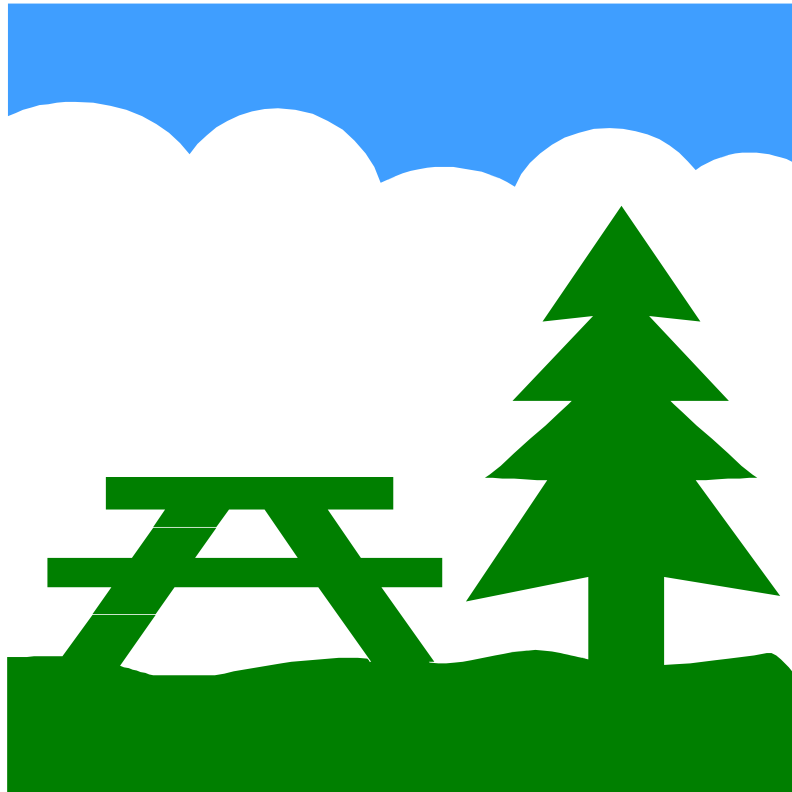




City of Stanwood

*Parks, Recreation and
Open Space Plan*



Updated March 2018
with Appendices

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

An Element of the Stanwood Comprehensive Plan

SECTION IX – PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

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 adopted as an 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. This plan presents a guide for City resources to maintain existing facilities as well as provide new facilities to meet the future needs of the area's growing population. It reflects the desire of the citizens of Stanwood to retain natural resources, and improve recreational opportunities in the community. As part of this planning tool, the City has adopted goals, objectives, policies and strategies that serve as a guide to decisions about park, 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. A major review occurred in December 2012 and minor changes were made in June 2015 in coordination with the City Comprehensive Plan update.

The City of Stanwood functions as the town center for a diverse rural, suburban and urban population spread across two counties in what is generally identified as "Greater Stanwood/Camano." Stanwood is the historic center of this agricultural and rural residential area and the home of the single high school that serves the entire population. Many residents outside the City come into Stanwood for shopping, services, community events and park and recreation opportunities. As a result, planning a system of services for the existing and future needs for the 6,530 (as of 2014) residents of the City and the larger populations of surrounding areas requires consideration of several important policy issues. In reviewing the park and recreation needs of the community the City asked the following questions.

1. What is the appropriate balance between regional, community and neighborhood facilities and services?
2. How can a small town with a limited tax base provide regional services?
3. What is the role of private recreation providers in the mix of services?
4. How can maintenance be appropriately managed?
5. What role should park and recreation services play in attracting outside visitors to Stanwood?
6. How can the City best connect the downtown to the Stillaguamish River and create public access and a small boat launch facility.

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The City prioritized the five 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 and selective longer term improvements
4. Waterfront Access: realize connections to the waterfront – via Hamilton Landing and Ovenell Park improvements
5. Parks System: prioritize improvements for existing parks, while recognizing that acquiring new properties will need to be considered at the appropriate time

PARKS RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM GOALS

Provide a high-quality comprehensive park, recreation, open space and trail system to meet the short term and long term needs of Stanwood residents and businesses. Promote Stanwood as the center for the Greater Stanwood/Camano area by providing facilities for events, regional recreation and regional bicycle and trails connections.

GOAL PROS 1 PARKS SYSTEM: Provide adequate parks and recreation facilities throughout the City, maximizing public access to and involvement in, a variety of leisure, cultural and physical fitness activities.

Objective PROS 1.1 Include a variety of park types in the park system including developed fields and play facilities, urban plazas with community gathering places, trails, historic points of interest and green space.

POLICIES

PROS 1.1.1 Maintain Heritage Park as a regional attraction while providing community and neighborhood parks to meet the needs of City and UGA residents and businesses.

PROS 1.1.2 Provide a variety of active and passive facilities and green/open space to meet adopted standards.

PROS 1.1.3 Distribute parks equitably by type throughout the City.

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PROS 1.1.4 Maintain and develop underutilized public rights-of-way for public access and passive recreation where appropriate.

PROS 1.1.5 Identify City owned parcels that are not currently part of the park and recreation system and evaluate them for potential park use.

PROS 1.1.6 Incorporate historical and cultural lands, public art, historic sites, artifacts, and facilities into the park system to preserve these interests and provide a balanced social experience.

PROS 1.1.7 Incorporate interesting manmade environments, structures, activities, and areas into the park system to preserve these features and provide a balanced park and recreation experience.

PROS 1.1.8 Develop parks as focal points for community events.

PROS 1.1.9 Design park and recreational trails and facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age, income, and activity interests.

PROS 1.1.10 Work with the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation, Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, and other public and private agencies, and with private landowners to set aside land and resources necessary to provide high quality, convenient park and recreation lands and facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development.

Objective PROS 1.2 Develop ongoing stewardship of the public parks system.

POLICIES

PROS 1.2.1 Emphasize user input in planning, design, and development of park and trail facilities.

PROS 1.2.3 Support interlocal agreements with the Stanwood School District about joint ventures for the development and use of combined school, playground, and athletic facilities.

PROS 1.2.4 Consider development agreements with other public and private entities for active play fields and playgrounds, trails and passive recreation provided the facilities are made available for public use and public benefit is identified.

PROS 1.2.5 Use public outreach to provide information about facilities and programs in order to build broad public support for the parks and recreation system.

Objective PROS 1.3 Recognize private and non-profit agencies that provide alternative services to the community.

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POLICIES

PROS 1.3.1 Support non-profit organizations in developing special meeting facilities, assembly facilities, health and other community facilities to support community needs.

PROS 1.3.2 Support the development of private recreation facilities that are consistent with Stanwood's Comprehensive Plan including land use, downtown, economic development, transportation and aesthetic components.

Objective PROS 1.4 Work in collaboration with Snohomish and Island Counties and state agencies to provide parks in Stanwood to accommodate out of city residents who depend on Stanwood for park services.

PROS 1.4.1 Work with Snohomish County to develop a new park north of Stanwood in the area of 280th St NW to 300th St NW in the vicinity of the City's UGA boundary.

PROS 1.4.2 Coordinate regional goals and objectives with Snohomish County, Island County and other local agencies involved in such projects.

GOAL PROS 2 WATERFRONT ACCESS: Reconnect Stanwood to the Stillaguamish River.

Objective PROS 2.1 Develop shoreline properties or easements for waterfront access.

POLICIES

PROS 2.1.1 Acquire and preserve additional waterfront parkland.

PROS 2.1.2 Develop watercraft access opportunities including a mixture of canoe, kayak, rowboat, raft, and power boating.

PROS 2.1.3 Prioritize use of the City owned property on the shoreline of the Stillaguamish River for park development providing public access and water related use.

PROS 2.1.4 Connect City waterfront park land and recreation use with Downtown Stanwood.

GOAL PROS 3 RECREATION: Provide for the active recreation needs of the Stanwood community.

Objective PROS 3.1 Provide a variety of quality active recreation facilities sufficient to serve Stanwood residents and area visitors.

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POLICIES

PROS 3.1.1 Maintain existing recreation facilities to meet the needs of all local citizens, including barrier free access.

PROS 3.1.2 Expand, upgrade, and diversify support facilities (restrooms, parking, picnic areas, shelters and playground equipment, etc.) in recreational areas.

PROS 3.1.3 Continue development of recreation facilities in conjunction with Snohomish and Island Counties as well as with other funding partnerships.

Objective PROS 3.2 Provide a diversified recreation system that provides for all age and interest groups.

POLICIES

PROS 3.2.1 Improve existing facilities by enhancing existing park sites and recreation facilities when financially feasible.

PROS 3.2.2 Work with historical and cultural groups to encourage community activities in parks and recreational facilities – including downtown promotional events.

PROS 3.2.3 Support the development of athletic recreational facilities for all age groups and recreational interests.

PROS 3.2.4 Develop, where appropriate, a select number of facilities that are oriented to multi-agency use, especially in conjunction with local public, private and non-profit organizations.

PROS 3.2.5 Support the development of indoor community and recreational centers that provide for community activities, athletic uses, and select significant indoor activities for multi-agency use on a year-round basis.

PROS 3.2.6 Provide playground and picnic facilities for residents of local housing areas.

