

## Chapter 7 Parks, Trails, and Recreation

In the context of the Comprehensive Plan, this element addresses how parks, trails, and recreation relate to planning, budgeting, growth and development within the city.

In 2025 the City of DuPont updated its Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Plan. The PROST Plan establishes direction and actions for the ongoing development, preservation, and maintenance of parks, trails, facilities, and open space; as well as the identification of capital projects and financing strategies to implement capital and non-capital facilities improvements that will benefit the community. **The PROST Plan is hereby incorporated as Appendix XX into this Comprehensive Plan.**

### Purpose & Relationship to the GMA

As part of its comprehensive plan, Washington State's Growth Management Act (GMA) requires cities to consider a goal to, "retain open space and green space, enhance recreational opportunities, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities ."The GMA also requires a Parks and Recreation Element be included in comprehensive plans.

Specifically, the GMA requires the Element to implement and be consistent with the capital facilities element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. Specifically, 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; (c) an evaluation of tree canopy coverage within the urban growth area; and (d) an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination and opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreation demand.

This Parks, Trails, and Recreation Element meets these requirements. The City's PROST Plan (**Appendix XX**) includes an evaluation of facilities, service needs, and demand. The PROST plan and Capital Facilities and Utilities Chapter of this Plan include a list of capital projects for parks, trails, and recreation. Tree canopy coverage and intergovernmental coordination to provide regional approaches are addressed in this chapter.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) estimates DuPont's citywide tree canopy at 29%. This represents an overall average that takes into account the City's open space areas that are heavily treed and protected with the areas that have been developed for residential and commercial uses. The City has long recognized that stewardship and sustainable management practices are vital to continuing community health and resiliency as the impacts of climate change and population growth strain the environment. DuPont is a Tree City with an active Tree Commission that works to protect and care for its tree canopy through education and outreach as it promotes tree protection policies and regulations.

The City of DuPont is committed to providing accessible, safe, and well-maintained facilities and services for current and future residents. The City endeavors to provide a system of parks, trails and recreational opportunities that are located within easy reach of every resident while satisfying the community's various recreational needs. This will be achieved by adhering to adopted Level of Service (LOS) Standards, focusing on existing gaps, and working strategically to meet future needs as growth continues over the next 20 years.

The City's network of open space and green corridors trails needs to have connectivity with the broader, regional network optimizing systemwide recreational, social, and environmental functionality.

Strategies will include planning and budgeting for new parks, trails and recreational facilities and by maintaining and upgrading existing facilities. This Plan requires that new development pays its proportionate share to serve growth and demand. The city will also continue to collaborate with regional partners as it maintains ongoing dialog with legislators regarding systemwide capital improvements and funding sources. These partners include, but are not limited to, Washington State DNR, Washington Recreation Office (RCO), Pierce County, Lakewood, Lacey, the Town of Steilacoom, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM).

**Goal 1 Every resident should have convenient access to some type of public, well-developed park.**

- P-1.1 ADA accessibility should be planned for future development and updates in current parks.
- P-1.2 Playgrounds should be conveniently located and accessible to residents.

**Goal 2 Expand indoor and covered recreational space to allow for all weather activities.**

- P-2.1 Regularly seek public input on types of indoor recreational activities desired by the community.
- P-2.2 Collaborate with the Steilacoom Historic School District to share indoor recreational spaces where appropriate.
- P-2.3 Seek grants and other funding sources to expand, improve, and maintain parks and recreational facilities and programs.
- P-2.4 Allocate funds for parks and recreation and prioritize all-weather recreational activities.

**Goal 3 Enhance and improve trails access and connectivity.**

- P-3.1 Where feasible, improve trail amenities to include items such as signage, benches, and surfacing, to support multiple user needs and experiences.

**Goal 4 Maintain an updated financially viable plan for meeting park and recreation needs.**

- P-4.1 Update the parks Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) bi-annually as part of the final budget process.
- P-4.3 Update facility rental or use fees on periodic basis to reflect market rates.
- P-4.4 Establish a park impact fee and fee-in-lieu program to increase the annual program budget and to ensure that new development contributes to the increased parks system infrastructure needs.
- P-4.5 Allocate funds for playground equipment replacement in the budget.
- P-4.6 Pursue new sources of revenue for operations, maintenance, as well as capital projects. These options include, but are not limited to

sponsorships, grants, corporate sponsorships, partnerships and donations.

**Goal 5 Maintain, protect, and enhance the City's Tree Canopy**

P-5.1 Promote streetscape and public space improvement projects to incorporate tree canopy and vegetation requirements.

P-5.2 Aspire to conduct tree canopy assessments on a regular schedule and to maintain up to date tree inventories.

P-5.2 Engage public through educational materials and tree planting events to care for existing and plan for new tree plantings in priority areas.

P-5.3 Require new development to provide a tree canopy assessment with tree percentages before and after development.