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## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the Si View Metropolitan Park District is to work in partnership with the community to preserve historic Si View Park and provide opportunities to enhance the quality of life through the facilitation of recreation programs and parks in the Snoqualmie Valley.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

A community set in the extraordinary surroundings of the Snoqualmie Valley should strive for more than ordinary parks, recreation and community services. To provide a variety of opportunities that capitalize on the remarkable resources and unique characteristics of our area, the Si View Metropolitan Park District (District) must create a vision for the future of parks and recreation in the Snoqualmie Valley.

Generally speaking, parks and recreation services are considered good things. Parks and recreation contribute to our landscape, our health, our community and our overall quality of life. It takes resources, however to provide parks and recreation services and because resources are limited, the District must plan ahead for their use. The anticipated growth in our area demands good planning to preserve both our quality of life and to ensure a strong parks and recreation system for future generations.

### **PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN**

The District was formed in 2003, and therefore this is the District's first Comprehensive Plan (Plan). The purpose of this Plan is to provide a tool for existing and future public officials, staff and private citizens to plan for the future needs of the community. This Plan provides a logical, consistent, and purposeful approach to managing parks and recreation services in our area. It will be used to guide public policy and development decisions while preserving and enhancing the quality of life that makes the Snoqualmie Valley a special place to live, work and visit.

This Plan offers an inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities and programs, discussion of key issues, and recommendations involving all facets of park and recreation service delivery. This plan will also maintain the District's eligibility for state and federal funds that are administered by the Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation.

The specific elements of the plan include:

- An analysis of the community's population and setting.
- An analysis of existing parks, open space areas and trail facilities.
- An analysis of current District operations.



- An assessment of the community's recreation and facility needs.
- Recommendations for intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships.
- Recommendations for the acquisition and development of parks, open space and trails within the District.
- Recommendations related to management, administration and other aspects of providing park and recreation services.
- Recommendations for funding and implementing this Plan.

## PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process consisted of four basic steps. The first step involved a facility assessment of the Si View Community Center and Pool. The facility assessment was done in stages using both professional engineers and consultants to identify, prioritize and provide cost estimates for future facility improvements. This information was used to guide the development of the capital improvement program.

The second step involved a District-wide public survey that was administered by Leisure Vision, a polling firm with national experience in community park and recreation surveys. Questions ranged from the types of recreation programs people are interested in, to the need for additional parks and recreation facilities in the Snoqualmie Valley. Additionally, respondents were asked to quantify their support for the renovation of existing District facilities and/or the development of new parks and recreation facilities.

The third step in the process was to assess the parks and recreation services currently offered by the District and to determine what modifications to the levels of service are warranted. This determination was based on public meetings, the District-wide survey, input from the Board of Commissioners, consultation with user groups and input from District staff.

The fourth step was to establish goals and a timeline for the implementation of this Plan. These include recommendations for improving and expanding park and recreation services in the District in addition to a series of implementation strategies for funding and managing the actions of the District for the next six years.

## RESPONSIBILITY

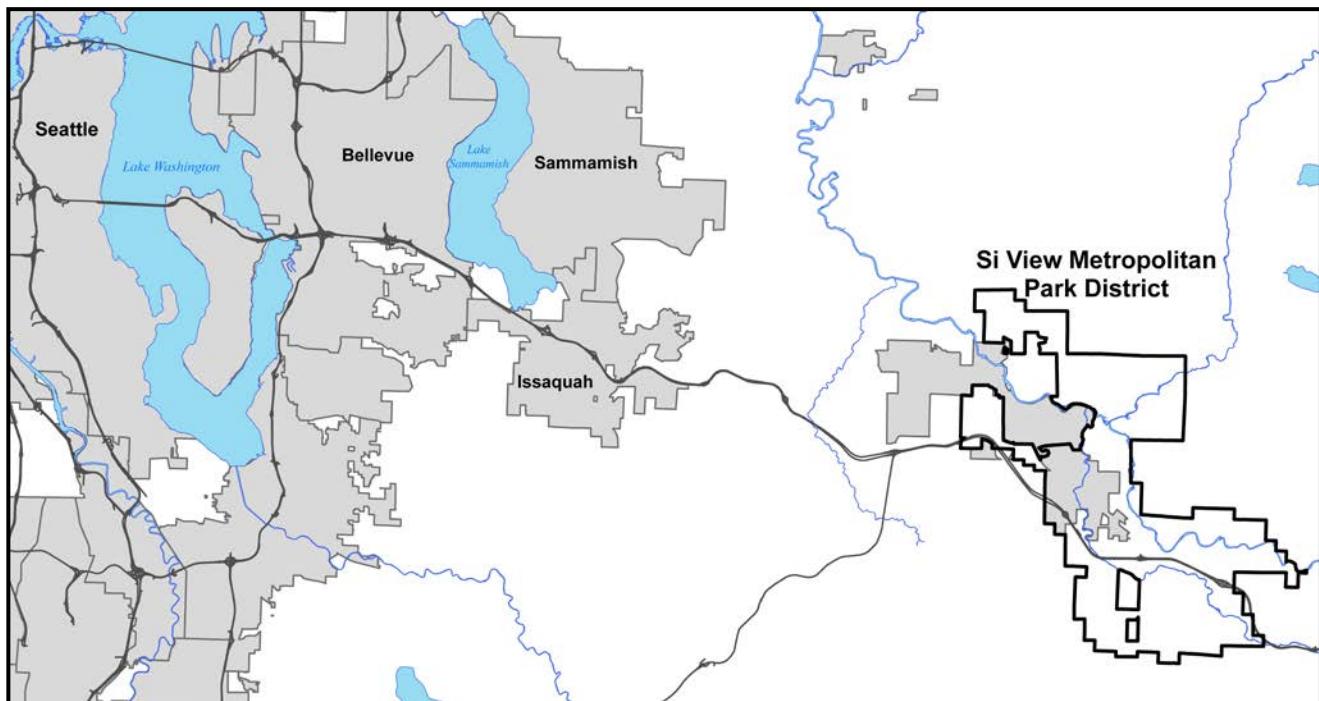
The District is authorized to hold the powers provided in RCW 35.61, including, but not limited to, the authority to govern the District and to levy a general tax on all property located in the District.



## SECTION 2: COMMUNITY PROFILE

### GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

As shown below in Figure 2.1, the District is located in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley, in east King County in the last river town before Snoqualmie Pass. Interstate 90 travels east and west through the District, providing a direct and easy linkage to Snoqualmie Pass and Cle Elum in the east and the Seattle metropolitan area in the west.



The District covers approximately 17,310 acres or 27 square miles, including the City of North Bend (1,897 acres) and Fire District No. 38, in unincorporated King County (15,413 acres). The District and the Upper Snoqualmie Valley are rich in natural resources and recreation opportunities including the Mount-Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, the Snoqualmie Pass ski area, Rattlesnake Mountain and Snoqualmie Falls.

Although the District is located on the state's major east-west highway corridor, it is surrounded by the Cascade Mountains to the east. These mountains, including county, state and local wilderness areas provide a vast number of recreation opportunities to Snoqualmie Valley residents and visitors to the area. Numerous agencies including the Mountains to Sound Greenway are working to protect and preserve this land for future generations. These efforts along with the regulations of the Growth Management Act, place restrictions on the future growth of the Upper Snoqualmie Valley. In addition, these restrictions have a corresponding impact on the growth of the District's tax base.



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## HISTORY\*

Humans first came to the Snoqualmie Valley about 5,000 years ago after the glaciers receded. The glaciers left a fertile plain and a magnificent 300 foot waterfall. The river had been moved from its ancient bed by the glacier and could not seek its natural level because of the bedrock encountered at the lip of what is now known as Snoqualmie Falls. Mountain goats were plentiful on the crags; deer, edible bulbs, bracken fern roots and berries were abundant on the prairie. Without salmon there was little to draw a permanent year-round population above the falls, but as trade between the Native Americans on the coast and those inland increased, the prairie of the Upper Snoqualmie became a traditional seasonal rendezvous area.

The Valley was originally settled by members of the Snoqualmie Tribe. They christened the Valley "Snoqualmie," which in their native tongue means valley of the moon. In the 1850's white settlers began to realize the value of the land for both agricultural subsistence and small scale timber operations and began moving to the Valley.

By 1877 there were twelve logging operations on the Snoqualmie River. Some logs were floated over the falls and down-river to Everett and the Sound. By 1886, logging camps on the river employed 140 men and sent millions of board feet of logs downstream.

Three Puget Sound partners formed the Hop Growers Association in 1882. They purchased land and soon expanded to over 1,500 acres, about 900 of them in hops. The Snoqualmie Hop Farm was billed as "the largest Hop Ranch in the World," and was headquartered at Meadowbrook Farm. Hop growing flourished for about a dozen years, and then world market conditions and aphid attacks brought an abrupt decline into the late 1890's.

By 1889, Puget Sound entrepreneurs, tired of railroad barons bypassing Seattle, had funded and built their own railroad, the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad, into the Upper Valley in a premature attempt to cross the Cascade mountains. This opened up the agricultural and timber resources to the markets of the world, and began the influx of tourists to the Snoqualmie Valley.

With the railroad came a feverish speculation in Upper Valley land. The Town of North Bend was platted originally as "Snoqualmie Prairie", and Snoqualmie was platted in August of 1889 as "Snoqualmie Falls" by Seattle interests. In the late 1890's a local civil engineer built the underground power plant at Snoqualmie Falls - which produced both electricity and local jobs. The original generators are still spinning today. A small company town, including a railroad depot, grew at the Falls to house workers. Expansion in 1911 added a second power house around the corner below the Falls.

