



City Council Committee Meeting Agenda

Community Development Committee

This meeting will be conducted by telephone and online,
connection information will be posted on the City Website –
<https://www.stanwoodwa.org>

Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 5:00 PM

1. Election of Committee Chair
2. 2024 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

Community Development Committee

Staff Report



**CITY OF STANWOOD
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE: February 1, 2024
SUBJECT: February CDC Agenda Topics
FROM: Patricia Love, Community Development Director

Election of Chair

At the Committee's first meeting after the Council committee assignments have been approved, the Community Development Committee elects a new Chair. The Chair presides at all meetings and works with staff on scheduling agenda items. When necessary, the Chair can call for a special meeting if there is a scheduling conflict. The Chair also speaks on behalf of the Community Development Committee before the City Council.

2024 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

Staff has been working on updating the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The PROS Plan is a functional 20-year plan that provides goals, policies, and funding strategies in addition to providing an implementation guide for the 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. The Plan reflects the desire of the residents of Stanwood to develop a Parks Department, retain natural resources, and improve recreational opportunities in the community while coinciding with the Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

The last major update to the PROS Plan was adopted in June of 2015 with a minor update in 2018. The 2024 PROS Plan makes major changes that align with the Comprehensive Plan growth projections established by Snohomish County and current Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) guidance.

The PROS Plan is organized into the following sections:

- Introduction
 - New subsections include additional information on the state planning requirements, regional planning context, and benefits to parks planning.
- Goals and Policies
 - Park goals and policies have been updated and revised to reflect current conditions, simplify into "plain language" and to reduce redundancy.
- Community Profile
 - This section discusses Stanwood's geographical and demographical conditions. It has been updated to reflect current data and 2044 growth targets.

- Parks Classification and Standards
 - This section has been revised to reflect the parks standards and levels of services that Stanwood uses. It also includes the park facilities inventory which is an updated summary of Stanwood's park properties and what's in them.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Service Area</u>
Regional Park	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
Community Park	A park that serves 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
Neighborhood Park	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
Trails	Multipurpose trail(s) located within an existing greenway, park, or natural resource area. Focus is on recreational value and interface with natural environment. 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	Determined case-by-case

<u>Name</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Classification</u>
Church Creek Park	15.45 acres	Community
City Hall Park	0.28 acres	Undeveloped/Neighborhood
Downtown Park	0.11 acres	Undeveloped/Neighborhood
Hamilton Landing Park	2.84 acres	Community
Heritage Park	55.97 acres	Regional
Heritage Park Trail	0.5 miles in length	Trail
Lindstrom Trail	0.5 miles in length	Trail
Lions Park	0.68 acres	Neighborhood
Ovenell Farm	17.65 acres	Undeveloped/Community
Pioneer Highway Trail	1 mile in length	Trail
Ravenna Viaduct Triangle	0.38 acres	Undeveloped/Neighborhood
Riverfront Trail	0.2 miles in length	Undeveloped/ Trail
Stanwood Port Susan Loop Trail	1 mile in length	Trail

- Public Engagement Summary
 - This section has been updated to reflect the city's public engagement efforts for this project including a community survey that received over 400 responses.
- Facility Demand
 - This section discusses the city's park needs and levels of service. It includes an analysis of Stanwood's existing levels of service and how the city is projected to meet those standards into 2044. The existing LOS is based on current built out parks and facilities in relation to existing population. The future LOS is based on park land available and potential capacity in relation to Stanwood's 2044 population growth target.

Recreation Facility Classification	Acres/1,000 Pop.	Current LOS Met?	Future LOS Met?
Regional Park	.002-.003	Yes	Yes
Community Park	2.5	No	Yes
Neighborhood Park	2.5	No	No
Trails	2	No	No

- Capital Improvement Plan
 - The PROS Plan Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes both a 6-year CIP to 2029 and a 20-year CIP for park planning purposes.
- Conclusion: Investing in Our Future
 - The conclusion of the plan addresses city budget for park development growth including funding opportunities.

A Notice of Adoption Process for the PROS Plan was issued on January 23, 2024 concurrently with a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Notice of Determination of NonSignificance. The 15-day public comment period is open through February 7, 2024.

The next steps will be to have the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTAC) review the final draft at their February meeting and make a formal recommendation to City Council. After which, staff will prepare the plan to go before the Council for adoption.



City of Stanwood

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Plan



The sun sets over a baseball field at Heritage Park (2023)
Credit: Lisa Bruce

Updated December 2023
with Appendices

Adopted April 2024



Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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

Contents

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION	6
PURPOSE	6
USING THIS DOCUMENT	7
RCO REQUIREMENTS FOR PROS.....	7
THE PLANNING PROCESS	8
PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED PLANS	8
REGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT	9
BENEFITS OF PARKS PLANNING	10
SECTION II – GOALS AND POLICIES	15
SECTION III - COMMUNITY PROFILE	20
INTRODUCTION	20
PLANNING AREA	21
HISTORY OF PARKS PLANNING.....	21
CLIMATE.....	23
DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND PROJECTED GROWTH	23
RACE AND LANGUAGE	25
HOUSEHOLDS AND INCOME	25
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	26
SECTION IV: PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS	27
WHAT ARE CLASSIFICATIONS?	27
REGIONAL PARK	27
COMMUNITY PARK.....	27
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK.....	28
TRAILS	29
SCHOOL FACILITIES	30
PRIVATE PARKS/FACILITIES	31
CLASSIFYING STANWOOD’S PARKS	32
PARK PROFILES AND INVENTORY	33
SECTION V PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY	59
COMMUNITY SURVEY	59
SURVEY FINDINGS.....	60
Planning Café.....	61
Farmers Market.....	61
PTAC Focus Group	61
PTAC Focus Group Findings.....	61
SECTION VI FACILITY DEMAND.....	63



Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

ANALYSIS OF NEEDS.....	63
NEEDS SUMMARY	66
Neighborhood Parks Need	66
Community Parks Need	66
Linear Trails Need	66
Regional Park Need	66
Structured Recreation Need	66
SECTION VII CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.....	67
Introduction.....	67
SECTION VIII CONCLUSION: INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE.....	68
PARKS DEPARTMENT – 3 PHASE PLAN.....	68
CITY BUDGET ANALYSIS	69
PARK IMPACT FEES, IMPROVEMENT FUNDS, AND REET	70
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES	70
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS	72
DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS	72
Appendix A: Existing Inventory Map.....	73
Appendix B: Public Engagement Results Summary.....	74
Survey Demographics	75
Park Usage	76
Park Satisfaction.....	81
Appendix C: Adult and Youth Public Engagement Survey Questions and Results	83
2023 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Survey (Youth)	83
2023 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Survey (Adults).....	86
Appendix D: Public Engagement Survey Written-in Responses	94
Adult Suvery:	94
Youth Survey	97
Appendix E: Capital Improvement Plan	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix F: Adoption Ordinance.....	110
Appendix G: SEPA Determination and Checklist	111



Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Acknowledgements

Mayor

Sid Roberts

City Council

Dani Gaumond
Marcus Metz
Darren Robb
Timothy Pearce
Robert Hicks
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 Holmes, 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 high schools serving 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. A major review occurred in December 2012 and minor changes were made in 2015 as part of an update to the 2015 Comprehensive Plan. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan was most recently updated in 2018. 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.



Parks, Recreation and Open Space 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 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 areas¹. 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.

¹[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.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)



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.²



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

² [Health Benefits of Nature \(wa.gov\)](http://www.wa.gov)



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 of a Parks Department, and community engagement and interests.

PROSG 1 - Develop a park system throughout the City that is accessible and provides opportunities for all residents by providing a variety of park types, facilities, and uses.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 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 opportunities for both active recreational facilities and passive, unstructured leisure areas such as 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. |
| Policy 1.9 | When considering renovations to existing parks or developing new parks, provide safe pedestrian connections, through sidewalk or trail improvements, to nearby homes, shopping, or other parks. |
| Policy 1.10 | Identify underserved neighborhoods for consideration in future park development planning. |



Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

PROSG 2 - Work in collaboration with local, county and state agencies, special districts and businesses to provide a shared network of park facilities 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, trail and recreation lands before the most suitable sites are lost to development.
- Policy 2.2 Pursue an agreement with the Stanwood Camano School District to create opportunities for shared open public use of school facilities such as playgrounds, gyms, and athletic fields.
- Policy 2.3 Support and partner with private and non-profit agencies to provide affordable or reduced cost recreation opportunities to the community.
- Policy 2.4 Pursue the acquisition and development of a new community park in the uptown area of the city.
- Policy 2.5 Work with state and neighboring jurisdictions to 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 2.6 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, such as the YMCA and other local agencies, to provide coordinated and quality recreational activities and programs in the City where feasible and desirable.
- Policy 2.7 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 Pursue rails to trail agreements to convert historically out-of-service rail corridors to public use trails that connect city parks to the Stillaguamish River.
- Policy 3.3 Develop watercraft access opportunities including a mixture of canoe, kayak, rowboat, raft, and power boating.
- Policy 3.4 Prioritize use of the City owned property on the shoreline of the Stillaguamish River for park, recreation, educational or open space uses.
- Policy 3.5 Connect City waterfront park land and recreation uses with Downtown Stanwood.



Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

PROSG 4 - Provide accessible recreational facilities that provides opportunities for sports, playing and exercise to foster a healthy 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 residents, 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.
- Policy 4.5 Implement the Stanwood Port Susan Loop Trail in Downtown connecting parks, neighborhoods, and businesses.
- Policy 4.6 Improve non-motorized connections between downtown and uptown by requiring developments to install full street improvements including sidewalks, trails and bike lanes.
- Policy 4.7 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 Adopt guidelines and procedures to allow concessionaires in City parks when a portion of the proceeds benefit sports leagues or as part of a special event.
- Policy 5.4 Consider adopting guidelines and procedures that allow advertising signs on ball field fencing for a fee to support the upkeep of city parks.



Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

PROSG 6 - Establish a network of open spaces of all shapes and sizes 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, trails, 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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Level of Service</u>
Regional Parks	0.002 - 0.003 acres per 1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	2.5 acres per 1,000 population
Community Parks	2.5 acres per 1,000 population
Trails	2.0 acres per 1,000 population
<i>Total LOS</i>	<i>7.003 acres per 1,000 population</i>

- 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.
- 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 such as rain gardens, bioswales, rainwater harvesting and permeable pavements into park design for flood prevention when converting land to recreational use.
- Policy 8.2 Develop educational materials and interpretive signs for park users to raise awareness of the importance of sensitive areas, such as wetlands, and to encourage sustainable practices in City parks 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.



Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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

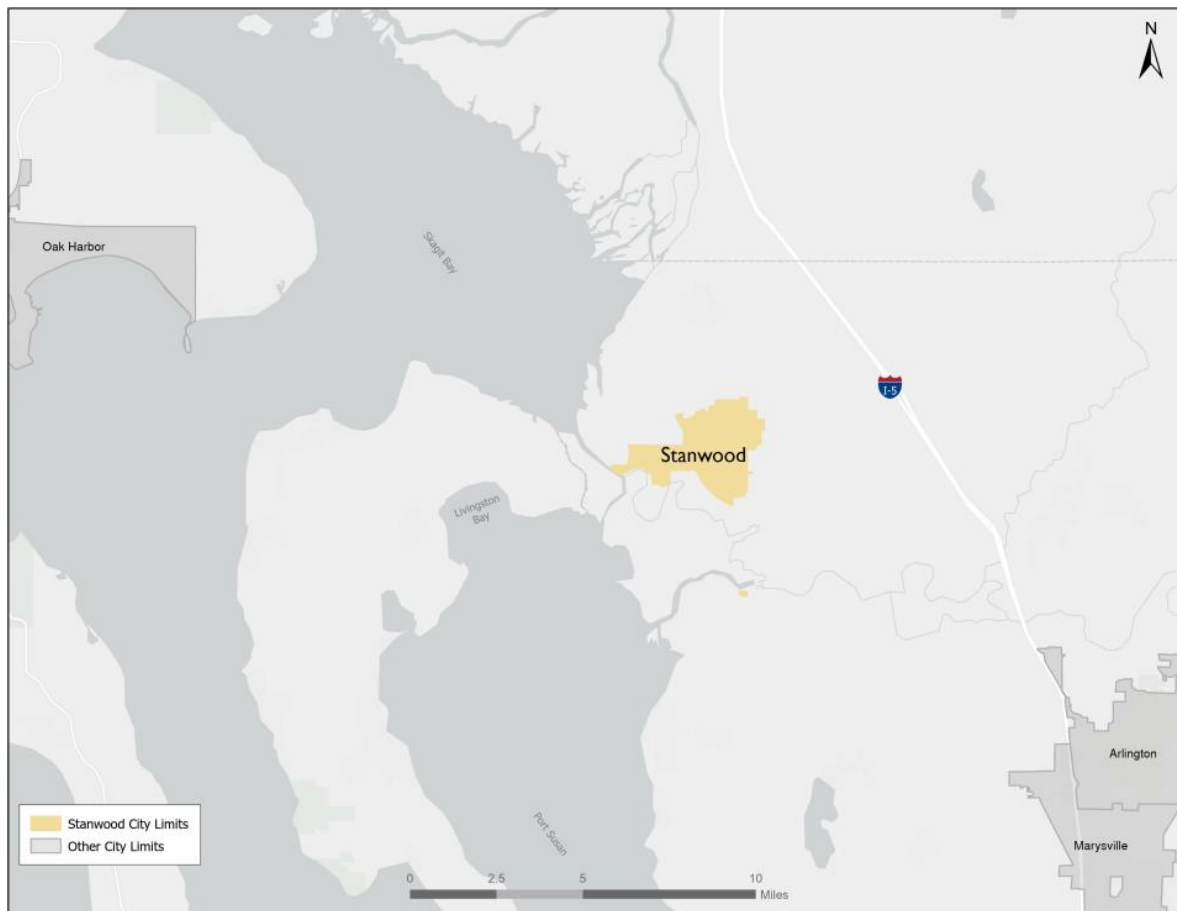
SECTION III - COMMUNITY PROFILE

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.

