

Renew the Legacy... Fulfill the Vision

Renton Parks, Recreation, Open Space
and Natural Resources Plan



Steering Committee Meeting #4

Date: 7/12/2011

Time: 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Location: 7th Floor Conferencing Center, Renton City Hall, 1055 South Grady Way

Participants

Community Services Administrator: Terry Higashiyama

Team Leads: Leslie Betlach, Vanessa Dolbee

Steering Committee: Pete Maas, Britt McKenzie, Larry Reymann, Tim Searing, , Rich Turner, Tim Williams, Julio Amador, Chris Hanis

Committee Members Unable to Attend: Marge Cochran-Reep, Gwendolyn High, Kirk Merrill, Bo Woo, Al Talley

Consulting Team (MIG) Members: Rvan Mottau, Jon Pheanis

Meeting Summary

The fourth meeting of the Steering Committee for the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan focused on the outcomes of the community workshops, including review of the preliminary draft project list and concept plans, and discussion on policy framework.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, MIG gave an update of the planning process and summary of feedback from the workshops. Following the presentation, committee members provided comments on the preliminary draft project list and concept plans. The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to discussion on the policy framework. MIG presented draft goal topics and recorded comments and ideas on a large wallgraphic attached to the end of this summary.

Preliminary Draft Project List Feedback

The following provides a summary of questions and responses regarding the draft preliminary draft project list discussed at the meeting.

- Filling in gaps in service was very important to workshop participants. This led to concern about having the Black River site as the top ranked project. Participants generally agreed that this is a unique and exciting project but not necessarily their top interest.
- A committee member asked whether existing or planned projects would have an affect on the project ranking. An existing trail linking east/west is an example of a project that may have an impact on the ranking.
- Updating the ranking list based on the criteria will be important in the future and the plan should provide clear guidance on how the preliminary draft project list should be applied and updated.

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- Salmon and environmental education is important to carry forward into projects as part of City identity and culture. Environmental protection and education is important element of project decision making.

Based on this feedback and community input received to date, the preliminary draft priorities list will be updated.

Concept Plans

Following the preliminary draft project list discussion, MIG presented the concept plans for visualizing future projects and improvements to the park system. Overall, the committee agreed that the concept plans are helpful visualizing future park design. However, the Draft Plan should include alternative or emerging sports in its recommendations such as rugby and Frisbee golf. The following provides a summary of comments and questions for each of the 10 concept plans.

- Benson Hill site: The location of parking and provision of on-street parking is limited. Cost is a major challenge as both site acquisition and improvements would have to be funded. Features are needed to create an identity. The location is close to existing Soos Creek Trail, and is beneficial due to proximity to high density and auto-dependent development.
- Kennydale-Lions Park: The IDT liked the reduced parking because it allowed for a large amount of reclaimed park space. Water feature (spray ground and/or fountain) would be a good amenity to include.
- Sunset EIS site: Stormwater swale is unique feature to showcase unique environmental features. But educational and interpretive signage is needed to promote this (eg. Tree identification). Flexibility of site is good as a multi-use destination, especially in proximity to Highlands and related higher density development.
- Edlund Property: Access to the site from Hwy 167 is challenging, but there is good proximity to the hospital, with a future connection to Panther Creek Wetlands.
- May Creek Park: Location of site is good within context of entire City. However, there is no access to the creek from the existing site.
- Black River Riparian Forest: The trail is a good feature and there is a good educational component as well as stewardship opportunities. The City classifies the northern pathway as a public street which should be verified during site design.
- Cleveland-Richardson Site: The historical school site and remnant flag pole has potential for historical interpretation.
- Maplewood Park: King County owns the site.
- Tiffany-Cascade Park: Restrooms are needed at both ends of this combined site (Restrooms currently exist in Tiffany Park).
- Highlands Park and Neighborhood Center: The educational component is important with ties to community gardening. A linkage should be provided to the Sunset EIS site.

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Policy Framework

The final meeting topic focused on draft goal topics to carry out the vision. MIG presented seven goal topics and solicited feedback on each goal, as well as suggestions for additional goal objectives. The following provides a summary of the feedback by goal topic.

Fills Gaps in Service

- Connections are needed between parks, with wider sidewalks and trails for bicyclists and pedestrians. Opportunities should be provided for transportation and recreation through revising the design and function of existing streets and sidewalks.
- Increase the capacity of existing park sites to alleviate crowded sites and facilities such as picnic areas.
- There needs to be a greater awareness of the existing park system and available park sites. The City should promote the “system as a whole” to maximize awareness of the park system.

Create a Connected System

- Opportunities are needed to accommodate seniors into the park system. Recreation opportunities should be available for Renton’s aging population to promote health and wellness to residents that have difficulties with mobility.
- Renton’s park system should connect to the regional system.
- Connections should exist that link between urban markets and local food production.

Build Partnerships

- Partnerships can provide a several benefits among different groups. Such a relationship should allow for expanded group use of facilities.
- Potential partners can be: environmental groups, religious groups, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), tribes, sports leagues and professional sports teams such as the Seattle Seahawks.

Create Identity

- Salmon are an important part of Renton’s identity that should be carried forward into the design of the park system.
- Renton’s history, culture, natural environment and the park system should all be promoted as key elements that represent Renton’s identity.
- Renton’s identity can be leveraged to attract user groups such as cyclists from across the region.
- The library over the Cedar River is a piece of Renton’s uniqueness.
- Opportunities to create and appreciate art can increase the City’s identity.

Ensure a Sustainable System

- The City should think long-term when basing decisions that impact the park, recreation and open space system.
- Promoting volunteerism and employee health programs and incentives can help form a sustainable park system.
- The City should seek a variety of funding opportunities and consider relying on sports groups to help fund and maintain fields.

Promote Health and Community through Programming

- Adult programs should be available for the 18-55 age group, increasing existing offerings.
- Youth programs such as Little League should also be a priority.
- Programs that promote health should be accessible to all, with opportunities to recreate indoors.

