



# Key Pen Parks

## Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan

2020-2025

February 2020



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Shawn Jensen, PLA - Board Vice President  
Kip Clinton - Board Clerk  
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
Community Profile .....	7
Outreach & Engagement.....	13
Goals & Objectives.....	17
System Inventory .....	25
Needs Assessment.....	45
Capital Planning.....	71
Strategies & Tactics .....	75
Appendix A: Survey Summary.....	79
Appendix B: Public Meeting Summaries .....	115
Appendix C: Stakeholder Summaries .....	121
Appendix D: Recreation Trends.....	127
Appendix E: Implementation Tools .....	139

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# INTRODUCTION

## PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Key Pen Parks began development of this update to its Comprehensive Plan in early 2019 to provide a logical blueprint for the management and growth of the Key Pen Parks' park and recreation system. As a six-year guide and strategic plan for enhancing park and recreation amenities for the community, Key Pen Parks' Comprehensive Plan establishes a path forward for enabling and enhancing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities.

This Comprehensive Plan was developed with the input and direction of local recreation leaders, stakeholders and residents, and the process included public meetings and a community survey as baseline data to inform the Comprehensive Plan. This plan update outlines a framework for the improvement and growth Key Pen Parks recreation facilities, amenities and parks to address the specific needs of the community. This framework clarifies funding, program objectives and development goals, and it sets a long-range vision for Key Pen Parks with clear action items and strategies for implementation for the next six years. The Comprehensive Plan considers the park and recreation needs of residents across the Key Peninsula. It inventories and evaluates the existing parks, assesses the needs for acquisition, site development and operations, and it includes capital project phasing. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to be updated periodically to remain current with local interests and maintain eligibility for state-based grants.



# PLANNING PROCESS

Key Pen Parks' Comprehensive Plan is a reflection of the community's interests and needs for park and recreational facilities, trails and programming. The planning process was aimed to encourage and enable public engagement in the choices, priorities and future direction of Key Pen Parks' park and recreation system. The process for the plan included a variety of public outreach activities to solicit feedback and comments, in concert with a review of the recreation system inventory, level of service review and a current and future needs assessment.

Current community interests surfaced through a series of public outreach efforts that included a community survey, open house meetings, stakeholder discussions, online engagement, website content and Key Pen Parks Board meetings. An assessment of the park inventory became the basis for determining the current performance of the system. An overarching needs analysis was conducted for recreation programs and facilities, parks and trails to assess current demands and project future demand accounting for population growth. To guide the implementation of plan goals, a capital facilities plan was developed with a set of strategies that identified costs and potential funding sources. Together, this process is represented in this Comprehensive Plan, which will serve as the guide for developing park and recreation service planning and delivery for the next six years.

# KEY PEN PARKS OVERVIEW

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (Key Pen Parks) was formed by a special election in May of 2004 with over 60% voting in favor to form the district. Key Pen Parks is the successor to Key Peninsula Parks & Recreation District, which was created in a 1972 general election. The park system includes nine park and open space sites comprising 1,337 acres. A five-member Board of Commissioners governs Key Pen Parks. Commissioners serve six-year, staggered terms and are the legislative body responsible for adopting Key Pen Parks' budget and developing the goals, policies and regulations that guide Key Pen Parks.

## Mission Statement

*Preserve. Protect. Play.*

## Accomplishments since 2014 Plan

The 2014-2019 Park System Comprehensive Plan has been a strong guide for Key Pen Parks' officials, management and staff in making decisions about planning, acquiring, developing and implementing park development and recreation facilities. The following represents a short list of the major accomplishments realized following the adoption of the previous plan.

- Preparation of Gateway Park site master plan
- Dedication of Key Peninsula Civic Center picnic shelter
- Construction of Gateway Park and opening it for public use
- Construction of Gateway Park pavilion
- Completion of 360 Trails pump track
- Acquisition of Taylor Bay property
- LED field lighting and electrical upgrades completed at Volunteer Park
- Acquisition of Manke property as addition to Gateway Park
- Grant award for splash pad at Gateway Park
- Access improvements at Key Central Forest
- Built and maintained over 10 miles of multi-use trails
- New playground installation and parking lot paving at Volunteer Park
- Construction of off-leash dog area at Gateway Park
- Acquisition of Cramer/McCracken property as addition to 360 Trails

## OTHER RELATED PLANS

Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they pertain to planning for parks, trails and recreation opportunities on the Key Peninsula.

### Key Pen Parks' Park System Comprehensive Plan 2014 - 2019

Key Pen Parks' Park System Comprehensive Plan 2014-2019 provided guidance for short- and long-range projects to the elected Board of Commissioners, staff and the general public. It identified the Key Peninsula's park, facility and programming needs for the future and built upon the previous 2007-2013 plan. The Comprehensive Plan provided goals and objectives for the District, and it also outlined proposed capital facility recommendations that included acquisition, development, renovation and planning projects.

### Pierce County's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Pierce County adopted their Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan in 2014 to address the recreational needs and establish specific goals, recommendations and actions for the implementation of capital and non-capital improvements that will benefit the community. The 2014 PROS Plan added a new Habitat component to incorporate the critical areas, shorelines and biodiversity within Pierce County. The PROS Plan is currently being updated by the County and will be adopted in February 2020.

The Pierce County PROS Plan reasserts the regional role of county parks that reflects the goals and policies in the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan. It focuses on: (1) the responsibility for the development, operation and maintenance of facilities that have a regional benefit; (2) the continuation of land-banking local park sites, then moving



those properties to local control when feasible; and (3) the provision of technical assistance to local jurisdictions for the development, operation and maintenance of local parks and facilities. The Pierce County Parks and Recreation (PCPR) Department seeks to achieve an innovative, inclusive and interconnected system of parks, recreation facilities, programs and services for the residents of the county. The PCPR Department owns or manages a range of regional, county and local parks, as well as special use facilities, cemeteries, boat ramps, resource conservancy lands and linear parks/trails totaling over 5,000 acres.

### **Pierce County Comprehensive Plan: Key Peninsula Community Plan**

The Key Peninsula Community Plan and implementing regulations were initially adopted by Pierce County in October 2007. Community Plans are a part of the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan and are intended to be a supplement to and refinement of the Comprehensive Plan policies. Community Plans represent the unique characteristics of each community planning area, and they provide a framework for consistent land use standards – allowing the rural area to retain the low density, pastoral and forested characteristics that the community favors.

The Key Peninsula Community Plan contains policies and implementing actions for five major subject areas or elements: Land Use; Community Character and Design; Natural Environment and Open Space Element; Economic Development; and Facilities and Services. The Natural Environment and Open Space Element includes consideration of the natural resources and identifies a system of open space corridors throughout the community. This element fosters the preservation, restoration and enhancement of the areas that have been designated as open space. The Facilities and Services Element addresses the basic facilities needed to keep the whole system functioning. Infrastructure includes capital facilities such as roads, trails, sewage disposal, parks, domestic water, stormwater control and electricity.

The Key Peninsula Community Plan established a goal for recreation such that “Key Peninsula should have extensive parks, trails, open space and recreational facilities for local residents and to promote tourism. The various park and recreational providers should collaborate in providing and maintaining these services.” The plan identified that additional parkland and recreational services should be provided, and boat ramps should be enhanced to meet growing needs for water access.



# CONTENTS OF THE PLAN

The remainder of the Key Pen Parks Comprehensive Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile – provides an overview of Key Pen Parks and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Outreach & Engagement – highlights the methods used to engage the greater Key Peninsula community in the development of the Plan.
- Chapter 4: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the parks and recreation system grouped by major functional or program area.
- Chapter 5: System Inventory – describes the existing parks and recreation system within Key Pen Parks’ boundaries.
- Chapter 6: Needs Assessment – discusses survey results and recreation trend data and provides context to the identification of potential system enhancements.
- Chapter 7: Capital Planning – details a six-year program for addressing park and recreation facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Chapter 8: Strategies & Tactics – describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort.

# BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report in 2005 called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and assisting with stormwater control.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.



## Physical Activity Benefits

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety. Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in a 2010 report by the National Park and Recreation Association, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week.



## Social & Community Benefits

Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.



## Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities. In Washington, outdoor recreation generates \$26.2 billion in consumer spending annually, \$7.6 billion in wages and salaries and \$2.3 billion in state and local tax revenue. Preserving access to outdoor recreation protects the economy, the businesses, the communities and the people who depend on the ability to play outside. According to the Outdoor Recreation Economy Report published by the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy through management and investment in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for citizens.



# COMMUNITY PROFILE

Key Pen Parks serves residents of the unincorporated communities of Key Peninsula. The Key Peninsula is home to many older adults and families with children who enjoy the recreational opportunities provided by Key Pen Parks' open spaces. Residents are generally well-educated and relatively affluent. The Key Peninsula's population has been relatively flat in recent years and is not expected to grow significantly over the coming decades.

## LOCATION

Key Pen Parks serves the communities of Wauna, Key Center, Home, Vaughn, Lakebay and Longbranch. It serves approximately 60 square miles of rural and resource lands. The Key Peninsula is located in northwest Pierce County on the southern tip of the Kitsap Peninsula, due west of Tacoma, Washington. It is surrounded on three sides by the waters of the Puget Sound; the northern side abuts Kitsap County and Mason County to the west.

## HISTORY

Key Pen Parks was formed in May 2004 by a special election to provide locally-governed parks and recreation facilities for the citizens of the Key Peninsula. It replaced the financially-challenged 30-year-old Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District. In October 2004, Key Pen Parks purchased the already-existing Volunteer Park, as well as the Home Park property, from the previous park district and assumed the lease of Rocky Creek Conservation Area.





## ECONOMY & DEMOGRAPHICS

The economy on the Key Peninsula centers on local businesses, including both retail and professional businesses, which provide goods and services to both local residents and a large number of visitors. Nearly one in ten residents are self-employed, many of whom work in home-based agricultural and construction businesses. However, the majority of local residents commute to jobs in Gig Harbor, Tacoma and elsewhere in the region.

Approximately six in ten residents over 18 are employed and the remaining 44% are out of the workforce, with 4% unemployed. At nearly \$71,000, the median income in Key Pen Parks' service area is over \$7,000 higher than that of surrounding Pierce County. Approximately 20% of residents work in the education and health care industries, and 11% work in the retail industry.

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: Key Peninsula, Pierce County, and Washington state

Demographics	Key Peninsula	Pierce County	Washington
<b>Population Characteristics</b>			
Population (2017)	<b>19,345</b>	845,193	7,169,967
Population (2010)	<b>19,781</b>	795,225	6,724,540
Population (2000)	<b>15,883</b>	700,820	5,894,121
Percent Change (2000-17)	<b>22%</b>	21%	19%
Persons w/ Disabilities (%)	<b>15.6%</b>	13.7%	12.8%
<b>Household Characteristics (2013-17)</b>			
Households	<b>7,221</b>	312,839	2,755,697
Percent with children	<b>24.2%</b>	30.2%	28.2%
Median Household Income	<b>\$70,953</b>	\$63,881	\$66,174
Average Household Size	<b>2.65</b>	2.64	2.55
Average Family Size	<b>3.02</b>	3.19	3.10
Owner Occupancy Rate	<b>83.6%</b>	61.2%	62.7%
<b>Age Groups (2017)</b>			
Median Age	<b>44.8</b>	36.0	37.6
Population < 5 years of age	<b>4.9%</b>	6.8%	6.3%
Population < 18 years of age	<b>19.4%</b>	23.8%	22.5%
Population 18 - 24 years of age	<b>7.8%</b>	9.6%	9.2%
Population 25 - 64 years of age	<b>54.5%</b>	53.7%	53.9%
Population > 65 years of age	<b>18.4%</b>	12.9%	14.4%

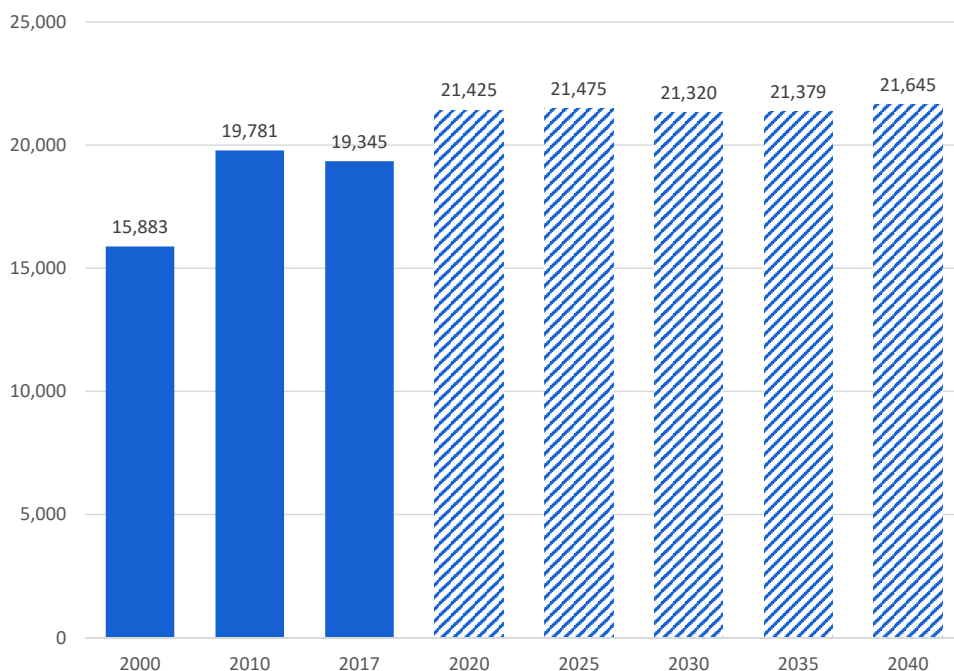
### Meeting the needs of a changing community

In 2017, Key Pen Parks' service area was home to an estimated 19,345 people, according to the American Community Survey. The area's population grew by approximately 25% between 2000 and 2010, an increase of nearly 3,900 people (see Figure 1). The Key Peninsula's average annual growth rate over this period was 2.5%, nearly double that of

Pierce County and Washington State (both approximately 1.2% annually). However, the Key Peninsula's population stagnated and declined (-2%) between 2010 and 2017.

In keeping this more flat population trend, the Puget Sound Regional Council projects the Key Peninsula's residential population will stabilize and remain relatively constant in the coming decades. The Puget Sound Regional Council projected that the Key Peninsula population will grow to approximately 21,425 residents in 2020, after which the population will remain steady until 2040. However, given recent population estimates, the Key Peninsula may not reach this projection by 2020. A flat to declining population within the Key Peninsula could pose challenges and may impact Key Pen Parks' revenue base.

Figure 2. Population Change: 2000 - 2040



As of 2017, the racial demographics on the Key Peninsula consisted of 90.6% residents who identified as White alone. Approximately 3% of residents identify as Hispanic or Latino (of any race). Other races identify as 1.6% as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 1.4% as Asian, 1.1% as Black or African American, and 0.3% as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Only 0.4% of residents identified as some other race and 4.5% identified as two or more races. The Key Peninsula's racial diversity declined slightly between 2010 and 2017. Approximately 4% of residents (about 780 people) speak a language other than English at home, although the majority of these residents speak English proficiently.



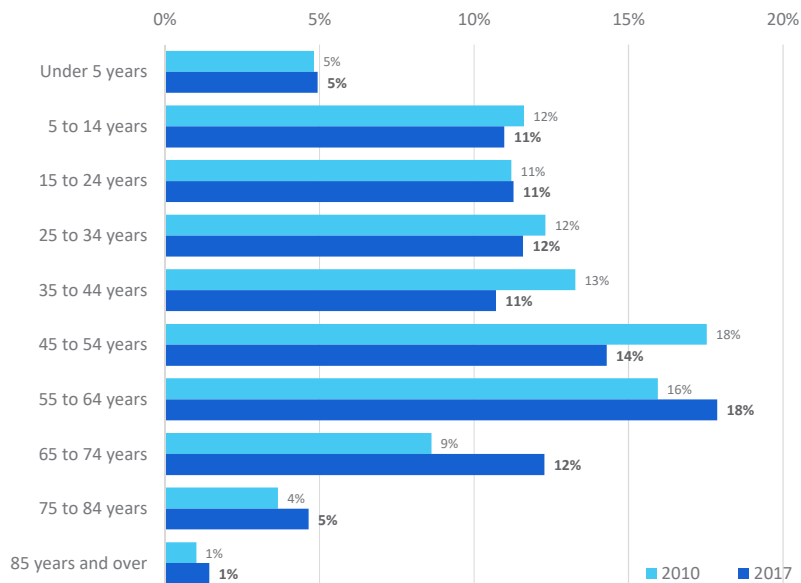
## Providing age-appropriate recreational services

On average, residents of the Key Peninsula are much older (median age 44.8) than residents of Pierce County (median age 36.0) and Washington (median age 37.6). The average age of a Key Peninsula resident has increased significantly since 2000, when it was 42.8 years of age. Much of this change is due to a growing percentage of adults over 55 years of age and a declining percentage of residents of younger ages, see Figure 3.

Adults from 55 to 74 years old make up the largest 20-year population group, comprising 30% of the overall population in 2017. This differs from Pierce County, where the largest group is 25 to 44 year-olds (28%). The Key Peninsula's increasingly older population has important implications for park and recreation needs.

- Older adults, ages 55 years and older, make up approximately 36% of the Key Peninsula population. This group represents users of older adult programs. These residents may be approaching retirement, or already retired, and may be spending time with grandchildren. This group also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.
- Adults between 35 and 54 years of age, who make up 25% of the Key Peninsula population, represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters.
- Adults ages 25 to 34 years are users of adult programs. Approximately 12% of residents are in this age category. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families. Nearly one-third of Key Peninsula households are families with children (30%).
- Teens and young adults, ages 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth programs to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. About 11% percent of residents are teens and young adults.
- Children ages 5 to 14 years make up current youth program participants. Approximately 11% of Key Peninsula's population falls into this age range.
- Youth under 5 years of age make up 5% of the Key Peninsula population. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2010 & 2017





## Serving residents of all income levels

A community's level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members, as well as their willingness and ability to pay for these recreational services. Perhaps more importantly, household income is also closely linked with levels of physical activity. Key Peninsula residents are generally more affluent than residents of other areas of the county and state. Middle and upper-income residents are three times more likely to live an active lifestyle than low-income households, according to an analysis of national data by the Active Living by Design organization.

In 2017, the median household income on the Key Peninsula was \$70,953 according to the American Community Survey. This figure is about \$7,070 (11%) higher than the median household income for Pierce County residents, and about \$4,780 (7%) higher than the average Washington household.

About 30% of Key Peninsula households have annual incomes of over \$100,000, more than the county (27.5%) and on-par with state averages (30%). Higher income households have an increased ability and willingness to pay for recreation and leisure services and often face fewer barriers to participation.

At the lower end of the household income scale, 10% of Key Peninsula residents and 4% of families are living below the poverty level. In 2017, the poverty threshold was an income of \$24,600 for a family of four. Poverty affects 11% of children under 18 and 3% of those 65 and older. Poverty rates for Key Peninsula residents are similar to county and state levels.

Lower-income residents can face a number of barriers to physical activity including poor access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time and poor health. Low-income residents may also be less able financially to afford recreation service fees or to pay for services, such as childcare, that can make physical activity possible.

## Providing services for community members with disabilities

About one in six Key Peninsula residents (15.6%) live with a disability that interferes with life activities. This rate is higher than that of Pierce County (13.7%) and the state (12.8%). The relatively high population of people living with disabilities points to a need to design inclusive parks, recreational facilities and programs. Planning, designing and operating a park system that facilitates participation by residents of all abilities will also help ensure compliance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Nearly 10% of Key Peninsula youth between ages 5 and 17, or about 370 young people, have a disability that interferes with daily life. These young residents, and their families, may need additional support or accommodations to fully enjoy recreational activities. Approximately one in four residents who are 65 and older (27% or 1,010 persons) have a disability that impacts daily life. This is lower than the percentage found in the general senior population of Washington (36%).



## Recreation for Health

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open spaces and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report in 2005 called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and act as natural air conditioners, assisting with stormwater control and erosion.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.

Approximately 31% of Pierce County residents are obese, a rate that is four percentage points higher than the Washington State average. Obesity can have significant and lasting impacts on the health of area residents. Additionally, the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department identified the Key Peninsula as a Community of Focus, which will help the County target services and resources to the most vulnerable County residents.

According to the County Health Rankings, Pierce County ranks slightly below average of Washington counties (19th out of 29) for overall health outcomes, including length and quality of life, and for health factors (24th out of 29) such as health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment.

Parks, open space, trails and recreational facilities provide opportunities for residents to be physically active and to experience nature. Pierce County has many such places, including parks and public or private community centers, gyms or other recreational facilities. In fact, the County ranks 5th out of 39 Washington counties for access to adequate physical activity opportunities. This accessibility of recreational opportunities may contribute to residents' physical activity levels. Only 19% of County adults age 20 and older report getting no leisure-time physical activity, compared to 17% across Washington. This rate is on par with the highest performing counties nationwide, which average 20%.



# OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

## COMMUNITY LISTENING

Community engagement and input played an important role in revealing the current interests in and needs for park and recreation opportunities, as well as establishing the future recreational framework that reflects community priorities. This planning process relied upon direct community outreach, stakeholder meetings, surveys and extensive inventorying to provide a baseline of local demand and need. Public outreach methods were varied and extensive, including:

- Two community workshops
- Direct mail and online survey
- Three stakeholder discussions (one group and two individual)
- Social media content and emails
- Key Pen Parks Board meetings

Throughout this process, the public provided information and expressed opinions about their needs and priorities for parks, trails and recreation facilities on the Key Peninsula. This feedback played a crucial role in updating policy statements and prioritizing the Capital Improvements Plan project list contained within this Plan.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

A mixed mode, direct mail and online survey was conducted for this Plan update between April 2019 and June 2019 to identify the general sentiment and demand for parks and recreation facilities. The purpose of the survey was to gather input to help determine park, trail, open space and recreation priorities of the Key Peninsula





community. The 21-question survey aimed to assess residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities. In all, 259 responses were completed from the print version mail survey, and 438 responses were generated via the online link for a total of 697 responses. A discussion of community survey results appear in the Needs Assessment chapter of this Plan, and a highlight of survey responses follows. A detailed survey summary is provided in Appendix A.

## Major Findings

### Key Peninsula residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities.

- Nearly all respondents (96%) think parks and recreation are important to quality of life on the Key Peninsula.

### Residents are aware of recreational opportunities and visit parks frequently.

- Over 80% of respondents are aware of nearly all parks on the Peninsula – those lesser-known parks (Key Central Forest, Taylor Bay, Rocky Creek Conservation Area) tend to have limited public access or parking.
- Two-thirds of respondents visit parks or recreation facilities at least once a month.
- The most popular reasons respondents visit are to use walking paths or for relaxation.

### Residents are generally satisfied with existing parks and recreation facilities.

- A large majority of respondents (86%) are satisfied with the value they receive from Key Pen Parks for parks and recreation amenities.
- More than three-quarters of respondents rated the condition of Gateway Park, 360 Trails, Volunteer Park and local State Parks as excellent or good.
- However, over half of respondents said they would visit parks more often if Key Pen Parks addressed maintenance, accessibility or safety issues or provided desired facilities, programs or equipment.

### Residents would like to see improvements made to the parks and recreation system and are willing to pay more to fund them.

- Half of survey respondents think that the Key Peninsula does not have enough walking paths within parks (50%).
- Respondents were split on the adequacy of picnic areas, playgrounds and sports fields, with close to half (46-52%) feeling there are about the right number or more than enough, but similar numbers responding that there are not enough or they were unsure.
- Respondents are most comfortable with the current number of parks, with 55% feeling that there are about the right number or more than enough.
- Respondents also indicated unmet needs for off-leash dog areas, as well as various types of trail routes, wildlife viewing, water access, community events and adult recreational programming.

## OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

The project team sought feedback from local residents and program users at two public meetings, both of which were held at Key Peninsula Middle School. Meeting flyers, newspaper articles, social media and email announcements were used to publicize the events and encourage participation. Summary responses from each of the meetings are provided in Appendix B.

### Community Workshop #1

Community members were invited to the first open house for Key Pen Parks' Comprehensive Plan on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Key Peninsula Middle School. Approximately 20 people attended this open house meeting.

As the first of two public sessions for the Plan, the workshop was organized in a series of "stations". Each station included informational display boards, and some stations included activities for people to provide input. These displays included project overview, summary of park and outdoor recreation assets, park and trail maps, and ideas about investing in future recreation amenities. Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members, record their comments and complete the online survey, which was available on laptop computers provided at the meeting.

### Community Workshop #2

Community members were invited to a second open house for the Comprehensive Plan on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Key Peninsula Middle School. Attendees were asked to add richness to the inventory data and help in confirming field observations about park and facility needs and opportunities. Exercises at displays were aimed to help attendees offer ideas about important upgrades, expansions or enhancement projects that could be reflected in the capital improvements plan.

## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

Interviews with external stakeholders were conducted to more broadly assess the opportunities for park system enhancements, partnerships and coordination. Stakeholders were identified by Key Pen Parks staff based on their past coordination and their involvement or interest in the future of Key Pen Parks' park, outdoor recreation or trail facilities. A group stakeholder session was conducted in September 2019, and individual interviews were conducted with two stakeholders who were unable to attend the group session.

Stakeholder comments were often specific to the particular perspective or interest of the stakeholder group. Overall, comments were generally favorable in regard to existing Key Pen Parks' amenities and the potential for future improvements on the Key Peninsula. Stakeholders recognized the limited financial capacity of Key Pen Parks and offered suggestions for potential partnerships or other means to accomplish specific projects. The following represents key ideas that were noted by stakeholders:



- Provide for both ends of the age spectrum; it is imperative to provide enough for kids (i.e., sports, etc.) and things for older residents (i.e., walking trails).
- Gateway is a wonderful asset – always see people using the park; going forward, the plan for Gateway should have more for multi-uses (community events, soccer fields, space is a nice venue).
- Key Peninsula becoming the ‘parks destination’ – should focus on that – “we are parks” – as a destination.
- All-weather infields for baseball and space for batting practice and throwing/pitching practice, along with year-round, lit, all-weather fields for soccer.
- Equestrian facility for events (stunts, shows, vaulting, 4-H, Competitive Mounted Orienteering, etc.), to include parking and support facilities.
- Key Pen Parks should partner with the County and other agencies to buy the Lakebay Marina for water access and as a waterfront venue. (Since the discussion, a boating group has entered into an agreement for the purchase of the marina with the stated purpose of final transfer to Washington State Parks. Pierce County has contributed \$250,000, and the boating group is requesting \$970,000 from the state legislature in the 2020 budget. Key Pen Parks may support this request through grantwriting to help restore the marina.)

Recommendations are incorporated in the Needs Assessment chapter, and stakeholder discussion summaries are provided in Appendix C.

## **KEY PEN PARKS BOARD MEETINGS**

The Key Pen Parks Board provided feedback on the Plan during three regularly scheduled public sessions. The first session occurred on April 8, 2019 shortly after the plan update project was initiated. The Board discussed the update and provided their perspectives on a vision for Key Pen Parks, parks and offerings, specific challenges, opportunities and potential community partnerships. The second and third sessions occurred in December 2019 and January 2020 to review the draft plan and consider the plan for adoption.

## **OTHER OUTREACH**

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities noted above, the Key Peninsula community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media. The following methods were used to inform residents about the project, as well as opportunities to participate and offer comments.

- District website
- Facebook
- Mindmixer online engagement platform
- Email blasts to stakeholders and constituents

In addition to Key Pen Parks’ social media feeds via Facebook, the project team utilized the Mindmixer platform as an integrated, on-going online community discussion. The tool allowed for integration with the traditional public meetings, and it enabled residents to submit ideas, offer feedback and answer questions about key issues and topics. The Mindmixer site was also linked to Key Pen Parks’ social media accounts and website.





## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives described in the following section define the park and recreation services that Key Pen Parks aims to achieve based on the needs within the local community and the trends developing on the Key Peninsula.

These goals and objectives follow from the foundation established from the previous 2014-2019 Park System Comprehensive Plan and the feedback from the community, stakeholders and staff during this planning update process. Key Pen Parks' goals and objectives do not replace the policies in the Key Peninsula Community Plan, which is a component of the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan, rather they amplify the policies which are referenced therein.

The goals align with the National Recreation and Parks Association's Three Pillars, which are foundational concepts adopted by the national organization in 2012. These core values (below) are crucial to improving the quality of life for all Americans by inspiring the protection of natural resources, increasing opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating, and empowering citizens to improve the livability of their communities.

- **Conservation** – Public parks are critical to preserving our communities' natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits. Local park and recreation agencies are leaders in protecting our open space, connecting children to nature and providing education and programs that engage communities in conservation.
- **Health and Wellness** – Park and recreation departments lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of citizens, and fighting obesity. From fitness programs, to well-maintained, accessible, walking paths and trails, to nutrition programs for underserved youth and adults, our work is at the forefront of providing solutions to these challenges.
- **Social Equity** – We believe universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few. Every day, our members work hard to ensure all people have access to resources and programs that connect citizens, and in turn, make our communities more livable and desirable.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Goal #1: Encourage meaningful public involvement in park and recreation planning and inform residents through Key Pen Parks' communications.**

**Objectives:**

- 1.1 Promote the Key Pen Parks Board as the forum for public discussions of parks and recreation issues on the Key Peninsula and promote collaboration with Pierce County to improve coordination and discuss policy matters of mutual interest.
- 1.2 Involve residents and stakeholders in system-wide planning, park site facility design, and program considerations and continue to use a diverse set of communication and informational materials to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- 1.3 Support volunteer park improvement and stewardship projects from a variety of individuals, service and special interest clubs, faith organizations and businesses to promote community involvement in parks and recreation facilities.
- 1.4 Continue to promote the accomplishments and successes of Key Pen Parks.
- 1.5 Key Pen Parks should provide at least monthly updates to social media sites regarding park developments, news, events, etc.

## RECREATIONAL TOURISM & COMMUNICATIONS

**Goal #2: Encourage, solicit and promote recreation tourism within Key Pen Parks' system of parks and recreation facilities.**

**Objectives:**

- 2.1 Continue to promote and distribute information about recreational activities, community services, events and volunteer activities sponsored by Key Pen Parks and partner agencies and organizations.
- 2.2 Attract and facilitate events and activities which promote active use of park trails and facilities to support local businesses.
- 2.3 Partner with private investors and concessionaires to develop commercially viable enterprises, such as zipline, terrestrial and aerial/tree-top challenge courses, equipment rental, and restaurant and food service businesses, which enhance end users' recreational experiences.
- 2.4 Explore options to provide additional facilities for alternative or emerging sport needs, such as skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, pump tracks, disc golf, climbing, parkour, equestrian sports or events (e.g., ranch horse, mountain trail horse, etc.), among others, to offer the Key Peninsula community a more diverse range of recreational experiences.



## PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS

**Goal #3: Develop a high quality, diversified park and open space system that preserves and enhances significant environmental resources and features.**

**Objectives:**

- 3.1 Acquire and develop community parks and neighborhood parks that provide easy access to basic park and playground facilities across the Key Peninsula.
- 3.2 Pursue opportunities to provide or enhance public access (e.g. trails, viewpoints, wildlife viewing areas and water access) to support passive recreation and environmental education.
- 3.3 Partner with others, where appropriate, to preserve high resource value, significant or connected natural resource areas that are especially unique to the Key Peninsula through acquisition or other protection (e.g., conservation easements) as they become available.
- 3.4 Acquire and/or preserve environmentally sensitive areas as natural area linkages and separators to provide definition between natural areas and commercial and residential land uses.
- 3.5 Cooperate with other public and private agencies and with private landowners to set-aside land and resources necessary to provide high-quality, convenient, park and recreational facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development.
- 3.6 Work with Pierce County and Washington State agencies and departments to increase access to public lands and retain or expand Key Pen Parks' or other public lease holdings that serve park and open space needs.
- 3.7 Incorporate natural areas, habitat features and resources into the park and open space system, as appropriate, to protect threatened species, preserve habitat, and retain migration corridors that are unique and important to local wildlife.
- 3.8 Preserve and protect significant environmental features including wetlands, meadows, woodlands, shorelines, waterfront uplands and other physical features that support wildlife and reflect Key Peninsula's natural heritage.
- 3.9 Identify and acquire at least one new park property in an underserved area that has been identified in Map 5: System Gaps by 2025 to meet the needs of the Key Peninsula Community.





## TRAIL SYSTEMS

**Goal #4: Develop a high quality interconnected system of linear parks/trails and corridors that connect significant environmental features, public facilities and developed local communities and business districts.**

**Objectives:**

- 4.1 Create an interconnected, off-road, multi-purpose trail system which provides access to environmental corridors, natural areas, historic sites, scenic vistas, parks, public facilities, local business districts and other trail corridors.
- 4.2 Coordinate with, and support, Pierce County in the implementation of an on-road bicycle route system which provides access to historic areas, scenic vistas, parks, public facilities and business districts for local resident commuter and recreational biking enthusiasts. Support linking local on-road bicycle routes with regional routes to provide opportunities for extended touring opportunities for local and regional enthusiasts alike.
- 4.3 Coordinate and partner with public agencies, local utilities, land trusts (such as Great Peninsula Conservancy, Nisqually Land Trust and Forterra) and private landowners to secure trail easements and access to open space for trail connections.
- 4.4 Where appropriate, locate trailheads at, or in conjunction with, park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local area access to the trail system and reduce duplication of supporting improvements.
- 4.5 Provide trailhead accommodations with supporting services such as interpretive and directory signage systems, maps, rest stops, potable water, restrooms, parking and loading areas and other services where appropriate.
- 4.6 Develop and maintain trails using relevant design and development standards to provide improvements which are easy to maintain and access by maintenance, security, and other appropriate personnel, equipment and vehicles.
- 4.7 Implement trail signage standards, to provide consistent route and wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities, and informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities.
- 4.8 Construct a minimum five-foot wide, paved ADA walking path within Gateway Park by 2023.
- 4.9 Develop, build and maintain trails and trail access within local parks, forest land, and open spaces to promote daily use by various groups with diverse trail needs.

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

**Goal #5: Partner with others, where appropriate, to enable a high quality, diversified recreation system that provides for all ages and interest groups, and enhances regional resources and facilities across the Key Peninsula.**

### **Objectives:**

#### **Waterfront access & facilities**

- 5.1 Cooperate with and support governmental and non-governmental agencies, homeowners associations, and private developers to acquire and/or preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, motorized and non-motorized boating and other related recreational activities and pursuits.
- 5.2 Support the county and state in the development of watercraft access opportunities on the Key Peninsula for motorized and non-motorized watercraft.
- 5.3 Assist other private, non-profit organizations, or governmental agencies as appropriate, to acquire and redevelop the Lakebay Marina by 2024.
- 5.4 Identify and purchase additional waterfront access properties on Case and Carr Inlet by 2024 to increase public access to waterfront recreation on the Key Peninsula.
- 5.5 Complete a master plan and develop a park property in the 98351 zip code by 2026.

#### **Athletic & event facilities**

- 5.6 Develop athletic facilities that meet the applicable competitive playing standards and requirements for various age groups, skill levels and recreational interests.
- 5.7 Provide space and utilities (water, electricity, parking, etc.) for use by groups wishing to conduct appropriate expositions, community fairs, etc.
- 5.8 Partner with others (such as Peninsula School District, PenMet Parks, Washington Student Cycling League), where appropriate, in the development of a select number of facilities that can accommodate a high competitive level of local and regional athletic events and opportunities.
- 5.9 Re-develop Volunteer Park baseball field (Field 1) infield into a synthetic turf infield by 2025 to increase its usability.
- 5.10 Continue the development of Gateway Park Phase 4 to include a multi-use synthetic turf field with lighting by 2025.
- 5.11 Plan and develop a park in the 98329 zip code to accommodate both cars and trailer parking by 2025.

#### **Indoor facilities**

- 5.12 Coordinate with other public and private agencies/groups to expand public access to, and use of, existing meeting rooms, class rooms, recreational facilities and theatrical facilities.

#### **Programming**

- 5.13 Continue to explore options for high quality parks and recreational programs and services that meet Key Peninsula community needs.
- 5.14 Utilize effective and efficient methods of operating or facilitating programs that equitably distribute costs to public and private interests.
- 5.15 Utilize parkland, facilities and programs to promote environmental education and encourage park visitors to become stewards of the Key Peninsula's natural resources.
- 5.16 Continue to support, provide and/or accommodate special events, festivals, concerts and cultural programming which promote arts, health and wellness, community identity, tourism and the benefits of recreation to foster civic pride.



- 5.17 Continue and enhance partnerships with local sports organizations to provide sports programs for youth and adults to meet demand.
- 5.18 Continue to promote the cultural and historic resources of the Key Peninsula.
- 5.19 Continue to work with organizations who provide recreational services or events with contracts for service.

## SITE DESIGN & MAINTENANCE

**Goal #6: Design and develop facilities that are accessible, environmentally friendly, safe, and maintainable within available resources, with life-cycle features that best balance long term costs and benefits within the assigned resources.**

### Objectives:

- 6.1 Develop park sites based on master plans, management plans or other adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.
- 6.2 Comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) whenever practical as facilities are upgraded, renovated, redeveloped or constructed.
- 6.3 Design and maintain Key Pen Parks' parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels and ages, where possible and as appropriate.
- 6.4 Develop outdoor picnic areas, fields, courts, playgrounds, certain trails, parking lots, restrooms, and other active and supporting facilities to be accessible, where possible, to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income and activity interests - especially at sites with significant interpretive opportunities. (It should be understood that many equestrian, bicycle, and hiking trails are activity specific and not compatible with the aforementioned accessibility objective.)
- 6.5 Use low maintenance and appropriate capacity design standards and capabilities to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs.
- 6.6 Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices or other value engineering considerations into the design, planning and construction or rehabilitation of new and existing facilities.
- 6.7 Evaluate and consider life cycle costs when selecting materials and equipment.
- 6.8 Use appropriate national, state, and local design and development standards to improve developed park facility safety and security features for park users, Key Pen Parks' staff and the public-at-large.





- 6.9 Continue safety procedures and programs that provide proper training and safety awareness for Key Pen Parks' staff. Safety for park users, Key Pen Parks' staff and the public at large is the primary priority of Key Pen Parks.
- 6.10 Define, disseminate and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that protect user groups, Key Pen Parks' staff and the public at large.
- 6.11 Where appropriate, facilitate adopt-a-park programs, community park watches, park pals, park patrols and other innovative programs that increase public safety and security awareness and visibility within the community.
- 6.12 Coordinate with the Pierce County Sheriff for law enforcement on Key Pen Parks' property.
- 6.13 Coordinate with Pierce County Animal Control for enforcement of animal control laws on Key Pen Parks' property.

## ADMINISTRATION

### **Goal #7: Provide leadership in the management of parks, facilities and recreation offerings throughout the Key Peninsula.**

#### **Objectives:**

- 7.1 Update this Comprehensive Plan periodically to ensure park and recreation facilities and services meet the current and future needs of Key Peninsula citizens.
- 7.2 Continually update and implement capital improvement projects for park and trail facilities.
- 7.3 Stay current with the progress of, and advancements in, parks, recreation, maintenance and operations best practices and applicable legal requirements.
- 7.4 Assess the Key Pen Parks' staffing needs on a regular basis and hire adequate staff to manage the park and recreation system.
- 7.5 Use part-time, seasonal and contract employees for select functions to meet peak demands and respond to specialized or urgent needs.
- 7.6 Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and commitment from staff, Board members and key volunteers to include trainings, materials, and/or affiliation with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) and the Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA).



## FUNDING & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

**Goal #8: Use traditional and alternative funding sources, initiatives and partnerships to adequately and cost-effectively maintain and enhance the quality of Key Pen Parks' park and recreation system.**

**Objectives:**

- 8.1 Ensure the financial integrity of Key Pen Parks with sound fiscal oversight in pursuit of sustainable quality services.
- 8.2 Continue use of innovative methods, such as private donations or inter-local agreements, to finance facility development, maintenance and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests and increase facility services.
- 8.3 Continue joint ventures and equitable partnerships with other public and private agencies including the Peninsula School District, PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Kitsap County, City of Gig Harbor, Key Pen Parks Foundation, Key Peninsula Civic Center Association and the Longbranch Improvement Club, as well as regional, state, federal and other public and private agencies and organizations, in addition to including for-profit concessionaires, where feasible and advantageous to Key Pen Parks.
- 8.4 Utilize initiatives, such as bonds and levies, to finance future improvements, as appropriate.
- 8.5 Update fees on a periodic basis to reflect market rates.
- 8.6 Utilize effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining park and recreational facilities in manners that equitably ascertain costs and benefits to the general public.
- 8.7 Where appropriate and as capacity allows, provide recreational programs for those interested groups who are willing to finance the cost through user fees, registration fees, volunteer efforts or other means.



# SYSTEM INVENTORY

The Key Peninsula offers a wide variety of parks, trails, recreation facilities and open spaces for its residents and visitors to enjoy. These outdoor recreation facilities are provided through intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships between Key Pen Parks, Pierce County, Kitsap County and the State of Washington, among others.

The combination of outdoor recreation facilities on the Key Peninsula offered by Key Pen Parks include mountain biking, equestrian, hiking, water access and field sports, contribute heavily to the quality of life for residents, and draw numerous outdoor adventure enthusiasts to the region.

## PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The park system provided by Key Pen Parks is composed of a hierarchy of park types offering different active or passive recreation and/or natural area opportunities. While each park facility may serve only one function, collectively the system is intended to serve the full range of community needs. Classifying parkland allows Key Pen Parks to evaluate those needs and to plan for an efficient, cost effective and coordinated park system. The classifications are meant as general guidelines addressing the targeted size, use and provided amenities for each park type.

### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks offer accessible recreation opportunities to nearby residents. Generally within a short distance of homes, neighborhood parks can include both passive and active recreation opportunities such as children's play areas, sports courts and fields, picnic facilities, public art, open lawn areas, sitting areas, landscaping and pathways. These parks generally range in size from 1-5 acres.





## Community Parks

Community parks are larger in size and serve a wider base of residents than neighborhood parks. Community parks often include facilities for organized group, individual and family activities and are supported by restrooms and parking. They may provide educational opportunities, serve recreational needs of families and preserve open spaces and unique landscapes. Community parks may offer sport courts and/or fields, group picnic areas, gardens, amphitheaters, event space and interpretive facilities. These parks typically range in size from 5-30 acres.

## Regional Parks

Regional parks provide a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities for all ages and serve to preserve wider open spaces and significant landscapes. Regional parks tend to be larger than community parks and attract people from outside the community by offering recreational opportunities that benefit residents and attract visitors. Regional parks may offer picnic areas, multi-purpose trails and specialized amenities (e.g., mountain biking trails, pump track, equestrian areas, etc.), along with event attractions and natural areas. These parks may also include sports and facilities similar to a community park. These parks are generally 30+ acres in size.

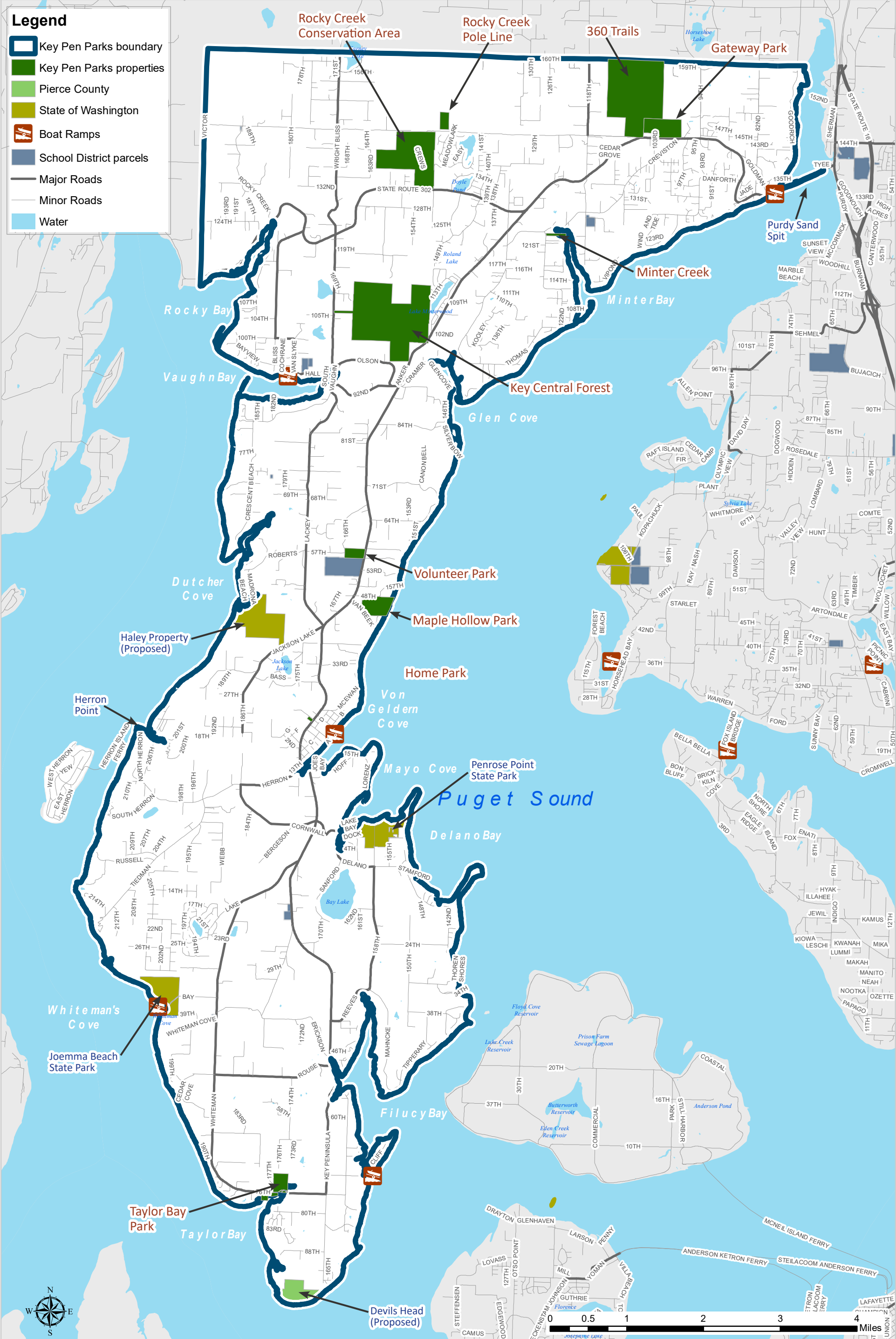
## INVENTORY SNAPSHOT

The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets currently managed by Key Pen Parks. Key Pen Parks provides approximately 1,337 acres of public parks and recreation facilities distributed among nine sites, see Map 1: Existing Parks & Open Spaces. The following list depicts the available parkland inventory of Key Pen Parks.

Figure 4. Existing Inventory

Figure 4. Existing Inventory			AMENITIES																
			RESTROOM	SPLASH PAD (Pending)	AMPHITHEATER / EVENT SPACE	WALKING / HIKING TRAIL	MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL	EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	PICNIC TABLE	PLAYGROUND	PICNIC SHELTER	SKATEBOARD	BASEBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL	SOCCER	DOG PARK	WATER ACCESS	DISC GOLF	PUMP TRACK
NAME	CLASSIFICATION	ACRES																	
360 Trails	Regional	400.00				X	X	X										X	X
Gateway Park	Regional	73.47	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X				X
Home Park	Neighborhood	1.74	X						X	X	X								X
Key Central Forest	Regional	484.89				X	X	X											
Maple Hollow Park	Regional	58.50	X			X			X								X		X
Minter Creek	Neighborhood	5.00															X		
Rocky Creek	Regional	234.79				X		X											X
Rocky Creek Pole Line	Regional	18.07																	
Taylor Bay Park	Regional	40.20							X								X		
Volunteer Park	Community	20.76	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X

TOTAL ACRES 1,337.42



Map 1: Existing Parks & Open Spaces





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# 360 TRAILS

400 acres | 10905 144th St NW

Key Pen Parks manages 360 acres of this land under a 50-year TLT lease (2009-2059) from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. An additional 40 acres were acquired in 2019 to bring the site total of 400 acres, and it is undeveloped with approximately 15 miles of trails. This property is located on 144th St. NW off of the Key Peninsula Hwy, but the parking, restrooms and all public access is via Gateway Park.

## Design Opportunities

- Upgrade signage system with more permanent trail signs (particularly the trail use reminders)
- An enhanced wayfinding system could provide better orientation for trail users, particularly at trail junctions.

## Management Considerations

- None noted

Amenities	
Trail network	Picnic tables
Multi-use trails	Pump track
Mountain bike trails	Equestrian trails
Trailhead parking (Gateway Park)	
Connection to Gateway Park	







GATEWAY PARK

73.47 acres | 10405 State Route 302

Key Pen Parks purchased the original 39-acre site in 2012; additional property has been acquired with a Pierce County Conservation Futures grant. The park is located along SR 302 in the northern area of the Key Peninsula. The property abuts and serves as the public access to 360 Trails directly to the north.

Design Opportunities

- Comprehensive wayfinding system could better tie-in 360 Trails to the Park.
- Horse trailer permeable parking could be opportunity for adding stormwater management native plantings & interpretive sign about water quality.

Management Considerations

- Consider how to share master plan next phases with park visitors

Amenities	
Picnic shelter	Restrooms
Playground	Information kiosks
Open lawn for event space	Parking (vehicle & horse trailer)
Dog park	Athletic field
Splash pad	
Connection to 360 Trails	
Trailhead to 360 Trails	





# HOME PARK

1.74 acres | 17220 8th Ave Ct NW

This 1.74-acre park located along Key Peninsula Hwy in Home was constructed in 2008.

## Design Opportunities

- None noted.

## Management Considerations

- Replace glass in bulletin board.
- Remove ADA access barrier to swing set.

Amenities	
Playground	Picnic tables
Picnic shelter	BBQ grills
Parking	Historic "Home" sign
Restroom	adult bench swing
Benches	
Swings (4 strap, 2 toddler)	







## KEY CENTRAL FOREST

484.89 acres | 10527 Wright-Bliss Road NW

Key Pen Parks manages this land under a 50-year TLT lease (2011-2061) from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. This property is located north of Key Center and spans from Wright-Bliss Road on the west and the Key Peninsula Hwy on the east. This 485-acre park is undeveloped land with over 3 miles of social trails.

### Design Opportunities

- Consider how best to define parking and access for Key Central Forest trail users.
- Continue construction of multi use trails, connecting existing in loops.

### Management Considerations

- Since parking is undefined, some instructions about access to potential users should be made available.

Amenities
Trail network
Multi-use trails







# MAPLE HOLLOW PARK

58.5 acres | 4411 Van Beek Road NW

Key Pen Parks manages this land under a 50 year TLT lease (2009-2059) from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. This 58.5 acre park is located on Van Beek Road just off the Key Peninsula Hwy south of 48th Street. The property has views of Carr Inlet and Mt. Rainier and offers three Cascade Marine Trail camp sites.

## Design Opportunities

- None noted

## Management Considerations

- Consider ‘leave no trace’ camping for water trail users only.
- Power wash stairs to reduce moss growth and limit slippery conditions
- Add hand sanitizer to pit toilet.

Amenities	
Restroom	Fire pits
Parking	Trash receptacles
Picnic tables	Saltwater beach
Kiosk	
Trail to waterfront	
ADA trail segment to picnic table	





## MINTER CREEK

5 acres | 12315 126th Ave NW

This five acre property is located near Minter Creek Salmon Hatchery.

### Design Opportunities

- Master plan necessary to consider best site development options.

### Management Considerations

- None noted

Amenities
Access to Minter Creek
Undeveloped







# ROCKY CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

234.79 acres | Crews Road from 150th St.

Key Pen Parks manages this land under a lease with Pierce County which expires in 2021. Key Pen Parks is currently in negotiations with the County to extend the lease term. This property is located on Crews Road off 150th Avenue NW and SR 302. This 235 acre park is undeveloped land with over 4 miles of social trails.

## Design Opportunities

- Sign at Crews Rd identifies “Rocky Creek Conservation Area” but no identification sign at trailhead
- Significant wayfinding system could add value and safety for trail system users

## Management Considerations

- Repair trailhead kiosk.

Amenities
Trail network
Kiosk at trailhead
Extensive natural area
Small gravel pull-off parking







## TAYLOR BAY PARK

40.20 acres | 17812 76th St SW

Located on the saltwater at the southwest end of the Key Peninsula off of 76th Street the property consists of several parcels located on both sides of 76th Street. The parcels on the south side are 7.51 acres of waterfront on Taylor Bay, and the parkland on the north side is a single, non-contiguous 32.69 acre parcel designated as conservation land.

### Design Opportunities

- Master plan is needed for site with its recently acquired additional parcel.

### Management Considerations

- Existing building is used only for storage, and the roof was replaced in 2010.
- Explore and define the best use of the caretaker residence.

#### Amenities

Undeveloped

Garage/shop building

Picnic tables

Access to waterfront





# VOLUNTEER PARK

20.76 acres | 5514 Key Peninsula Hwy NW

This 21-acre park is located along the Key Peninsula Hwy adjacent to Key Peninsula Middle School and is one of the two main parks for the community. Volunteer Park is the most actively/intensively used park on the Key Peninsula and is the home field for Key Peninsula Little League.

## Design Opportunities

- Consider park map & kiosk to orient visitors to amenities.
- Park lacks ADA compliance for most of its amenities. Access to bathrooms is priority need. Restrooms lack ADA universal signage.
- Designated handicapped parking by skate park; no prioritized ADA access to other amenities. Slope to restrooms may exceed 5%.

## Management Considerations

- The basketball half court needs marking.
- Safety rail warranted above retaining wall along southern access path. 3-tiered bleachers have no safety railing.
- Path repairs needed from tree removal & root upheavals.
- Basketball court cracks developing, resurfacing needed in coming years.

Amenities	
Playground	Parking
Skate park	Restrooms
Walking trails	Picnic shelter
Concession stand	Park office
T-ball field	Basketball 1/2 court
Amphitheater / event space	
Ballfields with lighting	
Disc golf course (9-hole)	





# OTHER NEARBY RECREATION RESOURCES

## PIERCE COUNTY SITES

### Devils Head

This undeveloped, 94-acre property has about one mile of shoreline. The property could be used as a regional park for passive recreational use, including shoreline access for non-motorized boats and kayaking, trails, hiking and beach walking, in addition to protection of wildlife and habitat. The property provides a scenic view of both Mount Rainier and the Olympic Mountains. The property could serve as the southern trailhead terminus of a future Head-to-Toe Trail that could extend the length of the Key Peninsula and connect to other regional trails such as the Cushman Trail in Gig Harbor. Other site characteristics include wetlands, active feeder bluffs for beach regeneration, near-shore salmon habitat, old growth and second growth timber, early succession forest, forested riparian habitat and a pocket estuary.

### Purdy Spit and Boat Launch

The Purdy Sand Spit is an unimproved, 7.5-acre waterfront public area that runs right along the south side of SR 302. The undeveloped property has ¾-miles of beach and includes a boat launch along SR 302. Parking is only available along the south road shoulder of SR 302. Activities at the site currently include windsurfing, picnicking, swimming, beachcombing, boating, birdwatching, sailing, fishing and kayaking access.

### Other Boat Launches

The County maintains three, free boat launches on the Key Peninsula. Each is open from dawn until dusk year-round but they only provide limited parking along the road shoulders. Camping is not allowed at these launches, and no garbage cans or restrooms are available.

- Home Boat Launch
- Vaughn Boat Launch
- Longbranch Boat Launch

### Herron Point (Herron Island Ferry)

This site has a ferry dock, parking lot and 100 to 200 feet of saltwater beachfront on Case Inlet. Activities at the site currently include ferry access, beachcombing and picnicking.



## KITSAP COUNTY SITES

### Horseshoe Lake

This 39-acre park is located in south Kitsap County just outside of Key Pen Parks' jurisdiction and provides freshwater lake access with swimming area, dock, walking trails, picnic areas, BBQ, playgrounds, ball field, sand volleyball courts and restrooms. The ball field and picnic tables are first come, first served and do not require reservations. Key Pen Parks had jointly cooperated in summer maintenance for the past several years, but that cooperation will cease in 2020 due to the pending opening of the Gateway Park splash pad.

## STATE RECREATIONAL SITES

### Washington State Parks

#### Penrose Point State Park

Penrose Point State Park is a forested, 237-acre marine and camping park on the shores of Puget Sound. The park has nearly two miles of saltwater frontage on Mayo Cove and Carr Inlet. The park has two picnic shelters without electricity and 60 unsheltered picnic tables. A day-use area at the beach features a large lawn, picnic tables, braziers, a small picnic shelter and a restroom. The site also has one Cascade Marine Trail campsite. Boaters can anchor to one of five moorage buoys. The park also features close to four miles of trails with views of Mayo Cove and Carr Inlet. The park could be a potential eastern spur in a future Head-to-Toe Trail.

#### Joemma Beach State Park

Joemma Beach State Park is a 106-acre, marine camping park with 3,000 feet of saltwater frontage on Case Inlet. The park provides four sheltered and seven unsheltered picnic tables. The picnic shelter has a maximum capacity of 50 people. The park has 19 tent spaces and five vault toilets (all ADA). In addition, there are two water trail sites (available only to campers arriving by human-powered watercraft) and three primitive hiker/biker sites (no motorized vehicles permitted). There is a five finger dock/float, moorage buoys and boat launch that boaters can use. The park could be a potential western spur in a future Head-to-Toe Trail.

#### Haley Property

This 178-acre undeveloped property is located on the east side of Case Inlet, with 1,980 feet of saltwater shoreline and 2,900 feet of freshwater shoreline. The initial development of the site has been included in the State Parks budget to develop a trailhead and a trail to the beach. The property could be a potential north-south link in a future Head-to-Toe Trail.



## Department of Natural Resources

### Dutcher Cove

This 26-acres of tidelands is only accessible by boat on the east side of Case Inlet. Key Pen Parks, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and Trust for Public Land worked together to acquire the tidelands.

## Department Fish & Wildlife

### Bay Lake Boat Launch

This site has a rough, gravel boat launch, restroom and parking. Motorized and non-motorized watercraft are allowed on Bay Lake. Camping is prohibited.

### Carney Lake

This freshwater lake sits on the border of Kitsap County and Pierce County. Access to the water is via a gravel ramp, and the site includes toilet facilities. Motorized watercraft and camping are prohibited.

### Horseshoe Lake (Access is located in Kitsap County)

This site includes a concrete gravel boat launch, restroom and parking. Motorized and non-motorized watercraft are allowed. The site is also accessible to individuals with disabilities. Camping is prohibited.

### Jackson Lake Boat Launch

This site includes a rough gravel boat launch, restroom and parking. Motorized and non-motorized watercraft are allowed. The site is also accessible to individuals with disabilities. Camping is prohibited.

## PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Evergreen Elementary School

The 9.9-acre school site is located on the south end of the Key Peninsula along the Key Peninsula Highway. The site has a non-regulation soccer field, grass area and playground equipment. Soccer fields at the site are suited more for practice and not for formal competition. The school district recently purchased an adjacent 2.71 acre parcel to the northwest as a part of the Evergreen Elementary School reconstruction and expansion project that was approved by the voters in February of 2019. The project is currently in the design phase with construction of the new school anticipated to be completed in 2021.

### **Minter Creek Elementary School**

This 10-acre school site has a grass area that can be used for non-regulation soccer or baseball (soccer goals and two backstops) and playground equipment. The combination soccer/baseball fields at the site are suited more for practice and not for formal competition.

### **Vaughn Elementary School**

This 15-acre school site has two non-regulation soccer fields, one grass, non-regulation baseball diamond and playground equipment. The soccer and baseball fields at the site are suited more for practice and not for formal competition.

### **Key Peninsula Middle School**

This 76-acre school site is located along Key Peninsula Highway next to Volunteer Park. The site has one regulation football/soccer field, a quarter mile running track, a large grass field area that can be used for soccer or baseball practice and a half basketball court. The large field area is not maintained on a regular basis and is generally only used for practices.

### **Peninsula High School**

This 44.5-acre school site just off the Key Peninsula in Purdy includes one synthetic soccer/football field, one regulation baseball field, one fast pitch softball field, a 400 meter rubber surfaced running track, a competition indoor swimming pool and four tennis courts.

## **PRIVATE FACILITIES**

### **Horseshoe Lake Golf Course**

Horseshoe Lake Golf Course was established by Robert Roland in 1992. The 18-hole public course was designed by Jim Richardson and built by Fore Inc. and is located in Kitsap County near Gig Harbor and Port Orchard. The course is just over the county line adjacent to the north border of 360 Trails. The course also has an 18 hole disc golf course. Horseshoe Lake Golf Course has a public restaurant and a club house/pro-shop, and it offers sweeping views of forests and ravines.

### **Lakebay Marina**

Lakebay Marina is one of the last Mosquito Fleet Marinas in the Puget Sound. The Marina offers moorage, boat launch, restaurant, gas dock and store.





## Key Peninsula Civic Center

This 3.75 acre parcel in Vaughn has been home to the Key Peninsula Civic Center since 1956 and includes a small grass field, playground equipment, picnic shelter, tennis courts, three meetings rooms, gym with stage, commercial kitchen, garden, a museum and office space for various organizations. The site is operated by the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the welfare of the Key Peninsula community and its citizens.

## Longbranch Improvement Club and Marina (LIC)

This nearly 12-acre site in Longbranch was created in 1921 for the “purpose to purchase real estate for recreation and for a consolidated school”. The LIC has continued in this tradition with the addition of gym built in 1939. The site includes clubhouse with large ballroom and stage, meeting room, restrooms and kitchen, field for outdoor events, a softball field and parking. The club also manages a marina at another site on Filucy Bay which is in the same location as the original 1885 wharf. This marina site has 760 feet of public moorage with basic amenities, including a floating dock, fresh water, electrical hookups, toilets and garbage disposal. Either or both of the LIC properties could be potential north-south links in a future Head-to-Toe Trail.

