





BOOK 5: PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACES

Introduction

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space book addresses the present and future park, recreation, and open space needs of those living and working in Arlington. The primary objective of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space book is to ensure there are sufficient, diverse, high-quality, equitably distributed open space, trail, and park facilities, and recreation programs and services throughout Arlington. This book also aims to support the 2024 Parks & Recreation Plan. The goals and policies established in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space book are related to an equitable recreation system, impact mitigation, an effective financing strategy, protection of unique environmental amenities, a highly connected trail system, consistent and high-quality facilities, and collaboration with other recreation providers.

GOALS AND POLICIES

P-1 Develop an equitable, high-quality parks and recreation system that provides a diversity of recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities that are inclusive and welcoming for all.



- P-1.1** Support the development of parks and recreation facilities that vary in type and sizes, are easily accessible, and well-distributed throughout the city.
- P-1.2** Encourage multi-purpose uses of parks and recreation facilities.
- P-1.3** Parks and recreation facilities open to the public shall meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- P-1.4** Maintain and support a diverse range of recreational, cultural, and educational activities, such as the existing Byrnes Performing Arts Center and other existing and new opportunities.

P-2 Ensure the equity and availability of potential funding streams and provide transportation improvements consistent with the Capital Improvement Plan in prioritizing and financing. Prioritize programs and projects that provide access to opportunities while preventing or mitigating negative impacts to people of color, people with low incomes, and people with special transportation needs.

- P-2.1** Identify desirable lands within the Urban Growth Area for parks, trails, and open space, and pursue acquisition through dedication and purchase.
- P-2.2** Develop at least one community <or neighborhood?> park within each subarea and provide a new central community park within the Smokey Point neighborhood.

Music in the Park event at Legion Park in downtown Arlington



P-2.3 Identify and pursue new parks in areas of potential future urban growth area expansion to serve employees and residents upon annexation.

P-2.4 Encourage the provision of art, as well as interpretive and educational displays, in parks and public buildings and spaces citywide.

P-3 Thoroughly mitigate impacts to the parks, recreation, and open space system

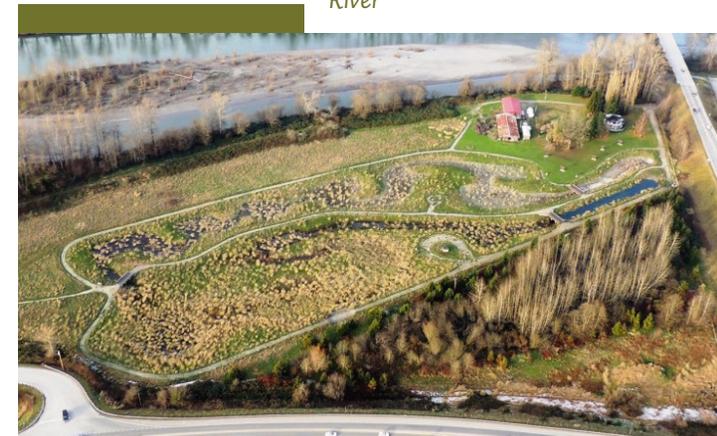
P-3.1 Require new residential development to mitigate impacts through payment of GMA parks impact fees, dedications of properties, and improvements for public use to serve the growing demand on the parks, recreation, and open space system citywide.

P-3.2 All parks and recreation land to be dedicated to the City should have all infrastructure improvements in place concurrent with the implementation of a project or be bonded for completion prior to acceptance by the City. For the purposes of this policy, “concurrent” means at the time of final plat approval (for residential projects) or at the time of final building inspection for multi-family.

P-3.3 Follow the level-of-service standards and participation demands and needs identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan when planning and acquiring funding for the expansion and enhancement of Arlington’s parks and recreation system.



Stormwater Wetlands Park and Eagle Trail along the Stillaguamish River



P-4 Create an effective and efficient financing strategy for parks, recreation, trails, and open space projects that distributes the costs and benefits to the general public.

