



Chapter 6

PARKS AND RECREATION

6.1 Introduction	173
6.2 Department Structure and Operating Budget	174
6.3 Parklands	175
6.4 Trails	182
6.5 Facilities	184
6.6 Recreation	187
6.7 Athletics	188
6.8 Service Guidelines	190
6.9 Recommendations and Implementation	193
6.10 Goals and Policies	196

Parks and Recreation Snapshot



Full Service Parks

Marysville's parks and open spaces, and recreational programming, are crucial to the vitality and vibrancy of our community. The City boasts 45 parklands, 24 miles of trails, and 38,000 square feet of facility space which serve both our 73,780 citizens as well as visitors. Over the past 20 years, the City has made several noteworthy park investments. As the City grows to nearly 100,000 citizens by 2044, the City will continue to plan for and invest in parks and recreation facilities, and athletic and cultural programming.



Department Structure and Budget

The Marysville Parks, Culture and Recreation Department (MPCR) is comprised of three divisions that are managed by the Parks, Culture and Recreation Director. The Department's 2023 - 2024 biennial budget is \$4.346 million. Parks maintenance expenditures are part of the Public Works Department's budget as Public Works maintains the City's parks and facilities.



Parklands, Trails and Facilities

The City's 522 acres of parklands are diverse and include large regional and community parks, and small neighborhood and pocket parks. The City offers 24 miles of trail. Most trails are within parks. Only two trails are dedicated trails - Ebey Waterfront and Bayview. The City's four facilities (i.e. buildings) are used for recreational programming and as public rental facilities. The Jennings Park Barn and Marysville Opera House are the most visited facilities. The community also benefits from recreational offerings provided by Snohomish County, public schools, and other private and public partners.



Recreation and Athletics

The Marysville Parks, Culture and Recreation Department manages a broad menu of exceptional recreational programs. Recreational offerings include arts and crafts, dance and music, fitness and wellness, and special interests that cater to both youth and adults. MPCR also hosts a variety of special events that include dances, movies, concerts and more. MPCR athletics offerings focus on fitness programs, recreational leagues, and instructional classes. A variety of athletics are also offered to the community by MPCR and partners such as the Marysville Boys & Girls Club, Marysville Little League, and Pilchuck Soccer Alliance.



Service guidelines

The National Recreation and Parks Association recommends that each city adopt its own service guidelines based on its growth patterns and local needs. An analysis of current and future park, trail and recreational facility needs has been conducted based on the current population of 73,780 and the expected 2044 population of nearly 100,000. In 2044, a variety of different parks, trails and athletic facilities will be needed to provide an appropriate level of service to the community.



Recommendations and Implementation

Several major areas of need were identified through feedback from the public and review of parks standards. These needs include additional neighborhood and community parks, better waterfront access, group picnic areas and restrooms, and more recreational facilities and gymnasiums. A warm water aquatic facility/pool and better baseball fields are special needs. A long-standing need for soccer facilities was addressed in 2023 when drainage and synthetic turf was installed at Strawberry Fields.



Section 6.1

INTRODUCTION



Left and Center: Grand opening for the new pump track at Jennings Park.

Girls play soccer on the new turf at Strawberry Fields.

The City of Marysville’s parks and open spaces, and recreation and cultural programming, are crucial to the vitality and vibrancy of our community. Recreation benefits the individual and society physically, socially and economically. The City boasts 45 parklands totaling 522 acres, 24 miles of trails, and 38,000 square feet of facility space which serve both our 73,780 citizens and visitors.¹³¹ Marysville Parks, Culture and Recreation (MPCR) staff manage a diversified menu of exceptional recreational, cultural and athletic programming. Over the past 20 years, the City has made several noteworthy park investments that include:

- Bayview Trail with a Centennial Trail connection;
- Cedar Field artificial turf and new playground;
- Comeford Park upgrades including a water spray park, restroom, new playground with turf surfacing, and turf;
- Ebey Waterfront Park and boat launch;
- Ebey Waterfront Trail;
- Jennings Park pickleball courts and pump track;
- New playgrounds at Harborview Park, Jennings Nature Park and Northpointe East;
- Olympic View Park with playground and trail access; and
- Strawberry Fields additional turf field and new playground.

As the City grows to nearly 100,000 citizens by 2044, the City will continue to plan for and invest in parks and recreation facilities, and athletic and cultural programming, and to coordinate with other partners to serve the needs of the community.

This Parks and Recreation Element is a shortened version of the [Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan 2020 – 2025](#) that was adopted in November 2020 via [Ordinance 3165](#).¹³² The overarching goal of the City’s Parks and Recreation Element is to “enhance the quality of life of Marysville’s citizens by providing beautiful parks, open spaces and exceptional recreational, cultural, and athletic programs”.

Consistent with the Growth Management Act (WAC 365-196-440), the Parks and Recreation Element:

- Inventories existing parks, trails, facilities, and athletic and recreational programming;
- Estimates park and recreation demand for at least a decade;
- Prioritizes strategies to meet a level of service which fits the needs of residents, and proposes future improvements;
- Provides consistency with the Capital Facilities Element ([page 287](#)) as it relates to park and recreation facilities;
- Evaluates intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand; and
- Outlines goals and policies to guide these efforts.

131. A complete inventory of Marysville’s parklands is available in Appendices B and C of the full [Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan 2020 – 2025](#). The inventory includes more detailed information on each park, its location, facilities, management issues, and recommended improvements.

132. The overall vision, standards, policies, and implementation measures in the [Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan 2020 – 2025](#) have been retained. Updates outlined in the Parks and Recreation Element are generally limited to major changes that have occurred since 2020; updating the horizon year for the Parks Element; and updates to maps and graphics as needed to ensure that the overall Comprehensive Plan is cohesive in appearance and writing style. The full Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan is required to be updated every six years consistent with State law and to fulfill grant funding eligibility requirements of the Washington State Recreation Conservation Office (RCO).

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE AND OPERATING BUDGET



MPCR staff perform many functions. The Recreation Division plans and hosts events such as Merryville for the Holidays.

Department Structure

The Marysville Parks, Culture and Recreation Department is comprised of three divisions that are managed by the Parks, Culture, and Recreation Director: the Administration Division, the Parks Division, and the Recreation Division with guidance from a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Department has 10 full-time employees and approximately 30 part-time seasonal and program attendants. The Department is supported by six full-time employees and five summer seasonal staff in the Public Works Department that focus on parks maintenance.

Operating Budget

For the 2023-2024 biennial budget, the City of Marysville allocated \$4.346 million for Parks, Culture and Recreation Department expenditures. This is approximately 3.4 percent of the City's general fund expenditures which is lower than in 2019-2020 due to parks maintenance staff transferring to Public Works. The average percentage of parks and recreation expenditures from the general fund by other cities in Washington with similar population sizes generally exceed Marysville; however, this is in part due to parks maintenance funding residing with Public Works.



The Parks Division coordinates with Public Works on park maintenance and building new parks such as the Pump Track under construction here.



Section 6.3

PARKLANDS

The City of Marysville currently owns 45 parklands totaling 522 acres. Of these parklands, 356.4 acres are developed, 93.6 acres are undeveloped, and close to 72 acres are open space. Marysville parks are regularly used. In 2020 a community survey was conducted in which 60 percent of respondents reported visiting a Marysville park at least two times a month or more, with 36 percent of those reporting visiting once a week or more.¹³³ The most frequently visited City parks are Jennings Memorial and Nature Parks, Ebey Waterfront Park and Comeford Park. Marysville residents also benefit from use of the Snohomish County parks system and recreational amenities offered by other local and regional partners.



