

CHAPTER 7

Parks, Open Space, Recreation, & Trails



7.1 INTRODUCTION

“How could we ever be alone...when we’re enmeshed in the fabric of living ecosystems, embraced by beaches and enveloped by mountains, serenaded by insects and birds, accompanied by drifting seas and clouds, stroked by the wind...”

J.W. Hardin

As a part of the natural fabric of the community, parks, open space, recreation facilities, and trails are a source of pride and identity. They contribute to physical and mental well-being; provide natural beauty, environmental protection, recreational opportunities, and a balanced urban landscape.

This element provides an inventory of park and recreational facilities throughout the City, and policy direction for the continued provision of adequate park and recreation facilities to serve the community’s needs. The Capital Facilities element addresses parks, trails, open space and recreational facilities in order to provide for future needs and secure funding for land acquisition and/or improvements.

The City of Pacific *Parks, Open Space, Recreation, and Trails* element superseded the 1995 *City of Pacific Parks and Recreation Plan*, and the 1996 *Sumner/Pacific Trail Plan* in 2004. The City of Sumner updated their Trail Plan in 2008. The City of Pacific continues to update the Pacific Trail Plan, and cooperates with adjoining jurisdictions to facilitate connections with other systems.

7.2 GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT (GMA) REQUIREMENTS

The City of Pacific *Parks, Open Space, Recreation, and Trails* element addresses Growth Management Act (GMA) goals of open space retention and development of recreational opportunities, conservation of fish and wildlife habitat, increased public access to water and development of parks. The City of Pacific determined that parks are an integral part of the community and essential to the quality of life for its residents and visitors.

Washington State requires that comprehensive plans for cities planning under RCW 36.70A.040 include:

“a park and recreation element that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. The element shall include: (a) Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period; (b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and (c) an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.” (RCW 36.70A.070)

Park and recreation facilities must be included in the capital facilities element of a comprehensive plan.

7.3 VISION AND VALUES

7.3.1 Vision

Pacific's vision is to provide high quality, safe, and accessible recreational facilities; link areas through greenbelt connections; and preserve and enhance the community's natural resources such as the White/Stuck River, creeks, forested hillsides, and native plant and animal habitat.

Each component of Pacific's Parks, Open Space, Recreation, and Trails system is envisioned to perform a variety of functions:

- a. Parks provide places for active recreation and relaxation, and serve as community gathering places;
- b. Open space, forested hillsides and environmentally sensitive areas provide visual relief and protect the community's ecological resources. The City will serve as the steward of these resources;
- c. Active recreation improves health and wellness, builds self esteem, and provides opportunities to reduce stress, for learning and for living a more balanced life;
- d. Trails, riparian (river) corridors, and greenbelts link areas of open space and wildlife habitat, and provide connections between residential areas and other parts of the City, and destinations in surrounding cities;
- e. Landscaping and street trees provide linear open space, visual appeal, environmental value, and calm traffic along the City's streets; and
- f. Required infrastructure, such as stormwater facilities, can be utilized to contribute to park-like amenities.
- g. Trail linkages can encourage development of commercial services and other related uses.

Pacific's general goals are: to have no net park loss; to provide parks that meet local demand for child and adult recreation, and outdoor gathering places within walking distance of the neighborhoods they serve; to link recreational amenities within the community to each other, and with neighboring facilities of regional significance. Pacific's vision includes providing, when possible, accessibility to facilities for all ages and abilities of park and recreation users.

7.3.2 Values

Pacific places a high value on its park and recreation system. With approximately 76 acres of open space and recreational land designated within City limits in 2019, Pacific has an acceptable amount of park acreage for current needs, according to traditional National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Level of Service Standards (LOS). The NRPA suggested that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a core, or local system of parklands, with a total of 6.25

to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population.

NRPA and Washington State guidelines now take more of a “systems approach” to community facility planning. Today we are encouraged to consider the unique social and economic characteristics of our community to determine the range, quantity and quality of recreational facilities within our financial reach. The following concerns are now being more fully addressed:

- *Environmental* (pollution reduction, disappearing resources such as wetlands and forests, the greenhouse effect, and global warming);
- *Social* (wellness activities and the desire to maintain a diverse cultural heritage);
- *Economic* (reductions in per capita leisure spending and increasing cost of facility maintenance); and
- *Demographic* (divorce rate and growth of urban minorities).

This approach necessitates working with residents and community groups in an ongoing, dynamic process to determine the size, location and use of land set aside for parks and recreational facilities.

Pacific’s parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities are valued for the variety of functions and services they provide, such as gathering places for the community; places of recreation; places of tranquility; and preservers of ecological functions and wildlife habitat.

Pacific is located in a scenic area where communities allocate high park facility service levels to keep up with current demands, anticipate growth and preserve resources for future use. For these reasons, the City of Pacific has determined that approximately 10 acres per 1,000 population, will be adequate to provide strategically designed and located park facilities for future generations in this community.

7.4 GOALS & POLICIES

PARK SYSTEMS AND DESIGN

GOAL PR-1:

Pacific’s general parks goals are to have no net park loss, to provide opportunities for active and passive recreation, and more neighborhood parks to meet the demand for play areas and outdoor gathering places within walking distance of the neighborhoods they serve.

GOAL PR-2:

Provide a system of parks, open space, trails, and recreational facilities that provides a variety of recreation opportunities that are accessible, efficient, and safe.

POLICIES

Policy PR-2.1: Develop and expand multi-use community parks that serve the entire Pacific area and provide a wide range of passive and structured recreation facilities.

Discussion: The City should continuously pursue the acquisition of new parks to provide additional active and passive recreation to City residents. Options to purchase new park properties could be through a combination of the parks levy funds received from King and Pierce County, Conservation Futures Trust (CFT) grant funds, grant funds through the State or designation funds from the Pacific general fund accounts.

Policy PR-2.2: Include in City park designs, facilities for the employees of the industrial and commercial areas.

Discussion: City parks are not exclusive to City residents. Park facilities provide a necessary avenue of stress relief from jobs and enhances the overall wellness of employees of businesses in the City. Further, cities with parks that are designed to attract employees have a greater economic advantage by drawing new businesses to the City.

Policy PR-2.3: Make a wide variety of park and recreation facilities available to meet the desires of special needs, special interest populations, and all age groups, including ADA accessible and dog parks.

Discussion: Various age groups have different needs for recreation purposes. Younger age groups enjoy a variety of play equipment while older groups expect different facilities such as multiuse sports courts (tennis, basketball, pickleball). Other groups rely on ADA accessible trails and facilities.

Policy PR-2.4: Provide an equitable distribution of recreation resources between active structured park areas, natural open space, trails, sports fields, and special use areas.

Discussion: Within the urban area, there should be a mix of passive and active parks. Natural open spaces parks are necessary to help reduce stress and provide a better sense of wellbeing. Studies have been done that indicate even small areas of open space with trees reduce stress levels. Likewise, sports fields and other athletic facilities provide a powerful function in exercising the body, which also reduces stress levels.

Policy PR-2.5: Provide a recreation program with a variety of opportunities for the community that makes maximum use of the recreational facilities available within the City.

Discussion: Recreation programs, especially for younger children, youths and teenagers provide a physical outlet their energy. Team sports recreation programs help youths make friends and learn how to foster relationships with other people.

Policy PR-2.6: Establish design standards such that all facilities provide maximum personal safety, enhance and complement the natural settings of the White River valley and West Hill, and enable an efficient and financially sustainable maintenance program.

Discussion: Design standards for new recreation facilities should look at the following criteria.

- The safety of the facility/equipment for the intended user of the facility.
 - The ease of maintenance and ability to find spare parts for the facility.
 - The facility’s resistance to vandalism.
 - Projected lifetime of the facility (manufactures warranty).
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Policy PR-2.7: Continue to coordinate and develop linkages to the Interurban Trail to the south, west, and northeast to the cities of Auburn, Sumner and Edgewood through the planning area.

Discussion: The cities of Milton, Edgewood and Sumner have recently constructed additional sections of trails in their jurisdictions. Most recently, Sumner has completed the last section of the Sumner “Link” Trail from 8th St. E (Stewart Road) south to downtown Sumner. The cities of Edgewood and Milton have recently completed the “Jovita Station” portion of the Interurban Trail on the West Hill.



The Interurban Trail currently ends at the intersection of Stewart Road SE and Valentine Ave SE. The City should continue to seek funds to extend the Interurban Trail from Pacific to Edgewood/Milton and to the “Link” trail in Sumner.

Policy PR-2.8: Coordinate development of the trailhead site at the 3rd Avenue terminus of the Interurban Trail consistent with the development of an adjacent pocket park.

Discussion: The trailhead off 3rd Ave SW is a convenient spot for users of the trail to take a lunch break or a rest. The City owns property just north of the parking lot/trailhead located adjacent to Milwaukee Creek (Hatch Property). This property is intended for use as a wetland

mitigation site for the extension of the trail south of 3rd Avenue SW. This property could be used as a joint use facility as a pocket park with interpretive signs for the wetland mitigation area.

Policy PR-2.9: Identify critical bicycle and pedestrian connections between residential districts, existing open space lands, park facilities, regional trail facilities, employment districts, and community activity centers. Upgrade such connections to current City standards for pedestrian and bicycle routes.

Discussion: These connections should be identified and prioritized in the City's Capital Improvement Program documents. Prioritizing these connections would allow the City Council to budget monies for improvements accordingly on a yearly basis.

Policy PR-2.10: Encourage the use of green belts as buffers, especially between commercial and residential uses.

Discussion: Such green belts provide a number of benefits. Benefits include the screening of more intensive land use from less intensive land uses and to provide wildlife corridors within the City.

Policy PR-2.11: Plan to distribute park facilities throughout the City.

Discussion: Decisions to purchase and develop park and open space areas should consider an equitable distribution of park and recreational facilities throughout the City. Park sites and activities should be conveniently accessible to all residents.

Policy PR-2.12: Identify and acquire potential park and recreational facilities and land for the expansion of existing facilities, where appropriate. Acquire public access to greenbelt critical slope areas within City boundaries through such means as acquisition, conservation easements, and/or purchase of development rights.

Discussion: The acquisition of open space and park land requires considerable forethought because it is expensive and commits the City to maintenance responsibilities. Benefits of park and open space acquisition include establishing greenbelts, providing access to water, reserving areas for wildlife habitat, and protecting natural features. Acquiring and preserving such lands should be encouraged. The lands offer opportunities for recreation and provide open space.

Policy PR-2.13: Design of new parks should reflect safety and security of park users.

Discussion: As needs change and as existing facilities age, redevelopment of existing facilities should occur.

Policy PR-2.14: Encourage the development of small (mini-) parks when linked to a trail system and upkeep is cost-effective and sustainable.

Discussion: Small mini-parks provided adjacent to the trail system can provide a short term resting area or together with educational signage for local ecological systems or history.

Policy PR-2.15: Limit general on-site parking at tot lots and mini parks.

Discussion: These park facilities should primarily be resources to the neighborhood and promote people walking to them. Limited parking for the disabled or for loading could be provided.

Policy PR-2.16: Develop a capital improvement program that specifies a six-year schedule for acquisition, development, and improvement of park and recreation lands.

Discussion: The Capital Facilities element of the Comprehensive Plan includes a long-term financing strategy for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation. A six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will be updated annually to set priorities for park acquisition and improvement expenditures.

Policy PR-2.17 Develop currently owned City properties deemed appropriate for use as recreation facilities per City's parks plan priorities.

Discussion: A number of City properties are vacant and underutilized. Most of these properties are small in size. These properties should be re-evaluated every few years to determine if they could provide recreational opportunities (such as pocket parks) to City residences.

Policy PR-2.18: Work with developers to explore creating on-site recreational amenities, or contributing to those nearby, in addition to, or in lieu of, impact fees.

Discussion: Encourages developers to provide on-site recreational facilities to provide a better, healthier working environment for employees. A better working environment helps to increase the productivity of employees. Recreational amenities can be provided as part of "Wellness" programs.

Policy PR-2.19: Design and construction of parks should take into account conservation of resources such as energy and water.

Discussion: The design of parks should take into account the natural resources of the vicinity. The consideration of the park design should consider the expansion of local resources such as the protection of water quality and the use of storm water to maintain the vegetation in the park.

OPEN SPACE

GOAL PR-3:

Encourage the retention of open space and development of compatible recreational opportunities, to conserve fish and wildlife habitat, and increase access to natural resource lands and water.

POLICIES

Policy PR-3.1: Protect, preserve and enhance environmentally sensitive areas as passive recreation areas. These areas include steep slopes, wetlands and stream corridors.

Discussion: Acquisition of these area encourages the retention of existing natural vegetation and the preservation of wildlife corridors. Where appropriate, restricting public access to these areas should be considered.

Policy PR-3.2: Seek to acquire the most significant parcels of property for passive parks in order to protect hillside amenities, wetlands, river and stream corridors, and other critical open spaces.

Discussion: Where applicable, the City should pursue grant funds to purchase critical areas for passive park/open space purposes. Grant funds for the preservation of open spaces/critical areas are available through the following agencies.

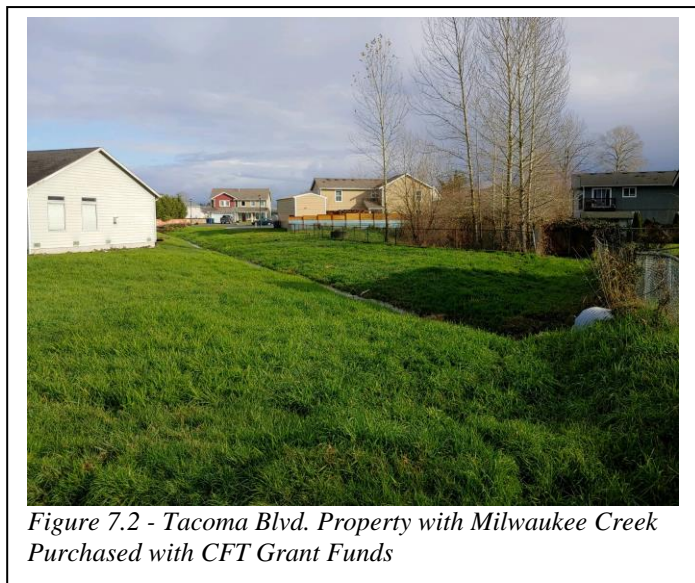


Figure 7.2 - Tacoma Blvd. Property with Milwaukee Creek Purchased with CFT Grant Funds

- King County Conservation Future Trust (CFT) grants.
 - State of Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grants (through the Recreation and Conservation Office [RCO])
 - Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
-

Policy PR-3.3: Explore opportunities for dual-duty wetland/habitat enhancement and passive recreation projects.