In 1917 the second all-electric lumber mill in the nation opened at the new company town of Snoqualmie Falls, built across the river from Snoqualmie. The economy of the Valley was given a significant and stable employment base. As World War I funneled mill workers away, they were replaced by soldiers to keep essential wood products, which included spruce for airplanes, in production.



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The building boom in Snoqualmie lasted until the Great Depression, which hit bottom in the Upper Valley in 1932. Salaries and wages fell, but the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company mill continued to produce throughout the hard times. World War II and the post-war boom increased the lumber requirements of the nation but also increased personal mobility.

The Federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) was designed to coordinate the programs of various federal agencies providing work to the unemployed during the Great Depression. Created under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, the guiding principal was that gainful employment on public projects was preferable to the acceptance of doles in terms of worker self-respect, the conservation of skills and solid economic recovery.

In King County, the WPA left a lasting legacy. With the establishment of the King County parks system in 1935, individual communities, the County and the WPA formed an effective public-private partnership. This partnership resulted in the acquisition and improvement of at least fifteen park sites and the construction of eight major recreational facilities, including the Si View Community Center and Pool in 1938.

Financing for the Si View Community Center and Pool project was worked out with the WPA, with 25% of the monies coming from the county and approximately 75% from WPA. Once built, the Si View Community Center was managed locally and served as it does today as the social hub of the community.

In the summer of 1941, the look of downtown North Bend changed suddenly with the completion of the Cross-State Highway, the forerunner of Interstate 90. Over the next several decades, North Bend's cafes and drive-in restaurants, motels, gas stations and garages, spread further and further to the east along the highway. By night, neon lights illuminated the busy thoroughfare, the only central business district remaining on the cross-state corridor.

Nonetheless, the inevitable bypass eventually came to be. By the early 1980s, I-90 bypassed the City of North Bend a half-mile to the south, leaving downtown North Bend to reinvent itself once again as an attraction worth stopping for. The Snoqualmie Valley and North Bend remain a tourist destination and a stop-over point for travelers on I-90.

\*Source: *A Short History of the Upper Snoqualmie Valley*, Dave Battey

## PARK DISTRICT FORMATION

The City of North Bend and King County initiated the proposal to form the Si View Metropolitan Park District (King County Ordinance No. 14505 and City of North Bend Resolution 900) in October of 2002. The City and County worked collaboratively to find a solution to ensure the continuing operation of the Si View Community Center, Park and Pool. At the time, King County lacked the financial resources to continue to own and operate the Si View facilities, thus, without the District these facilities would have been closed. The solution mutually preferred by the County and the City was the creation of a Metropolitan Park District



that would equitably distribute the financial burden of operating the Si View facilities to all users (i.e., both County and City residents in the area).

The Si View Metropolitan Park District was incorporated on February 4, 2003 by a 71% majority vote of the community in a special election. At the same time, five Commissioners were elected and now serve as the governing body of the District. Commissioners serve staggered six-year terms.

The District includes the entirety of the City of North Bend and the unincorporated County lands located within the boundaries of King County Fire District No. 38 (except for that portion of the Fire District which is situated within the borders of the City of Snoqualmie). The Si View Community Center, Park and Pool serve as the centerpiece for the District. These facilities, which are 10.7 acres in size, are located within the City of North Bend and are the only such regional recreational facilities in the Snoqualmie Valley.

The District began offering limited park and recreation services in the summer of 2003 and moved to a full-scale park and recreation operation in the summer of 2004. The Si View Community Center, Park and Pool serve as the social, educational and cultural center of the community. Examples of current uses include: soccer, baseball, softball, tennis, gymnastics, day camp, fitness and aerobics classes, family (parent-child; adults; seniors) playground groups and swimming (private lessons, public swim, swim team). The facility also serves as a rental space hosting local PTA auctions, weddings, anniversaries, church groups and public and private meetings. In 2005 with the expansion of recreation programs, the District began to offer programs at other locations in the area including Two Rivers School, Meadowbrook Farm and the Mt. Si Senior Center.

## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Forecasts from the Puget Sound Regional Council up to the year 2030 indicate that King County and the region will continue to grow at a significant and stable rate. Specific forecasts for the Upper Snoqualmie Valley indicate a far more rapid growth – from a population of 13,851 in 2000 to a population of 16,500 in 2030, or a growth rate of 19% over the next three decades. Table 2.1 provides population data for the Snoqualmie Valley and the Upper Snoqualmie Valley.

**TABLE 2.1** – Population of Snoqualmie Valley

Jurisdiction	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census	2030 Estimate	Change 1990-2000	% Change 1990-2000
Snoqualmie Valley	17,480	25,847	33,702	41,042	7,855	30.4%
Upper Snoqualmie Valley	8,885	11,285	13,851	16,500	2,649	19.1%

*Source: Puget Sound Regional Council, December 2003*



The total population of the Si View Metropolitan Park District is estimated to be 14,000 residents. This is based on 2000 Census statistics for the Upper Snoqualmie Valley. Exact population statistics for the District have not been compiled.

Table 2.2 provides population data for the incorporated cities that comprise the Snoqualmie Valley. The District includes the entirety of the City of North Bend. The City of Snoqualmie lies to the west of the District on the I-90 corridor. Recent annexations led to the development of Snoqualmie Ridge, which more than doubled the population of the City of Snoqualmie from 2000 to 2004.

**TABLE 2.2** – Population of Snoqualmie Valley Cities

Jurisdiction	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census	2004 Pop.	Change 1990-2000	% Change 1990-2000
North Bend	1,701	2,578	4,746	4,660	2,168	84.1%
Snoqualmie	1,370	1,546	1,631	5,110	85	5.5%

*Source: 2004 King County Annual Growth Report and 2000 Census.*

The City of North Bend's population data from the 2000 Census is used in the following sections in lieu of District-specific data. The City's data is considered to be representative of the District's population. Table 2.3 provides an overview of the age range for the residents of North Bend. The median age of the population is 34.5 with 71% of the population being under the age of 45.

**Table 2.3** – North Bend Age Distribution

Age Range	Under Age 5	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	Over Age 65	Total
Total	278	820	2,948	504	4,746
% of Total	10%	17%	62%	11%	

*Source: 2000 Census.*

Ninety-two percent of the population of the City of North Bend is white and nearly 70% of the households in the City are family households. The average household size within the Upper Snoqualmie Valley is expected to drop from an average of 2.68 in 2000, to 2.45 in 2010, 2.38 in 2020 and 2.34 in 2030. (2000 Census and Puget Sound Regional Council, 2003.)

## WILDLIFE HABITAT

While the topography of the District is primarily a flat plateau of the Upper Snoqualmie River Valley, the District includes wooded landscapes, the Snoqualmie River system, and slopes of nearby mountains. The natural boundaries of the District include the southwestern forestland slopes of Rattlesnake Ridge, the eastern boundary is forestland of the Western Cascades and the northern boundary encompasses mostly forest and agricultural land with its most significant feature, Mount Si, at 3,400 ft. elevation.



Historically, the Upper Snoqualmie Valley was covered in coniferous forest, except where fire, occupation by native peoples, talus slopes, wetlands or rivers and streams provided breaks. The area falls within the *Tsuga heterophylla* zone and was dominated by conifers such as Western hemlock, Douglas fir and western red cedar. The important deciduous tree was red alder and to a lesser extent big leaf maple. The understory varied with the soil type and moisture. Vine maple, oceanspray, sallal, snowberry, Oregon grape and huckleberries would have been common understory shrubs. Sword fern would have been a common herb layer depending on moisture.

Today, the forested habitats in the District have been highly fragmented by development. Because the District is surrounded by forestland, however, most of these typical species still remain in the area.

Wildlife include the more common forest species such as elk, deer, black bear, cougar, bobcat, mountain beaver, weasel, deer mice and other rodent species, shrews and bats. Many of the larger mammals use the forest intermittently. Bird species include raptors, owls and smaller forest-loving species. Salamanders and some frogs occupy the forests as well. Wildlife that would have been more common in the past include wolf, marten and fisher.

A portion of the District is located on the floodplains of the South Fork and the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. Prior to the Euro-American settlement, the rivers would have meandered across the flood plain creating a mosaic of riparian forest and wetland communities.

Riparian forests have been impacted by development in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley including levy construction and are largely absent from this area of the District. Some examples of this forest still exist, however, at Meadowbrook Farm, Tollgate Farm and some portions of the South Fork and its tributaries. Riparian forest is much more common along the rivers in the Three Forks Natural Area and the Middle Fork Natural Area.

Riparian forests are dominated by black cottonwood, red alder, big leaf maple and willow. Sitka spruce and western red cedar may have been much more common in the past. Understory vegetation included salmonberry, red osier dogwood and invasive Himalayan blackberry. Herbaceous vegetation is common and skunk cabbage occurs in wetter depressions. Many species use these riparian forests for cover, foraging and breeding. Elk, deer, river otter, mink and beaver most commonly use this habitat type. Cougar, black bear and bobcat pass through the riparian forests.

Many wetlands that were not filled or drained during the development of the City of North Bend have been impacted by agriculture developed in the floodplain. Cattle grazing and subsequent invasion by non-native species have had the greatest impact after draining and filling. Dikes along the rivers have isolated many wetlands from seasonal flooding and undoubtedly hastened the change in native plant species composition.

