INTRODUCTION

Through visionary efforts, the early citizens of Anacortes gave residents and visitors to the community a wonderful gift. Their forethought preserved many hundreds of acres of native woodland. This landscape creates a powerful legacy of respect for the natural environment and also serves as a commitment of stewardship to the environment and to the community. This legacy is expressed in the volunteerism which helped build Causland Memorial Park and is manifest today in the development of Volunteer Park. The volunteer efforts of individuals and civic associations are deeply rooted in the community.

This Park and Recreation Plan also reflects the effort of volunteers spending many hours discussing issues, researching opinions, discussing options, studying maps, preparing policies and imagining the future. There is a common thread – from early residents’ land conservation, to today’s efforts – of a community shaping its future and offering a carefully planned vision to ensuing generations.

Park, open space and recreation planning is an opportunity to improve the quality of life of a community and to evaluate its performance. It is also an opportunity to hear from residents regarding types of facilities they need and the type of recreational programs they desire. The planning process is also an opportunity to respond to changing recreational needs, to collectively brainstorm on issues and to introduce a new vision. The purpose of this plan is to guide public decision-making on these issues and visions.

A steering committee composed of Anacortes residents who represent a diversity of opinion concerning park and recreation planning and community development guided the development of this plan. Early in the process, the committee requested that all publicly held lands in the community be included in the discussion of resources. This broad, inclusive approach reflects a desire to utilize all available resources to improve the quality of life in Anacortes. It also represents fiscal responsibility in non-duplication of facilities and services and provides a realistic view of existing and future park and recreation needs.
This Park Plan is developed in five broadly stated sections: Parks Today, Park and Recreation Needs in Anacortes, Vision and Opportunities, New Directions, and Action Plan.

PART 1  PARKS TODAY is a description of the existing park system, and an inventory and an assessment of it.

PART 2  PARK AND RECREATION NEEDS IN ANACORTES describes the public need as developed in public meetings and outlines the National Recreation and Park Administration (NRPA) national standards that define a target level of service of facilities to a given population. It also includes a description of the public involvement process.

PART 3  VISION AND OPPORTUNITIES describes a vision developed for the next 20 years; an approach or attitude by which to guide decisions and actions toward common and achievable goals in this period. The section describes the “City-in-a-Park” vision, and highlights opportunities in the community to help achieve this vision.

PART 4  NEW DIRECTIONS restates the Department mission, discusses goals and policies and park funding.

PART 5  ACTION PLAN presents an Action Plan, listing improvements that should occur in the City’s parks to retain their quality.
Anacortes, the Place

Anacortes is situated in the Puget Trough of northwest Washington. The Trough, known in part as Puget Sound, is a lowland scoured by glacial action during the Pleistocene epoch. Many islands are scattered throughout the saltwater Sound. Puget Sound lies between two mountain ranges; the Olympic Mountains to the west and the Cascade Mountains to the east. Anacortes is part of a dramatic setting near the San Juan Islands, Canadian Gulf Islands and other Puget Sound islands which lie north and south of the city.

The City of Anacortes is in Skagit County, Washington, 80 miles north of Seattle and 90 miles south of Vancouver, British Columbia. Anacortes is on Fidalgo Island north of Whidbey Island and connected by bridges to the mainland across Swinomish Channel. Anacortes is reached by Highway 20, 16 miles west of Interstate 5 at Burlington. The city occupies the north portion of Fidalgo Island and is bordered on three sides by saltwater shoreline; Burrows Bay, Rosario Strait, Guemes Channel and Fidalgo Bay. The southern edge of Anacortes is mainly Anacortes Community Forest Land, a forest preserve with lakes, streams and trails crowned by Mt. Erie. Anacortes City limits range from sea level to the summit of Mt. Erie at 1,270 feet.

Anacortes has relatively mild yearly climate tempered by coastal conditions. Prevailing winds in Spring and Summer provide drying and drought conditions, while in the Fall and Winter prevailing southwest winds bring winter storms and rain. Occasional northeast winds produce dry, cold temperatures in winter and dry warm temperatures in summer.

The mean average summer temperature is 64 degrees and the mean average winter temperature is 40 degrees. Average annual rainfall is 26 inches, 10 inches less than Seattle. Snowfall can average 3 inches.

The town was settled in 1860 and named for Anna Curtis the wife of pioneer settler Amos Bowman. Anacortes was a fishing and lumber center. These industries continue to provide economic strength and are complemented by recreational industries and tourism. The Washington State Ferry system operates a ferry terminal within the western city limits for service to the San Juan Islands and Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Over 5,000 people a day pass through Anacortes to access the State Ferry Terminal. Skagit County operates a ferry from downtown Anacortes to Guemes Island.
**Anacortes Population**

The 1990 census reports the Anacortes population was 11,451 people. The Fidalgo Island population (which is generally the area that the City of Anacortes serves for park and recreation purposes) was 15,069. Thus an additional 3,618 people live outside of Anacortes but rely on City Park and Recreational Services. Approximately 75% of the service area residents live within the Anacortes City limits while 25% live outside the City limits.

The estimated population inside the city for 1995 was 12,800. The projected population inside the City limits in the year 2000 will be 14,175 and in the year 2005 will be 15,550 and in the year 2015 it will be 18,300. These numbers are based upon current population with an expected maximum population of 18,300 in the year 2015 (based upon available building sites inside the city). Population growth is projected to be evenly spread over the years and is consistent with what Anacortes is currently experiencing.

The estimated additional service area population for 1995 was 4,194 based upon 3% growth projections from the 1990 census. The projected additional population for the service area in the year 2000 will be 4,630 based upon a 2% per year increase and in the year 2005 the additional service area population will be 4,866 based upon a 1% per year growth and in 2015 it is estimated that the additional service area population will be 5,538. These numbers take into account a possible effect of growth management controlling growth in the rural areas. As with any projections, they are subject to revision but are at least a reasonable estimate of where Anacortes is headed.

**Table 1:** Population comparison, US Census Bureau, 1990 US Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>under 18</th>
<th>18-64</th>
<th>65 and over</th>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skagit County</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anacortes</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>54.8%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
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The following table estimates population for the City of Anacortes and the surrounding Parks and Recreation service area.

**Table 2:** Population Forecasts

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<tr>
<td><strong>Anacortes City limits</strong></td>
<td>12,800</td>
<td>14,175</td>
<td>15,550</td>
<td>18,300</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>County residents in service area</strong></td>
<td>4,194</td>
<td>4,630</td>
<td>4,866</td>
<td>5,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>16,994</td>
<td>18,805</td>
<td>20,416</td>
<td>23,838</td>
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</table>
II  EXISTING PARK SYSTEM

Washington Park  (Sunset Avenue)  220 acre Washington Park juts into Rosario Strait on the western edge of Anacortes, offering territorial views. The park has a day use area and overnight camping facilities. At Sunset Beach, on the north shore, there is a boat launch, restrooms, picnic shelters, playground and open play area. There are 75 campsites, restrooms, showers and laundry services in the overnight area. Picnic sites and car pullouts provide beach access along Green Point, the west shoreline. A 2.3 mile loop road provides access to several shoreline areas and a viewpoint of Burrows Bay. The loop road is used by cars, joggers and walkers.

Mt. Erie  (South Anacortes off Heart Lake Road) is a 160 acre Park. It includes the summit of Mt. Erie, the highest point of Fidalgo Island and is part of the former Anacortes watershed. There is a small parking area and a road to the top of Mt. Erie. There are trails in the surrounding City portions of the Community Forest Lands as well.

Volunteer Park  (14th Street and “H” Avenue) This still developing park has been largely a volunteer effort. There are approximately 24 acres of developable space, 15 acres of which are leased from the school district and are developed with three ballfields (little league, baseball and softball). The baseball field (Alton Daniels Field) is the most highly developed and includes bleachers, scorekeepers booth, batting cage, scoreboard and has ballfield lighting. There are 45 acres of wetlands and open space and a 9 acre developing area called the Rice Complex that when completed will contain a football/soccer stadium, 400 meter surfaced track, fastpitch stadium, and associated amenities.

Storvik Park  (29th and 32nd Street) is a park of 8.7 acres. It has picnic tables, barbecues, restrooms, one little league game field which also serves as a multi-purpose youth soccer field and two basketball courts. Storvik also has children’s play equipment, and is used regularly as a destination park by walkers.

Anacortes Community Forest Lands  The Anacortes community owns 2,200 acres of Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) in several large tracts. The Forest Lands are within the city limits and include forested hills, lakes, streams, wetlands and meadows. Twenty miles of trails provide public access to the Forest Lands. A full-time forest manager is employed by the Parks and Recreation Department to oversee the Forest Lands. An Anacortes Community Forest Lands Management Plan was adopted in 1991. The Management Plan states “The Anacortes Community Forest Lands are to be managed for their aesthetic and recreational values. Timber harvesting will be done only when necessary to remove blowdown where substantial hazard exists, and only where removal of windthrow trees does not severely impact standing trees or other vegetation. Natural succession processes, except wildfire, will be encouraged. Roads, fire trails, and recreational trails will be kept open. Any revenue derived from blowdown harvest will be deposited into the Forest Endowment Fund.”
The Forest Lands Management Plan covers management units, use zones and critical habitat areas. A five member advisory board oversees the implementation of the management plan and develops policies. There are nine loop trials designed for horses, motorcycles, bikes and hikers. Some areas are restricted to specific user groups. An advisory board representing various user groups has developed trail and user group policy and has suggested trail etiquette to encourage responsible use of the park. The terrain varies and trail side viewpoints provide territorial views. A Forest Lands endowment fund has been set up to help fund the Forest Lands.

