

# Renew the Legacy... Fulfill the Vision

Renton Parks, Recreation, Open Space  
and Natural Resources Plan



## Steering Committee Meeting #1

Date **10/12/10**

Time **6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Location **Renton City Hall, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Center**

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### Participants

**Community Services Administrator:** Terry Higashiyama

**Team Leads:** , Leslie Betlach, Vanessa Dolbee

**Steering Committee:** Julio Amador, Marge Cochran-Reep, Chris Hanis, Pete Maas, Britt McKenzie, Kirk Merrill, Larry Reymann, Tim Searing, Al Talley, Rich Turner, Tim Williams, Bo Woo

**Invited But Unable To Attend:** Gwendolyn High

**Consulting Team (MIG) Members:** Ryan Mottau, Dean Apostol

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### Welcome

Following introductions around the table, Leslie Betlach, Parks Planning and Natural Resources Director, provided a brief history of park planning and the importance of planning this system to the community. Since the City's last adopted park, recreation and open space plan (in 2003), 11 of 20 recommended projects have been completed. Having an adopted plan has helped get projects completed by leveraging over \$2 million in State and Federal grant funds, further stretching local resources.

Leslie continued to explain that this planning process is an update and expansion of the past parks, recreation and open space plan to include more specific attention to recreation programming as well as the integration of natural systems. This Steering Committee is important to the success of this project and will meet at key points in the plan process. One of the key roles of this Steering Committee is to help the project team review summaries of the information gathered from the community about the park system. The Committee's local knowledge will ensure that the project is well informed about the realities on the ground in Renton. The Committee members will also be important ambassadors for the project, sharing the information they learn with the community. Throughout the course of the plan,

they will bring back questions and comments and help spread the word about community input opportunities.

MIG consultants Ryan Mottau and Dean Apostol made a short powerpoint presentation (attached to the summary) about the potential of the parks, recreation, open space and natural resources system. This presentation illustrated a series of benefits and functions that the system can provide:

- Promote healthy exercise and play
- Provide a place for peace and solitude
- Utilize and protect natural systems
- Educate and inform the community
- Provide access for all
- Provide a place for organized activities
- Contribute to community and neighborhood identity
- Strengthen community partnerships
- Provide places for community interaction
- Generate economic health

### **Planning For Success**

An important consideration discussed with the group is that this is a long-term planning process and that many things that may seem insurmountable now can change over ten or fifteen years. The discussion for the group was framed with a question, "What does success look like?" Comments and ideas are summarized below.

- Using other types of routes (not just off-street trails) to make connections, especially east to west
- Finding a way to serve the population that is over 18 and under 60, specifically in the arts
- Building indoor running track, field house or velodrome to fulfill active recreation needs in the wet months
- Highlighting water as a key feature
- Celebration and education tied to the spawning salmon
- Recognizing the history, particularly coal mining
- Restoring overnight mooring as an option
- Completing the system, there is lots of potential but no focus
- Making full use of the unique library building
- Providing meeting space to support volunteer and social clubs

- Enhancing the impact of community facilities in the local neighborhood
- Creating partnership opportunities between the City, non-profits and the School District to leverage resources
- Enhancing School District and City collaboration and recognizing the funding challenges of each
- Considering new funding sources: naming rights, adopting parks, etc.
- Addressing the roles of community facilities and avoid duplication (such as Carco Theater and IKEA Performing Arts Center)
- Creating spaces for public art, potentially even serving as an outdoor gallery.

A second line of thought that emerged from the discussion was centered around what should be close to home or available for everyone?

- Need to have people in the parks, what will drive use?
- Basics include play equipment, places to sit, restroom facilities
- Restroom maintenance and quality is a major factor (understanding the costs involved)
- Well maintained and accessible walking surfaces
- A variety of places to rest or simply sit down (to serve the senior population)
- Educational opportunities such as identifying trees and plants

### **Next Steps**

The immediate next steps are the community meetings, including focus groups and open house meetings scheduled as follows:

- October 27<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm at Cascade Elementary Cafeteria
- November 4<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm at the Renton Community Center Banquet Room.

The group agreed that the Tuesday, 6-8pm meeting time was workable for a next meeting and the consulting team promised to try to get a date on the calendar to hold for the next meeting, probably in January.

**Materials Provided:**

The materials provided to the committee at this meeting are appended to this summary.