In spite of the many impacts, wetlands continue to provide habitat and flood control benefits. Many animal species use these wetlands for all or part of their lives. The more structurally diverse wetlands (i.e., more tree and shrub cover) provide the most optimum habitat. Many



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species of bird and amphibians are particularly dependent on wetlands for critical breeding habitat.

Early settlers described much of the floodplain as “prairie.” The large open space was maintained by Native Americans in order to perpetuate certain edible plant species such as camas and berries. Fire was used to remove invading shrubs and trees. This open area would have also provided foraging habitat for various game animals such as elk, deer, bear, rabbits and grouse. Mice, voles and grassland birds would have been abundant along with skunks, weasels, raptors and owls.

Euro-American settlers with the development of railroads and roads, quickly converted the prairie to farms and travel corridors, eliminating most of the native plant communities.

Undoubtedly, animal species associated with this community were lost, although many of the larger animal species adapted to the new, non-native species, albeit in smaller numbers. Some species that posed a threat to livestock or poultry, such as bears, wolves, cougars and bobcats would have been targeted for elimination. As the Upper Snoqualmie Valley grew, former prairie areas were lost to urban development. Today, what remains of the former prairies are largely farm fields, bisected by roads and highways and the abandoned railroad corridor. These transportation corridors are significant barriers for wildlife movement.

The existing farm fields provide habitat for small mammals and birds and are regularly patrolled by raptors, owls and coyote. In some areas, larger mammals such as deer, elk and black bear forage or use the fields to move to areas providing better habitat and cover. The largest remaining area of this particular habitat type occurs in the western part of the District. It includes Meadowbrook Farm, Tollgate Farm, miscellaneous intervening properties and the field south of the Nintendo complex.

The rivers themselves provide a special aquatic habitat. In spite of dikes along portions of the rivers, they still provide excellent habitat for such fish species as cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, whitefish and sculpin. Although the rivers are still listed as possibly having habitat for the federally listed bulltrout, this species no longer appears to exist in the rivers. Habitat for fish spawning is particularly good where the river is still connected with its off-channel floodplain. Parts of Ribary Creek provide excellent spawning habitat for cutthroat trout because of its heavily vegetated banks and clean sediments. Gardiner Creek also supports a healthy population of cutthroat trout.



## SECTION 3: EXISTING FACILITIES

### OVERVIEW

The District, the City of North Bend, King County, the State of Washington and other public and private agencies have assembled thousands of acres of land devoted exclusively to park, recreation and open space uses within the Upper Snoqualmie Valley. These lands provide a variety of park, recreation, and open space activities including wildlife conservancies, picnic facilities, multipurpose trail corridors, athletic fields, playgrounds, community centers, and administrative and maintenance facilities.

A map of the existing facilities in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley is included in Appendix A.

### INVENTORY BY AGENCY

#### **Si View Metropolitan Park District**

##### **Si View Community Center, Park and Pool 400 SE Orchard Dr., North Bend**

A 10.7 acre site located near downtown North Bend in an area of multi-family and single-family residential development. Developed facilities include two youth baseball fields, an open field used for soccer, two tennis courts, playground equipment and outdoor restrooms. A historic log building houses an indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium/basketball court and classrooms. This is the only public community center and pool in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley. The District offers a full range of recreation programs and activities at this facility.



##### **Shamrock Park**

##### **Orchard Dr. and Healy Ave., North Bend**

East Shamrock Park is an attractive, half-acre undeveloped mini-park providing 200 feet of frontage on the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River. The park is located on Healy Avenue across the street from the Si View Community Center. An additional parcel of land is owned by the District and is located directly across the river from East Shamrock Park.





## City of North Bend

### **E.J. Roberts Park NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Thrasher Ave. N, North Bend**

This is a 4.9-acre neighborhood park located east of Downtown North Bend in the Silver Creek development. Improvements include playground areas, two tennis courts, a basketball court, outdoor restrooms, paved pathways, landscaping and paved parking for ten vehicles.



### **Gardiner-Weeks Memorial Park**

#### **411 Main Ave. So., North Bend**

This 3.3 acre neighborhood park has approximately 200 feet of frontage on the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River and is located on Bendigo Boulevard, a key gateway to the City of North Bend. The Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum, the Mount Si Senior Center and the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Booth are located within the park boundaries. Park facilities include a gazebo, picnic tables, and a short, paved walking path.



### **Torguson Park and the North Bend Athletic Facility North Bend Way, North Bend**

This 17.3 acre facility consists of six ball fields, restrooms, an 8,100 square foot skateboard park, picnic facilities, bike racks, a BMX dirt bike track, landscaping and a gravel parking lot for 110 vehicles. The ball fields are designed for baseball and softball, but soccer is also played on the fields





## **Willaim Henry Taylor Park 205 E. McClellan, North Bend**

This 1.0 acre park houses the North Bend Railroad Depot. The Depot was constructed in 1988 and serves as the eastern terminus for the Puget Sound and Snoqualmie Valley historical railway train. Depot facilities include a ticket office, meeting rooms and restrooms. A landscaped lawn area, with benches and picnic tables extend south from the Depot to adjoin senior citizen and multi-family housing developments. The Tanner Trail, including its only paved section, runs east-west through the park.



## **Tanner Trail**

The Tanner Trail is a railway and trail corridor located on the south side of North Bend Way. The 100-foot right-of-way runs from the western limits of the City of North Bend to the Tanner Road/Tanner Mill site where it intersects with the King County/Snoqualmie Valley Trail. A pedestrian and bicycle trail runs parallel to the railroad tracks. This trail links downtown North Bend with residential areas and recreational river frontage. The Tanner Trail is paved and landscaped from East Park Street to Main Avenue North. The remainder of the trail surface is gravel.



## **Si View Subdivision Parks**

Four small parks totaling 13.0 acres make up the Si view Subdivision parks. All of the parks are located in the New Si View neighborhood. The park includes river access on the top of the flood levee, extensive paved walkways, playgrounds and a multi-purpose sports court.





## Meadowbrook Farm

Meadowbrook Farm is a 460-acre, historic farm property located within the cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie. In 1991, 150-acres of the Farm was purchased by the City of North Bend. In 1993, another 255 acres lying within the city limits of Snoqualmie was jointly purchased by the cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie using King County Conservation Futures funds. In 1996, North Bend and Snoqualmie purchased the remaining 55 acres of the Farm.

A Master Plan for Meadowbrook Farm was adopted in 1999. The 460-acre property offers passive recreational opportunities, including nature appreciation, trails, environmental interpretation and native habitat protection. A 2,400 square foot Interpretive Center was built in 2004 by the Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association and is used for education programs and special events.



## Tollgate Farm

### 900 North Bend Blvd. N., North Bend

Tollgate Farm is a historic 410-acre farm that has long been listed as a critical protection priority by both the City of North Bend and King County. Tollgate Farm is adjacent to Meadowbrook Farm and preserves important agriculture, wildlife, archeological and historic resources.

In 2001, the City of North Bend and King County purchased 380 acres of the 410-acre Tollgate Farm for public park, open space and natural area purposes. King County purchased 330 acres, 165 acres of which is located outside the North Bend UGA. An additional 40 acres, containing most of the central meadow portion of the Farm, was purchased jointly by King County and the City of North Bend. The remaining ten acres in the Central Meadow, containing the 100-year-old historic Tollgate Farmhouse, was purchased by the City of North Bend.





## **King County**

### **Snoqualmie Valley Trail**

The Snoqualmie Valley Trail is a 36-mile, gravel surface trail that follows an abandoned railroad right-of-way from Duvall to North Bend. The trail is designed for non-motorized use, and is primarily used for walking and bicycling. The Trail passes through or is close to several key area destinations, including Meadowbrook Farm, Tollgate Farm and the Three Forks Natural Area. The Snoqualmie Valley Trail has recently been linked to the Pacific Crest Trail, which runs from Canada to Mexico, near Snoqualmie Pass.



### **Three Forks Natural Area**

#### **8394 North Ford Road SE, Snoqualmie**

Three Forks is a 418-acre natural area owned by King County at the confluence of the North, Middle, and South Forks of the Snoqualmie River, about two miles north of downtown North Bend. Approximately 158 acres of open space located within the Snoqualmie city limits was recently transferred to the City to maintain. The land will remain an open space area. The Three Forks area contains informal fishing trails, native habitat and wildlife areas.



### **Middle Fork Snoqualmie Park Natural Area**

#### **SE Middle Fork Rd. and SE 116<sup>th</sup> St.,**

#### **North Bend**

This is a 600-acre area owned by King County, located about 5 miles east of North Bend. As a natural area, the site is managed to protect natural systems, maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and corridors, and preserve scenic areas. A recently constructed gravel trail from the north side of Middle Fork Road provides river access for kayakers. The area also offers many other low-impact, passive recreational, interpretive and educational opportunities.





## State of Washington

### **John Wayne Pioneer Trail**

#### **(Iron Horse State Park )**

Washington State Parks manages this cross-state trail that follows an abandoned railroad right-of-way from Rattlesnake Lake near North Bend, east across Washington State to the Idaho border. This non-motorized, level grade trail is ideal for mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers. Major local access points are found at Rattlesnake Lake (I-90, Exit 32) and Ollalie State Park (I-90, Exit 38). The Trail was recently connected to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail at Rattlesnake Lake. The John Wayne Trail also connects with the Pacific Crest Trail, running between the Canadian and Mexican borders, near Snoqualmie Pass.



