited to, baseball, pickleball, softball, soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.

**Commercial Groups:** means groups that charge admission and/or participation fees and/or have as a purpose, the generation of income for the host group or individual(s).

**Historical Use:** means organizations who have scheduled athletic fields during the most recent prior season for a particular sport.

**Incidental use:** means non-organized, non-league use with no coach(s) and or officials present. E.g., informal “sand lot / backyard” games among friends or neighborhood children.

**Recreational Programs** – Programs that offer all participants the opportunity to actively participate on a team (no cuts), have no gender requirements and ensure equal play time regardless of skill or ability. The focus of recreational programs is developmental and participatory.

**Independent/Select Programs** – Programs that offer a limited number of participants the opportunity for play. Generally, select teams use try-outs, skill levels, and special invitation to form teams.

**Resident** - The City of Stanwood has identified the following as its boundaries: Church Creek Park = Stanwood Camano School District (SCSD) boundaries and Heritage Park = Snohomish County and Camano Island Residents

**Resident Based Team** – A team that carries a minimum of 70% City Residents on the team (rosters maybe verified).

**Maintenance Staff:** means the City's Parks Maintenance and Operations Staff.

**Renter** means any entity requesting use of an athletic field whether it is a league, group, organization, association, or individual team.

**Parks ~~Supervisor~~Manager-** means the City’s Parks Department ~~Supervisor~~Manager.

**Tournament-** means a request for a minimum of two fields for one or more consecutive days with an ultimate “winner.”

**League/Program/Group-** means the National, State or Local organization which governs or sanctions the sport.

**Youth-** means participants 17 years of age and under.

**Adult-** means participants 18 years of age and over.

Section 4: General Rules and Regulations

**Scheduling Responsibilities:** The City’s Park Department is responsible for the scheduling and maintenance of City Athletic Fields.

**Alcoholic beverages, Marijuana, and illegal drugs:** Alcoholic beverages, including ~~unopened~~unopened containers, marijuana and ~~other~~illegal drugs are not permitted on City property.

**Smoking and Vaping:** Smoking and Vaping are not allowed on or within 25’ of any athletic field, fence, or group seating area.

**Not Allowed on Field:** Gum, wrapped candy, peanuts and sunflower seeds are not allowed on fields, bleachers, or ~~adjacent~~dugouts. (Should this be removed?)

**Unscheduled Use of Fields:** Teams may not use athletic fields unless pre-scheduled.

**Scheduled league games:** will have priority over practices and all other rentals.

**Litter-Garbage Control:** Users will be held responsible for excessive litter and garbage left after games and practices by participants and spectators. Park’s maintenance staff will monitor, and report abuses of this policy and a clean-up fee will be imposed when excessive maintenance time is needed to clean the area. **Clean Up Fee \$50.00 per hour per employee.**

**Damage:** The organization shall be responsible for expenses incurred by the City in correcting, cleaning, repairing, or replacing any facility or property of the City which was damaged in connection with ~~the activity~~the activity or event for which the facility was rented.

**Disputes arising from implementation of these policies and procedures:** shall be appealed in writing to the Director of Public Works for resolution.

Section 5: Field Closure Information

**Inclement Weather:** During periods of inclement weather, the Parks Department may close Athletic Fields as determined by the Maintenance Staff. Closures may also result from poor playing conditions, which could cause hazardous conditions for the public and/or excessive (wear/tear) repair work to bring the field back to playable condition. ~~Although Fields may not be posted with “Field Closed” signs, it is the organization’s responsibility to obtain Field closure information and stay off of the fields during those times.~~In the event of a closure, the city will put out “Field  
6 | Page

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Closed” signs, and post on the website. It is the organizations responsibility to obtain field closure information and stay off the fields during those times.

Rainout and Field Closures will be posted on the city’s website at: [Parks & Recreation | Stanwood, WA \(stanwoodwa.org\)](#) Closures will be posted by 3:00 PM Monday through Friday.