Fall brings a burst of color to the Jennings Park demonstration garden.

City Parks

The following is a brief summary of the different types of parklands within Marysville. Each park is mapped on Figure 6.1 on page 179; the corresponding Map ID is shown in Table 6.1.

Community Parks

Community parks are generally around five to 20 acres and serve a three mile radius. Typically, these parks include a variety of active and passive recreation. The City has four community parks – Comeford, Deering Wildflower, Jennings Nature Park and Olympic View Park – which total 74.3 acres. While Comeford is small, it's significant amenities and spray-park means that it attracts visitors from a larger area.



Comeford Park, located Downtown adjacent to the Civic Center, provides significant amenities.

133. The complete 2020 community survey results are in Appendix D of the full [Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan 2020 – 2025](#).

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are usually smaller open spaces up to five acres that are more for neighborhood use and serve a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile radius. The City has 15 neighborhood parks that total 82 acres.



Doleshel Park offers visitors trails, picnic areas, and benches in a serene setting.

Open Space Parklands

Open space parklands have little or no development and serve to protect natural areas within the City. The City's six open space parklands total almost 72 acres.



The City owns several open natural areas. Some will be permanently preserved as open space while others may offer future recreational opportunities.

Pocket or Mini Parks

Pocket or mini parks are small parcels of land that the parks maintenance crew maintains and are generally less than a quarter acre in size.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are similar to community parks in the variety of active and passive recreation opportunities they offer. The difference is that regional parks serve people up to an hour drive and are usually much larger. Regional parks typically include unique features that draw people to them from outside of the area. The City of Marysville has two such parks, Ebey Waterfront Park and Jennings Memorial Park, that together total close to 25 acres.



Jennings Memorial Park – the City's flagship park.



Special Use Areas

Special Use Areas exist for a specific recreational use; the City's five Special Use Areas total 175 acres and include the facilities listed in Table 6.1.



Strawberry Fields for Rover is a special use area for dogs.

Undeveloped

Undeveloped park properties are currently undeveloped, and were purchased with the intent of developing them into parks as funding becomes available. They currently total nearly 94 acres and include significant properties such as Frontier Fields and Mother Nature's Window.



Ebey Slough as viewed from the Ebey Waterfront Trail.

Table 6.1 City Parks

MAP ID (FIGURE 6.1)	PARK NAME	ACRES	TRAIL MILES
Community Parks			
1	Comeford Park	2.09	-
2	Deering Wildflower Acres	30.32	1.2
3	Jennings Nature Park	34.25	1
4	Olympic View Park	7.64	-
Totals		74.3	2.2
Neighborhood Parks			
9	Cedarcrest Vista Park	1.87	-
10	Doleshel Park	6.27	0.6
11	Foothills Park	12.02	1.25
12	Harborview Park	14.58	-
13	Hickok Park	0.8	-
14	Kiwanis Park	5.05	0.5
15	Northpointe East Park	3.15	-
16	Northpointe Park	28.97	2
17	Parkside Way Park	1.5	-
18	Serenity Park	0.31	-
19	Shasta Ridge Park	1.56	0.5
20	Tuscany Ridge Park	1.2	0.25
21	Verda Ridge Park	1.8	0.5
22	Whiskey Ridge Park	1.5	-
23	Youth Peace Park	1.48	-
Totals		82.06	5.6

MAP ID (FIGURE 6.1)	PARK NAME	ACRES	TRAIL MILES
Open Space			
24	Bayview Trail Open Area	20	-
25	Heather Glen-Timberbrook	6.87	0.75
26	Holman Nature Park	20.84	0.25
27	Quilane Park	20.87	-
28	Sherwood Forest	2.78	-
29	Walter's Manor	0.33	-
30	Munson Creek	-	-
Totals		71.69	1
Pocket Parks			
31	66th Drive and 73rd Street	0.08	-
32	Community Information Site (Caboose)	0.26	-
33	Freeway Park	0.21	-
Total		0.55	-
Regional Parks			
34	Ebey Waterfront Park	5.72	0.5
35	Jennings Memorial Park	18.94	1.5
Totals		24.66	2
Special Use Areas			
36	Cedar Field (Rudy Wright Memorial)	1.2	-
37	Cedarcrest Golf Course	99.4	3
38	Marysville Skate Park	0.79	-
39	Strawberry Fields Athletic Complex	71.09	2.25
40	Strawberry Fields for Rover	3	5.25
Totals		175.48	10.5