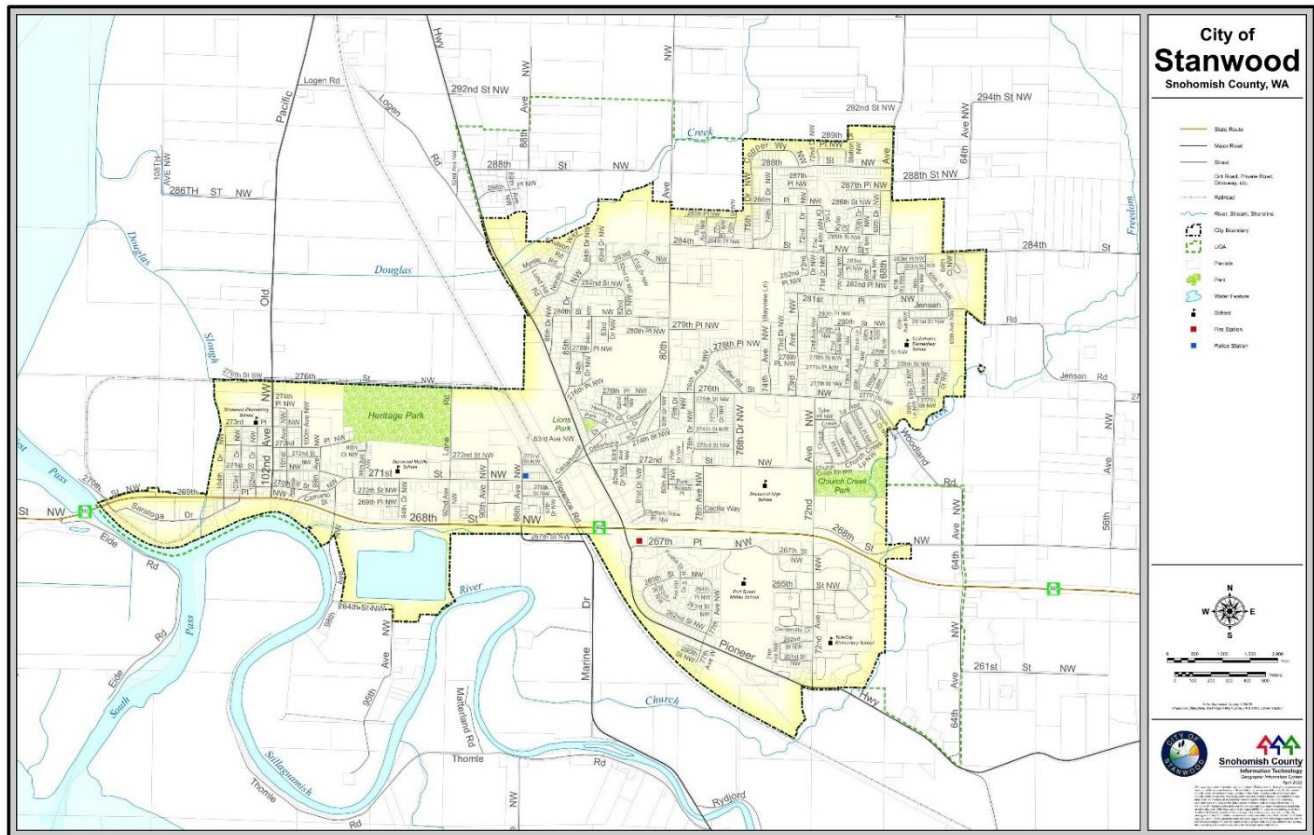
Figure 3.1 Vicinity Map



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

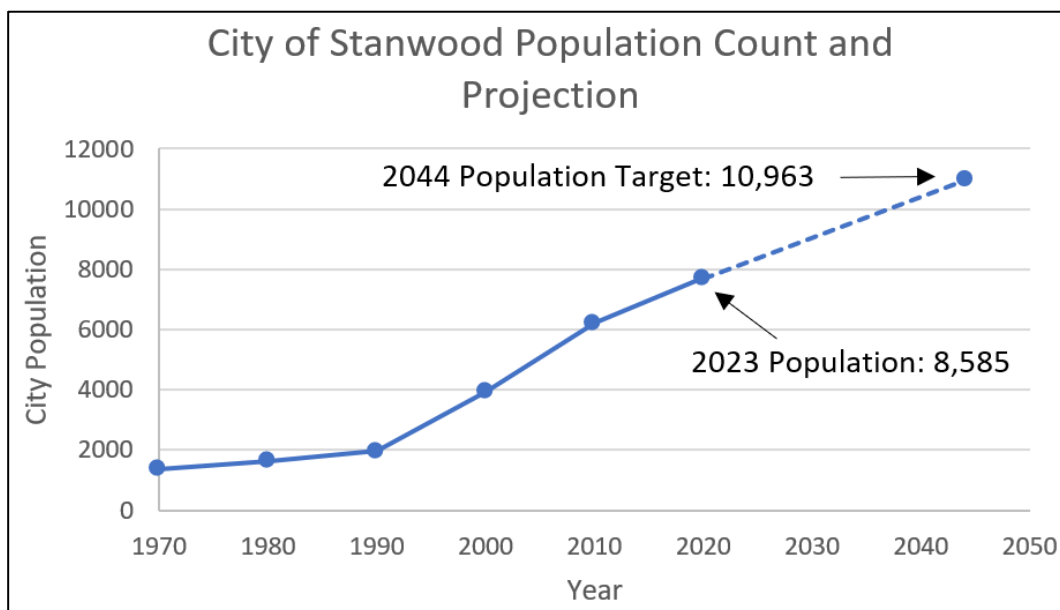
The weather and climate conditions influence attendance at parks and the types of amenities and facilities proposed for future projects. Stanwood has a cooler climate that is moist and mild. The temperature typically ranges between 36 to 76 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the year, with an average temperature 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% annually³. 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)



³ 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 sex⁴.

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

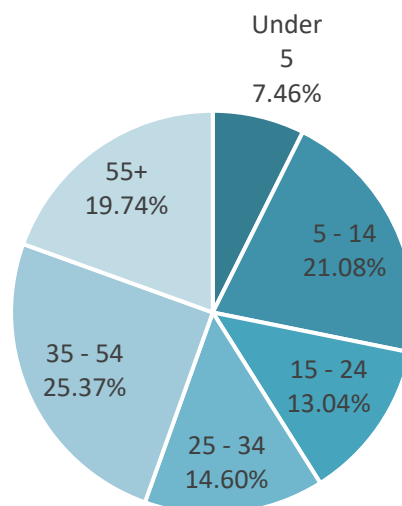
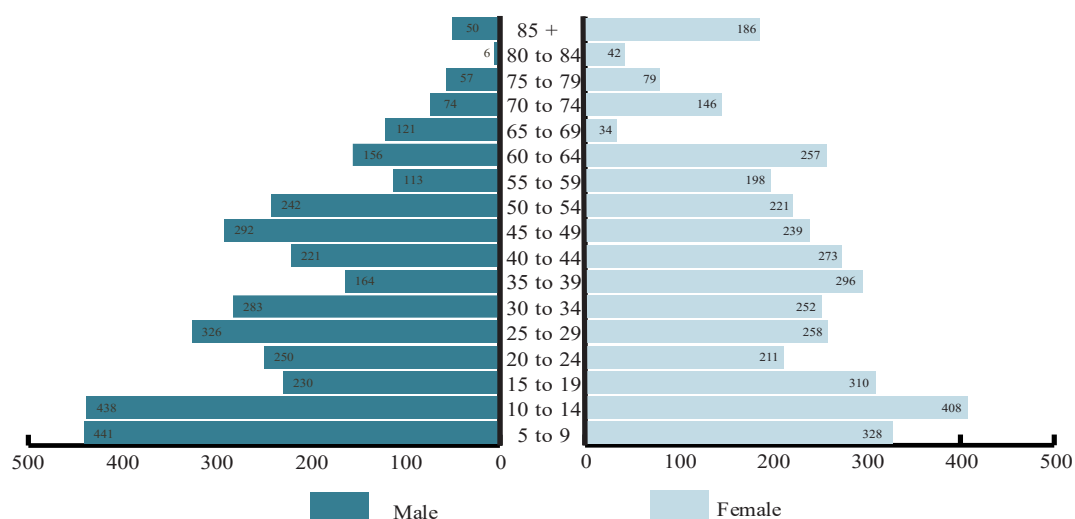


Table 3.3
Stanwood Population Gender Breakdown by Age
Source: American Community Survey 5-year Survey, Age and Sex



⁴ 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.

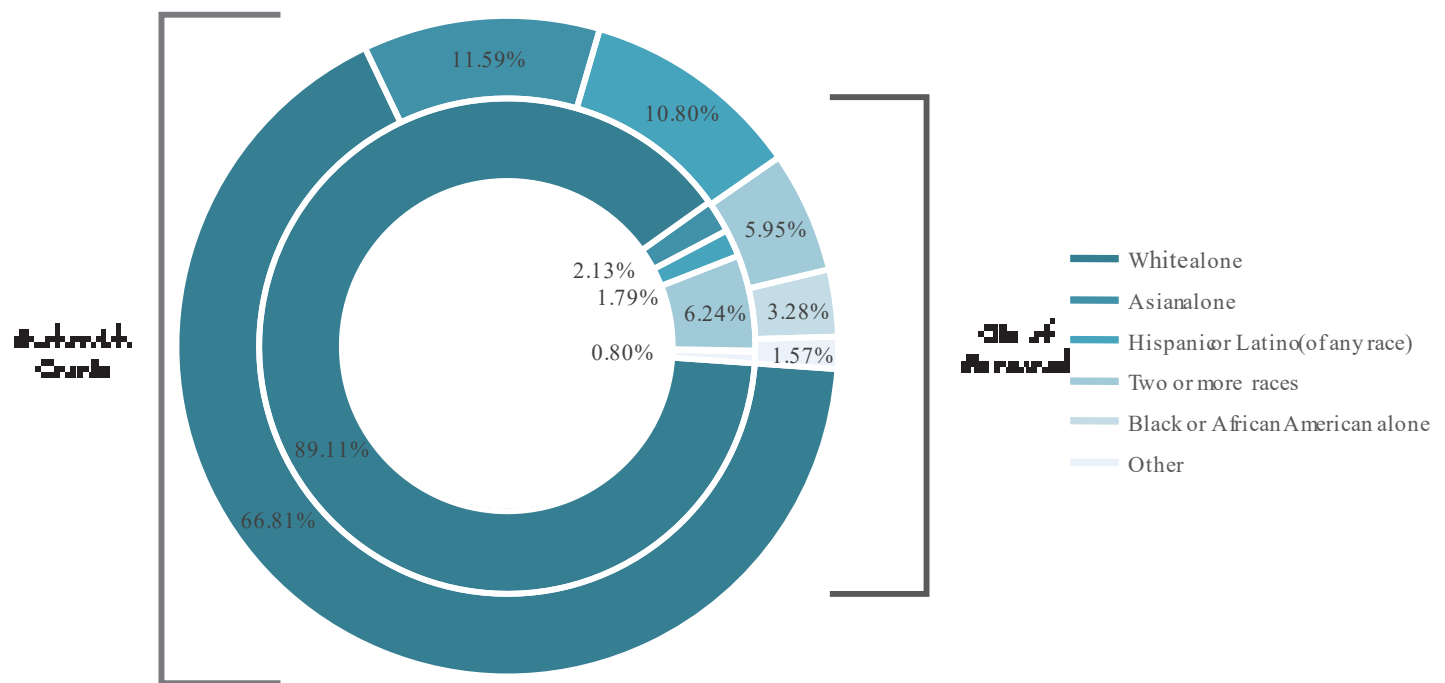
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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.