PROS 3.2.7 Provide recreational courts and play fields for citywide resident use.

PROS 3.2.8 Initiate joint planning and operating programs with the Stanwood School District, Snohomish County Parks, and the Washington State Parks Department for joint development and maintenance of active and passive recreation resources.

Objective PROS 3.3 Work with organizations, service groups, special interest groups and other partners to provide coordinated and quality recreational programs.

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POLICIES

PROS 3.3.1 Establish a partnership with community groups, organizations and the school district to develop and promote joint recreational activities.

PROS 3.3.2 Encourage local groups to participate in maintaining parks and other recreational facilities.

GOAL PROS 4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Promote recreation facilities and activities that will attract visitors and enhance the City's economic development.

Objective PROS 4.1 Encourage special regional events in City parks.

POLICIES

PROS 4.1.1 Encourage staging and publicity for City events and community festivals to attract visitors.

PROS 4.1.2 Encourage public art within City parks.

PROS 4.1.3 Encourage concerts and art shows in City parks.

PROS 4.1.4 Encourage sports tournaments in City parks.

Objective PROS 4.2 Promote a range of economic development activities in parks that are accessory to the recreational uses.

POLICIES

PROS 4.2.1 Encourage healthy food production such as community gardens or pea patches in city parks where these uses do not conflict with established recreation uses.

PROS 4.2.2 Allow concessionaires in park facilities to support recreation uses with rental of equipment and food vendors.

GOAL PROS 5: OPEN SPACE: Establish a network of open spaces that enhance the livability of the community

Objective PROS 5.1 Acquire and preserve natural areas, historical sites and areas of ecological significance for recreation and educational opportunities for the community and visitors.

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POLICIES

PROS 5.1.1 Preserve and protect significant environmental features for open space including wetlands, woodlands, shorelines, waterfronts, and other areas with characteristics that reflect Stanwood's natural heritage.

PROS 5.1.2 Encourage the preservation of unique areas and/or site features including natural and exemplary built features such as the Hamilton Smokestack.

PROS 5.1.3 Provide public use and access to open space in new land developments.

PROS 5.1.4 Work with property and facility owners to increase public access and utilization of special features – including the shorelines, wetlands, and bluffs that meander through and between developed areas.

PROS 5.1.5 Acquire or protect, through easements or other means, ecologically significant areas and preserve them in their natural state.

PROS 5.1.6 Insure that properties applying for tax exemption through State programs as open space provide reasonable public benefits and identify exempted property as limited open space during its enrollment in the exemption program.

GOAL PROS 6 LEVEL OF SERVICE: Determine Level of Service Standards for Parks and Recreation Facilities.

Objective PROS 6.1 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.

POLICIES

PROS 6.1.1 Define existing and proposed land and facility levels of service in order to effectively plan and program park and recreation needs within existing City boundaries. Evaluate different requirements based on:

- a) Population growth versus improved facility standards,
- b) Neighborhood versus community nexus of benefit, and
- c) Regional demand

PROS 6.1.2 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.

PROS 6.1.3 Identify parkland for acquisition in advance of its actual need.

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GOAL PROS 7 TRAILS: Integrate a trail system into the City’s transportation network by linking with other trails and recreational facilities within the regional service area.

Objective PROS 7.1 Develop a comprehensive, high quality system of multipurpose trails and corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists, that access significant environmental features, public facilities and developed urban neighborhoods.

POLICIES

PROS 7.1.1 Connect people to destinations such as neighborhoods, parks, water resources, schools, businesses, services and work.

PROS 7.1.2 Provide safe walk to school routes utilizing both paved trails and sidewalks.

PROS 7.1.3 Promote a healthy community by providing an opportunity for exercise and recreation on a local trail system.

PROS 7.1.4 Provide a system of trail markers as a means of identifying and advertising trail systems.

PROS 7.1.5 Pursue opportunities to connect to the Snohomish County and Island County regional trail systems.

PROS 7.1.6 Make Stanwood a destination for bicyclists by providing a trail system that provides access to downtown and connects to Warm Beach, the Centennial Trail in Arlington, Conway, and Camano Island.

GOAL PROS 8 FINANCE: Secure equitable and sustainable funding for implementation.

Objective PROS 8.1 Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining facilities.

POLICIES

PROS 8.1.1 Consider joint ventures with the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation, Island County, Stanwood School District, Washington State Department of Wildlife, and other public and private agencies to fund facility development and maintenance where feasible and desirable.

PROS 8.1.2 Work with the community to develop awareness of the need for park funding for both developing park facilities and for maintenance.

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PROS 8.1.3 Actively pursue grants from both public and private sectors.

PROS 8.1.4 Seek funding for needed improvements and new development from funding sources, including the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office.

PROS 8.1.5 Provide a means for private philanthropy supporting parks and recreation including legacy donations funding and volunteerism.

Strategy PROS 8.1.5a Encourage private business participation in the development and funding of certain public recreation facilities.

Objective PROS 8.2 Equitably distribute costs and benefits to public and private users, and match user benefits with interests and need.

POLICIES

PROS 8.2.1 Determine the impact of new development on facilities within the Stanwood Urban Growth Area where the residents will depend on Stanwood for park and recreation needs.

PROS 8.2.2 Develop a methodology for determining park impact fees that considers the potential impacts on park facilities caused by a development project, and results in an equitable mitigation assessment that is in accordance with local park and recreation standards.

PROS 8.2.3 Assess impact fees only for growth-related deficiencies, not existing deficiencies.

PROS 8.2.4 Maintain an equitable system of facility user fees.

Goal PROS 9 MAINTENANCE: Provide for quality maintenance of existing and future facilities.

Objective PROS 9.1 Develop facilities that are of low maintenance and high capacity design to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs.

POLICIES

PROS 9.1.1 Where appropriate, use low maintenance materials and designs to reduce maintenance costs in new park development.

PROS 9.1.2 Emphasize user input in planning maintenance of park and trail facilities.

PROS 9.1.3 Use design and development standards to improve park facility safety and security.

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Objective PROS 9.2 Provide for a high standard of maintenance of existing parks.

POLICIES

PROS 9.2.1 Use low maintenance materials to reduce ongoing maintenance costs in existing facilities as repairs and upgrades occur.

PROS 9.2.2 Develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that provide proper training and awareness for City staff charged with maintaining City park and recreation facilities.

PROS 9.2.3 Where practical and feasible use community volunteers to help maintain park and trail facilities to exceed minimum levels of service standards.

Strategy PROS 9.2.3a Where appropriate, develop adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, park police patrols, and other innovative programs that increase maintenance, safety and security awareness and visibility.

PROS 9.2.4 Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that protect user groups, city staff and the public.

GOAL PROS 10 SUSTAINABILITY: Incorporate principles of sustainability in the site development, maintenance, operation and programming of park facilities.

Objective PROS 10.1 Encourage sustainable development and maintenance practices within the park system.

POLICIES

PROS 10.1.1 Retain natural conditions and experiences as a goal even when developing facilities for recreation use.

Strategy 10.1.1a Preserve significant environmental areas and features to the extent feasible.

Strategy 10.1.1b. Incorporate low impact development techniques into park design as mitigation when converting land to recreational use.

PROS 10.1.2 Restore urbanized public lands when possible by using conservation techniques as redevelopment opportunities occur.

PROS 10.1.3 Work with the Snohomish County Conservation District to identify and implement opportunities to incorporate conservation techniques in park design and ongoing maintenance and operations.

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PROS 10.1.4 Maintain the wetland area in Heritage Park as a location for offsite mitigation to encourage sustainable development throughout the City.

PROS 10.1.5 Evaluate the Heritage Park Wetland for development of a formal wetland bank designation.

PROS 10.1.6 Develop guidelines for park users to encourage sustainable practices in park activities and events techniques such as use of compostable plastics, composting, and carpooling.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Stanwood is located in the Northern Puget Sound region of Washington State, approximately half way between Seattle and the Canadian border in northwest Snohomish County. Covering approximately 3.5 square miles, Stanwood is located on the Stillaguamish River, near the passage that connects Port Susan and Skagit Bay. Interstate 5 lies approximately 4 miles east of the City.

This area is rich in both scenic beauty and natural resources. Stanwood is geographically separated from the other urban areas of Snohomish County and is surrounded by unincorporated forest land, farm land, multiple sloughs, and the Stillaguamish Estuary. This setting affords a variety of both public and private recreational opportunities for the population. Stanwood is also the access point to Camano Island in Island County and the regional center for the recreational needs of the surrounding unincorporated areas of southern Skagit, western Island and northern Snohomish Counties. 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.

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Date: September 20, 2017

Figure 1 Location Map

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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 the tri-county area including portions of Snohomish, Island and Skagit Counties.