- Agenda
- Powerpoint Presentation
- Interdepartmental Team List
- Steering Committee Member List
- Draft Planning Context Outline
- Draft Existing Conditions Outline
- Focus Group Invite Lists (Environmental, Organized Outdoor Active Recreation, Recreation Providers)

For more information about the project, including an online questionnaire, project calendar and interim documents, visit the City's home page at [www.rentonwa.gov](http://www.rentonwa.gov) and click on "Renew the Legacy... Fulfill the Vision"

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### Participants

**Steering Committee:** Julio Amador, Leslie Betlach, Marge Cochran-Reep, Vanessa Dolbee, Chris Hanis, Terry Higashiyama, Gwendolyn High, Pete Maas, Britt McKenzie, Kirk Merrill, Larry Reymann, Tim Searing, Al Talley, Rich Turner, Tim Williams, Bo Woo  
**Consulting Team (MIG) Members:** Ryan Mottau, Dean Apostol

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6:00 pm – 6:20 pm

### Welcome and Introductions

6:20 pm – 6:45 pm

### Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources

- Presentation (MIG)
- Questions/Comments (Committee)

6:45 pm – 7:10 pm

### Planning Process (MIG)

- Overview
- Public input opportunities
- Steering Committee role and expectations

7:10 pm – 7:45 pm

### Planning for Success

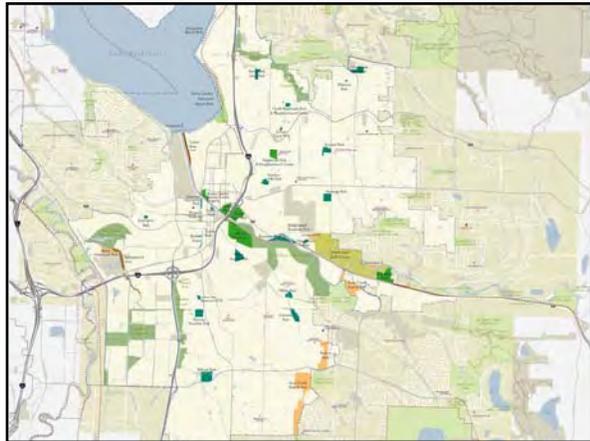
- Since the last plan... (Leslie)
- Discussion: What does success look like? (Committee)

7:45 pm – 8:00 pm

### Next Steps

- Steering Committee Meeting 10/12
- Community Meetings 10/27, 11/4
- Focus Groups and Stakeholder Interviews
- Planning Context and Existing Conditions

Go to [www.rentonwa.gov](http://www.rentonwa.gov) and click on the parks plan link for more information!



### Water Play



### Water Play



### Nature Play



### Interactive Features



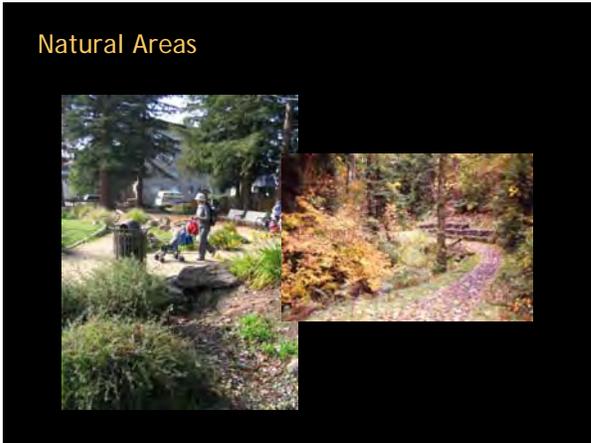
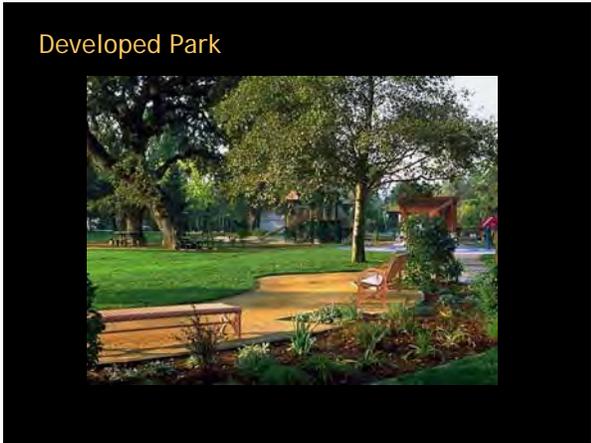
### Sports Facilities