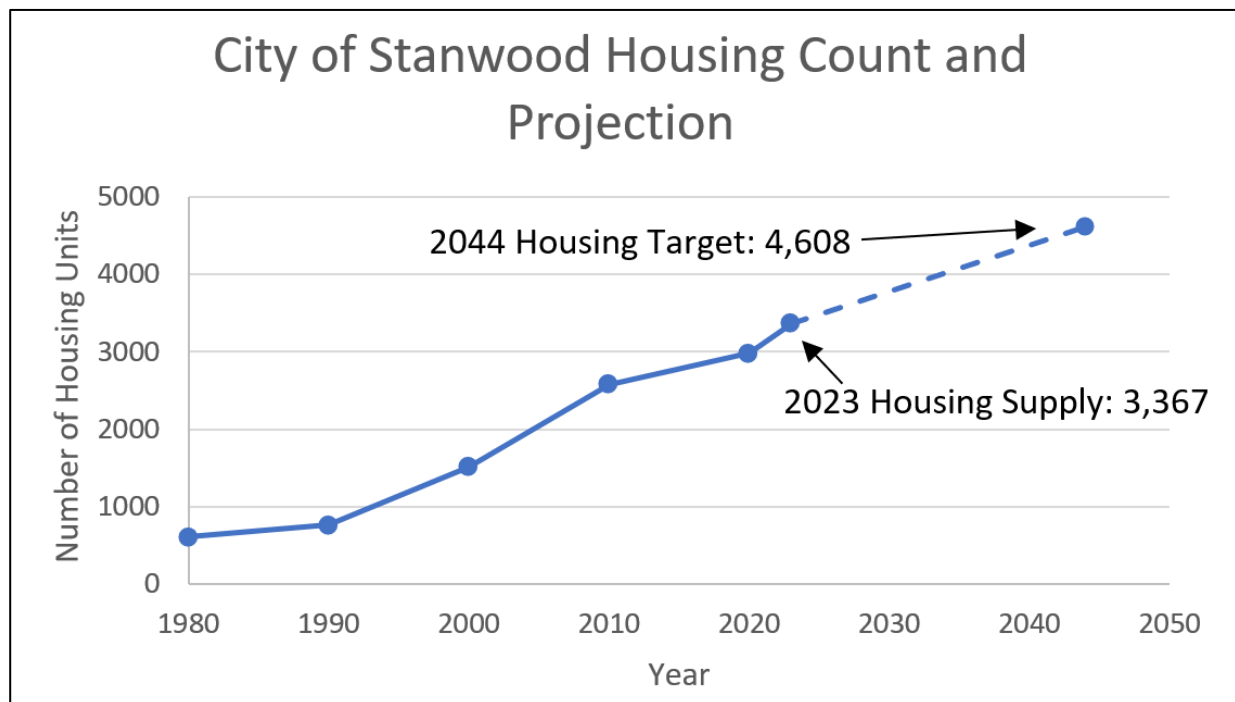
The median home sales price for a house in Stanwood for 2022 is \$685,460.98. This is slightly below the Seattle – Tacoma – Bellevue median home sale price which is \$712,044.01. Household median income in Stanwood for 2021 is \$89,231 for family and non-family households. This is also slightly below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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Table 3.5

PSRC Stanwood Housing Count and Projection (2044)

Source: OFM, Postcensal Estimates of April 1 Housing Units, 1980 to Present (2023)



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?⁵

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 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.

⁵ 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://rco.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
- Pickleball courts
- Horse shoe and/or cornhole toss
- 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

TRAILS

A park trail is defined as a trail located within a greenway⁶, 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.

⁶ 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 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.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

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.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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.

PRIVATE PARKS/FACILITIES

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

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Size Range</u>	<u>Service Area</u>
Regional Park	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
Community Park	A park that serves 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
Neighborhood Park	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
Trails	Multipurpose trail(s) located within an existing greenway, park, or natural resource area. Focus is on recreational value and interface with natural environment. 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	Determined case-by-case

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, two community parks, 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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Classification</u>
Church Creek Park	15.45 acres	Community
City Hall Park	0.28 acres	Undeveloped/Neighborhood
Downtown Park	0.11 acres	Undeveloped/Neighborhood
Hamilton Landing Park	2.84 acres	Community
Heritage Park	55.97 acres	Regional
Heritage Park Trail	0.5 miles in length	Trail
Lindstrom Trail	0.5 miles in length	Trail
Lions Park	0.68 acres	Neighborhood
Ovenell Farm	17.65 acres	Undeveloped/Community
Pioneer Highway Trail	1 mile in length	Trail
Ravenna Viaduct Triangle	0.38 acres	Undeveloped/Neighborhood
Riverfront Trail	0.2 miles in length	Undeveloped/ Trail
Stanwood Port Susan Loop Trail	1 mile in length	Trail

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

PARK PROFILES AND INVENTORY

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:

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

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 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:

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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Downtown Park

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 City has planted trees and placed a "Stanwood Home of Scandinavian Hospitality" sign at the edge of the lot as gateway feature into the historic downtown area. The City plans to redevelop the site as a small public park that will enhance the experience of visitors on main street, supplement special event space and provide a small outdoor space that complements downtown including 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.

History

The site 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.



The site of the future Downtown Park.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

INVENTORY:

FURNISHINGS	No.	Details /Notes
BENCH	No.	
PICNIC TABLE	1	Including one with concrete top and metal chairs
SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)	No.	
RESTROOM	No.	
DRINKING FOUNTAIN	No.	
PARK SIGNAGE	No.	
INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)	1	“Stanwood Home of Scandinavian Hospitality” sign
PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)	1	ADA accessible portable restroom on site
RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)	No.	
LIGHT POSTS	No.	While there are no light posts on site, the surrounding streetlights likely provide enough light.
BIKE PARKING	No	
COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)	No.	
PARKING LOT/STALLS	117	Adjacent to city-owned parking lot with 112 stalls and 5 adjacent street parking stalls
TRASH RECEPTACLE	1	One dumpster on site
RECYCLING RECEPTACLE	No.	
MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED	No	
OTHER	No	
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	1	A paved walkway fully encompasses the site
TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)	No.	
COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)	No.	
WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)	No.	
SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK	No.	
SHORELINE ACCESS	No.	
BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NONMOTORIZED)	No.	
DISC GOLF	No.	
OTHER	No.	

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Hamilton Landing – In Construction

Hamilton Landing Park on the southwest side of Stanwood off 98th 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 property 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:

FURNISHINGS	No.	Details /Notes
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

Heritage Park and Heritage Park Trail

Heritage Park is a 56-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:

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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Lindstrom Trail

Lindstrom Trail is a developed 0.50-mile trail located on the southeast edge of Stanwood. One concrete path runs from 72nd Ave NW through the site to the north side of the site. The trail is surrounded by a stormwater pond facility which serves the Lindstrom development and wooded landscape. Besides these three features, no amenities or facilities exist. While there is no parking explicitly for this trail, the large commercial development adjacent to the site contains a large parking area.

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 Trail 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:

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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Lions Park

Lions Park is a neighborhood park in central Stanwood just off Cedarhome 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:

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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Ovenell Park

The Ovenell property is a 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:

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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Pioneer Highway Trail

The Pioneer Highway 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:

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

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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Riverfront Trail

The Riverfront Trail is undeveloped open space that runs along the northern shoreline of the Stillaguamish River in west Stanwood. This property connects to the Hamilton Landing Park.