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On occasion, field rainouts may be required at the start of a scheduled game or practice. When this occurs, it is the responsibility of the umpire, referee and or coach to make the field closure determination on location and to notify all participants. If a user group cancels field use due to unsafe playing conditions the group must fill out at Credit Request Form to request the missed time be credited to their account. Credit Request Form must be submitted to amanda.slattery@stanwoodwa.org within 48 hours of cancelation.

It is the responsibility of the organization to communicate to coaches and participants if the fields are unplayable, not only during periods of inclement weather, but also when fields are in poor playing condition and/or may cause hazardous playing conditions and/or excessive repair work to bring the field back to playable condition.

Any team or organization that plays on a field that has been officially closed may forfeit current reserved field time as well as future consideration for field use.

After Hours Contact: In case of problems at the fields (sprinkler issues, etc.) contact the Parks Department on-call employee directly at 360-629-9781 x8:press 1 for afterhours emergencies, then press 3 for Parks.

Renters are required to maintain Participant Liability and Liability Insurance for persons using city fields under the applicant’s sponsorship. General liability limits must be at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence. Proof of such insurance in the form of a Certificate of Insurance with the city named as an Additional Insured is required before the Field Use Agreement can be approved. An additional Insured Certificate naming the City of Stanwood as an additional insured can be obtained through your insurance provider. If you are an individual applying for use of city fields, you can obtain the necessary certificate through your homeowner’s insurance provider.

## Section 6: Certificate of Insurance

Commented [AB51]: Sent an email to attorney to review the requirements.

**Insurance Requirements:** Renters must submit a Certificate of Insurance AND Endorsement [form CG20 11] naming the City of Stanwood as an additionally insured ten business days prior to scheduled field use. General liability limits must be at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence. The Certificate shall also include a 30-day cancellation notice provided to the City. Failure to provide acceptable insurance coverage will result in the denial of field request or forfeiture of any scheduled field use.

Renters are required to maintain Participant Liability and Liability Insurance for persons using city fields under the applicant’s sponsorship. General liability limits must be at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence. Proof of such insurance in the form of a Certificate of Insurance with the city named as an Additional Insured is required before the Field Use Agreement can be approved. An additional Insured Certificate naming the City of Stanwood as an additional insured can be obtained through your insurance provider. If you are an individual applying for use of city fields, you can obtain the necessary certificate through your homeowner’s insurance provider.

## Section 7: Parking

**Parking Violations:** Cars improperly parked may be towed and violating organizations may forfeit field time. All participants park at their own risk. The City is not responsible for theft or damage to vehicles.

**Parking in Non-Permitted areas:** Organizations will be responsible for the cost to repair grassy areas that are damaged due to ~~to~~improperly to improperly parked cars.

Section 8: Charging Parking Fees

No organization can charge for parking in a city owned parking lot.

Section 9: Concessions

Sale of concessions at City Athletic Fields by for profit groups: requires advanced approval and is subject to fees based on percentage of sales or another negotiated schedule.

Organizations that intend to sell concessions must contact the Parks Department at 360-629-9781. Concessions include, but are not limited to, food, beverages, T-shirt sales, souvenirs, programs, etc. Concession permits must be requested ten business days in advance of the event. Requires advanced approval and is subject to fees based on percentage of sales or another negotiated schedule. If you intend to sell concession and are a for profit group you must contact the Parks Department at (360) 629-9781.

Snohomish County Health Requirements: All concessions must meet Snohomish County health requirements and appropriate healthpermits must be obtained in advance.

Sale of concessions at City Athletic Fields for organization fundraisers: Concessions include, but are not limited to, food, beverages, T-shirt sales, souvenirs, programs, etc. Concession permits must be requested ten business days in advance of the event.

Snohomish County Health Requirements: All concessions must meet Snohomish County health requirements and appropriate healthpermits must be obtained in advance.