### **Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area**

This 8,890-acre conservation area is owned by the Department of Natural Resources. The extremely popular Mount Si Trail is 4 miles long and has an elevation gain of 3,500 feet. The trailhead, located about three miles from downtown North Bend off Mount Si Road, includes a picnic area, vault toilets, a handicap accessible loop trail and a large parking area. The 2.5-mile Little Si trail leads to the summit of Little Si (elevation gain of 1,250 feet). The Little Si trailhead is located off of 434<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE; parking is located on the left side of the state's most popular recreational trails. Mountain bikes and equestrian uses are permitted on specified roads and trails.



### **Ollalie State Park**

The 520-acre Ollalie State Park is a day use park providing hiking, fishing, rock climbing, and mountain biking and horseback riding. A one-mile hike off of exit 34 leads to two waterfalls suitably named "Twin Falls." Access and parking is provided off Exit 38 from Interstate 90.





## Federal Land

### Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

The Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest extends more than 140-miles along the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains from the Canadian border to the northern boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park. Thousands of acres of forest land border the Upper Snoqualmie Valley. Alpine and Nordic ski entities lease property from the Forest Service at Snoqualmie Pass providing numerous winter recreation opportunities.



## Other Significant Areas

### City of Seattle, Cedar River Watershed

The watershed is located south and east of North Bend and abuts the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The City of Seattle owns the upper 90,546 acres of the Cedar River Watershed; this area serves as a major part of the City of Seattle's municipal water supply.

The main recreational area is at Rattlesnake Lake, located just five miles from downtown North Bend. This area is open to the public for swimming, fishing and hiking; informal day-use facilities are provided. The Cedar River Watershed Education Center, located just above Rattlesnake Lake, includes an exhibit hall, heritage library, learning laboratories and meeting rooms. The remainder of the City of Seattle's watershed is off-limits to recreational users. King County's Cedar River Trail/Snoqualmie Valley Extension commences near the lake, as does the John Wayne Trail.





## Rattlesnake Mountain Area

Rattlesnake Mountain is located south of North Bend on the south side of Interstate 90. In 1993, King County and the Washington Department of Natural resources (DNR) jointly purchased approximately 1,800 acres. This area is managed by both agencies as the “Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area” under a management plan that has ecological protection as its priority and low-impact recreation as a secondary priority. In 1997, 1,100 acres on the western end of the Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area was purchased as a “working forest” using combined King County and Federal Forest Legacy funds. No development will occur in this forestland area. The majority of this acreage is owned by DNR and managed as Trust Lands on behalf of King County. The remaining, protected land on the Rattlesnake Mountain is owned by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

The Rattlesnake Mountain Trail is an 11-mile trail that links Rattlesnake Lake to Snoqualmie Point. Future plans call for creating a trail that would link the Rattlesnake Mountain trail to the Tiger Mountain trail system. The south end of Rattlesnake Mountain connects to the Cedar River Watershed. Southwest of Rattlesnake Mountain is the 1,700-acre Taylor Mountain forest, owned by King County Parks. Taylor Mountain provides a critical landscape connection between the Cedar River Watershed and Tiger Mountain, a 4,430-acre conservation area owned by DNR, and the City of Issaquah, with the surrounding lands being managed by DNR as state trust and forest land.





## Snoqualmie Falls

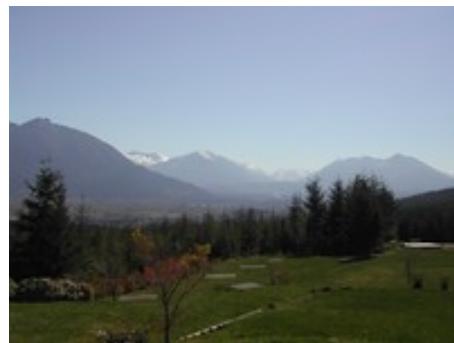
Snoqualmie Falls is one of Washington State's most popular scenic attractions hosting over 1.5 million visitors a year. Snoqualmie Falls itself has a 270-foot drop, which is 100 feet higher than Niagara Falls. The Falls provides a 2-acre park, hiking trails, an observation deck and a gift shop.



## Snoqualmie Point

### 37580 Winery Road, Snoqualmie

Perched above the Snoqualmie Valley floor, "The Point" looks out across the scenic valley to the Cascade Range, Mount Si and Mount Baker. This 10-acre park was purchased in 1999 in a cooperative effort between the City of Snoqualmie, Mountains to Sound Greenway, the National Forest Service, the Department of Natural Resources and the Greenway Trust.



## Snoqualmie Valley School District

Snoqualmie Valley School District #410 encompasses approximately 400 square miles in eastern King County and includes the cities of North Bend, Snoqualmie, and Fall City. Its boundaries extend east to Snoqualmie Pass and west to near Redmond. The District serves over 4,000 students with five elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school and one alternative school. Each of the school sites has a variety of amenities including playgrounds, tennis courts and informal ball fields. The High School recently built a stadium for football, soccer, track, softball and baseball.





## Mountains-to-Sound Greenway

The Mountains-to-Sound greenway concept originated with regional leaders in the summer of 1990. The vision is to connect and protect open space in a scenic greenway along Interstate 90. The Greenway is intended to run from the shores of Puget Sound, over the Cascade Mountains, to the Kittitas Valley Foothills. The Greenway incorporates both public and private lands and will include continuous trail connections along mountain hillsides and ridge tops and link these with community trail networks and destinations. Major elements of the system include Cougar, Squak and Tiger Mountains; Lake Sammamish State Park; Meadowbrook and Tollgate Farms; Rattlesnake Mountain and Mount Si, along with lands protected by the U.S. Forest Service east of North Bend.



## Privately Owned Dikes:

The bank of the Middle Fork is diked intermittently from the “Blue Hole” upstream to Mount Si Road. These dikes are privately owned but could offer long-term river access and recreational opportunities if appropriate use agreements can be reached with owners. A major section of the west bank levee on the Middle Fork, owned by the Nintendo Corporation, has an easement allowing public use.

The South Fork of the Snoqualmie River is diked more extensively than the Middle Fork. Levees extend farther upstream from Gardiner Weeks Park downstream on both banks to the Meadowbrook Trestle (the Snoqualmie Valley Trail extension), and upstream past Interstate 90. These dikes, like those on the Middle Fork, are privately owned. Along some reaches of the river, the public makes informal use of the dikes. In other areas, landowners prohibit access across the dikes.





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## SECTION 4: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement was, and continues to be, an important aspect of preparing this plan and developing goals to best serve the parks and recreation needs of our community. Several methods were used to obtain public comment.

### **Public Survey:**

The District conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey during May and June of 2005 to help establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the community. This survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the District. The survey was administered by Leisure Vision, Inc. using both mail and phone surveys.

Leisure Vision worked extensively with District officials in the development of the survey questionnaire. These efforts resulted in the survey being tailored to address issues of strategic importance in order to better plan for the future of the District.

In May of 2005, surveys were mailed to a random sample of 2,003 households in the Si View Metropolitan Park District. Approximately three days after the surveys were mailed, each household that received a survey received an electronic voice message encouraging them to complete the survey. Additionally, about two weeks after the surveys were mailed, Leisure Vision began contacting households by phone, either to encourage completion of the mailed survey or to administer the survey by phone.

The goal was to obtain a total of 400 completed surveys. This goal was accomplished, with 407 surveys having been completed. The results of the random sample of 407 households have a 95% level of confidence with an accuracy of +/-4.8%.

The survey results include benchmarking data, which allows the District to compare results against the Leisure Vision national database of over 100 communities. The benchmarking comparisons are provided in each of the key finding categories.

### **Key Findings:**

A complete copy of the executive summary is included in Appendix B. The following represents key findings from the survey:

- ***Frequency of Use of District Parks and Facilities***

Each of the three District facilities (Si View Community Center, Si View Pool and Si View Park) had between 52% and 58% of respondents indicate that they had visited the facilities at least once during the past year. It should also be noted that each of the three facilities had between 15% and 18% of respondents indicate they had visited them at least monthly during the past year.



- ***Quality of Si View Parks District Parks and Facilities***

Respondents were asked to rate the quality of the parks and facilities (Si View Community Center, Si View Pool and Si View Park) that they and members of their household had visited during the past year.

Rating	District	National Average
Excellent	9%	29%
Good	63%	53%
Fair	26%	13%
Poor	2%	2%
Don't Know	0%	3%

- ***Participation in District Programs***

Respondents were asked if they or other members of their household had participated in any recreation programs offered by the District during the past 12 months.

Response	District	National Average
Yes	34%	29%
No	66%	71%

- ***Quality of District Programs***

Respondent households that had participated in programs offered by the District during the past 12 months were asked to rate the quality of the programs they participated in.

Rating	District	National Average
Excellent	32%	32%
Good	56%	54%
Fair	11%	10%
Poor	1%	2%
Don't Know	0%	2%

- ***Way Respondents Learned About Programs and Activities***

From a list of seven options, respondents were asked to indicate all of the ways they learn about District programs and activities. A benchmarking comparison is not available for this question.

Rating	Response
Recreation Program Guide	60%
Word of Mouth	46%
Newspaper	44%
Program Fliers at School	26%
At Community Center/Pool	21%
District Website	12%
District Office	5%



- ***Most Important Parks and Recreation Facilities***

From a list of 24 parks and recreational facilities, respondents were asked to select the four that are most important to them and members of their household.

