



City of Stanwood

*Parks, Recreation and
Open Space Plan*



Updated June 2015
with Appendices

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

An Element of the Stanwood Comprehensive Plan

SECTION IX – PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

PURPOSE

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan is a tool for improving parks and recreation services and facilities within the City of Stanwood. It is adopted as an Element of the Comprehensive Plan which provides a policy framework to guide the City's growth in the residential and commercial areas, provision of adequate public facility uses, and management and development of its park and recreation system. This plan presents a guide for City resources to maintain existing facilities as well as provide new facilities to meet the future needs of the area's growing population. It reflects the desire of the citizens of Stanwood to retain natural resources, and improve recreational opportunities in the community. As a parks and recreational planning tool, the City has adopted goals, objectives, policies and strategies that serve as a guide to decisions about park, recreation and open space land and facility investment. In general, a thorough review of the Parks and Recreation Plan is done every six years to ensure that the plan remains current and reflects the community's needs. The most recent major review occurred in December 2012.

The City of Stanwood functions as the town center for a diverse rural, suburban and urban population spread across two counties in what is generally identified as "Greater Stanwood/ Camano." Stanwood is the historic center of this agricultural and rural residential area and the home of the single high school that serves the entire population. Many residents outside the City come into Stanwood for shopping, services, community events and park and recreation opportunities. As a result, planning a system of services for the existing and future needs for the 6,340 residents of the City and the larger populations of surrounding areas requires consideration of several important policy issues. In reviewing the park and recreation needs of the community the City asked the following questions.

1. What is the appropriate balance between regional, community and neighborhood facilities and services?
2. How can a small town with a limited tax base provide regional services?
3. What is the role of private recreation providers in the mix of services?
4. How can maintenance be appropriately managed?
5. What role should park and recreation services play in attracting outside visitors to Stanwood?
6. How can the City best connect the downtown to the Stillaguamish River and create public access and a small boat launch facility.

The City prioritized the top five issues for investment in the parks and recreation system as follows.

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1. Expansion of parks;
2. Maintenance and improvement of existing park facilities;
3. Expanded trails;
4. Expanded recreation opportunities; and
5. Acquisition of additional open space.

PARKS RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE GENERAL SYSTEM GOALS

Provide a high-quality comprehensive park, recreation, open space and trail system to meet the short term and long term needs of Stanwood residents and businesses. Promote Stanwood as the center for the Greater Stanwood/Camano area by providing facilities for events, regional recreation and regional bicycle and trails connections.

GOAL PROS 1 PARKS SYSTEM: Provide adequate parks and recreation facilities throughout the City maximizing public access to and involvement in a variety of leisure, cultural and physical fitness activities.

Objective PROS 1.1 Include a variety of park types in the park system including developed fields and play facilities, urban plazas with community gathering places, trails, historic points of interest and green space.

POLICIES

PROS 1.1.1 Maintain Heritage Park as a regional attraction while providing community and neighborhood parks to meet the needs of city and UGA residents and businesses.

PROS 1.1.2 Provide a variety of active and passive facilities and green/open space to meet adopted standards.

PROS 1.1.3 Distribute parks equitably by type throughout the City.

PROS 1.1.4 Maintain and develop underutilized public rights-of-way for public access and passive recreation where appropriate.

PROS 1.1.5 Identify city owned parcels that are not currently part of the park and recreation system and evaluate them for potential park use.

PROS 1.1.6 Incorporate historical and cultural lands, public art, historic sites, artifacts, and facilities into the park system to preserve these interests and provide a balanced social experience.

PROS 1.1.7 Incorporate interesting manmade environments, structures, activities, and areas into the park system to preserve these features and provide a balanced park and recreation experience.

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PROS 1.1.8 Develop parks as focal points for community events.

PROS 1.1.9 Design park and recreational trails and facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age, income, and activity interests.

PROS 1.1.10 Work with the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation, Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, and other public and private agencies, and with private landowners to set aside land and resources necessary to provide high quality, convenient park and recreation lands and facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development.

Objective PROS 1.2 Develop ongoing stewardship of the public parks system.

POLICIES

PROS 1.2.1 Emphasize user input in planning, design, and development of park and trail facilities.

PROS 1.2.3 Support interlocal agreements with the Stanwood School District about joint ventures for the development and use of combined school, playground, and athletic facilities.

PROS 1.2.4 Consider development agreements with other public and private entities for active play fields and playgrounds, trails and passive recreation provided the facilities are made available for public use and public benefit is identified.

PROS 1.2.5 Use public outreach to provide information about facilities and programs in order to build broad public support for the parks and recreation system.

Objective PROS 1.3 Recognize private and non-profit agencies that provide alternative services to the community.

POLICIES

PROS 1.3.1 Support non-profit organizations in developing special meeting facilities, assembly facilities, health and other community facilities to support community needs.

PROS 1.3.2 Support the development of private recreation facilities that are consistent with Stanwood's Comprehensive Plan including land use, downtown, economic development, transportation and aesthetic components.

Objective PROS 1.4 Work in collaboration with Snohomish and Island Counties and state agencies to provide parks in Stanwood to accommodate out of city residents who depend on Stanwood for park services.

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PROS 1.4.1 Work with Snohomish County to develop a new park north of Stanwood in the area of 280th St NW to 300th St NW in the vicinity of the City's UGA boundary.

PROS 1.4.2 Coordinate regional goals and objectives with Snohomish County, Island County and other local agencies involved in such projects.

GOAL PROS 2 WATERFRONT ACCESS: Reconnect Stanwood to the Stillaguamish River.

Objective PROS 2.1 Develop shoreline properties or easements for waterfront access.

POLICIES

PROS 2.1.1 Acquire and preserve additional waterfront parkland.

PROS 2.1.2 Develop watercraft access opportunities including a mixture of canoe, kayak, rowboat, raft, and power boating.

PROS 2.1.3 Prioritize use of the city owned property on the shoreline of the Stillaguamish River for park development providing public access and water related use.

PROS 2.1.4 Connect city waterfront park land and recreation use with Downtown Stanwood.

GOAL PROS 3 RECREATION: Provide for the active recreation needs of the Stanwood community.

Objective PROS 3.1 Provide a variety of quality active recreation facilities sufficient to serve Stanwood residents and area visitors.

POLICIES

PROS 3.1.1 Maintain existing recreation facilities to meet the needs of all local citizens, including barrier free access.

PROS 3.1.2 Expand, upgrade, and diversify support facilities (restrooms, parking, picnic areas, shelters and playground equipment, etc.) in recreational areas.

PROS 3.1.3 Continue development of recreation facilities in conjunction with Snohomish and Island Counties as well as with other funding partnerships.

Objective PROS 3.2 Provide a diversified recreation system that provides for all age and interest groups.

POLICIES

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PROS 3.2.1 Improve existing facilities by enhancing existing park sites and recreation facilities when financially feasible.

PROS 3.2.2 Work with historical and cultural groups to encourage community activities in parks and recreational facilities – including downtown promotional events.

PROS 3.2.3 Support the development of athletic recreational facilities for all age groups and recreational interests.

PROS 3.2.4 Develop, where appropriate, a select number of facilities that are oriented to multi-agency use, especially in conjunction with local public, private and non-profit organizations.

PROS 3.2.5 Support the development of indoor community and recreational centers that provide for community activities, athletic uses, and select significant indoor activities for multi-agency use on a year-round basis.

PROS 3.2.6 Provide playground and picnic facilities for residents of local housing areas.

PROS 3.2.7 Provide recreational courts and play fields for citywide resident use.

PROS 3.2.8 Initiate joint planning and operating programs with the Stanwood School District, Snohomish County Parks, and the Washington State Parks Department for joint development and maintenance of active and passive recreation resources.

Objective PROS 3.3 Work with organizations, service groups, special interest groups and other partners to provide coordinated and quality recreational programs.

POLICIES

PROS 3.3.1 Establish a partnership with community groups, organizations and the school district to develop and promote joint recreational activities.

PROS 3.3.2 Encourage local groups to participate in maintaining parks and other recreational facilities.

GOAL PROS 4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Promote recreation facilities and activities that will attract visitors and enhance the city's economic development.

Objective PROS 4.1 Encourage special regional events in city parks.

POLICIES

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PROS 4.1.1 Encourage staging and publicity for City events and community festivals to attract visitors.

PROS 4.1.2 Encourage public art within City parks.

PROS 4.1.3 Encourage concerts and art shows in City parks.

PROS 4.1.4 Encourage sports tournaments in City parks.

Objective PROS 4.2 Promote a range of economic development activities in parks that are accessory to the recreational uses.

POLICIES

PROS 4.2.1 Encourage healthy food production such as community gardens or pea patches in city parks where these uses do not conflict with established recreation uses.

PROS 4.2.2 Allow concessionaires in park facilities to support recreation uses with rental of equipment and food vendors.

GOAL PROS 5: OPEN SPACE: Establish a network of open spaces that enhance the livability of the community

Objective PROS 5.1 Acquire and preserve natural areas, historical sites and areas of ecological significance for recreation and educational opportunities for the community and visitors.

POLICIES

PROS 5.1.1 Preserve and protect significant environmental features for open space including wetlands, woodlands, shorelines, waterfronts, and other areas with characteristics that reflect Stanwood's natural heritage.