**Cranberry Lake Forest Lands** (Cranberry Lake Road) This area includes approximately 675 acres around Cranberry Lake. The site is a largely undeveloped Anacortes Community Forest Land maintained by the Parks Department. Five public street ends provide public access, and limited parking, to trail heads.

**Whistle Lake Forest Lands** (East of Mount Erie) include approximately 1406 acres, also part of the former City watershed. Whistle Lake has limited access, but there is a trail to and around it.

**Heart Lake Forest Lands** is an 80 acre Community Forest Land holding at the north end of Heart Lake.

**Cap Sante Park** (4th and “W” Avenue) is a 37 acre forested promontory at the eastern edge of Anacortes. It is primarily a viewpoint overlooking the marina, the City of Anacortes, March Point, Fidalgo Bay and the Cascades. A remnant of an amphitheater is located on the east bank of the park.

**Causland Memorial Park** (8th Street and “N” Avenue) was built in the 1920’s by Louis Lepage and is on the National Register of Historic Places. A portion of the park is dedicated to Anacortes veterans from World War I to the Vietnam War.

The 2 acre park is unique in its use of decorative rock and black and white mosaic for structures and walls. Low, serpentine mosaic walls surround the park, and a bandstand, amphitheater and terraces are similarly made of colored pebble and rock mosaic. Other park features include picnic tables, mature ornamental plantings, a small grassy lawn and many terraces. The park is visited frequently by tourists enthralled by its lovingly detailed decorations.

**Clearidge Park** (Blakely Place) is a .8 acre partially developed park near the Anacortes Airport with two tennis courts and a basketball court. It was given to the City as part of the subdivision process as homes were developed in the west side of Anacortes.
Alice Parchman Newland Park ("R" Avenue) is a 10 acre linear park and street median developed along the R Avenue access road from Highway 20 into Anacortes waterfront industries and recreation areas. The north end of the median widens to accommodate five picnic tables. There is a view of Fidalgo Bay.

Roadside Park (Jackson Avenue) Roadside park is a .3 acre street end with views of Guemes Channel.

29th Street Playground (29th Street and "Q" Avenue) is a half-acre playground on "Q" Avenue. There is children's play equipment on the site.

Shugarts Playground is a .5 acre playground with picnic tables adjacent to the Public Library.

Rotary Park (Market and "T" Avenue) is a 1.5 acre linear park located on the north and east edge of the Cap Sante Boat Haven at the base of Cap Sante. Rotary Park has a trail out to the Cap Sante breakwater, parking, picnic tables and a shelter.

Railroad "O" Park is 0.2 acres of undeveloped parkland at the terminus of "O" Avenue and 2nd Street in the area of the Port of Anacortes Offices. A plan has been prepared for the site suggesting a picnic shelter or lookout onto Guemes Channel, landscaping and paths.

"N" Avenue Park (2nd Street and "N" Avenue) is .4 acres of undeveloped street-end park land with views to Guemes channel.

Guemes Channel Park (6th Street and "T" Avenue) is 2 acres of undeveloped parkland located on the north Anacortes shoreline. There are two picnic tables and parking to help enjoy the views of the Guemes Channel, Guemes Island, boat traffic and ferry traffic.
Anacortes Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan
Facilities Map
Nearby Park Facilities under Other Ownership

There are other significant parks in Anacortes which are not owned or operated by the Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department.

South Harbor Park (14th Street and “Q” Avenue) is a 1.5 acre park developed and owned by the Port District of Anacortes. This park, located just south of the Cap Sante Boat Haven/Marina on the west side of the harbor, provides shore access for launching hand-carried boats. The park’s location offers views of the Marina and Fidalgo Bay activities as well as of the refineries on March Point. Volunteers and donated funds have contributed to the Park development.

Heart Lake State Park (Heart Lake Road) is a 436 acre park owned by Washington State Parks. There is a boat ramp for lake access and restrooms. The park is managed primarily for day use and will remain undeveloped. Whistle and Heart Lake Forest Lands border part of the State Park.

Sharpe Park is a 75 acre Skagit County Park that offers trails, picnicking, portable restroom, saltwater vistas and an open grass area.

Young’s Park is a 13 acre waterfront park on Guemes Island that includes picnicking and saltwater access.

Guemes Island Playground is a 4 acre facility on Guemes Island that offers a youth baseball field, basketball court, playground and a tennis court.

Schools and School Grounds provide play areas and active recreation opportunities for children of Anacortes and Fidalgo Island. Though these are not managed by the Anacortes Parks Department, they are among the recreational assets of the community, and can be considered park assets. Anacortes High School has three soccer and one football fields and one baseball field. On adjoining property, the Middle School has 6 tennis courts. The elementary schools contribute numerous fields, four of which are useable for minor league and recreational level softball play (two at Island View and two by the Middle School Tennis courts). Mt. Erie, Fidalgo, Whitney and Island View Elementary Schools provide play areas for small children. When the Jim Rice Complex is completed at the High School there will be an additional football/soccer field, track and girls softball/little league field. The City of Anacortes has an existing Interlocal Agreement with the Anacortes School District to share athletic facilities.

The Anacortes Public Library provides a large landscaped open area. A small children’s play structure at Shugarts Playground is located on the property. The Library may be renovated in the future and may be designed to provide more area for recreation at that time.
Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center is owned and operated by the Fidalgo Park and Recreation District, created for this single purpose. The pool is Olympic regulation size, 25 meters, 6-lane and barrier free. In addition, showers, weight rooms, lockers and exercise rooms are available. The District has funded its operations on three-year levy cycles.

Similk Beach Golf Course provides an 18-hole golf course available to the public.

There is a Public Float at the end of 30th Street on Fidalgo Bay that is open during the day for transient use by small boats and pedestrians.

Park and Recreation Programs

The Anacortes Park and Recreation Department offers diverse community-wide programs to fulfill the recreational needs of youth, seniors and adults. The Parks Department publishes a quarterly schedule of events and classes entitled The Quarterly Menu. In addition, several other programming organizations and facilities advertise upcoming events.

The Quarterly Menu announces Forest Lands activities including volunteer days, information regarding forest use, safety, and upcoming meetings. Friends of the Forest sponsors hikes and fundraising events.

Special Programs and Events include seasonal parties or celebrations, school vacation activities, special youth events and family events. Examples include a bike rodeo, family films, mountain biking and road runs. Youth activities include an extensive offering of youth sports leagues, a seasonal sailing program and various recreational classes. Teen activities are scheduled for every Friday and Saturday nights in the basement of City Hall. Adult activities include several recreational sports leagues and various recreational classes. Activities for the senior population are sponsored by the Senior Center which is run by the Skagit County Senior Services program.

The Anacortes Parks Foundation formed in 1995 is designed to offer private support to the Parks Department in soliciting and coordinating private contributions as well as assisting with various development projects.

Other Program Offerings

The City of Anacortes contributes an informative newsletter to The Quarterly Menu with information on recent city projects, Library programs and Museum events.

The Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center under the direction and ownership of the Fidalgo Park and Recreation District, sponsors fitness classes for all ages. Swimming activities, exercise classes and fitness equipment are available. An organization, Friends of Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center, encourages memberships and distributes program and pool

Anacortes Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan 10
information. The Fitness Center organizes aerobic classes, strength building, self-defense and weight training.

There are a variety of youth recreational activities organized privately. They include Little League baseball, American Legion baseball, youth football, wrestling and other programs.

The Anacortes Youth Arts program provides classes ranging from drawing and dance to bread or fused glass workshops. Classes are offered after school and on weekends and in the summer.

The Port of Anacortes also sponsors public programs, many of which relate to marine activities. An annual Waterfront Festival is co-sponsored by the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and the Port of Anacortes. Activities include vessel tours, safety displays, music, art fair and boat show. The Port sponsors marine-related training and safety classes, chamber music brown bag lunches and benefit concerts.
III PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The adoption of the Anacortes Park Plan is an undertaking which brings past documents and current opinions into one planning document. This process is required by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) to qualify for grant funding and is recommended by the State's Growth Management Act. The consulting firm of Susan Black and Associates (SB&A), Landscape Architects and Park and Environmental Planners was retained for the Plan work.

SB&A worked with the nine member Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department Steering Committee in preparing this plan, with the goal of providing Anacortes with a quality planning document realistic in its scope and visionary in its aims. Eight Steering Committee meetings have been held to set direction, gather information, air concerns and share ideas. Public meetings were also part of this planning process.

The Parks and Recreation Department held a joint Steering Committee and community meeting in January 1995. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review survey statistics from the 1988 Parks Plan and a 1993 survey and to test the relevance of the results of the '88 and '93 surveys with the community. Display boards with survey results, maps and an aerial photograph were on display. SB&A staff presented the past survey findings and discussed current issues and concerns. Meeting attendees broke into small groups to discuss prepared questions and reported results to the group. Issues and ideas developed at the joint meeting comprise part of the opportunities portion of the document.

The following topics were discussed in the 1988 document and proved to be issues of high interest in 1995.

1. Walking trails are still the highest recreational priority. Loop trails are needed for exercise routes within single parks and as linkages between parks and the city. Trails or sidewalks are needed to link public buildings, to connect town and rural areas, and for waterfront access.

2. Though a community center, or community center area, is ranked the second highest priority, comments suggested it is less important to the community than waterfront park acquisition or development. Comments included "low to medium priority," "we don't need more buildings," "we need fields and parks." Possibly this result reflects the recent opening of the new Senior Center, relieving crowding at existing facilities. Attention now seems to be on after school teen activities.