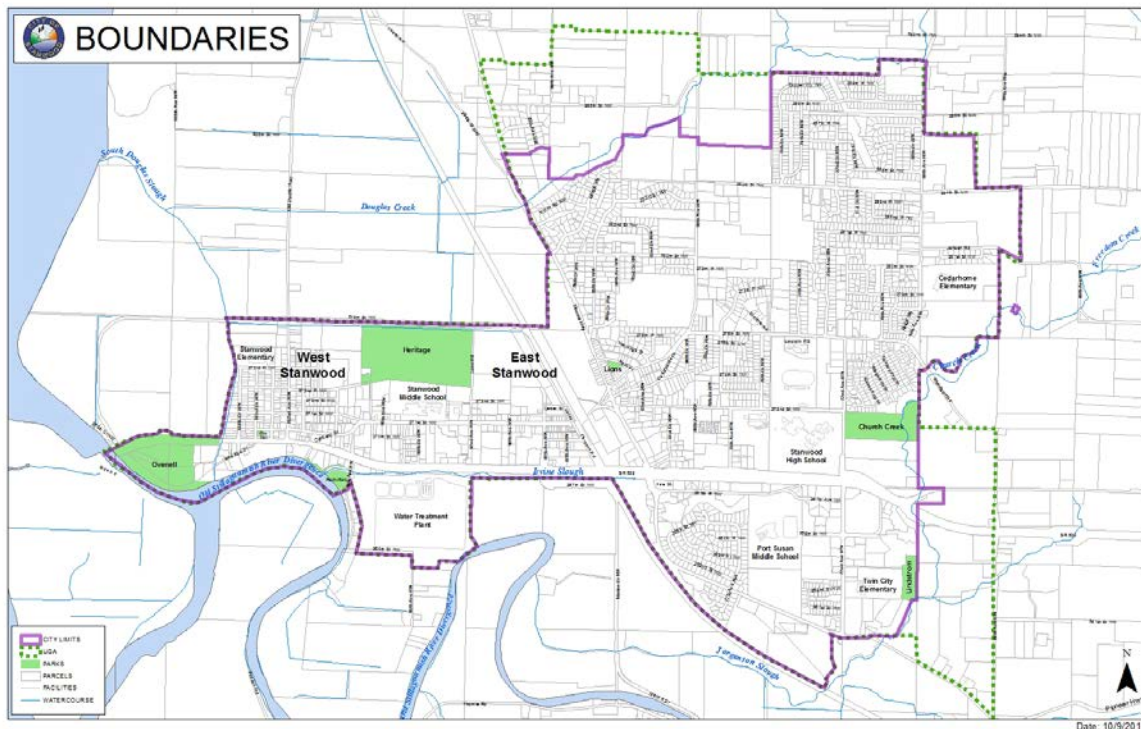


Figure 2 Stanwood City Limits and Urban Growth Area

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Like most early settlements in this region, the site that was to become Stanwood originated as a lumber camp, which then became a mill site settlement. As the trees were harvested and land was cleared, the fertile alluvial soil was tilled and converted to farmland forming the foundation for an agricultural economy. D.O. Pearson opened the first general store in 1877 and named the emerging town after his wife. In 1891, the main regional rail line, the Seattle & Montana Railroad, established a depot one mile east of Stanwood, which became a focus for the development of East Stanwood. Around the turn of the century, the settlements boasted a creamery, a major lumber mill, a cannery, shipbuilding, two hotels, two stores, and a race track along with many other urban features. A major fire wiped out much of Stanwood in 1892, however it was quickly rebuilt. The H & H, a small local railroad, achieved national recognition as the world's shortest railroad as it only operated between the mill site in Stanwood and what was then the Great Northern mainline in East Stanwood. The City of

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Stanwood was incorporated in 1903. Stanwood and East Stanwood became one town in 1961. Currently, the City functions primarily as a residential community as well as an automobile-oriented trade center for the Stanwood/Camano Island residential developments and outlying communities.

CLIMATE

The climate of Stanwood is moist and mild. The average annual temperature is about 50.5 degrees Fahrenheit. The frost-free growing season usually extends from April through October. The annual average precipitation is about 36" with about 75 percent of the total falling during the period of October through March. 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: ECONOMICS AND EMPLOYMENT

Stanwood has an important role in the economic development of northwest Snohomish County. Like other northwestern Washington communities, Stanwood has experienced a decline in resource related jobs (agricultural, forestry, and fisheries), but has compensated with an increase in retail trade and service jobs as well as non-resource related industrial employment. Table 1 shows the breakdown of income characteristics of the Stanwood population.

Much of Stanwood's cultural history stems from Scandinavian heritage. Cultural influences have blended to form a community that is more diverse and truly unique. Also included in the population of Stanwood are Native Americans, Asians, Blacks and Hispanics. Approximately ninety percent of the population remains Caucasian. Table 2 summarizes the percentages of the major racial groups.

Stanwood and the surrounding area, including Camano Island, have seen rapid population growth over the past 20 years. In 2000, the Stanwood/Camano area had a median age of 33.9; in 2010, the median age was 35.9. Both Stanwood and Camano Island continue to attract a large retired population. On Camano Island the median age increased from 36.7 years in 2000 (Census 2000) to 50.1 years in 2012 (2008-2012 American Community Survey). Table 3 shows a breakdown of persons by age. The Stanwood-Camano School District has seen its enrollment stabilize during the past three years after eight years of decline. The District had total enrollment of 4,216 FTE in the 2015-16 school year, increasing to 4,423 by the 2017-18 school year. The school district enrollment is projected to increase slightly over the next four school years by 80 students or approximately 2%.

Projections within the City of Stanwood and the Stanwood Urban Growth Area are for an increased population totaling 11,085 people (under Snohomish County Tomorrow medium

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growth projections) by the year 2035. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) showed an actual population of 6,785 in 2017. The population forecast for the next 4 years growth to 2021 is 8,210.

Another shift currently taking place in Stanwood is an increase in the percentage of the population commuting to other areas for employment. Even though the Stanwood area is expected to gain jobs over the next twenty years, the majority of new population is expected to be commuters. According to the 2010 Census, workers from the City of Stanwood commuted an average of 29.1 minutes, which exceeded the national average (Census, 2010).

There are numerous service organizations, community groups, fraternal organizations, churches, and senior citizens groups and youth organizations in Stanwood. All of these groups donate many volunteer hours making Stanwood a desirable place to live and work. In addition, the City provides a complete range of services including public safety, public works and parks and recreation.

TABLE 1: Household Income in 2000 and 2010

Median household income was \$60,596 in 2010 compared to the Washington State average of \$57,244. The total number of households in 2010 was 2,191.

Income	Percentages	
	2000	2010
0 – \$14,999	19.5%	10.2%
\$15,000 – \$24,999	9.6%	9.4%
\$25,000 – \$49,999	26.9%	21.4%
\$50,000 -- \$74,999	30.4%	20.5%
\$75,000 -- \$99,999	7.8%	16.7%
\$100,000 +	5.8%	21.8%

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2000 and 2010

TABLE 2: Race

White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Other
89.7%	1.0%	0.8%	2%	6.5%

Hispanic or Latino of any race = 7%

Source: Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2010

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TABLE 3: Persons by Age

Age Groups	Total	Percentage of Total
Under 18	1,754	16.61%
18 and Over	4,477	42.4%
20-24	350	3.31%
25-34	785	7.43%
35-49	1,344	12.73%
50-64	894	8.47%
65 and Over	955	9.04%

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2010

TABLE 4: Population Comparison between Stanwood & Snohomish County

	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010
Stanwood	1,670	1,961	3,923	4,580	6,231
Snohomish County	337,720	465,642	606,024	655,800	713,335

*Source: Census of Population and Households, 2000 and 2010
Office of Financial Management, 2005*

TABLE 5: Gender Population Breakdown

Year	Persons	Gender	
		Male	Female
1970	1,347	624	723
1980	1,676	781	895
1990	1,961	895	1,066
2000	3,923	1,857	2,066
2010	6,231	2,947	3,284

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1990, 2000, and 2010

PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

Public Park Type: Large Urban Park (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, the regional facility serves residents of Camano Island in Island County, Snohomish and Skagit County residents and residents of the City. The regional park attracts league sports and activities with a regional draw such as bicycle races, tournaments and jamborees. **Stanwood’s regional park is Heritage Park.**

General Development and Use Guidelines

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Because of the number of persons and the range of interests they serve, regional parks are generally 50 to 75 acres or larger in size. Regional parks may feature wooded areas and varying topography and have facilities suitable for large scale sporting events such as tournaments.

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 continues to be used as a regional facility. Regular usage is generated from a three county area with a majority of users living outside the City limits.

Public Park Type: 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, restrooms and playgrounds, than neighborhood or pocket parks because they serve a larger area and offer more amenities. **The City of Stanwood's Community Park is Church Creek Park.**

General Development and Use Guidelines

Community parks are intended to serve the recreational needs of several 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 1 to 3 miles of every residence. The optimum size for a community park is 20 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.

A community park functions as a neighborhood park for the residents who live in close proximity to it; therefore, it should also comply with the City's neighborhood park classification.

Public Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks provide access to 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. Because they are usually located in neighborhoods, neighborhood parks are designed and operated to minimize, noise, traffic, light and other "spill-over" impacts. They are designed primarily for non-

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supervised, non-organized recreation activities. **Stanwood currently has one developed neighborhood park at Lions Park and undeveloped acreage at Lindstrom Park.**

General Development and Use Guidelines

Neighborhood parks are typically 5 to 10 acres in size but must be at least 3 acres. A neighborhood park should generally be located with a ¼- to ½-mile walk from the neighborhood it serves, uninterrupted by arterial roads or other physical barriers. Ideally, all neighborhood parks shall contain 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;
- Concrete walkways that connect all of the amenities in the park; and
- A loop walk around the park shall also be provided, if feasible.

