



**LAND USE COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 7, 2017**  
**NOON**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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1. **PARKS AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**  
*JEN BURBIDGE, PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR*  
(STAFF REPORT ATTACHED)



## LAND USE COMMITTEE August 7, 2017




**SUBJECT:** Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan Update

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**RECOMMENDATION:** An opportunity for Parks & Recreation staff to provide an overview of proposed revisions to the Draft Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

The amendments proposed to the draft plan will be reviewed again by Park Board of Commissioners, who will provide a recommendation for the benefit of the Commission prior to the Planning Commission holding a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the Parks Element.

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**STAFF CONTACT:** Scott Spence, City Manager   
Jen Burbidge, Parks and Recreation Director   
Rick Walk, Community & Economic Development Director 

**ATTACHMENTS:** [Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Update](#)  
(note: attachment available on City website . . . scroll to middle of webpage)

**BUDGET IMPACT/  
SOURCE OF FUNDS:** N/A

**PRIOR REVIEW:** Planning Commission June 15, 2017  
Board of Park Commissioners Feb. 1, Feb. 28, March 1,  
March 15, April 5, April 19, May 11, June 7, and July 5

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### BACKGROUND:

The Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan is in need of its six-year update. This plan will provide the Parks & Recreation Department essential strategic vision, which will direct short and long term action plans based on community needs identified through staff analysis and responses to public outreach. This plan will also establish priorities and identify funding options. The Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan is an element of the City of Lacey Comprehensive Plan.

State law RCW 36.70A (Growth Management Act) and WAC 365-196-440 (Parks and Recreation element) provide guidance for required content in the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. The Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) Planning Policies and

Guidelines have been utilized to guide the content in the plan as well. A parks element is optional element of the City's comprehensive plan under the Growth Management Act. However, State law does require a six-year plan for park and recreation facilities as part of the capital facilities element. The City prepares and utilizes the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan to evaluate park and recreational facilities and services, set goals and policies, assess demand and needs, and provide for a robust public input process to address the park and open space needs of the community.

The public has been very involved in this current update process. City staff began conducting online and in person surveys starting in 2015. Public meetings were also conducted. City staff continued to collect information in 2017 in order to provide a more robust public involvement process. March through May of 2017, the public was asked to give their feedback regarding priorities through a campaign called Energize Lacey – Shaping our Community Together. Parks & Recreation staff and Park Board members went to six events in order to gain public feedback, and held three public meetings. The May 11 meeting was held at Lacey Community Center and was advertised as a special opportunity for public input for the Park Comprehensive Plan. In addition, the City website had a questionnaire, which asked for feedback.

There were 702 responses to the survey that were entered electronically and 168 responses that were submitted on paper at various Parks and Recreation events, for a total of 870 survey responses. 59.7% of respondents identified as City of Lacey residents.

### **PROPOSED CHANGES:**

This update effort has identified a shift of some key goals and policies that should be considered by the City. Those include amending the plan to establish the policy for Lacey to move from an acquisition phase of park property to that of development of existing park properties and facilities, solidifying a funding strategy, prioritizing and identifying development projects based on public input, and providing adequate facilities to keep up with the population growth ahead of us.

Finally, remove the policy of developing park properties, which are inside the City of Lacey boundary first, and move toward developing those properties that fit the needs of the greater Lacey community first.

In addition, past Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plans have not included much information regarding recreation programs. The previous plan was geared toward park facilities. In fact, it used to be called Parks Department Outdoor Recreation Comprehensive Plan. The title has been changed to Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan in preparation for the insertion of more detailed recreation program information.

Other proposed changes are to remove excess wording and redundancies within the plan, consolidating information where possible, and separating work plan items out from the more significant action items that should remain in the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. As a result of continued work, analysis and policy development by Parks and Planning staff, additional revisions to the plan will come before the Land Use Committee in

2018 and 2019. In 2018, Parks and Recreation staff will be conducting a recreation programs audit. The results from this work will be inserted into the plan. In 2019, the Community & Economic Development Department will submit a Bike & Pedestrian Plan for adoption. Once adopted, the results from this work will be inserted into the plan. There will also be additional work done regarding level of service as Lacey moves from an acquisition phase to a development phase.

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**ADVANTAGES:**

- 1) Provide strategic planning based on public input for Parks & Recreation Department.

**DISADVANTAGES:**

- 1) Some adjustment period for the public due to shift from acquisition to development phase.