PROS 5.1.2 Encourage the preservation of unique areas and/or site features including natural and exemplary built features such as the Hamilton Smokestack.

PROS 5.1.3 Provide public use and access to open space in new land developments.

PROS 5.1.4 Work with property and facility owners to increase public access and utilization of special features – including the shorelines, wetlands, and bluffs that meander through and between developed areas.

PROS 5.1.5 Acquire or protect, through easements or other means, ecologically significant areas and preserve them in their natural state.

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PROS 5.1.6 Insure that properties applying for tax exemption through State programs as open space provide reasonable public benefits and identify exempted property as limited open space during its enrollment in the exemption program.

GOAL PROS 6 LEVEL OF SERVICE: Determine Level of Service Standards for Parks and Recreation Facilities.

Objective PROS 6.1 Identify the amount of land needed to meet Level of Service standards for future park development and types of facilities needed to meet recreation standards.

POLICIES

PROS 6.1.1 Define existing and proposed land and facility levels of service in order to effectively plan and program park and recreation needs within existing city boundaries. Evaluate different requirements based on:

- a) Population growth versus improved facility standards,
- b) Neighborhood versus community nexus of benefit, and
- c) Regional demand

PROS 6.1.2 Update the inventory, surplus and/or deficiency of City park lands based on the official population estimates from the Washington State Office of Financial Management.

PROS 6.1.3 Identify parkland for acquisition in advance of its actual need.

GOAL PROS 7 TRAILS: Integrate a trail system into the city's transportation network by linking with other trails and recreational facilities within the regional service area.

Objective PROS 7.1 Develop a comprehensive, high quality system of multipurpose trails and corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists, that access significant environmental features, public facilities and developed urban neighborhoods.

POLICIES

PROS 7.1.1 Connect people to destinations such as neighborhoods, parks, water resources, schools, businesses, services and work.

PROS 7.1.2 Provide safe walk to school routes utilizing both paved trails and sidewalks.

PROS 7.1.3 Promote a healthy community by providing an opportunity for exercise and recreation on a local trail system.

PROS 7.1.4 Provide a system of trail markers as a means of identifying and advertising trail systems.

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PROS 7.1.5 Pursue opportunities to connect to the Snohomish County and Island County regional trail systems.

PROS 7.1.6 Make Stanwood a destination for bicyclists by providing a trail system that provides access to downtown and connects to Warm Beach, the Centennial Trail in Arlington, Conway, and Camano Island.

GOAL PROS 8 FINANCE Secure equitable and sustainable funding for implementation.

Objective PROS 8.1 Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining facilities.

POLICIES

PROS 8.1.1 Consider joint ventures with the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation, Island County, Stanwood School District, Washington State Department of Wildlife, and other public and private agencies to fund facility development and maintenance where feasible and desirable.

PROS 8.1.2 Work with the community to develop awareness of the need for park funding for both developing park facilities and for maintenance.

PROS 8.1.3 Actively pursue grants from both public and private sectors.

PROS 8.1.4 Seek funding for needed improvements and new development from funding sources, including the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office.

PROS 8.1.5 Provide a means for private philanthropy supporting parks and recreation including legacy donations funding and volunteerism.

Strategy PROS 8.1.5a Encourage private business participation in the development and funding of certain public recreation facilities.

Objective PROS 8.2 Equitably distribute costs and benefits to public and private users, and match user benefits with interests and need.

POLICIES

PROS 8.2.1 Determine the impact of new development on facilities within the Stanwood Urban Growth Area where the residents will depend on Stanwood for park and recreation needs.

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PROS 8.2.2 Develop a methodology for determining park impact fees that considers the potential impacts on park facilities caused by a development project, and results in an equitable mitigation assessment that is in accordance with local park and recreation standards.

PROS 8.2.3 Assess impact fees only for growth-related deficiencies, not existing deficiencies.

PROS 8.2.4 Maintain an equitable system of facility user fees.

Goal PROS 9 MAINTENANCE: Provide for quality maintenance of existing and future facilities.

Objective PROS 9.1 Develop facilities that are of low maintenance and high capacity design to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs.

POLICIES

PROS 9.1.1 Where appropriate, use low maintenance materials and designs to reduce maintenance costs in new park development.

PROS 9.1.2 Emphasize user input in planning maintenance of park and trail facilities.

PROS 9.1.3 Use design and development standards to improve park facility safety and security.

Objective PROS 9.2 Provide for a high standard of maintenance of existing parks.

POLICIES

PROS 9.2.1 Use low maintenance materials to reduce ongoing maintenance costs in existing facilities as repairs and upgrades occur.

PROS 9.2.2 Develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that provide proper training and awareness for city staff charged with maintaining city park and recreation facilities.

PROS 9.2.3 Where practical and feasible use community volunteers to help maintain park and trail facilities to exceed minimum levels of service standards.

Strategy PROS 9.2.3a Where appropriate, develop adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, park police patrols, and other innovative programs that increase maintenance, safety and security awareness and visibility.

PROS 9.2.4 Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that protect user groups, city staff and the public.

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GOAL PROS 10 SUSTAINABILITY: Incorporate principles of sustainability in the site development, maintenance, operation and programming of park facilities.

Objective PROS 10.1 Encourage sustainable development and maintenance practices within the park system.

POLICIES

PROS 10.1.1 Retain natural conditions and experiences as a goal even when developing facilities for recreation use.

Strategy 10.1.1a Preserve significant environmental areas and features to the extent feasible.

Strategy 10.1.1b. Incorporate low impact development techniques into park design as mitigation when converting land to recreational use.

PROS 10.1.2 Restore urbanized public lands when possible by using conservation techniques as redevelopment opportunities occur.

PROS 10.1.3 Work with the Snohomish County Conservation District to identify and implement opportunities to incorporate conservation techniques in park design and ongoing maintenance and operations.

PROS 10.1.4 Maintain the wetland area in Heritage Park as a location for offsite mitigation to encourage sustainable development throughout the City.

PROS 10.1.5 Evaluate the Heritage Park Wetland for development of a formal wetland bank designation.

PROS 10.1.6 Develop guidelines for park users to encourage sustainable practices in park activities and events techniques such as use of compostable plastics, composting, and carpooling.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Stanwood is located in the Northern Puget Sound region of Washington State, approximately half way between Seattle and the Canadian border in northwest Snohomish County. Covering approximately 3.5 square miles, Stanwood is located on the Stillaguamish River, near the passage that connects Port Susan and Skagit Bay. Interstate 5 lies approximately 4 miles east of the City.

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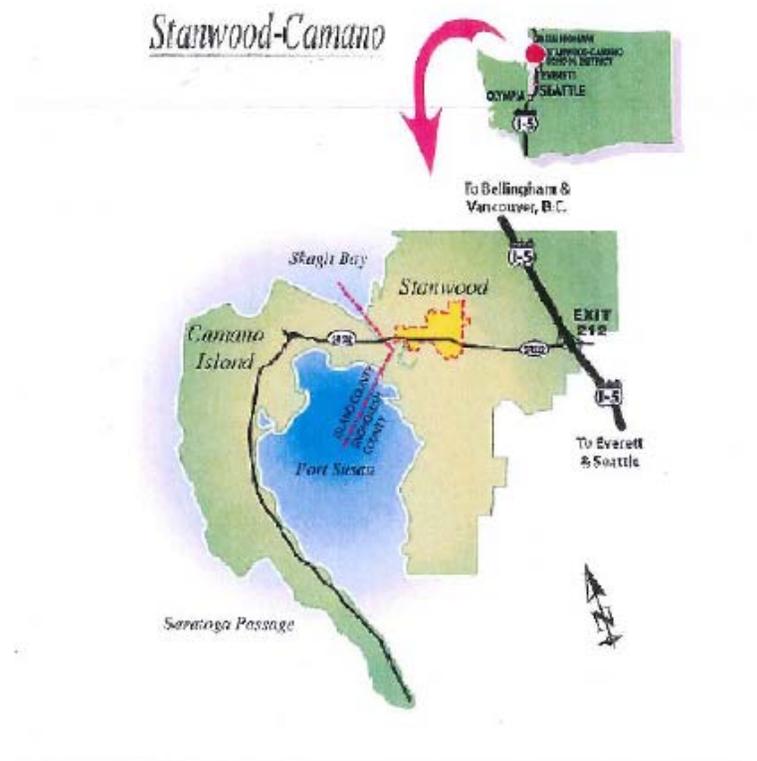


Figure 1 Location Map

This area is rich in both scenic beauty and natural resources. Stanwood is geographically separated from the other urban areas of Snohomish County and is surrounded by unincorporated forest land, farm land, multiple sloughs, and the Stillaguamish Estuary. This setting affords a variety of both public and private recreational opportunities for the population. Stanwood is also the access point to Camano Island in Island County and the regional center for the recreational needs of the surrounding unincorporated areas of southern Skagit, western Island and northern Snohomish Counties. The proximity of the large population on Camano Island creates additional demand for City park and recreation services that is not accounted for in the typical level of service analysis for city facilities.

PLANNING AREA

The planning area for this plan is the corporate limits of Stanwood and the unincorporated urban growth area. The existing Heritage Park facility serves as a regional park for the tri-county area including portions of Snohomish, Island and Skagit Counties.