Damage/Cleanup Deposit: A \$100 refundable damage/clean up deposit will be required of all organizations selling concessions. Deposit shall be paid at the time the concession permit is requested.

Section 10: Guidelines and allocating Field

\*\*\* Excluded Baseball/Softball Fields During March 1-July 1, see section 11

Reservation Opening Date: Online reservations will open by January 1 for that year's field use.

Field Use RequestsField Reservation: To assure proper scheduling, all requests for field use reservations and/or changes must be submitted be submitted online. in writing, on the proper forms.

Leagues; Tournaments and Sports Camps: Must be submitted online and be submitted 30 days prior to the event. Failure to do so may result in denial of your request.

Financial Standing with the City: The League/Organization/Renter requesting fields must be in good financial standing with the City.

Field Use Request and Return to InventoryCanceled Field Time: forms can be found in this guide, online at <https://stanwoodwa.org>, or by calling the Parks Department at 360-629-9781. Incomplete forms will not be processed and will be returned to sender. All cancelations must be submitted online.

Refund: refunds are only issued if field time is canceled 20 days prior to scheduled field use. You must cancel your reservation online. The request will be reviewed and if a refund is approved will be issued within 7-10 business days. See Section 5 for refunds due to field closure or inclement weather.

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**Financial Standing with the City:** The League/Organization/Renter requesting fields must be in good financial standing with the City.

**Field Use Request forms for leagues, tournaments and sports camps:** must be submitted no later than the applicable dates listed in the Field Scheduling Timeline (section 9.2). **Payment:** Full payment must be made online at the time of reservation.

**Insurance:** Insurance certificate must be submitted at the time of reservation. See Section 6 for insurance requirements.

**Concussion Form:** concussion form must be signed at the time of online reservation.

**Facility Use Agreement/Hold Harmless Agreement:** Facility Use Agreement/Hold Harmless Agreement must be signed at the time of online reservation.

**Practice vs. Games Priority:** Games will take priority over practices. The city understands that game schedules are not available till later in the season. Any scheduled practice that falls on a game day, the team practice will be bumped and refunded with a min. 1 week notice. If notice of a game is given less than 1 week from needing use of field the practice will not be bumped.

**Denied Request:** The City can deny any field use request.

**Section 10: Organization Contacts**

**Contact Person:** Each user group shall appoint one contact person for communication purposes. Informal communications between Parks staff and members of the user groups, other than the designated representative, shall be regarded as informal discussions and are not considered binding agreements.

**Pre-season meetings:** may be scheduled by the City to discuss the policies and procedures outlined in this guide as well as address any questions or concerns before field use begins. It is mandatory that the designated representative attend this meeting. Failure to attend may result in a delay of the issuing of permits.

The Parks Supervisor may call a scheduling meeting if multiple requests for the same dates, time and fields are made by organizations of the same priority level.

**Section 11: Allocation Priorities:**

**Church Creek Park - resident = Stanwood Camano School District Boundaries**

**Heritage Park - resident = Snohomish County Residents including Camano Island**

**Church Creek Park – resident = Stanwood Camano School District Boundaries**

**Heritage Park – resident = Snohomish County Residents including Camano Island**

- a. **Resident Recreational Youth Non-Profit Youth Sports Groups- 75% group majority of members must be residents.** – Non-profit groups serving youth must have open enrollment and open participation of all ability levels, i.e. SCJAA, recreational soccer leagues, recreational Little League, recreational lacrosse leagues, etc.
- b. **Resident Select Youth** – Non-profit groups serving youth, who do not have open participation of all ability levels.
- c. **Resident Adult Leagues- 75% group majority of members must be residents.**
- d. **Non-resident Leagues – groups with majority of less than 75% members of members outside the City's identified boundaries; identified boundaries.**
- e. **Commercial Groups or For-profit Organizations**

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If two groups are equal, ~~historical identified needs or use will be used as a factor when determining priority. the~~ reservation will be based on first come first served basis. Excluding **Baseball/Softball Fields During March 1-July 1, see section 11**

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Priority for Youth Recreational Sports: during the "Traditional Season" applies.