- P-4.1** Pursue short-term financing mechanisms such as grants and establish long-term financing mechanisms to ensure adequate parks and recreation facilities are funded and available within Arlington.
- P-4.2** To meet level-of-service standards and participation demands, use Capital Funds to improve existing parks and recreation facilities and provide for new parks and facilities citywide and in future annexation areas.
- P-4.3** All parks, trails, open spaces, and other recreation facilities should be well maintained.
- P-4.4** Prioritize the development and maintenance of parks, trails, and open spaces based on need and available funding.
- P-4.5** Maintain the Adopt-A-Park program for the maintenance of parks, trails, and open spaces within the city.



**Economic Stability
and Vibrancy**

P-5 Utilize the parks and recreation system to protect unique environmental qualities, natural amenities, wildlife habitats, forest lands, and scenic areas within the city.

- P-5.1** Enhance the resilience of the parks and recreation system by assessing and addressing climate hazards and impacts.
- P-5.2** Locate, plan, and manage parks and recreation facilities so they enhance wildlife habitat, minimize erosion impacts, and complement the natural site features.



**Climate Adaption
and Resiliency**

iCentennial Trail looking north over the Haller Railroad bridge



- P-5.3** Encourage passive recreational activities on non-critical area (usable) open space lands.
- P-5.4** Inventory and protect significant historical and cultural resources.
- P-5.5** Enhance and preserve scenic viewpoints for public enjoyment when siting parks and recreation facilities.
- P-5.6** Support the development of a system of water access and water trails.
- P-5.7** Maintain existing resource-oriented facilities and support the development of new opportunities such as fishing sites, hand-carried boat access, swimming beaches, and picnicking areas.

P-6 Provide a trail system that creates links between commercial and residential areas in Arlington and connects to regional trails, parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces.

- P-6.1** Create a continuous and connected system of parks and recreation facilities via a robust trail network.
- P-6.2** Support a comprehensive system of trails, including off-road hike and bike trails that link scenic, environmental, historic, and open space attractions in and around Arlington.
- P-6.3** Aligning with the level-of-service standards in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, locate a park, trail, open space area, or recreation facility within a five-minute walking distance of all Arlington residents.
- P-6.4** Develop and improve trails so they are suitable for multi-modal and non-motorized transportation and so they provide opportunities for recreation and education.



Neighborhoods and Connectivity

See the Walkshed Map on page 25 of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in Appendix G.

P-6.5 Develop a marketing strategy for the Centennial Trail to attract more residents and visitors to Old Town and the downtown business district.

P-7 Create design standards for the parks, recreation, and open space system to establish a standard of consistency and quality.

P-7.1 Develop a thematic signage program to establish a distinctive, inviting, and easily recognizable parks and recreation system.

P-7.2 Maintain an up-to-date map of the local trail system that is easily accessible to the public to help encourage trail use.

P-7.3 Provide restrooms, activities, and facilities accessible to all age groups in each community park.

P-8 Continue to work collaboratively with neighboring jurisdictions, public and private agencies, and other groups to enhance and expand the City of Arlington’s parks and recreation system.

P-8.1 Offer a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and programs for special populations, children, teens, seniors, and the general population that are of major interest to city residents of all ages, skills, incomes, and cultures.

P-8.2 Work with Snohomish County, the Arlington School District, the Lakewood School District, the Arlington Boys and Girls Club, the Little League, and other agencies to cooperatively provide joint use agreements and increase available parkland and recreation facilities, including programming for youth, senior citizens, and other segments of the population.



- P-8.3** Support and continue to collaborate with the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Department on the creation and maintenance of current and future projects, including the Whitehorse Trail.
- P-8.4** Work with foundations, organizations, associations, trusts, developers, landowners, and neighboring and regional governments to develop and/or preserve parks, trails, and open space by encouraging donations and dedications, conservation easements, innovative land use contractual agreements, and other methods.
- P-8.5** Evaluate and implement mechanisms that enhance the City's ability to acquire properties and provide services including inter-jurisdictional/inter-agency relationships, district designations, or other appropriate mechanisms.
- P-8.6** Align with Snohomish County's Regional Open Space Conservation Plan.