3. Interest in waterfront park acquisition and development is reaffirmed, including development of existing public street end parks into viewpoints.
4. Adding new athletic fields and lighting others remains a high priority among residents. (See Table 5, Parks Facility Demand and Projected Need)

5. Playgrounds or play areas are needed to serve growth from single family residences near Horizon Heights and the Northern Pacific Addition.

Other comments for park and recreation improvements included:

--designate bicycle routes on existing road rights of way to connect parks, schools, public lands and ferries in town and for out of town destinations.
--develop Guemes Park beach and “N” Avenue Park.
--provide more classes from Skagit Valley College and open gyms for youth.
--address motorized vehicle noise in parks.
--continue to bring park and recreation facilities into full use by disabled users.

Public discussion of these priorities and further research on current inventory has led to a new vision discussed in Part V, the City-in-a-Park which suggests making use of current facilities and improving pedestrian connections.

Comparing the 1995 comments on the 1993 spending priority suggests focusing on trails/trails linkages, beach parks, athletic facilities, parks/playgrounds in the growth areas of town and a community center area.

The Park Commission held a public meeting on October 24th, 1996 to take comments on a draft version of the plan. The Park Commission held a study session on October 28th to review the plan and voted to recommend the plan to the City Council on November 4th. There were public hearings before the City Council on November 4th and 18th. Council held a study session for the plan on November 25th and formally adopted the plan on December 16th, 1996.
IV PARK NEEDS AND STANDARDS

Developing standards / guidelines for the type and quantity for park and recreation facilities needed is approached in a variety of ways by each community. These standards are meant to serve as a guide for local planning agencies to best serve the needs and desires of their communities. The National Recreation and Parks Association has developed a standards and guidelines publication that introduces the standards in the following way. The park and recreation standards are defined as:

- a national expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of urban and rural communities.
- a guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities.
- a basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community-wide system of parks and open space areas.
- one of the major structuring elements that can be used to guide and assist regional development.
- a means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land use pattern of a region or community.

NRPA standards are developed to address average recreation service based on population (e.g. one facility/5000 residents) or service radius (recommended distance from the park or facility). Suburban or rural cities generally use the population related standards, while dense cities may use the service radius method.

In the development of this plan it was determined that Anacortes was a unique community with significant resources available to it. The uniqueness of our park resources did not fit into existing N.R.P.A. park classifications. The emphasis of this plan has been the integration of all public resources so we decided to use the standards of specific facilities needed. We limited that list to quantifiable items (ballfields, play equipment, etc.) rather than general park references (neighborhood parks, waterfront parks, etc.) These facilities will at times make up a park but they may also be on a school ground or they may be located on some other piece of property. We feel that if we meet the specific facility needs the location, size, etc. of the parks that house them will fall into place. For these planning purposes then it is generally assumed that additional park amenities may be needed for any of the listed elements (for example ballfields may need parking lots, drinking fountains, benches, picnic tables, restroom facilities, etc.)
The following charts show what the Anacortes recreation demand is and how it is being met both now and in the future. Population estimates (from Table 2) are used for the analysis. These firmly established Anacortes Level of Service Standards consider the historical provision of facilities in the community adjusted by the public input, demand/need survey and NRPA Standards.

Table 5: Parks Facility Demand and Projected Need

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Fields</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 7,500 pop.</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>.55</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little League Fields</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>4.08</td>
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<td>Softball Fields</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>3.07</td>
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<td>Football Fields</td>
<td>1 per 20,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 10,000 pop.</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>0.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer Fields</td>
<td>1 per 10,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>1.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>1 per 2,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 2,000 pop.</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>2.43</td>
<td>10.21</td>
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<td>Outdoor Volleyball Courts</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 10,000 pop.</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>2.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Basketball Courts</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 2,500 pop.</td>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>6.8</td>
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<td>3.8</td>
<td>6.22</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>8.16</td>
<td>5.16</td>
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<td>Play Structures</td>
<td>No NRPA standard</td>
<td>1 per 1,500 pop.</td>
<td>8.53</td>
<td>2.79</td>
<td>11.32</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>10.36</td>
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<td>13.6</td>
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<td>Smooth Surfaced Walking Paths</td>
<td>No NRPA standard</td>
<td>1 mile per 3,000 pop.</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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<td>Covered Picnic Shelters</td>
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<td>3.88</td>
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<td>5.09</td>
<td>5.09</td>
<td>10.11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Table 5A: Parks Facility Demand and Projected Need

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Facility</th>
<th>NRPA Minimum Standard</th>
<th>City of Anacortes Standard</th>
<th>1995 City of Anacortes Demand</th>
<th>1995 Additional Service Areas Demand</th>
<th>1995 Total Demand</th>
<th>Current Inventory (includes schools)</th>
<th>1995 Unmet Need</th>
<th>2015 City of Anacortes Demand</th>
<th>2015 Additional Service Areas Demand</th>
<th>2015 Total Demand</th>
<th>2015 Unmet Need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Fields</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 7,500 pop.</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>.55</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>3.18</td>
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<td>1.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little League Fields</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>.84</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Fields</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>.84</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td>3.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football Fields</td>
<td>1 per 20,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 10,000 pop.</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>.42</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td>3.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer Fields</td>
<td>1 per 10,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>.84</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td>1.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>1 per 2,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 2,000 pop.</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.15</td>
<td>2.76</td>
<td>11.91</td>
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<td>1.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Volleyball Courts</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 10,000 pop.</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>.84</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.1</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>.55</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Basketball Courts</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 pop.</td>
<td>1 per 2,500 pop.</td>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>7.32</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>9.52</td>
<td>6.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Play Structures</td>
<td>No NRPA standard</td>
<td>1 per 1,500 pop.</td>
<td>8.53</td>
<td>2.79</td>
<td>11.32</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>15.89</td>
<td>6.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Surfaced Walking Paths</td>
<td>No NRPA standard</td>
<td>1 mile per 3,000 pop.</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>5.59</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>7.94</td>
<td>4.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covered Picnic Shelters</td>
<td>No NRPA Standard</td>
<td>1 per 4,000</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>5.95</td>
<td></td>
<td>.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Facility Standards

The following summary of facility types and their counterparts in the Anacortes Park system recapitulates Table 3 in greater detail and summarizes the recommended improvements or the approach to further development consistent with public input and staff and Advisory Committee direction. Elements of the recommendations for improvements can be found in the Action Plan/Capital Improvement Plan in Part 5.

Regulation baseball

NRPA Standard: 1 Field per 5,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio: 1 Field per 6,400 Population (Anacortes)
1 Field per 8,497 Population (Total service area)
Recommended Standard: 1 Field per 7,500 Population

Recommendation: We currently have two regulation baseball fields (Island View and Alton Daniels). Island View should be converted to a softball/little league facility since the fences are too short for regulation baseball and Volunteer III should be converted into a hardball field. The Rice Ballfield when completed should be a multi-purpose field that accommodates multiple uses. The City should work closely with the County to come up with a way for the County to assist with meeting the additional service area need of 1 ballfield.

Youth league baseball fields

NRPA Standard: 1 Field per 5,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio: 1 Field per 6,400 Population (Anacortes)
1 Field per 8,497 Population (Total service area)
Recommended Standard: 1 Field per 5,000 Population

Recommendation: We currently have two youth league baseball fields (Storvik and Volunteer #1) To meet the demand of 2.5 ballfields the Rice facility should be designed as a multi-purpose field. By the year 2015 there will be a need for one additional field which may be able to be located at the reservoir site on “H” Avenue. The City should work closely with the County to come up with a way for the County to assist with meeting the additional service area need of 1 ballfield.
Softball fields

NRPA Standard: 1 Field per 5,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio: 1 Field per 12,800 Population (Anacortes)
                   1 Field per 16,994 Population (Total service area)
Recommended Standard: 1 Field per 5,000 Population

Recommendation: We currently have one softball field (Volunteer #3). To meet the existing need of 2.5 ballfields the Jim Rice field should be designed as a multi-use facility. Convert and improve Island View to accommodate softball and find one other field to be used for adult softball. Skagit County should be a significant partner in this effort and we may want to work with them to construct a two field facility to be exclusively used for softball. This could be located in the March Point/Summit Park area if land is available.

Football fields

NRPA Standard: 1 Field per 20,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio: 1 Field per 12,800 Population (Anacortes)
                   1 Field per 16,994 Population (Total service area)
Recommended Standard: 1 Field per 10,000 Population

Recommendation: We currently have one football field (High School Field with bleachers). To meet the need of 1.7 fields we should assist the school district in its efforts to construct a football field at the Rice Complex and make sure the current football field is not converted to other use after the Jim Rice facility is constructed.

Soccer fields

NRPA Standard: 1 Field per 10,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio: 1 Field per 4,260 Population (Anacortes)
                   1 Field per 5,664 Population (Total service area)
Recommended Standard: 1 Field per 5,000 Population

Recommendation: We currently have three soccer fields (two at Volunteer Park and one at Storvik Park). Not one of these fields is regulation size and only the one at Storvik Park has any amenities associated with it. It is important the we improve the amenities at the existing facilities and make sure the current high school soccer field is not converted to other use after the Jim Rice facility is constructed. A soccer/football field should be added at the west end of Volunteer Park.
**Tennis courts**

NRPA Standard: 1 court per 2,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio: 1 court per 1,600 Population (Anacortes)
1 court per 1,699 Population (Total service area)
Recommended Standard: 1 court per 2,000 Population

Recommendation: We currently have six courts at the Middle School two courts at Clearidge and two courts at Fidalgo School. We should maintain our existing inventory. Improve access to courts and amenities at Clearidge and locate two courts with lights at some future location.