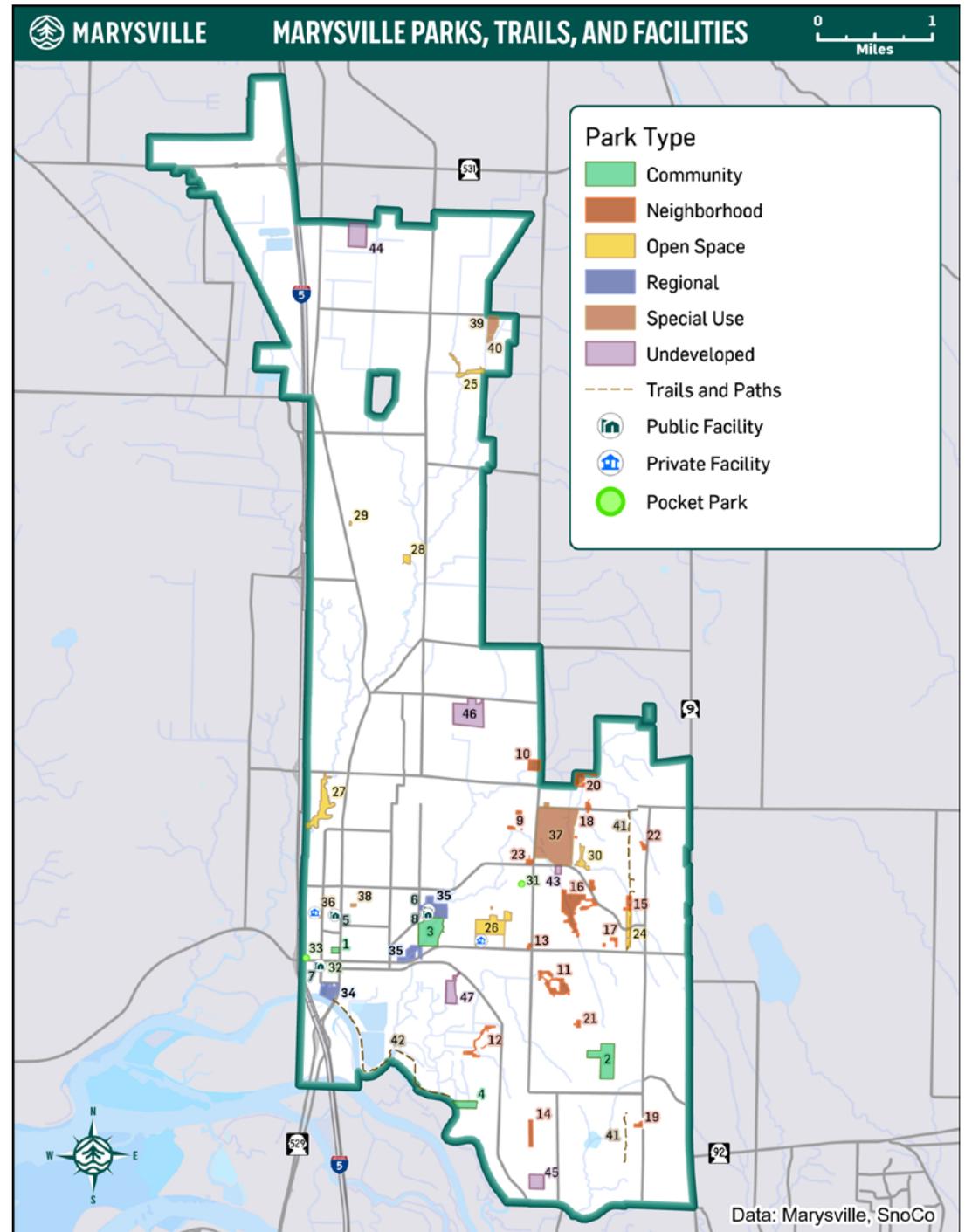


Figure 6.1

MAP ID (FIGURE 6.1)	PARK NAME	ACRES	TRAIL MILES
Trails—Dedicated¹			
41	Bayview Trail	-	2.75
42	Ebey Waterfront Trail	-	3.5
Totals		-	6.25
Undeveloped Park Properties			
43	Cedarcrest Reservoir	2.26	
44	Frontier Fields	25	
45	King property	9.74	0.5
46	Mother Nature's Window	34.57	1.5
47	Rainier Vista (Crane and Rose)	22.03	
Totals		93.6	2

1. Entries 41 and 42 are described in further detail in Section 6.4 Trails.

The parks referenced on the previous pages and listed in Table 6.1 are depicted in Figure 6.1 adjacent. A complete inventory of the City's parks system is also provided in Appendices B and C of the full [Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan 2020 – 2025](#).



Other Public Parklands

As noted above, Marysville residents also benefit from parklands owned and managed by other entities. Other public parklands are provided by Snohomish County, the Tulalip Tribes, and both the Marysville and Lakewood school districts.

Federal and State

There are no federal lands in Marysville's service area; however, there are a couple of exceptional State-owned parklands within about an hour's drive of the City that are well-known for their trails. Two of the most notable of these are: Mount Pilchuck State Park, a 1,903 acre mountainous alpine day-use park, and Wallace Falls State Park, a 1,380 acre camping park featuring a river, three lakes, a 265-foot waterfall, and old-growth coniferous forests.

Snohomish County

Snohomish County operates one park within the City of Marysville, and several regional or special use parks that are within a 30-minute drive of the City. The lone park within the City is the 44-acre Gissberg Twin Lakes Park which features two naturally spring fed lakes, sandy beaches and a walking track; as of this writing, discussions are occurring between the County and City regarding the City potentially acquiring ownership of this park.



A father and son enjoy fishing at Gissberg Twin Lakes Park.



Kayak Point, with its vast shoreline, fishing pier, and various amenities, is a popular Snohomish County destination.

While the full [Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan 2020 – 2025](#) goes into greater detail on Snohomish County Parks in the vicinity, some notable parks include:

- Flowing Lake Park at Leckie's Beach, a 40-acre park with amphitheater, boat launch, playground, wading area, fishing dock, nature trail and 40 campsites/cabins;
- Kayak Point Regional County Park, a 428-acre saltwater beach park with 3,300 feet of shoreline, a boat launch, 30 campsites, picnic shelters, a 300 foot fishing pier and trails. Significant improvements to this park began in 2023;
- Spencer Island, part of the Snohomish River Estuary, is co-owned by Snohomish County and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and offers passive recreational options, as well as trails with scenic views of wetlands, sloughs and mountains; and
- Wenberg County Park, a 45-acre park with 1,140 feet of shoreline on Lake Goodwin, and a 70-site campground, beach, boat ramps and launch, picnic shelters, and hiking.

Tulalip Tribes of Washington

Within the City, the Tulalip Tribes manage the Poortinga Property, a 347-acre parcel with extensive frontage along Ebey Slough that is protected by conservation easements. The Tribes worked with State and Federal agencies on the Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration Project which flooded the property in 2015 to restore a tidally influenced estuary. The Tulalip Tribes also operate the 175-acre Battle Creek Golf Course just west of the City which includes a regulation-length 18-hole course, as well as a nine-hole par three course.



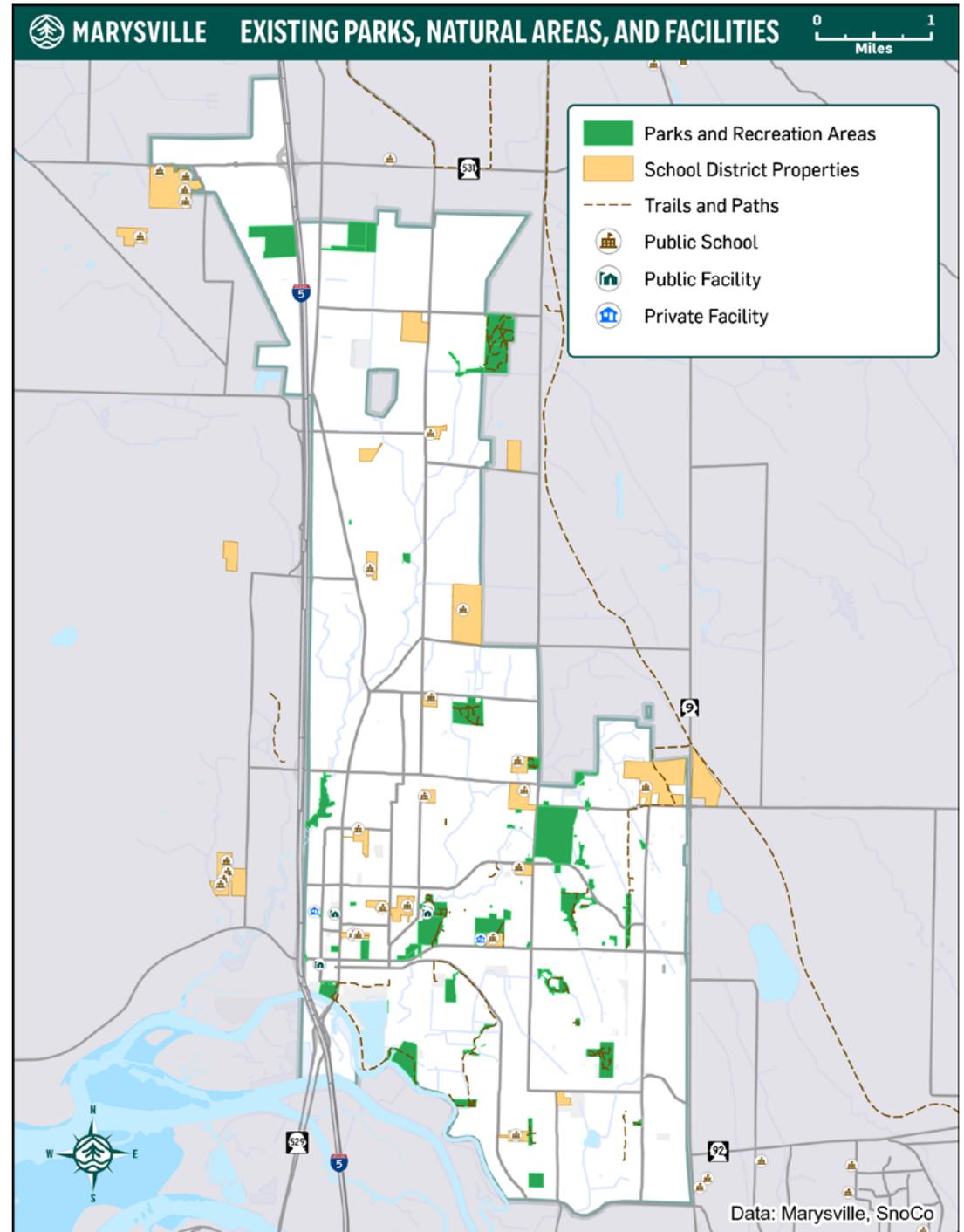
Marysville and Lakewood School Districts