Discussion: The preservation of wetlands and other habitats can provide passive recreational opportunities as well as educational opportunities. Educational signage can be provided regarding the environmental features that are protected.

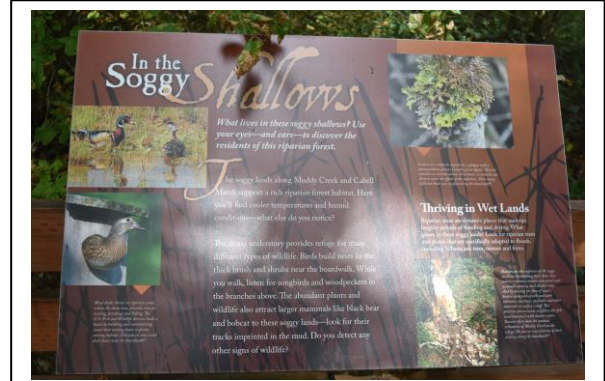


Figure 7.3 – Informational Signage

FINANCING AND MAINTENANCE

GOAL PR-4:

Provide adequate financial and management resources to offer park and recreation facilities, programs and services to local patrons of all ages, and administer a parks development and maintenance program that provides for the protection of this investment and enhances the quality of life for the citizens of Pacific.

POLICIES

Policy PR-4.1: Maintain a park and recreation operating budget reflective of the community's needs and available resources.

Discussion: The City has a limited amount of funding for parks and recreation. The City should consider all acquisition and development projects in the context of future development responsibilities. Cost/benefit assessments are important to determine appropriate maintenance levels. Proper maintenance protects the public investment in the parks system. Well-maintained parks encourage use and promote community pride.

Policy PR-4.2: Utilize mitigation fees and other methods for the acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities.

Discussion: The City can provide for mitigation of development impacts to parks and recreation facilities through some of the following methods:

1. Requiring dedication of land within subdivisions;

2. Encouraging voluntary park contributions;
 3. Park impact fees;
 4. Contractual agreements that call for the developer to construct needed facilities in a new or existing park;
 5. Developing an alternative that combines the options listed above.
-

Policy PR-4.3: Where appropriate, pursue joint venture opportunities with the State, King and Pierce counties, surrounding cities, local school districts, and other groups and agencies, including public/private partnerships, in developing parks and recreational facilities.

Discussion: Recreational facility use and potential funding sources often extend beyond the boundaries of local governments, making it important to maintain an effective intergovernmental coordination program. Given the presence of adjacent cities, King and Pierce counties, and several school districts, there will be opportunities for shared use of facilities and cooperative projects.

Policy PR-4.4: Actively seek grants and other outside sources of revenue for the acquisition, development, and improvement of park and recreational facilities.

Discussion: Identifying and pursuing funding sources, such as Community Development Block Grants, the State's Recreation and Conservation Office, and King and Pierce counties' Conservation Futures Trust (CFT) Funds, increase park capital improvement potential. Funding and services offered through county, state, and federal agencies and volunteer donations will serve to expand parks and recreation opportunities, as will seeking funds from corporate and private donors.

Policy PR- 4.5: Explore the creation of a Park District and other levy opportunities to fund operations and maintenance.

Discussion: Creating a Park District would help to create an additional revenue source for the acquisition and maintenance of parks.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

GOAL PR-5:

Encourage public involvement in the park and recreation planning and service process.

POLICIES

Policy PR- 5.1: Periodically review park and recreation preferences, needs, and trends through household surveys, public meetings, and other public input sources.

Discussion: Park surveys should solicit information about changes in public sentiment and general public need relative to cost. Surveys should occur approximately every eight years.

Policy PR- 5.2: Periodically evaluate the City’s existing recreation facilities relative to regional and national recreation standards and citizen surveys to identify parks deficiencies and program needs.

Discussion: This evolution should be done on the same cycle to update park preferences from citizen surveys. The cycle (approximately every eight years) can be coordinated with the State requirements for updating Comprehensive Plans.

Policy PR- 5.3: Use equipment, landscaping, and design which reduces long-term maintenance costs, increases safety for park users, and is environmentally safe.

Discussion: Playground equipment should be evaluated based on the following criteria.

- Resistance to vandalism
 - Durability of Materials
 - Ease of Maintenance
 - Safety Record of the Equipment
-

PLANNING AND FACILITIES

GOAL PR-6:

Coordinate planning and facilities with regional and neighboring jurisdictions.

POLICIES

Policy PR- 6.1: Create working partnerships with local counties and cities for joint-use facilities (i.e.: skate parks).

Discussion: Pacific, being a smaller City, has less resources and staff for constructing and running larger scale recreational facilities. Working with other agencies for joint-use facilities could provide Pacific residents with a wider choice of recreational facilities. One method that could be used to meet these needs is the establishment of a Parks District incorporating local jurisdictions.

Policy PR- 6.2: Coordinate with local school districts to maximize the use of school properties and facilities for park and recreational purposes.

Discussion: The Auburn and Sumner School Districts have buildings and play fields that can be used for recreational programs. Cooperative agreements on maintenance can result in cost savings for both the City and the school district. Locating youth programs at school facilities provides easy access to school age groups.

Policy PR- 6.3: Work with non-profit groups and other volunteer groups.

Discussion: To offset some maintenance costs and promote community identity and involvement, the City should utilize the resources and ideas of civic and community-based organizations.

7.5 EXISTING CONDITIONS

7.5.1 Planning Considerations

Pacific's greater recreation service area potentially encompasses more than 5 square miles, although the City itself now covers under 2.5 square miles. (See Park Service Area Map). Plans that affect the size, shape, and composition of Pacific, as well as amenities available to its community, are underway.

The State Office of Financial Management (OFM) 2020 population figure for the City of Pacific is 6,925. To project population figures to the year 2035 (the range of this Comprehensive Plan), consideration must be given to population lost by the conversion of many Pierce County properties from residential uses to commercial and light industrial uses.

Pacific has a 218 acre designated Urban Growth Area (UGA) abutting its westernmost boundary in King County, which must be considered when planning for adequate facilities and service in the future. This area, referred to as Jovita Heights, or West Hill, is primarily comprised of large residential lots and wooded open space. Jovita Heights contains many opportunities and challenges, including heavily wooded steep slopes, and the 16 acre Trout Lake with little public access and associated wetlands. The City has purchased property in this area (the Morgan Property) totaling 2.30 acres which preserve part of the headwaters of Jovita Creek and provides additional access to Trout Lake.

The City of Pacific is exploring further opportunities for developing both active and passive parks in this area, and trail

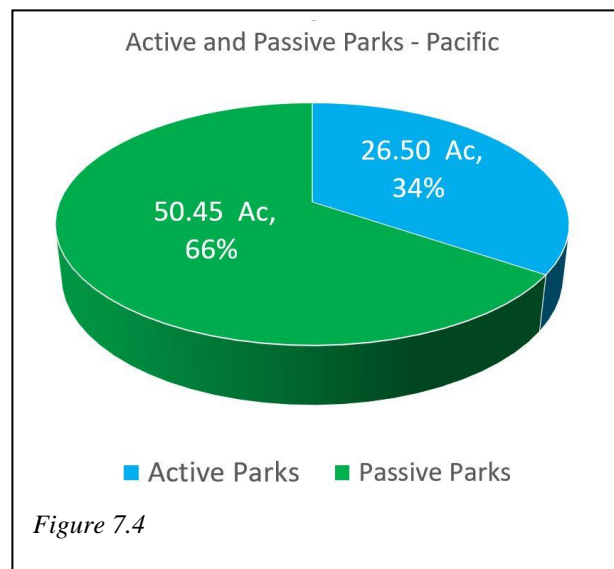


Figure 7.4

connections with unincorporated King County and the cities of Edgewood, Milton, and Federal Way.

The City of Pacific’s population growth from 2010 to 2019 was 4.6% which equates to a yearly population growth rate of .51% over the past nine years. This rate was due to a loss of population in the Pierce County portion of the City where single-family uses are gradually being phased out for industrial and commercial uses. The rate is anticipated to rise as new subdivision/short plats come on-line, however; any rise in the rate will ultimately decline over the long term, due to the City’s limited urban growth boundary (UGB). The City of Pacific must take the unique characteristics of its annexation area on West Hill in King County, and those of the Pierce County urban growth area (UGA) along the White/Stuck River into account when planning for the recreational needs of the community in the year 2025.

City/River Park, the City of Pacific’s primary park facility, is located in the eastern, King County portion of Pacific. The developed park occupies the western section of a 43 acre parcel that spans the White/Stuck River. This parcel does dual-duty as a King County flood control facility. Other land owned by King County follows the River south on both sides, and is met on the southwest by the 25 acre Pierce County Water Programs parcel, an enhanced wetland. A rough trail with water views now exists from 3rd Avenue SE to Stewart Road (8th Street E).

King and Pierce county flood control projects are expected to significantly alter riverfront contours and amenities on the west bank (right bank looking down river) over the next several years. The King County Flood Control District has already significantly altered the left bank (looking down river) by breaching the former levee and constructing the “Left Bank Levee Improvements”. The



Figure 7.5 Left Bank Levee Improvements

The levee allows the White River to channel migrate, which helps to alleviate flooding in Pacific and down river. The top of the new levee acts as a de facto public trail.

The King County Flood Control District is now designing the “Right Bank Levee Improvements.” The City of Pacific envisions creating a system of passive parks and trails on the right bank in conjunction with these improvements as well as in Pierce County after annexing the

Pierce County Water Program parcels and adjacent residential and mixed-use properties on Butte Avenue South.

7.5.2 Park, Open Space, Recreation, and Trail Facilities

City of Pacific Park, Open Space, Recreation and Trails facilities are divided into the following categories: Community Park, Neighborhood Park, Pocket Park, Trail, Open Space, and Undeveloped Park Parcels. The following is an inventory of current City owned park properties (see Parks Inventory Map, for locations of all City park facilities). The current acreages dedicated for park and recreation use within the City of Pacific planning area are as follows:

Current Active and Passive Park & Recreation Sites

Active Park & Recreation Sites	Acres
1. 5 th SE Property* - 141 5 th Avenue SE	.50
2. Alder Lane Property* - 211 Alder Lane	.20
3. Aspen Lane Park: - at 1st Ave. E	.24
4. Beaver Park – 550 Beaver Blvd.	.23
5. Blueberry Park – 117 5 th Ave. SW	.11
6. Butte Ave. Property* - 32X Butte Ave. S	.41
7. Centennial Park – 100 3 rd Ave. SE	2.01
8. City Hall Campus (2008) - 126 3 rd Ave. SE	.59
9. City Hall Campus (2010) - 130 3 rd Ave. SE	.79
10. Community Center/Gym – 100 3 rd Ave. SE	.69
11. Community Services – 100 3 rd Ave. SE	.05
12. Elise Park – 225 Elise Lane	.11
13. Milwaukee Park – 522 Milwaukee Blvd. S	.13
14. Otter Park – 215 Otter Drive	.13
15. City Park (King Co.) – 600 3 rd Ave. SE	18.37
16. City Park (Pacific) – 620 3 rd Ave. SE	.27
17. Rhubarb Park – 211 Rhubarb Street SW	.45
18. Strawberry Park – 128 Strawberry Court SW	.52
19. Sunset Park – 246 Sunset Drive	.10
20. Triangle Park property* – 4501 A Street	.68
Active Parks & Recreation - Total Acres	26.5

The location of Active Parks is shown in Maps 7.1 to 7.5

**May be sold/exchanged for other property (1.69 Acres total)*

Passive Parks/Open Space

Site Locations	Acreage
1. Butte Panhandle* - Butte SE to County Line	36
2. Pacific Meadows Wetlands	6.20
3. West Hill – Former Reservoir N of 3 rd SW	.28
4. West Hill – East of former Reservoir	.94
5. West Hill Passive Park - North of 3 rd SW	3.68

6. West Hill – 3 rd to 4 th Ave. SW (S.380 th St.)	4.99
7. West Hill – South side of 4 th Ave. SW	3.94
8. West Hill – North side of 5 th Ave. SW	1.67
9. Morgan Properties – West Hill, 4505 S. 376 th St.	2.12
10. Tacoma Blvd. - Approximately 119 Tacoma Blvd.	0.18
11. Hatch Property – Adjacent to Interurban Trail	1.36
12. City Park – King Co. (Left Bank of the White River)	24.63
Passive Parks	Total Acres
	50.45

The location of Passive Parks are shown in Maps 7.6 to 7.9.

**May be sold/exchanged*

Linear Parks and Trails

- Interurban Trail – North of 3rd Ave SW
- Interurban Trail – South to County Line
- Beaver Meadows Trail
- Interurban Trail PSE - Pierce Co. at County Line
- West Valley/PSE properties
- West Hill (former PSE) – County Line
- The “Left Levee” Trail on the White River north from 8th St. E in Sumner to the White River by the BNSF Railroad Bridge

7.5.3 Community Park

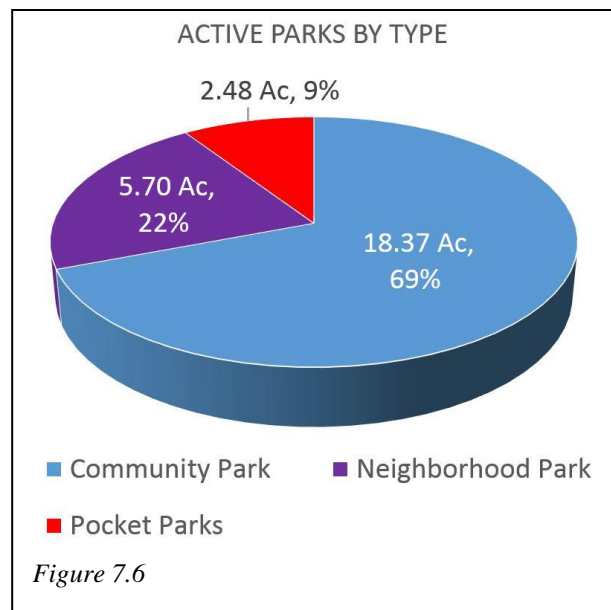
PMC 20.06.030 Civic Use Category (H) Recreation, Nonprofit (2) Level 2: Community parks. Community parks exceed 10 acres in size.