### Skate Parks



Provide a Place for Peace and Solitude



Utilize and Protect Natural Systems



## Important Habitats



## Waterworks Garden



## Educate and Inform

## Interpretation and Education



## Design Elements



## Learning by Doing



Provide Access for All



Provide a Place for Organized Activities



### Recreation and Arts Programs



### Indoor Facilities



### Farmers Markets and Festivals



### Major Events



Contribute to Community  
and Neighborhood  
Identity

### Davis Central Park



### Chase Palm Park



### Gene Coulon Park



### North Highlands Park



Strengthen Community Partnerships

### Shared Facilities



Provide Places for Community Interaction

### Gathering Places



### Activity Centers



### Planning and Design



Generate Economic Health

### Supporting Employees and Customers



### Raise Property Values



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## Inter-departmental Team Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan

### Team Leads:

**Leslie Betlach**, Parks Planning and Natural Resources

**Vanessa Dolbee**, Senior Planner

### Team Members:

**Karen Bergsvik**, Human Services Manager

**Kelly Beymer**, Parks and Golf Director

**Todd Black**, Parks Capital Project Coordinator

**Kent Curry**, Commander Police

**Jennifer Davis Hayes**, Community Development Project Manager

**Terry Flatley**, Forestry and Natural Resources Manager

**Terry Higashiyama**, Community Services Administrator

**Lys Hornsby**, Utilities Engineering Director (Alternate: Ron Straka, Utilities Engineering Supervisor)

**Gina Jarvis**, Fiscal Services Director

**Nate Jones**, Transportation Planner

**Michael Nolan**, Facilities Capital Project Coordinator

**Peter Renner**, Facilities

**Bonnie Rerecich**, Resource and Funding Manager

**Kris Stimpson**, Recreation Manager

**Chip Vincent**, Planning Director

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## Steering Committee Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan

**Al Talley**, Renton School District (School Board Member), Citizen

**Terry Higashiyama**, Renton Community Services Administrator

**Leslie Betlach**, Renton Parks Planning and Natural Resources Director

**Tim Williams**, Renton Recreation Director

**Tim Searing**, Renton Parks Commission

**Julio Amador**, Citizen

**Marge Cochran-Reep**, Senior Citizens

**Pete Maas**, Trails Committee

**Britt McKenzie**, Arts Commission

**Kirk Merrill**, Chamber of Commerce Chairman

**Rich Turner**, Greater Renton Youth Soccer Assoc. (VP Competition)

**Chris Hanis**, Renton Little League (President)

**Bo Woo**, Renton Youth Council

**Larry Reymann**, Environmental (Renton Parks Commission)

**Vanessa Dolbee**, Renton Community and Economic Development, Planning

**Gwendolyn High**, Renton Planning Commission, Member

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## Planning Context Outline

### *Introduction*

#### **The Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan**

The plan process and why it is important.

#### **Purpose of this document**

What the Planning Context Summary is and how it fits in the planning process.

### ***Changes: Renton 2003-2010***

A brief summary of the changes in Renton since the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Implementation Plan.

### ***Planning Area Description***

#### **Location in the Region**

#### **Landforms and Waterways**

#### **Natural and Built Environment**

#### **Community Planning Areas**

### ***Demographics***

A summary of relevant current demographics and an estimate of the planning horizon population.

### ***Related Planning Efforts***

Brief summaries of other recent and ongoing planning efforts that are related to this process.

### ***Key Issues***

A summary of major issues raised by the context information that will be carried forward for further discussion in the process.

# Renew the Legacy... Fulfill the Vision

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## Existing Conditions Outline

### *Introduction*

#### **The Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan**

The plan process and why it is important.

#### **Purpose of this document**

What the Existing Conditions Summary is and how it fits in the planning process.

### *Park and Natural Resource Land*

Land classification and inventory of City of Renton park and natural resource lands as well as nearby/overlapping jurisdictions and agencies.

### *Recreation Facilities*

Buildings, sports fields, courts and playgrounds as well as special or unique facilities and trails.

### *Park, Open Space and Natural Resources Services*

A description of roles and responsibilities, across departments, for capital projects, maintenance, operations and stewardship activities.