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

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

Locations for neighborhood parks will be based on a variety of factors, including the population and demographics of residents in the park's service area and major physical boundary.

Potential new neighborhood parks include a downtown park to serve the downtown business and residential community, and a neighborhood park located in the north portion of the City possibly adjacent to 288th St NW in the City's Urban Growth Area.

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Public Park Type: Pocket or Mini Park

Pocket parks are the smallest type of park in the City's system. A pocket/mini park is intended to serve its immediate surrounding area. They are typically built to serve a specific need. They may occur when the development of a larger park to meet a neighborhood need is not possible due to physical or other constraints. These parks may also be the result of historic conditions or older land patterns resulting in small pieces of land that can provide relief from development in urban neighborhoods or business areas. Pocket parks 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. **The City has an informal pocket/mini park on the .28 acre parcel abutting City Hall.**

General Development and Use Guidelines

Pocket parks are up of any size up to 3 acres and are often developed on unused or vacant lots or unimproved right of way. Typically, they do not provide formal recreation facilities or amenities. Pocket parks will be located primarily based on the availability of land.

Public Park Type: Special Use Park/Facility

A Special Use Park is characterized by facilities or areas oriented towards single-purpose use that people are willing to travel for. These parks may provide a recreational facility or an amenity unique to a community or site and may include active and/or passive activities. Special Use Parks are designed to meet the needs of the facility, site and users. They should be strategically located in the community and easily accessible. These facilities may be classified as either neighborhood or community parks depending on size and function for the purposes of meeting level of service standards.

The City currently has no Special Use facilities, but has several City-owned properties that are classified as Special Use Parks including the Riverfront, Ovenell, and Hamilton properties.

The City has been working closely with area partners including the Stillaguamish Tribe, Department of Fish and Wildlife and local farmers to acquire the Johnson Family Farm since 2017. The property is a high priority for habitat protection because of its proximity to Skagit Bay. The property presents an opportunity to acquire and manage replacement lands for estuary restoration projects for farmed waterfowl forage, walk-in hunting and wildlife viewing. The proposed 150 acre farmland preservation easement will preserve and protect high value agricultural land. This is a "multi-benefit" project protecting resource lands, preserving farmland, providing flood protection and promoting recreation. The Johnson Family Farm is adjacent to the 15 acre Ovenell Farm purchased by the City of Stanwood in 2015.

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Public Park Type: Combined School-Park

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

The Stanwood-Camano School District maintains combined school-park acreage within the Stanwood city limits at the 3 Elementary and 2 Middle schools as well as Stanwood-Camano High School 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 such as “Tot” Lots. These parks are often established through the development process to meet neighborhood recreation needs as new neighborhoods are created, they serve only the residents 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 6: Classification Standards for Recreation Facilities

Classification	Acres/1,000 Pop.	Size Range	Population Served	Service Area
Neighborhood Park/Specialty Park	2.5	5 – 20 acres	560 – 2,000	¼ – ½ mile
Community Park	2.5	20 – 100 acres	2,000 – 10,000	½ mile
Regional, Park*	.002-.003	50-75 acres	25,000	Multi-county

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

**Based on standard for community facility.*

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EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION INVENTORY

City-owned Parks and Recreation Facilities

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

Park Summary by Classifications

Name	Size	Type
Heritage	44.05 acres	Regional
Church Creek	15.39 acres	Community
Lions	0.68 acres	Neighborhood
Lindstrom	4.53 acres	(Undeveloped Neighborhood)
Riverfront	0.66 acres	(Undeveloped)
City Hall	0.28 acres	(Undeveloped Pocket/Mini Park)
Hamilton Landing	2.84 acres	(Undeveloped)
Ovenell	17.65 acres	(Undeveloped)

Heritage Park (44.05 acres)

From its inception, Heritage Park has been viewed as a regional athletic and recreational complex serving Stanwood, northwest Snohomish County, and Camano Island. The City, Snohomish County, and Stanwood School District jointly purchased the 43.5 acre Heritage site in 1991. An interlocal agreement was signed between the City and the County at that time and another between the City and the School District which provided for continued non-resident use of this facility. Snohomish County has identified Heritage Park as a major regional complex in the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Plan.

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 facility currently includes: baseball fields, softball fields, a multiuse field, soccer/lacrosse field, restrooms, paved parking without stripes, a main east-west trail, children's play area, a skate park added in 2013 with modular-style steel ramps including a spine ramp, bank ramp with quarter pipe, euro gap, wedge to flat wedge, grind rail and skate rail, individual picnic tables under small shelters, a small dog park, and wetland areas with an interpretive trail.

Church Creek Park (15.39 acres)

This community park is located in the eastern portion of Stanwood one block north of SR-532. It has a paved parking lot with a total of 31 parking spaces. The facility currently includes: an unlit little-league baseball diamond that also serves as a softball field, four pieces

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of playground equipment with swing set, slide, seesaw, and a sand box, numerous nature trails, restroom facilities, and a group shelter with four large tables. There are also various other picnic areas located throughout the park. Other recreation activities at Church Creek are a basketball court and a fuchsia garden. There is little room available for expansion of this area. The park is maintained and receives heavy use particularly during the summer months.

Lions Park (.68 acre)

This facility is a small neighborhood park covering approximately 1 acre, located close to Pioneer Highway and SR-532 in a northeast residential neighborhood. The facility currently includes: a half basketball court, a picnic table with barbeque grill, several pieces of playground equipment with a sand box, and a grass lawn area. There are no delineated parking areas, though informal parking along the shoulder is evident. The expansion potential of the park is limited. The facility is well used by the surrounding neighborhood.

Lindstrom Park (undeveloped) (4.53 acres)

Lindstrom Park is undeveloped land located to the southeast of the movie theater and dedicated to the City as part of the Stanwood-Camano Village Development. The land provides a potential for development as a neighborhood park in the southeast portion of Stanwood. This parcel is also part of the dedicated detention facility for the Lindstrom development.

Riverfront Park (undeveloped) (0.66 acre)

.66 acres of primarily undeveloped land between SR 532 and the Stillaguamish River, east of Twin City Foods. A viewing platform was constructed on this property in 2014 as an Eagle Scout project. This land could provide access to the Stillaguamish River and help create a link from the river to the downtown as a specialty neighborhood park. .

City Hall Park (undeveloped) (.28 acre)

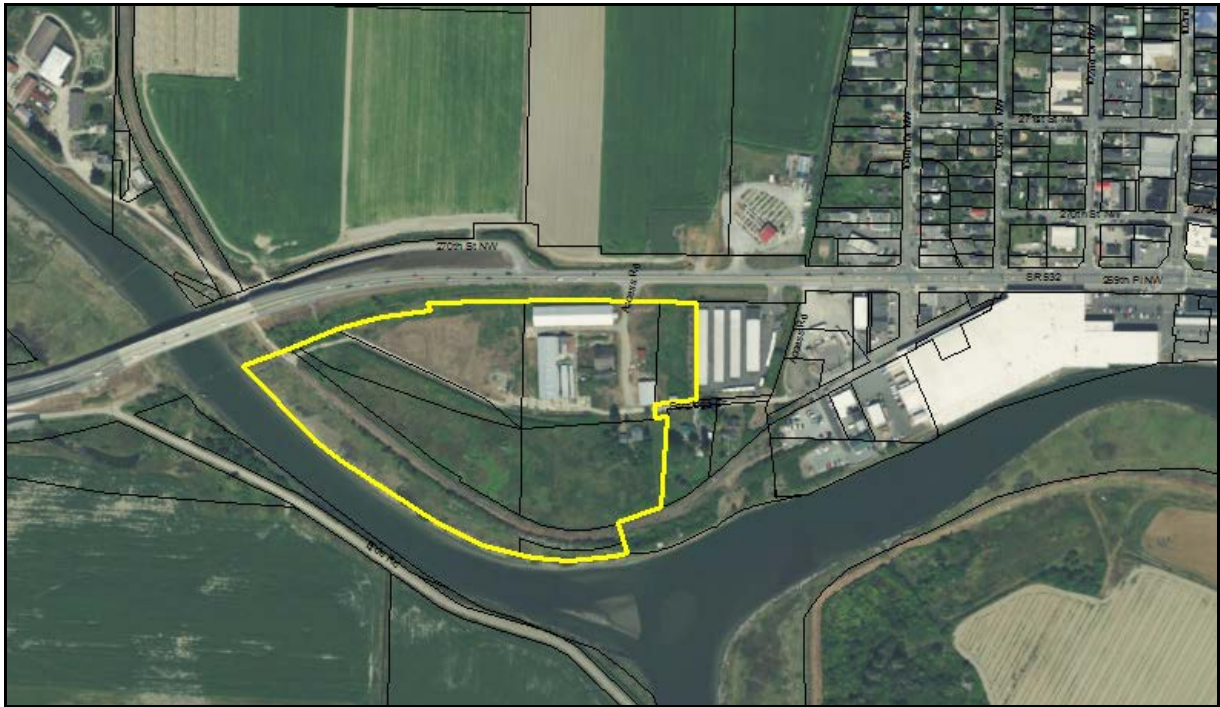
This lot previously was developed with a single family structure which was acquired by the City in 1994. The residence was demolished in 2009. The site has grass, fruit trees and a picnic table and abuts City Hall to the west.