- Baseball/Softball: ~~Mid-Feb~~March 1 – ~~June~~July 1 w/post season tournament in July
- Lacrosse: Mid Feb – ~~May~~June 1 w/post season tournament in June
- Soccer: Mid-August – ~~Mid~~November 1
- Football: Mid-August – Mid November

**Failure to adhere:** All organizations must adhere to all policies and procedures set forth in this document. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of current reserved field time as well as future consideration for field use.

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Section 11: Baseball/Softball Field Allocation during March 1 – July 1

**Field Use Request Form:** any user group wanting to use the baseball/softball fields during this time must email the Parks Department at [parksemail@needtosetup.com](mailto:parksemail@needtosetup.com) prior to **January 1<sup>st</sup>**.

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Any organization requesting field use during this time must provide 1 designated contact person per organization. This will be the person who can make the online reservation for you organization.

**Financial Standing with the City:** The League/Organization/Renter requesting fields must be in good financial standing with the City.

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**Allocation of Fields:** The Parks Manager will assign specific fields to each user group based on need to organizations who sent in a Field Use Form.

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Each organization will be responsible for their own allocation of field slots for their organizations teams.

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**Online Reservations:** ALL reservations must be made and paid for online.

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**Reservation Opening Date:** Online reservations will open by the **second Friday in January**. Your organization contact person or designee can then go online and reserve any time slots needed on the assigned field.

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**Reservation Closing Date:** Online reservations for select fields will close the **first business day in February** and will then be open to first come first serve basis.

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**Payment:** Full payment must be made online at the time of reservation

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**Insurance:** Insurance certificate must be submitted at the time of reservation. See Section 6 for insurance requirements.

**Concussion Form:** concussion form must be signed at the time of online reservation.

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**Facility Use Agreement/Hold Harmless Agreement:** Facility Use Agreement/Hold Harmless Agreement must be signed at the time of online reservation.

**Canceled Field Time:** If a time is canceled, the canceled field time is open to ALL on a first come first serve basis.

**Refunds:** refunds are only issued if field time is canceled 20 days prior to scheduled field use. You must cancel your reservation online. The request will be reviewed and if a refund is approved will be issued within 7-10 business days. See Section 5 for refunds due to field closure or inclement weather.

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**Practice vs. Games Priority:** Games will take priority over practices. The city understands that game schedules are not available till later in the season. Any scheduled practice that falls on a game day, the team practice will be bumped and if needed refunded with a min. 1 week notice. The bumped practice will be bumped on the organizations designated field first. If notice of a game is given less than 1 week from needing use of field the practice will not be bumped.

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**Failure to adhere:** All organizations must adhere to all policies and procedures set forth in this document. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of current reserved field time as well as future consideration for field use.

## Section 11: Organization Contacts

**Contact Person:** Each user group shall appoint one contact person for communication and scheduling online purposes. Informal communications between Parks staff and members of the user groups, other than the designated representative, shall be regarded as informal discussions and are not considered binding agreements.

**Pre-season meetings:** if needed a preseason meeting will be scheduled by the City to discuss the policies and procedures outlined in this guide as well as address any questions or concerns before field use begins. It is mandatory that the designated representative attend this meeting. Failure to attend may result in a delay of the issuing of permits.

The Parks Supervisor may call a scheduling meeting if multiple requests for the same dates, time and fields are made by organizations of the same priority level.

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## Section 13: Field Use times

All fields may not begin until 8:00 AM on weekends to allow sufficient time for initial field prep. Exceptions may be made for tournaments, subject to approval by the City.

All field use must be completed by Sunset.