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- Community gardening programs such as a harvest festival can promote healthy living.

Protect and Conserve Natural Resources

- May Creek is a unique and important resource and the City should secure additional property along this greenway.
- Opportunities to promote education about and access to natural areas should be balanced with the need to protect these resources. Management plans for these resources can help define best practices for use of these lands.

Next Steps

MIG used the final few minutes of the meeting to summarize next steps in the planning process. This will include a draft plan submitted to the City on August 29th, followed by meetings with City staff and decision makers to review and comment on the draft. An additional Steering Committee meeting will be conducted at a time to be determined.

Materials Provided

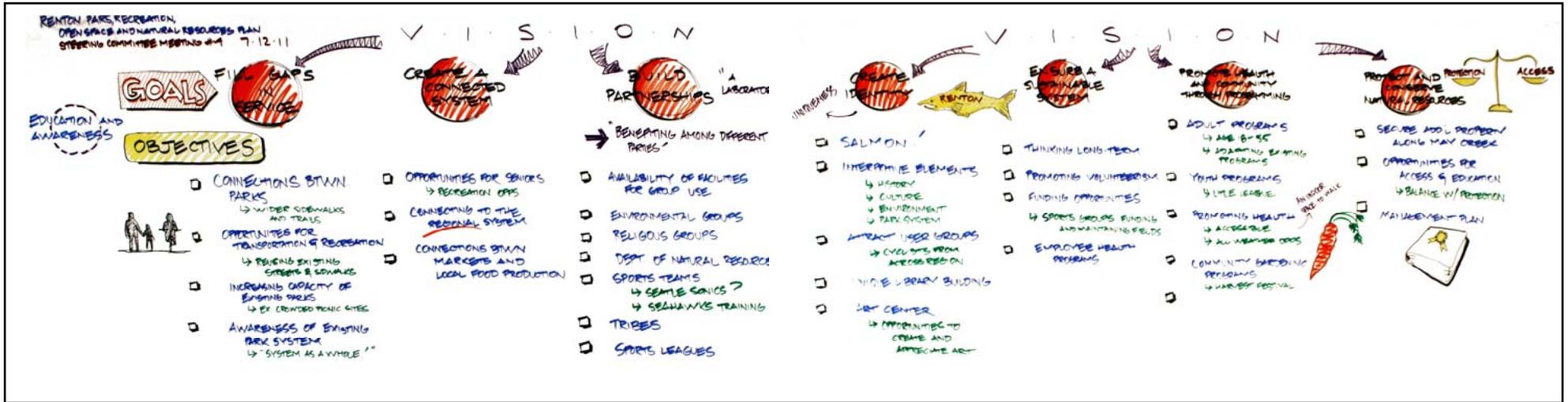
The following materials were provided to the Steering Committee at this meeting (and are included in the summary pdf files):

- Wall Graphic
- Agenda
- PowerPoint Presentation used during the meeting
- Sign in sheet

The following materials were provided either prior to or at the meeting, but are not attached to this summary due to the size:

- Draft Preliminary Draft Project List
- Draft Concept Plans
- Decision Making Criteria

Stakeholder Committee Meeting #4: Wallgraphic



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Community Services Administrator: Terry Higashiyama

Team Leads: Leslie Betlach, Vanessa Dolbee

Consulting Team (MIG) Members: Ryan Mottau, Jon Pheanis

6:00 pm – 6:05 pm

Welcome and Process Update

6:05 pm – 6:40 pm

Review Project List

- Overview
- Summary of Feedback
- Discussion

6:40 pm – 7:10 pm

Review Concept Plans

- Overview
- Summary of Feedback
- Discussion

7:10 pm – 7:50 pm

Policy Framework

- Overview of Goal Topics
- Brainstorming Goals and Objectives

7:50 pm – 8:00 pm

Next Steps

- Committee of the Whole Update (8/1/11)
- Draft Plan Distribution (8/29/11)
- Parks Commission Update (9/13/11)
- Planning Commission Update (9/21/11)
- **Steering Committee – Future Meeting Discussion**

Go to www.rentonwa.gov and click on the parks plan link for more information!

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Proposed Goal Areas

- A. Fill Gaps in Service
- B. Create a Connected System
- C. Build Partnerships
- D. Create Identity
- E. Ensure a Sustainable System
(Environmentally and Financially)
- F. Promote Health and Community Through Programming
- G. Protect and Conserve Natural Resources