There are three school districts that serve Marysville students; however, only the Marysville and Lakewood School Districts currently own and operate recreation facilities within the City. The Marysville School District owns 16 school sites in the City, and the Lakewood School District owns five school sites, four of which are in the City's Urban Growth Area. These school sites primarily offer athletic fields and playgrounds that provide additional recreational opportunities for Marysville residents.



A new playground at Cedar Field.

Figure 6.2



Section 6.4

TRAILS

Marysville Parks, Culture and Recreation maintains over 24 miles of trails. Eighteen (18) of the trail miles are within 17 City parks. The Bayview Trail and Ebey Waterfront Trail are the only dedicated trail systems, and are described further in the City Trails section below.

Table 6.2 Dedicated Trails

MAP ID (FIGURE 6.1)	TRAIL NAME	TRAIL MILES
41	Bayview Trail	2.75
42	Ebey Waterfront Trail	3.5
Totals		6.25



Walking and jogging trails are important to residents.

The 2020 parks community survey consistently showed the importance of trails to city residents. When asked about desired improvements within walking and driving distance from their home, walking trails was rated the highest for both questions with biking trails close behind. Respondents also rated the following amenities as the most needed facilities and spaces for passive recreation:

- nature trails (60 percent);
- paved walking and jogging trails (58 percent);
- paved bike trails (51 percent);
- unpaved trails for walking and jogging (43 percent); and
- designated bike lanes along streets and roads (41 percent).

Survey takers identified the Centennial Trail Connector and Ebey Waterfront Trail Phase 3 as the most important improvements; the Centennial Trail Connector was constructed in 2021.

City Trails

The City's two designated trail systems are the Bayview Trail and the Ebey Waterfront Trail.

- The Bayview Trail is an asphalt trail located in the Bayview-Whiskey Ridge utility corridor; this trail features soft hills and exceptional views, and is good for walking, cycling and skating. In 2021, the 1.3 mile Centennial Trail Connector was completed which connects the Bayview-Whiskey Ridge Trail with the Centennial Trail and extends the overall trail length to 2.75 miles.
- The Ebey Waterfront Trail takes you along the shore of the Ebey Slough and Qwuloolt Estuary providing beautiful vistas and abundant wildlife. Currently, three trail sections are complete (see Figure 6.3). The west side of the trail is a mile and a half long; the trailhead is at Ebey Waterfront Park and ends at the Qwuloolt Estuary. The east side of the trail is two miles long and starts at the Olympic View Park, travels north to Harborview Park, and then continues west to Rainier Vista Park. When the full trail is complete, it will loop nearly all the way around the Qwuloolt Estuary which is the second largest man-made estuary at 347 acres.





From left to right: Cheerful waste receptacles, painted by local elementary school children, can be found along the scenic Bayview Trail; Ebey Waterfront Trail provides beautiful vistas along the shore of Ebey Slough and the Qwuloolot Estuary.

A full trail inventory is in Appendix B and more detailed information on each trail, including trailhead addresses, inventory, management issues, and recommended improvements are in Appendix C of the full [Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan 2020 – 2025](#). The City of Marysville has also developed almost 25 miles of striped bicycle lanes.

Other Public Trails

There are no other trails with public access in the City of Marysville, but there are a number of trails owned and operated by Washington State Parks and Snohomish County that are located in a 30-minute or less drive from Marysville. Of these trails, the trail closest to Marysville is the Centennial Trail which is owned by Snohomish County and spans 30 miles from the City of Snohomish to the Skagit County line. The Centennial Trail features a 10-foot wide, multi-purpose paved trail for walking, bicycling, and hiking that is accessible to persons of all physical abilities. An adjacent 6-foot wide natural surface equestrian trail runs parallel to the paved trail for approximately 19 miles. The trail currently has 12 trailheads and features amenities such as benches, picnic tables, and restroom facilities. It also serves as both a safe bike route, and a conservation corridor protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources. Other notable trails systems in Snohomish County include: the Lime Kiln Trail, Lord Hill Regional Park trails, Mount Pilchuck Trail, and Wallace Falls Trail.

Figure 6.3



Data: Marysville, SnoCo

Section 6.5

FACILITIES

Marysville Parks, Culture and Recreation has four facilities (i.e. buildings) that are used both for the Department's recreational programming and as public rental facilities. In the 2020 community survey, 28 parks, facilities, and trails were listed. All four of the City's facilities were included within the top twelve most-visited properties with Jennings Park Barn and the Marysville Opera House being visited the most often.

The benefits of public facilities has been well documented over the years. Community centers appear to improve health and well-being through building positive social relationships by an exchange of resources, information, and emotional support.¹³⁴ They may also increase community engagement and participants' sense of citizenship.¹³⁵

Figure 6.4 below shows the prevalence and population per facility for indoor parks and recreation facilities in the United States:

Figure 6.4 Prevalence and Population per Facility for Indoor Parks and Recreation Facilities

TYPE OF FACILITY	PERCENTAGE OF AGENCIES	AVERAGE RESIDENTS PER FACILITY FOR AGENCIES SERVING POPULATIONS OF 50,000 TO 99,999
Recreation Centers	61.0	40,899
Community Centers	59.7	42,491
Senior Centers	40.9	68,701
Performance Amphitheaters	35.0	57,304
Nature Centers	29.3	65,000
Stadiums	17.9	59,074
Ice Rinks	14.8	56,847
Teen Centers	13.8	60,268
Arenas	7.5	61,556

City Facilities

MCPR's facilities are listed in the table below, and their location is depicted in Figure 6.1 on page 179; a brief summary of these facilities follows.¹³⁶

Table 6.3 Park Facilities

MAP ID (FIGURE 6.1)	FACILITY NAME	SQUARE FOOTAGE
5	Community Center	15,965
6	Jennings Park Barn	3,456
7	Marysville Opera House	16,990
8	Rotary Ranch in Jennings Park	1,800
Total		38,211



New pickleball courts at Jennings Park await players.

134. Collistra 2017

135. CDC – Health Equity Guide 2013, Glover 2004.

136. A full inventory spreadsheet is in Appendix B, and detailed information of each facility, including addresses, inventory, management issues, and recommended improvements are in Appendix C of the full [Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan 2020 – 2025](#).



Jennings Park Barn

The Jennings Park Barn is used for recreational classes and as a rental space for events with 50 or fewer people. While the barn is 3,456 square feet, the 1,984 square foot main floor receives the most use with its large open room, kitchen, and public restrooms.



The Jennings Parks Barn is used for various events and also offers restrooms for park visitors.