~~Organizations are responsible for returning to inventory any scheduled field time they will not be using.~~

## Section 14: Practices

Priority is given to games over practices.

Individual coaches for any youth organization must contact their organization/field scheduler for practice dates and times.

## Section 15: Tournaments & Sports Camps

~~**Tournament Field Use Request**~~**Reservations:** Must be submitted online and be submitted 30 days prior to the event. Failure to do so may result in denial of your request. form is available for tournaments. The Tournament Field Use Request form must be filled out completely or it will be returned to sender. The same timeline is used for tournaments as with other field requests.

~~Tournament dates will be considered separate from league dates and will be set prior to scheduling play for leagues and individual groups.~~

**Tournament Deposit:** All tournament requests must be submitted with a ~~non-refundable~~ \$200 tournament deposit AND a ~~refundable~~ \$200 damage deposit. The tournament deposit will be applied to field rental fees, but is non-refundable if the tournament is cancelled by the applicant. Tournaments will not be considered without both deposits. See Section 21

**Park Open to the Public:** the park will remain open for public use, unless approved by the Public Works Director to be a closed event.

**Payment:** Full payment must be made online at the time of reservation.

**Insurance:** Insurance certificate must be submitted at the time of online reservation. See Section 6 for insurance requirements.

**Concussion Form:** concussion form must be signed at the time of online reservation.

**Facility Use Agreement/Hold Harmless Agreement:** Facility Use Agreement/Hold Harmless Agreement must be signed at the time of online reservation.

**Refunds:** refunds are only issued if field time is canceled 20 days prior to scheduled field use. You must cancel your reservation online. The request will be reviewed and if a refund is approved will be issued within 7-10 business days. See Section 5 for refunds due to field closure or inclement weather.

~~Section 15: Sports Camps~~  
~~Call 360-629-9781 for information.~~

~~Section 16: Special Events-Non-Sports Events~~

~~Based on availability, fields may be scheduled. For Special Events please email [sarah.cho@stanwoodwa.org](mailto:sarah.cho@stanwoodwa.org) for non-sporting events. Refer to the Field Scheduling Timeline (section 9.2).~~

~~Groups requesting non-sporting events must submit Parks Special Event Application including a written plan and site layout. First priority is preserving and protecting the athletic field resource.~~

~~Section 17: Fees and Charges~~

~~Fees and charges are assessed for the use of City Athletic Fields to help partially offset maintenance and operational costs.~~

~~**Payment Due Dates:** All field use fees are due, in full, Thirty [30] days prior to the start of scheduled field use unless otherwise negotiated with the City. Any refunds/credits, because of field closures, will be processed at the end of the organization's scheduled use.~~

~~**Failure to make payments:** by specified due date may result in termination of approved permit(s).~~

~~**Groups requesting fields for individual events:** must pay in full at the time of request.~~

~~**Organizations charging admissions:** at any City Athletic Field must notify the Department ten [10] business days prior to the scheduled event and will be charged 10 percent of the gross income received in addition to any~~

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~~admission taxes the city may require. The organization will be required to provide a financial record of the event five business days after the completion of the event.~~

~~Cancellation Fees: A 20-day notice is required to receive a cancellation credit at the end of the use permit.~~

## Section 198: Maintenance Guidelines

**Field Closures:** City's Park Maintenance Staff will have final say on field playability and safety at City Athletic Fields following inclement weather, field maintenance or any emergencies that may occur.

**NO Field Modifications:** Organizations shall NOT dig ditches, push water, apply foreign materials including soil conditioners or use powered blowers in an attempt to "dry out" a field. Organizations found to be non-compliant with this rule may forfeit current reserved field time as well as future consideration for field use and may be charged for any costs incurred to repair the Athletic Fields.

Organizations shall not make any modifications to City Athletic Fields.

**Cleaning:** Organizations, Tournament and Sports Camp Directors are responsible to ensure the facility is ~~clean after~~ clean after each use, including respective dugouts, athletic field, and surrounding areas.