## YOUTH CAMPS

### YMCA Camp Seymour (YMCA of Pierce / Kitsap County)

This 125-acre site includes yurts, cabins, dining hall/kitchen, waterfront pier, picnic area, campfire circles, canoes and kayaks, challenge course, climbing wall, volleyball court, pickleball court, basketball court, games field, beach, estuary, heated outdoor swimming pool and environmental center.

### YMCA Camp Coleman (YMCA of Seattle/King County)

This 98-acre site allows for off-season rental to groups and includes yurt, cabins, dining hall, rowboat dock, volleyball court, picnic area, campfire circles, sand spit, canoes, challenge course, basketball court, ball field, putt-putt golf, archery, giant swing, climbing wall, badminton court, pickle ball court, beach and an estuary.

### Miracle Ranch (Crista Family of Ministries)

This 70-acre western style camp site began in 1960 along the shores of Horseshoe Lake. The property, located on the north end of the Key Peninsula just across the county line in Kitsap County, has lake access, horse barn, arena, ropes course, archery, walking/horse trails, sports court, meeting rooms, cabins, dock, field and paintball area.

### **Sound View Camp (Presbytery of Olympia)**

The 93-acre site located along Drayton Passage is available for off season rentals. The property includes cabins, platform tents, rustic chalets, longhouse, Calvinwood hall, dining hall, waterfront pier, volleyball court, basketball court, field, horse facility, campfire, tree house, sand spit, canoes and kayaks, challenge course, archery, paintball field, basketball court and a beach.

### **Camp Stand by Me (Easter Seals Society of Washington)**

This 20-acre site is located on Vaughn Bay and includes A-frame cabins, dining hall, waterfront pier, heated ADA accessible swimming pool, hot tub, picnic area, campfire, games field, archery, basketball hoop, volleyball court, badminton court, tractor rides, arts and crafts, nature trails, beach and an estuary. The property is available for season rental to groups, and residents of the Key Peninsula can pay a fee to use the heated indoor pool.

### **Camp Gallagher (Friends of Camp Gallagher)**

Camp Gallagher is a co-ed overnight summer camp primarily for middle schoolers and high schoolers located on Case Inlet. Camp Gallagher is operated by Friends of Camp Gallagher, a non-religious, community-based nonprofit, and is accredited by the American Camping Association. The 166-acre site has open air cabins, platform tents, dining area, campfire circles, sand spit, canoes and kayaks, beach and a grass field. The facility does not offer any rentals to any other groups.

### **Delano Bay Christian Camp (Lakeview Church of Christ)**

Delano Bay Christian Camp is a 7-acre Christian camp located on Delano Bay. The site has a lodge/dining hall, two hillside lodges, cabins, RV parking, barn, basketball court, horseshoe pits, a playground and a volleyball court. The property is not available for public use.



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# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Parks and open space represent the basic foundation of a healthy park and recreation system, providing opportunities for residents of all ages to meet, play, grow and thrive. The Key Peninsula's parks provide residents with a diverse array of active and passive recreational amenities and options. They are places to come together with family and friends, to exercise and play, to learn and explore, and to engage with the area's landscape, history and culture.

By improving existing parks and providing new recreational facilities to meet the needs of the whole community, Key Pen Parks can actively support the mental and physical health of its residents and create places that are welcoming and engaging for all.

## RECREATION TRENDS

Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities that may enhance the community and create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future.

### State & Regional Perspectives

#### Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2018-2022

The Washington *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning* (SCORP) is a five-year statewide recreation plan published by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. The SCORP guides decision-makers in better understanding statewide recreation issues, and is required to help maintain Washington's eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars. The SCORP is designed to determine outdoor recreation issues and opportunities, and helps explore local park and recreation planning strategies. It includes valuable data on current trends in recreation



participation and demand in Washington. Findings from the SCORP were evaluated to help inform planning and funding considerations for future park and recreational facilities on the Key Peninsula.

Figure 5. Statewide Participation Rates by Outdoor Activity

Participation Rates for Top 12 Categories	
Activity	%
Walking	94%
Nature activities	89%
Leisure activities at parks	82%
Swimming	68%
Sightseeing activities	67%
Hiking	61%
Outdoor sports	48%
Water-based activities (freshwater)	46%
Camping	45%
Trending activities	33%
Snow and ice activities	30%
Bicycling	28%

The 2018-2022 SCORP confirms that outdoor recreation is still an integral part of life for most Washington residents, 90% of whom participate in the most popular category of activities, which includes walking and hiking, demonstrating the pervasiveness of outdoor recreation in Washington's culture. Significant increases in rates of participation in outdoor recreation activities since 2006 reinforce the importance of the state and local communities continuing their investment in outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities.

### Statewide Recreational Sports Needs

The Washington State 2014 Governor's Blue Ribbon Parks and Outdoor Recreation Task Force reported that leadership and commitment were needed at all levels to gain from initiatives that provide support for three outstanding qualities that make the State of Washington a great place to live. While the Task Force had a statewide focus, its conclusions, stated below, apply to every local community.

- Healthier people – Experiencing and recreating in the outdoors contributes to both mental and physical health for everyone from our children to returning veterans and aging Baby Boomers.
- Stronger communities – Communities that invest in parks, trails, and other outdoor spaces offer the quality of life that helps every resident thrive and gives them a competitive edge in the quest for business creation, recruitment and retention.
- A thriving economy – An entire business spectrum rests on the quality of our parks, public lands and recreational opportunities. Outdoor recreation creates jobs and is a star attraction for the recruitment of new businesses and a talented workforce. The economic contribution to Washington from outdoor recreation is significant, estimated at \$22.5 billion annually by the Outdoor Industry Association.

Summaries from other national and state recreation studies appears in Appendix E.

## COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Community priorities are a critical element in the planning for the future provision of parks and recreation in the community. Capturing public opinions and concerns about their park system helps guide decisions on how to allocate the often limited resources to meet the community's priorities and expectations.

As one element of public engagement, a community survey was conducted between April and June 2019 to gather input to help determine park, trail, open space and recreation priorities. The community survey was direct mailed to a random sample of 2,500 Key Peninsula households and was also promoted and made available online on Key Pen Parks' website. In all, 259 responses were completed from the print version mail survey, and 438 responses were generated via the online link for a total of 697 responses.

The 21-question survey was designed to assess residents' recreational needs, preferences, and priorities, see Appendix A for the survey instrument and a summary of responses. The survey results provide guidance to Key Pen Parks' Commissioners and staff for effectively planning the future direction of the parks and recreation system.

### Residents of Key Peninsula:

- Strongly value their parks and recreation facilities. Nearly all respondents (96%) think parks and recreation are important to quality of life on the Key Peninsula.
- Are aware of recreational opportunities and visit parks frequently. Over 80% of respondents are aware of nearly all parks on the Peninsula – those lesser-known parks (Key Central Forest, Taylor Bay, Rocky Creek Conservation Area) tend to have limited public access to certain portions of the sites. Two-thirds of respondents visit parks or recreation facilities at least once a month. The most popular reasons respondents visit are to use walking paths or for relaxation.
- Are generally satisfied with existing parks and recreation facilities. A large majority of respondents (86%), are satisfied with the value they receive from Key Pen Parks for parks and recreation amenities. More than three-quarters of respondents rated the condition of Gateway Park, 360 Trails, Volunteer Park and local State Parks as excellent or good. However, over half of respondents said they would visit parks more often if Key Pen Parks addressed maintenance, accessibility, or safety issues, or provided desired facilities, programs or equipment within Key Pen Parks' properties.
- Would like to see improvements made to the parks and recreation system and are willing to pay more to fund them. Half of survey respondents think that the Key Peninsula does not have enough walking paths within parks (50%). Respondents were split on the adequacy of picnic areas, playgrounds and sports fields, with close to half (46-52%) feeling there are about the right number or more than enough, while similar numbers responded that there are not enough or they were unsure. Respondents are most comfortable with the current number of parks, with 55% feeling that there are about the right number or more than enough. Respondents also indicated unmet needs for off-leash dog areas<sup>1</sup>, as well as various types of trail routes, wildlife viewing, water access, community events and adult recreational programming. Most respondents (80%) would be willing to pay additional taxes – ranging from less than \$4 per month (19%), to over \$10 per month (19%), to support improvements to parks and recreation on the Key Peninsula.

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1 A dog park was constructed and opened at Gateway Park after the survey closed.





## CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

During the professional site conditions assessment of existing facilities inventory, several maintenance and facility considerations were identified as being needed to ensure that park and outdoor recreation facilities were safe and attractive for Key Pen Parks' residents and visitors. During the spring of 2019, the existing conditions within selected park facilities were assessed by the consultant landscape architect to identify issues and concerns along with opportunities for future improvements. The following general summary offers an overview of site conditions in Key Pen Parks as a community-wide park system. This overview is categorized by overarching and related characteristics.

### Playgrounds

While the assessment did not include a certified play equipment inspection, playground equipment and its safety surfacing was reviewed generally. Playgrounds should accommodate universal access and ensure safe fall zones. All playgrounds should be part of an ADA compliance review to ensure that future upgrades meet guidelines for universal accessibility wherever practical. Playgrounds are often designed with a containment system for the play safety surfacing and that containment method must also ensure that a transition zone overcomes any created barriers to access.

### Sports Fields & Sport Courts

Improvements to existing sports fields and sport courts were assessed, as well as noting the need for gate replacements and field renovations, particularly at Volunteer Park. Upgrading to all-weather sports field surfaces to provide year-round play opportunities and adding field lighting can extend the length of play times available during the day on existing fields.

### Trails & Pavement

A number of issues arose related to existing trails and trail features including identification, access, pavement stability, wayfinding, pavement gaps and the need for additional trail features for better circulation and park enjoyment. Development of a Key Pen Parks Trail Plan can help create the set of Key Pen Parks standards for each trail type that could serve as a unified set of expectations for shared use paths, natural trails, in-park pathways, etc. within Key Pen Parks' facilities. The Trail Plan could also identify all the existing gaps and prioritize future investments in trail projects.

In general, pavement maintenance should address cracks and root upheavals as well as seams where different pavement types meet (curbs, bridges, sidewalk-to-trail, boardwalks, path to play areas, etc.) and have a tendency to settle at different rates which can create artificial barriers to universal access. Sport courts and parking lots should have regularly scheduled seal coating and/or repainting to ensure retention of functional court play and clearly identified parking stalls.

Trails through natural areas should undergo regular inspections to ensure the identification of potential erosion and surface wear. Common challenges to natural area

trails such as root upheavals, cracking, slumping and eroded edges can sometimes be addressed more readily if treated early.

## Wayfinding, Identity & Signage

At numerous locations within the various parks and trail systems, there were opportunities to help inform visitors about the public spaces they were entering. A clear need was identified for a unified method for identifying and locating parks and trails and providing directional navigation along trails. A good wayfinding system can provide a consistent identity and display effective and accessible information to orient the user. This guidance system ensures efficient use of the trail, park or other public space, and it conveys safety to the user by translating the environment into a known geography. Signs, symbols, mapping, color and standardized site amenities, combined with good design of the physical environment (i.e., trail or park), helps the user navigate the space and stay comfortably oriented.

The site conditions assessment conducted as part of this Comprehensive Plan indicated that Key Pen Parks' parklands need clearer, more prominent identification and signs located at multiple entry points. Such signage should identify the park provider to facilitate communication of concerns and to clearly distinguish Key Pen Parks' facilities from state, county, school district or private property, as well as offer methods for accessing additional information (e.g., contacts, volunteering, other facilities, etc.) to inform park users and visitors about the specific park that they are visiting.

Key Pen Parks should pursue a comprehensive wayfinding program that includes both visual graphic standards and site furnishing standards. The use of consistent graphics and a coordinated hierarchy of sign types and sizes can provide park and trail users with wayfinding information to enhance their access and knowledge of the recreational system available for their enjoyment. While there are some basic trail locational signs at several trailheads, there is an identified need system-wide for better coordination and visibility.

The combined and coordinated park system should consider a wayfinding and signage system that integrates all its parks and trails with similar 'branding' to help all park and trail users understand where they are, what they might need to know, how to get more information, and who the provider is. An effective wayfinding system not only provides directional and locational information to the trail user, but a unified combination of materials, colors, specific sign types for conveying different information, standard font designs and matching site furnishings (such as benches, bollards, drinking fountains, etc.), can all contribute to creating strong identifiers and that unique sense of place for Key Pen Parks' park system.

## ADA Accessibility

As with many older parks, some architectural barriers were present in the park system. Wherever practical, ADA accessibility and compliance should be part of a regular capital improvement or repair schedule to ensure the updating of older pavements, parking, playgrounds, picnic amenities, restrooms and recreational elements meet ADA standards. While a detailed ADA Conditions Assessment was not conducted as part of this planning process, it was apparent that certain Key Pen Parks' facilities do have ADA compliance



issues with park access at parking areas, barriers to access into playground areas, as well as non-complaint benches and picnic tables in inaccessible locations. Transition zones from park pathways to parking and traffic areas often did not have tactile warning strips to alert the visually impaired about entering traffic zones. Park amenities were not always accessible through an ADA-compliant pathway surface. Key Pen Parks should develop an ADA Compliance Checklist to identify and prioritize these deficiencies and develop a methodology for bringing all their parks into compliance with federal guidelines.

## **Trees & Landscape Areas**

In general, the trees and landscapes in Key Pen parks were in good condition holding up to park use and visitor activities. Pruning and vegetation management may be called for on a routine basis along trail systems to maintain views and ensure visibility for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

## **Slopes, Drainage & Irrigation**

Key Peninsula has a dynamic topography with naturally occurring steep slopes that can create both opportunities and challenges for park design. There are some places where steep slopes may dictate trail re-alignment to ensure path stability and durability.

## **Safety & CPTED**

Much of Key Pen Parks' park layouts and landscapes seemed to meet the basic CPTED principles of good visibility and overall positive perceptions of public safety. Park safety conditions were highly variable throughout the park system. For example, old bleachers should be replaced with bleachers built with safety railings that meet International Building code requirements.

## **Site Furnishings**

Standards for park furnishings such as benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash receptacles and other common amenities used throughout the park system can be instrumental in assuring consistent ADA compliance and streamlined maintenance and repairs. Key Pen Parks could consider adopting a standard for its range of park site furnishings including: bench, picnic table, bike rack, trash receptacle and other common amenities to ensure that those amenities follow ADA guidelines, allow for simplified replacement parts, common repair procedures and a more unified look to the public park spaces on the Key Peninsula. In addition to the amenities themselves, the assessments also noted a number of places where the location of a particular bench, picnic table and/or bike rack was not accessible due to lack of stable surfaces making the site furnishing less usable as well as lacking in ADA compliance.

## **Buildings & Structures**

Key Pen Parks' park and recreation facilities are composed of a variety of structures with variable ages. Older restrooms, retaining walls, dugouts and miscellaneous structures at Volunteer Park should be scheduled for upgrades or eventual replacement. The garage



building at Taylor Bay Park (currently undeveloped) will likely need to be demolished unless an appropriate re-use is identified during the master plan process of that site.

## **Parking & Access**

Since many of Key Pen Parks' outdoor recreation facilities require the use of a vehicle to gain access, parking is an important part of providing adequate park and recreation service. The need for better parking was indicated through assessment evaluations that suggested parking improvements through designated areas, additions, parking space delineation, formalized trailheads, additional entry points and better identification signage at designated parking areas. Access to parks through better entrance designs and additional entries was also suggested with and without related parking improvements.

## **Master Planning & Design**

In the assessment of the selected parks within the Key Pen Parks' system, a number of design ideas were cited to help improve outdoor recreation and aesthetic value. Undeveloped parks have opportunities for better public access to the many diverse waterfront locations on the Key Peninsula. Specific site designs or site master plans would be an important step for determining the quantity and location of any additional amenities that may be appropriate or desired for these individual park sites.

# **PARK DEVELOPMENT & IMPROVEMENTS**

## **Sports Fields**

Key Pen Parks currently provides two sports fields suitable for soccer or lacrosse, and four baseball/softball fields (one adult and three youth). The Peninsula School District provides an additional three regulation soccer/football/lacrosse fields, including one with a synthetic playing surface (at Peninsula High School), and two baseball/softball fields at local schools. Peninsula School District facilities also feature five informal or non-regulation grass fields for soccer, lacrosse or football practice.

The existing and popular baseball, softball and soccer programs on the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor Peninsula outstrip the capacity of current fields within the region. Given desired levels of participation and the region's climate, Key Pen Parks and local sports leagues will need to continue to work to maintain existing field resources, use existing sites more effectively, and acquire and develop additional sports field space to meet demands. Such actions will depend on continued, active partnerships between Key Pen Parks, the Peninsula School District, PenMet Parks, the City of Gig Harbor, sports organizations and other recreation providers. Some of Key Pen Parks' sports fields could benefit from enhanced maintenance, investments and safety improvements. Improvements to turf, irrigation, lighting and spectator facilities could allow existing fields to better serve recreation users. Conversion of existing fields to synthetic surfaces, such as the baseball/softball infields at Volunteer Park, would require significant capital investment, but it would also extend play seasons, allow for more intensive field use and reduce ongoing maintenance needs.



While acknowledging the contribution of Peninsula School District's sports fields toward the overall collection of community fields, these fields are restricted in use due to the demand from school-based teams and programs. In reviewing existing District facilities, Key Pen Parks should proceed with the Phase 4 improvements at Gateway Park to add sports fields and also explore other opportunities to appropriately site additional sports fields in future parks to better meet the community's needs.

Key Pen Parks should meet periodically with the various sports leagues and field providers within its service area to assist in field space planning and address other issues related to inter-league coordination, field maintenance and protocols for addressing field issues. Key Pen Parks should continue to monitor the condition, investment needs and usage rates of its field facilities to best plan for long-term maintenance and capital improvement needs. Field usage policies should be reassessed on a regular basis to ensure they continue to meet the needs of Key Pen Parks, user groups and neighbors. Field usage fees should also be updated periodically, as well as when significant field improvements are made, to address cost recovery and equity objectives. Such policies and fees should also address field scheduling for alternative uses, such as festivals, concerts and other community public or private events.

## Sport Courts

Key Pen Parks does not currently provide full sport courts for volleyball, basketball, tennis or pickleball. Key Pen Parks' inventory is limited to a single half-court basketball court located at Volunteer Park. The Key Peninsula Civic Center has two outdoor tennis courts available for public use, and Peninsula School District facilities do offer additional outdoor tennis and basketball courts, which are also available for public use outside of school hours and team play. In the community survey conducted for this Plan, Key Peninsula residents considered the development of additional sport courts to be a relatively low priority, but approximately 25-30% of residents noted that their needs for outdoor sport courts was unmet. Key Pen Parks should consider additional basketball (full court), volleyball and/or tennis (with pickleball) courts in the planning and development of future parks.

## Water Play or Splash Pads

Splash pads are water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost. A splash pad is currently under construction as a part of Phase 3 improvements at Gateway Park. These amenities can draw significant numbers of visitors to a park; therefore, the siting of other such facilities should consider access to parking and public restrooms.

## Nature Play

Another significant, recent trend is that of the relationship between child development and access to nature or nature play. Stemming from Richard Louv's book *Last Child in the Woods*, a relative network of organizations and agencies have come together to discuss the impacts of nature play and seek funding and partnerships to facilitate ways to connect kids to their local environment. Recent studies show that children are smarter, more cooperative, happier and healthier when they have frequent and varied opportunities

for free and unstructured play in the out-of-doors, according to the Children & Nature Network, a national non-profit organization working to reconnect children with nature which was co-founded by Louv. In the development of future park sites, Key Pen Parks should consider the installation of nature play features and look for ways to optimize nature play opportunities with the unique characteristics of future parks.

## Off-Leash Dog Areas

Walking with a dog is a very popular recreational activity, and off-leash areas have become desired amenities for dog owners across the state. In the community survey conducted for this Plan, over half of Key Peninsula residents indicated that they had a need for an off-leash dog park and that their need was currently unmet. Since the survey was conducted, Key Pen Parks has opened its first fenced, off-leash dog area at Gateway Park. Key Pen Parks should continue to improve the off-leash area through the addition of benches and other amenities, and it should consider adding a restroom or port-a-potty near the off-leash area given its high use.

Key Pen Parks also should continue to add and enhance signage and support the enforcement of off-leash area rules, as well as leash laws in parks or natural areas where only on-leash activities are allowed. Additionally, Key Pen Parks should work to build community support for self-policing of behavioral issues and pet waste pick-up. As an alternative, Key Pen Parks could work with interested residents to form a grassroots or non-profit organization for the on-going operations and maintenance of the off-leash area, a model that has been used successfully across the Northwest.

## Xtreme / Adventure Sports Facilities

Key Pen Parks also should consider the future development of an outdoor recreation campus that could focus on alternative sports, including ziplines, aerial challenges, bouldering walls or outdoor parkour features. Depending on the characteristics of the site, such a park also could contain an education center for water sports (e.g., canoeing and kayak safety), an off-leash dog area or other amenities to draw a variety of users to activate the site. Such a project would be best suited as a public-private partnership and one that is operated, managed and insured by a private entity. Parking and restroom facilities should be provided with a development project of this nature, along with classrooms, storage for gear and a maintenance area.

## Equestrian Facilities

An open-air, fenced equestrian area (approximately 100' x 200' in size) and nearby equestrian-only trails are currently planned as part of a subsequent phase of improvements at Gateway Park. Key Pen Parks also should consider adding equestrian amenities at Key Central Forest, to include improved horse trailer access and parking area, signage, and equestrian focused trails which could be developed in partnership with local equestrians. As an example, Milo McIver State Park in Oregon includes an equestrian trail park, developed and maintained via a partnership with the Oregon Equestrian Trails North Valley chapter. The park includes a large gravel parking area suitable for trailers, an outdoor arena, a skill trail designed specifically for equestrian use and access to equestrian trails throughout the





park. The skill trail includes multiple optional obstacles that represent objects an equestrian might encounter on-trail including various gates and bridges, step-over logs, step-up platforms, Cavaletti poles and balance elements.

## PARKLAND DISTRIBUTION

The residents of Key Peninsula are fortunate to have access to a variety of parks and open spaces. Understanding the known gaps in the park system and evaluating Key Pen Parks' existing levels of service will provide a foundation for strategic planning to ensure that tomorrow's residents continue to have access to a well-distributed system of parks, trails and open spaces to stay healthy and active.

To better understand where potential acquisition efforts should be directed, this Plan assesses the current distribution of parks throughout Key Pen Parks through a gap analysis. The gap analysis reviews the locations and types of existing facilities, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, the Comprehensive Plan uses a 1-mile primary and 2- and 3-mile secondary service areas for mapping proximity to existing Key Pen Parks' park properties.

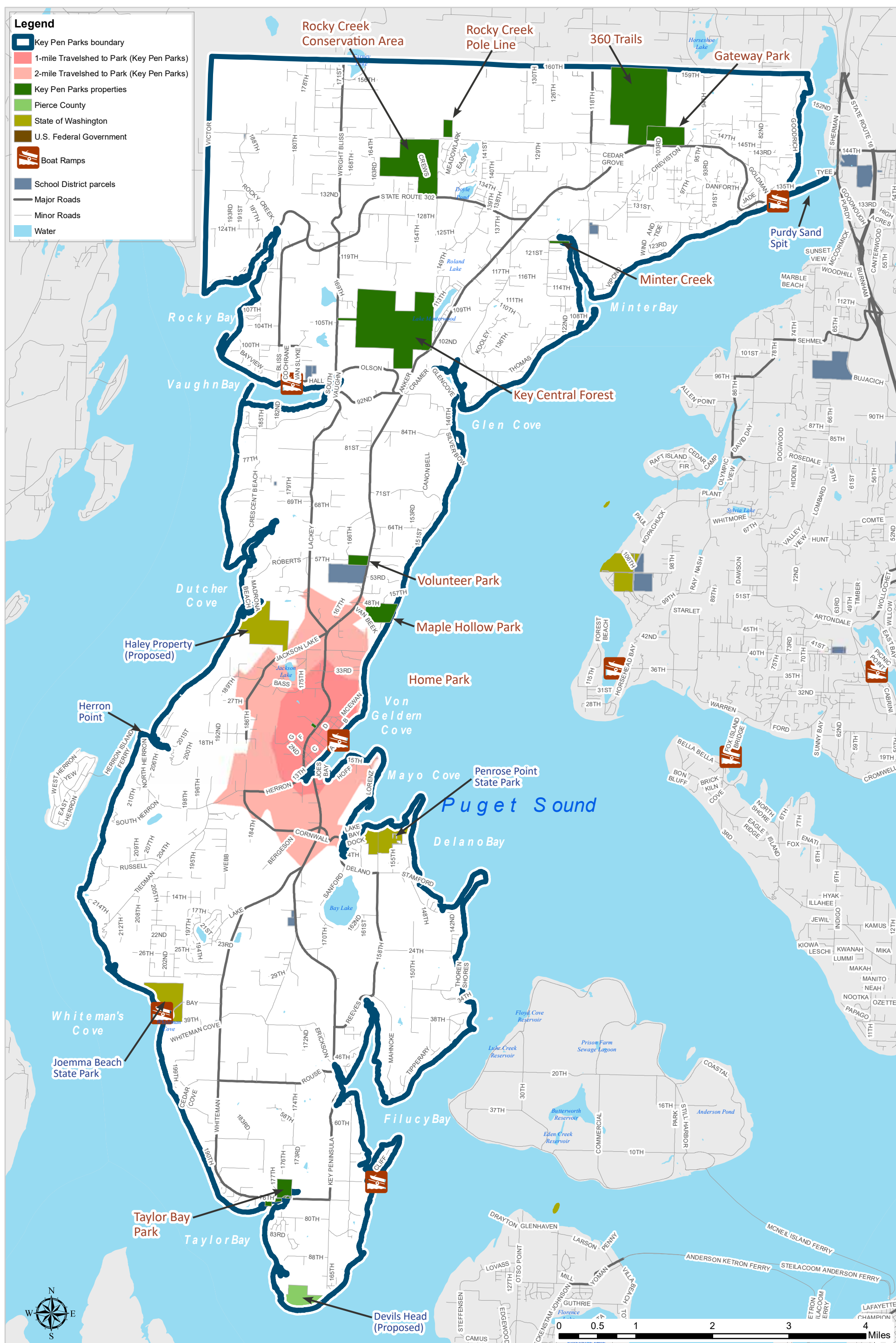
Park travelshed Maps 2 through 4 on the following pages illustrate the application of this approach from existing, publicly owned parks. Areas in and near the communities of Home, Vaughn, Key Center and Wauna have the greatest park access. Areas in the northwestern most portion of the Key Peninsula, as well as areas south of Herron Road, do not have many nearby park opportunities. Given the rural nature of much of the Key Peninsula, achieving equitable and comprehensive park access may not be possible or even desirable where the potential impacts to acquiring appropriate park sites prove to be significant and costly.

The greatest documented land need is for additional park sites to provide the land base for a blend of passive and active recreation opportunities, such as sports fields, picnicking and walking. Map 5: System Gaps illustrates the current gaps in park site locations and suggests the following potential acquisition target areas:

- South Key Peninsula: The future development of Taylor Bay Park (or perhaps Devils Head) will greatly improve park access in the southern reaches of the Key Peninsula
- West-Central Key Peninsula: Consideration should be given to a park site acquisition near Tiedman, south of Herron Road
- Northwest Key Peninsula: Access improvements to Key Central Forest and Rocky Creek Conservation Area will enhance parkland access in the northwestern area

While the targeted acquisition areas do not identify a specific parcel(s) for consideration, the area encompasses a broader region in which an acquisition would be ideally suited. These acquisition targets represent a long-term vision for improving parkland distribution on the Key Peninsula. In addition, Key Pen Parks should:

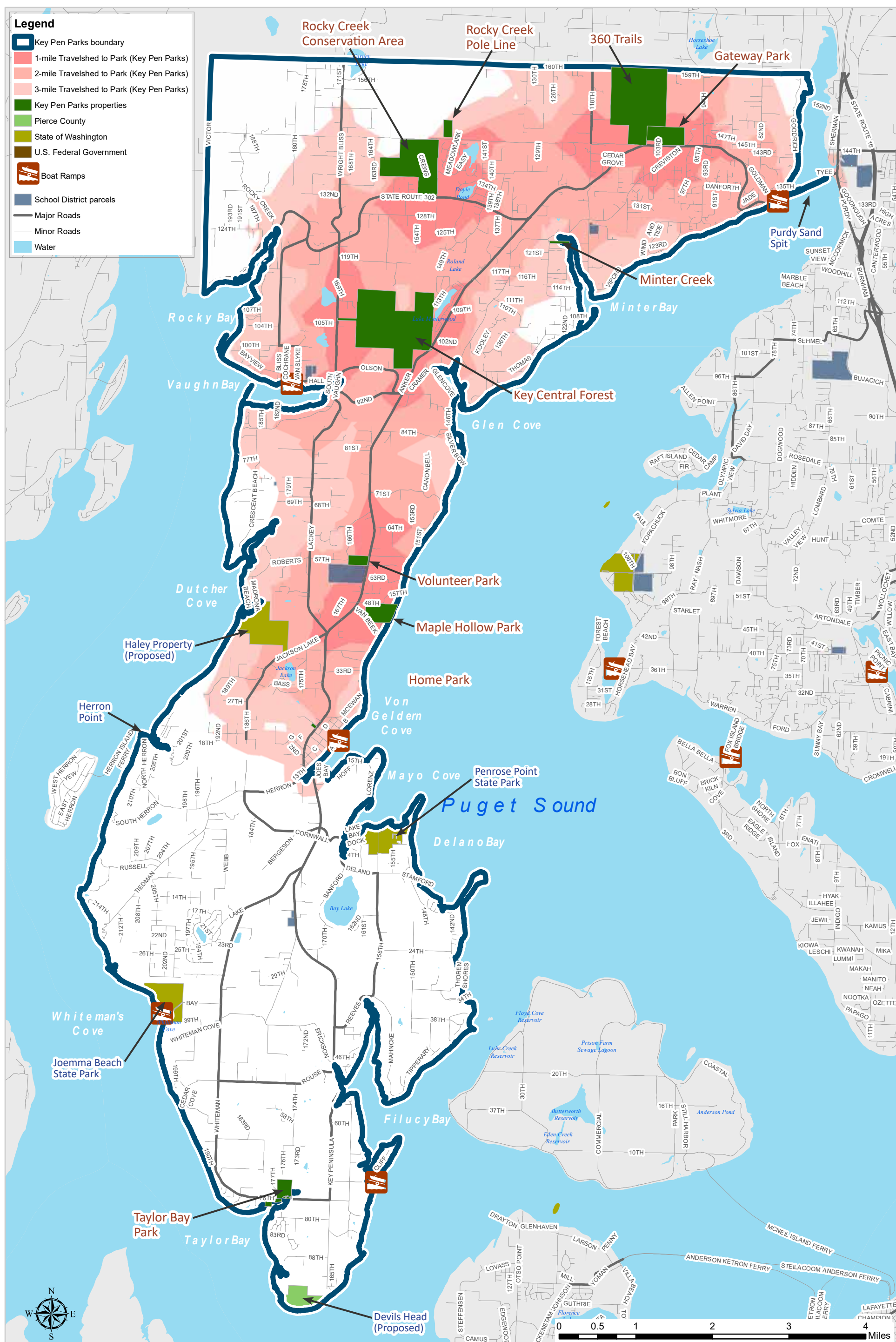
- Work to acquire land or easements necessary to complete trail corridors or improve access to existing parkland.
- Pursue opportunities to acquire and develop additional waterfront properties that could provide shoreline access in portions of the Key Peninsula where current public access is limited or non-existent.