### *Recreation Programming*

Explain the major program areas, summarize the performance data and identify other major recreation providers in the community.

### *Key Issues*

A summary of major issues raised by the existing system information that will be addressed in the assessment of community needs.

**Environmental Focus Group Meeting Invite List**  
**Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan**

**Renton Community Center, Banquet Room**

(1715 SE Maple Valley Highway, Renton, WA)

**Thursday, October 28, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

1. Friends of the Cedar River Watershed (Sue Rooney, Executive Director and Rebecca Sayre, Outreach Person)
2. King County Conservation District (Sara Hemphill, Acting Executive Director; Brandy Reed, Renton Resident and most knowledge of their programs; Bill Knutsen, Chair and Bob Vos, Vice-Chair for Board of Supervisors)
3. DNR (Monica Shoemaker and Vivian Hawkins)
4. Black River Forest Accipiters (Jack Bettsworth)
5. WDFW (Chris Anderson, Wildlife Biologist)
6. Doris Yepez
7. Friends of Black River (Tom Malphrus, Liz Fields and Jerry Holmes)
8. Herons Forever (Kate Stenberg, Suzanne Krom, Dave Mann and Mike Hamilton)
9. Larry Reymann
10. Muckleshoot Tribe (Karen Walter)
11. Scott Dungan
12. Jan Fluter
13. Lee & Marilyn Whitley
14. Gerald Edlund
15. Duwamish Tribal Services (Cecile A. Hansen, Chair Woman)
16. Seattle Public Utilities (S.P.U.) (Cyndy Holz, HCP Program Manager)
17. Discovering Open Spaces (Keith Lionetti)
18. American Rivers (Michael Garrity)
19. Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (Katelyn Kinn)
20. Frank Urabeck
21. Rainier Audubon Society (Carol Stoner)
22. Sierra Club Cascade Chapter, South King County Group (Dan Streiffert, Chairperson)
23. WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Recovery Team (Green/Dawamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed - Doug Osterman, Watershed Coordinator; Karen Bergeron, Habitat Projects Coordinator; and Dennis Clark, Public Outreach/Stewardship Coordinator)
24. WRIA 8 Coordination Team (Jean White, WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator and Mary Jorgensen, WRIA 8 Projects & Funding Coordinator)
25. Cedar River Council (Nathan Brown, Cedar River Council Coordinator; Max Prinsen, CR Council/Environmental Group; Homer Venishnick, CR Council/Lions Club Representative; Jeff Neuner, CR Council/Mainstem 2 Representative; Judith Fillips, CR Council/Mainstem 2 Representative; Joan Burlingame, CR Council/Rock Creek Representative; Martha Parker, CR Council/Peterson Creek Representative; and Richard Bonewits, CR Council/Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council)

Environmental Focus Group Meeting Invite List  
Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan  
Thursday, October 28, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

City Staff Attending:

Leslie Betlach, Parks Planning and Natural Resources Director  
Kelly Beymer, Parks and Golf Course Director  
Vanessa Dolbee, Community and Economic Development/Acting Senior Planner  
Terry Flatley, Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Manager  
Todd Black, Capital Project Coordinator  
Lys Hornsby, Utility Systems Director  
Linda Knight, Solid Waste Coordinator  
Dave Perkins, Recreation Coordinator  
Kristine Stimpson, Recreation Manager  
Ron Straka, Utility Engineering Supervisor  
Helen Weagraff, PW/Utility Systems, Program Specialist  
Tim Williams, Recreation Director

**Organized Outdoor Active Recreation Focus Group Meeting Invite List  
Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan**

**Highlands Neighborhood Center  
Multi-Purpose Room  
(800 Edmonds Avenue NE, Renton, WA)**

**Wednesday, November 3, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**1. Adult Soccer**

Co-Rec. Soccer Association (Mark Bishop)  
Washington State Women's Soccer (Phoebe Russell)  
UK International Soccer Camps (Stewart Boniface)  
Greater Seattle Soccer League (Kelly Madigan)

**2. Youth Soccer**

Greater Renton Junior Soccer Association (G.R.J.S.A.) (Garrett Abel, President)  
Greater Renton Junior Soccer Association (G.R.J.S.A.) (Rich Turner)  
Greater Renton Football Club (GRFC) (Rich Turner)  
Cascade Soccer Club (Mike Thompson, President)  
Highlands Soccer Club (Gerry Kaiser, President)  
TUSK (Scott Elston, President)  
S.C.O.R.E. (Larry Sullivan, President)  
St. Anthony CYO (Kevin Masterson, Soccer Coordinator)