**Outdoor Volleyball courts**

NRPA Standard: 1 court per 5,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio: 1 court per 6,400 Population (Anacortes)
1 court per 8,497 Population (Total service area)
Recommended Standard: 1 court per 10,000 Population

Recommendation: There are currently two sand volleyball courts at the Middle School. We should work with the school district to improve courts at the Middle School and add one additional court at Washington Park.

**Outdoor Basketball courts**

NRPA Standard: 1 Court per 5,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio: 1 Court per 4,266 Population (Anacortes)
1 Court per 5,664 Population (Total service area)
Recommended Standard: 1 Court per 2,500 Population

Recommendation: We currently have three courts (two at Storvik Park and one at Clearidge) We should maintain our existing inventory. Explore the possibility of a covered outdoor facility. Work with the School District to improve their outdoor facilities and add courts as opportunities present themselves.
Play Structures

NRPA Standard: No standard
Existing Facility Ratio: 1 Structure per 1,828 Population (Anacortes)
1 Structure per 1,888 Population (Total service area)
Recommended Standard: 1 Structure per 1,500 Population

Recommendation: There are currently nine publicly available play structures in and around Anacortes (29th Street Playground, Storvik Park, Washington Park, Shugarts Playground, Guemes Island, Island View School, Whitney School, Mt. Erie School and Fidalgo School). Play structures are needed in the Northern Pacific Addition and Horizon Heights areas. We should maintain/improve our existing inventory and add structures as the opportunities/growth arise.

Smooth Surfaced Walking Paths

NRPA Standard: No standard
Existing Facility Ratio: 1 mile per 4,266 Population (Anacortes)
1 mile per 5,664 Population (Total service area)
Recommended Standard: 1 mile per 4,000 Population

Recommendation: There are currently 3 miles of Smooth Surfaced Walking Paths in and around Anacortes (Washington Park 2.2, Storvik Park .5, Rotary Park .3). A smooth surfaced walking path should be developed at Volunteer Park. Acquisition and development of the railroad corridor should be pursued.

Covered Picnic Shelters

NRPA Standard: No standard
Existing Facility Ratio: 1 Shelter per 4,266 Population (Anacortes)
1 Shelter per 3,398 Population (Total service area)
Recommended Standard: 1 Shelter per 4,000 Population

Recommendation: There are currently five covered picnic shelters in and around Anacortes (Washington Park upper beach, Washington Park lower beach, Rotary Park, Bowmans Bay and Rosario Beach). There will be a need for one additional reservable picnic shelter that needs to be located where there is parking and a restroom.
The City of Anacortes is situated in a spectacular setting, surrounded by inland Sound hosting hundreds of species of sea and bird life. It is in the “rainshadow” of the Olympic National Forest, shielding it from much of the region’s typical rainfall. The City lies near the mouth of the Skagit River, the first Washington river preserved as Wild and Scenic by the Federal Government, and adjacent to the Padilla Bay National Sanctuary. Anacortes is overlooked by Mount Baker, a white-shrouded northern anchor to the scenic Cascade Mountains. It is the threshold to the San Juan Islands, Canadian Gulf Islands, and a departure point to the scenic Vancouver Island and Victoria.

The City of Anacortes has a wonderful legacy of nearly 3,000 acres of preserved natural forest lands with lakes, trails, viewpoints, and preserved habitat. Yet, the City, like all the cities in the region, has experienced substantial changes in the past few decades particularly in its employment, industry base, commerce and tourism.

In essence, the City-in-a-Park vision is about restoring qualities of the “park” landscape that existed prior to the development of the City. City-making removes trees, undergrowth, habitat, natural contours, drainage’s, and soils. The trees that used to shade the soils and provide habitat are removed to make room for roads, lots, houses, schools, stores and other services.

Park-making suggests replanting trees, recreating habitat for local birds and small mammals, restoring contours and streams and adding beauty in native and ornamental vegetation. It also suggests creating safe, accessible walks, places to play and recreate, places to be near wildlife, loop trails through woods, adding flowering canopy and scale to residential streets, introducing visual landmarks and identity.

The City-in-a-Park vision asks everyone in the community to step back and view the city in the larger context of its natural landscape. Every area of the City and all its diverse facilities can support the restoration of the park; every person, every house, business, park, street, parking lot, sidewalk, planting strip and open space can contribute to the quality and experience of life in the community.

Existing physical qualities of the Anacortes landscape and the manner public and private improvements are made in the community support the City-in-a-Park vision. Trees can be planted as part of every project, new sidewalks and accessible pedestrian trails can be included in every park renovation or park development project. Habitat restoration should be part of every planting project, street trees and shrubs part of every paving project. Slowly building the City-in-a-Park is also fiscally responsible, promoting wise expenditure of limited public funds, civic pride and participation, and city beautification.
Often public projects, such as street improvements, new utility lines and expanded sewage treatment facilities are single purpose projects. The City-in-a-Park vision suggests that park, recreation, open space and beautification functions be addressed within these projects. For example, including beautification functions early in the planning phases of a utility project would not greatly add to the cost of the project. At the same time, the public gain in city beautification would be significant.

Even if there is little opportunity to fully add beautification functions to projects, the process of determining opportunity can be beneficial, bringing people together to think up enhancement projects for their city. Brainstorming beautification alternatives and options often turns up ideas which are creative, economical and which can be implemented in the future. Improvements can be made a part of holidays and festivals. Tree planting can be added to Earth Day festivities or Arbor Day. Habitat enhancement planting can occur as part of a waterfront festival, or as a School District sponsored Nature event.

Various City departments already incorporate this type of thinking and process in their capital improvement projects. For example, the recent weir installation at Cranberry Lake, incorporated park functions in public works project; adding a car top boat launching area and trail improvements. There are many ways citizens can participate in furthering the park-like qualities of their city.

Who could participate in making improvements to create a City-in-a-Park?

Residential property owners
Business owners
Port of Anacortes
Park Department
Fidalgo Park & Recreation District
Puget Power
Public schools
Public works Department
Planning Department
Churches
Service clubs
Washington State Ferry
Skagit County Ferry
Chamber of Commerce

Business owners
-landscape on all scales: parking strips, parking lots with trees, shrubs and containers and maintain
-create maximum pedestrian access above or equal to vehicular access
-add public seating, furniture and amenities such as drinking fountains, cigarette ash urns, and signage

Port of Anacortes
-create views into Port activity
-allow water access, visual and physical
-create an interpretive program system-wide to explain and make recognizable the port and port sponsored activities
-continue interactive programs and community sponsorship

Parks Department
-continue appropriate maintenance
-add additional maintenance in particular this should be done of the departments maintenance of other public buildings such as the library, museum, fire station, police station, etc.
-participate in programming sub-division space and landscape

Activities for a City-in-a Park Owners and Friends

Residential property owners
-plant street trees and landscape parking strips
-allow public "ways" for trails
-voice concerns, opinions, and offer solutions
-be part of a volunteer corps
-maintain the landscaped parking strips

Anacortes Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan 22
Parks Department (continued)
- create programs to showcase City-in-a-Park concept and play a leadership role in reviewing engineering, and port and school district actions
- create park links with trails
- give public recognition of all agencies and private enterprises which participate in City-in-a-Park and give awards
- create street tree advisory committee
- landscape with low water consumption and native plants when appropriate
- coordinate training on how to landscape with native and low water consumption plants

F.P.R.D.
- maintain grounds at a higher level than currently done

Puget Power
- on site crews can trim, maintain property near by utility work at the same time, i.e. help maintain where possible
- notify of greater maintenance need to appropriate parties
- create utility site landscaping and public benches
- create public access parks and run them on utility property
- add trails on power rights of way
- plant appropriate scale and specific trees wherever possible

Anacortes School District
- landscape schools, school edges
- landscape parking lots
- landscape ball fields, field edges
- use student workers, in special programs or projects
- install sidewalks and street trees
- benches and picnic tables
- foster minimum paving
- install appropriate lighting
- create linkages through properties
- create accessible walking trails
- install signage

Churches
- landscape with street trees, sidewalks
- install parking lot landscaping
- install public benches

Public works Department
- develop construction details to reflect City-in-a-Park and implement guidelines
- redesign detention/retention ponds, fencing, landscaping and access
- build sidewalks with planted strips
- build boulevards
- encourage appropriate native plantings and destroy invasive species (English holly, scotch broom, etc.)
- design and build ornamental plantings at engineering service and maintenance buildings
- daylight street or street runoff in biofiltration swales and provide interpretation
- create drainage swales with landscaping or fencing
- institute reduced water rate for irrigation systems that conserve water

Planning Department
- plan with City-in-a-Park guidelines which should include pedestrian friendly access, landscaping, and pedestrian scale of blocks and roads

Service clubs
- give awards and recognition for City-in-a-Park participants
- participate in volunteer corps
- raise funds for projects
- sponsor dedication ceremonies
- create an adopt-a-Park program

WA State ferry
- landscape all property holdings or restore natural areas
- install picnic tables and waiting area parks, play areas
- interpret historical and environmental areas
- create pedestrian circulation and signage

Guemes Ferry
- landscape areas
- create a park area and picnic area

Chamber of Commerce
- landscape areas
- create a park area and picnic area
The following discussion is aimed at identifying parts of Anacortes, called opportunity areas, where comprehensive planning and development should contribute to the City-in-a-Park vision. The suggestions range from potential new park sites, park and trail systems, to a city center “campus”. Important community programs are also suggested to help support the physical planning efforts. These programs are community-building in a positive way, bringing people together for community benefit, community recognition, environmental sensitivity and simple enjoyment in the outdoors, the community and its strength and future.

This section also serves to identify areas of need that were not addressed in the previous section since they are not easily attached to quantifiable standards.