**No Vehicles on Athletic Fields:** Vehicles are not allowed on City Athletic Fields, or adjacent pathways, except by approval from the City's Park Department.

Vehicles that have been approved by the City's Park Department to drive on Athletic Fields, or adjacent pathways must provide proof of Auto Liability Insurance (naming the city as an additional insured).

**Misuse of Silo:** Throwing, Hitting, Kicking Balls into the Fencing, Backstops, or the side of the Silo is prohibited.

## Section 2019: Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Parks ~~Supervisor~~ Manager or designee to give a copy of the Athletic Field Scheduling Guide to each organization's scheduler at the beginning of each season. ~~This will be available during online scheduling, if you would like an emailed or physical copy please submit your request to parksemail@notset.upyet.com.~~

It is the responsibility of the ~~Parks Supervisor~~ Public Works Director to administer policies and procedures in an equitable and fair manner.

It is the responsibility of the Parks Department to update the Field Closure line daily as needed.

It is the responsibility of each organization to provide the Park Supervisor with accurate, timely ~~and truthful~~ and truthful information.

It is the responsibility of each organization to ensure that all team coaches and managers know, ~~understand~~ understand, and abide by these policies and procedures.

It is the responsibility of each organization to only request the Athletic Field time they will need and ~~to return~~ to return to inventory any field time they have requested, but is not needed.

## Section 210: 2013 Athletic Field Rental Fees and Charges ~~(City park fees are updated annually)~~

Fees and charges are assessed for the use of City Athletic Fields to help partially offset maintenance and operational costs.

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**Payment Due Dates:** All field use fees are due, in full at the time or online reservation, unless otherwise negotiated with the City.

**Failure to make payments:** your reservation will not be approved.

**Refunds:** refunds are only issued if field time is canceled 20 days prior to scheduled field use. You must cancel your reservation online. The request will be reviewed and if a refund is approved will be issued within 7-10 business days. See Section 5 for refunds due to field closure or inclement weather.

**Church Creek Park** - resident = Stanwood Camano School District Boundaries

**Heritage Park** - resident = Snohomish County Residents including Camano Island

**FIELD USE RATE: REGULAR SEASON – GAMES and PRACTICES**

| ATHLETIC FIELD           | YOUTH <u>and ADULT</u><br><u>RESIDENTS</u> | YOUTH <u>SELECT</u> <u>and</u> <u>ADULT</u><br><u>NON-RESIDENT</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Baseball/Softball Fields | \$5.00 per hour                            | \$15.00 per hour                                                   |
| Soccer Field*            | \$5.00 per hour                            | \$15.00 per hour                                                   |
| Lacrosse Field*          | \$5.00 per hour                            | \$15.00 per hour                                                   |
| Pickleball Court         | TBD                                        | TBD                                                                |

\* 2 teams on 1 field max for hourly rate, if scheduling 3 or more teams on 1 field add either \$5 or \$15 per additional team.

**FIELD USE RATE: TOURNAMENT, CAMPS, and COMMERCIAL**

|                     | YOUTH<br><u>RESIDENTS</u>                                                                                                                    | YOUTH <u>and ADULT</u><br><u>NON-RESIDENT</u><br><u>YOUTH</u><br><u>SELECT, ADULT,</u><br><u>NON-RESIDENTS</u>                               |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reservations        | \$300 <u>per day</u> <u>per day</u><br>\$200 Refundable Damage Deposit                                                                       | \$450 per day<br>\$200 Refundable Damage Deposit                                                                                             |
| Cancellation Refund | <u>\$100 of the Field Use Fee</u><br><u>\$200 damage deposit</u> <u>Refund if</u><br><u>requested within 20 days of the</u><br><u>event.</u> | <u>Refund if requested within 20 days</u><br><u>of the event.</u> <u>\$250 of the Field Use</u><br><u>Fee</u><br><u>\$200 damage deposit</u> |