Community Park: An area of diverse environmental quality. The park may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes or sports courts. It may also include areas of a natural quality for passive recreation such as walking, sitting, and picnicking.

Existing Facility: City/River Park

Pacific City/River Park is a passive and active use facility located at the east side of the City along the west bank of the White/Stuck River. It is the City's principal park. Park facilities were constructed with funds from a 1970 Washington State grant, and dedicated in 1976. The park is developed and maintained by the City of Pacific on land primarily owned by King County.

The active portion of City/River Park is approximately 19 acres, and contains the Bill Ray



baseball field with backstop and bleacher's. It also has restrooms, the Art Hollingsworth Picnic Pavilion, William Profit Performance Stage, a basketball court, a play area with swings and climbing toys, and several picnic tables with barbecues, and paved and unpaved trails.

An internal trail fulfills the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements. It connects with street trails and bike paths running south from Ellingson and Skinner roads to the north, the 3rd Avenue bike path and trail running east to west, and an informal trail along the White/Stuck River to the south.



Figure 7.7 Pacific Days 2018

The east side of the River is primarily part of the King County Flood Control District left levee improvement area. In this area, the concrete levees were removed to allow the White River to move more naturally within its historic floodplain. The left levee improvement provides an pedestrian trail on the left (east) bank of White River.

7.5.4 Neighborhood Parks

PMC 20.06.030 Civic Use Category (H) Recreation, Nonprofit (1) Level 1: Neighborhood parks and open space. Neighborhood parks range in size from approximately three to 10 acres.

Neighborhood Park: An area for intense recreational activities, such as field and court games, crafts, playground apparatus, skating, picnicking, etc. The area of service is from ¼ to ½ mile radius. A neighborhood is defined as a contiguous residential area population up to 5,000. The desirable size of a neighborhood park is from three to ten acres. The neighborhood park should



Figure 7.8 Police Open House – Centennial Park 2017



Figure 7.9 City Hall

be easily accessible to the population it serves, preferably geographically centered, with safe walking and bike access.

Existing Facility: City Hall Campus

The City Hall Campus contains Centennial Park: 1.5 acres of developed playfield with backstop and the old Yates Cabin facing the street. It is located near the southeast corner of 3rd Avenue S.E. and Milwaukee Avenue S., adjacent to and on the east side of the City Hall Complex. A Master Plan for Centennial Park and the City Hall Campus, which includes a perimeter trail and other amenities, is being developed.

The City Hall Campus is composed of City Hall, the Algona-Pacific Community Services Center, and the Community Center/ Gymnasium. The Complex is heavily used for indoor and outdoor public recreation.

The site also includes the City Hall lawn along Milwaukee Avenue S and 3rd Avenue SE, and a Public Works building and equipment yard, which will be relocated to allow expansion of other public facilities. The combined acreage of the current City Hall Campus is 3.8 acres. Recent purchases of adjacent residential properties have increased expansion potential by another 1.38 acres.

A small plaza with seating and public art that includes a fountain sits on the 3rd Avenue SE City Hall lawn. The walkway from 3rd Avenue SE passes along two sides of the fountain, and travels under a cupola before delivering visitors to the front door of City Hall. Plans are underway to add a Veteran’s memorial, information kiosk, and additional seating in this area.

7.5.5 Pocket Parks

These are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. The area of service is less than a quarter-mile radius and the desirable size is one acre or less. A pocket park’s recommended location is within a residential neighborhood, preferably in close proximity to multi-family housing or housing for the elderly.

<u>Existing Facilities</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Aspen Lane Park: - at 1st Ave. E	.24
Beaver Park – 550 Beaver Blvd.	.23
Blueberry Park – 117 5 th Ave. SW	.11
Butte Ave. Property* - 32X Butte Ave. S	.41
Elise Park – 225 Elise Lane	.11
Milwaukee Park – 522 Milwaukee Blvd. S	.13
Otter Park – 215 Otter Drive	.13
Rhubarb Park – 211 Rhubarb Street SW	.45
Strawberry Park – 128 Strawberry Court SW	.52
Sunset Park – 246 Sunset Drive	.10
<u>Total Pocket Park Acreage</u>	<u>2.43</u>

7.5.6 Greenways/Linear Trails

PMC 20.06.030 Civic Use Category (H) Recreation, Nonprofit (4) Level 4: Linear Trails. Linear trails are long, narrow parks used for walking, jogging, and bicycling.

Linear Park: An area, both local and regional in nature, developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, pleasure driving, etc. It is recommended that they be of sufficient width to protect the resource and the users and to provide maximum use.

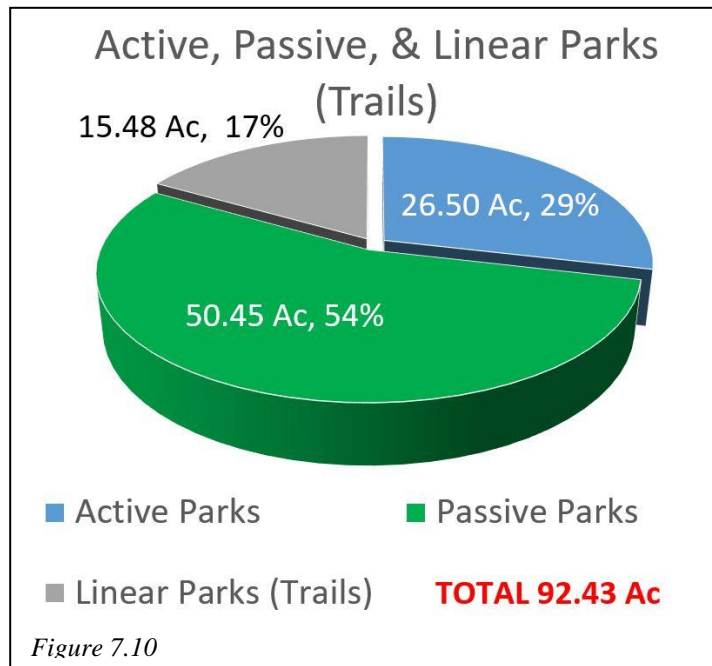
Existing Facilities: Trails	Acreage
Beaver Meadows Trail	0.29
Pacific Meadows	2.08
Constructed Interurban 5 th NW - 3 rd SW	8.45
Constructed Interurban 3 rd SW - 8 th Street	1.03
White River Trail East*	3.63
White River Trail West**	XX
Total	15.48

* The White River Trail East (Left bank levee improvement) is a de facto trail incorporating the maintenance road on top of the levee).

**The White River Trail west will be affected by King and Pierce County flood control projects over the next several years.

Local Trails:

The Pacific/White River Trail is an unpaved trail on the berm along the west side of the White/Stuck River, continuous within City/River Park and extending southwest into the Pierce County portion of the Trail Plan. It is heavily used by pedestrians and some bicyclists. There is a fence separating the River from the park that extends from the north boundary of the park along the inland side of the berm for approximately half of the length of the park. A portion of the fence is offset parallel to provide free travel gateways.



Regional Trail Links

Interurban Trail: The metropolitan region has an extensive network of existing pedestrian/bicycle trails. There are a number of proposals for expanding trails in various stages of planning and development.

The Interurban Trail is a regional pedestrian/bicycle trail that extends from its northerly connection with the Burke-Gilman Trail around the north end of Lake Washington, south through metropolitan King County to its current southern terminus on the north side of Stewart Road SE at the NW intersection with Valentine Ave. SE. With the completion of new White River Bridge in Sumner, the trail will hook up with the City of Sumner's "Link Trail" along the White River.



Figure 7.11 Interurban Trail south of 3rd Ave SW

7.5.7 Open Space/Passive Nature Parks

PMC 20.06.030 Civic Use Category (H) Recreation, Nonprofit (1) Level 1: Neighborhood parks and open space...Open space may be unlimited in size and may or may not have public access.

West Hill Passive Park

West Hill Passive Park is a wooded five-acre parcel rising from the Valley floor on the north side of 3rd Avenue SW to the top of the West Valley slope at 55th Avenue S. It is adjacent to and east of two smaller parcels that used to contain the City Reservoir and access road. Two wooded steep slope parcels to the south, rising up above West Valley Highway, were deeded to the City of Pacific by the R and M Jones Family in 1998. Their combined area is over five and one half acres.

These sites are all contained within the west side greenbelt. Portions of the western slopes of the White River valley within the City limits have been designated as sensitive areas because so much of the slopes are steeper than 30%. This area extends far beyond the City's boundaries to the north and south. These steep slopes must be preserved as critical open space, and therefore serve as permanent regional greenbelts.

Morgan Properties

The Morgan properties are located in the City's Urban Growth Area (UGA) on or adjacent to Trout Lake on the West Hill. One property contains part of the headwaters of Jovita Creek. Another parcel provides direct public access to Trout Lake.

Tacoma Blvd/Milwaukee Creek

This is a small 8,000 sq. ft. parcel that is bisected by Milwaukee Creek. It is envisioned that the portion of the creek on this property will be revegetated.

Hiranaka/Hatch Property

This is a 1.36 acre parcel of property adjacent to the Interurban Trail just north of 3rd Ave. SE. Milwaukee Creek flows on the SE boundary of the property. The property is proposed to remain as a passive park and is being use as a wetland mitigation site for the continued construction of the Interurban Trail in Pacific.

7.5.8 Undeveloped Park Facilities

5.8.1 Community Park

The City of Pacific has operated City/River Park on nearly 20 acres along the east side of the White/Stuck River for over 40 years. This area is only accessible from the King County Left Levee Bank improvements. This area of the park is part of a 43 acre parcel owned by King County that spans the River. King County owns other undeveloped property along the River to the south. Pierce County also owns a 25 acre undeveloped parcel along the River adjacent, and to the south of this land. Due



Figure 7.12 Pacific City Park – Left Bank Open Space Area

to the impact of the completed left levee flood control project and the proposed right bank levee flood control project, the City now envisions designing a system of trails and viewing areas compatible with King and Pierce County flood control setback designs along both banks of the White/Stuck River from 3rd Avenue SE to Stewart Road SE.

5.8.2 Pocket Parks

The City of Pacific owns a small triangle of land east of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF), bounded by “A” Street to the east and south. A Department of Transportation (WSDOT) grant for pedestrian safety funded design of an underpass below the railroad tracks to provide access to Triangle Park, as well as connectivity to trails in the city of Auburn.

A park was envisioned to serve nearby residents and businesses, as well as providing seating for trail travelers. BNSF began considering adding a third track to this line, making construction of

an underpass too complicated and expensive to execute. The City is now considering selling the stand-alone triangle of property.

The City also owns several small unimproved sites, currently maintained as mowed vacant lots of less than a half-acre in size, that are being considered for development as Pocket Parks, or being sold in favor of other acquisitions, or improvements to more strategic properties.

The trailhead of the Interurban Trail at 3rd Avenue SW is being designed to incorporate improvements compatible with Pocket Park use.

A 32 acre site on the southwest corner of 5th Ave. SW & Valentine Ave. SE, previously identified for acquisition and use as a passive park, has become a planned residential development (PRD). Approximately one-half of the site is now devoted to pocket parks (See Figure 7.1) and trails surrounding a wetland which is undergoing a several-year process of restoration and enhancement by the joint efforts of the City and local volunteers.

5.8.3 Urban and Wildlife Recreation Trails: City of Pacific Trail Hub and Spokes

Local Trails

East White River Trail: The Pacific Trail Plan envisions a trail along the east side of the White/Stuck River connecting with the City of Auburn's White River Trail to the northeast, and the City of Sumner trail system to the south. With the completion of the left bank levee by the King County Flood Control District, this link will not occur as direct connection along the White River. The maintenance road on top of the levee now provides an informal trail that dead ends at the Burlington Norther Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad right-of-way approximately 1,000 feet south of the BNSF railroad bridge. The connection of the trail with the Auburn White River Trail will only occur via the East Valley Highway.

A network of local trails is being created in the City of Pacific to serve neighborhoods, connect to park and recreation facilities, and, when possible, provide additional access to the Interurban Trail. New trails are being planned concurrent with residential and commercial development. The City of Pacific is also working to connect trails from the West Hill to the local and Interurban Trail network in the valley.

Regional Trails:

The City of Pacific is jointly planning with the City of Sumner to close the gap between the Interurban Trail's 3rd Avenue SW trailhead in Pacific and Sumner's existing trails. This trail system will then link with the Puyallup River Trail system and the Foothills Trail system.

The City of Pacific is also working with the cities of Milton and Edgewood to build trail connections heading west to join with the trail system coming down off the West Hill.

Taken as a whole, these trail systems are a major regional facility that will provide a network of continuous travel from Puget Sound beaches in northwest Seattle south along Lake Washington,

continuing south through King County's Green River and White River valleys, then west along the Puyallup River to Puget Sound beaches in Tacoma. It will connect south of Sumner to the Foothills Trail that winds through east-central Pierce County half way to Mount Rainier, passing through Orting, South Prairie, Wilkeson, and terminating in Carbonado.

Trails from many other jurisdictions will ultimately connect to the Interurban Trail as it runs north to south through the City of Pacific, thus making our community a regional hub for trail travel and recreation. King and Pierce County trail-maps reflect this network.

