

Findings of Fact

The County Council finds that:

1. The Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update is a 15 to 20 year plan for Pierce County's park system. It includes a shorter 6-year implementation plan describing immediate park and recreation needs.
2. The PROS Plan recommends the implementation of a number of park improvements at sites throughout the County. It is anticipated that these improvements will be implemented in the coming years, and that each of these projects will undergo project-specific environmental review.
3. The PROS Plan Update will not displace any existing recreational uses, and proposes expanding recreational uses and activities within Pierce County.
4. The PROS Plan Update is a component of the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan. Required land use reviews will be conducted for each site-specific project, ensuring that each project will be compatible with existing land uses and plans.
5. The PROS Plan is intended to identify park and recreation needs resulting from increased residential development in the County.
6. Environmental Review has been conducted for the plan in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Pierce County issued a Determination of Non Significance on May 28, 2008.
7. Public workshops were held on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The meetings were distributed throughout the county; in Frontier Park, the University Place Community Center, and in Buckley, respectively. The purpose of these workshops was to discuss the community's core values and vision for Pierce County's parks system and programs.
8. Three youth focus groups were held in June, 2007. The meetings were held at Bethel High School on June 6<sup>th</sup>, Washington High School on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and Glacier Middle School on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The purpose of these focus groups was to hear from youth about their priorities and ideas about Pierce County's parks system and programs.
9. A web-based questionnaire was made available to the public from June to September, 2007. Adult responses and youth responses were gathered. This questionnaire sought information on the priorities of the public regarding Pierce County's parks system and programs.
10. Meetings with a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) were held on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.



- 1 11. Meetings were held with a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) made up of members of  
 2 various community plan land use committees. The purpose of this committee was to  
 3 gather feedback and input on the ongoing development of the PROS Plan update.  
 4 These meetings were held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.  
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- 6 12. Meetings with the PROS Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) were held on July 17th, 2007  
 7 September 18th, 2007; December 11th, 2007; February 19th, 2008; March 18th, 2008;  
 8 and April 15, 2008.  
 9
- 10 13. Discussions with the Pierce County Planning commission included presenting at the  
 11 Commission retreat held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008; at the Commission work session held  
 12 on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008; and at the Commission conducted a public hearing on April 22<sup>nd</sup>,  
 13 2008. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the PROS Plan Update at  
 14 the April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 hearing.  
 15
- 16 14. The PROS Plan Update recommends the implementation of an “adaptive” service  
 17 provision model that divides the County into three service areas: areas served by  
 18 existing jurisdictions or parks districts, areas inside the urban growth area (UGA)  
 19 boundaries that are not served by existing park’s districts or jurisdictions, and rural lands  
 20 outside of designated UGA areas.  
 21
- 22 15. Based on the inventory included in the PROS Plan Update, Parks & Recreation Services  
 23 provides nearly 5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, based on its current park  
 24 inventory and a 2007 estimated County population of 782,200 residents. However, if  
 25 level of service calculation excludes undeveloped parks and natural areas, the Level of  
 26 Service (LOS) drops to 1.2 acres of developed parks per 1,000 residents. This LOS is  
 27 lower than comparable counties.  
 28
- 29 16. The Pierce County Capital Facilities Plan (CFP), LOS is calculated using the total  
 30 number of park acres and the population of unincorporated Pierce County (357,257).  
 31 Based on these numbers, the existing LOS is 14.5 acres per 1,000 residents. LOS  
 32 calculations, broken out for specific park types are included below.  
 33
- 34 17. The Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan includes a Level of Service (LOS) standard  
 35 of 1.5 acres of regional parks per 1,000 residents. This standard is noted as 3.5 acres  
 36 per 1,000 residents based on the population of unincorporated Pierce County.  
 37
- 38 16. The Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan includes a Level of Service (LOS) standard  
 39 of 1.0 acres of county parks per 1,000 residents. This standard is noted as 2.3 acres per  
 40 1,000 residents based on the population of unincorporated Pierce County.  
 41
- 42 17. The Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan includes a Level of Service (LOS) standard  
 43 of 0.25 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents. Local parks are intended to be land-  
 44 banked by P&RS and transferred to appropriate jurisdictions when the opportunity exists  
 45 to do so. This standard is noted as 0.6 acres per 1,000 residents based on the  
 46 population of unincorporated Pierce County.  
 47
- 48 18. The Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan includes a Level of Service (LOS) standard  
 49 of 0.25 acres of special use facilities per 1,000 residents. This standard is noted as 0.6  
 50 acres per 1,000 residents based on the population of unincorporated Pierce County.  
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- 1 19. To implement the vision of an adaptive system, Parks & Recreation Services will need to  
2 achieve a minimum park level of service (LOS) standard of 3.0 acres of parks per 1,000  
3 residents in Pierce County. Over 1,200 acres of parks will need to be developed to  
4 implement this vision. P&RS has already acquired much of the land it needs to meet  
5 this LOS. This standard is noted as 8.75 acres per 1,000 residents based on the  
6 population of unincorporated Pierce County.  
7
- 8 20. LOS standards are not established for linear parks at this time. It difficult to anticipate  
9 how much land acquisition is needed to support trail development when many options  
10 including collaboration with other agencies for obtaining corridors may exist. A more  
11 specific Regional Trails Plan, which is being initiated, should identify specific  
12 opportunities for P&RS to partner in the provision of trails.  
13
- 14 21. LOS standards are not established for resources conservancy parks at this time.  
15 Opportunities to acquire and conserve additional sites are evaluated on a site-by-site  
16 basis.  
17
- 18 22. Local active-use parks are desired within approximately two miles of most residents in  
19 highly-populated, unincorporated areas, while local active-use parks are desired within  
20 three miles of most residents in medium-density, unincorporated areas.  
21
- 22 23. The PROS Plan Update provides for a system of decision-making regarding facility  
23 development at specific sites that is opportunity-based and driven by a balanced  
24 consideration of regional needs and site-specific opportunities and constraints.  
25
- 26 24. Approval of the PROS plan update does not guarantee funding of any project nor create  
27 any budgetary obligation or budgetary commitments on the part of Pierce County.  
28 Capital projects identified within the PROS plan update may be considered for funding  
29 only as a component of Pierce County's Capital Facilities Plan and annual budget.