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Fulfill the Vision**

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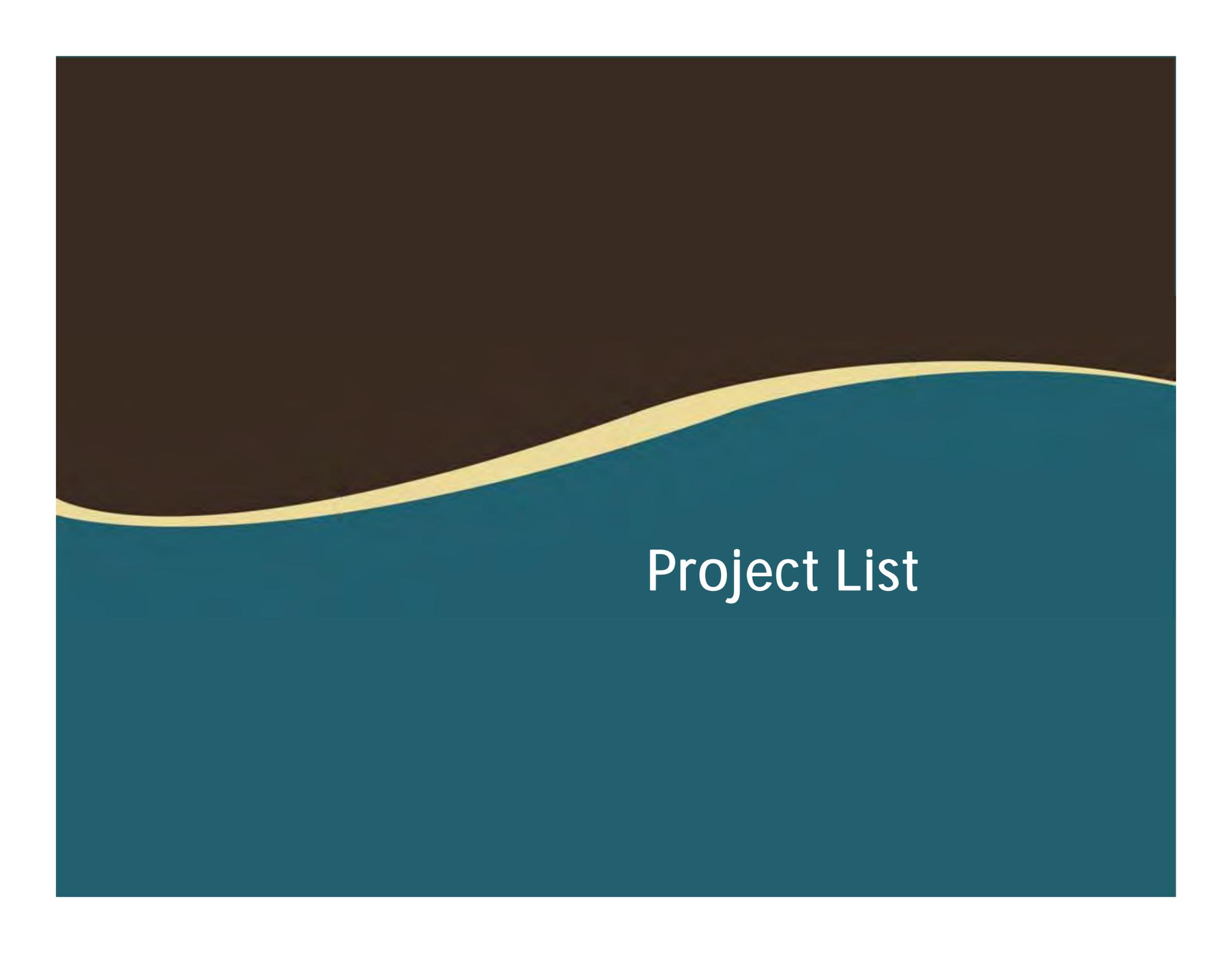
Steering Committee Meeting #4

July 12, 2011



PROSNR Process



The slide features a dark brown upper section and a teal lower section, separated by a wavy yellow border. The text 'Project List' is centered in the teal area.

Project List

Preliminary Prioritization - Capital Projects

(DRAFT Preliminary Capital Project List - A)

Total Rank	Project Name	Map ID #
30	Black River Riparian Forest	1
28	Cedar River Park	2
28	Ron Regis Park	3
27	NARCO Property	4
27	Highlands Park and Neighborhood Center	5
27	Senior Activity Center Property	6
27	Cedar River Natural Area	7
27	May Creek Greenway	8
27	Panther Creek Wetlands	9

Preliminary Prioritization - Capital Projects

(DRAFT Preliminary Capital Project List - A)

Total Rank	Project Name	Map ID #
26	Honey Creek Greenway	10
26	Trail Expansion & Development	11
25	Liberty Park	12
24	Benson Planning Area Community Park	13
24	Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park	14
24	East Plateau Planning Area Community Park	15

Preliminary Prioritization - Programs

(DRAFT Preliminary Community Involvement/Program List - B)

1. Renton School District Partnership
2. Environmental Education
3. Special Events
4. Performing Arts
5. Athletics
6. Recreation Programming Plan
7. Outdoor Recreation
8. Crafts and Visual Arts
9. Gardening Programs

Preliminary Prioritization - Sorting

(DRAFT Preliminary List - Sorted)

- Ranked list can be sorted in many ways
 - Planning area
 - Park type
 - Project type
 - New or existing
- Allows City flexibility to respond to funding and other opportunities

Prioritization Criteria Feedback

Prioritization Exercise

	Advance programming objectives	Provide multiple planning objectives	Fill identified gaps in service	Enhance partnerships or volunteerism	Enhances (or improves use of) existing facilities	Contributes to system sustainability	Strengthen identity	Total Score
Highlands Park and Neighborhood Center	4	3	3	3	4	5	4	27
Black River Riparian Forest	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	30

- Which criteria is most important to you?