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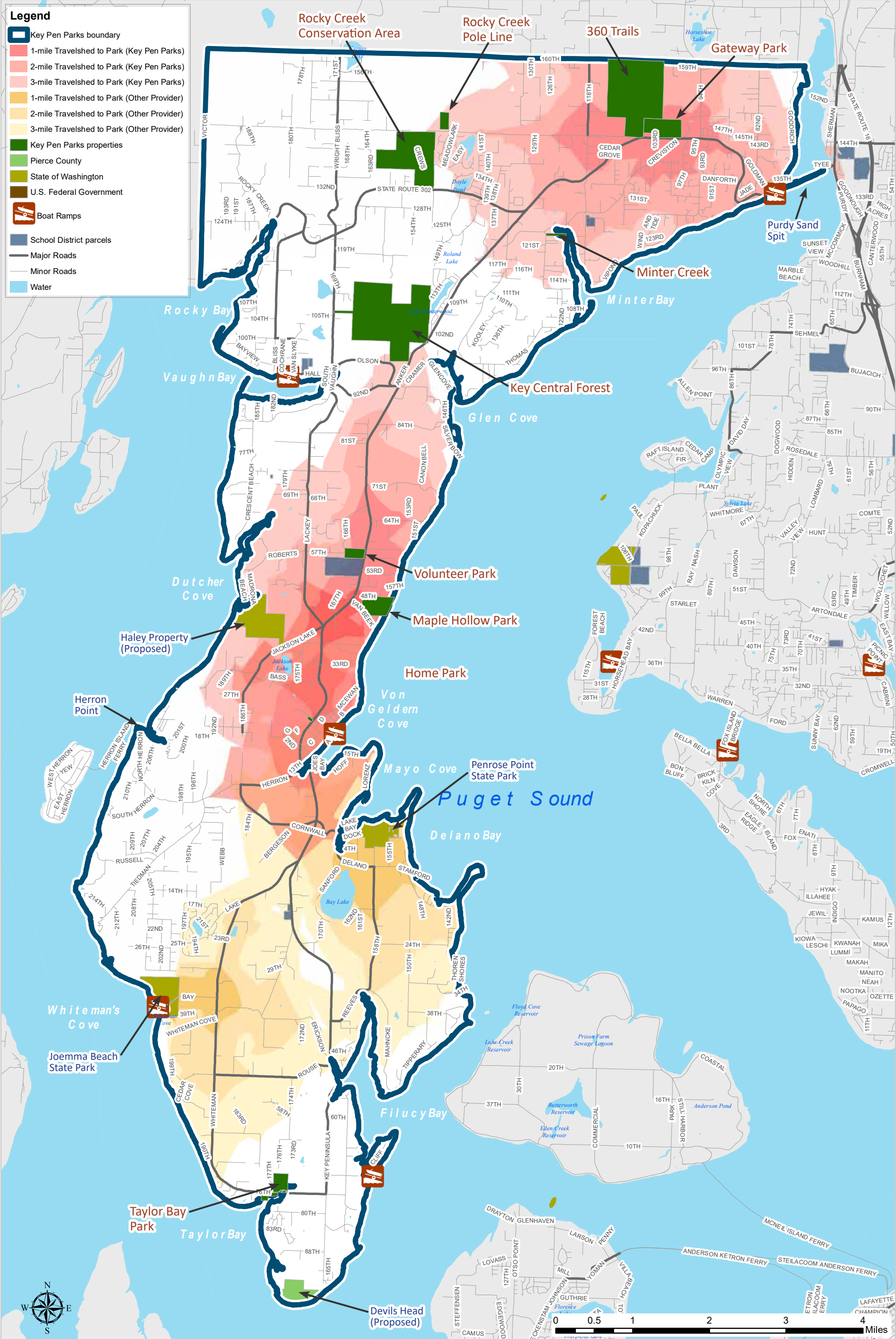


## Map 3: Park Travelsheds

### Community & Regional Parks



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Map 4: Park Travelsheds  
Key Pen Parks, County & State Parks (Developed)







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## LEVEL OF SERVICE

As a large, low-density and rural district, the application of urban-style service standards and related levels of service may not adequately represent the community need for service delivery within Key Pen Parks' jurisdiction. The service standards noted in Key Pen Parks' 2014-2019 Comprehensive Plan were reviewed for this update and maintained. Figure 6 illustrates the current and projected levels of service by park classification.

Figure 6. Current & Projected Levels of Service by Classification

	Goal	Current Acreage	Current LOS	Attainment to Goal	Projected LOS (2030)
Neighborhood Parks*	1 ac/1000	10.49 ac	0.5 ac/1000	54%	0.5 ac/1000
Community Parks	3 ac/1000	20.76 ac	1.1 ac/1000	36%	1.0 ac/1000
Regional Parks	5 ac/1000	572.17 ac	29.6 ac/1000	592%	26.8 ac/1000
Developed Parks	10 ac/1000	154.47 ac	8.0 ac/1000	80%	7.2 ac/1000
All Parks	70 ac/1000	1,341.17 ac	69.3 ac/1000	99%	62.9 ac/1000

\* Key Peninsula Civic Center included in Neighborhood Parks

The Key Pen Parks' system was also assessed using RCO's level of service metrics provided in their planning manual. In reviewing the park system as a whole, Figure 7 illustrates the current levels of service across different performance measurements.

Figure 7: Levels of Service with RCO Metrics (System-wide)

Indicators & Criteria	Grade
<b>Quantity Criteria</b>	
Number of Developed Park & Recreation Facilities	B (79.9%)
Facilities that Support Active Recreation	D (36.4%)
Facilities Capacity	C (49%)
<b>Quality Criteria</b>	
Agency-Based Assessment	C (45%)
Public Satisfaction	A (85%)
<b>Distribution of Access</b>	
Population within Service Area	D (34.6%)
Access	E

From the community survey results, public satisfaction of the facilities and amenities that Key Pen Parks provides ranked as the strongest indicator for the park system. Since the 2014 plan, Key Pen Parks has made improvements in each of the quantity criteria noted in Figure 7 with the strongest performance improvement in the number of developed park and recreation facilities. Due to the rural character of the Key Peninsula and the geographic spread of existing facilities, the ranking for the access criteria remained as they were in 2014.





Figure 8 illustrates additional level of service metrics for each of the three primary service areas on Key Peninsula, which are defined based on local zip codes.

Figure 8: Levels of Service with RCO Metrics (by Zip Code Service Areas)

Metrics	98329	98349 + 98394	98351
Park Sites	360 Trails Gateway Park Key Central Forest Minter Creek Rocky Creek Rocky Creek Pole Line Key Pen Civic Center	Home Park Maple Hollow Park Volunteer Park	Taylor Bay Park
Population	11,617	6,481	1,247
Park Acreage (Total)	1,216.22	81.00	40.20
Park Acreage (Developed)	131.52	22.50	0.00

Metrics	98329	98349 + 98394	98351
<b>Per Capita LOS</b>			
Neighborhood Parks (1 ac/000)	0.75	0.27	0.00
Attainment to Standard	75.3%	26.8%	0.0%
LOS Grade	<b>C</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>
Community Parks (3 ac/000)	0.00	3.20	0.00
Attainment to Standard	0.0%	106.8%	0.0%
LOS Grade	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>
Developed Parks (10 ac/000)	11.32	3.47	0.00
Attainment to Standard	113.2%	34.7%	0.0%
LOS Grade	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
All Parks (70 ac/000)	104.69	12.50	32.24
Attainment to Standard	149.6%	17.9%	46.1%
LOS Grade	<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Parkland Access</b>			
Population within Service Area*	0	1,118	0
Percent of Service Area with Access to Neighborhood Parks	0.0%	17.2%	0.0%
LOS Grade	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>
Population within Service Area*	4,882	2,570	0
Percent of Service Area with Access to Developed Parks	42.0%	39.6%	0.0%
LOS Grade	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>

\* Note: The percentage of land area covered by service area walksheds is a proxy for the population within the zip code

The northern section of the Key Peninsula (zip code 98329) has both the largest population and the greatest number of parks and park acres. As a result, this service area has the strongest rankings across several service level indicators, including per capita measurements for the provision of neighborhood parks, developed parks and the aggregate of all park acres. The southern section of Key Peninsula (zip code 98351) currently does not have developed parkland. Taylor Bay Park is the sole property owned by Key Pen Parks. It is undeveloped and a priority for future site improvements.

Also, due to the rural character of the Key Peninsula and the composition of existing parklands, Key Pen Parks does not currently provide parks of each classification type within each zip code service area. As such, significant variability in rankings exists between the zip code services areas.

## TRAILS

Trails offer opportunities for active lifestyles and to experience community and nature. Nature-based activities such as walking, running and cycling are among the most popular outdoor recreational activities in Washington state. Trails present a significant opportunity to improve residents' recreational options for these activities.

### Recreational Trends

Walking and hiking continue to be the most popular recreational activities nationally and regionally, with approximately 84% participating in these activities based on statewide data. Furthermore, over the past ten years, national recreation studies have consistently ranked hiking and walking as the most popular form of outdoor recreation. These studies include:

- *Sports Participation Survey*; National Sporting Goods Association
- *Outdoor Recreation Participation Report*; The Outdoor Foundation
- *State of the Industry Report*; Recreation Management Magazine
- *Outdoor Recreation in America*; The Recreation Roundtable

### Local Interests & Feedback

In the community survey conducted for this Plan, walking trails were the most popular reason Key Peninsula residents visited a Key Peninsula park in the last year, as selected by two-thirds of respondents. Mountain biking was the primary reason 16% of residents visited, and equestrian trails/riding was the primary reason for an additional 9% of residents.

Half (50%) of residents feel that Key Pen Parks needs more walking trails and paths, ranking them as the most-needed recreational improvement. In addition, 80% of residents think Key Pen Parks should place a medium or high priority on building a recreational trails network, which placed it in the top three priorities, behind maintaining existing parks and protecting natural areas and open space.



## Park and Open Space Trails

Key Pen Parks offers residents a variety of trails for walking, hiking, running, cycling and horseback riding through its parks and open spaces. The largest of these trail systems include:

- 360 Trails, a 400-acre park abutting Gateway Park. The park's approximately 15 miles of single and double-track trails offer various routes for hiking, cycling, and equestrian use. Trails built specifically for mountain biking range from beginner to advanced skill level and offer a variety of man-made rollers and other features. Multiple running and cycling races and events, including Key Pen Parks' Raffle Ride, are held at 360 Trails each year. The park also attracts riders from across the region and, according to data collected by Strava users, has the highest rate of cycling usage of parks on the Key Peninsula (see Figure 9 below).
- Key Central Forest is a 484.89-acre property with a few recently developed trails open to hikers, cyclists and equestrians. The property, which is mostly wooded, offers a tremendous opportunity to increase trail-based recreation opportunities for Key Peninsula residents and could attract regional visitors as well.
- Maple Hollow Park has a loop trail through its 58.5-acres. The trail brings visitors to a beach along the Puget Sound's Carr Inlet.
- Rocky Creek Conservation Area has over three miles of walking/hiking trails, two benches and a trailhead kiosk through its 234.79-acres of woodlands. There are currently three parking spots available at the trailhead.

Figure 9. Heat Map of Strava User Logged Routes, 2018



## Cross-Peninsula Connections

A number of regional planning documents, including the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan and associated Transportation Element (2015), the Pierce County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (draft 2020), the Pierce County Trail Plan (2008), and the Pierce County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (1997), designated the following roadway segments for potential non-motorized trails or connectors:

- Proposed Regional Trail along Route 302 from the Purdy Bridge to the western boundary of the Key Peninsula, which would connect regional trails on the Kitsap Peninsula to regional trails (such as the planned Cushman Trail extension east of Purdy) that provide connections south to Tacoma.
- Proposed Connector Trail along the Key Peninsula Highway from the northern boundary of the Key Peninsula south to Whiteman Road, then from the intersection of 76th St. SW to the terminus of the Key Peninsula Highway at 94th St. SW.
- Proposed Roadway Linkage along Whiteman Road and 76th St. SW bypassing the Key Peninsula Highway.

However, these trail alignments represent a long-term goal, and no local or county funding has currently been set aside to improve these roadway segments for use by pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians.

## Head-to-Toe Trail

Previous park plans for the Key Peninsula have supported developing an approximately 20-mile north to south connector trail, known as the “Head-to-Toe Trail”, which would connect parks, schools and other local destinations across the length of the Key Peninsula. Potential anchor and spur locations could include:

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| ■ 360 Trails                    | ■ Haley (undeveloped) State Park (spur)     |
| ■ Gateway Park                  | ■ Penrose State Park (spur)                 |
| ■ Rocky Creek Conservation Area | ■ Evergreen Elementary School               |
| ■ Key Central Forest            | ■ Joemma Beach State Park                   |
| ■ Volunteer Park                | ■ Longbranch Improvement Club and Marina    |
| ■ Key Peninsula Civic Center    | ■ Taylor Bay Park                           |
| ■ Maple Hollow Park (spur)      | ■ Devils Head (southern terminus trailhead) |

## Future Improvements

Recreational trails offer a significant opportunity to leverage Key Pen Parks’ portfolio of large natural parks and open spaces with residents’ desires for additional places to walk, hike, ride bicycles and ride horses. Key Pen Parks should pursue opportunities to develop and enhance its trail system by:

- Planning and developing a comprehensive trail system within Key Central Forest. Given this park’s size, there may be sufficient space for both single- and multi-use trails to meet the individual needs and desires of walkers/hikers, cyclists and equestrians.
- Improving and expanding trails and trail types at Rocky Creek Conservation Area.
- Establishing an east-west connector trail between 360 Trails/Gateway Park and Rocky Creek Conservation Area along Tacoma Public Utilities Cushman Power Line alignment, if the lease at Rocky Creek is extended.





- Researching potential north-south trail easements between Rocky Creek Conservation Area and Key Central Forest.
- Developing a trail system at Taylor Bay Park, in conjunction with general park access improvements.
- Continuing planning, partnerships and easement acquisition efforts for a future Head-to-Toe Trail.
- Continuing to partner with local clubs and organizations to support volunteer trail construction and maintenance, signage improvements and events.
- Pursuing opportunities to enhance trailhead access and amenities at Key Pen Parks' properties by adding wayfinding signage, parking, restrooms, potable water and other amenities as feasible.
- Adopting Trail Design and Management Best Practices that provide guidance for the siting, design, construction, maintenance and management of trail systems, based on the recommendations of the U.S. Forest Service, International Mountain Bicycling Association and the State of Washington.
- Partner with land trusts, other organizations and private entities for a future access east/west trail to the Mason County line.

## **WATER TRAILS & WATERFRONT PARKS**

The Key Peninsula's location along the Puget Sound provides countless opportunities for water-based recreation, including both motorized and non-motorized boating, fishing, paddle sports, diving, wildlife watching and other beach activities. The 58.5-acre Maple Hollow Park offers water campsites, vault restroom, an improved walking trail with access to a 1,400' gravel beach on Carr Inlet with views of Mount Rainier, as well as a picnic area.

Key Pen Parks' waterfront parklands connect residents with the Puget Sound and provide opportunities to enjoy and recreate along this unique resource. The following parks on the Key Peninsula offer beach or Puget Sound shoreline access:

- Maple Hollow Park (Key Pen Parks)
- Taylor Bay Park (undeveloped, Key Pen Parks)
- Devils Head (undeveloped, Pierce County)
- Purdy Sand Spit (south side/undeveloped, Pierce County)
- Penrose Point (Washington State Parks)
- Joemma Beach (Washington State Parks)
- Minter Creek (undeveloped, Key Pen Parks)
- Haley State Park (undeveloped, Washington State Parks)

### **Cascadia Marine Trail (Kitsap Peninsula National Water Trail)**

One Key Pen Parks site (Maple Hollow Park) and two Washington State Parks sites (Penrose Point and Joemma Beach) are part of the Cascadia Marine Trail, which is a designated Washington Water Trail. The Cascadia Marine Trail is an inland sea trail that follows the bays and inlets around the Kitsap Peninsula and Whidbey Island. The trail has 160 day-use sites and 66 campsites scattered along its length and is suitable for day, or multi-day trips. The trail is a National Recreation Trail and was designated as one of only 16 National Millennium Trails by the White House.

## Future Improvements

Water-based activities are a popular recreational pastime on the Key Peninsula. Key Pen Parks should pursue opportunities to improve public shoreline and water access by:

- Improving parking and trail access at Key Pen Parks' existing shoreline and water access parks.
- Developing compatible recreational access, such as hiking trails, non-motorized boat access, picnic areas and parking at Taylor Bay Park.
- Supporting County and State Park efforts to enhance access to local waterways for residents and visitors.

## Management

Many Key Pen Parks waterfront parks have critical wildlife, habitat and environmental functions. Waterfront park development and site management plans should balance public access and amenities with ecosystem needs. Key Pen Parks should strive to protect and restore native vegetation, natural features and environmental functions and mitigate negative impacts during the design, development, and management of waterfront parks. Key Pen Parks should also aim to operate waterfront facilities in ways that limit negative environmental impacts. For example, Key Pen Parks may want to consider implementing the environmental stewardship and waste minimization strategies outlined in the Department of the Interior's *Green Marina Initiative Guidebook*.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECREATION PARTNERSHIPS

Key Pen Parks currently provides limited recreation programming, focused on special events. Community events and activities offered by Key Pen Parks include the 4th of July Community Social, Parks Appreciation Day, Cinema Under the Stars, All Hallows Eve Celebration, 360 Trails Raffle Ride, Popsicles in the Park, Pet Easter Treat Hunt, Letters to Santa and Mom & Me Tea. Key Pen Parks' Gateway Park also hosts the annual Key Peninsula Logging Show & Festival and is a stop on the Key Peninsula Farm Tour, both events attract visitors from throughout the region.

Key Pen Parks also partners with recreation providers to bring an assortment of recreation activities to its parks that focus on youth sports and family activities. The Peninsula School District provides outdoor and indoor recreation facilities for recreation programming that can be reserved by recreation providers, including youth sports organizations and adult sports groups.

Recreation programs for youth and adults are provided by the:

- Peninsula Athletic Association (merged with PenMet Parks), which provides youth baseball, softball and soccer.
- Key Peninsula Little League, which provides baseball and softball for youth ages 4-16.
- Red Barn Youth Center, which offers after-school activities for 6th-12th grade students.
- Key Center Library, which offers reading, STEAM, and art-focused events for youth, adults and families.
- Key Peninsula Civic Center, which offers skate night for youth.
- Mustard Seed Project & Key Peninsula Community Services, which offer programs for older adults.



- Two Waters Arts Alliance, which provides art, music and theater classes and events for youth and adults, and offers free multi-week after-school arts education in local schools.
- Local running, biking, equestrian and sportsman clubs.
- PenMet Parks, which provides youth sports, youth activities (art, dance, gymnastics, camps, etc.) and adult activities (fitness, dance, etc.) on the Gig Harbor Peninsula.

## Local Interests & Feedback

Key Pen Parks' events are popular among Key Peninsula residents and attract residents of all ages from across the Key Peninsula. Nearly 40% of households attended the 4th of July Community Social last year. Approximately three in ten households attended Parks Appreciation Day and at least one of the Cinema Under the Stars movie showings.

Key Peninsula residents expressed an interest in expanded community events and recreation programs, although they would like Key Pen Parks to prioritize maintaining parks, building a trail network and preserving open space, above expanding free activities and recreational programming.

When it comes to recreational programs and activities, residents expressed greater interest in, and need for, adult programs and activities than those geared towards youth or teens. Residents were more likely to feel that their households need for youth or teen activities was either low or currently met (see Figure 10). However, the number and types of activities Key Pen Parks can offer is very limited due to a lack of staffing, operational resources and indoor facility availability and capacity.

Figure 10. Local Need for Recreation Programming

### Higher Need / Unmet

- Adult fitness classes, such as wellness, yoga & Zumba (63% / 45%)
- Specialized programs focusing on canoeing, climbing, archery & water safety (61% / 50%)
- Adult enrichment classes, such as music, art & crafts (59% / 44%)

### Higher Need / Somewhat Met

- Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety & health (62% / 46%)
- Programs for adults 55 and over, such as drop-in activities, trips, safety & health (50% / 47%)

### Lower Need / Unmet

- Adult sports leagues, such as soccer, softball, pickleball, volleyball, etc. (38% / 43%)

### Lower Need / Somewhat Met

- Youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts & crafts (48% / 50%)
- Youth sports programs and camps, such as tennis, pickleball, basketball & soccer (43% / 54%)
- Children's activities, such as supervised after-school & summer day camp programs (39% / 56%)
- Teen activities, such as drop-in facilities, field trips & camps during school breaks (37% / 49%)

To meet community needs for community events and recreation programming, Key Pen Parks should continue to work with the Peninsula School District, community partners, non-profit organizations and other providers to collectively offer and advertise both drop-in events and structured programs in sports, art, music and dance, as well as other educational and environmental activities for Peninsula residents. Key Pen Parks should specifically consider opportunities to provide additional adult-focused recreation programming, via contract vendors or through interagency agreements with PenMet Parks, focusing on programs that are not currently offered by other local or regional providers.



# CAPITAL PLANNING

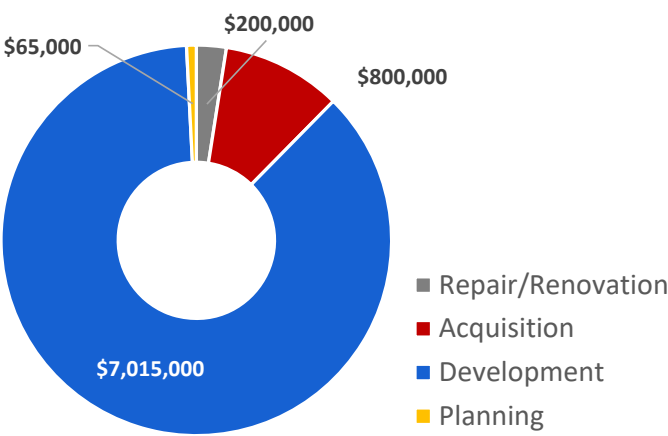
## CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN

The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) puts into chronological order the project intent and strategic actions adopted by Key Pen Parks to guide the implementation of this Plan. It assigns proposed time frames and estimated costs for specific projects.

The CFP on the following pages lists the park and facility projects considered for the next six years. The majority of these projects entail the development of parks, renovating or enhancing existing facilities and expanding trail access. The CFP provides brief project descriptions for those projects with priority ranking to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

These projects were selected based on the need to address care for existing facilities, implement long-standing plans for improvements, and work toward meeting the goal to better connect, and create access to, park and recreation facilities.

Figure 11. Capital Facilities Plan Expenditures Summary







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Key Pen Parks  
Capital Improvements Plan  
2020-2025

Park Site	Project Description	Activity	Priority	Funding Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026+	Sum
360 Trails	Wayfinding system signage	D	1	Capital	\$ 18,000							\$ 18,000
Gateway Park	Master Plan Phase 3 - splash pad & amphitheater	D	1	Capital	\$ 1,000,000							\$ 1,000,000
	Master Plan Phase 4 - sports field	D	2	Capital			\$ 1,300,000					\$ 1,300,000
	Master Plan Phase 4 - equestrian area	D	3	Capital					\$ 200,000			\$ 200,000
	Master Plan Phase 5 - park admin bldg	D	3	Capital						\$ 750,000		\$ 750,000
Key Central Forest	Parking & trailhead improvements	D	1	Capital		\$ 400,000						\$ 400,000
	Restrooms	D	2	Capital			\$ 450,000					\$ 450,000
	Trail construction - equestrian improvements	D	2	Capital			\$ 40,000					\$ 40,000
Maple Hollow Park	Trail improvements & Amenities	D	2	Capital		\$ 60,000						\$ 60,000
Minter Creek (undeveloped)	Master Plan	P	3	Planning				\$ 40,000				\$ 40,000
Minter Creek	Master plan - phase 1 improvements	D	3	Capital							\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000
Rocky Creek Conservation Area	Add park ID sign, replace kiosk, add trail wayfinding system (if lease renewed)	D	2	Capital			\$ 20,000					\$ 20,000
Taylor Bay Park	Waterfront access improvements	D	2	Capital	\$ 35,000		\$ 100,000					\$ 135,000
	Phase 1 site improvements	D	1	Capital		\$ 150,000						\$ 150,000
Volunteer Park	Bleacher & gate replacements	R	1	Capital	\$ 80,000							\$ 80,000
	Parkour elements; Exercise stations	D	2	Capital		\$ 90,000						\$ 90,000
	Sports field sand-based turf upgrade & lighting	D	2	Capital				\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000			\$ 1,500,000
Parkland Acquisition	East-Central Peninsula area	A	2	Capital						\$ 750,000		\$ 750,000
Key Pen Parks' Trail System	Planning & Acquisition	P, A	1	Planning		\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000		\$ 75,000
	Trail segment construction	D	2	Capital			\$ 200,000		\$ 250,000		\$ 250,000	\$ 700,000
Minor Repairs & Renovations	Pavement repairs, sign replacements, etc.	R	1	Capital	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 70,000
ADA Compliance Upgrades	ADA-compliant benches, picnic tables, ramps, signs, access	R	1	Capital	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000			\$ 50,000
					\$ 1,153,000	\$ 745,000	\$ 2,130,000	\$ 835,000	\$ 1,220,000	\$ 1,535,000	\$ 435,000	\$ 8,053,000

**Notes**  
This CFP identifies planning-level cost estimates and does not assume the value of volunteer or other non-MPD contributions.  
Detailed costing may be necessary for projects noted.  
This CFP is not an official budget and intended as a guiding document for staff in the preparation of budgets.

Code	Activity	Code	Priority
A	Acquisition	1	High Priority
D	Development	2	
R	Renovation / Repair	3	
P	Planning / Design		



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# STRATEGIES & TACTICS

A number of strategies exist to improve park and recreation service delivery for Key Pen Parks; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. The following implementation strategies are presented to offer near-term direction to realize these projects and as a means to continue dialogue between Key Pen Parks and its community partners. Given that the operating and capital budgets for Key Pen Parks are limited, the implementation measures identified below look primarily to non-General Fund options. Additionally, a review of potential implementation tools is attached as Appendix E and includes local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and other potential funding avenues.

## Community-based Action & Partner Coordination

Volunteers and community groups already contribute to the improvement of park and recreation services for Key Pen Parks. Volunteers contribute through community service projects, such as trail building and maintenance and parks beautification. Key Pen Parks should continue to promote and update its website with a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects, while also reaching out to local schools to encourage student projects. Although supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals continues to add value to Key Pen Parks' park system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time, and additional resources may be necessary to more fully take advantage of the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

As a growing, active lifestyles community, Key Pen Parks should explore partnership opportunities with regional health care providers and services, such as the Key Medical Center, CHI Franciscan/St. Anthony's Medical Center and the Tacoma-Pierce County





Health Department, to promote wellness activities, healthy living and communications about the benefits of parks and recreation. For example, this group could more directly cross-market services and help expand communications about local wellness options, and they could sponsor a series of organized trail walks at various Key Peninsula parks as a means to expand public awareness of local trail opportunities and encourage residents to stay fit. As an example, other communities in Washington have been successful with funding requests to regional hospitals for the development and printing of community walking guides that highlight the health benefits of walking and include trails maps and descriptions.

## **Local Funding**

The Key Peninsula community has shown strong resolve in its support for parks and recreation services over the past fifteen years with voters supporting the formation of Key Pen Parks in 2004. Key Pen Parks has operated mostly on a pay-as-you-go model to date, and Key Pen Parks maintains reserve debt capacity for general obligation bonds and voter approved debt. Key Pen Parks should reassess its capital needs for further enhancements to park and recreation facilities and focus support for trail system improvements and site development to fill known service gaps.

## **Public-Private Partnerships**

Public-private partnerships are increasingly necessary for local agencies to leverage their limited resources in providing park and recreation services to their community. Corporate sponsorships, health organization grants, conservation stewardship programs and non-profit organizations are just a few examples of partnerships where collaboration provides value to both partners. Key Pen Parks should continue to work with Key Peninsula Park & Recreation Foundation for various funding opportunities and should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships to help implement these Plan recommendations.

## **Pierce County Conservation Futures**

The County currently assesses an excise of \$0.0444 per \$1,000 assessed value to fund the Conservation Futures program and provides municipalities, park districts, tribes or non-profits a venue to access these funds through a competitive, local grant process on odd-year cycles. Key Pen Parks should continue to submit for projects that meet the program requirements to provide needed funds for conservation and open space preservation.

## **Grants & Appropriations**

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including Washington Recreation and Conservation Office grants and Land and Water Conservation Funds, among others. Pursuing grants is not a cure-all for park system funding, since grants are both competitive, and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency which, depending on the

grant program, can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Key Pen Parks should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly relevant on regional transportation or trail projects, and the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on such projects.

### **Other Implementation Tools**

Appendix E identifies other implementation tools, such as grants and acquisition tactics that Key Pen Parks could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the CFP.



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# APPENDIX A

## SURVEY SUMMARY





CONSERVATION  
TECHNIX

**To:** Scott Gallacher, Executive Director, Key Pen Parks  
**From:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.  
**Date:** August 1, 2019 (rev. 9/30/19)  
**Re:** **Key Pen Parks Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan**  
 Community Survey Summary Results

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Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of a survey of the general population of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District that assesses local recreational needs and priorities.

## KEY FINDINGS

### Key Peninsula residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities.

Nearly all respondents (96%) think parks and recreation are important to quality of life on the Key Peninsula.



### Residents are aware of recreational opportunities and visit parks frequently.

Over 80% of respondents are aware of nearly all parks on the Peninsula – those lesser-known parks (Key Central Forest, Taylor Bay, Rocky Creek Conservation Area) tend to have limited or no public access. Two-thirds of respondents visit parks or recreation facilities at least once a month. The most popular reasons respondents visit are to use walking paths or for relaxation.

### Residents are generally satisfied with existing parks and recreation facilities.

A large majority of respondents (86%) are satisfied with the value they receive from the Key Pen Parks for parks and recreation amenities. More than three-quarters of respondents rated the condition of Gateway Park, 360 Trails, Volunteer Park, and local State Parks as excellent or good. However, over half of respondents said they would visit parks more often if the District addressed maintenance, accessibility or safety issues or provided desired facilities, programs, or equipment.