Category	District	National Average
Walking and Biking Trails	41%	40%
Indoor Swimming Pools	38%	17%
Natural Areas	25%	21%
Indoor Fitness Facilities	22%	19%
Large Community Parks	21%	19%
Indoor/Outdoor Pool	18%	N/A
Youth Soccer Fields	17%	8%
Small Neighborhood Parks	17%	31%
Playgrounds	15%	23%
Outdoor Pools	15%	17%
Picnic Shelters	14%	12%
Indoor Recreation Centers	13%	20%
Senior Recreation Center	9%	9%
Youth Baseball Fields	8%	10%
Gym Space/Indoor	8%	8%
Indoor Ice-Rink	7%	6%
Outdoor Tennis Courts	6%	7%
Skateboard Parks	4%	4%
Pea Patch/Gardens	4%	N/A
Youth Softball Fields	3%	4%
Outdoor Basketball Courts	3%	6%
In-Line Hockey Rink	2%	4%
Football Fields	1%	3%
Adult Softball/Baseball Fields	1%	6%



- ***Most Important Functions for the District***

From a list of 12 functions performed by the District, respondents were asked to select the three they think are most important for the District to provide. A benchmarking comparison is not available for this question.

Category	Importance
Operate Parks/Facilities that are Well Maintained	45%
Operate Si View Community Center and Pool	38%
Provide places for Indoor Recreation	34%
Provide Places for Outdoor Sports	32%
Provide Activities for Teens	28%
Provide Activities for Toddlers and Youth	22%
Preserve the Environment and Open Space	18%
Provide Special Events for All Ages	18%
Provide Trails that Connect Neighborhoods	11%
Provide Activities for People with Disabilities	9%
Coordinate with other Recreation Service Providers	7%

- ***Support for Actions to Improve Parks and Recreation Needs***

From a list of 10 actions the District could take to improve parks and recreation needs in the community, respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for each one. A benchmarking comparison is not available for this question.

Action	Importance
Renovate Si View Pool	50%
Renovate Si View Park	43%
Develop Walking and Biking Trails	43%
Develop New Indoor/Outdoor Aquatic Center	40%
Obtain Land for Undeveloped Natural Areas	40%
Renovate Si View Community Center	39%
Obtain Land to Develop for Passive Use	39%
Develop Athletic Fields	36%
Obtain Land to Develop for Active Sports Uses	27%
Develop and Indoor Ice-Skating Facility	18%



- ***Actions Respondents Are Most Willing to Fund***

From the list of 10 actions the District could take to improve parks and recreation needs in the community, respondents were asked to select the four they are most willing to fund with their tax dollars.

Action	Funding Priority
Renovate Si View Pool	46%
Renovate Si View Park	37%
Develop Walking and Biking Trails	36%
Develop New Indoor/Outdoor Aquatic Center	35%
Renovate Si View Community Center	33%
Obtain Land to Develop for Passive Use	29%
Obtain Land for Undeveloped Natural Areas	29%
Develop Athletic Fields	28%
Obtain Land to Develop for Active Sports Uses	19%
Develop and Indoor Ice-Skating Facility	12%

### **Si View Neighborhood Meetings:**

The Board of Commissioners holds an annual neighborhood meeting for residents living in the Si View Neighborhood. Participants are invited to share feedback on a number of issues including parking and traffic challenges, field and park usage, program development and management of large events such as the Festival at Mt. Si. The minutes from past meetings are included in Appendix C.

### **Community Meeting:**

Prior to preparation of this comprehensive plan, the Board of Commissioners held a meeting to obtain input from the community on present and future parks and recreation services in the Snoqualmie Valley. Numerous user groups were invited including Snoqualmie Valley Little League, the Snoqualmie Valley Youth Soccer Association, the Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association, Indoor Playground, the Mt. Si Senior Center, the North Bend Educational and Cultural Association (Festival at Mt. Si.), the Chamber of Commerce, Encompass, HUB, and staff and officials from the City of North Bend, the City of Snoqualmie and the Snoqualmie Valley School District. Notices were posted at various locations in the community and personal invitations were sent to the previously identified groups. The meeting minutes for the Community Meeting are included in Appendix C.

### **Joint Park Board Meetings:**

The District actively participates in Joint Park Board Meetings with the Cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie in addition to the Snoqualmie Valley School District. The goal of this group is to establish opportunities for partnerships in seeking grant funding, developing facilities and managing programs and services. This group meets a minimum of three times per year and all meetings are open to the public.



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### **Board of Commissioners Annual Retreat:**

The Board of Commissioners holds an annual retreat to review goals and to establish a work plan for the upcoming 12-24 months. Previous retreats have included invited guests from neighbor agencies including the City of Issaquah.

### **Public Hearing:**

Upon completing the first draft of this plan, the Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing to receive testimony on the plan. Feedback from the hearing in addition to Board recommended changes were included in the final draft of this plan.

### **Ongoing Feedback:**

The District receives input from the general public on an ongoing basis. The five-member Board of Commissioners holds three public meetings each month for the purpose of conducting the business of the District. The meetings are open to the public and comments and feedback on District operations are always welcome.

### **District Staff and Commissioners:**

The District staff have contact with parks and recreation patrons on a daily basis via e-mail, the website, in-person conversations and written correspondence. The Board of Commissioners are also very accessible and receive numerous comments and suggestions from community members. This contact provides a forum for staff to receive advice, comments, feedback, assessment and praise. This feedback from the public is held in high regard and is used to improve daily operations and to help shape the development of long-range plans.

### **City of North Bend Park Plan:**

The City of North Bend conducted numerous public hearings and meetings in the development of their 2002 Park Plan and subsequent updates. Their Park Plan, in addition to the feedback received via their public process contributed to the development of the District's Comprehensive Plan.



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## SECTION 5: DEMANDS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### INTRODUCTION

There is no exact science for determining the level of need for parks and recreation services. As such, the District adopted a ranking system established by the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department, Skagit County, Washington. The score derived from the application of this ranking system provides a basis for the establishment of project and program priorities.

The following elements are used to evaluate each service category. The corresponding point system for each element is provided.

1. **Survey Results**, which provide a statistically valid means of distinguishing the needs of Snoqualmie Valley residents.
  - a. Highest Level of Need 5 Points
  - b. Some Need 3 Points
  - c. Low Level of Need 1 Point
2. **Use Patterns and Observations of Current Use**, which provides empirical information from those who use or oversee facilities in the Snoqualmie Valley.
  - a. Use Patterns consistently exceed capacity of facility/program. 5 Points
  - b. Use Patterns generally accommodated by facilities/programs. 3 Points
  - c. Facility/program can handle additional use. 1 Point
3. **Public Comment and Inventory of Requests**, which provides information about the needs of the Snoqualmie Valley residents. Input comes in many forms: community meetings, informal conversations, written correspondence, public hearings and the District website.
  - a. Factors warrant significant increase. 5 Points
  - b. Moderate increase is necessary. 3 Points
  - c. No current need to increase capacity. 1 Point

### CATEGORY SCORES

The scores are combined and averaged to make a final determination of need for specific facilities and/or programs. The composite scores indication of need can be summarized as follows:

4.0 – 5.0	High Level of Need
2.0 – 3.9	Moderate Level of Need
1.0 – 1.9	Low Level of Need



## ANALYSIS OF FACILITIES AND PARKS

Facility Type	Survey	Use Patterns	Public Input	Total	Average
Walking/Hiking Trails	5	5	5	15	5
Aquatic Facilities	5	5	5	15	5
Community Centers	5	5	5	15	5
Playgrounds	3	5	5	13	4.3
Soccer Fields	3	5	5	13	4.3
Baseball/Softball Fields	3	5	5	13	4.3
Natural Areas/Open Space	3	3	1	7	2.3
Picnic Shelters/Picnic Areas	3	3	1	7	2.3
Football Fields	1	1	1	3	1

### Walking and Hiking Trails and Connections

**Need Analysis:** High

Walking and hiking trails were consistently identified as the number one priority in the survey. Usage patterns and public feedback also indicate that many Snoqualmie Valley residents place a high priority on trails, sidewalks and connections for walking, biking, and inline skating and similar activities.

New foot trails, pathways or sidewalks are needed to link residences, shopping, parks and schools. Linkages between regional trail systems are also highly desirable. Within neighborhood parks, perimeter trails should be considered for walking and biking. An adequate trail system may be developed through joint cooperation with the City of North Bend, the City of Snoqualmie, King County and the State of Washington. This issue is being considered via the formation of a Regional Parks and Recreation Task Force of which the Cities of North Bend, Snoqualmie, the Si View Metropolitan Park District and the Snoqualmie Valley School District are all participating members.

### Aquatics Facilities

**Need Analysis:** High

Aquatics facilities ranked consistently as the number two priority in the public survey. Usage patterns at the Si View Pool and additional public comment indicate strong support for aquatics facilities and programs in the Snoqualmie Valley. The Valley possesses numerous rivers and lakes prompting residents to express strong support for ongoing water safety and swim lesson programs.

Renovating the existing Si View Pool was ranked as the number one funding priority in the public survey. While this may prove to be inefficient due to the historical landmark status of the building and the age of the facility, it is evident that the pool is not meeting the needs of the community. As the only public pool in the Snoqualmie Valley, the Si View Pool cannot meet the demands of the growing population. Furthermore, as the City of North Bend contemplates lifting the moratorium on development, the anticipated population growth will outstrip the aquatics resources currently available in the Valley.



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The City of Snoqualmie previously proposed building a new aquatics facility. The bond issue failed for this proposal, but there may be an opportunity to work with the City of Snoqualmie and reintroduce a plan for a regional aquatics facility to the citizens. This issue is being considered by the Regional Parks and Recreation Task Force.