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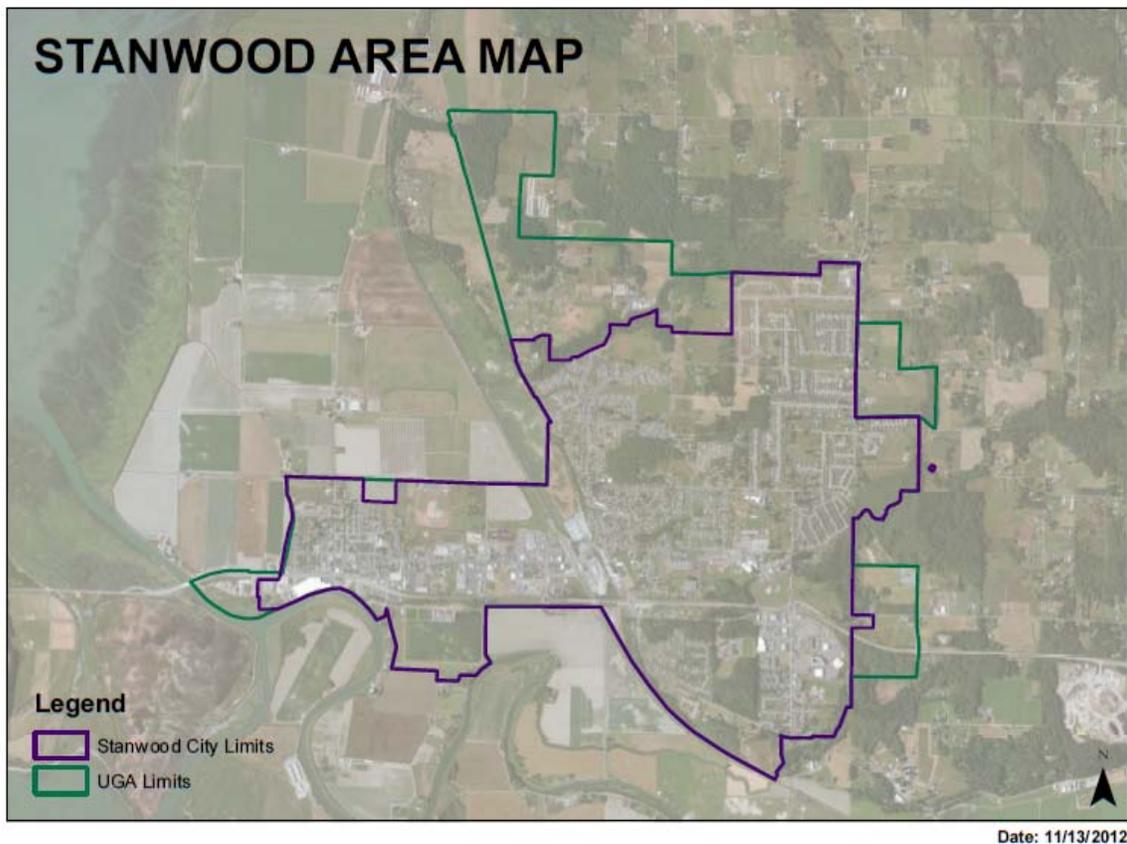


Figure 2 Stanwood City Limits and Urban Growth Area

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Like most early settlements in this region, the site that was to become Stanwood originated as a lumber camp, which then became a mill site settlement. As the trees were harvested and land was cleared, the fertile alluvial soil was tilled and converted to farmland forming the foundation for an agricultural economy. D.O. Pearson opened the first general store in 1877 and named the emerging town after his wife. In 1891, the main regional rail line, the Seattle & Montana Railroad, established a depot one mile east of Stanwood, which became a focus for the development of East Stanwood. Around the turn of the century, the settlements boasted a creamery, a major lumber mill, a cannery, shipbuilding, two hotels, two stores, and a race track along with many other urban features. A major fire wiped out much of Stanwood in 1892, however it was quickly rebuilt. The H & H, a small local railroad, achieved national recognition as the world's shortest railroad as it only operated between the mill site in Stanwood and what was then the Great Northern mainline in East Stanwood. The City of Stanwood was incorporated in 1903. Stanwood and East Stanwood became one town in 1961. Currently, the City functions primarily as a residential community as well as an automobile-oriented trade center for the Stanwood/Camano Island residential developments and outlying communities.

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CLIMATE

The climate of Stanwood is moist and mild. The average annual temperature is about 50.5 degrees Fahrenheit. The frost-free growing season usually extends from April through October. The annual average precipitation is about 36” with about 75 percent of the total falling during the period of October through March. Prevailing winds from the west are usually gentle (0-12 knots). Summer winds are generally southwesterly and mild. Winter storms can occur with winds up to 40 knots usually coming from the southeast.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS: ECONOMICS AND EMPLOYMENT

Stanwood has an important role in the economic development of northwest Snohomish County. Like other northwestern Washington communities, Stanwood has experienced a decline in resource related jobs (agricultural, forestry, and fisheries), but has compensated with an increase in retail trade and service jobs as well as non-resource related industrial employment. Table 1 shows the breakdown of income characteristics of the Stanwood population.

Much of Stanwood’s cultural history stems from Scandinavian heritage. Cultural influences have blended to form a community that is more diverse and truly unique. Also included in the population of Stanwood are Native Americans, Asians, Blacks and Hispanics. Approximately ninety percent of the population remains Caucasian. Table 2 summarizes the percentages of the major racial groups.

Stanwood and the surrounding area, including Camano Island, have seen rapid population growth over the past 20 years. In 2000, the Stanwood/Camano area had a median age of 33.9; in 2010, the median age was 35.9. Both Stanwood and Camano Island continue to attract a large retired population. On Camano Island the median age increased from 36.7 years in 2000 (Census 2000) to 50.1 years in 2012 (2008-2012 American Community Survey). Table 3 shows a breakdown of persons by age. The Stanwood-Camano School District is experiencing declining enrollment in recent years. The District had total enrollment of 4,204 for the 2013-2014 school year (June 24, 2014 Cohort) compared to a May 2012 headcount of 4,873 as reported by the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The school district enrollment is projected to decrease over the next four school years by 431 students or approximately 11% (June 24, 2014 Cohort).

Projections within the City of Stanwood and the Stanwood Urban Growth Area are for an increased population totaling 11,085 people (under Snohomish County Tomorrow medium growth projections) by the year 2035. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) showed an actual population of 6,340 in 2013. The population forecast for the next 6 years growth to 2021 is 8,210.

Another shift currently taking place in Stanwood is an increase in the percentage of the population commuting to other areas for employment. Even though the Stanwood area is expected to gain jobs over the next twenty years, the majority of new population is expected

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to be commuters. According to the 2010 Census, workers from the City of Stanwood commuted an average of 29.1 minutes, which exceeded the national average (Census, 2010).

There are numerous service organizations, community groups, fraternal organizations, churches, and senior citizens groups and youth organizations in Stanwood. All of these groups donate many volunteer hours making Stanwood a good place to live and work. In addition, the City provides a complete range of services including public safety, public works and parks and recreation.

TABLE 1: Household Income in 2000 and 2010

Median household income was \$60,596 in 2010 compared to the Washington State average of \$57,244. The total number of households in 2010 was 2,191.

Income	Percentages	
	2000	2010
0 – \$14,999	19.5%	10.2%
\$15,000 – \$24,999	9.6%	9.4%
\$25,000 – \$49,999	26.9%	21.4%
\$50,000 -- \$74,999	30.4%	20.5%
\$75,000 -- \$99,999	7.8%	16.7%
\$100,000 +	5.8%	21.8%

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2000 and 2010

TABLE 2: Race

White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Other
89.7%	1.0%	0.8%	2%	6.5%

Hispanic or Latino of any race = 7%

Source: Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2010

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TABLE 3: Persons by Age

Age Groups	Total	Percentage of Total
Under 18	1,754	16.61%
18 and Over	4,477	42.4%
20-24	350	3.31%
25-34	785	7.43%
35-49	1,344	12.73%
50-64	894	8.47%
65 and Over	955	9.04%

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2010

TABLE 4: Population Comparison between Stanwood & Snohomish County

	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010
Stanwood	1,670	1,961	3,923	4,580	6,231
Snohomish County	337,720	465,642	606,024	655,800	713,335

*Source: Census of Population and Households, 2000 and 2010
Office of Financial Management, 2005*

TABLE 5: Gender Population Breakdown

Year	Persons	Gender	
		Male	Female
1970	1,347	624	723
1980	1,676	781	895
1990	1,961	895	1,066
2000	3,923	1,857	2,066
2010	6,231	2,947	3,284

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1990, 2000, and 2010

PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

Public Park Type: Large Urban Park (Regional Park)

Regional parks are the largest type of park that could be developed in the City. Regional parks serve the population of large geographical areas including rural and urban areas, providing concentrated open spaces and a respite from urban lifestyles. In the context of Stanwood, the regional facility serves residents of Camano Island in Island County, Snohomish and Skagit County residents and residents of the City. The regional park attracts league sports and activities with a regional draw such as bicycle races, tournaments and jamborees. **Stanwood's regional park is Heritage Park.**

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General Development and Use Guidelines

Because of the number of persons and the range of interests they serve, regional parks are generally 50 to 75 acres or larger in size. Regional parks may feature wooded areas and varying topography and have facilities suitable for large scale sporting events such as tournaments.