**Other Fees**

|                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Energy Rate</u>                                            | <u>\$ 5.00 per hour</u>                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                        |
| PW Crew<br><i>i.e. open park early, clean up, and repairs</i> | \$50.00 per hour <u>per employee</u> with 2 hr minimum                                                                                                                        |                                                                        |
| Litter-Garbage Control                                        | \$50.00 per hour <u>per employee</u><br><i>Users will be held responsible for excessive litter and garbage left after games and practices by participants and spectators.</i> |                                                                        |
| Church Creek Park Covered Picnic Area                         | Resident \$30.00 ½ day<br>9:00am - 2:00pm or 3:00pm - Close                                                                                                                   | Non-Resident \$50.00 ½ day<br>9:00am - 2:00pm or 3:00pm - Close        |
| <u>Heritage Park Covered Picnic Table</u>                     | <u>Resident \$30.00 ½ day</u><br>9:00am - 2:00pm or 3:00pm - Close                                                                                                            | <u>Non-Resident \$50.00 ½ day</u><br>9:00am - 2:00pm or 3:00pm - Close |

\* To reserve the picnic shelter call 360-629-2181Picnic Shelter must be reserved and paid for online

- Fees subject to change

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- City sponsored events may have all or partial fees waived

Priority for Youth Recreational Sports during the “Traditional Season” applies.

~~Baseball/Softball: Mid Feb – June w/post season tournament in July~~

~~Lacrosse: Mid Feb – May w/post season tournament in June~~

~~Soccer: Mid August – Mid November~~

~~Football: Mid August – Mid November~~

## Section 22: Cancellation Fees

~~Regular Season:~~

20 days or more Full Refund

19 days or less No Refund

~~Tournament, Camps, and Commercial:~~

~~See section 9.0 for refund amount for tournaments, camps and commercial reservations~~

## Section 22: Scheduling Timeline

~~Feb – July Application deadline – Third Friday of January\*~~

~~Allocation Draft Schedules Posted – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of February~~

~~Aug – Nov Application deadline – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of May\*~~

~~Allocation Draft Schedules Posted – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of May~~

~~Nov – Feb Fields Closed for Rest and Renovation~~

## Section 24: Breakdown of City Of Stanwood Parks Athletic Fields 2013 Inventory

| Park Name and Address                                             | Field Name     | Field Type     | Base Distance(s) | Pitching Rubber | Outfield or Approx Dimensions |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Church Creek Park<br>27211 72 <sup>nd</sup> Ave<br>Stanwood 98292 | Baseball Field | Youth Baseball |                  | 10" mound       |                               |

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|                                                                                                    |                          |                         |      |                  |                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Heritage Park</b><br>9600 276 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Stanwood 98292<br><br>See map of Heritage | Field #1                 | Baseball and Softball   | 85ft | 60ft<br>6" mound | Home plate to fence<br>382ft<br><br>Total diameter 1,281ft |
|                                                                                                    | Field #2                 | Baseball and Softball   | 60ft | 46ft             | Home plate to fence<br>392ft<br>Total diameter 1,235ft     |
|                                                                                                    | Field #3                 | Little League Baseball  | 60ft | 46ft             | Home plate to fence<br>382ft<br>Total diameter 888ft       |
|                                                                                                    | Soccer Field             | All Weather Grass Field | N/A  | N/A              | 203ft X 350ft                                              |
|                                                                                                    | Lacrosse Field           | Grass Field             | N/A  | N/A              | 340ft X 200ft                                              |
|                                                                                                    | Soccer/Lacrosse Field #1 | Grass Field             | N/A  | N/A              | 295ft X 200ft                                              |
|                                                                                                    | Soccer/Lacrosse Field #2 | Grass Field             | N/A  | N/A              | 295ft X 200ft                                              |

Section 254: Field Maps

Insert Field Maps