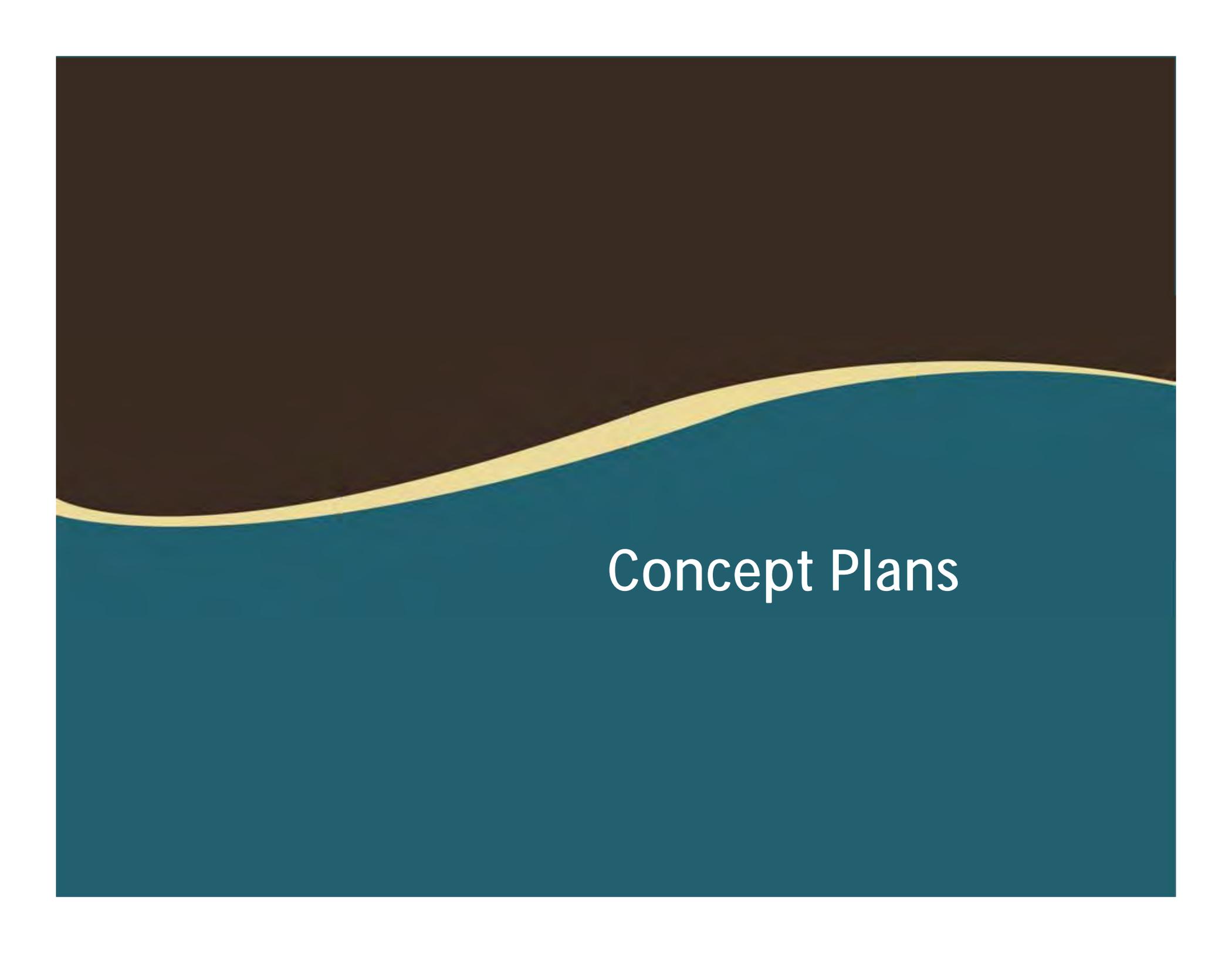
Project List Feedback

- Participants focused on projects that are in the 20+ ranking
- Strong interest in parks in Benson, East Plateau
- Difficulty locating special facilities in the list
 - Boating facility
 - Community garden
 - Dog park
- Importance of connections
- Very limited additions to the list
 - Sports complex
 - Special populations (to the project list)
 - Park in Boeing Comp Plan Amendment/EIS 2003

Project List Feedback

Move Up: Tiffany and Cascade Parks
Benson Area CP and East Plateau CP

Move Down: Black River Riparian Area



Concept Plans

Concept Plans

1. New Community Park – Benson Hill Area
2. Kennydale Lions Park
3. Sunset Park as identified in the Planned Action EIS
4. Edlund-Korum Property
5. May Creek Park
6. Black River Riparian Forest
7. Cleveland Richardson Property
8. New Community Park – East Renton
9. Tiffany Park/Cascade Park Connection
10. Highlands Park and Neighborhood Center

**Multi-generational
Center**
[2] Gyms

**Courtyard with Seating
& Table Games**

**School Age Play Area
(5-12)**

**Sports Court
Basketball or
Tennis**

Skate Area
12,000 sf

**Open Turf
Area**

**[2] Baseball
& Soccer
Fields**
(230'x360')

Vehicular Entry

Tot Play Area (2-5)