### Residents would like to see improvements made to the parks & recreation system and are willing to pay more to fund them.

Half of survey respondents think that the Key Peninsula does not have enough walking paths within parks (50%). Respondents were split on the adequacy of picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports fields, with close to half (46-52%) feeling there are about the right number or more than enough, but similar numbers responding that there are not enough or they were unsure. Respondents are most comfortable with the current number of parks, with 55% feeling that there are about the right number or more than enough. Respondents also indicated unmet needs for off-leash dog areas, as well as various types of trail routes, wildlife viewing, water access, community events and adult recreational programming.

Respondents living on the Key Peninsula are split on their willingness to pay more to support these improvements. Approximately 19% of respondents would not be willing to pay any additional taxes to support improvements to parks and recreation. However, most respondents would be willing to pay more – ranging from less than \$4 per month (19%) to over \$10 per month (19%).

## DIFFERENCES BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS

The table below summarizes key differences between respondents of different demographic groups.

Age		
<b>Under 45</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More likely to feel that parks and recreation are essential to the quality of life on the Key Peninsula</li><li>• Tend to be less satisfied with the value they receive from Key Pen Parks</li><li>• Most frequent users of parks &amp; recreation facilities</li><li>• More likely to have children in the home</li><li>• More likely to prioritize developing new active-use parks and facilities</li></ul>	<b>Over 45</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tend to be less frequent users of parks</li><li>• Tend to be more satisfied with the value they receive from Key Pen Parks</li><li>• More likely than younger respondents to prioritize maintaining existing parks and developing walking paths</li></ul>	
Children in Household		
<b>0 kids</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More likely to be older adults</li><li>• More likely than those with children to cite being too busy as a reason why they do not use parks more often</li><li>• Tend to be more satisfied with the value provided by Key Pen Parks</li></ul>	<b>1 – 3 kids</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More likely to be frequent visitors to parks and facilities on the Key Peninsula</li><li>• More likely to cite crowding, safety, maintenance issues, or lack of desired programs or equipment as reasons why they do not visit more often</li><li>• Most likely to visit parks to use playgrounds or attend family gatherings, events or festivals</li><li>• More likely to support active-use improvements than those without children at home</li><li>• Stronger preference for school flyers as a communication method</li></ul>	
Location		
<b>North (98329)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visit parks more frequently</li></ul>	<b>Central (98349, 98394)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More likely to feel there are “more than enough” parks, picnic areas, and playgrounds</li></ul>	<b>South (98351)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 30% cited distance to parks or other transportation issues as a reason they do not visit more</li></ul>



## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In close collaboration with Key Pen Parks staff and Commissioners, Conservation Technix developed the 21-question survey that was estimated to take approximately ten minutes to complete.

The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within the boundaries of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District on April 29, 2019. An online version of the survey was posted to the Key Pen Parks website a week later to allow the mail recipients to receive first notice about the survey. Reminder postcards were mailed to the 2,500 households on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Information about the survey was provided on the District's website home page and on the Plan subpage. It was promoted via social media, as well. The survey was also promoted during a public open house meeting held on May 15, 2019 that served as the first public meeting for the Plan. The survey was closed on June 26<sup>th</sup>, and preliminary data were compiled and reviewed. In all, 259 responses were completed from the print version mail survey, and 438 responses were generated via the online link for a total of 697 responses.

The survey data were cross tabulated with the demographic data (e.g., age, location, number of children in household) to examine if differences existed between the different respondent subgroups. The summary below identifies variations in responses per question, if such variations existed and were significant between subgroups.

Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## FULL RESULTS

### How much do residents value parks and recreation?

Nearly all respondents (96%) feel that local parks, recreation options and open space opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life on the Key Peninsula. Three in four respondents feel that they are essential; while an additional 20% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential. Only 4% of respondents believe parks are “more of a luxury that we don’t need”.

Respondents under 45 are more likely than older age groups to use parks and recreation facilities on a regular basis and to feel that they are essential to the quality of life on the Peninsula.

1. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life on the Key Peninsula, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are...

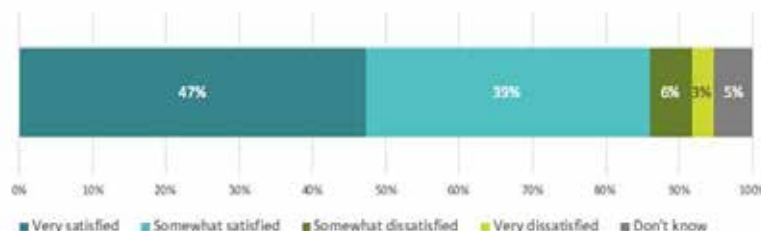
Response options	Percent	
Essential to the quality of life here	76%	96%
Important, but not really necessary	20%	
More of a luxury that we don’t need	4%	
Don’t know	0%	

### Are residents satisfied with the value they receive from Key Pen Parks?

A large majority of respondents (86%) are somewhat to very satisfied with the value they receive from Key Pen Parks for parks and recreation amenities. However, one in ten respondents (9%) are either somewhat or very dissatisfied.

Younger respondents tend to be less satisfied with the value provided by Key Pen Parks than older respondents or those with adult households.

3. Please rate your satisfaction with the overall value your household receives from Key Pen Parks for parks and recreation amenities.

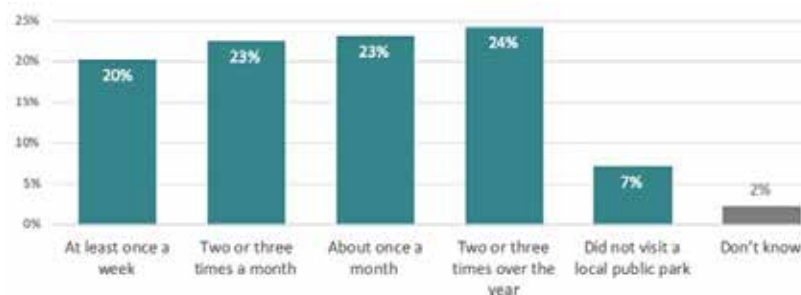


### How often do residents use Key Pen parks & recreation facilities?

Respondents were asked how often they, or members of their household, visited a park and recreation facility operated by Key Pen Parks over the past year. Respondents tend to visit frequently, with 20% visiting at least once a week and another 46% visiting one to three times per month. About a quarter of respondents visit just a few times per year. Few (7%) did not visit a park last year.

As compared to other age groups, adults under 45 are the most frequent users of Key Pen’s parks. Respondents of households with children also visit significantly more frequently than those without children. Respondents who live in the northern part of the Peninsula (zip code 98329) tend to visit parks more frequently compared to respondents of other areas.

6. How many times over the past year have you or members of your household visited a public park or recreation facility operated by Key Pen Parks?



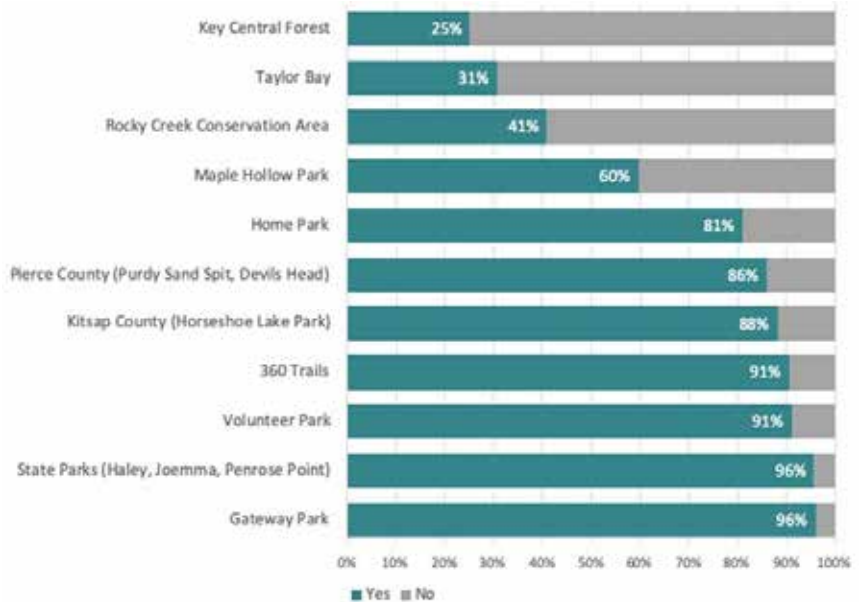




### Which parks & recreation facilities are residents aware of?

The District asked respondents which developed parks and recreation they are aware of. Nearly all respondents are aware of the Peninsula's State Parks (96%) and Gateway Park (96%). More than eight in ten respondents are aware of Home Park (81%), Pierce County Parks (86%), Kitsap County Parks (86%), 360 Trails (91%), Volunteer Park (91%). Fewer respondents are aware of Maple Hollow Park (60%), Rocky Creek Conservation Area (41%), Taylor Bay (31%), and Key Central Forest (25%).

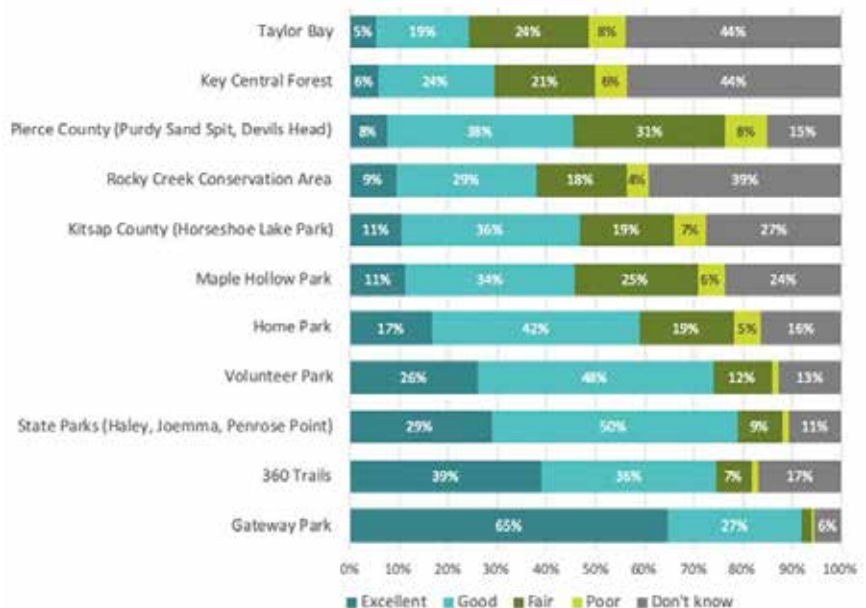
7. Please indicate if you are aware of the park and recreation sites listed below.



### How would residents rate the condition of parks and facilities on the Peninsula?

Of the respondents who were aware of various parks and recreation sites on the Key Peninsula, the majority gave Gateway Park, 360 Trails, State Parks, Volunteer Park, and Home Park a condition rating of excellent or good. Respondents rated the condition of Maple Hollow Park, Rocky Creek Conservation Area, and Pierce and Kitsap County Parks less favorably – between 38% and 47% of respondents consider these sites to be in excellent or good condition. Taylor Bay and Key Central Forest had the lowest condition ratings, but many respondents either were not aware of these sites or did not know their condition.

8. For those you marked with a YES... please indicate how you would rate the condition of the park or recreation facility.



### Why do residents visit parks?

Key Peninsula respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities are using walking paths (66%) or relaxation (48%). More than one-third of respondents visited for fitness (33%), to attend a festival, event, or outdoor movie (35%), use a playground (40%), or attend a family gathering or picnic (41%). Between 9% and 16% of respondents visited Key Pen parks for equestrian or mountain bike trails or for athletic fields. In addition, 21 respondents (5%) wrote in that they visit parks to walk or play with their dogs, and 7 respondents (1%) wrote in that they visited beaches or local waterways.

Respondents under 45, and those with children in their household, were the most likely to visit for playgrounds, athletic fields, and family gatherings.

### Why don't residents visit more often?

When asked why they do not visit Key Pen Parks' facilities more often, many respondents responded that they do visit (38%), are too busy (26%), or generally have no interest (5%, write-in) suggesting that further improvements would not increase their use of parks.

However, over half of respondents selected a reason that could be addressed by the District, including safety concerns (13%), lack of desired facilities or equipment (12%), crowding (11%), accessibility issues (4%), and maintenance issues (3%).

One in eight respondents cited transportation-related issues, either that existing parks are too far from their home or that there were no safe walking, biking or transit routes to parks. However, distance to parks was an issue cited by nearly 30% of respondents in the southern part of the Peninsula (zip code 98351). Other respondents stated that they either do not know what is offered by Key Pen Parks (10%) or use other nearby facilities (8%).

Respondents with children at home were more likely to cite that parks and facilities are too crowded, unsafe, not well maintained, or do not offer desired programs or equipment as reasons why they do not visit more often. Respondents without children at home were more likely than those with children to cite being too busy as a reason why they do not use parks more often.

4. What would you say are the main reasons you visited Key Pen parks and open spaces in the last year?

Reason	Percent
Walking trails	66%
Relaxation	48%
Family gatherings / picnics	41%
Playgrounds	40%
Festivals / events / outdoor movies	35%
Fitness	33%
Mountain bike trails	16%
Athletic fields	14%
Other	13%
Equestrian trails / riding	9%

5. Please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household does not use Key Pen Parks' facilities more often.

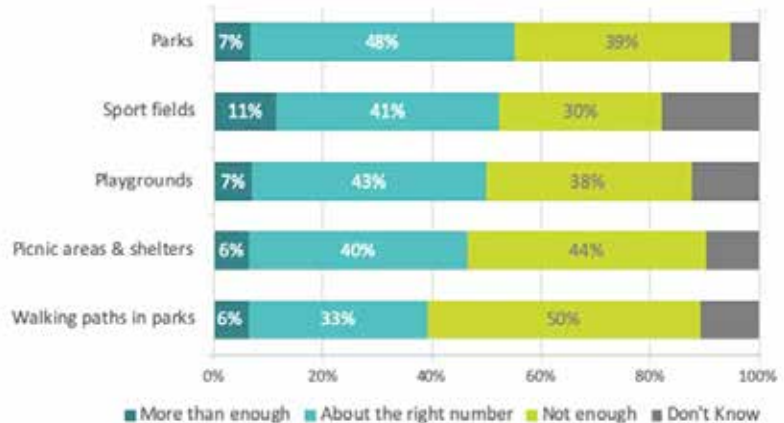
Reason	Percent
None (I/We use them)	38%
Too busy to go to parks and facilities	26%
Parks and facilities are too far from my home	13%
Do not feel safe in the park or facility	13%
Parks do not have the right equipment	12%
Parks and sports courts are too crowded	11%
I do not know what is offered	10%
Use parks or facilities provided by another city or organization	8%
Other – No interest	5%
Inaccessible for my physical abilities	4%
Parks and facilities are not well-maintained	3%
Other – Fees / cost is too high	1%
<i>Note: Write-in "Other" responses which fit clearly into defined answer categories were included in those categories.</i>	



### Do residents think the Key Peninsula needs more parks and recreation opportunities?

Half of survey respondents think that the Key Peninsula does not have enough walking paths in Key Pen parks (50%). Respondents were split on the adequacy of picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports fields, with close to half (46-52%) feeling there are about the right number or more than enough, but similar numbers responding that there are not enough or they were unsure. Respondents are most comfortable with the current number of parks, with 55% feeling that there are about the right number or more than enough parks.

2. When it comes to the needs for parks, trails and recreation facilities, would you say there are...



Younger respondents and those with children in their household are more likely to think there are not enough sports fields than older respondents or those in adult households. Respondents of the central part of the Peninsula (zip codes 98349 and 98394) are more likely than respondents of other areas to feel there are “more than enough” parks, picnic areas, and playgrounds.

### What park and recreation options do residents have a need for? Do they feel their needs are met?

The survey asked respondents a series of questions regarding their needs for typical park and recreation facilities. The first pair of questions asked which park and recreation facilities and amenities the respondent’s household has a need for, and then, whether that need is well met, somewhat met, or unmet locally. The second set asked similar questions related to recreational programs and activities.

Respondents indicated that the highest unmet park and recreation facility need is for off-leash dog areas. Respondents also have a high need for various types of trail routes, wildlife viewing, water access, and community events but feel that these needs are only somewhat met by existing facilities. On the other end of the scale, respondents expressed little additional need for BMX/pump tracks, equestrian facilities, and skateparks.

Many respondents also expressed an unmet need for a variety of sports-related facilities, including outdoor climbing areas, courts for tennis, pickleball, basketball, and volleyball, disc golf, and sports fields, though fewer respondents expressed an interest in using these facilities.

When it comes to recreational programs and activities, respondents expressed greater interest in, and need for, adult programs and activities than those geared towards youth or teens. Respondents were more likely to feel that their households need for youth or teen activities was either low or currently met.

11/12. Please indicate if your household has a need for each of the [park and recreation amenities or facilities](#) listed and indicate how well your needs are met locally.

Higher Need / Unmet	Higher Need / Somewhat Met	Higher Need / Well Met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-leash dog areas (52% / 58%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soft-surface, multi-use trails (83% / 53%)</li> <li>Nature / wildlife viewing (82% / 53%)</li> <li>Community events / festivals (68% / 48%)</li> <li>Water access sites (66% / 45%)</li> <li>Canoeing / kayaking access (60% / 43%)</li> <li>Paved, multi-use trails (56% / 44%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picnic shelters / areas (61% / 50%)</li> <li>Playgrounds (54% / 52%)</li> </ul>
Lower Need / Unmet	Lower Need / Somewhat Met	Lower Need / Well Met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor exercise stations (44% / 58%)</li> <li>Outdoor climbing areas (37% / 56%)</li> <li>Tennis / pickleball courts (30% / 45%)</li> <li>Basketball courts (28% / 41%)</li> <li>Outdoor volleyball (24% / 51%)</li> <li>Disc golf course (21% / 37%)</li> <li>All-weather sport fields (20% / 46%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grass sports fields (39% / 45%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BMX / pump track (19% / 42%)</li> <li>Equestrian facilities (17% / 41%)</li> <li>Skate parks (16% / 39%)</li> </ul>

13/14. Please indicate all of the [programs and activities](#) that your household has interest in. Please indicate how well your needs are met locally for each program or activity.

Higher Need / Unmet	Higher Need / Somewhat Met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult fitness classes, such as wellness, yoga &amp; Zumba (63% / 45%)</li> <li>Specialized programs focusing on canoeing, climbing, archery &amp; water safety (61% / 50%)</li> <li>Adult enrichment classes, such as music, art &amp; crafts (59% / 44%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety &amp; health (62% / 46%)</li> <li>Programs for adults 55 and over, such as drop-in activities, trips, safety &amp; health (50% / 47%)</li> </ul>
Lower Need / Unmet	Lower Need / Somewhat Met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult sports leagues, such as soccer, softball, pickleball, volleyball, etc. (38% / 43%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts &amp; crafts (48% / 50%)</li> <li>Youth sports programs and camps, such as tennis, pickleball, basketball &amp; soccer (43% / 54%)</li> <li>Children's activities, such as supervised after-school &amp; summer day camp programs (39% / 56%)</li> <li>Teen activities, such as drop-in facilities, field trips &amp; camps during school breaks (37% / 49%)</li> </ul>



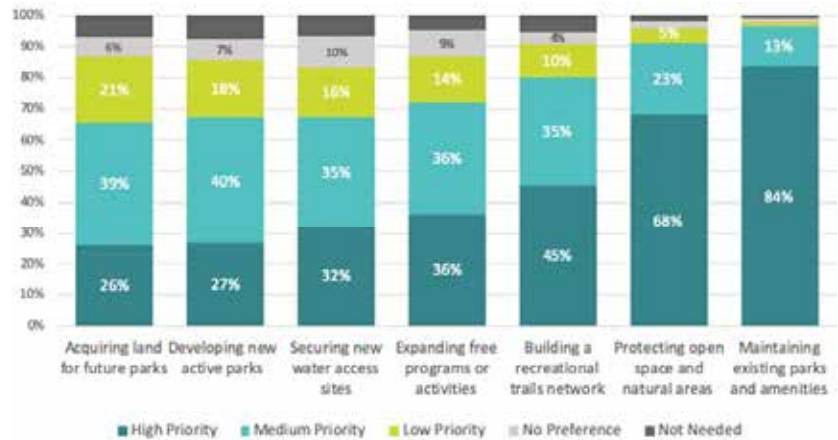


### What park and facility improvements would residents prioritize?

When asked which park and recreation improvements they would like to see the District focus on, more than eight in ten respondents responded that maintaining existing parks should be a high priority. 70% of respondents gave a high priority to protecting open space and natural areas. Another 45% gave a high priority to building a recreational trail network, while between 26% and 36% prioritized acquiring land for future parks, developing new active use parks, securing new water access sites, or expanding free programs.

Respondents under 45 years old were more likely to prioritize developing new active-use parks and expanding existing free programs and activities.

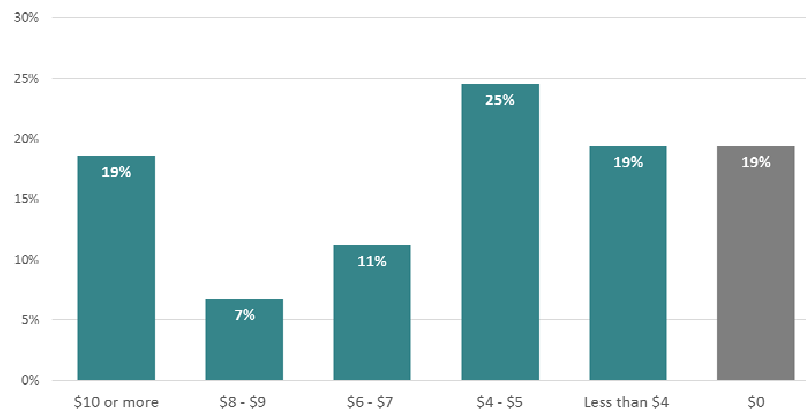
10. For each of the following services, indicate whether you think that should be high priority, medium or low priority.



### Are residents willing to pay additional taxes or fees to fund improvements to parks and recreation?

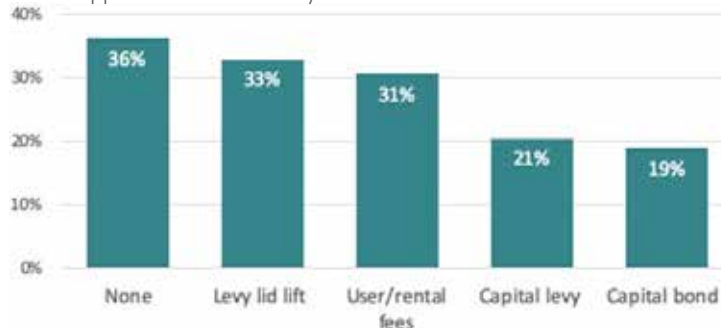
The survey asked respondents what the maximum amount they would be willing to pay to develop and operate the types of parks and recreation programs most important to their household. Since 6% of the respondents to this question lived outside Key Peninsula, the following data were filtered to exclude those responses. Of the Key Peninsula respondents, approximately 19% of respondents would not be willing to pay any additional taxes to support improvements to parks and recreation. However, 44% would be willing to pay up to \$5 per month and another 18% would pay between \$6 and \$10 monthly. About 19% of respondents would be willing to pay \$10 or more per month for improved park services.

15.... what is the approximate additional amount you would be willing to pay to develop and operate the types of parks, trails and recreation facilities that are most important to your household?



When asked which additional funding sources they would support to improve parks and recreation opportunities, approximately one in three respondents supported increasing the District's current levy or raising user and rental fees. Approximately 20% of respondents supported capital levies or bonds, options which could be spent on both capital development and renovations. Another 36% of respondents would not support any of the listed options. There were no significant differences between demographic groups, including geographic location.

16. ... what additional funding sources would you support to improve parks and recreation opportunities on the Key Peninsula?

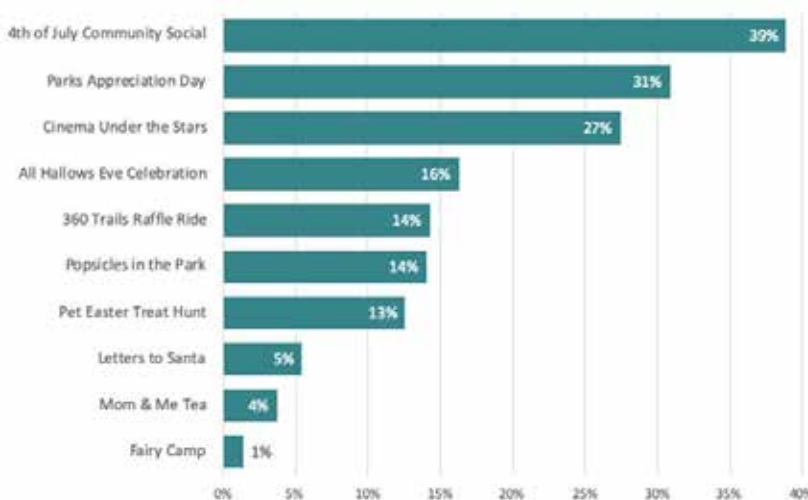


### Which special events have residents attended?

Key Pen Parks events are popular among Peninsula respondents. Nearly 40% of households attended the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Community Social last year. Approximately three in ten households attended Parks Appreciation Day and Cinema Under the Stars. Other Key Pen events were attended by between 5% and 16% of households. An additional 5% of respondents wrote-in that they have attended the Key Peninsula Logging Show & Festival, held at Gateway Park.

Younger respondents and those with children at home were more likely to have attended Cinema Under the Stars and the All Hallows Eve Celebration than older respondents, who were more likely to have attended the Parks Appreciation Day event. Key Pen Parks events attract respondents from across the Peninsula at similar rates.

9. From the following list, please check ALL the Key Pen Parks events you and members of your household have participated in over the past 12 months.





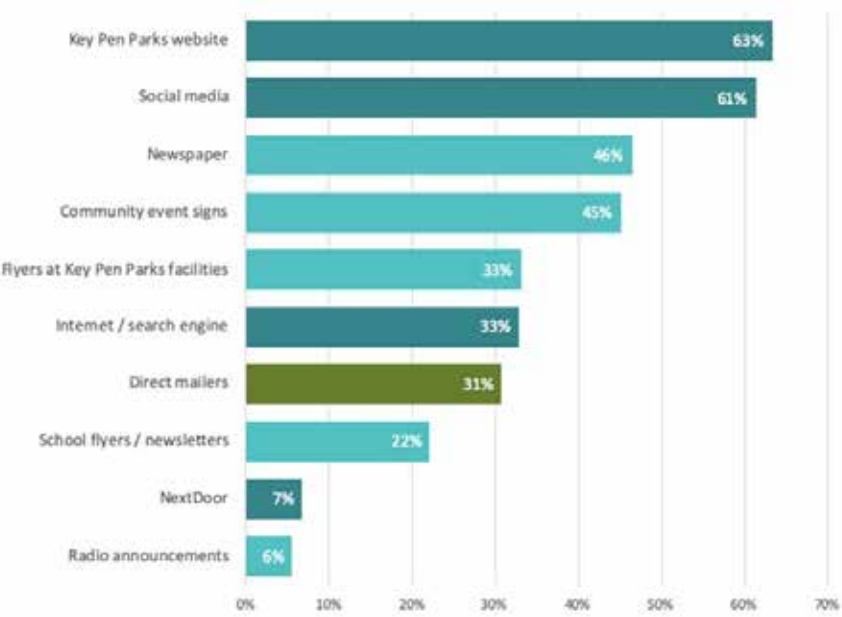
How do residents want to hear about Key Pen’s parks, facilities, and events?

The majority of respondents prefer to hear about Key Pen’s parks, facilities, and events through online channels such as the District’s website (63%) and social media (61%). Internet searches and NextDoor were less popular online methods (33% and 7% respectively). With the exception of social media, which is more popular with younger respondents, online methods are consistently preferred by all ages.

Posted signs or information, such as newspaper ads, particularly in the Key Peninsula News, community event signs, and flyers at Key Pen Parks facilities are also a popular sources. Such posted information is preferred by 33% to 46% of respondents. School flyers, which are preferred by 22% of respondents generally, are much more popular source of information among respondents under 45 years of age and among households with children at home (preference increases from 8% with no kids to nearly 60% for respondents with 3 or more children).

One in three respondents would like to hear about park and recreation opportunities through direct mail to their home. Multiple respondents also wrote in a desire for direct email notifications.

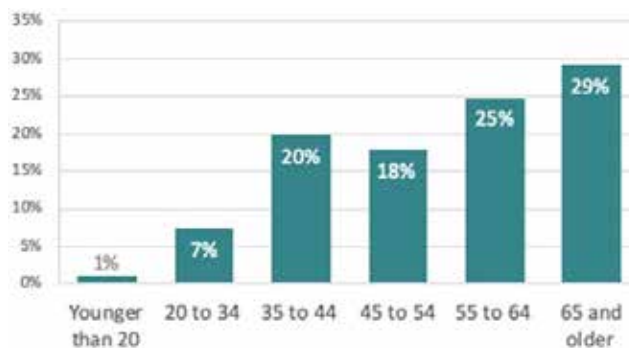
17. Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Key Pen’s facilities, parks, and events.



## Demographics

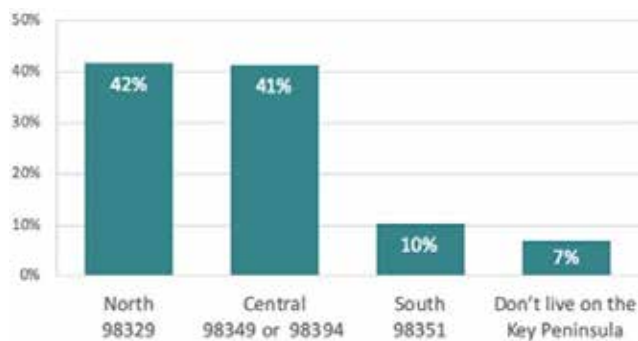
### Age

Respondents to the survey were roughly split between those over age 65 (29%), those between 55 and 64 years of age (25%), those between 45 and 54 (18%), and respondents between under 44 years of age (28%). Very few survey respondents were under the age of 20.



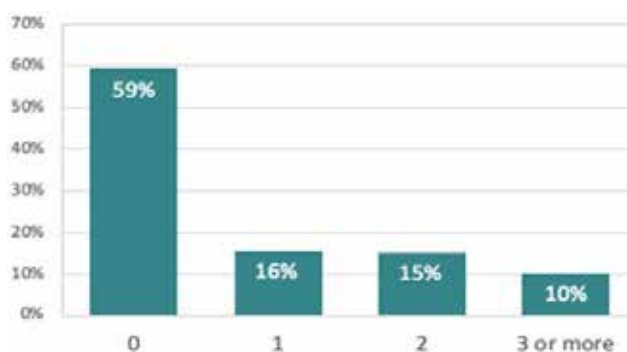
### Location of Residence

Nearly all survey respondents live in either the northern part of the Peninsula (zip code 98239, 42%) or the central portions (zip codes 98349 or 98394, 41%). Only one in ten respondents lives in the southern part of Key Pen (zip code 98351, 10%). Seven percent of respondents do not live on the Key Peninsula.