As part of the 2012 PROS Plan update Heritage Park was reclassified from a community park to a regional facility. Although it is shy of the National Recreation and Parks Association recommended acreage standard for a regional facility, it was funded as a regional park and continues to be used as a regional facility. Regular usage is generated from a three county area with a majority of users living outside the city limits.

Public Park Type: Community Park

Community parks provide a focal point and gathering place for the broader community. Community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are encouraged. Community parks usually have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park. Community parks require more support facilities, such as parking, restrooms and playgrounds, than neighborhood or pocket parks because they serve a larger area and offer more amenities. **The City of Stanwood's Community Park is Church Creek Park.**

General Development and Use Guidelines

Community parks are intended to serve the recreational needs of several neighborhoods. Where possible, they should be developed in a coordinated fashion with adjoining schools and located on or near arterial streets. Community parks should be located within 1 to 3 miles of every residence. The optimum size for a community park is 20 to 50 acres. As such, expansions to existing community parks or development of new community parks should be evaluated based on the need for the following facilities:

- Recreation/community center;
- Swimming pool;
- Lighted sports fields;
- Large group picnic areas; and
- Nature or wellness-based interpretive facilities.

A community park functions as a neighborhood park for the residents who live in close proximity to it; therefore, it should also comply with the city's neighborhood park classification.

Public Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks provide access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents, enhance neighborhood identity, and preserve neighborhood open space. Neighborhood parks

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are large enough to include both passive and active facilities but are small enough to be placed in neighborhoods where they serve the needs of residents in a local setting. Because they are usually located in neighborhoods, neighborhood parks are designed and operated to minimize, noise, traffic, light and other “spill-over” impacts. They are designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. **Stanwood currently has one developed neighborhood park at Lions Park and undeveloped acreage at Lindstrom Park.**

General Development and Use Guidelines

Neighborhood parks are typically 5 to 10 acres in size but must be at least 3 acres. A neighborhood park should generally be located with a ¼- to ½-mile walk from the neighborhood it serves, uninterrupted by arterial roads or other physical barriers. Ideally, all neighborhood parks shall contain the following amenities:

- Play equipment – Separate structures for 2 to 5 year olds and 5 to 12 year olds will be required;
- Playground surfacing shall be engineered wood fiber or other surfacing as approved by the Department;
- Drinking fountain(s);
- Picnic tables, barbeques, and benches;
- Open turf areas for casual play;
- Trees;
- Security lighting;
- Waste disposal and recycling containers;
- Concrete walkways that connect all of the amenities in the park; and
- A loop walk around the park shall also be provided, if feasible.

A neighborhood park may include the following additional amenities based upon neighborhood preference:

- Basketball courts;
- Tennis courts;
- Skateboard play area;
- Zero depth water play area;
- A handball, volleyball, or tether ball court;
- Community garden;
- One or more multi-purpose fields (typically unlighted but could be lighted under certain circumstances);
- Picnic shelter;
- Restroom building; and
- Lighted parking lot.

Locations for neighborhood parks will be based on a variety of factors, including the population and demographics of residents in the park’s service area and major physical boundary.

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Potential new neighborhood parks include a downtown park located adjacent to the downtown train station to serve the downtown business and residential community, and a neighborhood park located in the north portion of the City adjacent to 288th St NW in the City's Urban Growth Area.

Public Park Type: Pocket or Mini Park

Pocket parks are the smallest type of park in the City's system. A pocket/mini park is intended to serve its immediate surrounding area. They are typically built to serve a specific need. They may occur when the development of a larger park to meet a neighborhood need is not possible due to physical or other constraints. These parks may also be the result of historic conditions or older land patterns resulting in small pieces of land that can provide relief from development in urban neighborhoods or business areas. Pocket parks are not included in the City's inventory for purposes of establishing the Level of Service necessary to support development under the Growth Management Act. **The City has an informal pocket/mini park on the .14 acre parcel abutting city hall.**

General Development and Use Guidelines

Pocket parks are up of any size up to 3 acres and are often developed on unused or vacant lots or unimproved right of way. Typically, they do not provide formal recreation facilities or amenities. Pocket parks will be located primarily based on the availability of land.

Public Park Type: Special Use Park/Facility

A Special Use Park is characterized by facilities or areas oriented toward single-purpose use that people are willing to travel for. These parks may provide a recreational facility or amenity unique to a community or site and may include active and/or passive activities. Special Use Parks are designed to meet the needs of the facility, site and users. They should be strategically located in the community and easily accessible. These facilities may be classified as either neighborhood or community parks depending on size and function for the purposes of meeting level of service standards.

The City's currently has no Special Use facilities but has several City-owned properties that are classified as Special Use Parks including the Riverfront, Ovenell, and Hamilton properties.

Public Park Type: Combined School-Park

The Stanwood-Camano School District operates several passive and active recreational areas on each of its campuses. These facilities are not part of the PROS Plan Level of Service calculations, but they are available for recreational use to Stanwood and area residents.

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The Stanwood-Camano School District maintains combined school-park acreage within the Stanwood city limits at the 3 Elementary and 2 Middle schools as well as Stanwood-Camano High School that is not included for level of service analysis but do provide recreation opportunities.

Private Parks/Facilities

Private facilities include recreation areas such as trails, open space and neighborhood parks including play areas such as “Tot” Lots. These parks are often established through the development process to meet neighborhood recreation needs as new neighborhoods are created, they serve only the residents of neighborhoods and are maintained by homeowners associations.

The City also has several private recreation clubs providing workout facilities as a business activity. In addition a YMCA facility is in the planning stages. The City has one private non-profit community center, the Community Resource Center, which is located in downtown Stanwood. This facility specializes in serving middle school teens with afterschool, recreation and job training, and also supports low income families within the school district attendance area. These private parks and facilities are not included in the City’s inventory for purposes of establishing the Level of Service necessary to support development under the Growth Management Act.

TABLE 6: Classification Standards for Recreation Facilities

Classification	Acres/1,000 Pop.	Size Range	Population Served	Service Area
Neighborhood Park/Specialty Park	2.5	5 – 20 acres	560 – 2,000	¼ – ½ mile
Community Park	2.5	20 – 100 acres	2,000 – 10,000	½ mile
Regional, Park*	.002-.003	50-75 acres	25,000	Multi-county

Source: National Park Recreation and Open Space Standards, National Recreation and Park Association, Washington D.C.

**Based on standard for community facility.*

EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION INVENTORY

City-owned Parks and Recreation Facilities

The City of Stanwood presently operates one regional park, one community park, one neighborhood park, and several designated trails. The City also owns several small parcels of

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land that have potential for more productive public use. Some are developed as small plazas or are parts of parking lots, and others remain undeveloped. The City has no community center facility. See Appendix A for a map of city-owned facilities and images of the facilities.

Park Summary by Classifications

Name	Size	Type
Heritage	43.5 acres	Regional
Church Creek	15 acres	Community
Lions	1 acres	Neighborhood
Lindstrom	2.5 acres	(Undeveloped Neighborhood)
City Hall	0.14 acres	(Undeveloped Pocket/Mini Park)

Heritage Park (43.5 acres)

From its inception, the Heritage Park has been viewed as a regional athletic and recreational complex serving the Stanwood, northwest Snohomish County, and Camano Island. The City, Snohomish County, and Stanwood School District jointly purchased the 43.5 acre Heritage site in 1991. An interlocal agreement was signed between the City and the County at that time and another between the City and the School District provided for continued non-resident use of this facility. Snohomish County has identified Heritage as a major regional complex in the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Plan.

An Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) grant was secured for both acquisition and Phase I & II construction of the Heritage complex. Phase I & II construction included baseball/softball fields, a children's play area, a major east-west section of walking/jogging trail and paving the existing parking area.

The facility currently includes: baseball fields, softball fields, a multiuse field, soccer/lacrosse field, restrooms, paved parking without stripes, a main east-west trail, children's play area, a skate park with two temporary ramp structures, individual picnic tables under small shelters, and wetland areas with an interpretive trail.

Church Creek Park (15 acres)

This community park is located in the eastern portion of Stanwood one block north of SR SR-532. It has a paved parking lot with a total of 31 parking spaces. The facility currently includes: an unlit little-league baseball diamond that also serves as a softball field, four pieces of playground equipment with swing set, slide, seesaw, and a sand box, numerous nature trails, restroom facilities, and a group shelter with four large tables. There are also various other picnic areas located throughout the park. Other recreation activities at Church Creek are a basketball court and a fuchsia garden. There is little room available for expansion of this area. The park is maintained and receives heavy use particularly during the summer months.

Lions Park (1 acre)

This facility is a small neighborhood park covering approximately 1 acre, located close to Pioneer Highway and SR SR-532 in a northeast residential neighborhood. The facility

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currently includes: a half basketball court, a picnic table with barbeque grill, several pieces of playground equipment with a sand box, and a grass lawn area. There are no delineated parking areas, though informal parking along the shoulder is evident. The expansion potential of the park is limited. The facility is well used by the surrounding neighborhood.

Lindstrom Parcel (2.5 acres)

Lindstrom Park is undeveloped land located to the southeast of the movie theater and dedicated to the City as part of the Stanwood-Camano Village Development. The land provides a potential for development as a neighborhood park in the southeast portion of Stanwood. This parcel is also part of the dedicated detention facility for the Lindstrom development.