**Parking Lot
(40-45 Spaces)**

Restroom

**Group Picnic Area With
Common Grill Between**

Small Picnic Pavilions

**Perimeter Walking
Paths**





Picnic Area

Turf Area With Walking Paths

Planting Area

Reduce Parking Lot Size to 20 Spaces
Relocate Basketball Court

Eliminate Portion of Parking & Enhance Connection to Park Area to the North

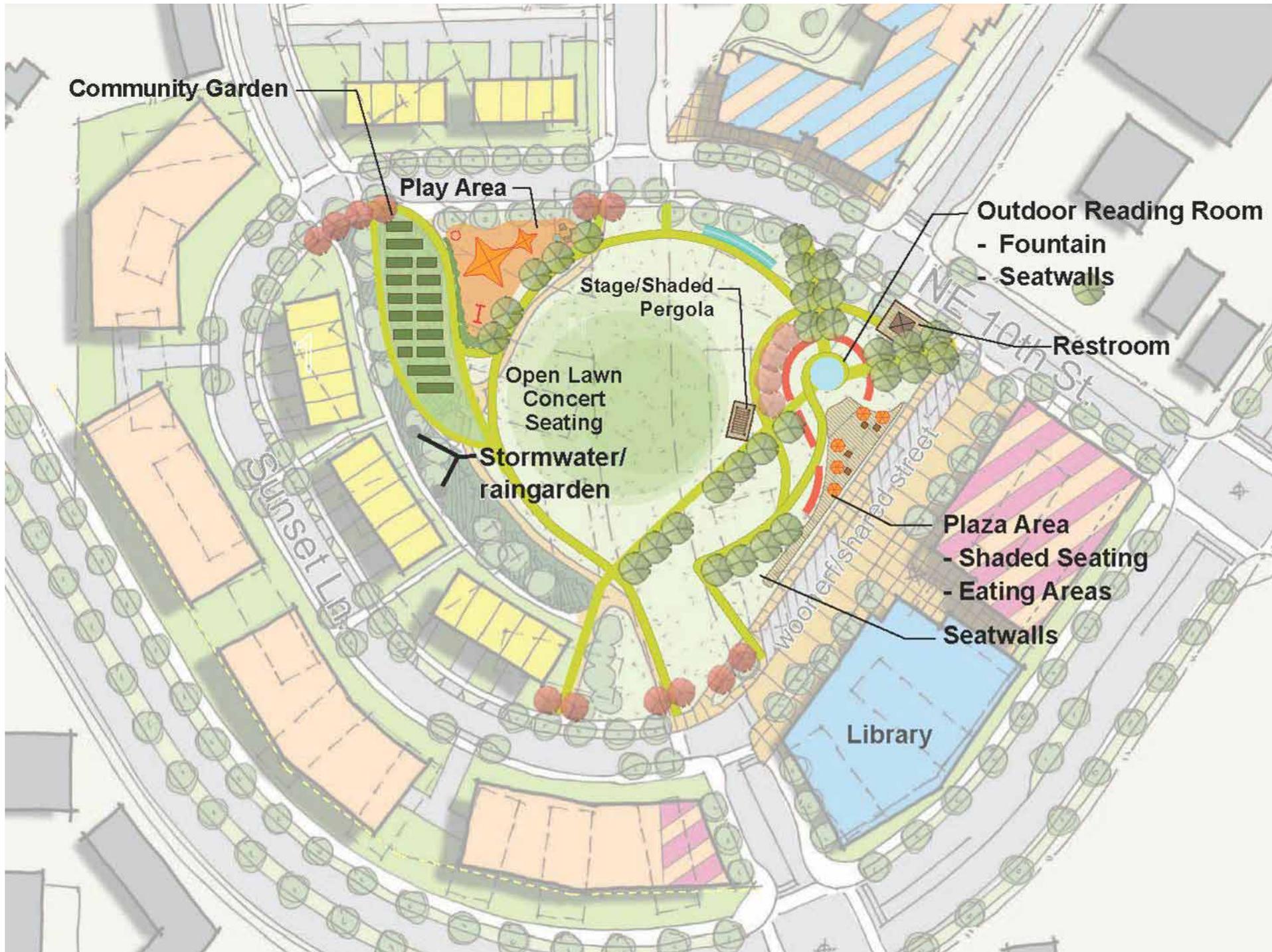
Play Turf Mound

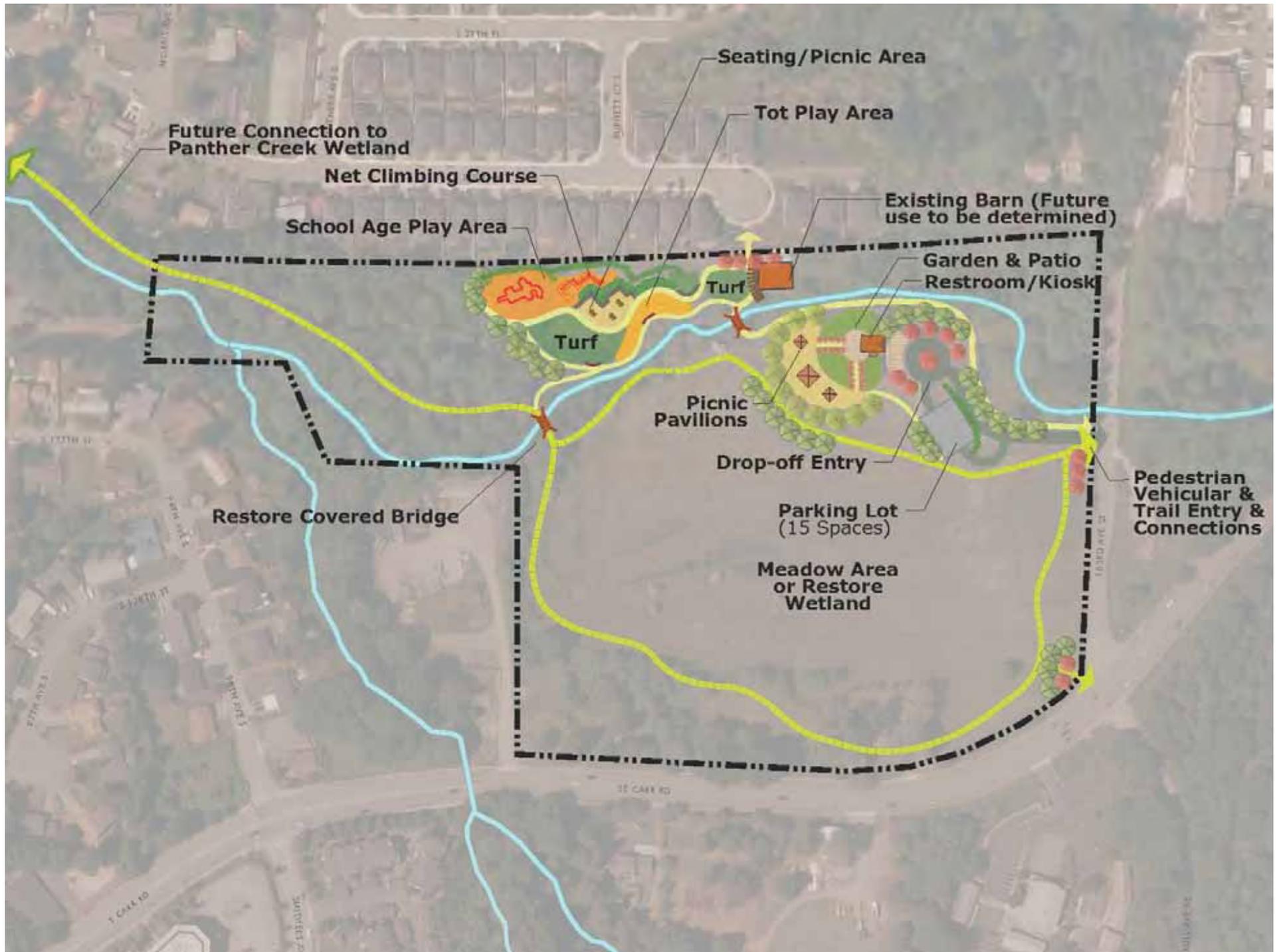
New Play Area With equipment for ages 2-5 and 5-12