**Community Center**

An Anacortes Community Center has been the focus of discussion at community meetings and in park and recreation surveys for several years, and became a primary focus of the Plan Update. The approach was to evaluate the activities and facilities in the city and develop a process for optimizing the use of existing community assets on the one hand, and evaluating the need for additional space, and the character and location of that space on the other hand.

The timing of the Plan Update was coincident with the opening of the new Senior Center adjacent to the Fidalgo Pool. This event has freed space in other community facilities for new uses. A planning task was to identify and locate existing Anacortes facilities now housing the functions of a typical community center.
Table 7: Community Center Facilities and Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Activity/Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Hall Lower Level</td>
<td>Gymnasium, assembly rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fidalgo Park and Recreation</td>
<td>Swimming and fitness center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Swimming Pool</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Fidalgo Center</td>
<td>Senior Center/Headstart, Class/hobby rooms, kitchen, meeting rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anacortes High School</td>
<td>Classrooms, gymnasiums, outdoor sports fields, playground equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anacortes Middle School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island View Elementary School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Erie Elementary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitney Elementary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Guard Armory</td>
<td>Meeting rooms, assembly room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Meeting room, programs, playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum</td>
<td>Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anacortes Hospital</td>
<td>Meeting/assembly rooms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mapping these facilities highlights the fact that they are clustered most heavily around two hubs, the eight square block area of “J”, “K”, “L”, “M” and 20th, 21st, and 22nd streets, and at a cluster of civic and community facilities including the Library on “M” Avenue and 9th Street. These two clusters are linked by “M” Avenue, a gently sloping street that begins near Mount Erie and goes all the way north to Guemes Channel. “M” Avenue also passes two elementary schools in the City. City Hall is not in this linked system.

The Anacortes Middle School and High School are two blocks apart at the southern cluster of facilities. The Fidalgo Pool, the new Senior Center, the hospital and National Guard Armory, a number of churches and Volunteer Park are also here, creating a hub of activity every weekday and many weekends. The proximity and density of activity in this area suggests an alternative to the typical approach to community center evaluation.

Community Center Building

One option available to Anacortes is to develop a Community Center, a single building which would house all or most of the functions needed by the City to fulfill its recreational requirements. This facility may be sited anywhere in the City, and would likely include meeting rooms, play areas (preferably covered), a kitchen, a multi-purpose room for arts, crafts, other recreation programming, and classrooms. This option would require a site, financing and the commitment of the City or other entity to develop, operate and maintain the facility. Good sites might include the Pool/Senior Center/Schools area, the area near the Library or near City Hall. These sites would optimize the uses of all the facilities to their fullest.
Opportunity Area
Community Center Campus
Community Center “Campus”

Another approach is to consider developing a “Campus” quality to the area around “M” Avenue and 22nd Street. This approach would recognize the physical adjacency of the facilities and providers at the area and the existing high level of cooperation among them. Street enhancements and pedestrian and vehicle linkages consistent with the Vision of Anacortes as a City-in-a-Park could transform this neighborhood into a recognizable Community Center “Campus.”

In this neighborhood, 22nd Street and “M” Avenue serve as major connectors. Sidewalks and broad rights of way can be enhanced by street trees, landscaping and pedestrian and bicycle zones. 22nd Street extends east, potentially to the waterfront, and west to developing neighborhoods. “M” Avenue (running north and south) has potential to be a major pedestrian-oriented spine to connect many of the city’s park and community amenities.

“I”, “J” and “K” Avenues, between 22nd and 20th Streets, would benefit from pedestrian enhancements to establish a pedestrian link between the High School and other facilities along 22nd Street. Improvements include expanded sidewalks, street plantings, furniture and lighting. If residents have no objections, one or more of these streets should be signed or designated as a pedestrian/local access street to reduce vehicular traffic. A one-way vehicle system may also reduce congestion, confusion and enhance pedestrian safety.

One particularly strong element of this Community Center Campus is the Island View Playfield Complex that currently includes fields at Island View and the Middle School that have been developed jointly by the School District, Little League Baseball, the City of Anacortes and several volunteer organizations. These fields should continue to be upgraded and connected with walking paths to make this area very user friendly.
Opportunity Area
M Avenue Pedestrian Corridor
“M” Avenue Pedestrian Corridor

Commercial Avenue is the city's major arterial and retail service corridor carrying much of the vehicular traffic into and through Anacortes. “M” Avenue, three blocks to the west of Commercial Avenue, has the potential to be a major pedestrian corridor in the city. From the Guemes Channel at the north end to Mount Erie at the south end, there are at least 14 important civic facilities located along, or near, this corridor. These include (from north to south) Guemes Channel, Causland Park, Church of Christ, Anacortes Museum, Anacortes Public Library, Keith Shugarts Playground, Anacortes Community Theater, Whitney Elementary School, Anacortes Public Schools Administration Office, Anacortes High School, Anacortes Middle School, Washington National Guard Armory, Island Hospital, Storvik Park, and Mount Erie Elementary.

Beyond these facilities, there are also several street intersections with “M” Avenue which provide connections to other community facilities and features. The important street linkages include 7th, 9th, 12th, 22nd, 29th and 32nd Streets.

“M” Avenue has an 80 foot right of way; one driving lane each way, parking both sides, and in some areas planting strips and sidewalks. The land uses along “M” Avenue are predominately single family residential with the above mentioned public/quasi-public facilities. This proposed pedestrian corridor could strengthen its linkage function by adding amenities and signage. Amenities should include the following:

- Street trees and other plantings along either side of the street or in a boulevard-type planting
- Expanded sidewalks on both sides of the street
- Seating for elderly
- Add curb cuts for handicap access,
- Signage which provides directions to features off and along the corridor
- Additional street lighting
- Improved street crossing designations
- Street furniture
- Transit facilities

The purpose of initiating a corridor designation and adding amenities is threefold: to establish “M” Avenue as a pedestrian-oriented linkage corridor; to improve its quality and safety; and to improve the quality of the user experience. Once improved, the “M” Avenue corridor will enhance the function, accessibility and use of the facilities along and adjacent to it.
Causland Park/Public Library and Museum Area

There is an interesting three block area, east of “M” Avenue which includes the Anacortes Public Library, Causland Park and the mostly vacant private land between these two facilities. West of the vacant private block, across “M” Avenue is the Anacortes Museum and an Arts Theater. The east/west boundary streets which run through this area are 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th streets. This is an opportunity area due to existing public facilities, vacant land and the connections of the four east/west streets leading to the heart of the Anacortes commercial district.

The need and desire for a new library building has been voiced in past surveys and public meetings. The design and development of a new library at its present location could be the catalyst for improving this area. Improvements should include:

- Widened sidewalks on 7th through 10th streets
- Additional street trees and plantings
- Ornamental lighting and street furniture
- Signage

The vacant block could be used for a variety of purposes ranging from a public institutional use to multifamily or specialty housing. This area, if improved as described would enhance the commercial area by making the park and library more accessible. This area would also provide a strong "north anchor" to the “M” Avenue Pedestrian Corridor.

Volunteer Park Opportunity Area

Volunteer Park has been built in true community spirit by leases, outright purchases, energetic and visionary community leaders and willing volunteers. The Anacortes Park and Recreation Department is committed to completing the existing park plan as well as expanding the recreational opportunities undeveloped portions may offer. Opportunities include increased access by the disabled, pedestrian access on a loop trail, completion of the remaining fields for active sports, and possibly support the extension of 20th Street.

Rail Corridor/Linear Park

The old Burlington Northern railroad line enters the city from the east along Fidalgo Bay and is an opportunity for a linear park. This opportunity is dependent on preserving the rail corridor. There are a variety of ways the City might preserve the corridor and should look closely at each of those options and pursue the method that will ensure the corridor is preserved in the most cost efficient manner.

The railroad corridor should be enhanced to provide a pedestrian/bicycle trail and park-like amenities along its length. Amenities should include native trees and shrubs, viewpoint mini-parks, signage, benches, and access points to streets and public facilities.
The causeway could be developed as a fishing pier, view point and trail connection to March Point and east into Skagit County. If the opportunity arose to acquire property on or around Weaverling Spit it would provide a southern terminus of a future Fidalgo Bay Harbor trail.

It should be noted that many issues would have to be resolved before the trestle could be crossed but even without crossing the trestle this trail opportunity would be an excellent addition to the Anacortes community.

Marina/ Harbor

The Cap Sante Boat Haven/Marina, below Cap Sante, is a picturesque facility with many amenities for community residents. The Port of Anacortes, along with service groups, have enhanced the boat moorage facility with linear parks, historic structures and quality commercial/retail businesses.

However, the marina and central business district connection is not as strong as it should be. Connecting community, park and business facilities enhances them all for greater visibility and patronage. Extending strong street connections from the west-businesses and neighborhoods to the marina will improve pedestrian and vehicular access. This type of effort will further enhance the business district and the character of the marina/business district. The marina area also will serve as a terminus to the linear park and Rails to Trails project which further strengthens community connections.
Opportunity Area
Marina / Harbor
**Guemes Channel Waterfront**

The Guemes Channel Waterfront provides a variety of opportunities for both public and private improvements. Currently, there are industrial, commercial, and transportation uses. Park and recreation uses have been planned for many years including:

- Oakes Avenue Roadside Park at the intersection of Kansas and Oakes
- Guemes Channel Park/Guemes Ferry Landing between “H” and “I” Avenues
- Anchor Cove Park at “K” Avenue
- “N” Avenue Park at “N” Avenue
- Railroad / “O” Avenue Park at “O” Avenue

Guemes Channel Waterfront amenities include views of the channel across to Guemes Island and west to the San Juan Islands. The water depth and off-shore water quality provides a good marine environment.