Marysville Community Center

In January 2023, the renovation of the former Marysville Municipal Court was completed and the facility was opened to the public as the new Marysville Community Center. The Marysville Community Center replaced the former Ken Baxter Community Center as the location for community recreation programs. The former courtrooms were renovated into classrooms and meeting rooms that include a new dance room with full-length mirrors and barre bars for dance and fitness classes, and the Baxter room which serves as the home for art and senior programs.



The former municipal court is now home to the Marysville Community Center.

Marysville Opera House

Originally built by the Independent Order of Oddfellows in 1911, the Marysville Opera House has been the site for many memorable events, from world class musicians to New York productions to grade-school talent shows. During the Great Depression and later during World War II, the theatre became a center of support for the community. Thanks to a group of local artisans, the Marysville Opera House was placed on the National Register of Historic places in 1982, citing both its architectural uniqueness and historic significance. The City of Marysville leased the facility in 2016 from a private owner, who had used it as a rental facility, and then acquired it in 2018. The City uses the facility for both private rentals and multiple community events throughout the year.



A quinceañera fashion show brightens the Opera House stage.

The Marysville Opera House has four floors and totals 16,990 square feet. The main floor is 5,000 square feet and includes a large assembly area, lobby, ticket booth, a small room and an office, restroom, concession stand, and stage with green rooms. The 5,000 square foot lower floor consists of an assembly room, kitchen, and large storage area. There is a 1,990 square foot balcony that overlooks the main floor and stage, and also has a seating area and restrooms. The 5,000 square foot top floor has many rooms but is not currently used due to limited accessibility.

Rotary Ranch

The Rotary Ranch in Jennings Park was built in 1987, housed a petting zoo until 2006, and then sat fairly unused until a remodel in 2015. Community Development Block Grant funding, in addition to Marysville Rotary labor and funding, converted the 1,800 square foot facility into a community use building. The facility is mainly used for recreational classes, and some special events or City meetings; it includes a large open room and a restroom.



From top to bottom: Artwork displayed at the Juneteenth celebration hosted at Totem Middle School; Strawberry Lanes Bowling Alley offers bowling Downtown.

Other Recreational Facilities

Other recreational facilities which serve Marysville residents include school district facilities, non-profit facilities, and various privately-owned for-profit facilities. A brief summary of these follows:

School Facilities

As noted in the Parks section above, the Marysville and Lakewood School Districts own 20 schools within the City's UGA. During non-school times, the Districts offer classrooms, meeting facilities, and gym access to the public. Marysville-Pilchuck High School also has a swimming pool providing lessons and public swim times. The City's Parks, Culture and Recreation Department has a strong relationship with both Districts, and interlocal agreements are in place with both Districts to foster cooperative efforts; this allows for City access to school facilities for recreational programming during non-school times at a lower rate.

Private Non-Profit Facilities

Private, non-profit recreational facilities in Marysville include:

- Marysville – North County Family YMCA which features a full-size gym, indoor running track, fitness studio, weight room, sports courts, swimming pool, child care center, teen recreation and technology center, dry sauna, whirlpool, and meeting rooms;
- Marysville Boys and Girls Club; and
- Several churches that allow for facility rentals.

Private For-Profit Facilities

Privately-owned recreational facilities in Marysville include:

- Altitude Trampoline Park;
- Marysville Performing Arts Centre;
- Marysville Skate Inn;
- Northwest Dance and Acro;
- Regal Marysville 14 Cinemas;
- Rising Star Gymnastics, and several martial arts and self-defense academies; and
- Strawberry Lanes Bowling Alley.



Section 6.6

RECREATION



From left to right, top to bottom: Pups strut their stuff at Poochella; Children in their 4th of July best; Fireworks illuminate the night sky over Ebey Slough at the Marysville 4th of July celebration. Photo credit: Everett Herald; Future scientists and engineers attend the STEM Science Machine Mania Camp.

The Marysville Parks, Culture and Recreation Department employs four full-time Recreation Supervisors that manage a diversified menu of exceptional recreational programs. Many classes are taught by instructors. Administrative costs are paid through the general fund while operating costs are recovered through fees. Any net revenues are directed back to recreational programs.

Recreational activities that were rated as having the greatest need with the 2020 community survey include: walking/hiking, swimming, playgrounds, musical performances, biking, spray parks, cultural performances, aerobics/fitness, art classes and music lessons. Almost half of respondents reported that they were very likely or likely to attend a community event offered by the City in 2021 with outdoor entertainment being rated the highest with 63 percent.

MPCR hosts a variety of recreational opportunities and special events for both youth and adults. Recreational opportunities include arts and crafts, dance and music, fitness and wellness, and special interest classes, camps, and workshops. Special events include cultural events, family focused and holiday events, outdoor entertainment, and specialty events. From the Mother-Son Superhero Dance to Popcorn in the Park Movie Series to Merryville for the Holidays, MPCR aims to offer something for everyone. More information on the various recreational opportunities and special events offered by MPCR can be found on the City's community events page.

Section 6.7

ATHLETICS

Marysville Parks, Culture and Recreation's athletic focus is on fitness programs, recreational leagues and instructional classes. Youth classes and camps focus on the fundamentals, skills, sportsmanship, and fun that prepare young athletes to participate in youth leagues. With a wide array of youth leagues offered throughout the county, the City focuses on the youngest users with recreational leagues for soccer and basketball. Youth baseball, football, fall soccer and select basketball leagues are provided by private groups or associations.

In the 2020 community survey, the need for gymnasiums, athletic fields, and sports courts within a 15 minute walk or drive from respondent's homes was rated low. While the survey shows that the general public does not see the need for more gymnasiums, athletic fields, or sports courts, our local athletic groups continue to report a shortage of space to run their programs. What the Marysville Parks, Culture and Recreation Department observes is that the physical number of fields, courts, and gymnasiums in Marysville may be adequate, however, there is a large deficiency in spaces that can accommodate youth premiere sports and adult athletics. The quality of a number of the gymnasiums, fields and courts is also questionable with many needing upgrades. A summary of current athletic programming and purveyors is detailed in Figure 6.5 on the following page.



Basketball for youth.



Figure 6.5 Athletic Programming Provided by MPCR and Other Entities

	MARYSVILLE PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION	MARYSVILLE & LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS	MARYSVILLE YMCA	OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
Aerobics	For adults		Yes	
Baseball/ Softball	For adults	Middle and high school		Marysville Little League
				Marysville Little League
Basketball	Recreation league, classes, and youth camps	Middle and high school	Youth league	Marysville Boys and Girls Club
Bowling	Bowling classes			Strawberry Lanes
Cheerleading		High school		All Stars Cheer; Marysville Youth Cheer
Football		Middle and high school		Marysville Youth Football
Golf	Cedarcrest Golf Course public golf and lessons	High school		
Gymnastics				Multiple private organizations
Lacrosse				Snohomish Co Lacrosse Club
Martial Arts	Taekwondo and Kung Fu classes and camps		Yes	Kung Fu for Kids; USTA Martial Arts
Pickleball	Facilities, lessons, leagues		Gym space	Volli
Soccer	Youth league, classes and camps	Middle and high school		Pilchuck Soccer Alliance
Swim and Dive		Middle and high school; public pool	Pool	
Tennis	Youth and adult classes; youth camps/ competitions	High school		
Track, Field & Cross Country	Youth and adult track meets; youth camps	Middle and high school		
Volleyball	Youth camps	Middle and high school		Marysville Boys and Girls Club
Wrestling		Middle and high school		
Yoga	Youth and adult classes		Yes	

Section 6.8

SERVICE GUIDELINES

For years, the nationally accepted standard called for 10 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. But by the 1990s, the National Recreation and Parks Association suggested each city establish its own standard based on its growth patterns. Figure 6.6 outlines Marysville's standards per 1,000 people, the existing inventory, and the needs and deficiencies in 2023 and 2044. The 2023 need is estimated using a population of 73,780; for 2044 the estimated population is 99,822.