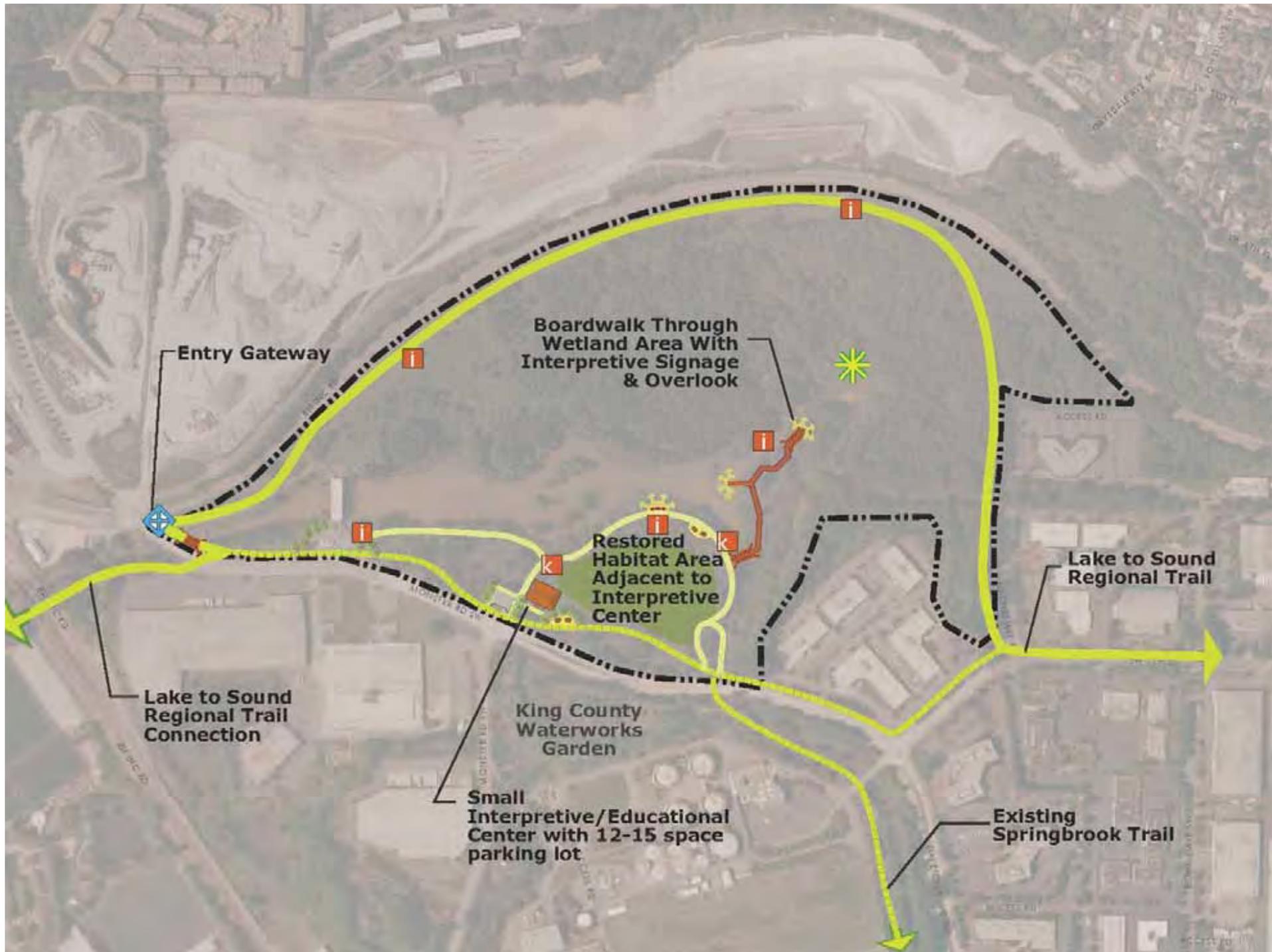
Informal Rectangular Field

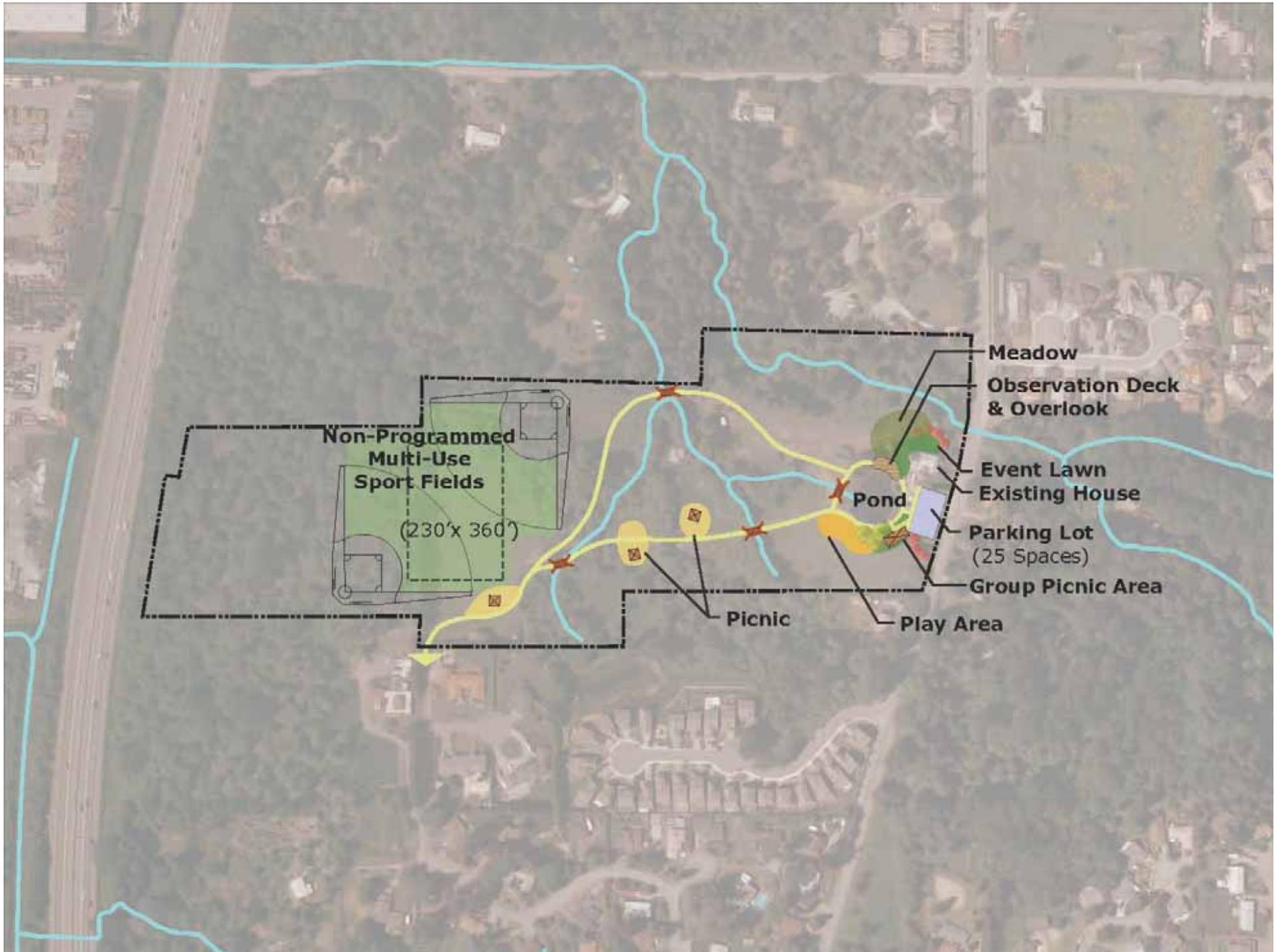
Tall Fence at Property Line