Public surveys from 1988 and recent public meetings indicate that a public fishing pier is a community desire. It appears that a community fishing pier should be located along the Guemes Channel because there is sufficient water depth and fish habitat. The exact pier location needs to address land and water access, land ownership, upland area, and construction issues. The selection process for a pier site should start by examining park and public property currently owned by the City.

Other opportunities along the Guemes Channel Waterfront include signing the area to identify views, businesses, historic structures and activities. This could contribute to developing a walking tour of the area and a larger walking trail system.

**Horizon Heights Area Opportunities**

There is a demonstrated need for park facilities in the portion of the city roughly centered on the Horizon Heights area. This is one of the focus areas for residential development in Anacortes. It is not yet clear how existing City owned property in this area will serve the demonstrated park and storm water facilities needs. The Parks and Public Works Departments should work closely as the park and storm water needs are addressed in the area. Until each department’s needs are clearly defined in this area, all City owned property located south of 32nd Street and between “A” and “M” Avenues should be retained in the public ownership.

**Skateboard Facility**

While this plan was being written a strong interest in a skateboard facility for Anacortes has developed. This presents an opportunity that may be included in another facility or be sited in a location that is currently underused. There appears to be strong community support for a skateboard facility and the funding should come from private sources.
Opportunity Area

Guemes Channel
Northern Pacific Addition

The area between Cranberry Lake and the airport is rapidly developing with single family homes. As more and more people move into this area, the demand for a park space becomes evident. Except for Cranberry Lake Park which is primarily forest lands, there are no parks or public holdings available to serve this area. Properties in the developing portions of this area need to be identified for neighborhood park use. The possibility of using portions of street right of ways not needed for street access should be explored, particularly Minnesota, West 3rd and West 4th as well as any others that might meet the need of a small play area. The possibility of using some of the Ports property around the airport should also be explored. The City should work hard to use the current 10% open space requirement to meet this need also.

Park Foundation

The Anacortes Parks Foundation represents a strong opportunity in the area of coordinating private efforts to support Parks and Recreation programs and facilities on Fidalgo Island. This should continued to be strengthened as the foundation becomes more visible and more effective in its efforts.
Opportunity Area
Northern Pacific Addition
Territorial views

Preserving views along the Guemes Channel Waterfront and other areas of the city is important to maintain the character of the community and its relationship to the environment, the surrounding area and its history. Publicly owned street ends along the shoreline provide an opportunity to maintain views and often provide shoreline access without purchasing land or easements.

Connections: Loop trails, walks and pathways

The City of Anacortes has a wealth of parks, open spaces, school grounds and other public facilities and grounds. It is desirable to extend public parks and other public facilities by linking them to each other through open space corridors, walkways, trails and other accessible means. Linking the system enhances the benefit and function of each park and public property and allows a convenient and safe means of park access by community residents.

The City of Anacortes, through its street system, has the beginnings of this type of linkage. However, in many areas, sidewalks do not exist or exist on only one side of the street and thus do not take full advantage of the public right of way. In most cases where linkages are desirable, there appear to be sufficient right of way to accommodate a walk or trail.
The table below outlines streets to be developed, improvement action and justification.

### Table 8: Anacortes Vehicle and Pedestrian Connection Improvements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“I”, “J”, “K”, “L” Avenues</td>
<td>Make sidewalk enhancements between 22nd and 20th streets.</td>
<td>Improve high school and other facility connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“M” Avenue</td>
<td>Make sidewalk improvements, add street trees, from 4th to 41st Street.</td>
<td>Create pedestrian route from activity centers to Guemes Channel and downtown core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th through 10th Streets</td>
<td>Widen sidewalks on 7th through 10th streets, between “L”, “M”, and “N” Avenues, add street trees and plantings, ornamental lighting, street furniture and signage</td>
<td>Improve pedestrian quality, link public facilities,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Street</td>
<td>Work closely with the public works department as they address the needs of the 12th Street traffic.</td>
<td>Improve pedestrian and bicycle conditions along corridor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th Street</td>
<td>Develop future east-west connection through park for pedestrians</td>
<td>Improve pedestrian and perhaps vehicle connection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd Street</td>
<td>Add sidewalks, street trees to beautify street between BNRR trail, Senior Center and pool</td>
<td>Improve pedestrian access and connections to/from shore to schools/Senior Center/”M” Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th Street</td>
<td>Add sidewalks, street trees from “R” Avenue to “I” Avenue</td>
<td>Improve access to shore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32nd Street</td>
<td>Add sidewalks, street trees, and signs from Commercial to “R” Avenue to create loop trail for bicycles and pedestrians.</td>
<td>Improve pedestrian and bicycle circulation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

City-wide trails can link many open space areas and are considered different from the Community Forest Land nature trails. The Forest Land trails provide important nature reserve access while the connecting trails can provide links to many community services. A loop trail system is a community-wide link for neighborhoods, schools and commercial centers. Loop trails can be designated for walking routes and bicycle links off of busy city streets. School grounds should be included in loop trails to encourage student bicycle access. Bicycle commuters or bicycle/ferry travelers often prefer direct routes with vehicular traffic, however, alternatives for recreational bicyclists and children are important and can be accommodated on existing low traffic volume streets and dedicated bike/walk paths.
Further work should be done on developing a more detailed plan for non-motorized and pedestrian traffic in Anacortes. The Parks Department should work closely with the Public Works Department in formulating and implementing such a plan.
Other Programs

The physical fabric of the City-in-a-Park community is composed of buildings, open spaces and their relationships to one another. Organizations are needed to plan, implement or protect important aspects of the vision. Community programs which involve different interests and age groups all add to a full spectrum of supportive individuals and organizations. Recognizable programs such as Heritage Tree Programs, Historic Structures Programs, and organizations to protect views to distant mountains and regional landmarks contribute to the community sense of place.

Anacortes holds a wealth of these resources on both public and private property. The first step in recognizing their value to the community is to identify and catalogue them. This would be done not to regulate them, but to show that these resources are recognized and cherished by the community. If the community desires, this inventory could be the start of several programs. Conservation and preservation programs should be defined and promoted. They may include the following:

Significant/Heritage Tree Program
- recognize trees as important heritage markers in a community
- street tree planting for visual beauty and neighborhood recognition

Historic Building Program
- recognize buildings as important heritage markers in a community
- build a sense of history in Anacortes

View Corridor Preservation Program
- preserve views in and out of the city for wayfinding
- create a sense of place

Daylight Creeks and Drainage Program
- improve water quality
- provide habitat
- educate the public on utility and waste issues

March Point Access Program
- create bicycle and walking trails
- link with railroad right of way for large system transportation
- additional recreational space
VII  MISSION STATEMENT

The Anacortes Park and Recreation Department seeks to preserve and enhance the quality of life that our residents enjoy by providing quality recreational facilities and opportunities to our residents regardless of age, race, sex, wealth or ability.

VIII  GOALS AND POLICIES

The goals and policies of a Park and Recreation Department are broad statements that guide development of stewardship, civic pride and foster a healthy relationship between the residents and sports, education, nature and personal achievement.

I. Parks Management and Administration

Provide parks, open space, recreation facilities, and a well-run, economical and comprehensive leisure services program to the citizens of Anacortes.

A) Leadership

1. Provide leadership for all park and recreation activities in Anacortes by assisting other agencies, groups and individuals in their efforts to improve the quality of life.

B) Stewardship

1. Foster and promote stewardship of the Anacortes park and open space system.

2. Manage the park system to provide recreational opportunities while preserving and enhancing the resource value of each site (natural, cultural, historic, recreational, etc.)

3. Encourage educational programs that address the Parks Dept. mission, stewardship efforts and foster civic pride in the Anacortes’ parks resource.

4. Promote stewardship of native habitat for wildlife and native vegetation where the choice contributes to habitat value in parks or areas of parks with natural lands.

C) Park Planning

1. Prepare and implement a Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan and update it as required to address changing conditions and to maintain and optimize eligibility for grant funding.
2. Place planning emphasis on the development of a linked system of parks and open spaces.

3. Broaden the public understanding of parks to include sidewalks, boulevards, street ends and open space on other public facilities properties.

D) Park Acquisition and Development Planning

1. When developing acquisition plans for new parks consider maintenance and operations costs. Prepare master plans for development or improvement of existing parks based upon real needs.

2. Consider developing revenue producing facilities that will help offset operating costs whenever appropriate.

E) Public Relations

1. Promote the concept that each person that comes in contact with our Department will be dealt with fairly. We will treat people courteously, helpfully and with respect.

F) Employment

1. Employ “best management practices” in hiring and training park department employees.

2. Emphasize that each employee in our department will look forward to coming to work each day. We will treat each other with the respect we deserve.

3. Ensure that each employee knows they will be expected to contribute to the team effort by offering suggestions of ways that we can improve our services.

II. Parks and Facilities

1. Provide a range of quality and accessible recreational areas, facilities and opportunities that will attract all age groups and interests.

2. Provide facilities and activities that are accessible by ADA standards and are sensitive to issues of universal accessibility in spirit.

3. Provide park areas that are convenient to and accessible by all residents of Anacortes.

4. Develop safe, high quality facilities that serve multiple purposes and functions whenever appropriate.
5. Develop a comprehensive multi-purpose trail system for use by bicyclists, hikers, walkers, joggers, casual strollers and school children.

6. Encourage further development of waterfront park areas including street ends.

7. Ensure that our facilities are developed and maintained at a level that we would be proud to have our most respected colleague visit.

III. Public Involvement and Coordination

1. Develop process for involving public in park management decisions such as planning, acquisition, development and management.