Hamilton Landing (2.89 acres)

The property consists of approximately 2.01 acres located along State Route 532 immediately adjacent to the Stillaguamish River. . A portion of this property has been used as a boat launch and is leased for that purpose. The property already has some of the amenities required for a public boat launch and provides an excellent location for public access to the Stillaguamish River, while preserving a significant portion of the property as passive recreational use along the waterfront. A public boat launch use would include a driveway access to the launch location and parking, which might at some point be paved with asphalt or concrete. In its current state it has good potential as a special use park facility providing water access and limited small craft boating.

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Ovenell Park (17.65 acres)

The Ovenell property includes 5 separate parcels (some portions) totaling approximately 15 acres. The property is south of SR 532 and bordered by the Stillaguamish River to the west and south. The Ovenell property is a former dairy farm with a long history. The site includes old barns 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 un-occupied home and fallow agricultural land.

The property is all level. The old highway that used to lead to the old bridge and before that the old ferry landing, runs through the center of this property. It was vacated and deeded to the Ovenell family years ago.

There is an inactive rail spur that crosses the lower portion of the property that leads to Twin City Foods. This property was annexed in 2017 and is within the city limits. The Snohomish County future land use map designates the property as Urban Industrial.

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. Port Susan Bay and Skagit Bay are characterized by a diversity of landscapes, including forests, farms, marine shoreline, and the Stillaguamish River delta. Yet, the ecological systems that support these species and industries are threatened. Human activities resulting in habitat loss, degraded water quality, and many other

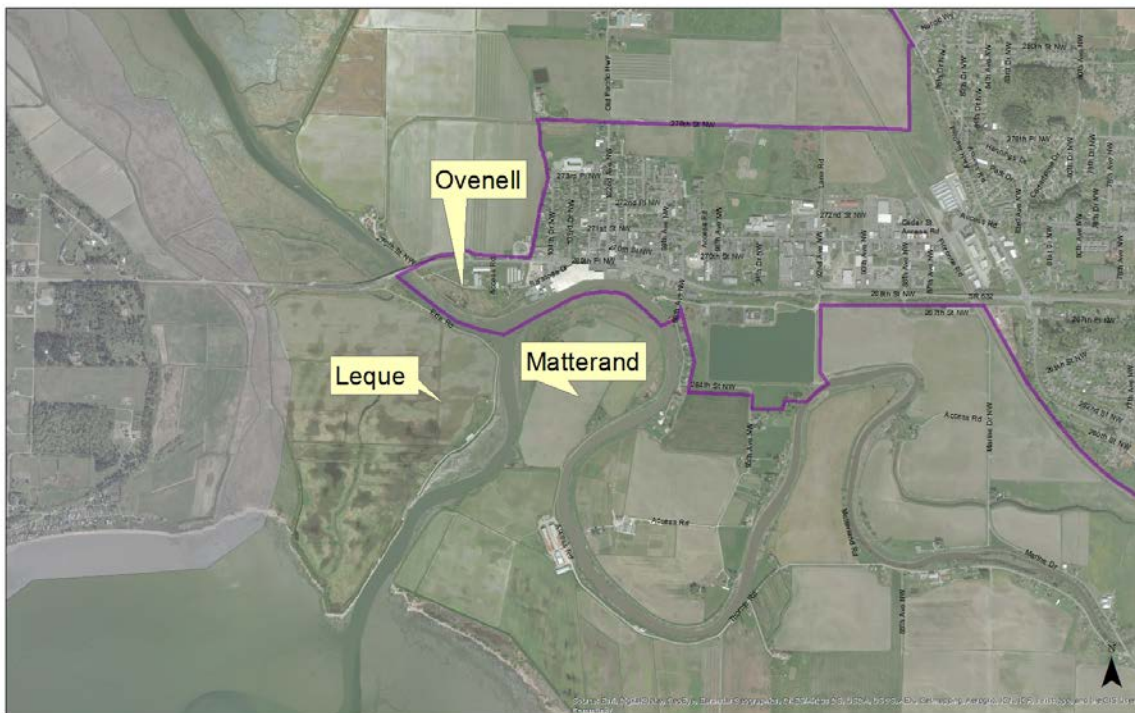
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stresses are becoming increasingly prevalent as the human population in Puget Sound grows and expands.

The Stillaguamish Tribe has 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. This will restore tidal flooding.

The Ovenell property is due east of Leque Island. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has purchased a majority of the island (325 acres). Contract farmers annually plant cereal grain as food for wintering waterfowl (mainly ducks and snow geese). This site offers bird watching, bird dog training, and pheasant and waterfowl hunting. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board has funded a cooperative project between Ducks Unlimited and WDFW to restore about 100 acres of Leque Island to intertidal estuary. Setback levees will be built on the south and north ends of the island, and dikes removed to reconnect sloughs with the Stillaguamish River. This will restore tidal flooding, provide habitat where juvenile salmon can make the transition from a fresh to saltwater environment, and benefit other fish and wildlife species.



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The City's intent is to provide long-term protection of natural resources and serve to model responsible management practices to coastal communities. It should be noted that a Master Plan process for the Ovenell property began in mid-2015 and will continue through 2018.

Trails

Three designated trails exist in the area:

1. The Stanwood-Camano Village Loop trail consists of a 1 mile, paved trail that weaves around the perimeter of the development.
2. The Pioneer Highway Trail consists of an approximately 1 mile paved trail on the north shoulder of Pioneer Highway and runs from SR-532 southward to within 200 yards of 72nd Avenue NW.
3. The Heritage Park trail consists of approximately .5 mile paved trail running east/west along the southern perimeter of the park and north/south between the play fields.

Open Space

Ravenna Viaduct Triangle (1 acre)

This area is 1 acre in planted lawn with shrubs and small trees. This landscaped area serves mainly as a pleasing view for those passing by along the viaduct or underpass. The landscape area is isolated without an opportunity for pedestrian connection.

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.

Potential new open space properties include a central property that can provide trails and the preservation of natural land within the City for light recreational use by residents and visitors.

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Private Facilities

Pocket Parks/Tot Lots

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

Facilities outside the City Limits

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

Washington State Parks:

1. Cama Beach State Park 383 acres — cabins, lodge, boating, trails, fishing.
2. Camano Island State Park 134 acres — camping, boating, picnic areas, viewpoint, restrooms.

Island County Parks:

3. Utsalady Point Vista Park 1 acre — picnic area, barbecue, viewpoint, historical information board.
4. English Boom Historical Park 6.8 acres — undeveloped beach & forest. Planned facilities include: parking, viewpoint, ADA access, trail, historical interpretive board, restrooms.
5. Cavalero Beach Park .5 acre — picnic tables, small boat launch.
6. Freedom Park 3.5 acres — Pearl Harbor memorial, sculpture garden.
7. Hutchinson Park 5 acres — trail and picnic area.
8. Four Springs Lake Preserve 50 acres — natural habitat preserve with Four Springs House for event rental.
(Friends of Camano Island Parks)
9. Iverson Spit Waterfront Preserve 330 acres — waterfront preserve, birding area, trails.

Snohomish County Parks:

10. Kayak Point Golf Course 250 acres — public golf course with 18-holes.
Snohomish County
11. Kayak Point Park 400 acres — fishing pier, boat launch, trails, restrooms, picnic facilities, beach access, yurt, cottages, tent
Snohomish County

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camping.

Privately Owned:

12. Camaloch Golf Course 79 Acres — public golf course with 18-holes.
Camano Island

Designated Trail:

13. Cascade Marine Trail Segment of water trail passes through the South and
(Designated by West Pass of the Stillaguamish River.
Washington Water Trails Association)

Open Space:

14. VFW Memorial 3 Acres — large grass lawn with a memorial dedicated to the veterans of wars. Also serves as a rail bus stop and a park and ride with 51 parking spaces currently on site. The area is not currently used for recreation and there is limited potential for development.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Through the active participation of citizens in workshops, open houses, questionnaires/surveys, and meetings, the City has identified public attitudes towards both current and future parks and recreation facilities, and their needs. Multiple processes have allowed for continued input from the community to help inform the contents and direction of the Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan.

The Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTAC), a seven member citizen committee appointed by the City Council, was formed in 2016 to advise the City on parks and trails planning. The PTAC acts as a valuable liaison between the community and the City Council and ensures citizen involvement in all aspects of the parks and trails planning and development process. With the assistance of staff and other professionals, the committee will cooperatively plan and prepare park planning and project recommendations for presentation to the Planning Commission and City Council.