### Number of Children in Household

Over half of respondents (59%) have no children in their household. These households tended to include older adults (over age 55). The remaining 41% of households have one (16%), two (15%), or three (10%) children in the home.







## ATTACHMENT 1. SURVEY INSTRUMENT



## Community Survey on Park, Recreation & Open Space Preferences

Dear Key Peninsula Community Member:

Key Pen Parks is conducting a short survey to assess the recreational needs of community members for an update to its Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. The new Plan will establish a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks and recreation amenities across the Key Peninsula. The Plan will establish goals and recommend specific projects for Key Pen Parks' facilities for the next six years. Final review of the Plan tentatively is targeted for early 2020.

Your participation is crucial to the success of this project. The survey consists of 18 questions regarding current use of facilities, preferred activities, and support for future improvements. It takes on average about five minutes to complete, and residents of all ages are encouraged to participate.

Save a stamp. Take the survey now online at [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com)

Thank you in advance for participating!

1. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life on the Key Peninsula, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are... (Check one)

- ☐ Essential to the quality of life here  
☐ Important, but not really essential  
☐ More of a luxury that we don't need  
☐ Don't know

2. When it comes to meeting the needs for parks, trails and recreation facilities, would you say there are... (Check only one box in each row)

	More than Enough	About the Right Amount	Not Enough	Don't Know
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking paths in Key Pen Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport fields (baseball, soccer, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic areas & shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Please rate your satisfaction with the overall value your household receives from Key Pen Parks for parks and recreation amenities.

- ☐ Very satisfied  
☐ Somewhat satisfied  
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied  
☐ Very dissatisfied  
☐ Don't know

4. What would you say are the main reasons you visited Key Peninsula parks and open spaces in the LAST YEAR? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

- ☐ Fitness  
☐ Playgrounds  
☐ Athletic fields  
☐ Mountain bike trails  
☐ Walking trails  
☐ Equestrian trails / riding  
☐ Family gatherings / picnics  
☐ Festivals / events / outdoor movies  
☐ Relaxation  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household DOES NOT USE Key Pen Parks' facilities more often.

- ☐ Parks do not have the right equipment  
☐ Parks and facilities are not well maintained  
☐ Do not feel safe in park or facility  
☐ Inaccessible for my physical abilities  
☐ Parks and sport courts are too crowded  
☐ Parks and facilities are too far from my home  
☐ Too busy to go to parks and facilities  
☐ Use parks or facilities provided by another city or organization (such as private fitness clubs)  
☐ I do not know what is offered  
☐ None / I regularly use local parks or recreation facilities  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



Save a stamp! Take this survey online at Key Pen Parks' website:

[www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com)

Or send it back in the self-addressed envelope provided.

Thank you in advance for participating!

6. How many times over the past year have you or members of your household visited a public park or recreation facility operated by Key Pen Parks?

- ☐ At least once a week ☐ Two or three times over the year  
☐ Two or three times a month ☐ Did not visit a public park  
☐ About once a month ☐ Don't know

7. Please indicate if you are aware of the following parks and recreation sites listed below. If YES, please indicate how you would rate the condition of the park or recreation facility.

Site Name	Are you aware of each property?		How would you rate the condition of the park?				
	No	Yes	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Gateway Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
360 Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maple Hollow Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taylor Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rocky Creek Conservation Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key Central Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pierce County (Purdy Sand Spit, Devils Head)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kitsap County (Horseshoe Lake Park)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Parks (Haley, Joemma, Penrose Point)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. From the following list, please check ALL the Key Pen Parks events you and/or members of your household have participated in over the past 12 months.

- ☐ 4th of July Community Social ☐ Fairy Camp  
☐ Popsicles in the Park ☐ Mom & Me Tea  
☐ All Hallows Eve Celebration ☐ Cinema Under the Stars  
☐ Pet Easter Treat Hunt ☐ Letters to Santa  
☐ Parks Appreciation Day ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ 360 Trails Raffle Ride

9. For each of the following, indicate whether you think that it should be high, medium or low priority.

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	No Preference	Not Needed
Maintaining existing parks and amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acquiring land for future parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developing new active-use parks that include play areas and sport fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building a recreational trails network	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanding the availability of existing free programs or activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Securing new water access sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting open space and natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Community Survey on Park, Recreation & Open Space Preferences



10. Please indicate if your household has a need for each of the parks and recreation facilities listed below **AND** indicate how well your needs are met locally.

	Do you have a need?		How well met are your needs for this type of amenity or facility?			
	HAVE NEED	NO NEED	Very Well Met	Somewhat Met	Somewhat Unmet	Fully Unmet
Picnic shelters / areas for group gatherings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paved, multi-use trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rustic, soft-surface, multi-use trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BMX / pump track	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skate parks / skate spots	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equestrian facilities (arena, parking)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Off-leash dog areas (dog parks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Synthetic all-weather sport fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grass sport fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor tennis / pickleball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disc golf course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor climbing areas / apparatus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor volleyball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor exercise stations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water access sites (non-boating)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canoeing / kayaking access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community events / festivals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature / wildlife viewing opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Please indicate if your household has an interest in each of the programs or activities below **AND** for each, please indicate how well your needs are met locally.

Type of Program / Activity	Do you have interest?		How well met are your needs for this type of activity?		
	Yes	No	Very Well Met	Somewhat Met	Not At All Met
Children's activities, such as supervised after-school & summer day camp programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teen activities, such as drop-in facilities, field trips & camps during school breaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts & crafts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth sports programs and camps, such as tennis, pickleball, basketball & soccer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialized programs focusing on canoeing, climbing, archery & water safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs for adults 55 and over, such as drop-in activities, trips, safety & health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety & health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult sports leagues, such as soccer, softball, pickleball, volleyball, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult fitness classes, such as wellness, yoga & Zumba	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult enrichment classes, such as music, art & crafts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





12. Key Pen Parks is working to find better ways to give you services, using your tax dollars for the greatest benefit. When this metropolitan parks district was formed, voters approved a tax rate of \$0.75 per \$1,000 assessed property value. The current property tax rate is \$0.51 per \$1,000. While no new property taxes or fees are currently being proposed, the costs to improve and develop parks, trails and recreation amenities may increase as the community grows and new amenities are added. Knowing this, what is the approximate additional amount you would be willing to pay to develop and operate the types of parks, trails and recreation facilities that are most important to your household?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 or more per month | <input type="checkbox"/> \$4 - \$5 per month     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$8 - \$9 per month    | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$4 per month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$6 - \$7 per month    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$0                     |

13. Based on you answer above, what additional funding sources would you support to improve parks and recreation opportunities on the Key Peninsula?

- ☐ None, existing tax revenues should be sufficient
- ☐ Implement / increase user or rental fees for specific parks, programs or events
- ☐ Capital levy (tax to fund park system development and renovation projects)
- ☐ Capital bond (tax to authorize borrowing for system development and renovation projects)
- ☐ Levy lid lift (adjustment to current tax to fund maintenance, development, renovation and programming projects)

14. Please check ALL the ways you prefer to learn about Key Pen Parks' facilities, parks and events.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Key Pen Parks website            | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyers at Key Pen Parks facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (Facebook, Twitter) | <input type="checkbox"/> School flyers / newsletters        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NextDoor                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Community event signs              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet / search engine         | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct mailers                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio announcements              | <input type="checkbox"/> None                               |

15. Do you have other comments or suggestions for Key Pen Parks?

These last questions help us understand whether we have a cross section of the community. It's important that you provide a response to each question. Your answers are confidential.

16. How many children under age 18 live in your household?

- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 or more |

17. What is your age?

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Younger than 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 to 34        | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44        | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and older |

18. In which general area / ZIP code of the Peninsula do you live?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> North - 98329         | <input type="checkbox"/> South - 98351                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central - 98349/98394 | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't live on the Key Peninsula |

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!**

Your input and insights will be used to help guide the development of the Key Pen Parks' Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan.

**Save a stamp! Take this survey online:**

**[www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com)**

Check the Key Pen Parks' website for more information about the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan.

Key Pen Parks is utilizing the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning.

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed return-reply envelope addressed to:

Conservation Technix Inc.  
PO Box 12736  
Portland, OR 97212

**ATTACHMENT 2. OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES****4. What would you say are the main reasons you visited Key Peninsula parks and open spaces in the LAST YEAR?**

- Access to Water and beaches
- Beach combing
- Fishing
- Beach access
- Marine Parks
- Beach Access
- The beaches at sunset
- Riding bikes on pavement like Cushman Trail
- The 360 MTB Trails are superb, some of the best in western Washington
- Pets
- Dog walking
- Safe place to walk dogs
- Dog walking
- Dog walking
- Training dogs on leash
- Exercise for our dog
- Walk my DOG
- Walk dog
- Dog
- Exercise dog
- Dog walking
- Shshsh, play with my dog on& off leash
- Getting together with friends - walking dogs, etc.
- For my dogs
- Walking the dog/go to beach.
- Places for dog to run off leash.
- Dog park
- Dog walking
- Dog recreation
- Walk my dog
- Logging show
- Close by & convenient
- Good for the mind, body, and spirit!
- Our property is like a park
- Grand children wanted to
- Lots of other kids at Gateway
- Explore my new surroundings



- Sanity. Peace of mind. Fresh Air. Quiet.
- Fun activities that support families with children and pets
- No decent boat ramps or moorage
- Not at home
- Had to go to Gig Harbor for soccer fields
- Don't use them
- Don't go to parks much
- Didn't visit
- I didn't
- Did not visit any parks
- None
- Haven't gone yet
- Have not had a chance to
- Did not use
- Did not visit. Need an indoor pool!
- Did not visit
- Too many people! Did not visit
- I would like to see dog parks here & there are not one.
- Don't use your parks anymore
- Do not use parks
- Never
- Did not use
- I haven't
- Never been to one
- Been too busy with life
- I didn't use any Parks
- I don't use the parks EVER
- Do not use
- Yearly worship service
- Waiting for water park & ziplines
- Art class
- Social connections/networking
- Snack shack
- Soul care
- Distribution of free lunches
- Hiking
- Plant swap!
- No way to get there, no buses
- Camping

- Safe place for the kids to hang out
- Plant Swap
- Garden Swap at the Gazebo
- Used an open grass area to practice soccer.
- Running trails.
- School field trips, snack shack to eat
- Skatepark at volunteer
- Basketball and skate parks
- Wildlife viewing
- Food backpack Program hands out Lunches in the Summer

5. Write-ins for the reasons why your household does not use Key Pen Parks' facilities more often.

- Parking passes - should be able to have pass for all cars & parks
- Penrose costs money to go. Otherwise i would have gone sometimes.
- Cost
- Cost. My husband is a veteran we are low income. The cost is too high
- The ones with no money need to be able to go
- Rudeness of bullies (?) Lack of cops - bad traffic!
- People smoke or vape next to playground or in park
- The home park is the only one i hesitate to bring my child to due to drug use
- On trails due to bikes. The pristine trails are now used for bikes and have been ruined for horses. I ride horses and 360 has been turned into a bike park now a danger to horse riders. Really sad that this has been built out for the bikers.
- Drug use and needles found in bathrooms
- It is no longer safe to walk small dogs in the 360 park due to too many bikes and too many big dogs that are not properly restrained
- Too many trails allow bikes and walkers. It's dangerous for walkers to share paths with bikes.
- The entrance to gateway park is not safe during peak traffic times. There is a need for a turn lane before someone gets seriously hurt.
- Dirty needles, trash etc. Too readily accessible to pets and tiny kiddos
- Safer exit/entry needed
- I only feel safe if i am with other people.
- Deserted trail heads are worrisome. Some trail heads have no place to park.
- Drug addicts
- Inattentive parents & off-leash dog owners, rude bicyclists
- I use the trails 360 but have felt uncomfortable before
- Afraid of off-leash dogs attacking my on-leash dog... Again
- Sometimes wonder if car is safe to leave parked
- Too many off leash dogs
- Not sure of where everything is or what trails/parks are available
- Gateway needs more markers on trails or an app so you know where you are. Also would be nice to have a clear map of





trails

- Places need better maps/ boards with guides
- I would like to see trails and paths to the parks accessible from our homes and neighborhoods!
- Wheelchair/walker inaccessibility
- Have no use for them
- We live on 5 acres- i have my own park and lots of chores
- Own my own property 15 ac
- Own our property
- I live in my own park
- We don't get out much anymore
- I have my own park
- I like to relax at home if possible
- We live in the country, don't need parks
- Sick
- Don't use
- I have a park like setting with trails, water sports at home.
- my illness
- We live on the sound so sort of already have our own park
- We have 5 acres next to alpine land and ride horses and walk there. Very seldom go to parks. We probably would if we didn't have alpine right next door
- Elderly
- Live on water
- Never use
- Grandchildren not in town more often.
- All recreation i need given by nature
- No time to use
- I live in my own park. All of my children and grandchildren are grown.
- I am 80+
- No need or desire
- Don't have the need
- Rv use elsewhere
- I have what i want at home
- Don't feel parks are needed for my age
- I have no need of them
- None really
- I have no need of them. I am sick of being taxed for what i don't need or use!
- Don't like people and noise. Prefer solitude and quiet.
- Live on the water
- New to the area, and haven't gotten into the groove yet.
- For kids - play

- See above
- Horse manure in parking lots bk and trails at gateway. I know it's a shared/mixed use but i hate the smell and mess, so i rarely use those trails for walking anymore
- Home park needs security or regular patrols by park maintenance. It's filthy and a place where transients hang out and trash
- Horse poop everywhere on trails. Not fair to other users.
- Have to drive some distance to reach anything
- I don't always have a car
- Parking, accessibility, traffic, transportation
- Main park is way north
- Gateway is the only real park on the kp and located at the far north tip near the kitsap line, 40 minute roundtrip from lakebay/longbranch. Also have gone a couple of times to find the park closed for bike rides for groups that have nothing to do with the kp.
- We have no public transportation here. I don't drive and lack of public transportation is unexceptionable out here.
- No bus/ride to parks
- No off leash dog parks
- Limited programming
- Need outdoor basketball & tennis; more skateboard parks
- Need an aquatic center. Need indoor facilities.
- Need more boat ramps with floats and parking
- You don't have youth programs.
- No dog parks whatsoever or trails that i would feel safe to take my dog on that he wouldn't get ran over by bikes or horses. Need also a pool closer for the kids. Not a splash pad like they have in tacoma.
- Lack of parking
- Although it's wishful thinking, a skateboard area of any type at any of the parks would be so beneficial for the youth in this region. Having 5 kids (one on deployment) we see how active they are. Scooters, bikes and skate boards are excellent alternatives to depression, video games and substance abuse. When planned properly this small addition could really make a difference. The ones in gig harbor and port orchard are quite a distance but frequented by all regularly.
- I like to ride dirt bikes however there are zero places on the kp that allow off road dirt bikes, despite there being 400 acres just outside key center that would be perfect for this activity. There are hundreds of clubs throughout the state that adopt riding areas and actually spend their own money to maintain the trails just so that we have areas open for us to ride...however there are none on the kp.
- No dog parks.
- Limited parking for horse trailers
- No tennis courts
- Need an off leash dog area- preferably large
- Need dedicated horse park trails
- Fitness equipment - outdoor, not available for adults
- Not enough walking trails in public view
- Boat ramps missing
- No dog park
- Horse cart driving



- Wish you had more off leash dog walking areas
- No off leash dog walking allowed
- No dog park
- Needs basketball and racquetball courts
- Not enough soccer fields
- Not enough trails where dogs can be off-leash
- Parks are not equestrian friendly
- Would like to see a "dog park"
- Not many dog parks.
- I'd use them daily if i had the time
- Too many people
- Do not like crowds.
- Too crowded and too many multi-uses
- Closed most of the time....horseshoe lake park for example
- Some parks are more crowded than others and that may or may not be a blessing for certain families and kiddos.
- More picnic spots at jackson lake park
- We go to the state parks
- As much as i love key pen parks, the combination of water and woods at the state parks is too hard to pass up.
- Better walking/running trails in main gig harbor
- Homestead park is close and offers more
- Tacoma water park in summer. The wait has been too long for the planning of splash pad out here, no online updates.
- Asset - i feel safe
- Gateway park in the summer was too hot to use since there is no shading. Looking forward to the spray park! I also wish there was a sidewalk on the highway to be able to walk to the park from nearby neighborhoods.
- As newcomers, we tend to use them impulsively for a quick picnic spot.

9. Write-ins for the Key Pen Parks events you and/or members of your household have participated in over the past 12 months.

- ALL events sponsored by Key Pen Parks! ❤️
- Key Pen churches combined worship
- Community worship with surrounding churches
- Farm tour
- Farm tour
- Farm Tour & Logging Show
- KP Farm Tour
- Farm Tour
- None except farm tour
- Need to find a better viewing place for 4th July other than the spit
- Again safety no cops! Not enough security! Traffic!
- Planned to go to Pet Easter Treat but was all done before we got there despite coming during the advertised time.

- I try to go when the crowds are low.
- My daughter has food allergies and at most events like Mom & Me Tea there is no option for gluten/dairy/nut free.
- Joemma Beach a lot
- Penrose Point, Joemma
- KPCS logging show
- Logging show
- Logging show
- Logging Show; Dems Picnic, Park Dedication, Pavilion Dedication
- Logging show 2018 @ Gateway
- Key Peninsula Logging show
- Logging show
- Loggers show, playground at KPCC
- Logging show
- Logging show
- Logging
- Log show
- Chainsaw festival
- Logging show and festival
- Key Peninsula Logging Show and Festival
- Logging Show
- Logging event
- Logging show
- Old Timers Day
- Mountain Bike Trail fundraiser 360
- Mountain bike races at kpn360
- Youth mountain bike rodeo
- 360 Trails Raffle Ride - now that this event is no longer within 360 trails and people can't drive in, it's all done at Gateway, this event gets worse and worse every year. It used to be intimate where all the bikers and vendors could gather within the park, ride and mingle as needed. Now the staging area is all the way at Gateway, nowhere close to where the riding actually takes place. Bring the event staging area back to 360 park or this event will eventually die.
- None
- Didn't
- N/a
- None
- None of these
- None
- None
- None - prefer not to be a crowded park
- None
- Just go for walks with my dog





## Key Pen Parks

Page 25

### Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan Survey

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- N/a
- N/a; some events in Civic Center (not parks)
- None
- None
- None
- Appreciate all the activities, but have not participated
- None of the above
- None
- Did not participate
- None!
- Food from Snack Shack
- Na
- NONE
- None, would like to receive direct marketing for events
- Don't like crowds; prefer to enjoy the parks on quiet days
- None
- I live on acreage. It's just like living in a park every day.
- None
- None
- None
- None
- None (my kids are grown)
- None
- None
- None
- Didn't go to any of these
- None
- We do not go to organized or crowded events/activities.
- Non-event use only
- None
- I wanted to attend some of these, but time and circumstances
- None
- NONE
- None no small children
- None
- None
- Not much of an event user.
- T-ball volunteer park
- Xcountry Event with KPMS twice

- Races
- Kiwanis bikes for kids
- Plant Swap at Gateway Park
- Upcoming wellness event
- School supported and other functions
- I hike up to 2 hours most mornings at the 360; I am the KP Lions coordinator for the annual AVA volksmarch.

14. Write-ins for the ways you prefer to learn about Key Pen Parks' facilities, parks and events.

- KP News
- KP News
- Signs, flyers in area
- KP News
- KP News; window posters
- KP News
- Key Peninsula News
- I don't use a computer or smart phone
- Don't waste money on expensive glossy marketing materials - use technology (e-newsletters w/ opt-in/out for households)
- I'll try to learn to use the website
- Direct email
- Macaroni kid
- Key peninsula council
- KP News
- Keep the costs low - mailers would be expensive
- Email
- Text message notification of filtered activities
- Email
- Word of mouth
- It's making me enter a comment to continue even though I didn't check "other"
- Community Council updates
- Posters, Flyers at Library, Blend, etc
- Email
- Reports at community meetings
- Key News, signs up stores
- Posters at grocery stores, stores
- Friend
- Key Pen News
- Email
- Email list
- Open Houses for diff seasons/events. (email invitations to opt-in taxpayers?)



- Banners on Key Pen Parks facilities. Would be nice to have a public notice type sign at Gateway Park (electronic static messages for events and other publicly important messages like fire danger warnings and amber alerts)
- Email
- Facebook

18. Do you have other comments or suggestions for Key Pen Parks?

- You do an amazing job! I can't believe all that you have accomplished in the last 10 years.
- IMPROVE THE SKATEPARK- I have currently only been living in the key peninsula since April of 2017, but have been enjoying the key Peninsula Parks for over 10 years now, the main reason for these visits is the skate park you currently have. I have been skateboarding for 20 years and have been building halfpipes and other various skateboarding obstacles most of my life and now currently work as a carpenter. I hope that if the skate park would get an upgrade if at all possible I would like to be active in the design or the refurbishing of your current skate park. I truly love living out in the key peninsula and would like nothing more than to help make this portion of the key peninsula that much better.
- A park is to preserve nature not pervert it.
- Not sure you need more land acquisition. Like to see more trails and activities for teens & pre-teens. Thanks for asking. Please be sure to share the results broadly, including KP News.
- More undeveloped natural areas please! Rocky creek and central forest are great as is.
- Thank you for keeping the parks clean and safe.
- Advertise more
- Keep us informed - updated on water park, zipline park, etc. Have grandkids visiting every summer - want to know progress, what is offered + prices + location.
- Maintain the stuff you have. You're doing a great job.
- I live between Home and Key Center - have to drive about 20 min to get to a paved trail - really would like a closer one
- Turn lanes, turn lanes, turn lanes, at Gateway
- Please have a turn lane into the Gateway Park 360 Park!
- Swim lessons on the KP
- More basketball and skate/BMX courts
- A trail for walkers only at 360 Trails - no horses/mt bikes - would be terrific!
- You are doing great!
- Keep it easy for low income families
- Connect parks through trail acquisition. Add off leash dog areas
- Love Gateway - well done!
- Should not be taxed at all! Fees to get in too expensive / not enough cops/security! Taxed to death already! No way!
- Keep up the good work
- Keep parks as natural as possible - it's for wildlife too
- We need parking at boat ramps and safe pedestrian paths
- More people will send an important survey back if the postage has been paid
- Parks are maintained nicely. A splash park would be a HUGE hit with the younger kids. Never enough soccer fields
- I really appreciate the parks we have. We love riding our horses on the trails. Thank you!
- I think you are doing a good job. Not terribly happy with the state of Volunteer park. I really wish you would have done more with it before moving on to gateway park. The location is far away for many of us who are paying for it and it causes

tons of traffic problems.

- Please better define the bike trails and rules at 360 so that riders don't come flying out of the trails to cross the road. This is a disaster for horse people.
- All very nice as far as developments go - but don't overdo it - there is nothing nicer than open grassy space and the view over the fields into the woods. The little kids love their play area but also enjoy running around lovely grassy space!
- Great job, your recent improvements are noticed and appreciated!
- Send out donation envelopes or make a donation station. Create more public awareness.
- Retired homeowners on fixed income shouldn't have to pay for things they don't need nor want
- "Link all walking paths; lobby to include sidewalks as means to link park sites.
- First we love our community and our parks. Gateway Park has been such an amazing addition to our community - thank you. Our only request would be for more after-work opportunities (fitness, sports, arts) for adults who work full-time, and we would love more walking/running trails. Again thank you for enriching our community daily!
- More trash receptacles, biohazard/used needle boxes
- Golf course
- More horseback trails up and down the Pen.
- Gateway Park and 360 Trails are outstanding - additional similar would be great
- Raised 3 children on KP in past 20 years, no parks/trails - I think we now have enough parks, trails, green spaces
- I don't use any state park because of user fee.
- It would be nice to have electrical outlets and running water at the picnic shelter at Gateway Park - for large gatherings.
- "Less taxes - most people can't afford more taxes at this point. Overtaxed!"
- Just more homeless camps and litter / also some parks you charge to use already. Plus if you don't charge now you will / user fee only!"
- I wish dog owners would clean up after their dogs at Gateway. It's a great place, but dog poop abounds.
- Keep Home Park clean
- We need a winter, indoor facility with aquatic center, exercise, yoga, Pilates, etc. The YMCA is too crowded. I can't swim because it is all backed up with kids swim lessons, unless I go early a.m. Or late p.m.
- Restrooms should not be in children's play areas. They should have their own.
- The 2 questions about how the needs are met don't give you an option to say not applicable or not concerned so I answered somewhat met. Thanks for all you do!
- We need a dog park on the Peninsula
- Look into getting state and federal grants for equipment and other necessities to help with programs for youth and adults.
- Thanks for your efforts!
- They do a great job. Our parks look really good and I appreciate them. For a small community especially, they are a gem.
- Thank you for allowing Food backpacks 4Kid's to distribute Lunches to Children in the Gateway Park during the Summer
- Get control over 360 trails before another animal is killed or a small child is hurt. Too many uncontrolled dogs and wild bikers for this trail.
- Increase walking trails that do not allow bikes.
- Stop spending our tax dollars. Live within your budget like I have to.
- I like the way it is. No new parks added as that just brings more traffic and people out here. We moved out here to get away from that. We like the quiet and small population
- Too much emphasis on bikers and horse riders - not enough attention to "hiking only" trails.
- We love our parks!





- Keep up the good work!
- Make the parks more for the local residents and less for people from Gig Harbor and Port Orchard
- I am personally very discouraged by Gateway Park/360 Trails. It was a much more useful facility before it was developed, we rode there at least twice a month with our horses and had several friends who would also ride, sometimes as a group. Since being 'improved' we have twice been run off the trails by bikes, once injuring a horse. And have also arrived to find the park closed for some kind of bike ride for out-of-area people. We pay \$200 plus a year to support this park and until there is a horse-only riding trail we will not use it because it simply isn't safe. "Multi-use" trail means - not safe for horses. Whenever I am at the park I ask people I come across where they live, and I find 90% plus of the people live either in the area around Costco in the new developments or in Kitsap County. In fact one group of bike riders told us they think it is 'the best park in Kitsap County.' Very few of the people using the park are from the Key Peninsula. We are the ones paying for it and I think the use should be more tailored to what we want.
- Would love to see a public swimming pool/toddler pool/spray-ground
- We love gateway - thank you!
- Keep up the good work!
- Grandkids want a water park. When will Gateway's be done?
- Resources need to be focused on the younger demographic, support development and our senior population will benefit!
- I hope you do not over develop the parks especially Key Central Forest. I am very interested in saving open spaces for our wildlife who do not have enough space and for people to just enjoy the outdoors!
- Thank you for the progress you have made on the Peninsula. Improving this area for rural families should be priority.
- Exercise stations at 360 walking trails. Equestrian only trails
- The kids need a splash park!
- KP Parks is doing a great job! Thank you!
- Would love to see the Cushman Trail make its way across the Purdy Spit to Gateway Park/360 Trails
- We need parking at the boat launches. It would provide access to canoe and tow boats.
- Please put in an off leash dog park!
- "Keep all trails multi use trails.
- Share the Trails!"
- More senior activities
- Please keep them open for equestrians.
- Love it out here!
- We use parks mostly for boating. There are too few boat ramps with floats and parking for launching and pull out. There are lots of ramps that are rustic with no parking and no floats.
- Jackson lake needs sitting picnic areas and maybe a fishing dock
- "Thanks for all you do! I walk weekly with my elderly mother at 360. It would be great to learn about more options.
- Hopefully without off leash dogs. Thanks!"
- I would love to see youth sport programs and summer day camp options. When I say sport programs I'd like to see ones that are ONE practice and ONE game a week. I feel like programs such as KPLL are too intense for the younger age groups especially though that are just starting out. Kids should be able to get out and enjoy the outdoors and still enjoy a wide range of activities without getting burned out on just one.
- We love Gateway park! Can't wait for the splash pad
- Keep up the good work! People love the outdoors.
- Parking is too limited at 360/Gateway & entry/exit is so dangerous

- Build another park just like Gateway, further south on Key Peninsula
- We are very supportive of KP Parks. You are doing a great job!! Suggest your continued & careful strategic planning.
- "Although the community may complain about any increase in cost the youth in this region need resources and access to resources of interest for their age groups to ensure they are able to have outlets and healthy mental and physical health. Some type of skate park area, or rock climbing(as suggested in survey), etc would be a wise planning move. Given the heavy before and after school traffic now moving thru the KP area, the local children to local activity access ratio is a huge mismatch to their detriment.
- No
- Make horse riders pick up their horses shit. Make dog walkers pick up their dogs shit. For the people that carry guns (excluding law enforcement), make them leave them at home.
- Would like to see more events at various sites. Can't wait until the water feature at Gateway is done would have been nice to have for the summer. Need to work with county/state to make entering and exiting Gateway Park more safely for visitors and 302 drivers!
- Please move up off-leash dog park on priority list
- At Maple Hollow, please work on the final steps to the water. Consider handrail also. The first set of steps is great. Need to finish. Also dog waste stations throughout VP & MH would be great. Thank you!
- I can't answer many question, I can't access current or future parks and or programs as a senior without public transportation.
- Please make parks more affordable for low income users
- We need Hockey
- Develop 480 for equestrian and pedestrian trail use; not for mountain bike use as 360 has so many trails that only the bikes can use.
- Please work on trail maintenance at Rocky Creek Conservation Area.
- Keep horse trails open!
- If current funding is real estate tax, why doesn't funding increase as population increases? Boat ramps. Not enough, maintenance and parking is a challenge sometimes. Then there is calming and fishing from the bank.
- Love the upgrades at Volunteer Park, also love Gateway - can't wait for sport fields to come in!
- You're doing great! Keep it up!
- Off leash dog park is very much needed
- Love the Equestrian trails at 360. Walkers, bicycles and horses all get along well together. Thank you for the horse trailer parking!
- Really need dog parks on the peninsula.
- Keep up the excellent work. Every time we drive past 360 Trails and Gateway Park we feel proud. We love Taylor Bay Park, even underdeveloped. We appreciate Maple Hollow and love driving past neighborhood parks filled with families and children. The Haley property is a wonderful hike to a gorgeous beach. Bravo KP Parks! Thank you.
- Off leash dog area, including a smaller "timid dog" closed of area for smaller/slower/newly rescued doggos to get used to the type of play involved with an off leash park, without just being sent into the big/only off leash area where they can get trampled or scared off before acclimating. (Not all dogs know how to play with stranger dogs and this would give the owners peace of mind, a place to train said dog to get used to going into "the bigger one" and also prevent foreseen dog fights.) Dog tie outs near picnic tables...
- I feel that the parks district has too many properties. There should be a stop on acquiring more properties. Should focus on maintaining what they have.
- We love you!
- Shooting range