Riverfront Property (.8 acre)

.8 acres of primarily undeveloped land between SR 532 and the Stillaguamish River, east of Twin City Foods. A viewing platform was constructed on this property in 2014 as an Eagle Scout project. This land could provide access to the Stillaguamish River and help create a link from the river to the downtown as a specialty neighborhood park. This land was identified as “Riverfront Park in the 2006 Parks and Recreation Plan.

Undeveloped City Hall Property (.14 acres)

This lot previously was developed with a single family structure which was acquired by the city in 1994. The residence was demolished in 2009. The site has grass, fruit trees and a picnic table and abuts the City Hall to the west.

Hamilton Property(2.01 acres)

The property consists of approximately 2.01 acres located along State Route 532 immediately adjacent to the Stillaguamish River (parcel 32032400414600). The Property is zoned General Industrial (GI). A portion of this property has been used as a boat launch and is leased for that purpose. The property already has some of the amenities required for a public boat launch and provides an excellent location for public access to the Stillaguamish River, while preserving a significant portion of the property as passive recreational use along the waterfront. A public boat launch use would include a driveway access to the launch location and parking, which might at some point be paved with asphalt or concrete. In its current state it has good potential as a special use park facility providing water access and limited small craft boating.

Ovenell Property (15.0 acres)

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The Ovenell property includes 5 separate parcels (some portions) totaling approximately 15 acres. The property is south of SR532 and bordered by the Stillaguamish River to the west and south. The Ovenell property is a former dairy farm with a long history. The site includes the old milking parlors and barns used by the Ovenell farm for milk production. The farm was recognized in 1989 by the Washington State Department of Agriculture as a “Centennial Farm”. The property also has one occupied home and fallow agricultural land.

The property is all level. The old highway that used to lead to the old bridge and before that the old ferry landing runs through the center of this property. It was vacated and deeded to the Ovenell family years ago.

There is an inactive rail spur that crosses the lower portion of the property that leads to Twin City Foods. Approximately one vacant acre on the NE corner of the property is in the Stanwood City limits and zoned General Industrial. The balance of the property is in the City of Stanwood’s urban growth area (UGA), intended to come into the City with General Commercial zoning. The Snohomish County future land use map designates the property as Urban Industrial.

Purchasing the Ovenell property is part of a larger effort by the City of Stanwood, Stillaguamish Tribe, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nature Conservancy, Marine Resources Committee and others to preserve, restore and enhance estuarine habitat and provide public access to a unique environment. Port Susan Bay and Skagit Bay are characterized by a diversity of landscapes, including forests, farms, marine shoreline, and the Stillaguamish River delta. Yet, the ecological systems that support these species and industries are threatened. Human activities resulting in habitat loss, degraded water quality, and many other stresses are becoming increasingly prevalent as the human population in Puget Sound grows and expands.

The Stillaguamish Tribe has purchased the Matterand property to the south of the Ovenell property. The Tribe has received funding from the State Legislature and Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Partnership to restore about 40 acres to intertidal estuary. Setback levees will be built on the south and east ends of the property to reconnect Port Susan Bay with the Stillaguamish River. This will restore tidal flooding.



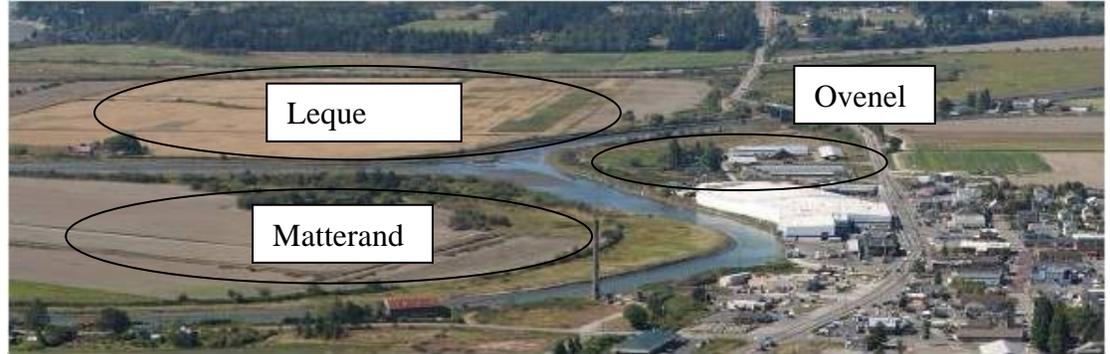
The Ovenell property is due east of Leque Island. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has purchased a majority of the island (325 acres). Contract farmers annually plant cereal grain as food for wintering waterfowl (mainly ducks and snow geese). This site offers bird watching, bird dog training, and pheasant and waterfowl hunting. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board has funded a cooperative project between Ducks Unlimited and WDFW to restore about 100 acres of Leque Island to intertidal estuary. Setback levees will be built on the south and north ends of the island, and dikes removed to reconnect sloughs with the Stillaguamish River. This will restore tidal flooding, provide habitat where juvenile salmon

can make the transition from a fresh to saltwater environment, and benefit other fish and wildlife species.

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The city's intent is to provide long-term protection of natural resources and serve to model responsible management practices to coastal communities. It



should be noted that a Master Plan process for the Ovenell property will begin in mid-2015 and continue through 2016.

Trails

Three designated trails exist in the area:

1. The Stanwood-Camano Village Loop trail consists of a 1 mile, paved trail that weaves around the perimeter of the development.
2. The Pioneer Highway Trail consists of an approximately 1 mile paved trail on the north shoulder of Pioneer Highway and runs from SR SR-532 southward to within 200 yards of 72nd Avenue NW.
3. The Heritage Park trail consists of approximately .5 mile paved trail running east/west along the southern perimeter of the Park and north/south between the play fields.

Open Space

Ravenna Viaduct Triangle (1 acre)

This area is 1 acre in planted lawn with shrubs and small trees. This landscaped area serves mainly as a pleasing view for those passing by along the viaduct or underpass. The landscape area is isolated without an opportunity for pedestrian connection.

Stanwood School District Facilities

The district has baseball, football, soccer fields, six tennis courts, a track, gymnasiums, and playground equipment located at the high school, two middle schools, and three elementary schools. For a fee, the district lets the public use their outdoor facilities for an organized events when they are not in use by the schools.

Private Facilities

Pocket Parks/Tot Lots

The City currently requires new subdivisions and multifamily developments to provide open space and recreational areas. Most developers choose to provide tot lots, off-setting some public neighborhood park deficiencies.

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Facilities outside the City Limits

There are a number of existing parks and recreational facilities, outside of City of Stanwood corporate limits that provide service to Stanwood residents. These facilities are not included in the Level of Service analysis for the Stanwood Parks Plan but are presented here to provide a summary of all of the facilities available in the region.

Washington State Parks:

1. Cama Beach State Park 383 acres — cabins, lodge, boating, trails, fishing.
2. Camano Island State Park 134 acres — camping, boating, picnic areas, viewpoint, restrooms.

Island County Parks:

3. Utsalady Point Vista Park 1 acre —picnic area, barbecue, viewpoint, historical information board.
4. English Boom Historical Park 6.8 acres — undeveloped beach & forest. Planned facilities include parking, viewpoint, ADA access, trail, historical interpretive board, restrooms.
5. Cavalero Beach Park .5 acre — picnic tables, small boat launch.
6. Freedom Park 3.5 acres — Pearl Harbor memorial, sculpture garden.
7. Hutchinson Park 5 acres — trail and picnic area.
8. Four Springs Lake Preserve 50 acres — natural habitat preserve, with Four Springs House for event rental.
(Friends of Camano Island Parks)
9. Iverson Spit Waterfront Preserve 330 acres — waterfront preserve, birding area, trails.

Snohomish County Parks:

10. Kayak Point Golf Course 250 acres — public golf course with 18-holes.
11. Kayak Point Park 400 acres — fishing pier, boat launch, trails, restrooms, picnic facilities, beach access, yurt, cottages, tent camping.
Snohomish County

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Privately Owned:

12. Camaloch Golf Course 79 Acres —public golf course with 18-holes.

Designated Trail:

13. Cascade Marine Trail Segment of water trail passes through the South and
(Designated by West Pass of the Stillaguamish River.
Washington Water Trails
Association)

Open Space:

VFW Memorial (3 acre)

This facility covers approximately 3 acres off Pioneer Highway and south of SR-532 outside the City limits. There is a large grass lawn with a memorial dedicated to the veterans of wars. It also serves as a rail bus stop and a park and ride with 51 parking spaces currently on site. The area is not currently used for recreation and there is limited potential for development.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Through the active participation of citizens in workshops, an open house, questionnaire, and meetings, the City identified public attitudes towards both current and future parks and recreation facilities, and their needs. This process allowed for continued input from the community to help inform the contents and direction of the Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan

Event	Description	Date
Sustainable Design Assistance Team	3 Day Charette for the Greater Stanwood Area presented in cooperation with the American Institute of Architects. The team recommendations included comments about parks, trails, water access and sustainability.	July 23-25 2012
Planning Commission Workshop	Workshop to provide input on current inventory, goals, and objectives; and generate ideas regarding future facilities within the service area.	August 13, 2012
City Council	Review scope and methodology.	August 23, 2012
Public Workshop Questionnaire	On line Questionnaire to assess use of facilities, recreational priorities, and comments regarding city parks.	September 10 to October 1, 2012
Planning Commission Workshops	Review public workshop and questionnaire results, obtain additional comments, review possible projects, and planning commission	September 10, 2012 October 8 & 22, 2012

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	prioritization of projects.	
Public Open House	Review results from previous workshop, have public prioritize projects, and receive additional comments and ideas.	September 24, 2012
Planning Commission Public Hearing	Review amendments.	November 14, 2012
Joint Planning Commission & City Council Workshop	Review results from previous workshop and planning commission session, city council members briefing, and receive additional comments and ideas.	November 26, 2012
Planning Commission	Public Hearing Deliberation and Recommendation.	December 3, 2012
City Council	Consideration of plan recommended by Planning Commission and adoption of plan.	December 13, 2012

FACILITY DEMAND

Parks and recreation facility demand involves many different variables that influence recreation participation by the public. Many factors have influenced recreational trends. There is an increased need to address the traditional recreation needs as well as newer sports. The questionnaire, workshops, and open house provided input to the types of recreation facilities that the community would like to see in the future. For detailed summaries of the questionnaire results, see Appendix B.