The east side of Jennings Memorial Park features the Jennings Dinosaur Playground, new pickleball courts, parking, and a trail to Jennings Nature Park.

Use Patterns

Use patterns can be analyzed in a variety of ways. Lack of facility space, a shortage of ball fields, or an overrun trail system may lead the City to easily conclude needs are not being met. In other cases, the analysis may be more ambiguous or complex. For example, the fact that a facility is being used under capacity may lead some to believe that needs are not being sufficiently met. Whereas, the real reason the facility is being underutilized may be due to maintenance, expansion, or upgrade needs of the facility, or some other inadequacy.

Due to the many variables, it becomes necessary to look at each facility and/or program “site specifically” to determine if the needs of the community are in fact being met. MPCR staff oversees facility use, have a current knowledge of the inadequacies and/or deficiencies of these facilities, and are positioned well for making this determination. In addition, there are users in the community that are extremely knowledgeable and focused on various types of recreation.

Attendance

Attendance is used as an indicator if the program or event being offered is meeting the needs of the community. Low attendance can indicate a lack of interest but it can also be an indicator that the program or event is offered at the wrong time.

Feedback

Listening to residents is an important way to find out if MPCR is meeting the public's needs. It was through feedback that MPCR realized there was a need for swings that better accommodated individuals with disabilities. Feedback also prompted MPCR to offer preschool dance classes in the evenings so working parents would be able to sign their child up, and to add dance classes for elementary school aged children.



Figure 6.6 MPCR Existing Parks, Trails and Recreational Facilities and Future Needs

TYPE	STANDARDS (PER 1,000 PEOPLE)	EXISTING INVENTORY			2023		2044	
		CITY	NON-CITY	TOTAL	NEED	DEFICIENCY	NEED	DEFICIENCY
Parks (acres) – Developed								
Neighborhood & Community ¹	3	156	30	186	221	35	299	113
Regional & Special Use ²	3	200	44	244	221	0	299	55
Open Space ³	3	72	87	159	221	62	299	140
Trails (miles)								
Bicycle Lanes	0.5	25	0	25	37	12	50	25
Park Trails	0.5	24	0	24	37	13	50	26
Athletic Fields & Courts (count)								
Baseball/ Softball	0.35	2	20	22	26	4	35	13
Football	0.1	0	5	5	7	2	10	5
Gymnasiums	0.3	0	17	17	22	5	30	13
Pickleball	0.1	8	4	12	7	0	10	0
Soccer	0.35	4	20	24	26	2	35	11
Sports	0.3	8	13	21	22	1	30	9
Tennis	0.1	0	8	8	7	1	10	3
Facilities (count)								
Pool	0.05	0	2	2	4	2	5	3
Recreation Center	0.05	1	2	3	4	1	5	2

1. Non-city neighborhood and community park inventory total is an estimate to capture Marysville School District public play areas and HOA parks.
2. A pump track was constructed in Jennings Memorial Park in 2023.
3. The Tulalip Tribes of Washington manage a 347-acre of protected wetland that is tidally influenced. This land is used as an estuary and the majority of it is not accessible to humans. Therefore, only one-fourth of these acres are listed in the non-city inventory as open land.

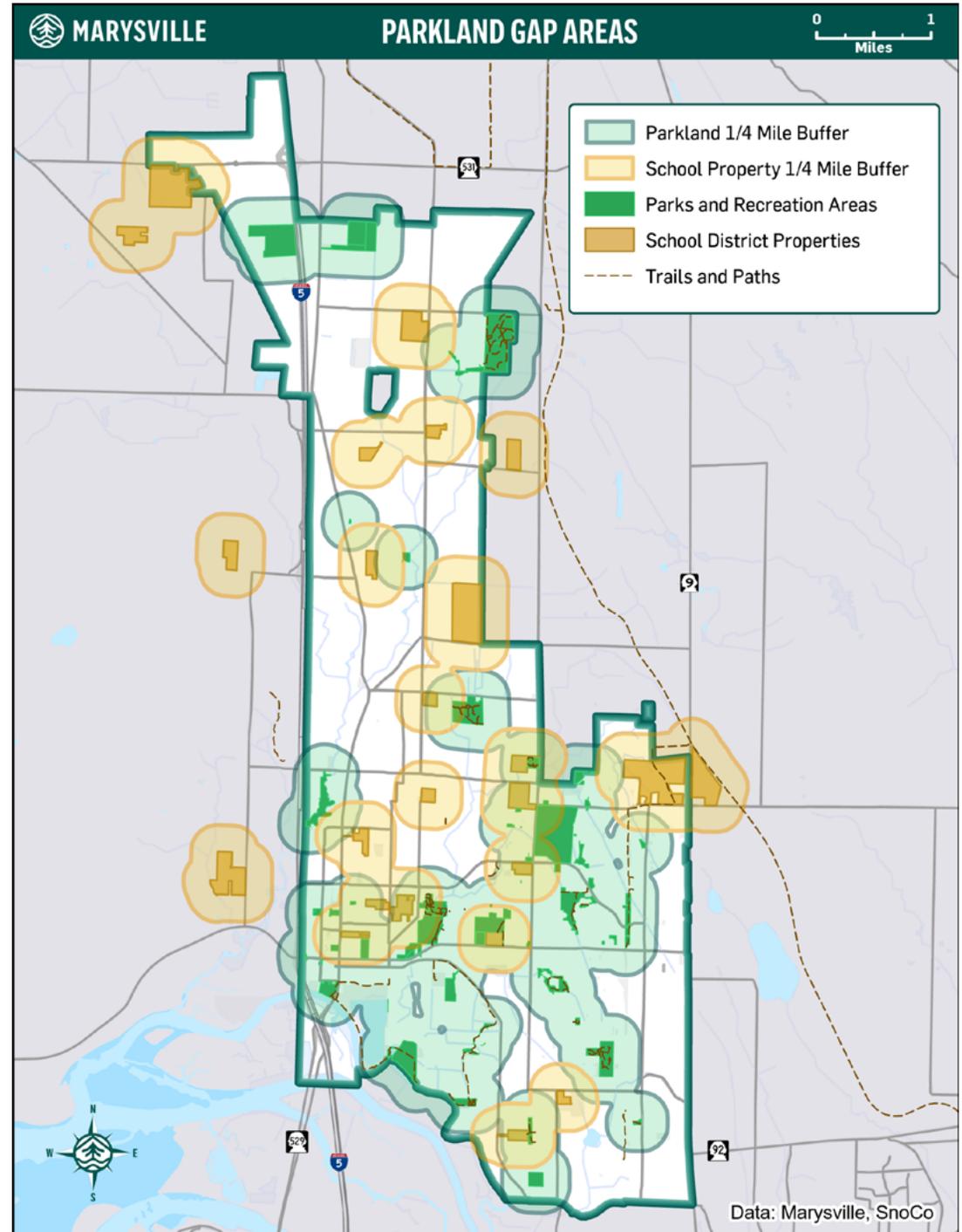
Location

In addition to standards, it is also important to be aware of parkland locations and where there might be parkland gaps. The map (Figure 6.7) shows both city-owned parkland and parkland owned by others. A map showing only city-owned parklands and the resulting gaps is provided in the full [Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan 2020 – 2025](#). It is clear from this map that there is less parkland in northern Marysville.