## **Community Centers**

### **Need Analysis:**      High

The public survey indicated strong support for indoor facilities, including community centers and basketball courts. Public feedback and usage patterns at the Si View Community Center also demonstrate a high need for this type of facility.

Built in 1938, the Si View Community Center is the only indoor facility of this type in the Snoqualmie Valley. The School District operates many schools, several of which have recently renovated their gymnasiums. These facilities are available on a limited basis for non-school athletic programs and other activities.

Renovating the Si View Community Center was ranked as a moderate priority in the public survey. Most patrons have expressed an interest in “fixing what is broken” but have not shared thoughts regarding a major renovation. Several modest improvements could be made to improve the quality of the facility including relocating and centralizing the restrooms, upgrading the interior to meet ADA standards, remodeling the kitchen and replacing the gymnasium floor.

The City of Snoqualmie is considering building a community center on Snoqualmie Ridge in the near future. Such a facility would mitigate the high level of use at the Si View Community Center. As additional population growth occurs in the Snoqualmie Valley, the availability of sufficient indoor space for recreation activities and athletic programs must be considered and factored into planning efforts. This issue is being considered via the Regional Parks and Recreation Task Force.

## **Playgrounds**

### **Need Analysis:**      High

Safe outdoor playgrounds and play areas remain a high priority for Snoqualmie Valley residents as indicated in the public survey and through usage patterns and public comment. Most of the public feedback obtained on playgrounds has to do with the Si View playground specifically. This structure, known as a ‘Big Toy’ product was likely installed in the 1970’s and has not been upgraded since. Kids and adults have expressed a strong interest in replacing and expanding this structure in the near future.

Many of the playgrounds at local parks and schools are less than five years old. Most of the structures are meeting the needs of the residents. The District will support future playground upgrades at non-District facilities via grant partnerships and in other capacities as appropriate. The District will place a high priority on upgrading the Si View playground upon completion of the Si View Park Master Plan.



## Soccer Fields

### Need Analysis: High

The public survey indicates that soccer fields are a higher priority than other athletic field types (baseball, football etc.) The overall priority in the survey is moderate as compared to the other categories. Usage patterns and public comments, however, demonstrate an ongoing and very high need for these facilities. Fields are currently available from the Cities of Snoqualmie and North Bend, the Snoqualmie Valley School District and the Si View Metropolitan Park District.

The soccer program in the Snoqualmie Valley serves more kids than any other athletic program in the area and the number of participants continues to grow. The growth in participation is quickly outpacing the availability of fields. In addition, overuse is causing irreparable damage to the existing natural turf fields.

Construction of new fields and renovation of existing fields are the two primary options to address the problem. This is an issue that is best suited for the Parks and Recreation Regional Task Force. In the meantime, the Si View fields are desperately in need of maintenance. The maintenance plan will be a high priority for the near future and may require identification of alternate fields to accommodate a long term closure (8 months or more) at Si View Park.

## Baseball/Softball Fields

### Need Analysis: High

The public survey indicates a moderate need for youth and adult baseball and softball fields. Usage patterns and public comments, however, demonstrate a high need for these facilities. Fields are currently available from the Cities of Snoqualmie and North Bend, the Snoqualmie Valley School District and the Si View Metropolitan Park District.

As was the case recently, the temporary closure of the high school baseball fields resulted in the gross overuse of the other fields in the Snoqualmie Valley. Simply put, demand exceeds capacity and the population is expected to continue to grow.

The same options exist for baseball and softball fields: construction of new fields and/or renovation of existing fields. This issue will also be addressed via the Parks and Recreation Regional Task Force.

## Open Space/Natural Areas

### Need Analysis: Moderate

The public survey revealed moderate support for open space and natural areas. Public feedback indicates that most residents are satisfied with the existing open space and natural areas and prefer the priorities be placed elsewhere. Usage patterns indicate a moderate level of support for these areas.



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The purchase of additional land by the District for preservation is unlikely unless a unique opportunity presents itself (i.e. donation of land.) In the meantime the District will continue to support partner agencies in their effort to preserve and restore existing open space including Meadowbrook Farm and Tollgate Farm. As of this writing, the District is negotiating an agreement to manage Meadowbrook Farm including the recently constructed interpretive center. This is one example of the many ways in which the District can assist with the management, utilization and preservation of existing open space and natural areas.

### **Picnic Shelters/Picnic Areas**

**Need Analysis:**      Moderate

The public survey indicated a moderate need for picnic areas and picnic shelters. Use patterns and public comment produced a mixed response. There are very few outdoor covered picnic areas available in the Valley. The addition of one or two such facilities, including a shelter at Si View Park, would likely be well-used and meet the current needs of the residents. Efforts should be made to include picnic facilities in the design of future parks in the area.

### **Football Fields**

**Need Analysis:**      Low

The need for football fields did not present itself as a significant priority in the survey, via public comment or through demonstrated usage patterns. The construction of the new stadium at the High School is helping to meet the needs of the football programs in the community.

## **THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

In reviewing the above needs, the District has established a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (Section 8) of proposed facility improvements and development projects for the next six years. This list of projects is not “fixed” and will be adapted and modified as funding and District needs change. The CIP will be reviewed and updated annually as part of the District’s annual budget process.



## ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMS

Facility Type	Survey	Use Patterns	Public Input	Total	Average
Aquatics Programs	5	5	5	15	5
Sp. Events/Family Programs	5	3	5	13	4.3
Adult Programs	3	5	5	13	4.3
Youth/Teen Programs	3	3	5	11	3.7
Special Population Programs	1	3	3	7	2.3
Arts Programs	3	1	3	7	2.3
Outdoor Education Programs	3	1	3	7	2.3
Senior Programs	1	3	3	7	2.3

### Aquatics Programs

**Need Analysis:** High

The demand for aquatics programs and services is consistently high. This drives ongoing support for expanded and improved aquatics facilities. The Si View Pool is at or near capacity, therefore the District will need to focus on quality programming and efficiency of use to accommodate as many programs and users as possible.

### Special Events and Family Programs

**Need Analysis:** High

Special events, family programs, live theater and concert performances received a high rating in the public survey. Usage patterns indicate moderate support for these types of activities with public input following the same trend.

There are a variety of special events available in the community, with many of them currently provided by the District. Examples of District events include the Family Night Program in partnership with Encompass, the Holiday Bazaar, and movie nights in the park, the Bite of the Valley in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and the Festival at Mt. Si in partnership with the North Bend Educational and Cultural Association.

The amount allocated for special events has been increased in each budget year. Every effort will be made to expand and improve special event and family programs in the Valley.

Additional funding via partnerships and grants will be included in annual performance goals to support the expansion of these programs.

### Adult Programs

**Need Analysis:** High

The need for adult programs was measured via many different categories in the public survey – walking, hiking, adult softball, trips and travel and fitness activities. Overall survey findings indicate moderate priority for adult programs. Public feedback and usage patterns indicate that adult programs, specifically fitness classes, are a high priority for the community.



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Adult program enrollment has held steady during the first year of operating the Si View Community Center. In each subsequent fiscal year, additional adult programs have been added, which mostly include adult athletic programs. In most cases these programs are operating at or near capacity. Trends and enrollment patterns will continue to be monitored to ensure that a balance of adult activities are available in the Community. Additionally, efforts will be made to partner with other agencies (i.e. the City of Snoqualmie) to coordinate adult recreation services.

### **Youth/Teen Programs**

**Need Analysis:** Moderate

The public survey indicated moderate support for youth and teen programs and activities. In general teen programs ranked higher than youth and toddler programs. Usage patterns indicate a moderate level of participation in youth and teen programs. Public feedback is similar, with a stronger interest in toddler and teen programs than programs for school-age youth.

The feedback and usage patterns are consistent with the trends and availability of programs for school age children in the Valley. Many children are busy, participating in athletics, dance, gymnastics and a variety of other programs. One area that has been very successful for the District has been provision of Summer Camp and After School programs. These were obvious niches and areas where existing programs were not meeting the needs of the community.

### **Special Populations Programs**

**Need Analysis:** Moderate

The public survey priority for special populations programs was low. This is likely due to the low percentage of individuals with special needs in the population. The Special Populations programs are relatively new to the District, but are gaining support and enrollment has steadily increased over the past year.

The District will continue to develop these programs and work in partnership with other agencies, such as the City of Issaquah to provide these types of programs. In addition, grant funding will be a priority to help support and expand these programs.

### **Arts Programs**

**Need Analysis:** Moderate

The public survey did not directly measure the need for arts programs. There are several indications that these types of programs are supported such as the moderate desire for live theater, dance and visual arts programs. Public feedback continuously emphasizes the need for these types of programs, although program attendance is often low.

The long range plan for the District will include a cultural arts initiative, which may be incorporated into the special events plan. In addition, art classes for all ages will continue to be a priority. It may be necessary to explore alternate delivery options such as one-day classes versus full-month classes.



## Outdoor Education and Recreation Programs

### **Need Analysis:** Moderate

Outdoor education and recreation programs were not measured directly by the survey, but there are strong indications that Snoqualmie Valley residents frequently utilize and desire outdoor programs. Public support for these types of programs has been moderate to low, but popular programs such as orienteering have received favorable feedback. Usage patterns for the few outdoor programs offered have been low.