Results from the SDAT Design Charette, Public Workshop, Questionnaire, and Planning Commission Workshop were used as the basis to develop a list of projects that incorporate the desires of the public for their park and recreation system in Stanwood. These projects are accomplishable within a reasonable time frame of 6 years. These projects are conceptual. In many cases, partnerships may be required with other agencies or organizations to jointly develop or enhance parks, recreation, or open space facilities. In addition, the locations indicated for proposed projects and facilities are approximate and may be adjusted as individual projects or proposals are further developed in the future. The list of projects is as follows, in no particular order.

- A. Complete sidewalk connections between sidewalk segments (increase connectivity).
- B. Kayak/small, non-motorized, craft launch and water trailhead at riverfront property.
- C. Develop passive-use park with waterfront access.
- D. Downtown Park to provide meeting space and support low impact development/conservation goals.
- E. Continuous trail loop around Heritage Park.

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- F. Skate Park improvements and upgrades at Heritage Park. Large-gathering picnic shelter with fire pits/grills at Heritage Park. Develop major loop trails with trailheads in the north, the south and west of the city.
- G. Establish and develop a main east-west bicycle/pedestrian trail to Camano Island, Arlington, and north/south to Conway and Warm Beach.
- H. Park improvements to Church Creek Park (improve condition of shelters and other facilities or redesign for new use(s)).
- I. Park property acquisition and development in northeast part of Stanwood (vicinity of 280th and 284th Streets).
- J. Upgrade playground equipment at Church Creek Park.
- K. Waterfront trail (Ovenell Farm or Twin City Foods east on south side of SR-532).

Several ideas and suggestions emerged from the comments received from the public open house, Planning Commission meetings, and the joint Planning Commission-City Council Workshop for future parks and recreation facilities. The following list of projects builds upon the previous list with some new additions. Note that some of the projects are located outside Stanwood city limits, but have been included since they are within the service area. The list of projects is as follows, in no particular order:

- A. Cedarhome circular loop trail (80th to 284th to 68th to 280th to 70th to 276th and back on 80th).
- B. Trail connection from Heritage Park to downtown to the rail station.
- C. Acquire and develop park in downtown/rail station area as “Downtown Commons”.
- D. Kayak/small craft launch.
- E. Smaller, neighborhood parks needed throughout the City like Lion’s Park.
- F. Use the tops of the dike system along the river and sloughs for pedestrian and bicycle trails.
- G. Pave shoulders of main streets and highways for bike lanes.
- H. Dog parks and off-leash areas.
- I. Park acquisition and development to the north of East Stanwood near 300th.
- J. Park acquisition to give access to water at Stillaguamish River.

Comments from the city council, planning commission, and the public open house were tabulated and compiled together (see Appendix B). Through review of the prioritizations and content review of the comments several trends emerge as top priorities for the community within the near future. Broadly speaking, they can be grouped into the following categories:

1) River Park

Acquisition of additional land for a new park to provide access to the river and to provide passive recreation, water use, shoreline access and habitat conservation consistent with the Shoreline Master Program. Parking as well as trailhead facilities such as restrooms would need to be provided.

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2) Kayak/Small, Non-motorized Craft Launch

Provisions for a kayak/small, non-motorized, craft launch showed up prominently in the comments from the public and at the top of the prioritization lists. Somewhere along the river in the west part of Stanwood, a kayak/small craft launch spot should be provided. This could be at the city's existing riverfront property or in conjunction with an additional park acquisition along the river.

3) Downtown Park

Acquisition of the "downtown triangle" at 271st & Florence Way across from the Amtrak Station is desired as a place for community passive recreation and a potential demonstration of conservation techniques incorporating low impact development in park design and an outdoor meeting spot for community events.

4) Trails and Trailheads

Trails as linkages between open spaces and as loops were mentioned frequently and appeared consistently at the top of the prioritization lists. There is a strong desire for connectivity between trails and parks, as well as other destination points in the city; especially the downtown/rail station area. Providing for a consistent and coordinated sign system, designating trail routes and improving the existing paving conditions of trail routes are important infrastructure considerations for the community. The community would like to see main loops provided for throughout the various sections/quadrants of the city with trailheads. These trailheads should provide some parking, restroom facilities, drinking fountains, and should be within proximity to services. Along with new trail development, there is also a desire that signs designating trails be developed and existing conditions of trails are improved.

In addition, bicycle routes are desired either as a provision for bike lanes on the main streets and highways going through the city and as designated routes throughout the surrounding areas (along the dikes). Trailheads could be developed in conjunction with parks. Trails connecting to Camano Island, Conway, the Centennial Trail in Arlington and Warm Beach are supported.

5) Upgrades to Existing Parks

Upgrades and enhancements to existing parks is a top priority for many members of the community. Specifically, playground equipment and site furnishings at Church Creek Park are needed. A redesign of Church Creek Park and improved signage for the entire park system are also desired.

Improvements at Heritage Park received additional attention, such as upgrades to the skate park, drainage improvement to improve field conditions, continuing a perimeter trail loop, planting additional landscaping, and providing a large picnic gathering facility.

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6) Neighborhood/Community Park Acquisition

Acquisition and development of an additional neighborhood/community park in the northeast section of Stanwood south of 300th Street between 280th and 284th Streets is needed to address future growth in the Stanwood Urban Growth Area. This park need is identified in the Draft Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan and Recreation Plan.

ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

National standards for classifying park facilities were previously developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association (Table 7) for assessing parkland needs and are commonly used by jurisdictions for Level of Service (LOS) standards. Stanwood's 2014 population of 6,530, six year projected population of 8,210 and projected 2035 population of 11,085, has been used for the analysis of needs section. All population figures, analysis and calculations in this section include the city limits as well as the urban growth area (UGA). The 2035 population estimate is based on the Countywide Planning Policies for Snohomish County, Appendix B.

Existing LOS for Neighborhood and Community Parks

The greatest deficiencies include neighborhood and community parks, and trails including bicycle, walking and jogging trails. In addition, the existing neighborhood parks are not dispersed adequately throughout the City to provide equal local access.

The existing LOS for neighborhood parks is calculated by dividing total inventory of facilities (4 acres) by the total city population of 6,430. This results in a current LOS of .62 acres per 1,000 people. The existing LOS for community parks is calculated the same way. The City of Stanwood has 15 acres of community parks. The current level of service is 2.30 acres per 1,000 people.

A typical Level of Service Analysis is not used for regional parks because the population served includes the entire area of the Stanwood-Camano School District. The 2010 School District service area population was 32,907. In addition, there are other regional park facilities within this school district attendance boundary making it difficult to correlate Stanwood population and Heritage park acreage in a meaningful way. Heritage Park is 48 acres. Although there are other parks within the district, Heritage Park is the only non-school facility offering fields for team sports such as baseball, football, lacrosse and soccer.

Future Needs

National standards for classifying park facilities have been developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association as shown below in Table 7.

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Table 7
Classification Standards for Recreation Facilities

Recreation Facility Classification	Acres/1,000 Pop.	Size Range	Pop. Served	Service Area
Neighborhood Park	2.5	5-20 acres	560-2,000	¼-½ mile
Community Park	2.5	20-100 acres	2,000-10,000	½ mile
Regional Park*	.002-.003	50-75 acres	25,000	Multi County

Source: National Park Recreation and Open Space Standards; National Recreation and Park Association; Washington, D.C., 1983.

*Based on community facility standard Neighborhood Parks Future Need

Neighborhood Parks

Table 8 describes projected neighborhood park needs between 2015 and 2035.

Table 8
National Standard LOS
Neighborhood Parks Needs Projection
(LOS=2.5 acres per 1,000 population)

Time Period	Pop.	Acreage Needed	Acreage Avail.	Net Reserve (Deficit)	Net land Cost
2015-2021	8,210	20.53	4	(16.53)	N/A
2022-2035	11,085	27.7	4	(23.7)	N/A

The City will require additional neighborhood park facilities over the planning period to meet the standard LOS.

Community Parks

Table 9 describes projected community park needs between 2015 and 2035.

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Table 9
National Standard LOS
Community Park Needs
(LOS=2.5 acres per 1,000 population)

Time Period	Pop.	Acreage Needed	Acreage Avail	Net Reserve (Deficit)	Net land Cost
2015-2021	8,210	20.53	15	(5.53)	N/A
2022-2035	11,085	27.7	15	(12.7)	N/A

The City will require additional community park facilities over the planning period to meet the standard LOS.