- The addition of the splash pad at Gateway would be great for the kids. I would donate additional funds to get that paid for.
- Keep building our parks. They are amazing so are your workers/ contributors
- Would love to have kids programs for mountain biking available. Perhaps summer camps and year round programs.
- The kpparks system is exemplary, and a huge asset to the community. I exercise at the Y, and only use the parks when grandchildren visit. Nature trails & plant Id markers would be nice, I have not visited a local park that has them.
- As mentioned, 360 Parks is outstanding
- Great parks!
- Appreciate all the effort to acquire & maintain properties for public enjoyment. I wish there was some way to prevent vandalism and disrespect of the properties and facilities. Thank you for persevering to provide wholesome activities for our communities.
- Open space is human space. Please try to provide more safe and bike free trails for horse people, and more police presence for safety for runners. Have horse police to keep drug selling and creating out of the parks.
- Off leash dog parks please
- It would be really nice to connect 360 trails with Rocky Creek conservation Area with a bike path. Our roads are dangerous for bike riders, and we need more biking areas.
- Please consider painting a key on the basketball court at Volunteer!! 😊
- The 360 trails have a lot of dog feces. It needs to be attended to more frequently.
- I love how the KP Parks are coming along since we moved here 22 years ago. I advocate for walking trails in as many spots as possible. Off leash dog parks would be great
- I would like events to be more allergy friendly. My daughter has food allergies that block her from several events.
- I would like to see that the tax dollars that are collected are spent efficiently.
- The new park on the highway going to Purdy is very nice for families and kept clean. Thank you.
- Love our parks! Such growth in the 25 yrs we've been here.
- Need horse trails. Less "city" activities
- Please do not implement user fees, although it does not affect our household. Many low income or tight budget families will not use facilities that charge. This punishes children in the long run, and this should not happen. I love seeing all the children at Gateway Park. I use the walking trails. I was a single parent, and parks were where I could take my son to have fun and socialize
- More walking trails accessible during winter & rain that aren't far from public view - like a path around the park
- ATV? Hunting?
- Maybe there can be a few places for a young family to have picnics, kids can play on something. Also biking, it would be cool to have a network between parks. Roads are narrow!
- I used parks extensively in past; My grandchildren use the fields and playgrounds. Walking and community events are about all I do now, but I am a supporter of parks. You do a great job
- Don't know what is available; map of parks, trails and water access in KP News; list of classes. I would like some of the classes at Com Center in Home offered closer to N end
- Rather not develop; Leave open space and walking trails
- Keep costs minimal; increase security; improve safety/patrols
- None at this time.
- The Gateway park has been the over all best community improvement in years! Although, I do not have children at home anymore, it brings me great pride to drive by that area and see all the families and activities. We live in a beautiful area, and should be supporting the growth of our community by offering families these resources. I would like to see more access to the park we have and better programs for families. Water access for all! Sincerely, Lisa H

- Doing a good job for the money spent.
- Work on building interconnected trails to link as many park properties as possible.
- Lots of seniors who do not use computers. They are being left out, are unaware of programs, have no idea what parks does except offer green space.
- Unleashed dog area with water
- "I would love to see water bottle filling stations at the larger parks that have drinking fountains. Fountains can be very difficult for young children and those with disabilities. I'd love to be able to refill a water bottle with cool water on a hot day.
- Overall, I feel like the parks department does a wonderful job!"
- Really I don't use any of it so it's hard to say
- All parks should be free for day use, keep drugs out, way to get there to use parks - rides there (bus)
- Disabled and no excess income. I would like some percentage discount for seniors and disabled. I need to cart drive mini horse and/or use electric wheelchair. Can I do this?
- You covered it well
- More community involvement is needed but how can that need be better addressed? Whenever I am out "doing my thing" I get a lot of thank you's, and I promote volunteering whole heartedly. I explain what they can do and where to inquire about needs in a certain area. I don't know how many follow-up, but I will continue my efforts.
- Swim program, kids ballet, tumbling and martial arts. Have registration be online. Offer the classes on weekends and evenings for parents who work.
- You have done an outstanding job and I refer to the access you provide when recommending homesteading on the Key Peninsula.
- It would be really nice to have an outdoor swimming pool on the Key Peninsula.
- Alternating leash/off leash days at 360
- Please keep in mind the importance of walking and bike trails connecting neighborhoods to all these wonderful parks & schools. Positive community building begins with people being able to easily get to community places! Could we revamp the already existing logging roads?
- "I answered the best I could.
- I am 70 years old and no children to take to these places so my answers don't mean much. "
- Disc golf! :)
- Please put in a safe off leash dog park and a safe, well-lit walking track that is out in the open so women feel safe walking alone.
- There is a real need for wheelchair/walker accessibility. As the population continues to age, individuals develop mobility issues. Also due to accidents and illness more individuals are becoming disable and need wheelchairs/walkers. I know my husband would love to get outdoors on scenic trails more but there is limited access all over.
- Volunteer Park is under used. It would be nice to see a soccer program-increased little league-the fields are under used
- Since Scott came on as ED (or whatever his title is), we've experienced excellent growth and leadership in the KP Parks. Kudos to Scott!
- Thank you
- You all do an amazing job. I caution you about over expanding. The parks and areas we currently have taken a lot of work and effort to maintain. Do not continue to build and buy at the expense of what we have already. "Less is more"
- Purdy Spit and Home Park are both having issues with homeless individuals and drugs/alcohol. There is a constant (stinky) fire going near and/or under the bridge at the Spit where several homeless people are camping. There is alcohol containers littering both areas (Spit & Home Park). Loitering in both areas by intoxicated individuals has made our family avoid both areas.





- People are struggling with their taxes already.
- Keep up the good work!
- No.
- The population is growing out here. We need to do whatever possible to limit development and insure open wild green space.
- I'm impressed with how far the parks have come in the 22 years of residence on the Key Peninsula. We look forward to what's to come and love the outdoor activity central the KP is becoming
- No
- We have seen great improvements over the years. One example, all of the kids using Gateway Park. Keep your focus: the community and its needs, with an emphasis on affordable outdoor recreation for as many people as possible. Thanks for all of the hard work and good results.
- We like to get outdoors and enjoy trails, beaches and uncrowded places. We stay clear of playgrounds and big events. Feel these are a poor use of time & money.
- More dog events/socials
- Think you are doing a fantastic job!
- PLEASE PUT A BABY CHANGING STATION IN THE BATHROOM AT VOLUNTEER PARK!!! I am there multiple nights a week for baseball and am forced to change my baby in car. It not safe and very inconvenient. PLEASE!!!!
- As a newcomer, I would hope you would build partnerships with other Counties parks folks since we are so close to Kitsap, et al. Might be untapped cross-pollination for programming.
- "Is there a way to partner up with county near boat launches to get better parking?
- Otherwise - love our parks!!!!"
- Please add racquetball and basketball courts. We have plenty of baseball and soccer fields, but nothing for basketball or racquetball.
- More current updates on what's happening in the parks and meetings that working folk can't make it on their website and FB. Video tours and highlights of each park per month would be great? I think they need a better PR team. Knowing which park is stroller/wheelchair friendly? Maybe a rating system for each park. I get emails from other parks promoting new events and classes, nothing from KP Parks.
- Keep the good work. 360 mountain bike trails should be a model for the whole Kitsap peninsula
- I will actively support opposition effort to any new tax increase. Quit buying more f\*\*king land. You people are on a power trip and don't appreciate the financial burden of KP residents. Knock it off !!!
- Organize more opportunities for volunteers to maintain trails/parks on a regular basis.
- Thanks for the great work you do
- Separate trails for horses
- If the need for more parks grows based on population growth, then the additional revenue from the growth should maintain the parks. Good fiscal responsibility is always expected and appreciated!
- We need more park amenities!!! More boat ramp access and sports.
- Gateway park needs port a potties on their walking trails and trash cans
- More mountain bike trails, and a motocross track
- Key Pen bicycle tour loop (bike lanes and/or bike path) Roads are NOT safe for bicycles.
- Would love a smooth, long paved path for roller skating and inline skating.
- The parks network of Key Peninsula instills a sense of pride in this area. Keep up the good work!
- No

- Please develop an off-leash beach park. Please make the blue (not the brown) dog poop bags available at all parks.
- Future focus should be on multiuser trails which interconnect all parks and public or quasi-public facilities to each other as well as to rural neighborhood centers and rural activity centers.
- Great work on improvements over the last year at Gateway and Volunteer Park!
- Thanks
- Doing a good job for the community.
- Glad that we have these parks! I am recuperating from car accident, and being able to exercise at Gateway Park is excellent.
- "Keep the multi-use trails open to equestrians.
- Develop large off-leash dog park space which increases safety for walkers, bikers, equestrians, and dog owners."
- Provide an Adult slide that incorporates stairs. Add a snack shack at Gateway park, like Volunteer park
- Please please buy the Lakebay Marina and Resort and turn it into a small history museum of the KP and significance of Joemma, Penrose, Maple Hollow, etc., with a small restaurant/lunch stop for visiting school field trips, have a water safety training course, and kayak/canoe entrance area that could also be used as an event center for the community AND wedding/business retreats on weekends! If so, I would be happy to help renovate the building and structure for free if it was used for good versus bad and I know many nearby residents feel the same. I could also work at the location and be readily available whenever needed as I'm literally across the street. The community desperately wants Key Pen Parks to lease this from DNR as we all trust KPP and know you would do right by the residents and environment here! PLEASE!
- We have plenty of everything out here. Please stop. Especially stop wanting more money.
- Thanks for your work on behalf of parks and the key peninsula quality of life!
- Would be nice to have trash cans along some of the paths so people would be more apt to scoop their dogs poop.
- None
- No, like the parks we have and think you all are doing a good job.
- The key peninsula is a special place. It would be great to keep it beautiful and a place for people to get away too.
- We would love for Taylor Bay park to have better water access, playground, picnic area.
- Build an indoor swimming pool.
- More maps or an app to show trails at gateway park would be great
- Please help Home Park. It's the most neglected and unprotected park we have ☺
- This is such a scam. We live in an area where virtually everyone has acreage or lives in a neighborhood that has a private park. You are confiscating our money for nothing we need.
- Stop making new trails at 360. There are more than enough. Save some habitat.
- You have to do something to manage traffic on 302 as Gateway Park continues to expand. It is typical irresponsible to build new facilities and hope someday that DOT will solve the traffic problems these facilities create.
- There needs to be an outdoor roller hockey rink or two. It can be used for speed skating and roller hockey. Plus it could add another revenue source via leagues and would be cheap to build. With some basketball courts that are not being used they could easily be changed to hockey rinks.
- A park that had ATV trails would be really nice to have out here.
- The roads/turns leading into the parks need to be improved/expanded before more is done to increase traffic to those areas. Someone is going to get killed trying to cross traffic turning into these areas.
- Overall I feel you are doing a good job. I choose a low amount on tax \$ not because I don't want to pay for it, but because I cannot pay much more. Also the question was phrased in per 1,000 and the answer were in \$ per month which does not translate at all.
- More choices for some survey options. Far too limited in scope in some areas.
- More mt biking trails and outdoor climbing please. Both my kids and I mt bike and climb. Every other weekend we mt bike a



local trail together and weekly I mt bike a trail for alone time.

- The mountain bike trails and jump lines at 360 are a huge benefit to my family. We have friends and family from out of town that we know visit more because of our access to such a great park. Please support its growth.
- Thank you for supporting your equestrian community. I have made so many connections with kind and fun people through the parks. I appreciate all the horse accessible facilities and wish you would add more. Thanks!
- More weekend child and adult activities are wanted.
- Several of the rough Trails on the east side of 360 are once again deteriorating probably due to mountain bikes in wet weather. This comment is not mean to discourage mountain biking. However, when both bikers and hikers use the same rough Trails, more maintenance is required. If interested some morning I can meet the individual employee and show the trail. You can already guess who I am.
- Parks should be free to use and supported by sales tax or?
- Splash pad, Splash pad, Splash pad!
- Keep up the great work!
- NA
- No, covered well.
- Please do not build trails against the property boundary limits of your parks, directly up against residential homes and/or property. You have upset neighbors and existing land owners that would like to minimize foot traffic, and unwanted people or persons around their properties - particularly as it relates to 360 & Gateway park. The development of new parks and expanding parks is great, we all support it, but not at the expense of unwanted user groups trespassing onto private property. Route the user trails away from the park property boundaries and we'll all continue to be supportive! Thanks
- It would be amazing if there were an area (fairly flat) for young kids to be able to ride bikes. I don't feel like there is really a good option for this, especially where we are so rural and a lot of us live on busy country roads.
- Courtland Capwell and 360 Trails are treasures!
- Really need a north/ south path on the peninsula!
- Looking forward to the splash pad!
- I love how many parks there are. When I was a kid on the key 30 years ago there were fewer. I'd love to see a splash pad. You're doing a great job and we love the pet treat Easter egg hunt.



# APPENDIX B

## PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARIES





## MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER: # 19-118PLN      ISSUE DATE: May 24, 2019  
PROJECT NAME: Key Pen Parks District Comprehensive Plan

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh, Michelle Kunec-North  
TO: FILE  
PRESENT: Members of the public  
Members of the District Board  
District Staff  
Project team members from Conservation Technix

**SUBJECT: Key Pen Parks Comprehensive Plan: Open House #1 Notes (May 15<sup>th</sup>)**

Community members were invited to the first open house for the Key Pen Parks Comprehensive Plan on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Key Peninsula Middle School. The project team prepared informational displays covering the major themes of the Comprehensive Plan. These displays included Project Overview, Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Trails & Linkages, and Maps.

Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members, record their comments and complete a written comment card. Key Pen Parks staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation on the Key Peninsula. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

#### Responses on Recreation Opportunities (What's missing or in short supply?)

- 9 dots – Developed waterfront access
- 8 dots – Community-wide trail connections
- 7 dots – Horse arena & build cross country horse jumps at KCF (volunteers)
- 3 dots – Youth recreation programs
- 2 dots – Adult recreation and fitness programs
- 2 dots – Sport fields (baseball, soccer, etc.)
- 1 dot – Skatepark (expand/upgrade)
- 1 dot – Sport courts (tennis, pickleball, basketball)

#### General Comments

- Need more “You are here” signs
- Find people to develop new programs at Volunteer Park
- Sport fields are underused – not too many programs (softball, soccer)
- 480 equestrian access, limit bikes
- Better planning for bike jumps – concern that horses could be spooked

## Key Pen Parks Comprehensive Plan: Open House #1 Notes (May 15th)

Key Pen Parks District Comprehensive Plan

Project Number # 19-118PLN

Page 2

- Bike trails – not mountain bikes – in any parks (smooth, soft surface trails OK)
- Parking safety – perception that cars aren't safe to be left at some park/trail access points
- Need to work more with social media to engage public
- Find the volunteers needed to initiate and develop sports and other programs
- More smooth paved paths for roller skates, inline skates, skateboards, and kids learning to ride bikes

### Idea Space Comments

- Develop more trails at KCF – keep horse/walk friendly
- Baseball fields
- Zip line (360 to Gateway)
- Exercise stations
- Head to Toe Trail

### Idea Space Comments

One display board listed the proposed improvements included in the current (2014) plan, and participants were asked to use dots to identify which projects are still relevant or needed today. The chart shows the number of dots that each project received.

	Picnic Areas	Restrooms	Trails	Outdoor Education	Parking	Soccer Fields	Exercise Stations
Home Park					1		
Volunteer Park						1	
Maple Hollow Park				1	1		
360 Trails		1					
Taylor Bay	1	1					
Minter Creek	1						
Key Central Forest			3				
Rocky Creek Conservation Area							

An additional comment was written to say that additional street access is needed at 360 Trails / Gateway Park.

### Written Comments from Map Displays

- Multi-use Head to Toe Trail – connecting parks and other public facilities (3x)
- Need basic access and improvements at Haley Property (WA State)
- Is there access to Devil's Head?
- Are there access roads on the east side of Key Central Forest (along Key Peninsula Hwy)?
- Buy Lakebay Marina – work with County



**Key Pen Parks Comprehensive Plan: Open House #1 Notes (May 15th)**

Key Pen Parks District Comprehensive Plan

Project Number # 19-118PLN

**Page 3**

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**Written Comments from Trail Display Board**

Improvements

- Fix and add more signage at 360 Trails
- Add mileage markers
- Add more map stands
- Add a few trash cans

Access restrictions and other concerns

- Signs/maps
- Parking options
- More horse trails with facilities

Missing links

- Added street access to Gateway Park and parking

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

cc: Scott Gallacher  
File

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PROJECT NUMBER: # 19-118PLN      ISSUE DATE: October 16, 2019  
PROJECT NAME: Key Pen Parks District Comprehensive Plan

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RECORDED BY: Steve Duh, Michelle Kunec-North  
TO: FILE  
PRESENT: Members of the public  
Members of the District Board  
District Staff  
Project team members from Conservation Technix

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**SUBJECT: Key Pen Parks Comprehensive Plan: Open House #2 Notes (October 9<sup>th</sup>)**

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Community members were invited to the second open house for the Key Pen Parks Comprehensive Plan on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Key Peninsula Middle School. The project team prepared informational displays covering the major themes of the Comprehensive Plan. These displays included Project Overview, Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Recreation Investments, and Maps.

Following a brief introduction and overview, attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members, record their comments and complete a written comment card. Key Pen Parks staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation on the Key Peninsula. Approximately 15 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

### Responses on Recreation Investments (dot exercise)

- 8 – Gateway: Sport field development
- 8 – Gateway: Equestrian area development
- 5 – Trail Top to Bottom – connecting all parks
- 5 – Purchase Lakebay Marina – water access, fuel dock, concessions
- 4 – Key Central Forest access, parking & trails
- 4 – Gateway: Adult zipline
- 3 – Aerial course
- 3 – Trail wayfinding & signage
- 3 – Additional community events
- 2 – Volunteer Park: All-weather fields
- 2 – Taylor Bay access, parking & trails

### Idea Space Comments

- Kayak access
- Boat ramps have limited parking





### **Key Pen Parks Comprehensive Plan: Open House #2 Notes (October 9th)**

Key Pen Parks District Comprehensive Plan

Project Number # 19-118PLN

**Page 2**

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- Public shooting range (like Jackson County, OR) (2x)
- Enclosed pavilion (for classes, etc.)
- 360 Trails - maps/signs with Eagle scouts?
- 360 Trails – markers with names and color coded condition info
- Off road vehicle area (2x)
- Horse riding arena, cross-country course

### **General Comments**

- Connect to Cushman Trail
- Dog park!
- Equipment rentals – kayaks, SUPs, canoes, bikes, life jackets, float toys/tubes (income generator; for people from out of town)
- Zipline
- Horse trailer parking at KCF – OK right now, but need more in future
- Please no ORV on existing park trails
- Good trail maps – PDF or on apps with GPS

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

cc: Scott Gallacher  
File



# APPENDIX C

## STAKEHOLDER SUMMARIES



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Project Name:</b>	Key Pen Parks Comprehensive Plan Update	<b>Project No.:</b>	Proj-# 19-118PLN
<b>Location:</b>	Key Pen Parks Office	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	September 11, 2019
<b>Minutes by:</b>	Steve Duh	<b>Time:</b>	6:00 pm
<b>Attendees:</b>	Scott Gallacher, Executive Director Lee Miller, KPLL David Kinley, Harbor Soccer Kyle Munkcers, PYF Angela Salento-McKee, Equestrian Dale McKee, Equestrian Bob Green, Park Foundation	Tracy Geiss, KP Civic Center Eric Guenther, PenMet Parks Susan Freiler Mendenhall, , KP Facebook, KP Outdoor Recreation, Tina Bohl Wittermore , Equestrian, Kp Outdoor Recreation John 'Pat' Kelly, Park Commissioner Steve Duh – Conservation Technix	
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>District Board Meeting</b>		

Following brief introductions and an overview of the project scope and timeline, the group discussion generally followed a series of questions to gather perspectives from local stakeholders regarding park, program and facility needs for Key Pen Parks.

### Values

- Want to be able to provide for both ends of the age spectrum; imperative to provide enough for kids (i.e., sports, etc.) and things for older residents (i.e., walking trails)
- Gateway is a wonderful asset – always see people using the park; playground always has kids; someone is always using the park. It's visibility along SR 302 is great; going forward, the plan for Gateway should have more for multi-uses (community events, soccer fields, space as a nice venue)
- Key Peninsula becoming the 'parks destination' – should focus on that – “we are parks” – as a destination. People come here for Penrose Park and other sites for equestrian uses or mountain biking and leave money in the community
- It is baseball season from February to June, and families come from all over the region to play and comment on the nice quality fields, and these attract users to the rest of the system
- People know 360 Trails as a premier site for mountain biking, and it rivals other better-known facilities.
- Sporting events and little league bring the community together to be involved in projects and be part of them. Generations of little league families have been involved to make improvements – these are things that promote community and should be celebrated



## Meeting Minutes (continued)

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### Big Idea

- Key Pen Parks should partner with the County to buy the Marina for water access and as a waterfront venue
- Indoor sports facility for wintertime – indoor batting cages, baseball training, gymnasium for gymnastics or basketball; A new, big sports facility would create additional traffic from folks coming here from other areas; it would need proper traffic management and be sensitive to the daily Peninsula drivers.
- All-weather infields for baseball and space for batting practice and throwing/pitching practice
- Year-round, lit, all-weather fields for soccer; Harbor Soccer has 1,500 players in the program now, and they need to be doing more to recruit players from Key Peninsula (especially the southern section). They are currently working with PenMet Parks on indoor fields and improvements at Sehmel Homestead Park. People are generally surprised about the lack of fields in the area, compared to other communities of similar size in the state.
- Work with WSDOT for a turn lane into Gateway to manage stacking and traffic (WSDOT didn't require that improvement at the time of park development, so it was not installed. Key Pen Parks would offer the right of way to WSDOT for them to make the improvement. WSDOT claims that there are not enough fatalities in that area to warrant the investment.)
- Equestrian facility for events (stunts, shows, vaulting, 4-H, Competitive Mounted Orienteering), to include parking and support facilities

### Other Ideas

- Signage improvements (etiquette, rules) and kiosks for information
- Restroom / porta-potty at Gateway – maybe near dog park area
- Trash can in meadow at Gateway near porta-potty
- Provide access to Taylor Bay and 480/Key Central Forest; develop what Key Pen Parks has before acquiring more (unless the acquisition is strategic to expanding an existing facility)
- Trolley system / park shuttle to take folks to the different parks with activities
- Kids in south Peninsula need more activities and positive enrichment
- Teen (middle school and high school ages) do not have much to do; need more activities and place to hang out (sports, day camps, archery, classes). Red Barn has afterschool activities, but not weekends. Partner with the Longbranch Improvement Club for programs or classes. Continue to support Civic Center and Red Barn partnerships
- Partner with the school district and have an interlocal agreement for facility use, programs and improvements; Have school kids design signs for parks as community service and to engage them

-- End of Notes --





## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW NOTES

**Project Name:** Key Pen Parks Plan Update **Project No.:** Proj-# 19-118PLN  
**Location:** Phone Conversations **Meeting Date:** September 2019 **Time:** Varies  
**Notes by:** Jean Akers  
**Stakeholders:** Courtland Capwell, Trail Builder  
Miguel Galeana, Race Event Director  
**Subject:** Stakeholder One-on-One Interviews

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Individual stakeholders, representing trail infrastructure and programming, were interviewed to gain more in-depth feedback on opportunities and constraints for Key Pen Parks' provision of parks, recreation and open spaces relative to trail systems, activities and event planning. The interviews were conducted over the phone with the Conservation Technix consultant team. Questions explored both current needs and future ideas relative to the stakeholder's field of involvement and relationship with parks, trails, and sports/recreation programming. The following notes capture the content of the conversations and are arranged by question responses provided by the stakeholders.

### Overview & Introduction

Courtland Capwell was first a volunteer helping to build trails at 360 Trails, ten years ago. Now he is currently employed part-time by Key Pen Parks and continues his efforts as both paid and volunteer trail builder and facilitator.

Miguel Galeana is a race director, middle school cross country team coach, and currently owns a local running shoe store. He consults, directs, hosts, and advocates for numerous running events and has used 360 Trails for some of his race events.

### Visions & Big Ideas

#### **What do you value about Key Pen's parks and open space?**

Key Pen has lots of water edge and great landscape features. Every park area has its own unique character. The parks are more natural, underdeveloped and somewhat primitive to allow for better connections to nature.

Existing trails are defined by their unique management where trail use has been segregated to allow for specialized recreation opportunities: mtn bike only, hike/bike/ horses/multi-use, one-way trail jump lines, etc.

#### **Vision for Ten Years from Now?**

More trails in all the parks and trails that connect parks to each other. Key Central Forest has lots of room for a developed trail system and support amenities.

## Stakeholder Interview Notes (continued)

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A potential for a relay race that extends beyond a partial day, maybe involving camping, could provide another type of race event. Starting with a shorter-length relay could introduce the race type then allow growth to evolve into a longer relay race.

### **Recreation Opportunities & Needs**

#### **What's missing?**

More trails. Some phases of park/trail development are not done yet.

Frisbee golf.

Tree top/ropes/zip-line adventure courses.

#### **Any age or user groups need attention?**

Middle school aged kids are often left out of park facility amenities. Consider Parkour or obstacle courses where individual or teams could enjoy the equipment on their own time. Recreational amenities that encourage learning through physical exertion can help challenge young growing bodies through their growth spurts.

#### **Priorities for Specific Parks?**

Both 360 & Gateway have more phases to be completed in their master plan.

A better wayfinding and informational signage and messaging system could enhance user's understanding of rules, activities, park feature locations, and general directional information. Signage system needs to be planned & implemented.

360/Gateway is one of the best parks for walking, running, biking, dog-walking. The trail system accommodates all users but parking and access can be an issue during race events when traffic is focused and concentrated at the park site.

Key Central Park needs better support facilities (parking, signage, restroom, etc.) and more developed trail system.

For any park: take care of parking so that there's adequate access.

#### **Next 5-year Focus for Key Pen parks?**

A wayfinding and signage system.

More trails in other parks: Key Central Forest, Maple Hollow and Taylor Bay (woodlands).

Community programs that involve family events as well as more races that use the trails.

Explore outdoor recreation as a therapy activity for folks suffering from PTSD or other stress-related conditions where physical activity can help manage neurological challenges.

*-- End of Notes --*



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# APPENDIX D

## RECREATION TRENDS





The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local trends that may reflect potential recreational activities and facilities for future consideration in Key Pen Parks' park system. Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities that may enhance the community and create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future.

## 2019 NRPA AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The 2019 NRPA report summarizes the key findings from the National Recreation and Park Association's NRPA Park Metrics, their benchmarking tool that assists park and recreation professionals in the effective management and planning of their operating resources and capital facilities. The report offers a comprehensive collection of park- and recreation-related benchmarks and insights to inform professionals, key stakeholders and the public about the state of the park and recreation industry. The 2019 NRPA Agency Performance Review contains data from 1,075 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2016 and 2018.

### Key Findings and Characteristics:

#### Park Facilities

- There is typically one park for every 2,181 residents.
- The typical park and recreation agency has 10.0 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents in its jurisdiction.
- An overwhelming majority of park and recreation agencies has playgrounds (94.4%) and basketball courts (86.1%) in their portfolio of outdoor assets.
- A majority of agencies offers community and recreation centers, and two in five agencies offer senior centers.

#### Programming

- Key programming activities include team sports, social recreation events, fitness enhancement classes and health and wellness education.
- Most agencies (82.4%) offer summer camp for their community's younger residents.

#### Staffing

- The typical park and recreation agency has a payroll of 38.2 full-time equivalent staff (FTE's).
- The typical park and recreation agency has 8.3 FTEs on staff for each 10,000 residents in its jurisdiction.
- Operations and maintenance, programming and administration are the main responsibilities of park and recreation workers.

## Budget/Finance

- The typical park and recreation agency has annual operating expenditures of \$3,834,500.
- The typical park and recreation agency has annual operating expenses of \$78.69 on a per capita basis.
- The median level of operating expenditures is \$6,750 per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency.
- The typical park and recreation agency spends \$93,230 in annual operating expenditures for each employee.
- At the typical park and recreation agency, personnel services account for 54.9% of the operating budget.
- The typical park and recreation agency dedicates 44.3% of its operating budget to park management and maintenance and 41.8% to recreation.

## Agency Funding

- Park and recreation agencies derive 59.3% of their operating expenditures from general fund tax support.
- The typical park and recreation agency generates \$20.11 in revenue annually for each resident in the jurisdiction.
- The typical park and recreation agency recovers 27.3% of its operating expenditures from non-tax revenues.
- Park and recreation agencies are estimated to spend a median of \$4,007,250 million in capital expenditures over the next five years.
- On average, just over half of the capital budget is designated for renovation, while 30.9% is aimed at new development.

Park facilities differ greatly across the local and regional park and recreation agencies in America. The typical agency participating in the NRPA park metric survey serves a jurisdiction of 39,183 people but population size can vary widely. The typical park and recreation agency has jurisdiction over 19 parks comprising a total of 432.5 acres. Park facilities also have a range of service levels in terms of acres of parkland per population and residents per park. These metrics are categorized by the agency's population size.

Figure D1. Median Residents per Park Based on Population Size

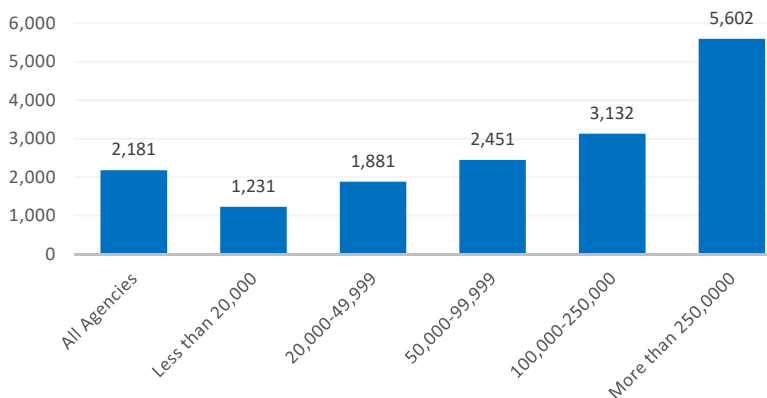
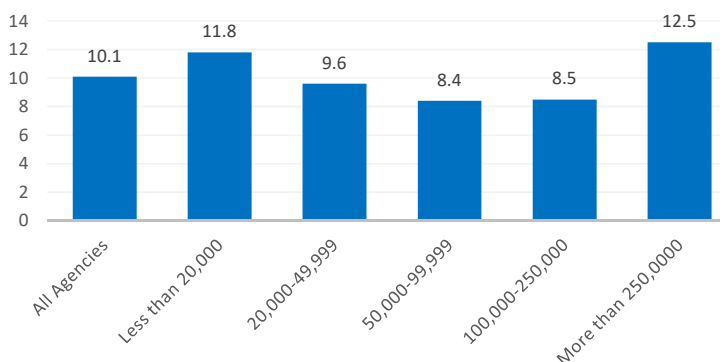


Figure D2. Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents Based on Population Size





The typical park and recreation agency that manages or maintains trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking has 11.0 miles of trails. Agencies serving more than 250,000 residents have a median of 82.0 miles of trails under their care.