From top to bottom: Children play at the grand opening of the Strawberry Fields playground which addresses a long-standing need in the north end of the City. Adaptive playgrounds are another need MPCR will be addressing soon.

Figure 6.7



RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION

Voices from the Community



Neighborhood parks are the 5th most popular facility type. The community is interested in playgrounds close to where people live and walking opportunities in parks.

The top three infrastructure types desired by the community in 2020 were: walking trails, restrooms, and biking trails.

In 2020, parks, culture and recreational opportunities in the City were classified by 52 percent of survey takers as “excellent” and “good” across all age groups. Ages 5-12 were viewed as having the most opportunities with 70 percent “excellent” and “good” ratings while ages 13-17 had the least opportunities with only 38 percent “excellent” and “good” ratings.

Major park needs identified by the public include:

- Neighborhood and community parks
- Open natural areas
- Waterfront access
- Group picnic areas
- Restrooms
- Trails and pathways
- Recreational facilities
- Gymnasiums
- Swimming pools
- Baseball/softball fields

When evaluating possible future water access and uses along the Downtown Ebey Slough waterfront, the greatest needs identified by the community were walking trails (62%) shoreline access (52%) and picnic areas (50%). In a separate survey, (45%) of respondents rated a high need for wildlife viewing opportunities.

Major Needs

Several major areas of need were identified through feedback from the public and review of parks standards. These needs are listed in the adjacent graphic and described in depth in this section. Specific improvements to implement the recommendations described in each of the areas below are detailed in Chapter 15 of the full [Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan 2020 – 2025](#).

Neighborhood and Community Parks

In Marysville, there are 156 acres of developed neighborhood and community parklands owned by the City and approximately 30 acres owned by the Marysville School District and homeowners associations. With a standard of 3 acres per 1,000 people, there is currently a 35 acre deficiency that increases to 133 acres in 2044. The City owns 93.6 acres of undeveloped parklands that, if developed, would correct 70 percent of this deficiency. The City is currently working with Snohomish County on the acquisition of Gissberg-Twin Lakes Park, a 44 acre park. If acquired, this park will address the anticipated remaining 2044 deficiency.

Although Marysville has a good quantity of parks and open space, it is important to continue to acquire more park space as the population grows and sites become denser. Tracts that connect with existing parks, and larger tracts should be prioritized over smaller tracts.

Open Natural Spaces

The City of Marysville owns six open natural spaces totaling 71.69 acres. Some of these are accessible to the public but a number have not been developed with clear parking, access points or restrooms.

Waterfront Access

Public shoreline in Marysville is located on the shores of the Ebey Slough, which is part of the Snohomish River Estuary system that feeds into Port Gardner Bay. The enjoyment of Ebey Slough is highly valued by our residents. Public access is available at Ebey Waterfront Park and boat launch facility; however, this access is limited to 900 feet of the shoreline. The opening of the Ebey Waterfront Trail from Ebey Waterfront Park to the east side of the Qwuloolt Wetland Reserve allowed an additional mile and a half of viewing access to the Ebey Slough. Pressure on these facilities is expected to increase as redevelopment continues Downtown. The City's Waterfront Strategic Plan identifies the Ebey Waterfront Park Expansion as a future catalyst project that would expand the Ebey Waterfront Park onto the former Geddes Marina site and former Welco property, which have both been acquired by the City. When constructed, the expansion is proposed to include additional water features to encourage kayaking, boating, and water-oriented recreation.



Waterfront access including a boat launch is provided at Ebey Waterfront Park.

Group Picnic Areas

Group picnic areas are needed throughout our community. Marysville has added covered picnic shelters at Jennings Park, Strawberry Fields Athletic Complex, and Comeford Park. One unimproved shelter exists at Harborview Park. Overall condition of group picnic areas is fair. The public has stressed a need for covered facilities with cooking amenities. A simple shelter would improve most parks.

Restrooms

Additional public restrooms are a high priority within the City, and should be considered for the following parks:

- Harborview Park
- Jennings Memorial Park near BBQ shelter
- Mother Nature's Window
- Rainier Vista



Restrooms at the Ebey Waterfront Park.

Trails and Pathways

Currently, Marysville has 24.3 miles of walking trails, most of which are within existing parks. Dedicated trails are limited to the Ebey Waterfront and Bayview Trails. Recent residential developments within the City are creating a growing need for connectivity of trails, sidewalks and pathways. While the City has developed almost 25 miles of striped bicycle lanes, there is a need for more. Walking and biking trails continue to be a high priority for residents.

Connections of existing trails and sidewalks are the single most requested improvement to trails in Marysville. Citizens continue to ask for trails that connect to other trails, the waterfront, other parks, and areas of importance like shopping, Downtown, and schools. Connections and access to Ebey Slough has also been requested. Loop trails, such as the Jennings Park Loop, that serve as amenities to neighborhoods were seen as highly desirable. A long-standing community desire to connect the Bayview Trail to the Centennial Trail came to fruition in 2021 with the construction of a trail connector. The City of Marysville is also working with the City of Lake Stevens regarding an extension of the Bayview Trail to connect to the Lake Stevens trail system.



More connections to the waterfront are desired by the community.





Rotary Ranch, in Jennings Memorial Park, is used for recreational services.

Recreational Facilities

MPCR facilitates the delivery of recreational services using the Marysville Opera House, Community Center, Rotary Ranch and Jennings Park Barn. Additional programs are coordinated at school district facilities, as well as private businesses. There is a shortage of facilities which limits the number recreational programs offered to the public.

Gymnasiums

MPCR lacks an indoor gymnasium facility. Currently, all gym use is coordinated through the school districts. While there is a great relationship between the City and both school districts, gym usage is contingent on availability. In general, the City is viewed as having enough gymnasiums, but they are not as available as needed primarily due to school district use policies, field conditions, and weather-related impacts.

Swimming Pools

Marysville is deficient in pools for its residents. There are currently two pools in the City:

- The Marysville-Pilchuck High School pool is for students with public access limited to evenings and weekends during most of the year; and
- The Marysville YMCA pool requires a Y membership to use.

The public has expressed a need for a pool to accommodate Marysville residents. A warm water aquatic facility or recreational pool is also seen as a need.

Baseball/Softball Fields

In Marysville, there are four baseball fields for adult play located at the Marysville-Pilchuck High School. MPCR hosts tournaments at these fields, as well as adult softball leagues. The City has invested in the school district's fields providing an irrigation system, facility dugout improvements, and annually

re-conditions the infields to provide for safe play. In general, the fields are considered sub-standard and contribute to a loss of participation.

The City owns only one regulation youth field at Rudy Wright Memorial Field/ Cedar Field and leases it to the Marysville Little League organization. The facility is not generally available for pickup games due to the lease, and the need to keep the park in excellent condition for league play.

Marysville has no dedicated softball facilities that would cater to both senior, adult, or girls fast pitch softball programs. Both staff and the community support the development of a tournament quality softball facility.