To develop a prioritized list of parks and trails projects, the PTAC used their Guiding Principles together with the ideas and feedback from parks and trails tours and citizen comments. The resulting priority order for parks and trails are shown below:

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1. Heritage Park
2. Church Creek Park
3. Trails
4. Hamilton Landing
5. Ovenell Park
6. Remaining:
 - Lindstrom Park
 - City Hall Park
 - Lions Park
7. New Facilities

The PTAC has regular monthly meetings, more often at times, that are open to the public and held a community open house on June 12, 2017 to present and gain feedback regarding the proposed six-year plan, park priorities, and funding options. Attendees were guided through displays by city staff and PTAC members and volunteers. Questions were answered and the attendees were asked to provide their feedback and to vote on their preferred funding options. Approximately twenty-two (22) community members attended, with a majority of attendees preferring the option of expanding the 6-Year Plan to include an area defined by the entire Stanwood-Camano School District boundary. On June 29, 2017 the option of funding park projects through an area wide Metropolitan Park District was presented to City Council along with feedback from the open house. At that meeting, City Council directed City Staff to pursue a potential district-wide MPD by forming a new MPD Exploratory Committee together with representatives from unincorporated Snohomish County and from Camano Island.

Friends of Stanwood Parks and Trails (FOSPAT) is a not-for-profit, community-based organization established in 2016 as part of the Parks and Trails Phase II project. The purpose of FOSPAT is to work in partnership with the City of Stanwood to develop and maintain beautiful, functional and well-utilized parks, trails and recreation spaces for the benefit and enjoyment of the community. FOSPAT works in partnership with the City of Stanwood and advocates for Stanwood's parks, trails and recreational spaces through volunteerism, fundraising, and community engagement.

Previous park planning efforts involved a Sustainable Design Assistance Team three day charrette in 2012 for the greater Stanwood/Camano area presented in cooperation with the American Institute of Architects. The team recommendations included comments about parks, trails, water access and sustainability. Public open houses, Planning Commission and City Council workshops were also held throughout the remainder of 2012 and a community survey to assess use of facilities, recreational priorities, and comments regarding City parks

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was made available and responded to by 74 citizens. For a detailed account of the public involvement for the 2012 updates, see Appendix B.

The Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) engaged pedestrian and bicycle network users, citizens and interested parties over the course of 13 months during the Plan's development. An open house style public meeting was held on October 29, 2015 to kick off the project. The meeting was well attended with approximately 25 interested citizens and non-motorized system users participating in activities and providing feedback about the process. On April 28 and June 30, 2016 community workshops were held to gain public input on the projects goals and proposed network recommendations. A survey was also conducted during this time to glean community insights about challenges and potential opportunities to improve the City's non-motorized transportation system. The survey yielded 262 participants who identified themselves as residents, business owners, employees, students and other affiliates with the City of Stanwood. The plan was reviewed by the City Planning Commission in open meetings on July 11 and October 10, 2016. The City Council Public Works Committee reviewed the draft Plan elements over numerous meetings during 2016 and the full Council was presented with the Plan on October 27, 2016. The NMTP was adopted by Stanwood City Council on November 10, 2016 and is incorporated here by reference.

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. The 2012 questionnaire, on-going parks planning workshops and open houses provide input to the types of recreation facilities that the community would like to see in the future. For a summary of the questionnaire results, see Appendix B.

The City of Stanwood is prioritizing parks and recreation as evidenced with the Hamilton and Ovenell property purchases in 2014, community-driven conceptual Master Plans for Ovenell Park and Hamilton Landing adopted by City Council in June 2016, a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) approved in November 2016 and the purchase of 30 acres of the Johnson Farm in the process of being finalized. Given the City's recent investments in new park properties and in trail planning, significant questions – for all of the City's parks and trails were asked and contemplated by the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTAC) over their 2016/2017 work cycle.

The key parks and trails questions discussed by the PTAC were as follows:

1. What are the primary goals & objectives for the next 6 years?
2. What should be implemented over the next 6 years?
3. What is the correct sequence/priority?

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4. What is the budget?
5. Where does the funding and support come from?
6. What is the most appropriate timing of a potential bond/levy?
7. How should the public be involved?

Results from the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee process, Non-Motorized Transportation Plan development process as well as past planning exercises including the 2012 SDAT design charette, public workshops, questionnaires/surveys were used as the basis to develop a conceptual list of improvements that incorporate the desires of the public for their park and recreation system in Stanwood. Specific projects are listed on the six year action item list. In many cases, partnerships may be required with other agencies or organizations to jointly develop or enhance parks, recreation, or open space facilities. In addition, the locations indicated for proposed projects and facilities are approximate and may be adjusted as individual projects or proposals are further developed in the future. The list of projects is as follows, in no particular order. Note that some of the projects are located outside Stanwood City limits, but have been included as they are within the service area.

- A. Complete sidewalk connections between sidewalk segments (increase connectivity).
- B. Kayak/small, non-motorized craft launch and park development to realize water access.
- C. Develop park property with waterfront access.
- D. Downtown Park to provide meeting space and support low impact development/conservation goals.
- E. Continuous trail loop around Heritage Park including connection to rail station.
- F. Upgrades at Heritage Park to include tournament ready baseball/softball facilities and potential RV parking.
- G. Develop major loop trail system with trailheads throughout City.
- H. Establish and develop a main east-west bicycle/pedestrian trail to Camano Island, Arlington, and north/south to Conway and Warm Beach.
- I. Park improvements to Church Creek Park (improve condition of shelters, play structures, and other facilities or redesign for new use(s)).
- J. Park property acquisition and development in downtown and northeast part of Stanwood.
- K. Larger/additional dog parks and off-leash areas.
- L. Waterfront trail (from Ovenell Park along Stillaguamish River to Hamilton Landing).
- M. Use the tops of the dike system along the river and sloughs for pedestrian and bicycle trails.

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N. Pave shoulders of main streets and highways for bike lanes.

Several ideas and suggestions emerged from the comments received from the public open house, Planning Commission meetings, and the joint Planning Commission/City Council workshop for future parks and recreation facilities. The following list of projects builds upon the previous list with some new additions. Note that some of the projects are located outside Stanwood city limits, but have been included as they are within the service area. The list of projects is as follows, in no particular order:

Several trends for future parks and recreation facility improvements have emerged as top priorities for the community through the many public input processes held by the City over the past five years. Broadly speaking, they can be grouped into the following categories:

1) River Parks

Development of recently acquired properties for new park projects to provide access to the river and to provide passive recreation, water use, shoreline access and habitat conservation consistent with the Shoreline Master Program. Parking, restrooms and trailhead facilities should be included.

2) Kayak/Small, Non-motorized Craft Launch

Provisions for a kayak/small, non-motorized, craft launch showed up prominently in the comments from the public and at the top of the prioritization lists. Somewhere along the river in the west part of Stanwood, a kayak/small craft launch spot should be provided. This could be at Hamilton Landing or Ovenell Park including trail connections.

3) Downtown Park

Acquisition of property with connection to the Amtrak Station is desired as a place for community passive recreation and a potential demonstration of conservation techniques incorporating low impact development in park design and an outdoor meeting spot for community events.

4) Trails and Trailheads

Trails as linkages between open spaces and as loops are high on the prioritization list. There is a strong desire for connectivity between trails and parks, as well as other destination points in the city; especially the downtown/rail station area. Providing for a consistent and coordinated sign system, designating trail routes and improving the existing paving conditions of trail routes are important infrastructure considerations for the community. The community would like to see main loops provided for throughout the various sections/quadrants of the City with trailheads. These trailheads should provide some parking, restroom facilities, drinking fountains, and should be within proximity to services. Along with new trail development, there is also a desire that designated trail signage be developed and existing trail conditions be improved.

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In addition, bicycle routes are desired either as a provision for bike lanes on the main streets and highways going through the City and as designated routes throughout the surrounding areas (along the dikes). Trailheads could be developed in conjunction with parks. Trails connecting to Camano Island, Conway, the Centennial Trail in Arlington and Warm Beach are supported.

5) Upgrades to Existing Parks

Upgrades and enhancements to existing parks is a top priority for many members of the community. Specifically, improvements at Heritage Park to create tournament ready baseball and softball facilities including drainage improvements, continuous loop trail, landscaping, RV parking and upgraded restroom and gathering facilities.

Updating Church Creek Park playground equipment and site furnishings at Church Creek Park are needed. A redesign of Church Creek Park and improved signage for the entire park system are also desired.

6) Neighborhood/Community Park Acquisition

Acquisition and development of an additional neighborhood/community park in the northeast section of Stanwood south of 300th Street between 280th and 284th Streets is needed to address future growth in the Stanwood Urban Growth Area. This park need is identified in the Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan and Recreation Plan.

ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

National standards for classifying park facilities were previously developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association (Table 7) for assessing parkland needs and are commonly used by jurisdictions for Level of Service (LOS) standards. Stanwood's 2014 population of 6,530, six year projected population of 8,210 and projected 2035 population of 11,085, has been used for the analysis of needs section. All population figures, analysis and calculations in this section include the City limits as well as the urban growth area (UGA). The 2035 population estimate is based on the Countywide Planning Policies for Snohomish County, Appendix B.

Existing LOS for Neighborhood and Community Parks

The greatest deficiencies include neighborhood and community parks, and trails including bicycle, walking and jogging trails. In addition, the existing neighborhood parks are not dispersed adequately throughout the City to provide equal local access.