Improve Existing Neighborhood Softball Field

















Planning Framework

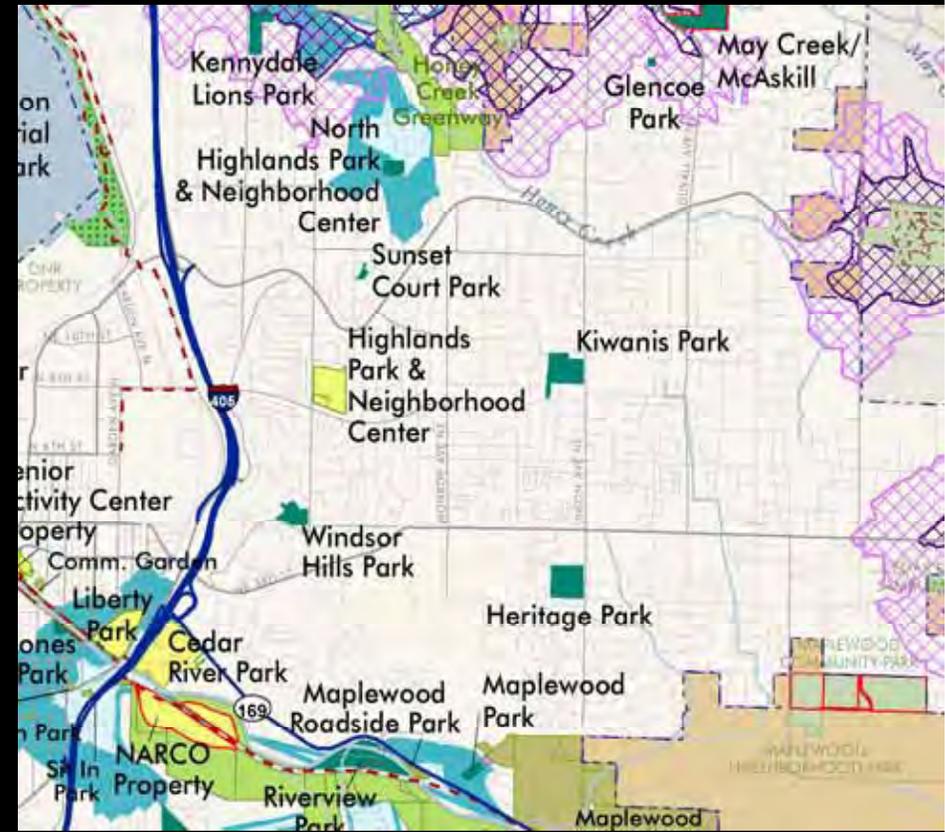
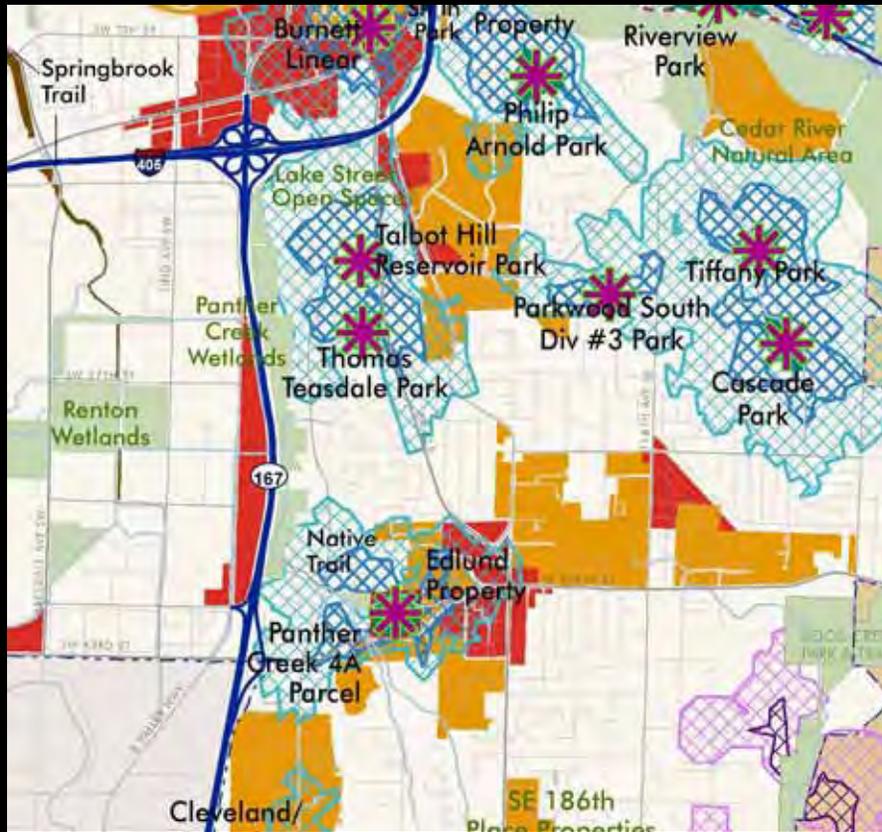
Planning Framework