Soccer Fields

Currently, there are sufficient infrastructure /facilities to meet the demand in Marysville. The majority of soccer fields are owned by the Marysville School District. MPCR owns the Strawberry Fields Athletic Complex. A long-standing challenge to Marysville leagues and tournament was a lack of all-weather turf facilities and related costs associated with managing grass fields during extremely wet seasons. This concern was largely addressed with the installation of drainage and synthetic turf at Strawberry Fields in the spring of 2023. This investment will yield benefits from field rental, tournaments, and associated economic activities, and will also significantly reduce maintenance costs.



From left to right: Recent Cedar Field improvements include synthetic turf and lighting; New drainage and synthetic turf allow for year-round soccer at the Strawberry Fields Athletic Complex.

GOALS AND POLICIES

The goals and policies of the City of Marysville's parks and recreation system are statements of attitude, outlook, and orientation. They reflect the importance of parks and recreation facilities, services, and programs to the overall quality of life in the community.

OVERARCHING GOAL

PK 1 To enhance the quality of life of Marysville's citizens by providing beautiful parks, open spaces and exceptional recreational, cultural, and athletic programs.

THIS OVERARCHING GOAL IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING RELATED GOALS:

PK 2 To acquire and develop a system of park, open space, and recreation facilities, both active and passive, that is attractive, safe, functional, and available to all segments of the population.

PK 3 To enhance the quality of life in the community by providing recreation programs that are creative, productive, and responsive to the needs of the public.

PK 4 To promote preservation of the natural environment; protect fish and wildlife habitat corridors; preserve and conserve open space; provide appropriate public access; and offer environmental education opportunities within the parks system.

The following policies support the overarching goal.

- PK 1.1** Acquire, preserve, and develop land, water, and waterfront areas for public recreation (i.e. trails and parks) based on area demand, public support, and use potential.
- PK 1.2** Maximize utilization of existing school district facilities, organizational, or other public facilities whenever possible to supplement new and existing programming.
- PK 1.3** Encourage citizen participation in the design and development of facilities and/or recreational areas.
- PK 1.4** Encourage future development of school grounds to complement the facilities planned in future park developments and maintain support of a recently revised interlocal agreement with the district to facilitate this goal.
- PK 1.5** Encourage and promote cultural facilities and social services, compatible with recreational use to be developed on or contiguous to park areas and designated buffer zones.
- PK 1.6** Develop an approach to project planning and increase standards of park planning and design by developing support with surrounding jurisdictions such as Tulalip Tribes, City of Everett, City of Arlington, and Snohomish County for a regional planning effort.
- PK 1.7** Maintain interlocal agreements with Snohomish County to address parks and recreation deficiencies in unincorporated areas of the City's Urban Growth Area and to ensure that park impact fees collected for developments within the Urban Growth Area are used to address needs/impacts to the City's park and recreation system.
- PK 1.8** Pursue the acquisition of new parklands and proceed with the planning and development of new and existing parklands and facilities. Acquire environmentally sensitive areas to include streams, wetlands, creek,



and river corridors, as well as highly sensitive natural archaeological areas. Ensure that publicly owned land suitable for recreation purposes is set aside for that purpose.

- PK 1.9** Accommodate new residential, commercial, and industrial development only when required parks, recreation, and open space are available prior to or concurrent with development.
- PK 1.10** Encourage development in areas where parks, recreation, and open space are already available before developing areas where new parks, recreation, and open space would be required. Provide urban level parks, recreation, and open space only in Urban Growth Area.
- PK 1.11** Reduce per unit cost of public parks, recreation, and open space by encouraging urban density development within Urban Growth Area, and rural densities outside the Urban Growth Area.
- PK 1.12** Provide park and recreation facilities within or adjacent to residential developments, and adjacent to or in conjunction with school district properties.
- PK 1.13** Developers should have primary fiscal responsibility to satisfy park, recreation, and open space needs/impacts created by their developments either by actual provision of these improvements or by a fee in-lieu alternate at the City's option.
- PK 1.14** As an integral part of neighborhoods and the larger community, establish and enhance healthy, safe, abundant and varied recreation resources (both public and private) to serve present and future population needs.
- PK 1.15** Develop recreational facilities to provide accommodations for users of the area's recreational amenities.
- PK 1.16** Develop a pedestrian and bike system throughout the greater Marysville area. As possible, use creek corridors and the slough dike for a portion of these trails. These trails should connect all the Planning Areas, activity centers, park facilities, and open space system.

- PK 1.17** New or expanded residential developments should be within walking distance, preferably but not necessarily via paved sidewalk or improved trail, of a neighborhood park, public recreation area, or in some cases a school. Existing residential areas should, as possible, also be provided with a neighborhood park, public recreation area, or in some cases a school within walking distance, via paved sidewalk or improved trail.
- PK 1.18** Buy, lease, or otherwise obtain additional lands and facilities for parks, recreation, and open space throughout the City/ Urban Growth Area and specifically in those areas of the City/ Urban Growth Area facing intense population growth and/or commercial development.
- PK 1.19** Equitably distribute park and recreation opportunities by type throughout the City, Urban Growth Area, and Planning Areas.
- PK 1.20** Coordinate park planning acquisition and development with other City projects and programs that implement the Comprehensive Plan.
- PK 1.21** Develop parks and facilities in a quality manner to assure attractiveness, full utilization, and long-term efficiency.
- PK 1.22** Develop a neighborhood and community park system that provides a variety of active and passive facilities.
- PK 1.23** Incorporate utility, storm drainage, and public lands into the open space and linkage system through cooperative use agreements.
- PK 1.24** Permit parks to be located in any part of the City by way of the conditional use process.
- PK 1.25** Provide for an open space system within and between neighborhoods.
- PK 1.26** An open space network should be developed to connect parks, environmental sensitive areas, preserved areas of trees and native vegetation suitable for wildlife use and habitat.
- PK 1.27** Restore or enhance the natural environment on developed and undeveloped City park sites where appropriate.



- PK 1.28** Jointly develop habitat stewardship plans, acquisition/restoration projects for Endangered Species Act (ESA) benefit, and demonstration management projects with the Surface Water Division of the Public Works Department.
- PK 1.29** Develop habitat management plans for specific properties where habitat and public access issues require detailed review.
- PK 1.30** Assign and map stewardship and management designations for selected City- owned parklands to outline appropriate uses and identify management limitations.
- PK 1.31** Explore techniques to manage and protect forest lands in City ownership.
- PK 1.32** Provide appropriate public access to natural resource areas in order to promote understanding and support of natural areas.
- PK 1.33** Provide interpretive facilities that make it possible for visitors to learn about natural resources through self-guided exploration.
- PK 1.34** Provide outdoor classrooms and gathering places where appropriate in City parks to facilitate environmental learning programs.
- PK 1.35** Explore the possibility of providing an environmental education summer camp through the existing summer recreation program.
- PK 1.36** Acquire, preserve and responsibly steward natural areas on City parklands as a key component of the City's habitat preservation strategy.
- PK 1.37** Coordinate public and private efforts to identify and acquire key habitat parcels that preserve critical corridors.

- PK 1.38** Partner with public and private organizations to assist in habitat improvement implementation, monitoring and research on sensitive City park lands.
- PK 1.39** Partner with local environmental education providers to provide environmental programs.
- PK 1.40** Provide opportunities for Park staff to conduct environmental education activities and programs.



Young Marysville residents enjoy day camp.





Dancers at the Hispanic Heritage Event captivate the audience at the Opera House.