The existing LOS for neighborhood parks is calculated by dividing total inventory of facilities (4 acres) by the total city population of 6,430. This results in a current LOS of .62 acres per 1,000 people. The existing LOS for community parks is calculated the same way. The City of Stanwood has 15 acres of community parks. The current level of service is 2.30 acres per 1,000 people.

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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 2010 School District service area population was 32,907. In addition, there are other regional park facilities within this school district attendance boundary making it difficult to correlate Stanwood population and Heritage park acreage in a meaningful way. Heritage Park is 48 acres. 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.

Future Needs

National standards for classifying park facilities have been developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association as shown below in Table 7.

Table 7
Classification Standards for Recreation Facilities

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

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

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

Neighborhood Parks

Table 8 describes projected neighborhood park needs between 2015 and 2035.

Table 8
National Standard LOS
Neighborhood Parks Needs Projection
(LOS=2.5 acres per 1,000 population)

Time Period	Pop.	Acreage Needed	Acreage Avail.	Net Reserve (Deficit)	Net land Cost
2015-2021	8,210	20.53	4	(16.53)	N/A
2022-2035	11,085	27.7	4	(23.7)	N/A

The City will require additional neighborhood park facilities over the planning period to meet the standard LOS.

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Community Parks

Table 9 describes projected community park needs between 2015 and 2035.

Table 9
National Standard LOS
Community Park Needs
(LOS=2.5 acres per 1,000 population)

Time Period	Pop.	Acreage Needed	Acreage Avail	Net Reserve (Deficit)	Net land Cost
2015-2021	8,210	20.53	15	(5.53)	N/A
2022-2035	11,085	27.7	15	(12.7)	N/A

The City will require additional community park facilities over the planning period to meet the standard LOS.

Linear Parks and Trails

The national standard LOS for trails is 2 acres per 1,000 people. This equates to a trail 8 feet wide and approximately two miles long for each 1,000 people. The City presently has .5 mile of trail at Heritage Park, 1 mile of trail at the Stanwood-Camano Village and 1 mile of designated trail along Pioneer Highway, for a total of 2.5 miles (2.4 acres). Table 10 shows the projected future trail needs.

Table 10
Trails Needs Assessment
(LOS=2 acres per 1,000 population)

Time Period	Pop.	Acreage Required	Acreage Available	Deficit in Acres
2015-2021	8,210	16.42	2.4	(14.02)
2022-2035	11,085	22.2	2.4	(19.8)

The City will need to add additional trail facilities over the planning period in order to resolve the projected deficit based on existing trails.

NEEDS SUMMARY

Neighborhood Parks Need

Based on the national standards, Stanwood does not have adequate acreage for neighborhood parks and much of the current inventory is undeveloped and/or not accessible as a park. The

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undeveloped parks need facilities and improvements to function as recreation areas for their neighborhoods. The need in the 6 year planning period is 16.53 acres. 23.7 acres is needed by 2035 to meet the standard LOS. Some of the deficit can be met by developing the two undeveloped parcels owned by the city for parks use for an additional 3 acres. These lands are not currently included in the inventory for LOS purposes as they are undeveloped. In terms of acquisition needs, the north and northeast section of Stanwood lacks neighborhood park facilities and the town lacks a facility serving downtown residents and the commercial area.

Community Parks Need

Based on national standards, Stanwood will need to acquire and develop acreage for community parks over the planning period. The Church Creek Park incorporates most of the recreation elements that have been identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan. An additional 12.7 acres of community park land will be needed by 2035. Some portion of community park need is satisfied at Heritage Park for residents of the area adjacent to this facility.

Linear Trails Need

The City currently has a total of 2.5 miles of designated trails at 3 locations. Each mile of trail (8 feet wide) equals .97 acres. The national standard LOS for trails is 2 acres (8 feet wide and approximately 2 miles long) per 1,000 population.

The existing 2.5 miles of trails under serve the 2014 population of 6,530, including the urban growth area (UGA), and an additional 10.58 trail miles are needed immediately. In addition to the immediate need, the City requires 3.88 miles of trails over the six year planning period for a total of 14.46 trail miles by 2021. 5.96 miles of additional 8 foot wide trails are needed by the end of the twenty-year planning period for a total of 20.42 new trail miles. Calculation of trail acres to miles requires conversion to square feet. One trail mile equals 42,240 sf (8'x 5280'). One acre equals 43,560 sf.

Regional Park Need

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

ACTION PLAN

Introduction

The following recommended actions are based on the facility demand and needs analysis, and are consistent with the goals and objectives contained in this document. To aid in budget

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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.

Policy Action Items

Several items and projects suggest policy items that should be planned for in regard to the City as a whole.

Six-year Project Action Items

Following are the six year priority project details for each park/trail:

Heritage Park

- Drainage evaluated and improved
- Four-field lighted facility capable of hosting regional baseball and other sport tournaments
- New playground and loop trail
- Improved parking, potential RV parking

Church Creek Park

- New playground, improved visibility, new trail to the creek, better drainage, improved ball field
- Master Plan started to coordinate access and parking with the Vine Street property

Trails

- Sidewalk connectivity projects included in bi-annual budgets
- Lighting added to selected trails
- Trail information kiosk installed near the train station
- Trail within city-owned property along the 532 Berm

Hamilton Landing

- First local access point to the Stillaguamish River in recent memory
- Cleaned up; motorized boat launch, restroom and parking installed
- Remainder of the park designed, engineered and partially under construction

Ovenell Park

- Cleaned up and secured
- Interim restroom, utilities and parking
- Tours and approved programs and events
- Design and engineering completed
- Construction will start in the last year of the six-year plan

Remaining (Lindstrom, City Hall Park, Lions Park)

- Maintenance only, no major improvements

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New Properties

- Johnson Farm
- Heritage Park Adjacent Land
- Central City open space
- N/NE City neighborhood park

Twenty-Year Parks Plan

The Twenty-Year Plan consists of projects that received comment and support, although they were lower priorities. These ideas should remain as potential projects should future opportunities arise. *(not listed in order of priority):*

Heritage Park

- RV hook-ups

Trails

1. Three or four main loop/connection trails (separate from sidewalk system) should be established and designated that interconnect the city's community and neighborhood parks and connect Pioneer Highway/Marine Drive to the downtown and eventually to Camano Island and eastern Snohomish County.
2. Add parking near developed trail system (future).
3. Develop designated bike routes.
4. Rest stops for bicycles/walkers (restrooms, drinking fountains, benches).
5. Trail signage system.

Hamilton Landing

- Complete park construction including non-motorized boat launch

Ovenell Park

- Complete park construction including water access and waterfront trail (east on south side of SR-532).

Lindstrom Park

- Park design and development

City Hall Park

- Park design and development

Lions Park

- Park improvements

New Properties

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- Central City open space
- N/NE City neighborhood park
- Downtown park
- Port Susan Food and Farming Center

Many proposed projects occur outside of the city limits and urban growth boundary, and would involve partnering with other jurisdictions and partners to accomplish them. These include:

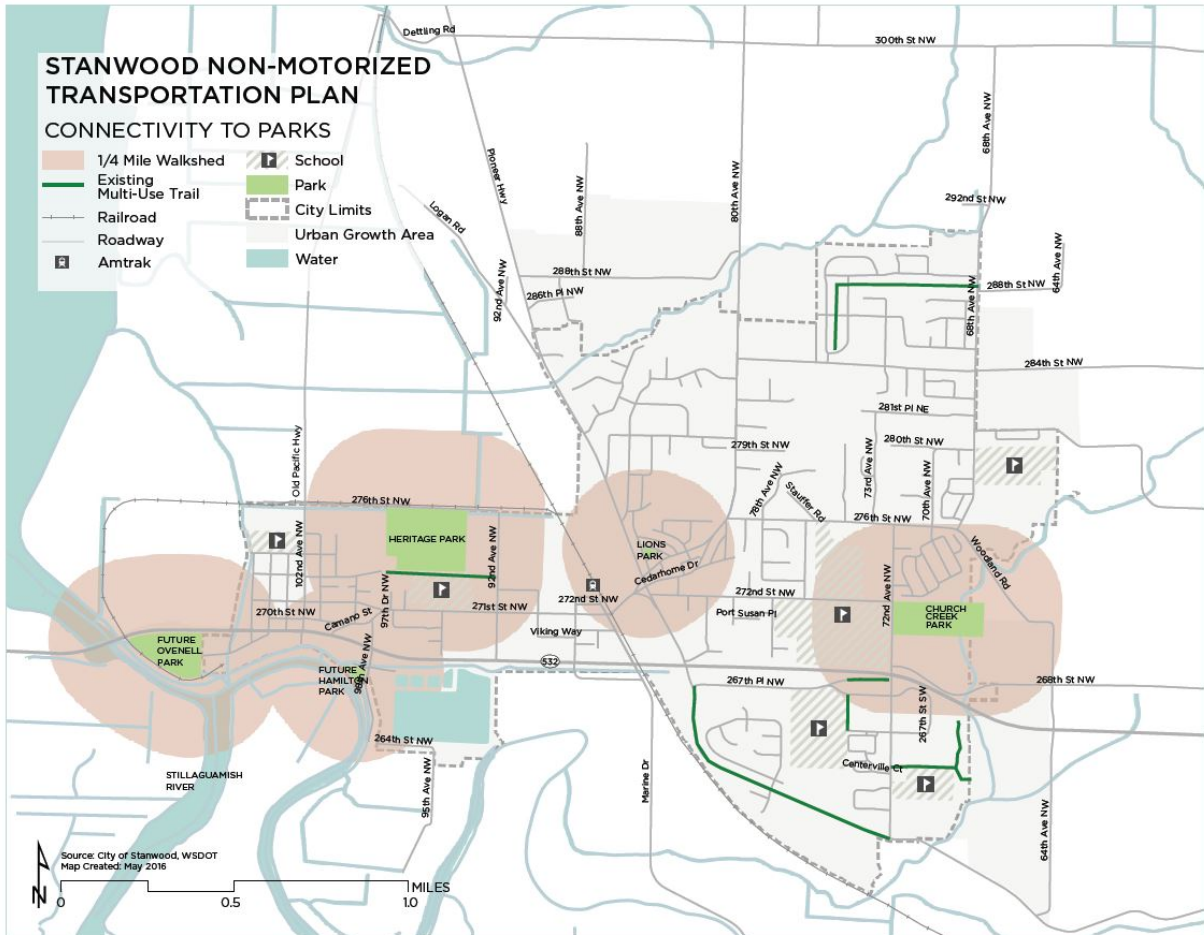
1. Developing a main east-west bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting Stanwood to Camano Island and Arlington separate from SR-532 much like the Burke Gilman trail.
2. Use the tops of the dike system along the river and sloughs for pedestrian and bicycle trails (Snohomish and Island Counties).