The gazebo at Legion Park



ARLINGTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Existing Facilities

Legend

- City Parks
- Trails
- Urban Growth Area
- City Limits
- Buildings
- Railroad
- State Highway
- State Route
- Airport Road
- Arterial
- Collector
- Street

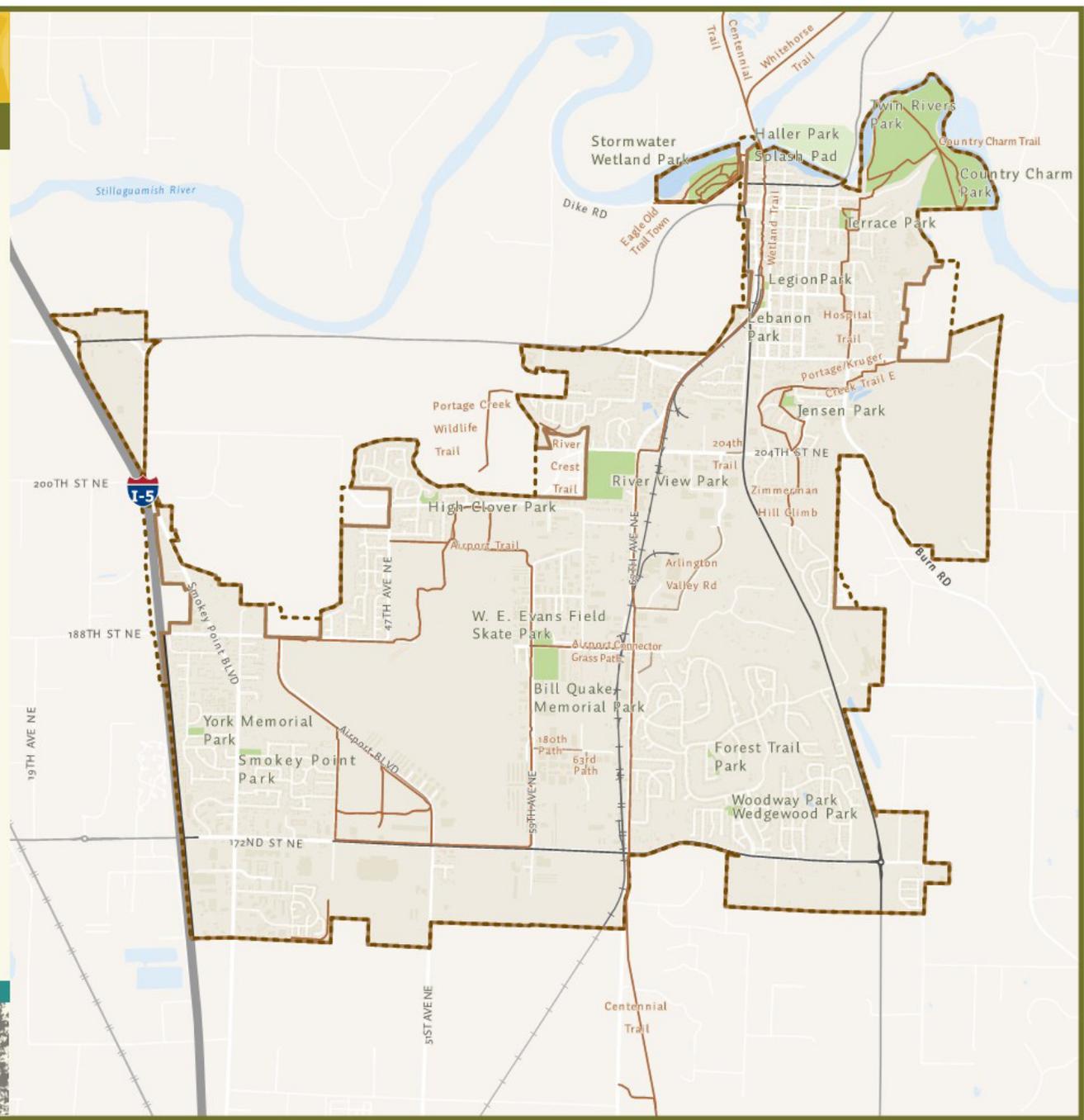
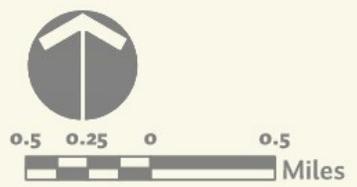


Figure P-01.
Existing Facilities Map