7.5.9 Parks and Facilities not owned by the City of Pacific

Alpac Elementary School sits on the southeast corner of Milwaukee Boulevard N and Ellingson Road. This facility is part of Auburn School District #408, and serves students from Pacific, Algona, and Auburn. It has approximately 3 acres of playing fields. City of Pacific students also attend other schools in Auburn, Sumner and Fife, so have access to these resources during the school year.

Passive Park /Open Space – UGA Sites

Two properties have been identified for passive park/open space sites within Pacific's Urban Growth (UGA) areas.

A small area of unincorporated Pierce County exists south of County Line and east of Butte Avenue S. along the western edge of the White/Stuck River. The bulk of this land, over 25 acres, is owned by Pierce County and had been the site of a wetland mitigation project. An informal trail that runs by the river's edge from City Park goes through this property to Stewart Road. Eventually, this wooded wetland will be annexed into the City of Pacific.

7.6 FUTURE PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES NEEDS

Pacific adopted its first *Parks and Recreation Plan* in May, 1995. While creating the *Plan*, the City of Pacific questioned its citizens regarding its five major facilities, asking them to rank them. The results are listed below in order of most to least important:

- The Interurban Trail
- Pacific River Park (Pacific City Park)
- Pacific/Algona Senior (Community Services) Center
- Civic Center/Volunteer (Centennial) Park at City Hall
- Community Center/ Gymnasium

In 2001, another survey was distributed to 1347 households. *The City of Pacific Summer 2001 Parks and Recreation Citizen Survey* asked citizens to identify parks and recreation projects and activities for possible further development, and several types of facilities to focus resources on for acquisition. Below are rankings from responses to these two questions, again listed in order from most to least important.

2001 Priority Park Facilities:

- Park Benches
 - Walking Trails*
 - Picnic/BBQ Facilities*
 - Basketball Courts*
 - Tennis Courts
 - Play Equipment*
 - Baseball/Softball Fields
 - Community Gardens*
- *Improvements achieved by 2010*

2001 Resource Focus (Acquisition):

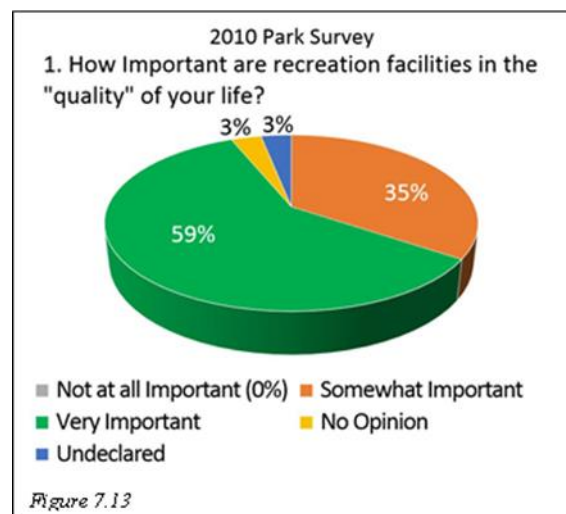
- City-wide Facilities
- Trails
- Tot Lots/Pocket Parks
- Neighborhood Facilities

The 2001 survey responses are fairly similar to those of 1995: favoring City-wide facilities and associated amenities over smaller sites with more targeted user groups. The 2001 survey responses indicate the desires of 7% of the households mailed to.

The 2004 *Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Trails* element was part of a several-year effort by the nine member Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to update the City of Pacific's Comprehensive Plan. Over 40 meetings were held by the CAC, many in conjunction with the Park Board and Planning Commission. Citizens had many opportunities to comment on the Plan. They reviewed data from the 1995 and 2001 City of Pacific surveys, along with information from surrounding jurisdictions, and State and Federal statistics,

In 2005 the Pacific Park Board created another survey which was responded to by 34 people, beginning at Pacific Days, the City's annual July event. The intent of this survey was to gain more feedback and demographic information from local respondents.

The 2009 Community Center Survey was designed by City staff in conjunction with the architectural firm Arai Jackson Ellison Murakami. This was part of a community outreach and visioning process during Phase I of upgrades to the Recreation Center/Gym. The survey's goal was to "incorporate the future needs and desires of the community for a redeveloped Community Center." This is considered to be a 3-phase project spanning several years. Future phases are proposed to include developing a Campus Master Plan.



This Community Center Survey gained feedback on programs and services offered by Pacific's Community Services Department, and the Pacific/Algona Community Center, as well as people's current and desired use of City facilities.

2010 Adult and Youth Surveys

The City of Pacific staff and Park Board created Youth and Adult surveys in early 2010. These were initially filled out by children ages 5 to 18, who participated in a Presidents' Day event held at the newly remodeled Recreation Center, and their accompanying adults. Volunteers conducted a number of activities and assisted younger children with questions. Adult surveys were also posted on the City of Pacific's website, and the response date extended to after the City's Earth Day clean up and lunch in April.

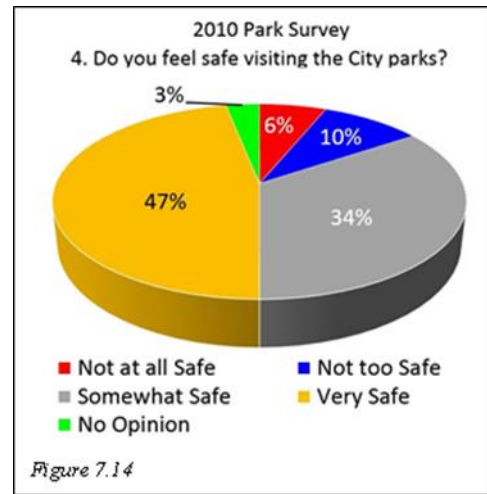


Figure 7.14

Children and adults contributed demographic information, indicated which City facilities they currently used, how they felt about them, and what they would like to use if it was available. The adults were also asked how they thought improvements to City facilities should be funded.

Full Survey results from 2009 and 2010 are available at Pacific City Hall.

The anticipated park needs are reflected in the Capital Facilities element, with priorities for future parks, open space, recreation and trail needs included in the Capital Improvement Plan.

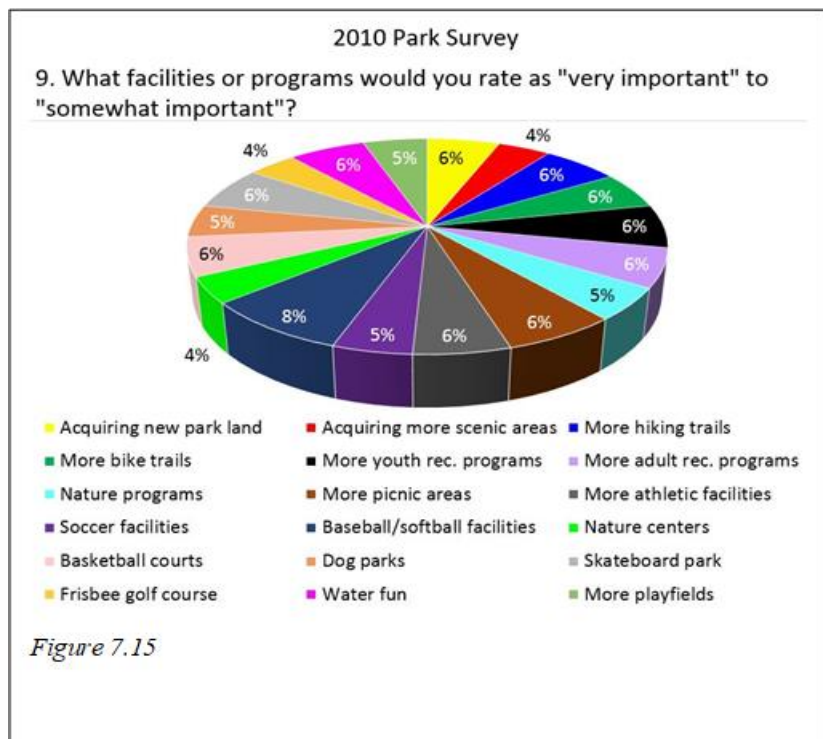
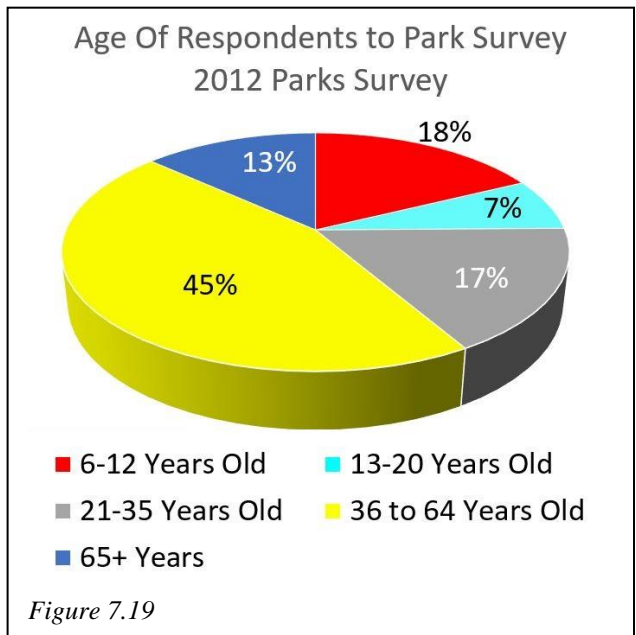
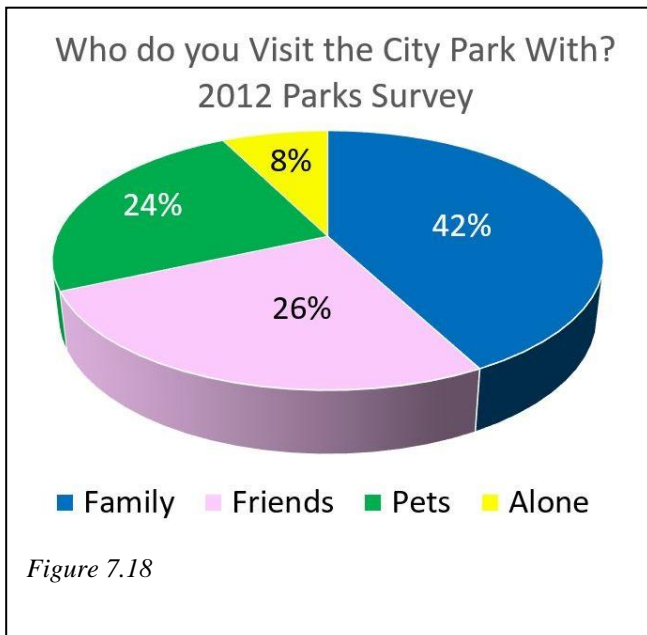
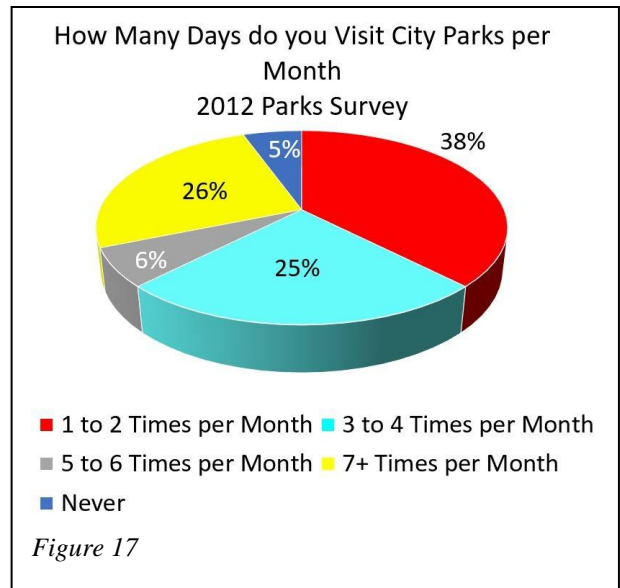
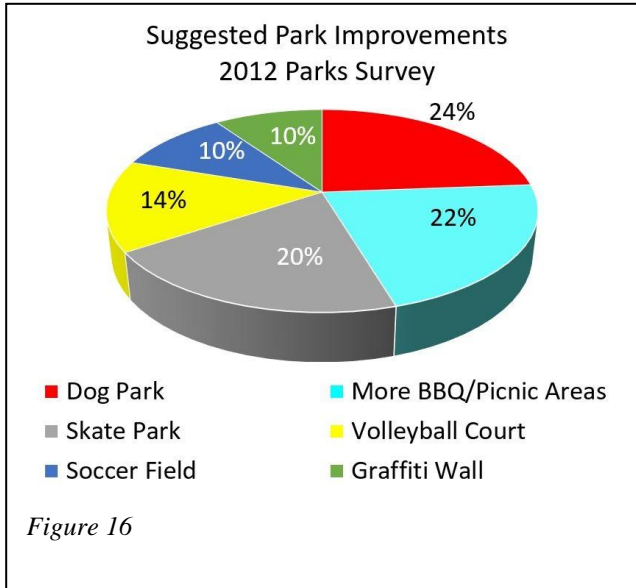


Figure 7.15

The 2010 survey also asked participants what type of activities or facilities that should be provided in the future. The City received a wide range of responses to the question. These answers are provided in Figure 7.15 and Figure 7.31. Additional 2010 survey information is provided at the back of this chapter.

2012 Parks Survey

The City of Pacific and Park Board conducted another Park survey for City residents for the Pacific Days celebration of that year. Approximately 113 surveys were completed. Figures 7.16 through 7.19 illustrate some of the feedback from the surveys.



2016-2018 Second Grade Student Survey – Park Usage

Beginning in 2016, second grade classes from Alpac Elementary School have been finishing their school year with a visit to City Hall for a taste of how City government works. As part of their visit, the City has had the students indicate on a map which park they commonly use in the City. The pie chart below illustrates their responses. While not a scientific survey, the responses from the students indicated the following:

- City Park is the most commonly used and important park.
- Centennial Park/Gym is important due to the activities in the gym.
- Pocket parks are more likely to be used if they have play equipment. Sunset, Milwaukee and Rhubarb Parks have some form of play equipment for children.