Goals: Directions for long-range change
– Objectives: Desired results

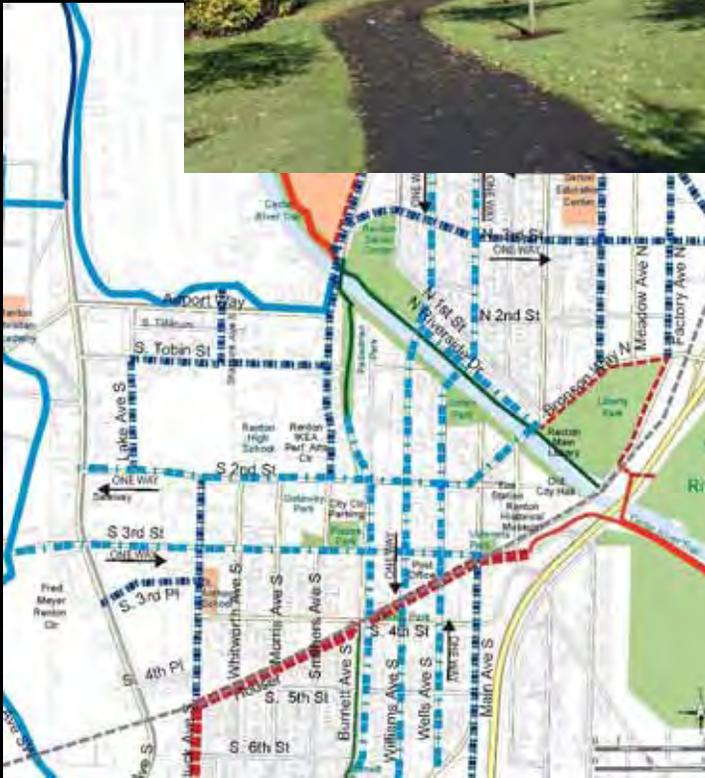
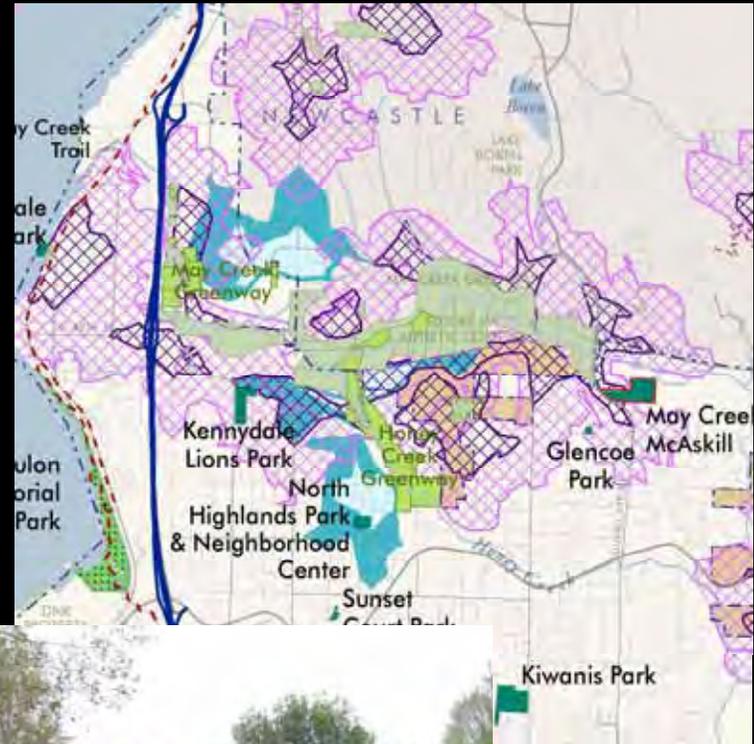
Preliminary Goal Areas

- Fill Gaps in Service
- Create a Connected System
- Build Partnerships
- Create Identity
- Ensure a Sustainable System
(Environmentally and Financially)
- Promote Health and Community Through Programming
- Protect and Conserve Natural Resources
 - Objective 1
 - Objective 2...

Fill Gaps in Service



Create a Connected System



Build Partnerships



Create Identity



Ensure a Sustainable System (Environmentally and Financially)



Promote Health and Community Through Recreation Programming



Protect and Conserve Natural Resources



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