**3. Youth Football**

Renton Rangers (Shimika Dowlen, President)  
Benson Bruins Football (Kevin Kinsey, President and Tony Heimann, Athletic Director)

**4. Adult Softball/Baseball**

Emerald City Softball Association  
Renton Christian Softball League (Herm Linsley)  
CSSA/Clean and Sober Softball Association  
PACCAR Softball League (Jay Dorney)  
Senior Fastpitch Softball League (Charlie Bendock)  
WSDOT Softball League (Jack Bighorse)  
PSSBL-Adult Baseball (Philip Schrock)

**5. Youth Baseball/Softball/T-Ball**

Renton Little League (Chris Hanis, President)  
CVAC-Cascade Vista Athletic Club (Lonnie G. King, President)  
Newcastle Baseball (Jonathan Maltos, President)  
Five Star (Cyndee Settle, Vice President)

**6. Rugby**

Liberty Rugby (Jeff Chandler)

OPSB RUGBY (Eric Nelson)

**7. Cricket**

American Recreation Cricket Club (Iliyas Mohammad)

**8. Misc. Sport Field Use**

Liga Hispana del Noroeste (Victor Hernandez)

Renton Christian School (Tony Lambert)

Renton School District (Brian Kaelin and Lisa Holliday)

**City Staff Attending:**

Shirley Anderson, Recreation Supervisor

Leslie Betlach, Parks Planning and Natural Resources Director

Kelly Beymer, Parks and Golf Course Director

Todd Black, Capital Project Coordinator

Vanessa Dolbee, Community and Economic Development/Acting Senior Planner

Donna Eken, Recreation Coordinator

Shawn Fenn, Recreation Systems Technician

Andy O'Brien, Recreation Supervisor

Peter Renner, Facilities Director

Kristine Stimpson, Recreation Manager

Tim Williams, Recreation Director

**Recreation Provider Focus Group Meeting Invite List  
Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan**

**Renton Community Center, Classroom A**

(1715 SE Maple Valley Highway, Renton, WA)

**Thursday, November 4, 2010, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

1. City of Kent (Lydia Moorehead, Park Planner)
2. City of Tukwila (Rick Still, Parks and Recreation Director)
3. City of Newcastle (Michael Holly, Parks Program Manager)
4. King County Parks (Sharon Claussen, Program Manager)
5. YMCA/Coal Creek Family YMCA in Newcastle, WA (Judy Smith, Associate Executive)
6. YWCA – Regional Office
7. Boys & Girls Club (Dorina McHenry, Club Director)
8. Valley Medical Center (Kim Blakeley, Public Relations Manager/Public Information Officer)
9. Churches – REACH Co-chairs (Captain Terry Masango and Maggie McAdams)
10. Renton School District (Randy Matheson, Executive Director; Rick Stracke, Facilities Planning; and Joe Lamborn, Facilities and Operations Manager)
11. 24 Hr Fitness, Renton, WA (Tifani Keith, Club Manager)
12. Washington Interscholastic Activities Assoc. (WIAA) (Mike Colbrese)
13. Starfire Sports (Steven Beck, Owner)
14. Evergreen Ballet (Kevin Kaiser, Artistic Director)

**City Staff Attending:**

Leslie Betlach, Parks Planning and Natural Resources Director  
Karen Bergsvik, Human Services Manager  
Sean Claggett, Recreation Coordinator  
Shawn Daly, Recreation Supervisor (Senior Center)  
Vanessa Dolbee, Community and Economic Development/Acting Senior Planner  
Elizabeth Fast, Recreation Supervisor  
Debbie Little, Recreation Coordinator (Senior Center)  
Lisa McMartin, Lead Office Assistant (Renton Community Center)  
Teresa Nishi, Recreation Coordinator  
Vincent (V.J.) Orduna, Cultural Arts Coordinator (Carco Theatre)  
Tom Puthoff, Recreation Coordinator  
Kristine Stimpson, Recreation Manager  
Tim Williams, Recreation Director  
Jennifer Davis Hayes, Community Development Project Manager/CED