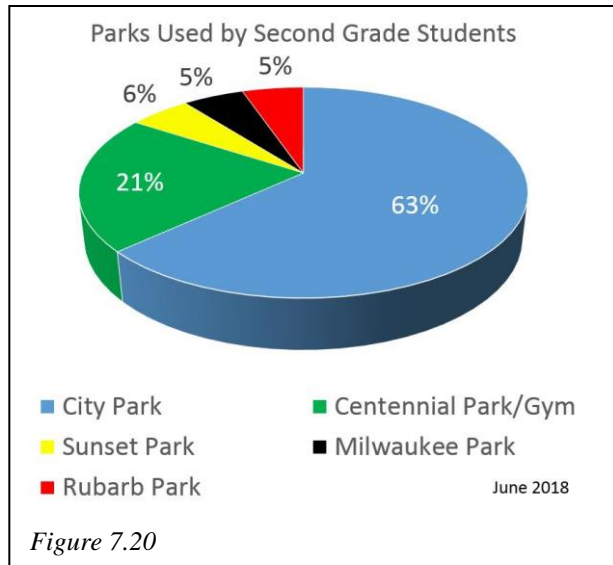


Figure 7.20

2021 Parks Survey

The City conducted a Parks Survey in the fall of 2021. The purpose of the survey was to gain current input from Pacific citizens, in part, regarding the safety, maintenance, use and needs for the City Parks. Many of the 2021 survey questions were the same as questions asked in the 2010 survey. This helps provide a comparison of the responses between the 2010 and 2021 surveys. Figures 7.21 and 7.22 provide a comparison of the public’s need for recreation facilities.

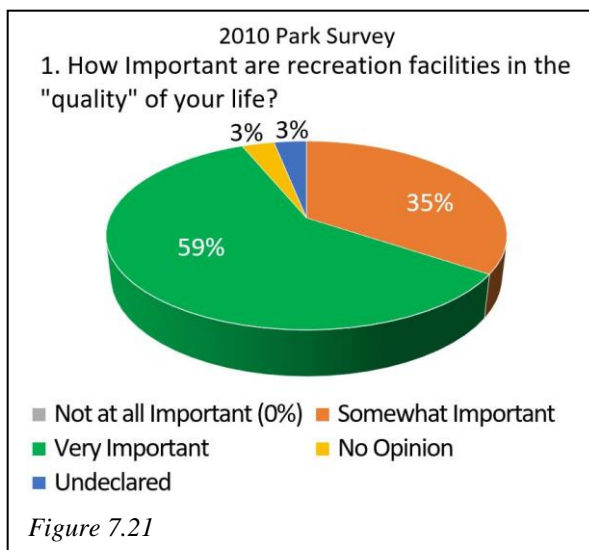


Figure 7.21



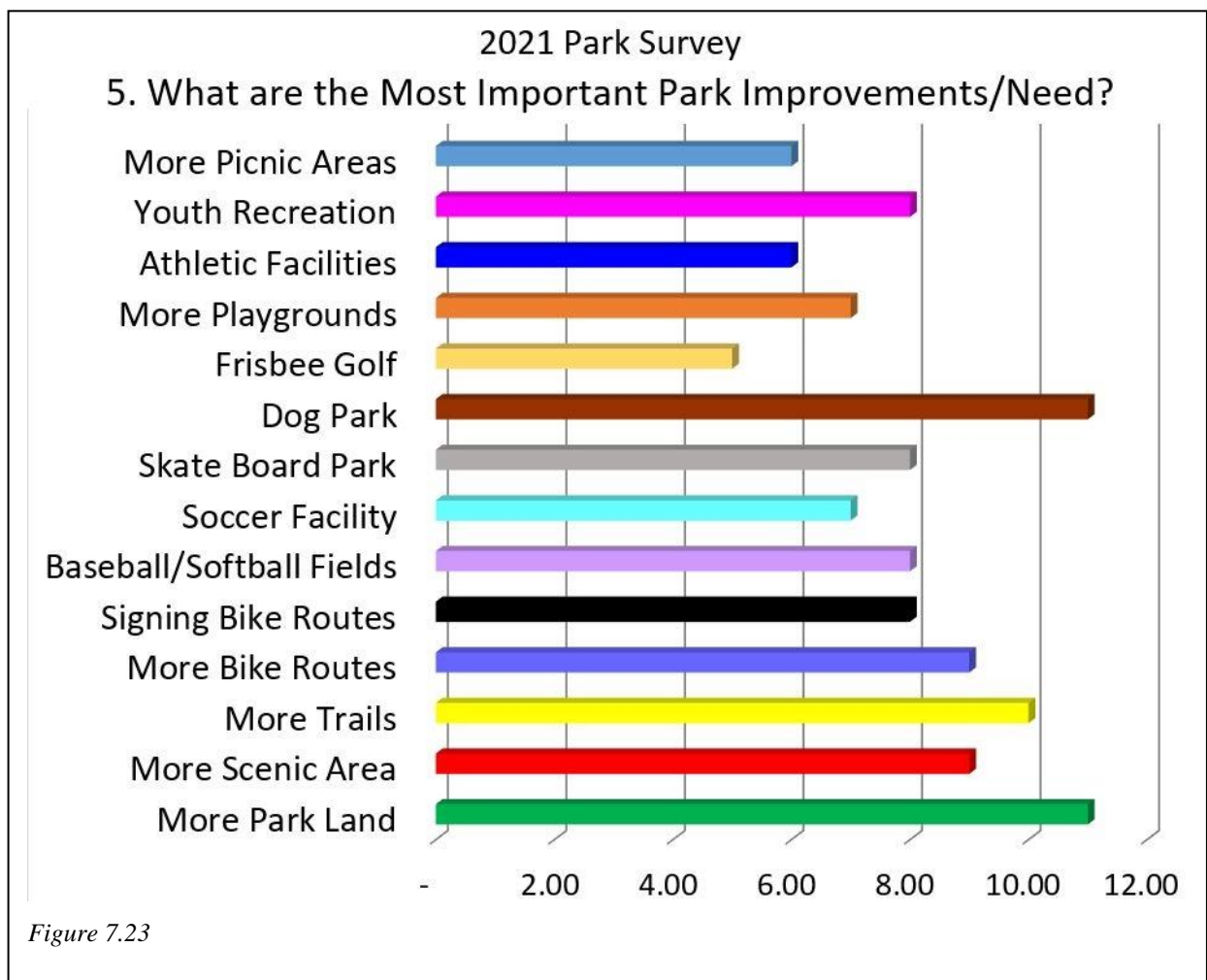
Figure 7.22

Based on the information provided by both the 2010 and 2021 surveys, the need for parks is still a very high priority for City residents. In the 2021 survey, 98% of the respondents indicated that parks are somewhat to very important for their “quality” of life.

Information gained from the survey will help the Pacific Park Board advise the City Council as follows:

- Where to direct King County Park levy funds for park improvements.
- Should the City need to hire additional park maintenance staff to maintain the City’s parks?
- Should funding be targeted for the acquisition of additional park property?
- Should additional security measures be installed at City parks?
- How do people spend their time in the City parks?

Figure 7.23 illustrates the most important park improvements or needs as identified in the 2021 park survey. Figure 7.36 illustrates the 2010 park needs.

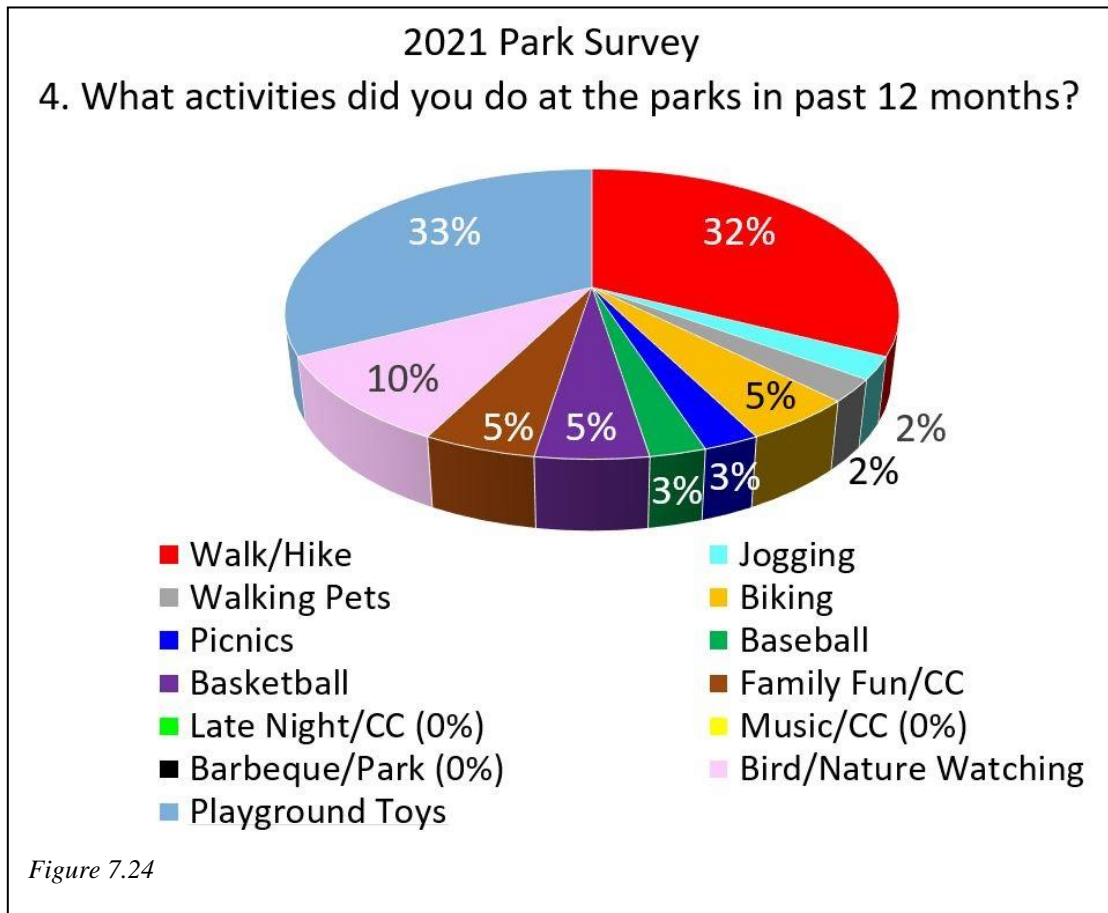


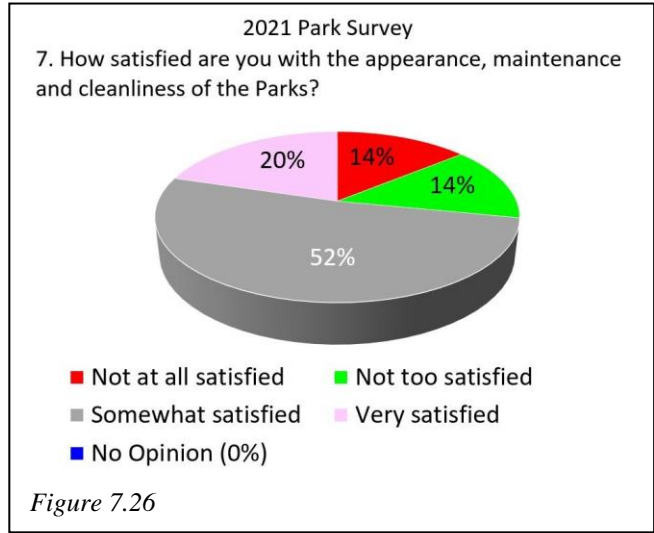
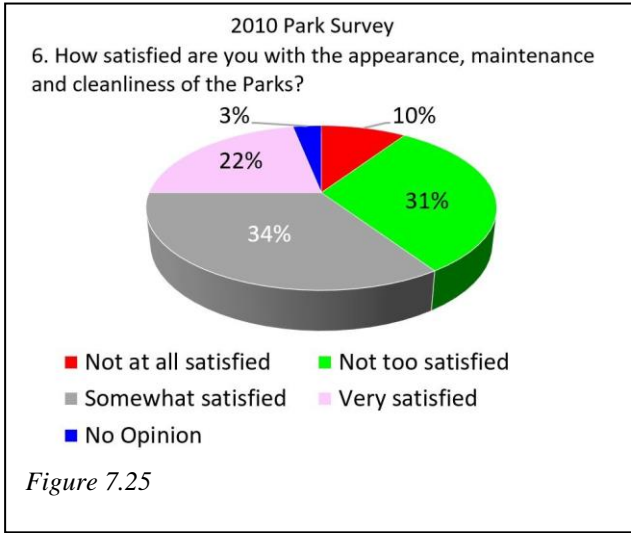
The top five park needs expressed by the respondents are listed as follows:

Table	
City Park Needs – Top Five Responses – 2021-2010 Park Surveys	
2021 Park Survey	2010 Park Survey
1. More park land	1. Baseball/softball facilities
2. A dog park	2. Skateboard park
3. More trails	3. More picnic areas
4. More bike routes	4. More youth recreation programs
5. More scenic areas	5. More bike trails

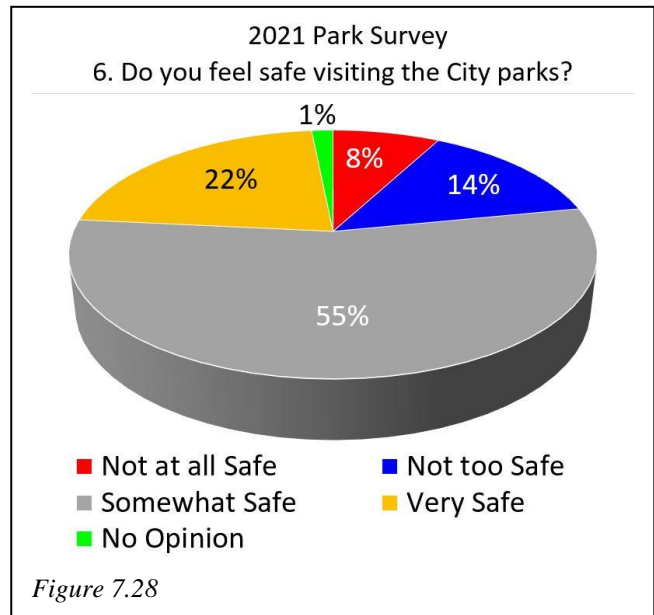
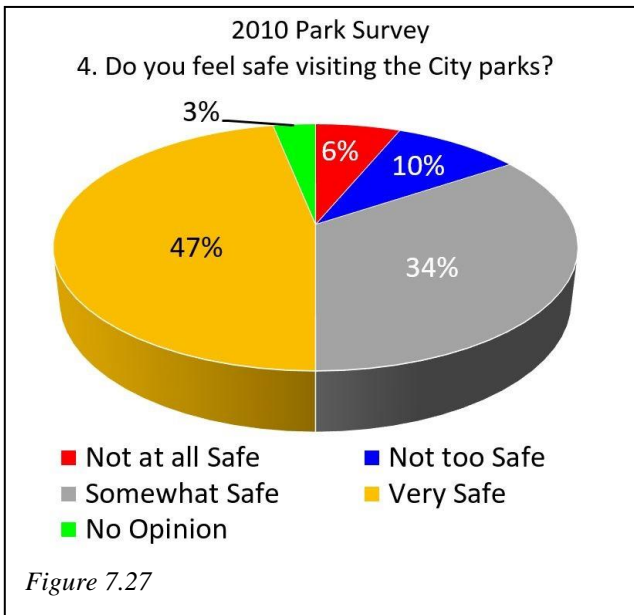
The only common need between the 2010 survey and 2021 survey is the need for more bike routes or trails. The differences in the needs for the two surveys could be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to disperse large gatherings.