The Snoqualmie Valley is rich with outdoor opportunities including an abundance of natural settings for hiking, climbing, mountain biking etc. Outdoor education and recreation clearly has a niche and will be a priority in the long-range plan. In addition, the District will work with other service providers to coordinate programs and activities. Partnerships in this area have already been established with the Cedar River Watershed, the Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association and Camp Waskowitz.

## Senior Programs

### **Need Analysis:** Moderate

The public survey rated senior programs as a low priority. Public input and usage patterns indicate a moderate need for senior programs, with active senior adult programs being a significant area of need.

Senior services in the Snoqualmie Valley have traditionally been provided by the Mt. Si Senior Center. The District has worked in partnership with the Senior Center on many facets of their operation including a dedicated section in the Recreation Guide. Future partnerships and program development will likely expand upon activities available for active senior adults including athletic leagues and fitness classes.

## **THE PROGRAM PLAN**

The needs identified in this section will be used to develop and expand recreation services and programs offered by the District. Program goals, development strategies and funding plans will be included in the District's annual operating budget. Grant opportunities, sponsorship and partnership opportunities are a high priority for the future expansion of many programs.



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## SECTION 6: GOALS AND POLICIES

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Si View Metropolitan Park District is to work in partnership with the community to preserve historic Si View Park and provide opportunities to enhance the quality of life through the facilitation of recreation programs and parks in the Snoqualmie Valley.*

### INTRODUCTION

The following goals, objectives and policies are based on goals and objectives carried forward from previous documents and planning sessions. The goals established in this chapter serve as the benchmark for this Comprehensive Plan. They will allow the District to measure progress in the development and implementation of the plan.

Goals define a target, which one seeks to achieve. The goals define a vision for the District at a future point in time. To be effective, goals must be realistic and achievable. Typically, the intent is that the goals be long-range and remain unchanged throughout the active life of this Comprehensive Plan. They may, however, evolve and be changed over time in response to altered circumstances.

Objectives comprise specific measurable tasks to be completed and provide a focus for the direction and implementation of District operations and allocation of resources. Typically a goal is broken down into a number of objectives that are sequential in nature. When all objectives are accomplished the long range goal will have been achieved.

Defined as a course of action, policies are the directives that specify how an objective is to be met. Policies provide a guidance system for administration and ensure consistent implementation throughout the District and the community.

### GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

#### **Goal #1: Recreation Programs**

Provide active recreation programs which meet the leisure time interests and needs of the community and provide opportunities for high levels of satisfaction for all citizens of the Snoqualmie Valley.

Objective:      Enhance program opportunities and program quality within existing recreation service units.



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- Policy: Provide superior and accessible customer service to the public in a professional, informative and timely manner.
- Policy: Continue to work cooperatively with local agencies, organizations and special interest groups to coordinate recreation programs.
- Policy: Encourage recreation staff to keep abreast of recreation trends by attending professional conferences and workshops.
- Policy: Continually strive to identify community interests and needs relating to recreation programs, services and opportunities.
- Policy: Evaluate the effectiveness of programs and activities through the use of questionnaires, surveys and participant evaluation forms.
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- Objective: Establish a level of self-support for the recreation service units that are realistic and achievable on an annual basis.
- Policy: Strive to make adult recreation programs 100% self-supporting whenever possible especially in the areas of sports and special interest classes.
- Policy: Strive for a 60% level of self-support for the District's aquatics programs.
- Policy: Use District funds to underwrite programs and services for youth in part or total, when it is unreasonable to expect youth to fully support programs through fees and charges.
- Policy: Expand revenue enhancing programs to the degree possible.
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- Objective: Develop an effective and diverse array of resources to support District Parks and Recreation Services.
- Policy: Establish collaborations, partnerships and sponsorships with community service organizations and businesses to maximize the effectiveness of existing resources, to strive for affordability of programs and services and to keep Parks and Recreation services within the financial reach of all members of the community.
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## **Goal (and objective) #2: Board of Commissioners**

Provide leadership, vision and oversight for the successful operation of the District.

- Policy: Approve an annual operating budget for all District funds.
  - Policy: Continually seek ways to contain costs, maximize existing resources, and obtain alternative revenues to maintain present and future financial stability.
  - Policy: Seek alternatives for financing District capital improvement projects.
  - Policy: Promote parks and recreation programs and services to the community.
  - Policy: Establish partnerships with public agencies, businesses, non-profit agencies and other community groups.
  - Policy: Seek citizen input regarding District operations, long-range planning and other areas of interest.
  - Policy: Participate in professional development opportunities to expand knowledge and understanding of parks and recreation administration.
  - Policy: Ensure adherence to all legal requirements of publicly elected officials and Metropolitan Park Districts.
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## **Goal #3: Administration**

Provide the support and leadership necessary for staff to carry forth the mission of the District. Provide guidance, direction and transparency to the Board of Commissioners on policy and plans for development, management and operation of the District.

- Objective: Create and facilitate a unified department whereby all work units are linked through the central mission of the District.
  - Policy: Establish and implement standards for ongoing training for program safety and job performance
  - Policy: Anticipate and prepare for future staffing needs that may arise due to retirements, budget or other circumstances.
  - Policy: Stay abreast of developments, changes and advancements in parks, recreation, maintenance, operations and applicable legal requirements.
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Objective: Review and update the District goals, objectives and policies annually.

Policy: Annually draft service unit goals for inclusion in the District budget in the context of District priorities.

Policy: Annually review and evaluate progress in meeting service unit goals.

Policy: Annually review service unit goals and performance with the Board of Commissioners.

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Objective: Provide and develop an effective community and public relations program.

Policy: Implement a program of community awareness that promotes the benefits of parks and recreation programs and services.

Policy: Encourage the recruitment and retention of volunteers wherever possible for assistance in park and recreation operations and programs.

Policy: Incorporate a public relations element in to plans of actions for park development, facilities, services and programs.

Policy: Address citizen concerns in a timely manner.

Policy: Promote the accomplishments and successes of the District.

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Objective: Seek out and develop additional sources of funding and support for park and program development and delivery.

Policy: Ensure the financial integrity of the District, seek efficiencies in expenditures while sustaining quality services.

Policy: Identify and apply for appropriate private and public grants.

Policy: Explore and develop underwriting partnerships with the private sector and with other service organizations.

Policy: Develop an advertising program for the recreation guide.

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#### **Goal #4: Parks and Facilities**

Maintain existing parks and recreation facilities at levels that meet or exceed the public's desire for safety, cleanliness and utility. Develop new parks and facilities to meet the current and future needs of Snoqualmie Valley residents.

**Objective:** Promote the cultural and historic resources of the District including the Si View Community Center, a historical landmark.

**Policy:** Develop a master plan for the Si View Community Center that preserves and enhances the historic nature of the facility.

**Policy:** Seek funding via private and public grants for renovation of the Si View Community Center.

**Policy:** Investigate options and limitations for providing access and utilization of the South Fork Snoqualmie River at Shamrock Park.

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**Objective:** Establish an ongoing six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Parks and Recreation facilities.

**Policy:** Establish a six-year CIP for inclusion in the District's annual operating budget.

**Policy:** Fund capital improvements through the District's general fund and whenever possible, local, state and federal grants.

**Policy:** Promote private, public and non-profit partnerships for capital improvements to parks whenever possible.

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**Objective:** Work cooperatively with other public agencies and interest groups to design a regional aquatics facility to meet the needs of District residents.

**Policy:** Coordinate planning and development strategies across jurisdictional boundaries and consider existing facilities, population served, environmental constraints and available resources.

**Policy:** Establish a cooperative funding plan to support maintenance and operations costs and capital improvement costs.

**Policy:** Explore an appropriate site location to achieve the highest level of exposure, accessibility and usage.

**Policy:** Continue to operate the Si View Pool.



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- Objective: Work cooperatively with other public agencies and non-profit organizations to provide youth and adult athletic facilities throughout the District.
- Policy: Pursue partnerships with local cities, the school district and non-profit organizations for the capital construction and maintenance of athletic facilities.
- Policy: Pursue grants and other funding resources for the capital construction and maintenance of athletic fields.
- Policy: Work in partnership with public agencies and non-profit organizations to conduct an athletic facility needs assessment.
- Policy: Update the master plan for Si View Park to include redevelopment of the athletic fields and a long-range maintenance plan.
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- Objective: Work cooperatively with other public agencies and non-profit organizations to plan, develop, and maintain a multi-use regional trail system.
- Policy: Work cooperatively with public agencies and non-profits organizations to establish links and additional access points to the existing regional trails system.
- Policy: Work cooperatively with public agencies and non-profit organizations to provide trail access for persons with disabilities.
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- Objective: Support the City of North Bend through joint planning for future parks and recreation facilities and services.
- Policy: Work cooperatively to carry out and execute the goals and priorities established in the City of North Bend Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- Policy: Cooperate in planning for future growth and development to include establishing priorities for impact fees.
- Policy: Identify opportunities for efficiency through shared services and interlocal agreements.
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- Objective: In cooperation with public and private agencies, support the preservation of natural areas to protect critical fish and wildlife habitats, conserve open space and offer environmental education opportunities.
- Policy: Support acquisition, preservation and responsible stewardship of open space lands in the Snoqualmie Valley.
- Policy: Support public and private efforts to identify and acquire key habitat parcels that help to preserve critical corridors.
- Policy: Utilize parkland, facilities and programs to promote environmental education and encourage park visitors to become stewards of the Snoqualmie Valley's natural resources.
- Policy: Participate with local, county, state, federal and non-profit agencies to develop a vision for habitat and open space corridors within urbanizing areas for use in planning, regulating and developing livable communities.