Linear Parks and Trails

The national standard LOS for trails is 2 acres per 1,000 people. This equates to a trail 8 feet wide and approximately two miles long for each 1,000 people. The City presently has .5 mile of trail at Heritage Park, 1 mile of trail at the Stanwood-Camano Village and 1 mile of designated trail along Pioneer Highway, for a total of 2.5 miles (2.4 acres). Table 10 shows the projected future trail needs.

Table 10
Trails Needs Assessment
(LOS=2 acres per 1,000 population)

Time Period	Pop.	Acreage Required	Acreage Available	Deficit in Acres
2015-2021	8,210	16.42	2.4	(14.02)
2022-2035	11,085	22.2	2.4	(19.8)

The City will need to add additional trail facilities over the planning period in order to resolve the projected deficit based on existing trails.

Summary

Neighborhood Parks Need

Based on the national standards, Stanwood does not have adequate acreage for neighborhood parks and much of the current inventory is undeveloped and/or not accessible as a park. The undeveloped parks need facilities and improvements to function as recreation areas for their

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neighborhoods. The need in the 6 year planning period is 16.53 acres. 23.7 acres is needed by 2035 to meet the standard LOS. Some of the deficit can be met by developing the two undeveloped parcels owned by the city for parks use for an additional 3 acres. These lands are not currently included in the inventory for LOS purposes as they are undeveloped. In terms of acquisition needs, the north and northeast section of Stanwood lacks neighborhood park facilities and the town lacks a facility serving downtown residents and the commercial area.

Community Parks Need

Based on national standards, Stanwood will need to acquire and develop acreage for community parks over the planning period. The Church Creek Park incorporates most of the recreation elements that have been identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan. An additional 12.7 acres of community park land will be needed by 2035. Some portion of community park need is satisfied at Heritage Park for residents of the area adjacent to this facility.

Linear Trails Need

The City currently has a total of 2.5 miles of designated trails at 3 locations. Each mile of trail (8 feet wide) equals .97 acres. The national standard LOS for trails is 2 acres (8 feet wide and approximately 2 miles long) per 1,000 population.

The existing 2.5 miles of trails under serve the 2013 population of 6,430, including the urban growth area (UGA), and an additional 10.58 trail miles are needed immediately. In addition to the immediate need, the City requires 3.88 miles of trails over the six year planning period for a total of 14.46 trail miles by 2021. 5.96 miles of additional 8 foot wide trails are need by the end of the twenty-year planning period for a total of 20.42 new trail miles. Calculation of trail acres to miles requires conversion to square feet. One trail mile equals 42,240 sf (8' x 5280'). One acre equals 43,560 sf.

Regional Park Need

The community need is met and will be met by the 43.6 acre Heritage Park recreation complex. This facility serves a regional population for sports league play, serving the Stanwood Camano School District, and providing a location for multi-county tournaments league play for teams from Stanwood and Camano Island in Island County, regional bicycle events and major community events such as the 4th of July fireworks. The addition of further facility improvements would bring the park to completion. The park also has ongoing maintenance needs.

ACTION PLAN

Introduction

The following recommended actions are based on the facility demand and needs analysis, and are consistent with the goals and objectives contained in this document. To aid in budget

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planning and qualifications for financial assistance, the City of Stanwood has prioritized the action items and developed both six-year and twenty-year action plans. More detail on the six-year action items can be found in the City's Capital Facilities Plan.

Policy Action Items

Several items and projects suggest policy items that should be planned for in regard to the City as a whole.

Six-year Project Action Items

1. River Access Park including a small, non-motorized, water craft launch and water trailhead: requirements may include ramp to water, parking spaces, location should be in close or relatively close proximity to services; possibilities include riverfront property, from Twin City Foods eastward, on the south side of SR-532.
2. Downtown Park: Land within downtown should be acquired and developed to provide passive recreation for residents and commercial users downtown, to provide a community meeting place for events or summer marketing and to provide a connection to trails and/or the train station. The park design could potentially address sustainability issues raised at the SDAT Charette including low impact development design.
3. City Hall Park: Potential improvement to the existing vacant lot owned by the city.
4. Neighborhood Park (1-5 acres) property acquisition in north and/or northeast part of Stanwood, north of East Stanwood (in vicinity of 280th and 284th Streets and 300th Street).
5. Church Creek Park Rehabilitation: Shelter improvements, playground equipment upgrade, enhanced native plantings.
6. Heritage Park Rehabilitation: Drainage improvements.
7. Port Susan Food and Farming Center : Provide expertise to assist the Board choose a permanent and sustainable year round location.
8. Trail System: Completion of missing links in the safe walks to schools program is supported for the sidewalk system. In addition approximately three or four main loop trails (separate from sidewalk system) should be established and designated that interconnect the city's community and neighborhood parks and connect Pioneer Highway/Marine Drive to the downtown and eventually to Camano Island and eastern Snohomish County.
9. Dog park and off-leash area(s).

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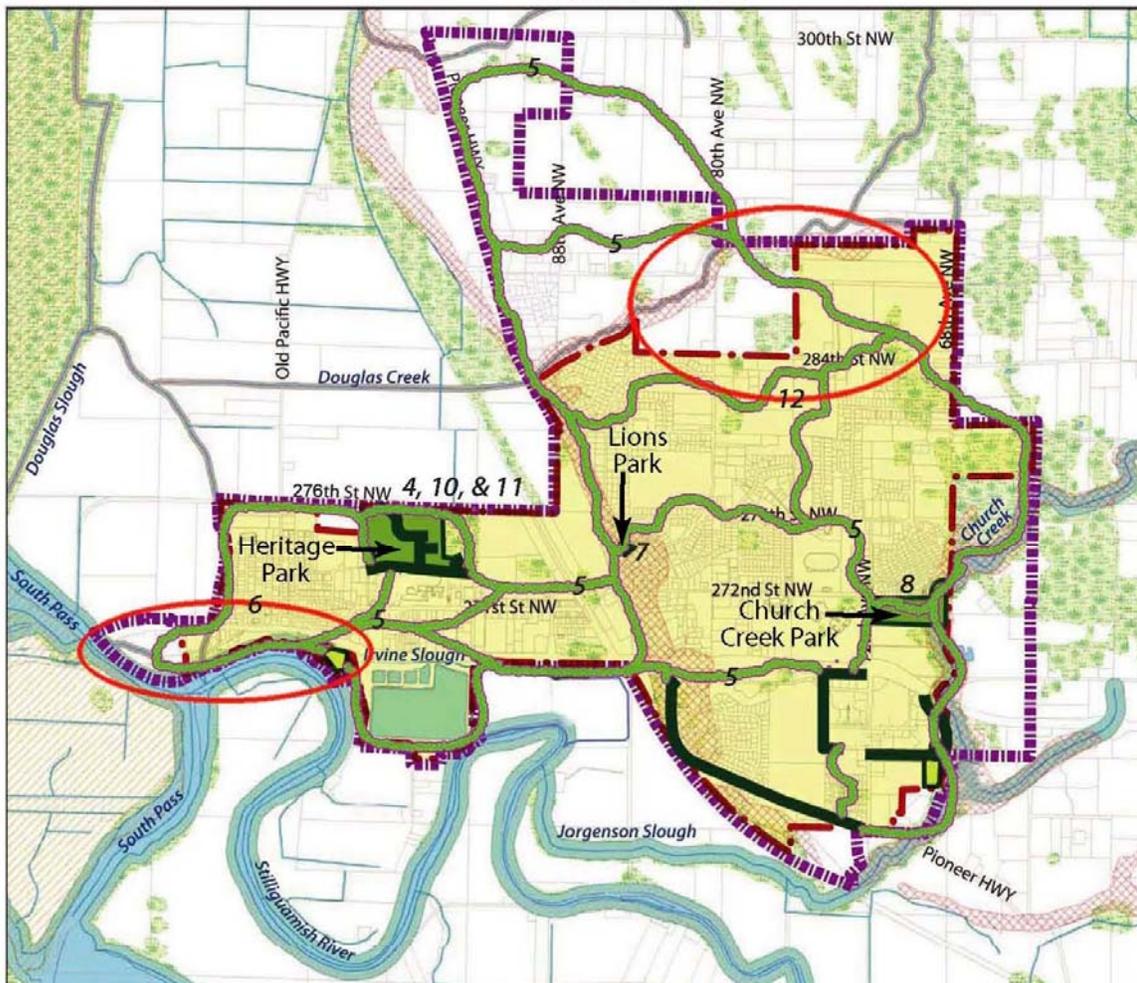
City of Stanwood

6-YEAR PROJECT ACTION ITEMS

- 4 *Heritage Park Field Improvement*
- 5 *Trail System Development**
- 6 *Small, water craft launch*
- 7 *Updgrades*
- 8 *Church Creek Park Upgrades*
- 10 *Heritage Park: Picnic Shelter*
- 11 *Heritage Park: Skate Park*
- 12 *NE Neighborhood Park*

LEGEND:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
|  | Non-DNR Managed Public Lands |  | Standwood Urban Growth Area |
|  | Undevelopable Steep Slopes |  | Stanwood City Limits |
|  | Existing Parks |  | Wetlands & Buffers |
|  | Existing Trails |  | Water Course |
|  | Category 1 & 2 Water Buffer (150') |  | Water Body |
|  | Other Category Water Buffer (50' to 100') |  | Future Trails |
| | |  | Undeveloped Parks |



* Trails shown on map are approximate locations only, actual trail routes should be implemented as opportunities arise

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Twenty-Year Parks Plan

The Twenty-Year Plan consists of projects that received comment and support, although they were lower priorities. These ideas should remain as potential projects should future opportunities arise. *(not listed in order of priority)*:

1. Developing a civic open space in downtown as a “Downtown Commons”.
2. Develop the park at the Lindstrom Property.
3. Viewpoint/overlook near Pioneer Highway (1 acre): property acquisition and development within north part of Stanwood’s Urban Growth Boundary.
4. Finish a continuous loop trail around perimeter of Heritage Park.
5. Provide RV hook-ups and RV parking facilities at Heritage Park.
6. Enhance the viaduct property with a visual “place-marker/landmark element.”
7. Add horseshoe pits to Heritage Park.
8. Add parking near developed trail system (future).
9. Develop designated bike routes.
10. Rest stops for bicycles/walkers (restrooms, drinking fountains, benches).
11. Trail signage system.