2. Establish a public feedback system to ensure the community’s awareness and involvement in such issues as changes in recreation interests, park maintenance, city operations and services etc.

3. Foster partnerships and cooperative efforts with other agencies, jurisdictions, citizen groups and volunteers in planning for parks, recreation and open space opportunities.

4. Continue to promote a close working relationship with the School District, the County, the Port and others who provide recreation programs and services.

IV. Recreation Programs and Activities

1. Strive to ensure that all age groups and recreation interests are provided the opportunity to fulfill their leisure time goals including leisure services for the disabled.

2. Develop and maintain feedback system for public input into future recreation programming, and

3. Act as a catalyst to help special interest groups organize and run their own programs.

4. Involve and utilize volunteers in the planning and delivery of park and recreation programs.

5. Pursue opportunities for fishing in conjunction with Port and others that allow fishing in accordance with regulations.

6. Manage recreation programs on an economically sound basis, evaluating the need for fees on a case-by-case basis.
7. Strive to have our recreation programs run so that we would encourage our own children to participate in them. They will be organized fairly and administered efficiently.

V. Park Operations and Maintenance

1. Develop and implement parks maintenance strategies to balance ecological impacts and benefits with recreation/facility service delivery.

2. Provide the most appropriate level of care for each park or each use of a park.

3. Provide a high level of maintenance for all City facilities appropriate to the needs of the park.

VI. Funding

1. Develop a comprehensive park, recreation and Open Space Plan that fulfills requirements of state and local granting agencies.

2. Pursue grant funding as appropriate to acquire and develop parks facilities and programs.

3. Establish an operating budget that addresses the public demand, needs and interests as expressed in public opinion surveys.

4. Develop a fees and charges policy for residents of the City of Anacortes that is based on the ability to pay with costs shared between the City and the user.

5. Develop a fees and charges policy for non-Anacortes residents.

6. Develop the perspective by department employees that every purchase will be made as though we are spending our own personal money. We will carefully evaluate the need for the purchase and find the most cost effective way to meet the need.

7. Work closely with Skagit County, The Port of Anacortes and Anacortes School District in jointly funding projects.

8. Prepare and implement a Capital Improvements Plan to guide capital expenditures.

9. Look closely at instituting impact fees to keep park facilities current with growth.
10. Work with Skagit County to develop a specific approach to meeting the needs of people those people living outside the City limits but requiring City park and recreation services.
Funding and Financing Park and Recreation Facilities and Programs

The vision of a park and recreation system remains only in the imagination without a strategy for funding its development. Often, park and recreation facilities and programs are viewed as nonessential when compared with public safety, transportation and utility needs. In a household budget, parks may compare with vacation and entertainment funds while the police and fire services may compare with the mortgage payment and weekly food budgets. Some things are essential, others can be thought of as optional. However, the health of a community often is reflected in its quality of life. The quality of life is often related to the community’s environment, park, open space, trails systems and recreational opportunities.

The City-in-a-Park concept is useful when thinking about budgets and comparing “essential” versus “nonessential” items. Budgeting for street and sidewalk improvements should include line items to address street trees, right-of-way plantings, signage and trail connections to public facilities. A new public safety building can include an attractive foreground landscape that reflects the neighborhood, or sets an example for landscape development. Storm water detention ponds can be designed to improve habitat for wildlife while serving the utility function. New marina development can provide shoreline trails and walkways allowing at least visual access to the public.

When designing a park, an apartment complex or a single family residence, we look at the surrounding properties to gain an appreciation for the setting. Often, we “borrow” elements of the adjacent landscape in the development of the site plan. Off-site trees, for example, can influence the placement and species selection for trees on our property. This “landscape borrowing” mirrors the use of non-park improvements to further the goals of the Park and Recreation Plan. Every public project should be perceived as an opportunity to implement a component of the plan. Therefore, funding for park and recreation improvements can be seen as originating from any of the budgets of the many City departments.

The committee putting this plan together wants to send a strong message that the Parks Department do all it can to maximize every dollar spent on park and recreation improvements. The City must work with the other governmental agencies and private groups in the area to make sure there is not a duplication of services. The committee wants to see the City work with the County to come up with a funding mechanism to meet the needs of those not within the City limits but requiring park and recreation services from the City.
There are many options and alternatives for funding park land acquisition and development. These include a variety of bond and levy measures, state and federal grants, utility taxes and user fees, private donations and volunteer efforts, impact assessment fees or any other creative solution. Many of these options and alternatives typically utilized are described in the following table.

Table 9: Funding Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Type</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City General Fund</td>
<td>City funds from the annual operating budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Improvement Fund</td>
<td>City funds allocated to major capital projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Year Special Levy</td>
<td>A property tax for construction and/or operation levied for only one year. Requires a 60% majority approval of 40% of the voters who voted at the last election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond Measure</td>
<td>A property tax for the sale of construction bonds. The tax assessment can be levied up to 30 years. Requires a 60% majority approval of 40% of the voters who voted at the last general election.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilmatic Bonds</td>
<td>A tax assessment initiated by the City Council. The limit is based in a percent of the total assessed valuation of the city. Seldom used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Bonds</td>
<td>Revenue from the operation of the facility pays for the capital cost and debt service. Does not require a vote of the people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skagit County</td>
<td>Revenue from cooperative projects such as active sports complex or projects with shared responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anacortes School District</td>
<td>Revenue from cooperatively sponsored programs and interlocal use agreements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Anacortes</td>
<td>Revenue from fees collected by Port or from cooperative programs cooperatively sponsored.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Bicycle Funds</td>
<td>Funds from State gas tax is distributed to each city for bicycle trails on a per capita basis. Anacortes receives about $2,000 annually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD Grants</td>
<td>Grants from The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for a wide variety of projects. Most are distributed in lower income areas of communities. Grants can be up to 100%. The City has received several HUD grants for non-park related projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| NOVA Program, (IAC, etc.)     | Grants from the Non-highway / Off-road Vehicle Activities Program administered by the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. *(see below)* These grants will pay for the planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance of off-road vehicle trails. The program was recently amended to cover non-urban bicycle and pedestrian trails. Grants can be up to 100%.
| Aquatic Land Enhancement Fund | This program funded by the State Department of Natural Resources will fund up to $80,000 for the acquisition and development of waterfront parks, public access, and environmental protection.
| Initiative 215 Boating Funds  | Funds received from boating gas tax is allocated to marine related projects. Up to $150,000 per project is available but a 50% match is required.
| State Legislative Funding     | While there currently is no money allocated, it is very possible that the state legislature through a state referendum or through a general appropriation will provide a grant program for park and facility improvements.
| LWCF                          | Grants distributed from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Grants pay 50% of the cost of acquisition and development. At one time this was a major funding program for recreation improvements. The program has been cut severely. The program is administered locally by the Washington State Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation.
| Park Revenue                  | Revenue from park operations is used to pay for capital projects. Washington Park and Mt. Erie Park are both facilities in the Anacortes park system that generate this type of revenue.
| Volunteer Efforts             | Volunteers can contribute a great deal in terms of cash, materials, and labor to park improvements.
| Property Transfer Excise Tax  | A tax assessed on the sale of property and administered by local counties and cities. Revenue can only be used to finance capital facilities specified in the local government’s Capital Facilities Plan.
| Certificates of Participation | A lease-purchase approach in which a city or county sells Certificates of Participation (COP’s) to a lending institution. The city or county then pays the loan off from revenue produced by the facility or from its own general operating budget. The lending institution holds title to the property until the COP’s are repaid. This procedure does not require a vote of the public. |
| **Park Impact Fees** | Development fees imposed by a county or city for park land acquisitions and development. Fees charged to developers are typically based upon a set amount per residential unit. This amount is calculated to represent the development's share of public improvements necessitated by growth. |
| **Washington Wildlife and Recreation / Coalition Fund** | A special fund created by a coalition of recreation and wildlife groups with the intent of preserving wildlife habitats and open space and developing recreation areas. For the 1993-94 Biennium, the legislative appropriation is $65 million. |
| **Centennial Clean Water Program** | This is a state program administered by the Department of Ecology and financed by a tax on cigarettes. The program is designed to provide grants and loans on projects that will enhance water quality. Typical projects related to parks and open space could include lake restoration, storm water retention, wetland enhancement and other water quality mitigation measures. Grants are available for planning, design and construction up to 70% of the total project cost. |
| **Utility Tax** | Cities or counties can charge a tax on the gross receipts of electric, gas, garbage, telephone, cable TV, water/sewer, and stormwater service providers. The maximum tax is 6%, unless voters approve a higher rate. Revenue can be used for capital facilities acquisition, construction and maintenance. |
| **Urban Forestry Grants** | The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers two funding grant programs in the areas of urban forestry. The first is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration and provides grants to purchase and plant trees. Urban street tree planting programs are sometimes funded by this method. Last year the DNR received $285,000 to distribute. A 25% match is required. The second program is for educational and technical assistance and is funded by the U.S. Forest Service. A local match is also required for this program. |
| **ISTEA** | The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) provides funding for bicycle transportation facilities, including new or improved lanes or paths, traffic control devices, shelters and parking facilities. |
| **Life Estate** | This is the donation of a property to a public agency with the provision that the donor may live on the site as long as desired. |
**Impact Fees**

Impact fees are charges assessed on new development as a condition of approval to pay for public facilities needed to serve new growth. The purpose and size of the fees must be reasonably related to the new development which creates the additional demand for public facilities. Impact fees should contribute a proportionate share of the cost, and should be used for public facilities. The Growth Management Act (GMA) addresses “project improvements” and “system improvements” when describing impact fees. Project improvements refer to improvements as a part of the development itself. Other capital improvements generated by the development which go beyond its borders, such as the local road system linked to the development are termed system improvements. Impact fees for system improvements need to be spent in conformance with the capital facilities plan included in the comprehensive plan.