Figure 7.24 shows the activities Pacific residents participated in in the City parks (See Figure 7.31 for 2010 responses). Figures 7.25 and 7.26 illustrates and compares the perception of City residents regarding the appearance, maintenance and cleanliness of City parks in 2010 and 2021.





Figures 7.27 and 7.28 provide a comparison of the perception of safety in the City parks in 2010 and 2021. Figure 7.29 indicates which City parks were the most visited in the past 12 months. Additional 2021 park survey information is provided beginning on Page P-40.



2021 Park Survey

2. Which of the Following Parks Have you Used in the Past 12 Months?

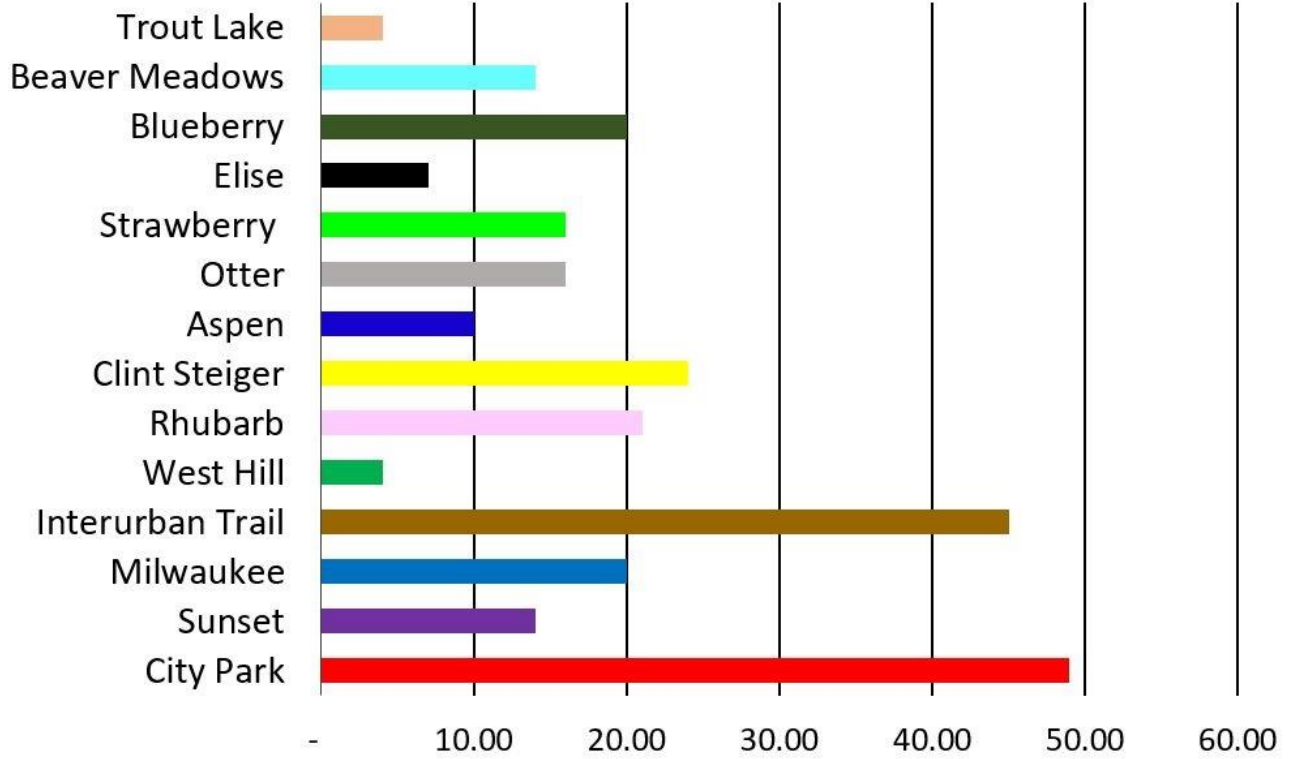
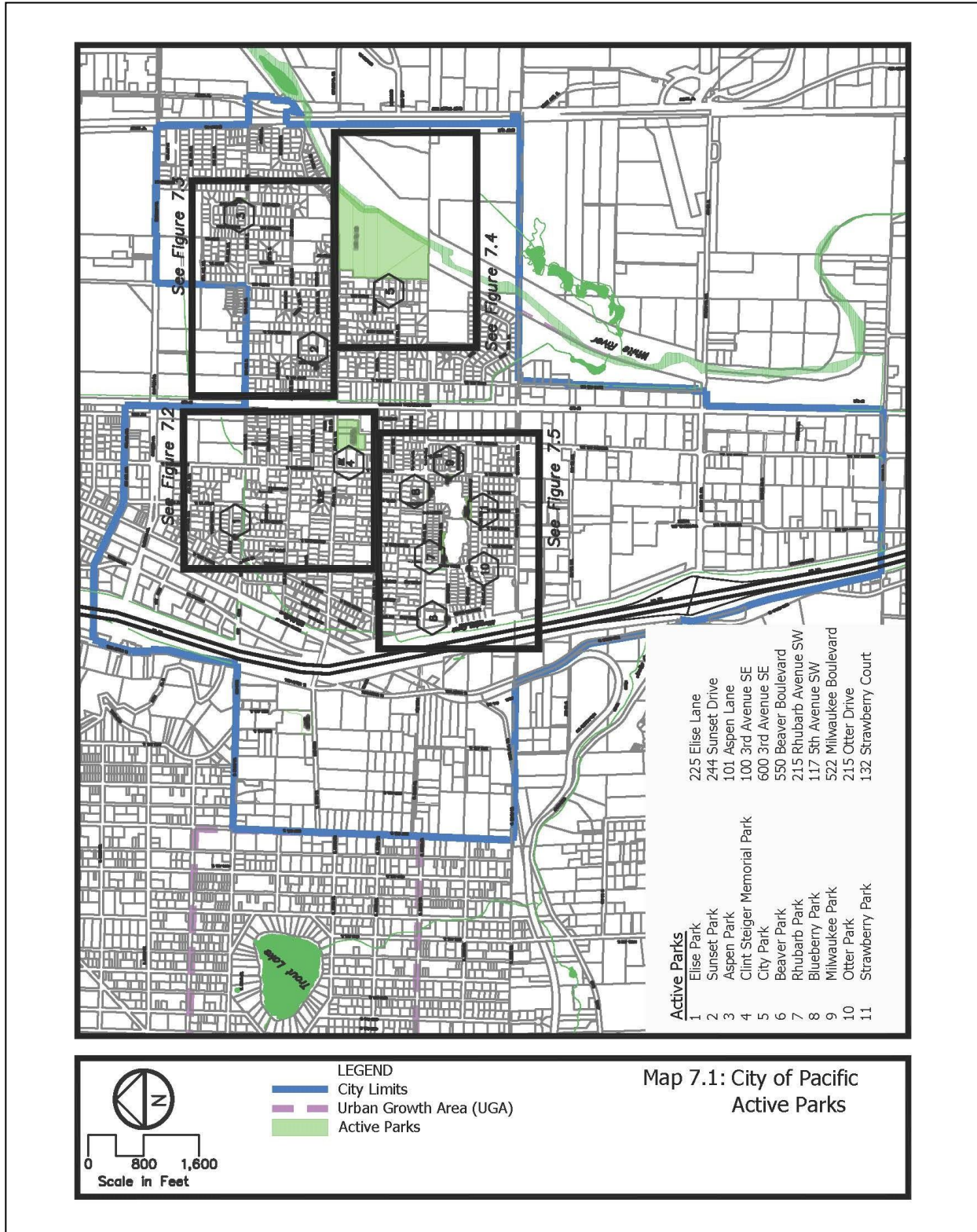
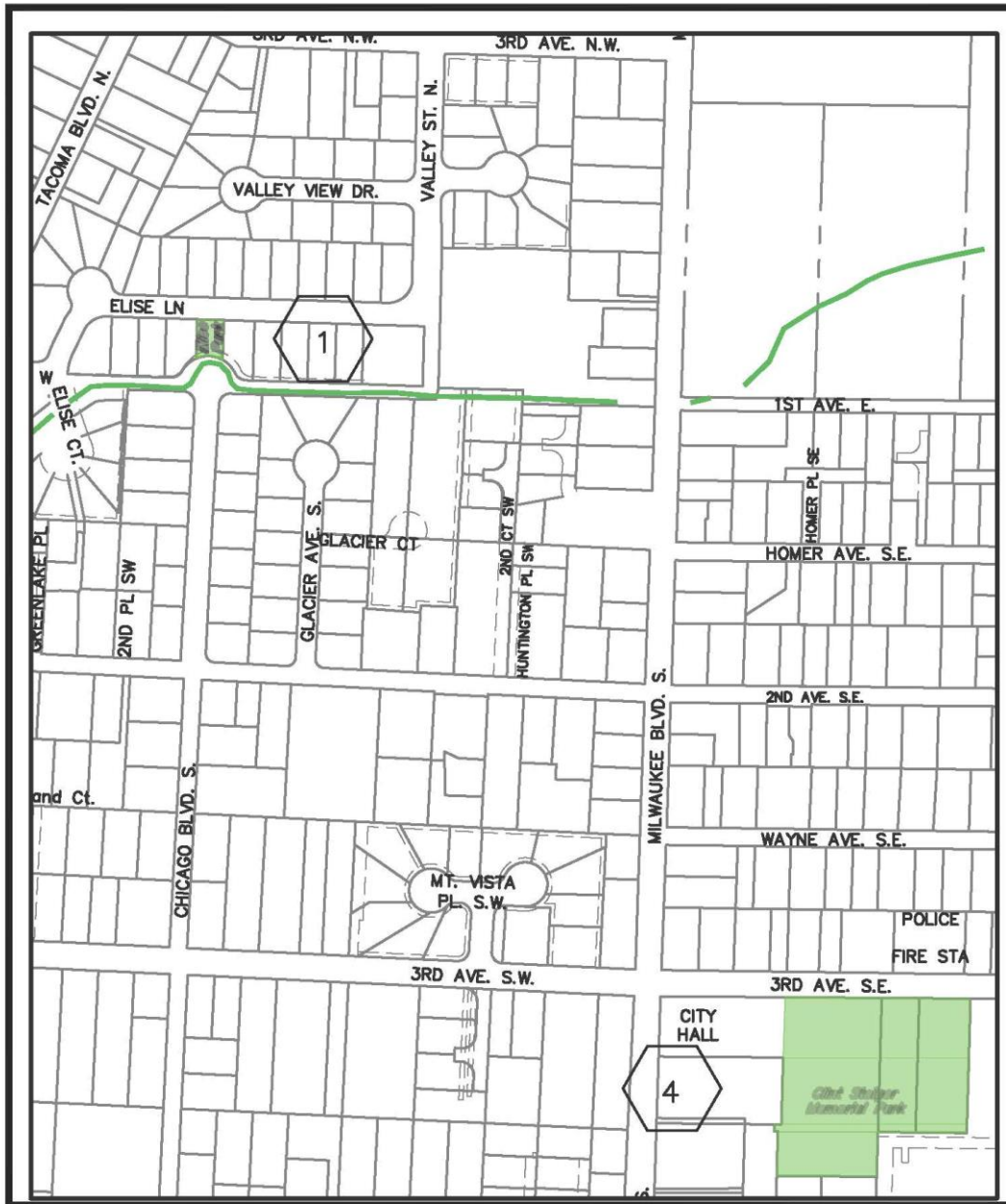


Figure 7.29

Map 7.1 Park Locations – Active Parks General Location – Key Map



Map 7.2 Park Locations – Active Parks



<p>Scale In Feet</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">1 Elise Park</td> <td style="width: 33%;">225 Elise Lane</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 Clint Steiger Memorial Park</td> <td>100 3rd Ave SE</td> </tr> </table>	1 Elise Park	225 Elise Lane	11 Clint Steiger Memorial Park	100 3rd Ave SE	<p>Figure 7.2: City of Pacific Active Parks</p>
1 Elise Park	225 Elise Lane					
11 Clint Steiger Memorial Park	100 3rd Ave SE					