Park and recreation agencies take on many responsibilities beyond their traditional roles of operating parks and related facilities (96%) and providing recreation programming and services (93%). In addition to those two core functions, the key responsibilities for park and recreation agencies are listed in the table below, based on percent of agencies.

Figure D3. Key Responsibilities of Park and Recreation Agencies

Key Park & Recreation Responsibilities	Percent of Agencies
Operate and maintain indoor facilities	87%
Operate, maintain or manage trails, greenways and/or blueways	78%
Conduct major jurisdiction-wide special events	76%
Operate, maintain or manage special purpose parks and open spaces	71%
Include in its operating budget the funding for planning and development functions	67%
Operate and maintain non-park sites	65%
Operate , maintain or contract outdoor swim facilities/water parks	59%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality outdoor sports complexes	57%
Operate, maintain or contract tennis center facilities	51%
Administer community gardens	40%

Other responsibilities of park and recreation agencies can include golf courses, tourist attractions, outdoor amphitheaters, indoor swim facilities, farmer's markets, indoor sports complexes, campgrounds, performing arts center, stadium/arena/racetrack, and/or fairgrounds.

Beyond the comparative metrics of park and recreation agencies, the NRPA performance report also noted trends that have significant impact on agency performance. The report predicts that investments in park infrastructure will rise in 2019-2020 thanks to increased revenues from local tax receipts. As a result, park and recreation agencies - regardless of size, location, population served or budget - will likely be able to plan for and construct more recreation facilities in coming years. The growth of new recreation facilities and capital improvements will result in positive impacts on local, regional and state economies.

Technology will continue to have influence on parks, from monitoring systems and beacon counters, to biometric identification systems. Questions of data security will remain paramount as these technologies become less expensive and more prevalent. Recreational and commercial scale drones are more prevalent and both the advantage for imaging, mapping and monitoring and the potential for disruptive uses will become factors in application and management.

The consolidation of public services continues to affect park and recreation agencies. The potential opportunity to reduce costs and allow for greater efficiencies may pressure governments to combine park

facilities with public schools or consolidate park facilities with public works. This trend can present both opportunities and threats to the efficient and effective functioning of park and recreation services.

Emerging trends will continue to encourage park and recreation providers to become more nimble and more adaptable to the ever changing conditions and public expectations for sustained high-level performance. Agencies must be proactive in assessing their position and be fully grounded in reliable data about their investments, operations and tangible results.

## THE STATE OF THE INDUSTRY REPORT

Recreation Management magazine's 2018 State of the Managed Recreation Industry report summarizes the opinions and information provided by a wide range of professionals (with an average of 21.3 years of experience) working in the recreation, sports, and fitness facilities industry. The 2018 report indicated that many (86.6%) recreation, sports and fitness facility owners form partnerships with other organizations, as a means of expanding their reach, offering additional programming opportunities or as a way to share resources and increase funding. Local schools are shown as the most common partner (61.3%) for all facility types. Parks and recreation organizations (95.8%) were the most likely to report that they had partnered with outside organizations.

Survey respondents from urban communities are more optimistic about positive changes to revenues, while rural respondents are not. In 2018, 41% of respondents said that revenues increased from 2016 to 2017, while 11.1% reported a decrease. Looking forward from 2018 to 2019, 50% of urban respondents expect revenues to increase, and just 4.3% project a decrease.

In last year's report, parks respondents had reported increases in their average operating expenditures with operating costs that grew by 58% between fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2016. After a significant increase in operating expenditures in fiscal 2016, costs have fallen again in 2017, but they are expected to rise more steadily over the next two years, though not to the high reported in 2016. From 2017 to 2018, respondents said they expect their operating expenses to increase by 1.7%, followed by a further increase of 4.9% projected in fiscal 2019. The greatest decrease (16.8%) in average operating costs from 2016 to 2017 was reported by parks and recreation respondents.

Relative to costs and revenues, few facilities covered by the survey reported that they cover more than 90% of their operating costs via revenue. The percentage recovered varied with type of organization with the average percentage of costs recovered for all respondents hovering near 50%. For parks, the cost recovery rate increased from 43.4 % to 43.9% from 2017 to 2018.

Over the past decades, public parks and recreation departments and districts have faced a growing expectation that facilities can be run like businesses. Many local facilities are expected to recover much of their operating costs via revenues. While this is the business model in for-profit facilities like health clubs, it's a relatively recent development for publicly owned facilities, which have typically been subsidized via tax dollars and other funding sources. Most recreation providers (80.5%) have been taking actions to reduce expenditures. Cost recovery actions typically involve reduction in expenses with improving energy efficiency as the most common action (48.3% of respondents). Increased fees, staffing cost reductions and putting off construction or renovation plans were reported as other common methods for reducing operating costs.





Utilization of recreation facilities has shown steady increases by the majority of respondents. Looking forward, more than half of respondents expect to see further increases in the number of people using their facilities. The expectation is that this trend will continue in the next two years.

This reporting period (2017) saw a fairly significant drop in the average number of people employed at the organizations covered by the survey. After several years of steady growth, reaching a high of 147.6 employees in 2017, the average number of employees dropped by 21.7% in the past year. On average, this year's survey respondents employ 28.2 full-time workers, 39.8 part-time employees, 44.8 seasonal workers, 43.2 volunteers, and 9.1 employees of some other designation. In 2018, more than three-quarters (77.7%) of respondents said they plan to maintain existing staff levels, up from 57% in 2017.

A majority of respondents (83.2%) require certifications for some of their staff members to help measure and verify specific types of professional knowledge and skill. Of those respondents that require certification, the most common types of certification required included CPR/AED/First Aid (required by 90.3% of those who said they require some staff members to be certified), background checks (83.4%), and lifeguard certification (56.3%).

Over the past five years, the percentage of respondents who indicate that they have plans for construction, whether new facilities, or additions or renovations to their existing facilities, has steadily grown from 62.7% in 2013 to 69.5% in 2018. Construction plans of all kinds are most common among camps and parks. For camp respondents, 47.1% are planning new facilities, 45.9% are planning additions, and 60% are planning renovations to existing facilities. They were followed by parks, 33.9% of whom have plans for new construction, 32.6% for additions, and 57.7% for renovations.

Parks saw modest increases to their construction budgets from 2016 to 2018, with respondents expecting to see increases of 13.5%. Public organizations saw the sharpest increase to their construction budgets from 2016 to 2018, with an increase of 28.7%, from \$3,877,000 in 2016 to \$4,990,000 in 2018.

Parks respondents were more likely than other facility types to include: playgrounds (86.7% of parks respondents had playgrounds); park shelters (80%); park restroom structures (75.6%); outdoor sports courts (74.4%); community and multipurpose centers (58.4%); bike trails (46.4%); skate parks (41.1%); dog parks (38.8%); community gardens (33.7%); disc golf courses (32.9%); fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (32.6%); splash play areas (30.7%); golf courses (19.9%); ice rinks (17.6%); waterparks (16.8%); and bike/BMX parks (11.4%).

Park respondents (56.2%) reported plans to add features at their facilities. The top 10 planned features for all facility types include:

1. Splash play areas (23.6%)
2. Synthetic turf sports fields (17%)
3. Fitness trails and/or outdoor fitness equipment (16.4%)
4. Fitness centers (16.3%)
5. Walking/hiking trails (15.5%)
6. Playgrounds (15.2%)
7. Park shelters (13.6%)
8. Dog parks (13.5%)
9. Exercise studios (12.9%)
10. Disc golf courses (12.9%)

Respondents from community centers, parks and health clubs were the most likely to report that they had plans to add programs at their facilities over the next few years. The 10 most commonly planned program additions in 2018 included:

1. Fitness programs (planned by 25.9% of those who will be adding programs)
2. Educational programs (25.7%)
3. Mind-body balance programs (23.3%)
4. Teen programs (22.7%)
5. Environmental education (20.7%)
6. Day camps and summer camps (20.3%)
7. Special needs programs (18.9%)
8. Adult sports teams (18.5%)
9. Holidays and other special events (18.3%)
10. Individual sports activities (17.5%)

While in general, overall budgets are the top concern for most respondents, equipment and facility maintenance lead the issues of budgetary challenges with staffing as the second most common concern. Marketing, safety/risk management, and creating new and innovative programming are continuing challenges for facility managers. Current concerns on the rise in 2018 included older adult fitness and wellness, legislative issues, environmental and conservation issues and social equity and access.

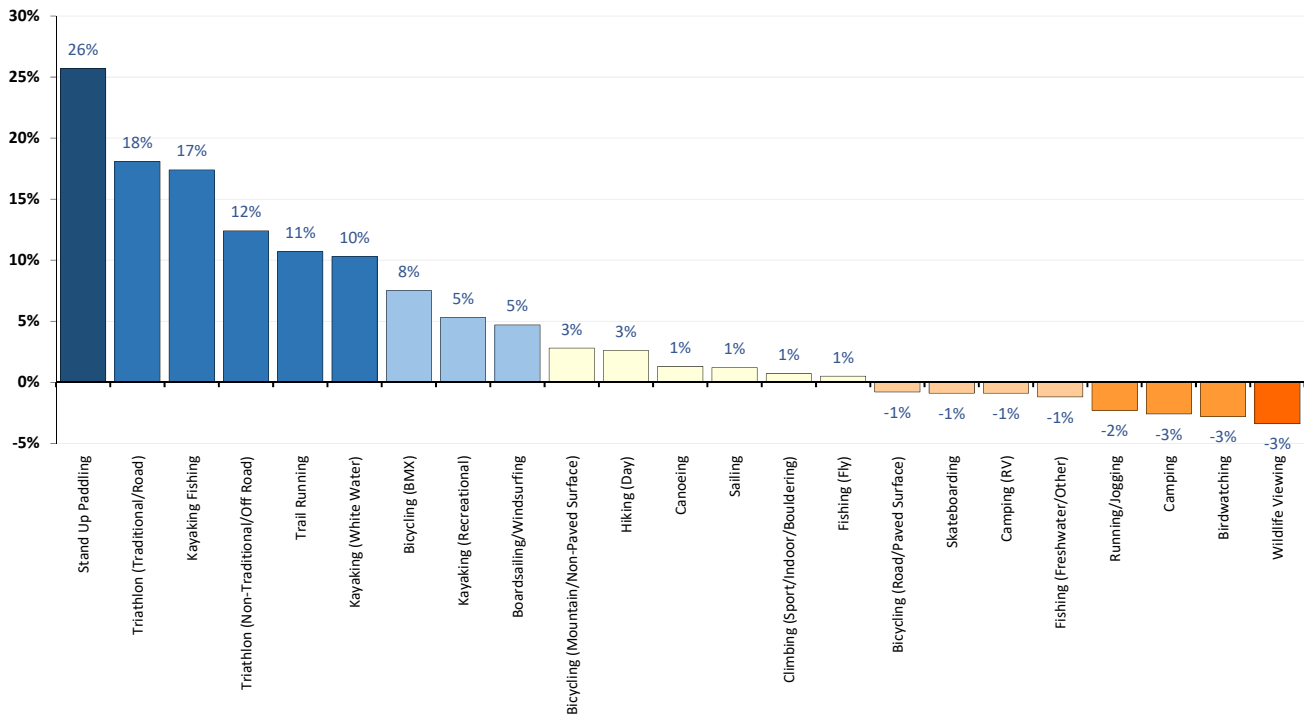
## THE OUTDOOR PARTICIPATION REPORT

According to 2018 *Outdoor Participation Report*, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, more than 146.1 million Americans (49%) participated in an outdoor activity at least once in 2017. These outdoor participants went on a total of 10.9 billion outdoor outings, a decrease from 11.0 billion in 2016. Participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual's age. Recent trend highlights include the following:

- Twenty percent (20%) of outdoor enthusiasts participated in outdoor activities at least twice per week.
- Running, including jogging and trail running, was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by number of participants and by number of total annual outings.
- Nineteen percent (19%) outdoor participants lived in the South Atlantic region of the US, making its population the most active in outdoor activities.
- Walking for fitness was the most popular crossover activity where 45.8% of all outdoor participants also walked.
- Data shows that adults who were introduced to the outdoors as children were more likely to participate in outdoor activities during adulthood than those who were not exposed to the outdoors as children.
- The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise.



Figure D4. 3-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation of Youth (6-24)



Favorite activities and participation rates range with demographics. In 2017, the average participant had 15 years of experience enjoying outdoor recreation. The data shows, as would be expected, that the amount of experience increased as the participant aged. Those ages 45 and up averaged 25 years as outdoor participants.

## SPORTS, FITNESS & LEISURE ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION REPORT

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this 2018 participation report establishes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. The largest focus of activities continues to be toward fitness sports. Winter sports gained the most of all categories, increasing 2% over the last year. The interest in activities has started moving toward outdoor recreation. The top aspirational activity for all age segments was outside, ranging from camping to biking to birdwatching.

Fitness sports/activities continues to have the highest participation rates; having 64% of the US population ages 6 and over engaging in activities like running/jogging, high intensity/impact training, row machines, and swimming. Outdoor activities remained second but was flat from 2016; only seeing an increase in day hiking and backpacking, but losing participants in canoeing and adventure racing.

While age clearly affects how often someone participates, what they do can also be age dependent. Young kids, ages 6 to 17 who tend to be more active overall, focus on team sports and outdoor activities. While Boomers prefer fitness activities, especially low impact such as aquatic exercise, cycling, and walking. Millennials are more likely than the other generations to participate in water sports, such as stand up paddling, boardsailing, and surfing.

Inactivity rates remain higher than 10 years ago despite the promotion of the benefits of an active lifestyle. Over a quarter of the US population (ages 6 and over) did not participate in even the lowest caloric activity in 2017. Trends continue to show how income affects inactivity. Generally, the affluent are getting more active while the less affluent are becoming more inactive.

Despite aspirations to become more active, the biggest influence on engaging more participants is having a friend or family member to take part in the physical activity. First time participation depends on who you are sharing the activity with more than if you have the time.

## **NATIONAL SURVEY ON RECREATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) is a comprehensive survey that has been collecting data and producing reports about the recreation activities, environmental attitudes, and natural resource values of Americans since the 1980s. The NSRE core focus is on outdoor activity participation and personal demographics. The most recent 2012 NSRE report indicates that the total number of people participating in outdoor activities between 2000 and 2007 grew by 4.4% while the number of days of participation increased by approximately 25%. Walking for pleasure grew by 14% and continues to lead as the top favorite outdoor activity.

Nature-based activities, those associated with wildlife and natural settings, showed a discernible growth in the number of people (an increase in 3.1% participation rate) and the number of days of participation. American's participation in nature-based outdoor recreation is increasing with viewing, photographing, or otherwise observing nature clearly measured as the fastest growing type of nature-based recreation activity.

## **AMERICANS ENGAGEMENT WITH PARKS SURVEY (FROM NRPA)**

The vast offerings of the local park and recreation agency improve the lives of people throughout our nation. From the fact that Americans on average visit their local park and recreation facilities approximately 29 times a year to the majority of Americans identifying parks and recreation as an important service provided by their local government, the general public is an untapped advocate to spread the public park and recreation story.

This annual survey probes Americans' usage of parks, the key reasons that drive their use and the greatest challenges preventing greater usage. Each year, the study probes the importance of public parks in Americans' lives, including how parks compare to other services and offerings of local governments. The survey of 1,000 American adults looks at frequency and drivers of parks/recreation facilities visits and the barriers that prevent greater enjoyment. Survey respondents also indicate the importance parks and recreation play in their decisions at the voting booth and their level of support for greater funding.

### **Key Findings:**

- Americans on average visit their local park and recreation facilities approximately 29 times a year, with three in five saying their most recent visit was within the past month.
- Three in four Americans agree that the NRPA Three Pillars of Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity represent what they see as the priorities for their local park and recreation agency.



- Nine in ten Americans agree that parks and recreation are important services delivered by their local government.
- Seven in ten Americans say they are more likely to vote for local politicians who make park and recreation funding a priority.
- Three-quarters of Americans support increased local government spending for park and recreation agencies with solid support for a nearly 30% increase in funding for local park and recreation agencies.

## WASHINGTON STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

The 2018–2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State provides a strategic direction to help assure the effective and adequate provision of outdoor recreation and conservation to meet the needs of Washington State residents. The plan identified near and long-term priorities with specific actions within each priority to help meet the outdoor recreation and conservation needs within the state.

Five priority areas:

1. Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
2. Improve Equity of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
3. Meet the Needs of Youth
4. Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics
5. Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

### Sustain & Grow the Legacy

A wealth of existing recreation and conservation areas and facilities should be kept open, safe and enjoyable for all. Some modification to meet the interests of today's population may be needed at some facilities. Sustaining existing areas while expanding and building new facilities to keep up with a growing population is one of the five priority goals.

### Improve Equity

The National Recreation and Park Association's position on social equity states:

*“Our nation's public parks and recreation services should be equally accessible and available to all people regardless of income level, ethnicity, gender, ability, or age. Public parks, recreation services and recreation programs including the maintenance, safety, and accessibility of parks and facilities, should be provided on an equitable basis to all citizens of communities served by public agencies.”*

The Washington plan restates that equity goal for all its citizens. Improving equity is also a strategy for improving a community's health. Current statewide participation rates in outdoor activities were surveyed as part of the plan.



Figure D5. Participation Rates for Washington Residents in Outdoor Activities

Participation Rates for Top 12 Categories	
Activity	%
Walking	94%
Nature activities	89%
Leisure activities at parks	82%
Swimming	68%
Sightseeing activities	67%
Hiking	61%
Outdoor sports	48%
Water-based activities (freshwater)	46%
Camping	45%
Trending activities	33%
Snow and ice activities	30%
Bicycling	28%

Washington State youth participate in outdoor activities to a greater extent than those found nationally. Park and recreation providers are urged to offer a variety of outdoor activities for youth and to support youth programs. Most youth are walking, playing at a park, trying new or trending activities, fishing in freshwater, exploring nature and riding bikes. Other activities of interest to youth are activities in freshwater such as boating and paddling, fishing in saltwater, and target shooting, hiking, outdoor sports and riding off-road vehicles.

Figure D6. Youth Participation Rates for Washington Residents in Outdoor Activities

Youth Participation Rates	
Activity	%
Walking	88%
Leisure in parks	78%
Trending activities	77%
Fishing in freshwater	77%
Nature-based activities	75%
Bicycling	74%
Freshwater-based activities*	66%
Target shooting	62%
Hiking	57%
Outdoor sports	57%
Off-road vehicle riding	57%
Fishing in saltwater	53%

\*(not swimming)



### **Plan for Culturally Relevant parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics**

Washington's population is expected to grow by 2 million people by 2040 leading to more congestion and competition for recreation resources. Between 2010 and 2040, the percent of people of color are expected to increase from 27% to 44%. With the cultural change in the population, preferred recreational activities also will change. By 2030, more than one of every five Washingtonians will be 65 years old or older. By 2040, if present trends continue there will be more seniors than youth. Park and recreation providers should be prepared to create new and diverse opportunities to accommodate a growing and potentially active senior population.

### **Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service**

The 2018-2022 Washington SCORP recognizes that outdoor recreation contributes to a strong economy and is a public investment like other public services and infrastructure. The report cites the Outdoor Industry Association and other economic studies that reinforce the importance of park and recreation services locally, regionally and statewide.



# APPENDIX E

## IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS



Key Pen Parks possesses a range of local tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks and recreation program. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for numerous other local purposes which limit applicability and usage.

## LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

### General Obligation Bond

These bonds are proposed by the District Board for acquisition or development. These are voter-approved bonds typically repaid through an annual excess property tax levy. The maturity period of these bonds are normally 15 to 20 years and generally corresponds to the expected life of the improvement. For a general obligation bond to pass, it must receive at least 60 percent voter approval and pass a validation requirement of at least 40 percent of the number of voters who voted in the previous general election voting on the proposed bond measure.

### Limited Tax Obligation Bonds

These bonds are general obligation bonds issued by the District Commission without voter approval. Under State law, repayment of these bonds must be financed from general revenues since no additional property taxes can be levied to support related debt service payments.

### Excess Levy for Operations and Maintenance

Some special districts may also impose a one-year (two for fire districts, four for school districts) levy, commonly known as an “operations and maintenance” levy. Nine special purpose districts may impose an excess levy, but not a regular levy.

The excess levy requires a voter approval of 60 percent of 40 percent of those voting in the last general election (Washington State Constitution, Art. VII, Sec. 2(a)).

The districts allowed an excess levy are: metropolitan park district, park and recreation service area, park and recreation district, water-sewer district, solid waste disposal district, public facilities district, flood control zone district, county rail district, service district, public hospital district, road district, rural county library district, island library district, rural partial-county library district, intercounty rural library district,

cemetery district, city, town, transportation benefit district, emergency medical service district with a population density of less than one thousand per square mile, cultural arts, stadium, and convention district, ferry district, city transportation authority, or regional fire protection service authority.

The excess levy is not subject to the regular levy's aggregate \$5.90 and one percent rate limits.

## **Regular Property Tax - Lid Lift**

A levy lid lift is an instrument for increasing property tax levies for operating and/or capital purposes. Taxing districts with a tax rate that is less than their statutory maximum rate may ask the voters to "lift" the levy lid by increasing the tax rate to some amount equal to or less than their statutory maximum rate.

### Process to Enact:

A simple majority vote of citizenry is required.

### Revenue Authority:

Cities and counties have two "lift" options available to them: Single-year/basic or Multi-year.

Single-year: The single-year lift does not mean that the lift goes away after one year; it can be for any amount of time, including permanently, unless the proceeds will be used for debt service on bonds, in which case the maximum time period is nine years. Districts may permanently increase the levy but must use language in the ballot title expressly stating that future levies will increase as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. After the initial "lift" in the first year, the district's levy in future years is subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW. This is the maximum amount it can increase without returning to the voters for another lid lift.

The election to implement a single-year lift may take place on any election date listed in RCW 29A.04.321.

Multi-year: The multi-year lift allows the levy lid to be "bumped up" each year for up to a maximum of six years. At the end of the specified period, the levy in the final period may be designated as the basis for the calculation of all future levy increases (in other words, be made permanent) if expressly stated in the ballot title. The levy in future years would then be subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW.

In a multi-year lift, the lift for the first year must state the new tax rate for that year. For the ensuing years, the lift may be a dollar amount, a percentage increase tied to an index, or a percentage amount set by some other method. The amounts do not need to be the same for each year. If the amount of the increase for a particular year would require a tax rate that is above the maximum tax rate, the assessor will levy only the maximum amount allowed by law.

The election to implement a multi-year lift must be either the August primary or the November general election.

### Limitations on Revenue:

The single-year lift allows supplanting of expenditures within the lift period; the multi-year lift does not, and the purpose for the lift must be specifically identified in the election materials.





### Overview of Specific Provisions:

For both single- and multi-year lifts, when the lift expires the base for future levies will revert to what the dollar amount would have been if no lift had been done, unless the levy in the final period was designated as the basis for the tax calculation.

### Proration:

The total regular levy rate of senior taxing districts (counties and cities) and junior taxing districts (fire districts, library districts, etc.) may not exceed \$5.90/\$1,000 AV. If this limit is exceeded, levies are reduced or eliminated in the following order until the total tax rate is at \$5.90.

1. Parks & Recreation Districts (up to \$0.60)  
Parks & Recreation Service Areas (up to \$0.60)  
Cultural Arts, Stadiums & Convention Districts (up to \$0.25)
2. Flood Control Zone Districts (up to \$0.50)
3. Hospital Districts (up to \$0.25)  
Metropolitan Parks Districts (up to \$0.25)  
All other districts not otherwise mentioned
4. Metropolitan Park Districts formed after January 1, 2002 or after (up to \$0.50)
5. Fire Districts (up to \$0.25)
6. Fire Districts (remaining \$0.50)  
Regional Fire Protection Service Authorities (up to \$0.50)  
Library Districts, Park Districts (up to \$0.50)  
Hospital Districts (up to \$0.50)  
Metropolitan Parks Districts formed before January 1, 2002 (up to \$0.50)

## **FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

### **Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program**

#### **National Park Service**

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a technical assistance resource for communities administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

### **Community Development Block Grants**

#### **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

These funds are intended to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. The money assists social services and infrastructure improvements to benefit residents of the Pierce County Consortium, which consists of 18 cities and towns and the unincorporated areas of Pierce County.

## North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program

### US Fish & Wildlife Service

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. Two competitive grants programs exist (Standard and a Small Grants Program) and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute toward a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

## Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The WRP provides private landowners the opportunity to preserve, enhance and restore wetlands and associated uplands. The program is voluntary and provides three enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and 10-year restoration cost-share agreements. In all cases, landowners retain the underlying ownership in the property and management responsibility. Land uses may be allowed that are compatible with the program goal of protecting and restoring the wetlands and associated uplands. The NRCS manages the program and may provide technical assistance.

## Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs

### Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

The Recreation and Conservation Office was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act. The RCO grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources. Historically, these have included the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds, Initiative 215 monies (derived from unreclaimed marine fuel taxes), off-road vehicle funds, Youth Athletic Facilities Account and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

### Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)

This program, managed through the RCO, provides matching grants to state and local agencies to protect and enhance salmon habitat and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on aquatic lands. In 1998, DNR refocused the ALEA program to emphasize salmon habitat preservation and enhancement. However, the program is still open to traditional water access proposals. Any project must be located on navigable portions of waterways. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.



## **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)**

The RCO is a state office that allocates funds to local and state agencies for the acquisition and development of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Funding sources managed by the RCO include the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The WWRP is divided into Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails and water access categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year, and the State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

## **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to buy land and develop public outdoor facilities, including parks, trails and wildlife lands. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of Federal revenue derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources.

## **National Recreational Trails Program**

The National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and re-routing of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. A local match of 20% is required. This program is funded through Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses.

## **Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program**

The YAF provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.

## **Boating Facilities Program (BFP)**

The program pays for projects that acquire, develop, and renovate facilities for motorized boats and other watercraft, including launching ramps, guest moorage, and support facilities. Typical projects include renovating boat launches, adding guest moorage facilities and building parking, restrooms, and other boating amenities. Local agencies and special purpose districts must provide 25% match for each project, and at least 10% of the total project cost must be from a non-state, non-federal contribution.

## **Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program**

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program provides funding to develop and renovate boating facilities targeting guest recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Grants also may be used for boater education. Typical projects include renovating guest docks, adding utilities to moorage docks, and building moorage docks and floats. A 25% match is required for all projects. Except for state agencies and Native American tribes, at least 10% of the total project cost must be from a non-state, non-federal contribution.

## **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund**

Grants are awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for acquisition or restoration of lands directly correlating to salmon habitat protection or recovery. Projects must demonstrate a direct benefit to fish habitat. There is no match requirement for design-only projects; acquisition and restoration projects require a 15% match. The funding source includes the sale of state general obligation bonds, the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and the state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund.

## **PIERCE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT**

The program is funded by the County's one dollar portion of the five dollar per instrument surcharge charged by the Auditor for each document recorded under provisions of RCW 36.22.170 (1)(a). The program goal is to distribute small, yet meaningful, grants to help promote historic preservation throughout the county. Maximum grant amounts fall into two categories: 1) \$15,000 for stabilization, restoration, or rehabilitation of local (CLG) register-listed buildings or structures; and 2) \$5,000 for photographic/document preservation, historic markers, history research, and public events/programming.

## **PIERCE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUTURES TAX**

Conservation Futures is a land preservation program for the protection of threatened areas of open space, timber lands, wetland, habitat areas, agricultural and farm lands within the boundaries of Pierce County. Conservation Futures funds are used to acquire the land or the rights to future development of the land. The funding for this program is a state authorized / county property tax. The Pierce County Council enacted the tax and all property taxpayers pay 4.44 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value of each Pierce County owned parcel. These monies, identified in the budget as Conservation Futures, are budgeted annually by the Pierce County Council.

## **OTHER METHODS & FUNDING SOURCES**

### **Key Peninsula Parks & Recreation Foundation**

The Key Peninsula Parks & Recreation Foundation is a volunteer organization founded in 2011 as a non-profit liaison between Key Pen Parks and potential donors. The mission of the Foundation is to assist in preserving, growing and enhancing our local active and passive parks. Foundation volunteers engage in fundraising and other activities to develop partnerships and relationships with local businesses, individuals and the community as a whole in an effort to meet the mission of bringing people and parks together.

### **The Longbranch Foundation**

The Longbranch Foundation is one of the newest charitable organizations in the Key Peninsula community. It was formed as a 501(c)(3) charitable extension of the nonprofit Longbranch Improvement Club, known for its historic, timber A-frame clubhouse and revitalized marina on Filucy Bay. Formed almost 100 years ago, the LIC mission is "to encourage any activity for the betterment of schools, homemaking, roads, marketing, dairy, poultry and all its branches." The Longbranch Foundation achieves



this mission through partnerships with the Longbranch Improvement Club and other community service organizations with the help of its partners—from individuals and government to local nonprofits and businesses—and by using a community-oriented, collaborative approach.

## **Business Sponsorships/Donations**

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

## **Interagency Agreements**

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works and utility providers.

## **Private Grants, Donations & Gifts**

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

# **ACQUISITION TOOLS & METHODS**

## **Direct Purchase Methods**

### **Market Value Purchase**

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the District purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

### **Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)**

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

### **Life Estates & Bequests**

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the District, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/



her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the District. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the District some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the District in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

### **Gift Deed**

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessor's office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

### **Option to Purchase Agreement**

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the District that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the option agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

### **Right of First Refusal**

In this agreement, the landowner grants the District the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the District. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

### **Conservation and/or Access Easements**

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the District that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the District purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.



## Landowner Incentive Measures

### Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments (e.g., Pierce County) may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the “sending” and “receiving” property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

### IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see [www.irc.gov](http://www.irc.gov) for more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the District.

### Current (Open Space) Use Taxation Programs

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, and/or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their “highest and best” use assessment. This differential assessed value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Ch.84.34 RCW) helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm or timber lands. If land is converted to other non-open space uses, the land owner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years worth of differential tax rates is waived. The amount of this tax liability can be part of the negotiated land acquisition from private to public or quasi-public conservation purposes. King County has four current use taxation programs that offer this property tax reduction as an incentive to landowners to voluntarily preserve open space, farmland or forestland on their property.

## OTHER LAND PROTECTION OPTIONS

### Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. Forterra (formerly called the Cascade Land Conservancy) is the regional land trust serving Key Peninsula, and their efforts have led to the conservation of more than 234,000 acres of forests, farms, shorelines, parks and natural areas in the region ([www.forterra.org](http://www.forterra.org)). Also, the Great Peninsula Conservancy, a private non-profit land trust, works toward protecting the rural landscapes, natural habitats and open spaces of the Great Peninsula of Puget Sound, and this land trust has conserved over 5,700 acres in the region ([www.greatpeninsula.org](http://www.greatpeninsula.org)). Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Wetlands Conservancy and the Nisqually Land Trust.

## **Regulatory Measures**

A variety of regulatory measures are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include: Critical Areas Ordinance; State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Shorelines Management Program; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

## **Public/Private Utility Corridors**

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.



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