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## SECTION 7: IMPLEMENTATION

### KEY PRIORITIES

This implementation plan is based on the analysis of community needs in Section 5, as well as the inventory of existing facilities and opportunities for new parks and facilities. The District's key priorities are as follows:

**Priority 1: Repair, renovate and improve existing District facilities.**

This priority addresses the need to repair and renovate the Si View facilities including the Community Center, the Pool and the Park. The facilities are aging and structurally out of date. Development of a Park Master plan and a Community Center and Pool Master Plan are critical next steps to achieving the goals of renovation and preservation.

**Priority 2: Acquisition and development of new parks and recreation facilities.**

As the City of North Bend contemplates lifting the moratorium on development and neighboring jurisdictions continue to grow, the demand and need for additional parks and recreation services will increase. The District will continue to work cooperatively with public agencies, non-profit organizations and other community groups to provide an adequate number of parks, facilities and programs in the Snoqualmie Valley. The two highest priorities for the District are a regional aquatics facility and a regional trails system.

**Priority 3: Improve and expand recreation programs and services to meet the needs of the community.**

The District must stay abreast of program trends and community needs in developing and implementing the recreation activities program. The District will work to identify partnership opportunities, including the use of other recreation facilities in the Valley to provide a comprehensive recreation program. Specific areas for program development include the addition of an outdoor education/recreation program and expansion of the cultural arts program.

**Priority 4: Implement and assess future staffing needs.**

As the District's facility inventory and programs continue to grow, staffing adjustments will be required. Sufficient staffing needs may be realized through interlocal agreements, contracts for services, shared staff positions or an increase in full-time equivalents (FTE's).



## RESOURCES

Recommendations for facilities and services have been addressed in previous sections. In addition, a detailed list of capital improvement projects is included in Section 8. Resources to complete these projects and achieve the goals outlined in this Comprehensive Plan are included in this section.

The District has a wide variety of resources available to support the actions outlined in this plan, these include:

**1. General Fund**

This category includes general funds allocated for annual expenditures and capital development. The general fund is supported through a property tax levy that accounts for over 60% of the District's annual revenue. The property tax levy rate is approved annually by the Board of Commissioners.

**2. Service Fees**

These are comprised of fees charged by the District for programs, activities, facility rentals and other services.

**3. General Obligation Bonds**

An approved bond issue raises the District's property tax in order to pay off construction bonds. The tax assessment may be levied up to 20 years. Passage requires a 60% majority approval of 40% of the voters who voted in the previous election. This approach is most suitable for major projects such as the construction of a facility.

**4. Revenue Bonds**

Revenue from the operation of the facility pays for the capital cost and debt service. Revenue bonds do not require voter approval.

**5. LOCAL Loan Program**

This program, available through the State of Washington, provides low-cost loans for equipment or real estate purchases.

**6. Grants**

A variety of grants are available including:

*King County Landmark Commission Grants (4-Culture)* – A grant program managed by 4-culture to support renovation and improvements to King County historical landmark facilities.

*Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition Fund* – A special fund created by a coalition of recreation and wildlife groups with the intent of preserving wildlife habitat and open space and developing recreation areas.



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*Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund* – Grants provide matching funds toward the cost of land acquisition and development. This program is administered locally by the Washington State Interagency Committee (IAC) on Outdoor Recreation.

*King County Youth Facilities Grants* – These grants help support the improvement of youth athletic facilities including ball fields.

*Starbucks Parks Grants* – These grants provide funds to non-profit organizations partnering with public entities on park improvement and enhancement projects.

#### **7. Donations/Foundations**

Private donations and contributions from foundations are possible sources of asset acquisition and funding.

#### **8. Volunteer Efforts**

Volunteers including partnerships with local non-profits and other community groups can effectively contribute cash, materials and labor to parks and recreation projects.



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## SECTION 8: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

The District's capital needs are funded through an established planning tool known as the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP is a six-year financing plan evaluated every year by the Board of Commissioners. The CIP identifies projects, prioritizes the timing and specifies funding sources. The plan is a major funding program for park related facilities including acquisition, development, renovation and maintenance.

### DESCRIPTION OF CIP PROJECTS

#### **PARKS:**

##### ***Minor Field Improvements at Si View Park***

Re-grade and level the Si View Park field area. Relocate the secondary field to the east corner of Si View Park. Replace fencing and install new backstops. Replace infield dirt as needed.

##### ***Si View Park Master Plan***

Update the King County Master Plan prepared for Si View Park. The Master Plan will outline future capital improvement projects at Si View Park including ball field repairs, redesign of the parking area, exterior ADA improvements and a new and expanded play structure.

##### ***Shamrock Park Master Plan***

Prepare a Master Plan for Shamrock Park. Master Plan will outline future capital improvement projects at Shamrock Park including river access, picnic areas and a potential footbridge spanning the river.

#### **SI VIEW POOL:**

##### ***Si View Pool HVAC System Replacement***

Replace the existing HVAC system at the Si View Pool with an air-to-air dehumidification system. Install a separate HVAC system for the lobby and the locker rooms. The project includes new direct digital controls, electric duct heaters and supply and return ductwork.

##### ***Si View Pool Entryway Remodel for ADA Compliance***

Remove existing stairs and handicap elevator and replace with handicap ramp to match exterior façade.

##### ***Replace Main Drain at the Si View Pool***

Repair existing main drain and install a second main drain to meet WAC requirements.

##### ***Replace Interior Metal Doors at the Si View Pool***

This project includes replacing all of the metal doors and door frames at the Si View Pool with a product that is better suited for high humidity environments.

##### ***Replace Pool Liner at Si View Pool***

The pool liner will be replaced with a fiberglass liner.



## **SI VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER:**

### ***Upgrade all Si View Lighting Systems (Interior and Exterior)***

This project involves upgrading the interior and the exterior facility lighting for the Si View facilities. All lighting fixtures will be upgraded to high-efficiency lighting with a combination of replacement fixtures and new lamps and ballasts. The project will increase light levels and reduce maintenance costs (new lights last approximately 15,000 hours.) Motion sensors and photo cells will be installed to improve energy efficiency.

### ***Replace the HVAC System at the Si View Community Center Gymnasium***

Remove the existing air handlers and the space heaters and replace with a gas fired unit in the attic. Add ductwork to enhance air distribution in the restrooms. The project will improve overall air quality, provide ventilation to the restroom areas and include centralized programmable controls.

### ***Upgrade the HVAC System at the Si View Community Center (Non-Gymnasium)***

Replace the furnace for the Social Room, Fireside Room and the Kitchen with a high efficiency gas furnace. The project will utilize most of the existing ductwork, but some replacements may be necessary. The project will improve overall air quality, energy efficiency and include centralized thermostat controls.

### ***Install Insulation in the Si View Gymnasium***

Install insulation in the walls of the gymnasium and the ceiling area above the stage. Insulation will also provide fire separation.

### ***Electrical Upgrade at the Si View Community Center***

Replace the wiring and install additional outlets in the Kitchen, the Social Room, the Fireside Room and the Studio Room. Replace non-grounding receptacles with grounding type. Kitchen electrical upgrade to include outlets (220v) appropriate for pending kitchen remodel.

### ***Improve Attic Access and Install Safety Equipment***

Demolish existing wood ladder and replace with a metal ladder with a fall cage and fall protection. Install safety cables and a harness system in the attic.

### ***Remodel Si View Community Center Kitchen***

Upgrade the Si View kitchen facilities to a standard catering kitchen with commercial-grade appliances and additional counter space. Preserve the cabinetry according to the guidelines established by the King County Landmark Commission. Project will require preparation of plans

### ***Si View Community Center Restroom Relocation and Redesign***

Relocate the Men's Restroom adjacent to the Women's Restroom. Replace fixtures and partitions. Design to ADA code.

### ***Si View Community Center Interior ADA Improvements – Architectural Design***

Select an architect to redesign areas of the interior of the Community Center to meet ADA codes. Increase hallway and doorway widths, improve entryways and install automatic doors.



### ***Replace Si View Community Center Gymnasium Floor***

Replace the gymnasium floor and sub-floor with a modern athletic surface. Floor product will be a wood product to match interior of Community Center.

### ***Replace the Fire Alarm System at the Si View Community Center***

Replace the fire alarm system with an addressable system that identifies each specific alarm initiation device. Provide total coverage smoke detection throughout the facility for early notification and detection.

## **SI VIEW EXTERIOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS:**

### ***Replace and/or Repair Exterior Windows***

Replace and/or repair failing exterior windows at all of the Si View Facilities. New windows will be purchased to match existing and will be in compliance with the King County Landmark Commission. Windows will be replaced as failure occurs.

### ***Replace the Roof at the Si View Community Center***

Replace the roof and the gutters at the Si View Community Center. Requires additional professional consultation and coordination with the King County Landmark Commission.

### ***Replace Siding and Architectural Shelf at the Si View Community Center***

Remove and replace deteriorated siding with custom milled lumber to match existing siding. Remove and reinstall improperly installed siding. Apply sealant to all siding. Replace areas of failed architectural shelf (approximately 20% of shelf) and install flashing around entire perimeter of building.

## **SI VIEW ANNEX OFFICE:**

### ***Replace the HVAC System at the Annex Office***

Install a high efficiency gas furnace with air conditioning in the Annex Office. Heat pumps and other alternatives will be considered.

## **GENERAL:**

### ***Sewer Installation and Connection***

Coordinate with the City of North Bend to connect all of the Si View Facilities to the sewer system. Decommission existing septic tanks as need