Map 7.3 Park Locations – Active Parks

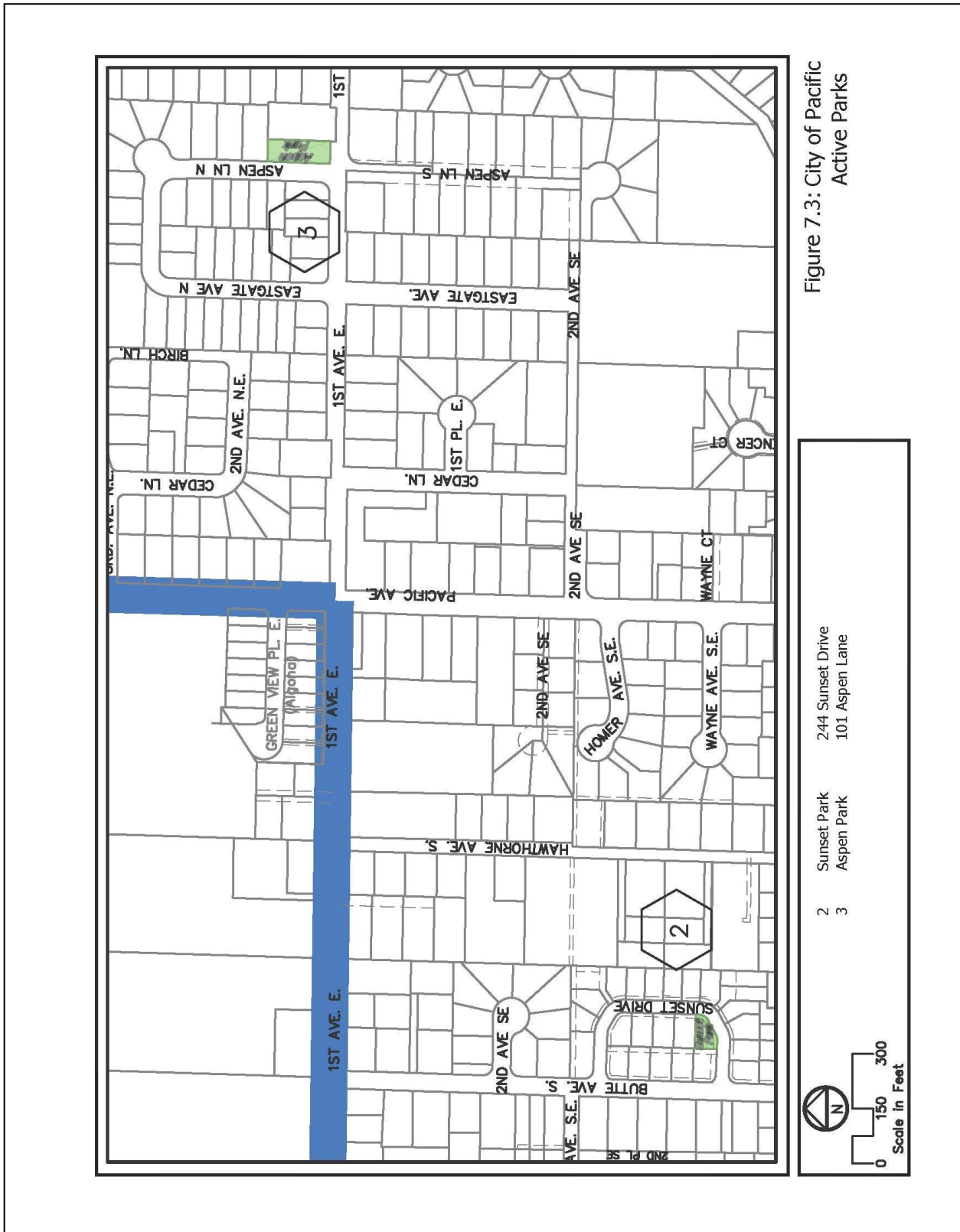


Figure 7.3: City of Pacific Active Parks

Map 7.4 Park Locations – Active Parks

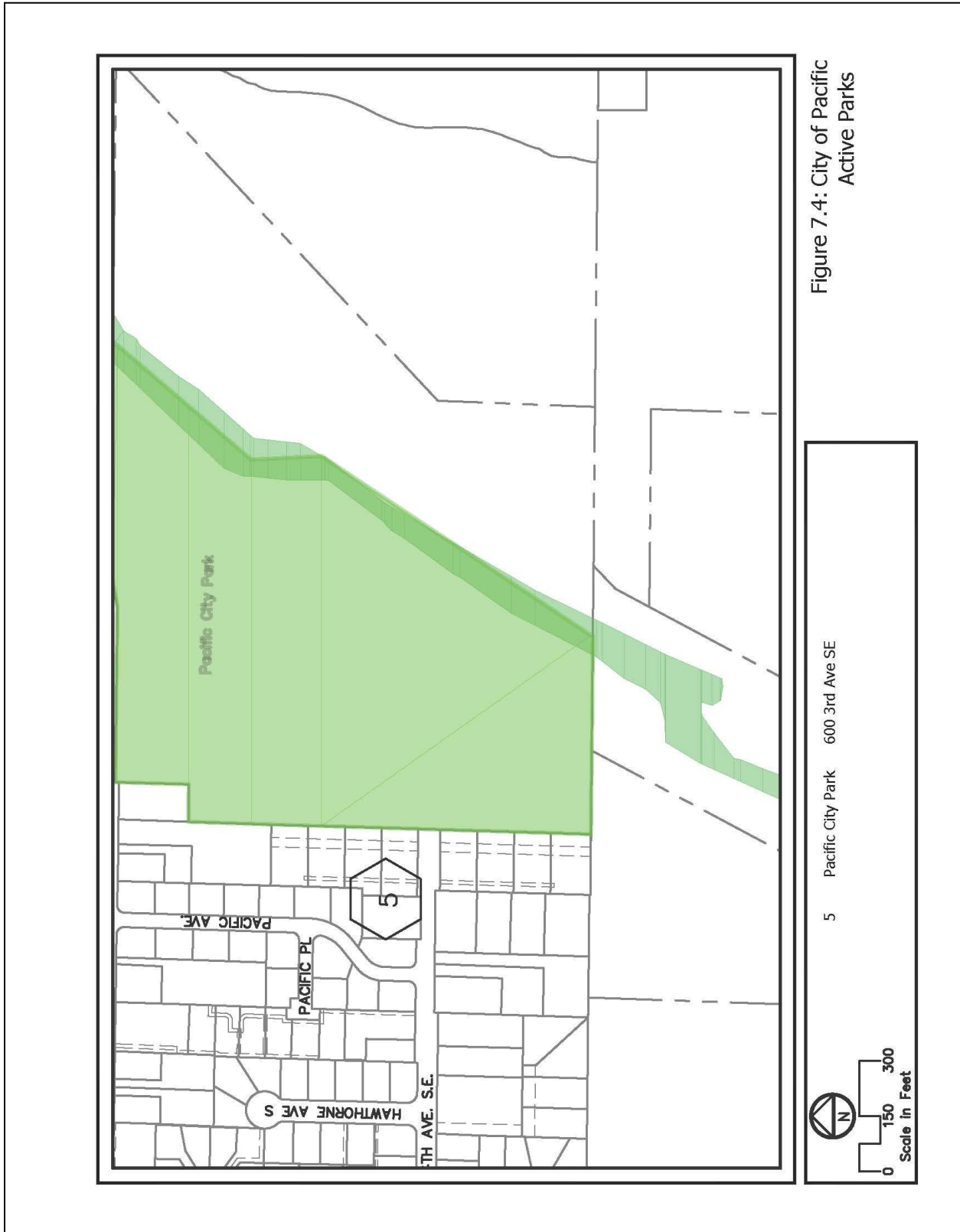
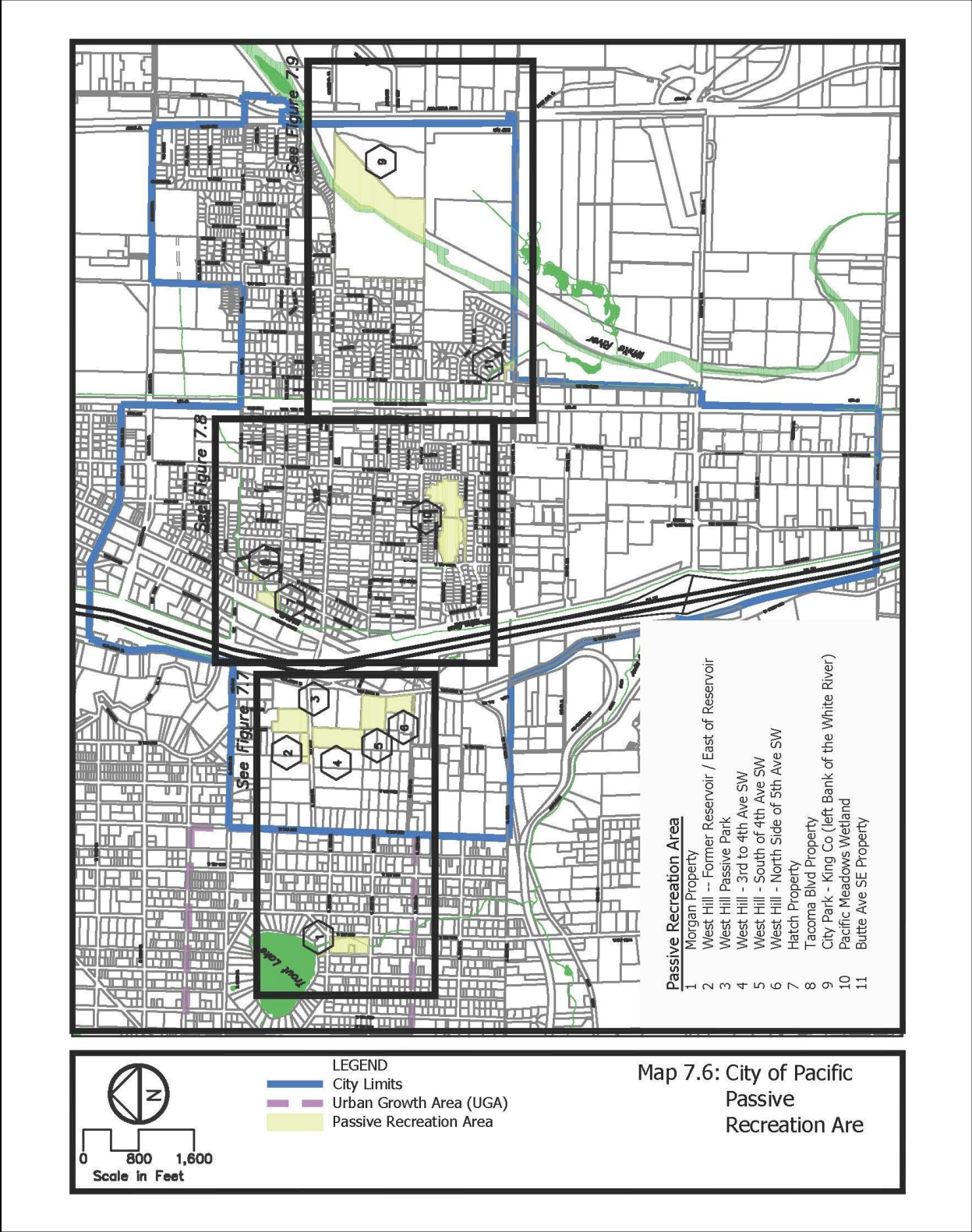


Figure 7.4: City of Pacific
Active Parks

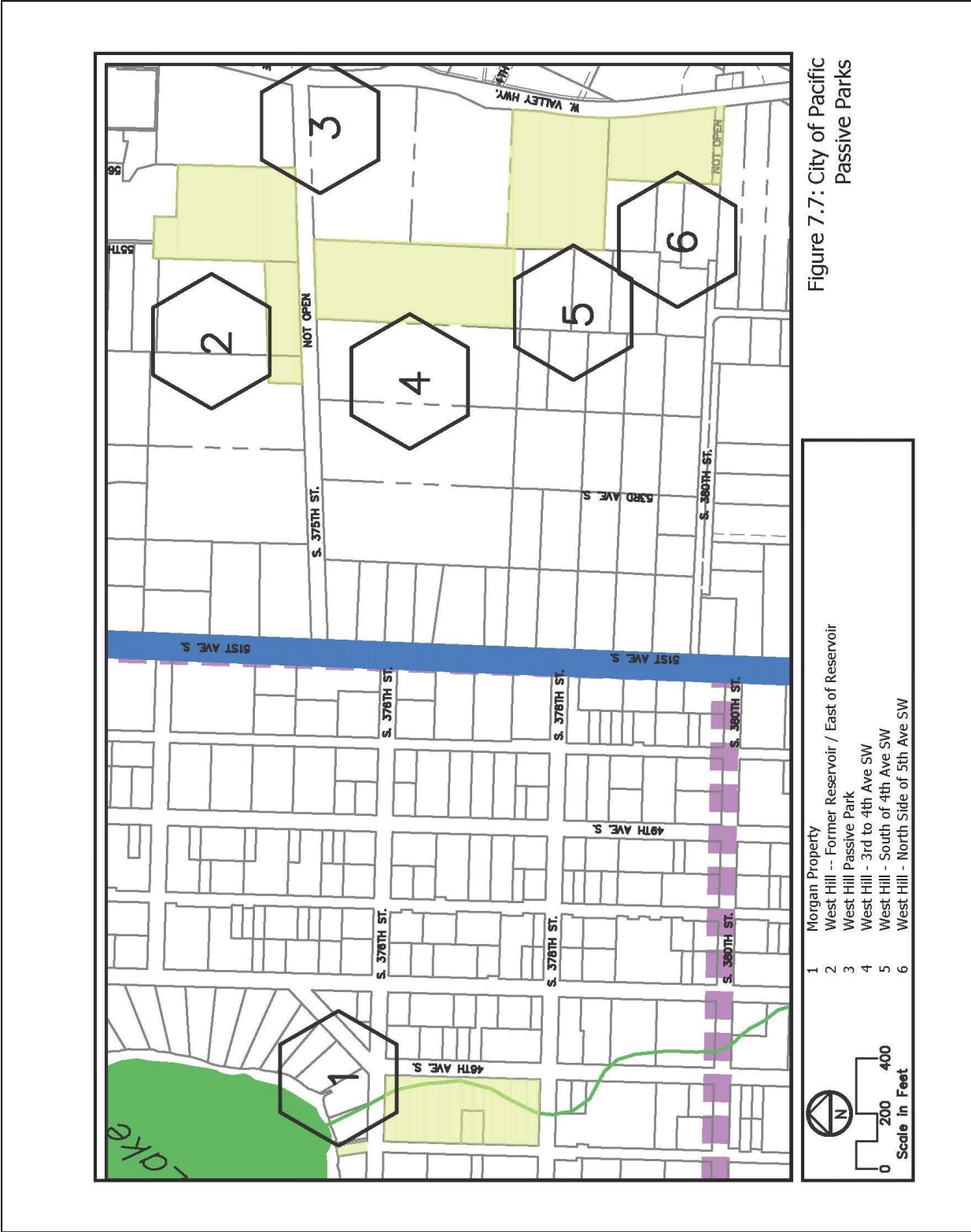
Map 7.5 Park Locations – Active Parks



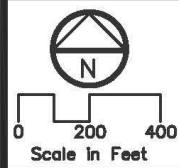
Park Locations – Passive Parks/Open Space General Location – Key Map