The Riverfront Trail property runs along the Stillaguamish River in west Downtown Stanwood.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

INVENTORY:

FURNISHINGS	No.	Details /Notes
BENCH	No.	
PICNIC TABLE	No.	
SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)	No.	
RESTROOM	No.	But Hamilton Landing Park is adjacent, which has restrooms
DRINKING FOUNTAIN	No.	
PARK SIGNAGE	No.	
INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)	No.	
PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)	No.	
RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)	No.	
LIGHT POSTS	No.	
BIKE PARKING	No.	
COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)	No.	
PARKING LOT/STALLS	No.	
TRASH RECEPTACLE	No.	
RECYCLING RECEPTACLE	No.	
MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED	No.	
OTHER	No.	
SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)	No.	
SPORTS COURT	No.	
PLAYGROUND	No.	
TOT LOT	No.	
GRASS LAWN	No.	
OPEN SPACE	No.	
PAVED PATHWAYS	No.	
TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)	No.	A future trail is planned for this property.
COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)	No.	
WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)	No.	
SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK	No.	
SHORELINE ACCESS	Yes.	
BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NONMOTORIZED)	No.	
DISC GOLF	No.	
OTHER	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:

FURNISHINGS	No.	Details /Notes
BENCH	1	Facing out towards the farmland and Stillaguamish River
PICNIC TABLE	No.	
SHELTER/SHADE STRUCTURE (I.E. CANOPY, PAGODA)	No.	
RESTROOM	No.	
DRINKING FOUNTAIN	No.	
PARK SIGNAGE	1	Informative/safety oriented
INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE OR FEATURES (NATURE OR HISTORIC)	No.	
PORTABLE RESTROOM (I.E. HONEY BUCKET)	No.	
RESTROOM (AFFIXED, PLUMBING)	No.	
LIGHT POSTS	Yes.	For the road, likely spill over
BIKE PARKING	No.	
COOKING FACILITIES (I.E. GRILL, SINK, COUNTER)	No.	
PARKING LOT/STALLS	No.	
TRASH RECEPTACLE	No.	
RECYCLING RECEPTACLE	No.	
MUNICIPAL BUILDING/STORAGE SHED	No.	
OTHER	No.	
SPORTS FIELD (GRASS OR TURF)	No.	
SPORTS COURT	No.	
PLAYGROUND	No.	
TOT LOT	No.	
GRASS LAWN	No.	
OPEN SPACE	Yes.	Landscaping between the elevated trail and the road, relatively new
PAVED PATHWAYS	Yes.	This is a paved multi-use trail
TRAILS (PAVED OR NATURAL)	Yes.	This is a paved multi-use trail
COMMUNITY SPACE (I.E. GARDEN)	No.	
WATER FEATURE (I.E. SPLASH PARK, FOUNTAIN)	No.	
SKATEPARK/BIKE TRACK	No.	
SHORELINE ACCESS	No.	
BOAT RAMP (MOTORIZED OR NONMOTORIZED)	No.	
DISC GOLF	No.	
OTHER	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 72nd 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.

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 |
| 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 |

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|--|
| 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 Park | 400 acres — fishing pier, boat launch, trails, restrooms, picnic facilities, beach access, yurt, cottages, camping |
| 2. | 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

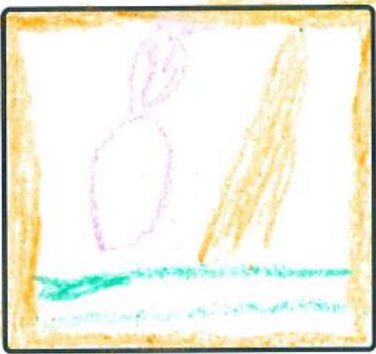
A major component of PROS planning is identifying the operational, functional and physical components of Stanwood parks as envisioned by its community. The City has undertaken a public participation strategy to encourage feedback from users of all backgrounds. The public outreach strategy was broken 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 31, 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.

Draw Yourself at the Park	Name:
	Age:
	My Favorite Park:
	Church Creek Park
	My Favorite Park Activity:
	Swings
	I Wish Our Parks Had More:
	Tire Swings

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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.

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 |

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 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.

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.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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

Recreation Facility Classification	Acres/1,000 Pop.	Size Range	Pop. Served	Service Area
Regional Park*	.002-.003	50-75 acres	25,000	Multi County
Community Park	2.5	20-100 acres	2,000-10,000	½ mile
Neighborhood Park	2.5	5-20 acres	560-2,000	¼-½ mile
Trails	2.0	Not Applicable	Determined case-by-case	

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 Regional Parks

Stanwood has one regional park, the 56-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. Only looking at the population located within the City of Stanwood, the City is meeting its regional LOS need at a current level of service of 6.5 acres per 1,000 people. 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.

Existing LOS for Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks and Trails

The greatest deficiencies include community parks and trails including bicycle, walking, and jogging trails. The existing LOS for community parks is calculated by dividing total inventory of facilities (18.23 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 2.12 acres per 1,000 people.

The only developed neighborhood park (Lions Park) is in the Cedarhome area. The existing LOS for neighborhood parks is calculated the same way. The City of Stanwood has 21.3 acres of neighborhood parks. The current level of service is 2.48 acres per 1,000 people.

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 a total of 4.4 miles (4.3 acres). The current level of service is 0.5 acres per 1,000 people.

Future LOS for Community Parks

Table 6.2 describes projected community park needs between now and 2044. The City has sufficient capacity within the existing or planned community park facilities and will be able to meet the community park level of service needs in 2044.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Table 6.2 National Standard LOS
Community Park Needs
(LOS=2.5 acres per 1,000 population)

Time Period	Pop.	Acreage Needed	Acreage Avail.	Net Reserve (Deficit)
2023	8,585	21.5	18.2	(3.3)
2024-2044	10,963	27.4	35.9	8.5

Future LOS for Neighborhood Parks

The following table describes projected neighborhood park needs now and in 2044. Stanwood will require additional neighborhood park facilities; more than 6 acres, over the planning period to meet the neighborhood park level of service needs in 2044.

Table 6.3 National Standard LOS
Neighborhood Parks Needs
(LOS=2.5 acres per 1,000 population)

Time Period	Pop.	Acreage Needed	Acreage Avail.	Net Reserve (Deficit)
2023	8,585	21.5	21.3	(0.2)
2024-2044	10,963	27.4	21.3	(6.11)

Future LOS for Trails

The following table describes projected trail needs now and in 2044. Stanwood will require additional trail facilities; more than 11 acres, over the planning period to meet the trail level of service needs in 2044.

Table 6.4 National Standard LOS
Trails Needs Assessment (LOS=2 acres per 1,000 population)

Time Period	Pop.	Acreage Required	Acreage Available	Deficit in Acres
2022	8,585	17.2	4.3	(12.9)
2024-2044	10,963	21.9	10.2	(11.7)

Future LOS for Recreation Opportunities

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 City of Stanwood should consider

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

looking into levels of service for recreational opportunities in the future.

NEEDS SUMMARY

Regional Park Need

The regional park need is met and will be met by the 56-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.

Community Parks Need

Based on national standards, Stanwood will need to develop acreage for community parks over the planning period. The City owns sufficient acreage to be able to meet the community park needs if developed. If the 17.5-acre Ovenell Farm property is developed as a community park, then the City will be able to meet its 2044 community park needs.

Neighborhood Parks Need

Based on the national standards, Stanwood does not have adequate acreage for neighborhood parks. Private HOA parks are included towards the neighborhood park needs but are often lacking facilities and improvements to function as recreation areas for their neighborhoods, such as restrooms. There is a projected net deficit of 6.11 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. 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.

Linear Trails Need

The city's large linear trail deficit is expected to slightly decrease through the year 2044. The Stanwood Port Susan 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.

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

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 Boomerangs 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.