The City supports these projects and will make every effort to meet future demand for the region. This must, however, be accomplished through cooperative regional partnering with both Snohomish and Island Counties.

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Appendix A: Existing Inventory Map and Images



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HERITAGE PARK

9600 276th St NW, Stanwood

Acreage: 44.05



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CHURCH CREEK PARK

71st Ave NW, Stanwood

Acreage: 15.39



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LIONS PARK

Stanwood

Acreage: .68



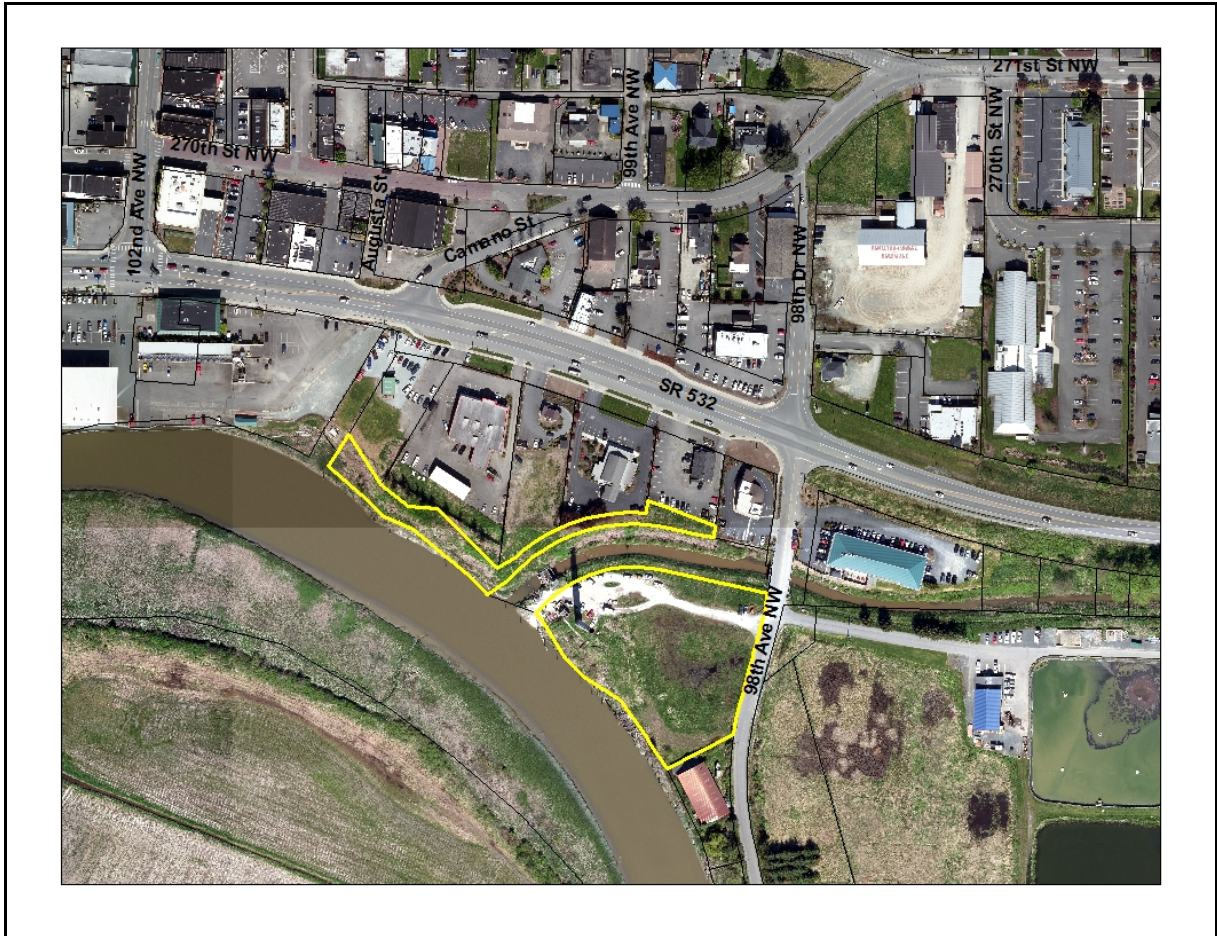
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RIVERFRONT PROPERTY

Stanwood

Acreage: .8



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LINDSTROM PROPERTY

Stanwood

Acreage: 4.59



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OVENELL PROPERTY

Stanwood

Acreage: 15



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HAMILTON PROPERTY

Stanwood

Acreage: 2.01



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Church Creek Park



Heritage Park



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Lions Park



VFW Memorial



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Pioneer Highway Trail



Lindstrom Village Loop Trail



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Hamilton Landing



Riverfront property



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Ovenell property



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Appendix B: Previous Public Involvement Summaries

Event	Description	Date
Planning Commission Workshop	Workshop to provide input on current inventory, goals, and objectives; and generate ideas regarding future facilities within the service area.	August 13, 2012
City Council	Review scope and methodology.	August 23, 2012
Public Workshop Questionnaire	Online Questionnaire to assess use of facilities, recreational priorities, and comments regarding City parks.	September 10 to October 1, 2012
Planning Commission Workshops	Review public workshop and questionnaire results, obtain additional comments, review possible projects, and Planning Commission prioritization of projects.	September 10, 2012 October 8 & 22, 2012
Public Open House	Review results from previous workshop, have the public prioritize projects, and receive additional comments and ideas.	September 24, 2012
Planning Commission Public Hearing	Review amendments.	November 14, 2012
Joint Planning Commission & City Council Workshop	Review results from previous workshop and Planning Commission session, City Council members briefing, and receive additional comments and ideas.	November 26, 2012
Planning Commission	Public Hearing deliberation and recommendation.	December 3, 2012
City Council	Consideration of plan recommended by Planning Commission and adoption of plan.	December 13, 2012

Questionnaire

The City held a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Open House for the public on September 24, 2012. Twenty community members had the opportunity to vote on their top four priorities in future parks projects. There were nine options: a city hall park, Church Creek park, an off-leash dog park, a new downtown park, Heritage park improvements, kayak/river access, a new neighborhood park, skate park rehabilitation at Heritage park or trails. The top two votes were tied for kayak/river access and trails. A new downtown park ranked third in votes.

The City hosted an online PROS plan survey from September 8 to October 1, 2012 and invited the community to give input. The survey received seventy-four responses. The survey results reflected the community's desire for a wider-range of recreational activities including waterfront access/boat launch, off-leash dog park and active recreation such as sports, courts,

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fields and multi-use trails as well as to acquire additional land for parks/recreation facilities. The majority of survey respondents stated that they would not like more private, mini-parks/tot lots for homeowner association use in Stanwood residential neighborhoods and that both taxpayers and developers should share the costs for funding and the associated maintenance costs of new parks.

Survey

The development of the City's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan included a variety of outreach activities to gain insight about the challenges of Stanwood's existing pedestrian and bicycle network and recommendations for future improvements. The survey was available online through the City's project webpage. It was advertised via social media, email and an announcement at the first Community Workshop on April 28, 2016, where participants were invited to take the survey at a workshop station with a laptop computer. Paper copies were also available upon request. City staff and Advisory Committee members encouraged people to take the survey by personally visiting community gathering places and discussing the process. The survey yielded 262 participants. Of the participants, 79% identified themselves as female and 21% as male. The reported majority age of survey takers was between 40-49 years (30%), followed by those age 30-39(25%), 50-59, (19%), 60-69 (14%), and 70+ (3%). The survey provided responses to questions regarding walking and biking trends, obstacles and concerns, desired facilities, and desired destinations.

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Appendix C: Parks and Trails Phase II Final Report and Six-year Implementation Plan with Costs and Funding Strategies