Map 7.7 Park Locations – Passive Parks/Open Space



Map 7.8 Park Locations – Passive Parks/Open Space



- 7 Hatch Property
- 8 Tacoma Blvd Property
- 10 Pacific Meadows Wetland

Figure 7.8: City of Pacific Passive Parks

Map 7.9 Park Locations – Passive Parks/Open Space

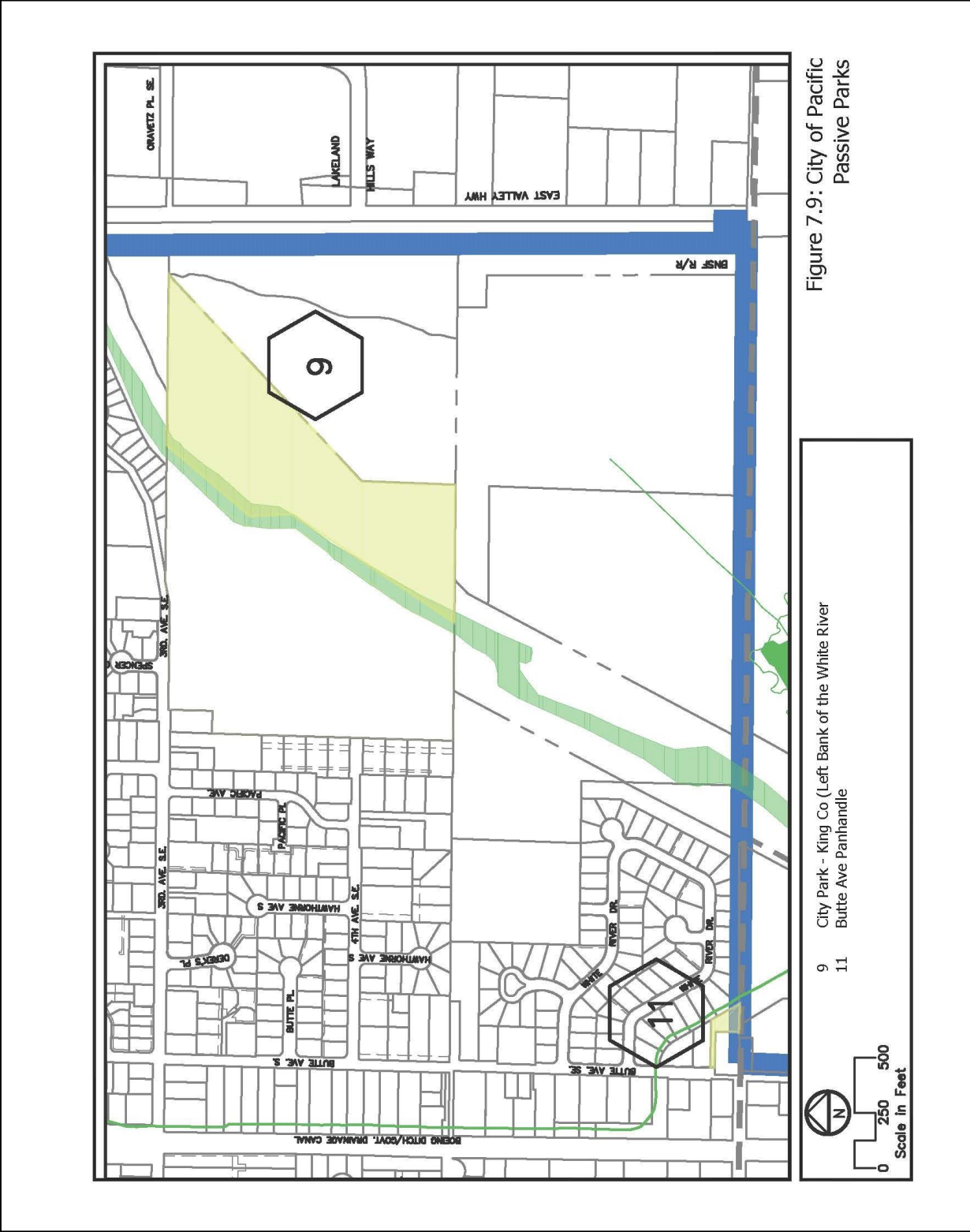
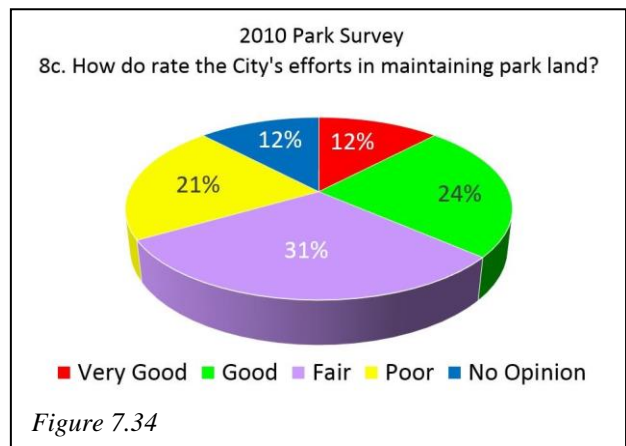
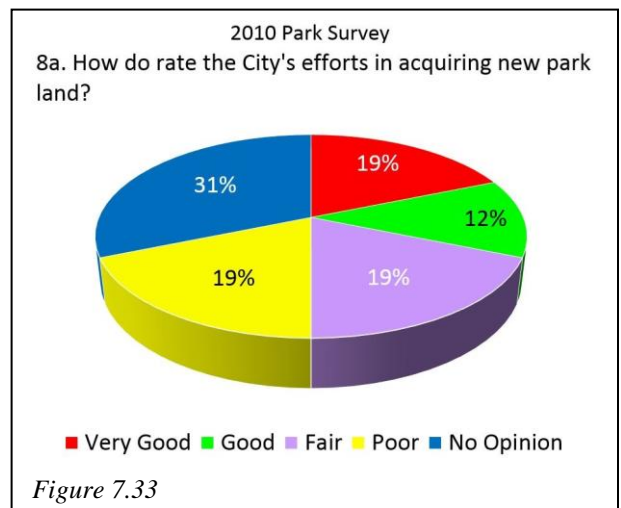
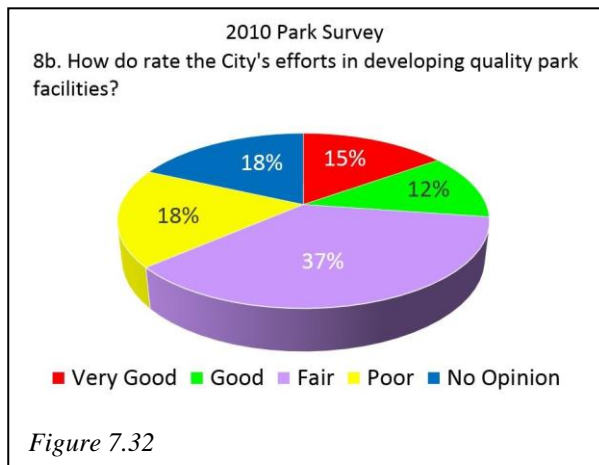
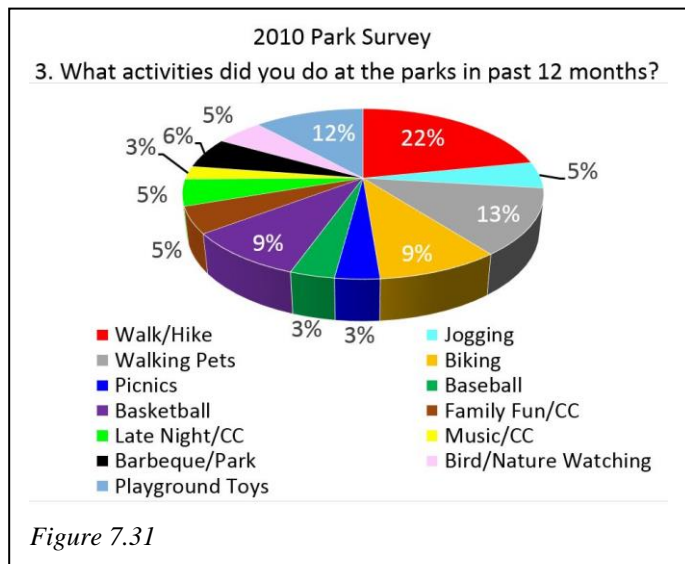
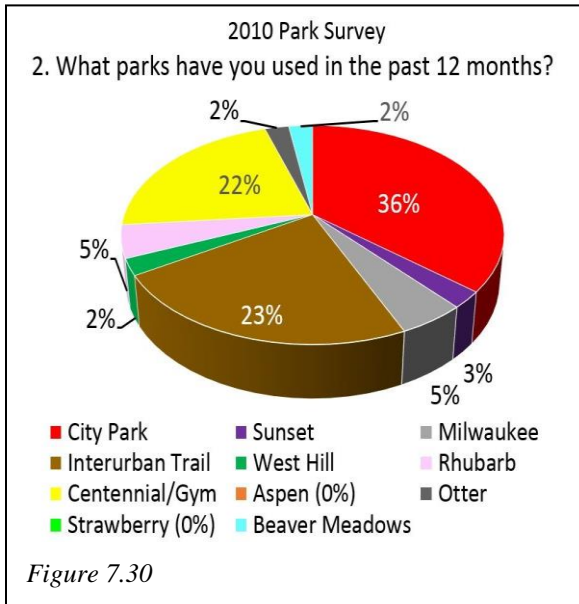
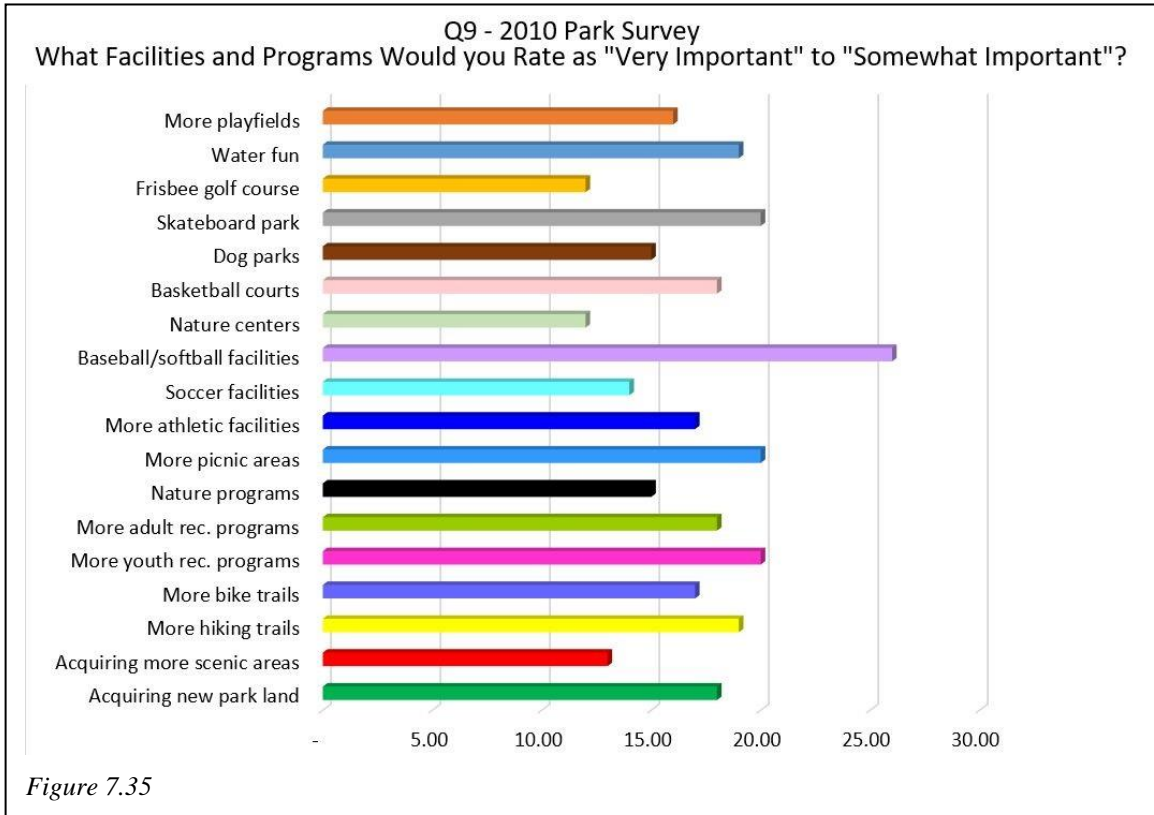


Figure 7.9: City of Pacific
Passive Parks

2010 Parks Survey - Additional Results



2010 Parks Survey - Additional Results



2021 Parks Survey – Additional Results