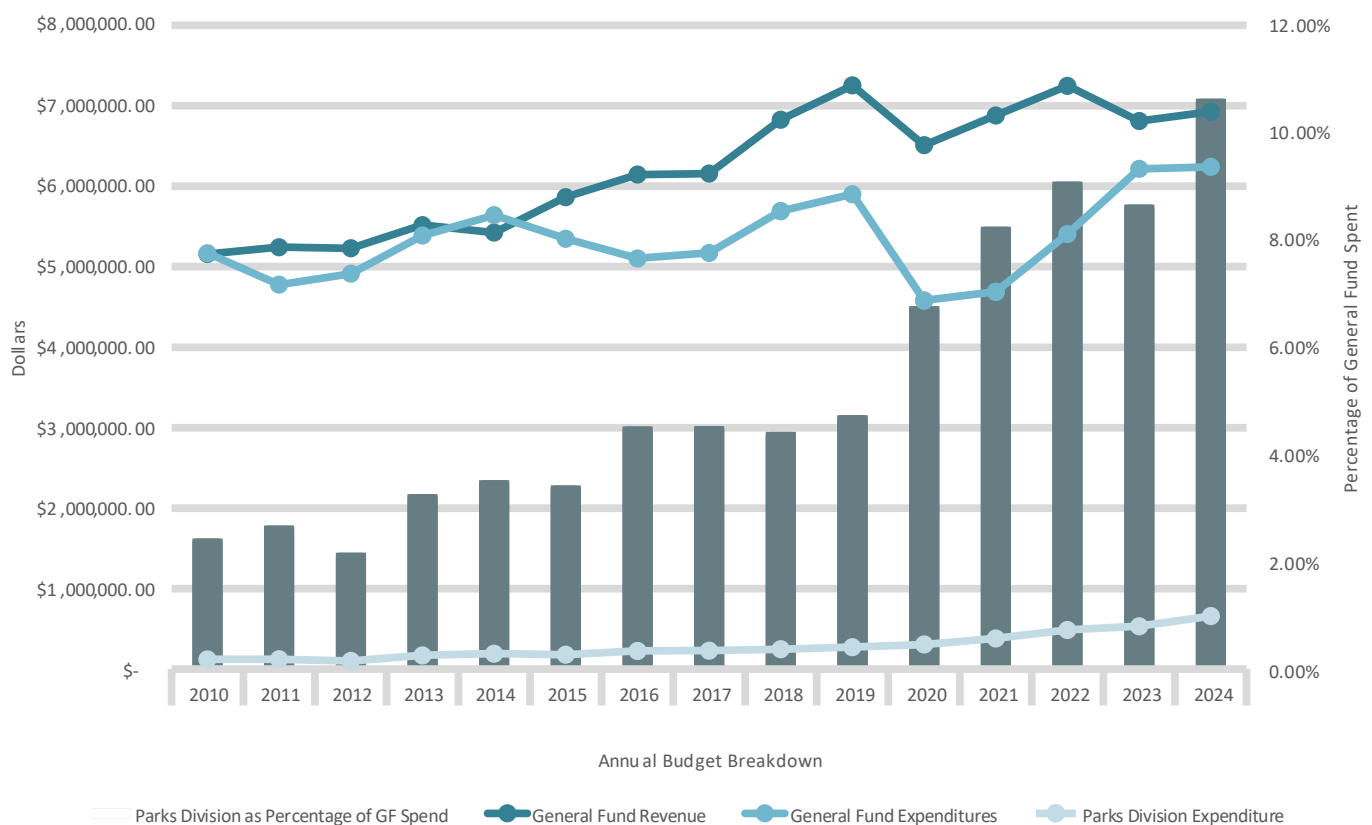
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

the neighboring region to promote full implementation of a Parks Department. The ability to grow the operations and functions intended for the Parks Department is directly correlated with Stanwood's growing population. 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 Impact Fees, Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET), and other sources such as grants. General Funds are 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 parks.

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 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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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:

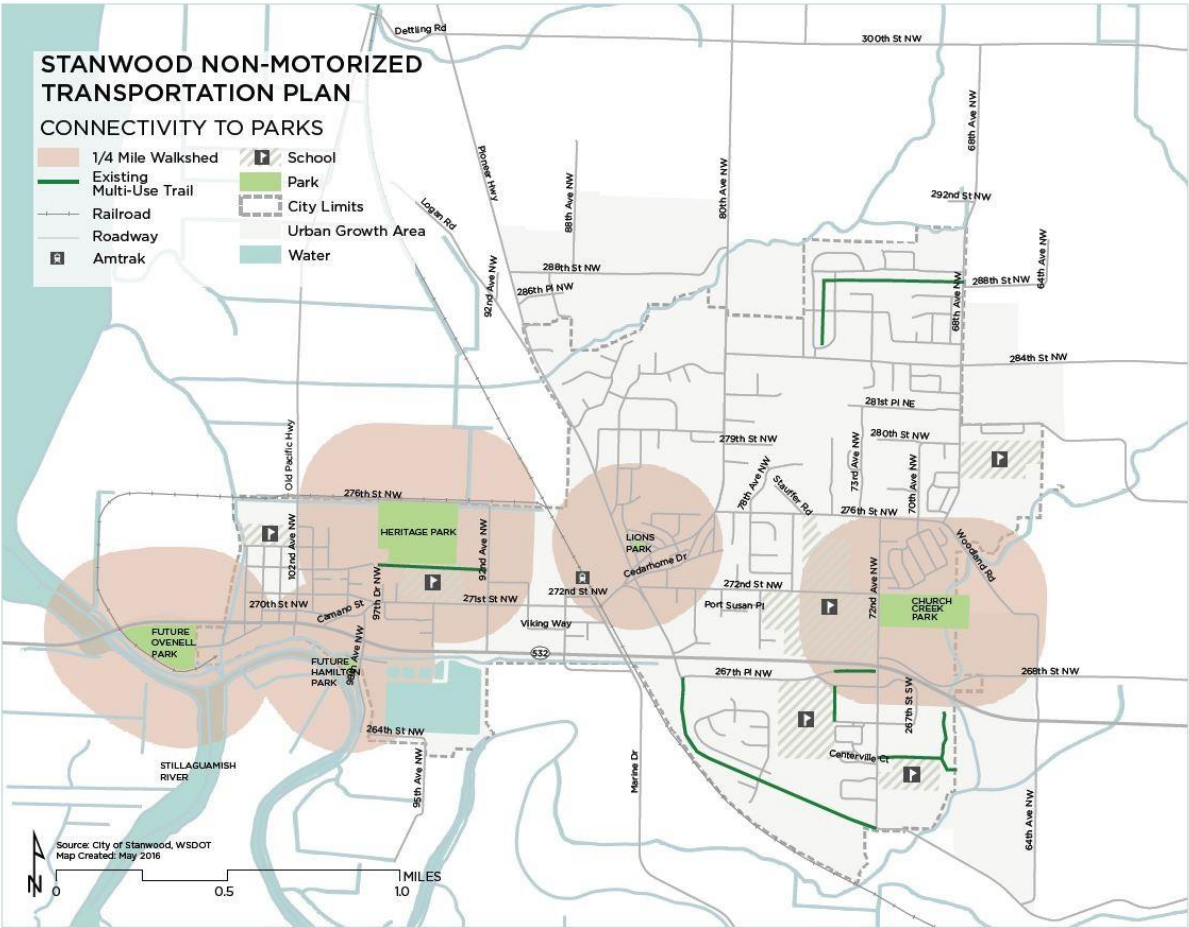
Stanwood once hosted a State Parks Day back in 1949, 500 residents from Stanwood and Camano Island held a unique community effort to build a park in one day. This effort resulted in the creation of the Camano Island State Park, the first public park and public access to the shoreline on the island. By 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 A: Existing Inventory Map



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.

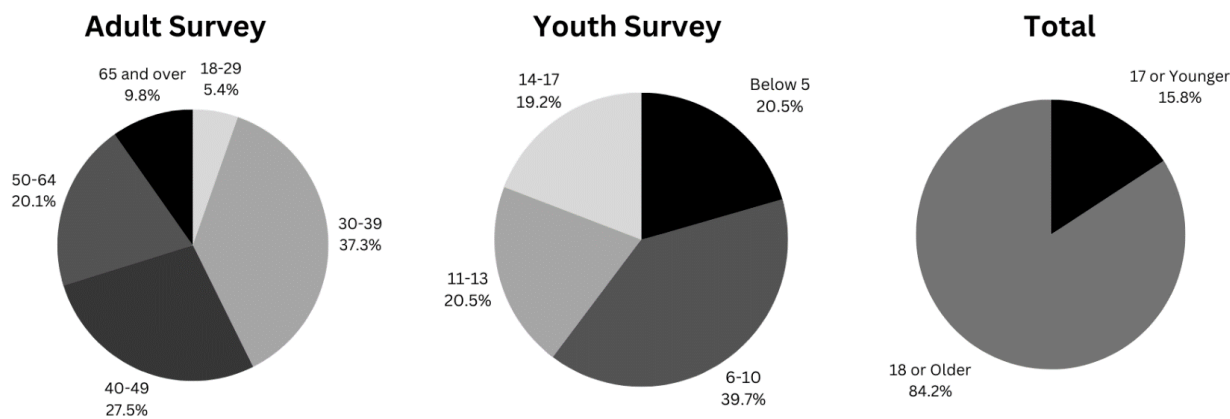
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan



Photo Credit: Lisa Bruce

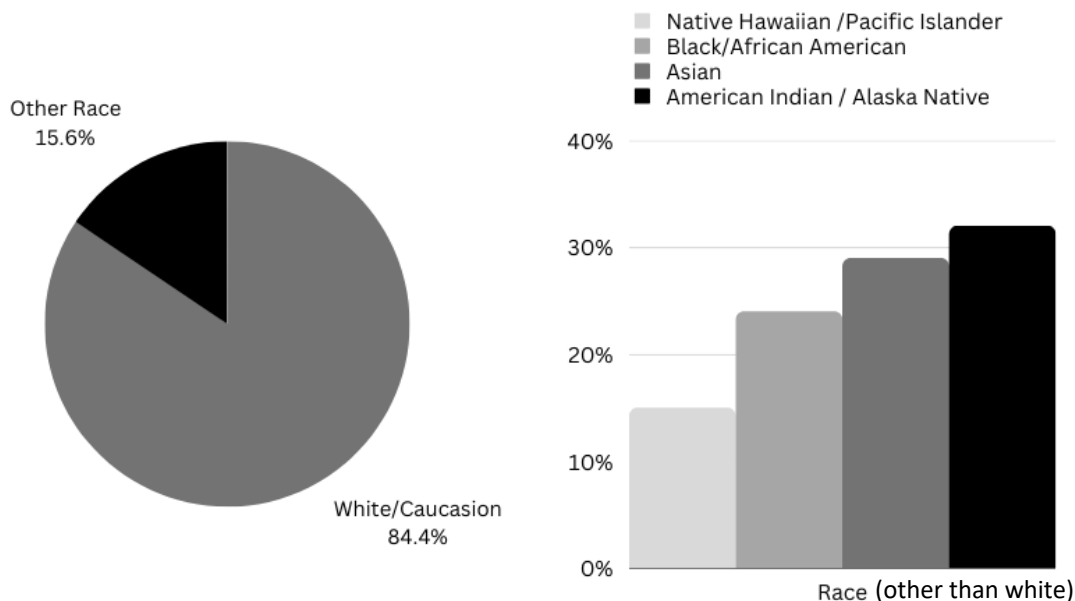
Survey Demographics

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?



SPLASH PAD

1



2

**PARK ACTIVITIES, EVENTS,
PROGRAMS, AND CLASSES**

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

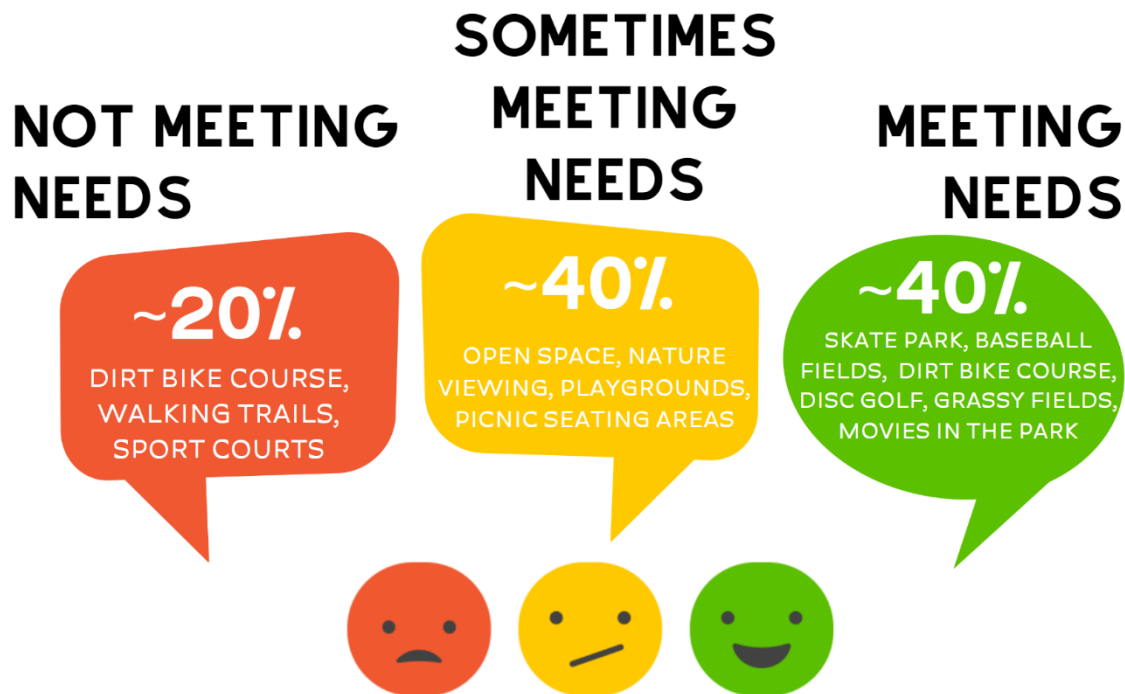
A quarter to a third are somewhat satisfied with parking and safety at local parks

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 (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 (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 (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 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 satisfied	2	Neutral	4	Very satisfied	Total	Weighted Average
Selection of amenities/facilities available in parks	69	69	156	69	18	381	2.73
Quality of amenities/facilities in parks	65	82	159	60	18	384	2.7
Parking	36	33	130	11 2	73	384	3.4
Safety	26	39	160	97	61	383	3.33
Cleanliness and restroom 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 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 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 impor- tant	Not meeting needs of the community	2	Sometimes meeting needs of the community	Neutral	Meeting needs of the community	4	Sometimes exceeding needs of the community	Very important	Exceeding needs of the community	Total	Weighted Average
Open space, trails, and 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 (soccer, baseball, football, lacrosse, etc)	2	68	0	87	3	153	3	19	7	12	354	2.53
Paved athletic courts (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 Summer Concerts	3	58	0	95	7	147	1	16	3	11	341	2.5
Answered Skipped											384 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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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
 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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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.

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

Q19

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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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
- 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

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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.

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!

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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
 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

6 Year Plan
2023 - 2028

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Project Name	Priority / Project ID	Project Location	Project Type	Scope	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Cover Dugouts/ Foul Netting	I-1	Heritage Park	Improvements	Add netting to the baseball fields to prevent injury or damage from Foul Balls. Covering Dugouts to protect athletes from weather	\$55,000							\$55,000
Skate Park Expansion		Heritage Park		Adding more features to skate park to expand capacity and options	\$175,000							\$175,000
Improve Soccer Fields		Heritage Park		Adding soccer-specific amenities to the currently unimproved field	\$10,000							\$10,000
Large Dog Park		Heritage Park		Construction of the designed larger off-leash area.	\$75,000							\$50,000
Restroom Plumbing Upgrade		Heritage Park		Renovating restroom plumbing to bring to the standard level.	\$10,000							\$10,000
Field #3 Irrigation		Heritage Park		Adding automatic irrigation to the existing baseball field to reduce long-term maintenance costs.	\$40,000							\$40,000
Drainage Pumps		Heritage Park		Installing automatic pumps to address drainage issues in the baseball fields	\$35,000							\$50,000
Loop Trail		Heritage Park		Fully developing the planned trail		\$385,000						\$550,000
Gateway/ Wayfinding Signage		Heritage Park		Adding signage to trails to improve placemaking		\$15,000						\$15,000
Park Entry Drive		Heritage Park		Adding vehicle circulation to facilitate drop-offs. Circular landscaping will be added to			\$100,000					\$100,000

				improve the site aesthetically								
Park Entry Drive		Heritage Park		Adding vehicle circulation to facilitate drop-offs. Circular landscaping will be added to improve the site aesthetically			\$100,000					\$100,000
Pump Track Upgrade		Heritage Park		Improving the Pump Track with asphalt pavement			\$350,000					\$350,000
Pickleball Courts		Heritage Park		Adding the 3rd and 4th planned pickleball courts			\$100,000					\$100,000
Restroom Renovation		Heritage Park		Renovating the Silo Restroom to improve user experience			\$75,000					\$75,000
New Baseball Field		Heritage Park		Fully developing the fourth Baseball field, including bleachers, backstop, fence, drainage, and irrigation.				\$1,500,000				\$1,500,000
Concession Stands		Heritage Park		Adding concession stands and restrooms for community use at sports events			\$1,000,000					\$1,000,000
Josephine Property		Heritage Park		Designing the site directly to the southwest of the park.				\$400,000				\$400,000
Covered Storage		Heritage Park		Adding a permanent covered storage facility for the city.				\$100,000				\$100,000
Additional Soccer Field (3)		Heritage Park							\$350,000			\$350,00
Additional Parking Lot		Heritage Park								\$350,000		\$350,000
Pickleball Courts		Heritage Park							\$125,000			\$125,000
Windbreak Landscaping		Heritage Park								\$50,000		\$50,000
Site Furniture (benches, trash cans)		Heritage Park									\$50,000	\$50,000
Baseball Lighting/ Scoreboard		Heritage Park									\$375,000	\$375,000
Add Crosswalk to High School		Church Creek Park		Improve pedestrian connectivity by creating crosswalk from high	\$35,000							\$35,000