The objective of impact fees is not to raise revenue, but to ensure that adequate capital facilities are built. An advantage of an impact fee program is that it distributes the burden of paying for growth-generated public facility costs to those most benefiting. Another advantage is that it allows developers to proceed with projects instead of waiting for public facilities to be constructed at a future date. Finally, an impact fee program allows local government to commit to constructing public facilities in a planned and systematic manner.

This plan strongly recommends that an impact fee ordinance be closely looked at based on the following needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User Fees</th>
<th>Cities, counties, and special purpose districts can charge fees for use of facilities or participating in programs. They are often entrance fees or registration fees. A certain level of service or development may be required to assess park and recreation fees.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donation / Foundations</td>
<td>Private donations and foundations are also possible sources of assets and funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Ecology</td>
<td>Grants from the Coastal Zone Management Account. Grants pay 50% and are primarily used for shoreline acquisition and public access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Futures Levy</td>
<td>Levy revenues based on the State’s Current Use Taxation Law which allows counties to levy a tax of up to 15 cents per $1,000 of assessed property valuation for the acquisition of open space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Area/Facility</td>
<td>City of Anacortes Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Field</td>
<td>1 field per 7,500 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little League Field</td>
<td>1 field per 5,000 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Field</td>
<td>1 field per 5,000 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>1 court per 2,000 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor basketball courts</td>
<td>1 court per 2,500 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Structures</td>
<td>1 structure per 1,500 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Surfaced Walking Paths</td>
<td>1 mile per 3,000 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covered Picnic Shelters</td>
<td>1 shelter per 4,000 population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parkland Requirements

Current City of Anacortes Subdivision Code contains the following provision for Park Land requirements:

16.20.100 Park Land Requirement

The City Council, at its sole discretion, shall select one of the following:

A. One-tenth (1/10) of the combined area of lots one (1) acre or less in size, exclusive of all other dedications, shall be forever dedicated to the public for parks, open space, or playgrounds. No dedication shall be required for subdivisions of four lots or fewer or for the combined area of those lots in a subdivision which are larger than one (1) acre exclusive of all easements and other dedications. The City Council, in consultation with the Park Board, shall determine suitable locations for such parks and playgrounds.

B. The subdivider creates a property owners' association for the proposed subdivision and deeds to the association land to be held in perpetuity for use as parks, open space, or playgrounds. The area of land to be deeded to the association shall equal the amount that would otherwise have been dedicated to public use.

C. The City may make an order to be endorsed and certified on the plat accepting a cash contribution in lieu of dedication of land that would have been dedicated. The cash contribution shall be the value of the unsubdivided, unimproved land and shall be paid into the Park Fund or Forest Land Endowment Fund. If the value is not agreed upon between the subdivider and the Administrator, the developer may, at his/her expense, have the value established by a qualified real estate appraiser acceptable to the Administrator.

Until other provisions are made this plan strongly recommends that this requirement is continued and is used to meet the needs addressed in this document.

Urban Growth Area (UGA)

The UGA agreed upon by Skagit County and the City of Anacortes is described in the Map on page 54. The City is required to identify open space corridors within UGAs that include lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of critical areas. RCW 36.70A.160. This Park and Recreation Plan designates Fidalgo Bay and Padilla Bay (extending upland into the Skagit Land Trust Heron Rookery) as two such open space corridors. The map on page 54 also shows the proposed South March Point Annexation Area. If this annexation is completed, there will be little to no impact on park and recreational services since this will only add approximately 100 additional residents to the population base and all the calculations in this document are based on population. However, annexation may present the opportunity to locate a ballfield facility and some connecting trails to the area.
Urban Growth Area

Anacortes Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan

Area of the City's Urban Growth Point Areas, Together with the North and South March of the Anacortes South March Point Annexation Area

Legend

NEW URBAN AREA
EXISTING URBAN AREA
BOUNDARY
ANNEXATION AREA
PROJECTED SOUTH MARCH POINT
NORTH MARCH POINT
SOUTH MARCH POINT ANNEXATION AREA
Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation Role

For thirty years, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) has contributed to the state's recreational qualities and habitat conservation and interpretation through its investment of public funds in parks, trails, water access sites, wildlife habitat, and natural areas. Established by citizen Initiative 215 in 1964, IAC has guided the investment of nearly $450 million in over 2,700 projects throughout the state.

The IAC administers several grant programs for outdoor recreation and habitat conservation purposes. The IAC grant program requires that moneys be spent for specific types of projects. To be considered for funding assistance, most grant programs require that IAC be given assurance that the proposed project will be operated and maintained in perpetuity for the purposes for which funding is sought. Most grant programs also require that sponsors complete a systematic planning process prior to seeking IAC funding. IAC has grant limits on most of its programs, and encourages and often requires sponsors to share in the project's cost. Grants are awarded by the Committee based on a public, competitive process which weighs the merits of proposed projects against established program criteria.

There are five major IAC grant programs: Boating Facilities Program, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Firearms Range Program, and the Non-highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA).

The IAC funding programs require specific information to be gathered and presented in a planning document. This document reflects agency requirements for recreation planning. To apply in the Urban Wildlife Habitat category of the WWRP a companion document or insert can be prepared to address habitat and wildlife issues.
The following are recommended existing park facility improvements.

**Washington Park (220 acres)**
- Update master plan to include improvements to the day use areas. This should include improvements to parking areas, pathways, improved picnic shelters, sand volleyball courts, improved turf in wet area, improved wetland, restroom, etc.
- Repair loop road
- Improve guard rail at Havekost look out and install benches.
- Permanent restroom/sanican at Havekost and Green Point.
- Seek funding for master plan improvements.

**Clearidge Park (.8 acres)**
- No improvements planned

**Roadside Park (0.3 acres)**
- No improvements planned.

**Volunteer Park (60 acres)**
- Complete master plan (should include improved parking, restrooms, extensive pathways, ballfield improvements, play equipment, skateboard park, etc.)
- Seek funding for improvements.

**Anchor Cove Park (5700 square feet)**
- No improvements planned

**“N” Avenue park (18,000 square feet)**
- Complete plan for site (expected to include minor improvements to parking, picnic facilities, replanting of native shoreline plants and address problem of adjacent oil storage tanks.)
- Construct improvements
Railroad "O" Park (8,000 square feet)
- No improvements planned
- Clarify with Port ownership of property

Causland Park (2.8 acres)
- Design and construct restroom.
- Remodel bandstand.
- Improve signage.
- Ensure wall stays intact.
- Improve landscaping.

Shugarts Playground (0.5 acres)
- Improve landscaping

Rotary Park (1.5 acres)
- Improve a secondary unpaved trail for pedestrian and other access.
- Work to improve parking arrangement.
- Upgrade planting at end and on beach side by marina.
- Construct a small interpretive board.

Cap Sante Park (37 acres)
- Provide a low automobile curb/railing around the parking area.
- Provide several seating areas.
- Construct a small interpretive board.

Newland Park (10 acres)
- No changes planned

29th Street Playground (0.5 acres)
- Upgrade the landscaping.
- Provide picnic tables.
- Upgrade the turf.
- Provide seating areas.

Storvik Park (8.7 acres)
- Replace playground equipment.
- Improve access to restroom.
- Repair parking lots
- Replace or repair concession building.
- Provide seating alternative to hillside.
- Improve infield
- Get all irrigation system working
Mt. Erie School/Park (0.5 acres)
- No improvements planned

Mt. Erie Park (80 acres)
- Construct restroom (consider innovative construction on challenging terrain).
- Repair road
- Improve parking arrangements.
- Improve signage.
XI RECOMMENDED FUTURE PARK ACTIONS / CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Provide Park in or near Northern Pacific Addition
- Identify site west of Volunteer Park to meet neighborhood park needs
- Acquire / vacate
- Seek funding to plan and construct improvements

Proposed Horizon Heights (2 acres)
- Work with storm water drainage plan to coordinate use and to preserve aesthetics.
- Complete a plan for the area (to be planned as a small neighborhood park - should include picnic areas, limited parking, play equipment, walking paths, basketball courts, etc.)
- Seek funding for improvements.

Proposed Guemes Channel Park (2 acres)
- Purchase additional property adjacent to park.
- Work with county to meet parking needs of Guemes Island ferry.
- Complete master plan for site (expected to include improved parking, restroom, picnic areas, native beach plantings.)
- Seek funding for improvements.
- Consider inclusion of a fishing pier.

Proposed Park (Reservoir Site)
- Identify if site can be used
- Develop master plan for site
- Seek finding for improvements

Proposed Assistance with School District Improvements
- Formalize relationship with school district
- Identify areas to assist in
- Seek funding for improvements

Athletic Field Improvements
- This will include assistance to the School District on construction of the Rice Complex, addition of 1/2 Little League Field, 1 1/2 softball fields and 1 hardball field
- Identify specific field locations
- Develop master plan
- Seek funding for improvements
Sidewalks and Trails
- Coordinate with Public Works
- Develop an master plan for the City
- Seek funding project by project

Accessibility Improvements
- Identify specific areas for improvements
- Construct improvements

Street Tree Program
- Formalize street tree committee that encourages street tree planting for visual beauty and neighborhood recognition
- Adopt street tree ordinance that recognizes trees as important heritage markers in a community

Railroad Corridor
- Pursue acquisition of corridor
- Develop a master plan for improvements

Skateboard Facility
- Select a site for the facility
- Develop a master plan for improvements
- Seek private funding
- Construct