				school to Church Creek								
Gateway/ Wayfinding Signage		Church Creek Park		Adding signage to trails to improve placemaking		\$15,000						\$15,000
Continued Tree Management		Church Creek Park		Maintaining tree canopy for ecological and social benefits	\$75,000	\$35,000						\$110,000
Loop Trail(s) with Viewpoint		Church Creek Park		Extending loop trail through the park along with improving viewpoint access	\$45,000	\$200,000						\$245,000
Critical Areas Study		Church Creek Park		Understanding the critical areas within the park	\$15,000							\$15,000
Picnic Shelter Roof		Church Creek Park		Replacing the picnic shelter roof to improve park user experience	\$30,000							\$30,000
Complete disc golf course		Church Creek Park									\$50,000	\$50,000
Improve park host area		Church Creek Park									\$75,000	\$75,000
Improve park trails		Church Creek Park							\$300,000			\$300,000
New NW park entrance (including signage)		Church Creek Park								\$145,000		\$145,000
Creek view points		Church Creek Park								\$65,000		\$65,000
Park edge plantings		Church Creek Park							\$40,000			\$40,000
Create forest glade recreation area		Church Creek Park									\$35,000	\$35,000
Forest picnic area		Church Creek Park									\$50,000	\$50,000
Safety Measures Clean-up		Ovenell Park		Making the site safe for the public per WCIA insurance assessment			\$65,000					\$65,000
Entry, parking, Temporary Restroom, Lighting		Ovenell Park		Developing common park elements, including the necessary utilities, to accommodate public			\$225,000					\$225,000

				use.								
Gateway Signage		Ovenell Park		Developing an inviting entryway for the park.			\$10,000					\$10,000
Park Construction		Hamilton Park		Developing this city owned and currently undeveloped park into a more usable space for the community	\$1,000,000							\$1,000,000
Trail Design		Port Susan Trail		Creating a phased design for the trail to circumnavigate the older half of the city	\$160,000							\$160,000
Trail Construction		Port Susan Trail		Construction of further phases of the designed trail- proposed increase. Current total budget is 1,333,000		\$1,500,000						\$1,500,000

20 Year Plan

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Project Type	Project ID	Project Name	Project Location	Description
Improvements	I-1	Cover Dugouts/ Foul Netting	Heritage Park	Add netting to the baseball fields to prevent injury or damage from Foul Balls. Covering Dugouts to protect athletes from weather.
	I-2	Improve Soccer Fields	Heritage Park	Adding soccer-specific amenities to the currently unimproved field.
	I-3	Gateway/ Wayfinding Signage	Heritage Park	Adding signage to trails to improve placemaking, signs to direct traffic to park at Stanwood Middle School when overcrowded.
	I-4	Concession Stands	Heritage Park	Adding concession stands and restrooms for community use at sports events.
	I-5	Covered Storage	Heritage Park	Adding a permanent covered storage facility for the city.
	I-6	Site Furniture (benches, trash	Heritage Park	More benches.

	cans)		
I-7	Picnic Shelter/Group Area	Heritage Park	
I-8	Existing Playground Improvements	Heritage Park	
I-9	Trail System Connections	Heritage Park	
I-10	Reforestation/ Wetland buffer	Heritage Park	
I-10 I-11	Reforestation/ Wetland buffer Gateway/Wayfinding Signage	Heritage Park Church Creek Park	Adding signage to trails to improve placemaking.
I-11 I-12	Gateway/Wayfinding Signage Critical Areas Study	Church Creek Park Church Creek Park	Adding signage to trails to improve placemaking. Understanding the critical areas within the park.
I-13	Picnic Shelter Roof	Church Creek Park	Replacing the picnic shelter roof to improve park user experience.
I-14	Improve trails/paths in NW park	Church Creek Park	
I-15	Improve Park Host Area	Church Creek Park	
I-16	Park Edge Planting	Church Creek Park	
I-17	Renovate Baseball Field	Church Creek Park	
I-18	Frog Pond Restoration	Church Creek Park	
I-19	Wetland enhancements and mitigation plantings	Church Creek Park	
I-20	Safety Measures Clean-up	Ovenell Park	Making the site safe for the public per WCIA insurance assessment.
I-21	Gateway Signage	Ovenell Park	Developing an inviting entryway for the park.
I-22	Art Installation in Parks		
I-23	Interpretative Signs		
EX-1	Skate Park Expansion	Heritage Park	Adding more features to skate park to expand capacity and options.

Expansions

EX-2	Large Dog Park	Heritage Park	Construction of the designed larger off-leash area.
EX-3	Loop Trail	Heritage Park	Fully developing the planned trail.
EX-4	Pump Track Upgrade	Heritage Park	Improving the Pump Track with asphalt pavement.
EX-5	Pickleball Court	Heritage Park	Adding the 3rd and 4th planned pickleball courts.
EX-6	Josephine Property	Heritage Park	Designing the site directly to the southwest of the park.
EX-7	Additional Soccer Field (#3)	Heritage Park	
EX-8	Additional Parking Lot	Heritage Park	
EX-9	Pickleball Courts	Heritage Park	
EX-10	Picnic Shelter/ Restroom #3	Heritage Park	
EX-11	Viewing Mound/ Labyrinth	Heritage Park	
EX-12	Gathering Meadow	Heritage Park	
EX-13	Open Meadow/Landscaping	Heritage Park	
EX-14	Basketball Courts	Heritage Park	
EX-15	Additional Playground	Heritage Park	
EX-16	Wetland Viewpoints	Heritage Park	
EX-17	Viewing Mound #1	Heritage Park	
EX-18	Viewing Mound #2	Heritage Park	
EX-19	RV Parking	Heritage Park	
EX-20	Zipline	Heritage Park	
EX-21	Bull Pen	Heritage Park	

EX-22	Batting Cage	Heritage Park	
EX-23	Loop Trails with Viewpoints	Church Creek Park	
EX-24	Loop trail around NE wetland	Church Creek Park	Extending loop trail through the park along with improving viewpoint access.
EX-25	Complete disc golf course	Church Creek Park	
EX-26	New picnic shelter/plaza space	Church Creek Park	
EX-27	Creek view points	Church Creek Park	
EX-28	Create forest glade recreation area	Church Creek Park	
EX-29	Forest picnic area	Church Creek Park	
EX-30	Outdoor classroom and environmental education area	Church Creek Park	
EX-31	Park Construction	Hamilton Park	
EX-32	Trail Design	Stanwood Port Susan Trail	
EX-33	Trail Construction	Stanwood Port Susan Trail	
EX-34	Covered Sport Courts		
EX-35	Amphitheater/ permanent stage area		
EX-36	Splash Pad / Playable Water Feature		
EX-37	Community garden		
EX-38	Turf Fields		
IN-1	Restroom Plumbing Upgrade	Heritage Park	Renovating restroom plumbing to bring to the standard level.
IN-2	Field #3 Irrigation	Heritage Park	Adding automatic irrigation to the existing baseball field to reduce long-term maintenance costs.

IN-3	Drainage Pumps	Heritage Park	Installing automatic pumps to address drainage issues in the baseball fields.
IN-4	Park Entry Drive	Heritage Park	Adding vehicle circulation to facilitate drop-offs. Circular landscaping will be added to improve the site aesthetically.
IN-5	Restroom Renovation	Heritage Park	Renovating the Silo Restroom to improve user experience.
IN-6	Windbreak Landscaping	Heritage Park	
IN-7	Baseball Lighting/ Scoreboard	Heritage Park	
IN-8	Skatepark Lighting	Heritage Park	
IN-9	Soccer Field Lighting	Heritage Park	
IN-10	Pickleball/Basketball Lighting	Heritage Park	
IN-11	Add Crosswalk to High School	Church Creek Park	
IN-12	New NW park entrance (including signage)	Church Creek Park	Improve pedestrian connectivity by creating crosswalk from high school to Church Creek.
IN-13	Entry, Parking, Temporary Restroom, Lighting	Ovenell Park	
IN-14	Heritage Park Trail Connections	92nd Ave north of 272nd St	Developing common park elements, including the necessary utilities, to accommodate public use.
IN-15	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations		Heritage Park trail abruptly transitions from grass to concrete and ends at 92nd Ave with nowhere to go.
IN-16	ADA Accessibility		
IN-17	Parking Lot Lighting		

Appendix F: Adoption Ordinance

Stanwood Parks and Trails
6 year Implementation Plan

Appendix G: SEPA Determination and Checklist