Many proposed projects occur outside of the city limits and urban growth boundary, and would involve partnering with other jurisdictions and partners to accomplish them. These include:

1. Developing a main east-west bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting Stanwood to Camano Island and Arlington separate from SR-532 much like the Burke Gilman trail.
2. Use the tops of the dike system along the river and sloughs for pedestrian and bicycle trails (Snohomish and Island Counties).

The City supports these projects and will make every effort to meet future demand for the region. This must, however, be accomplished through cooperative regional partnering with both Snohomish and Island Counties.

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Appendix A: Existing Inventory Map and Images

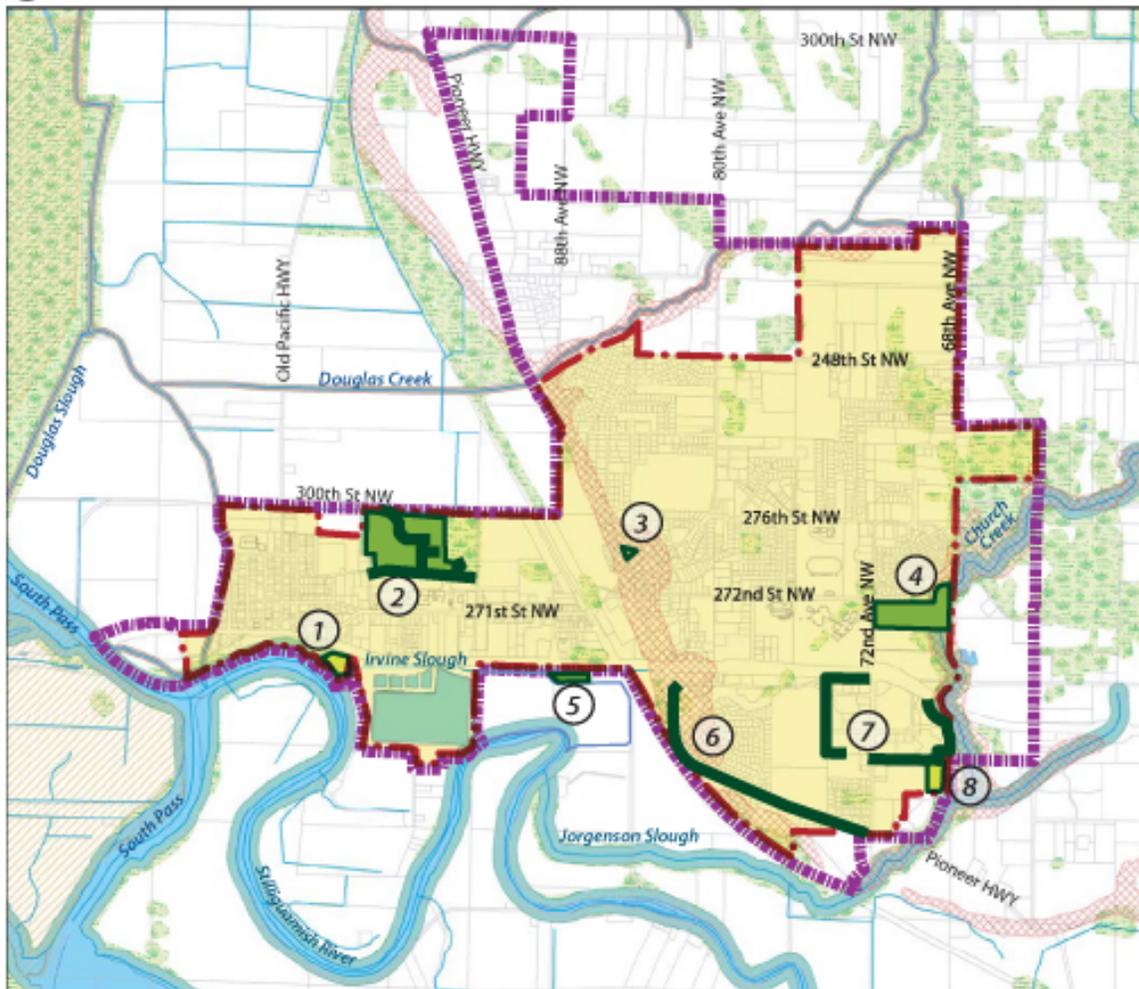
City of Stanwood

EXISTING PARKS & TRAILS

- ① Waterfront Property
- ② Heritage Park & Trails
- ③ Lions Park
- ④ Church Creek Park
- ⑤ VFW Memorial
- ⑥ Pioneer Highway Trail
- ⑦ Village Walking Loop Trail
- ⑧ Lindstrom Property

LEGEND:

-  Non-DNR Managed Public Lands
-  Undevelopable Steep Slopes
-  Existing Parks
-  Existing Trails
-  Category 1 & 2 Water Buffer (150')
-  Other Category Water Buffer (50' to 100')
-  Standwood Urban Growth Area
-  Stanwood City Limits
-  Wetlands & Buffers
-  Water Course
-  Water Body
-  Undeveloped Parks



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HERITAGE PARK

9600 276th St NW, Stanwood

Acreege: 44.05



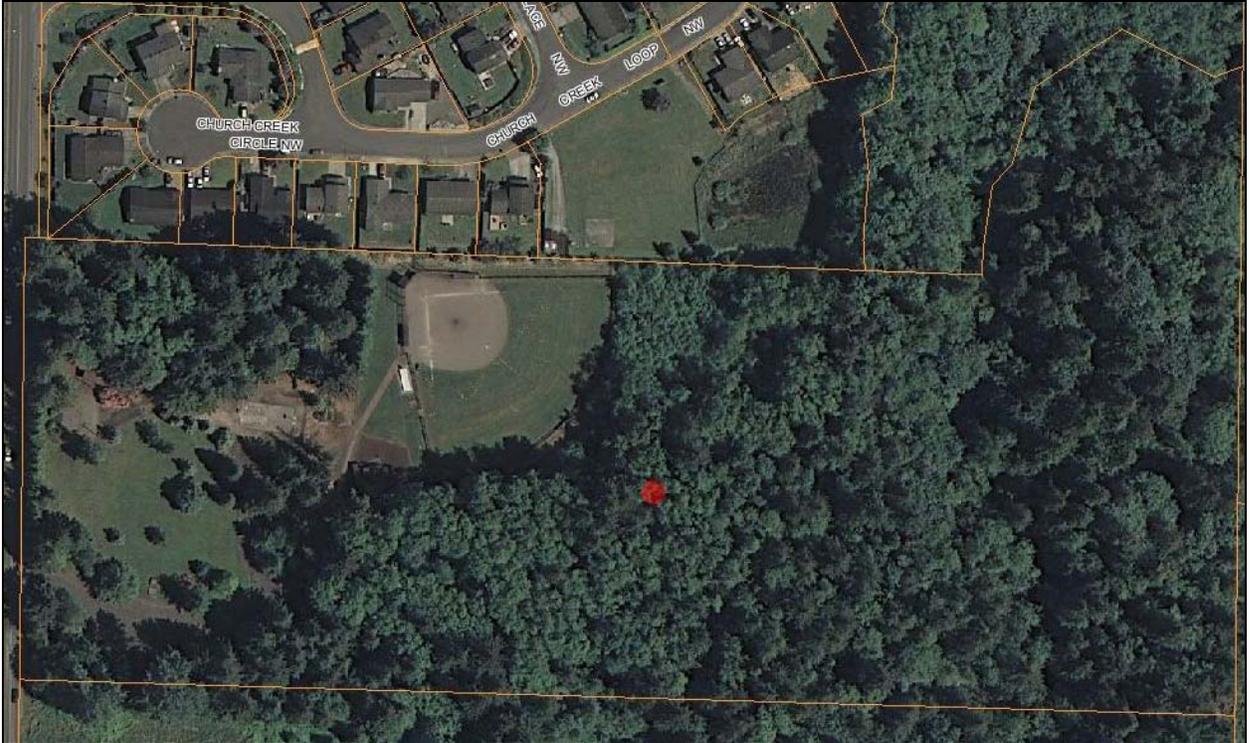
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CHURCH CREEK PARK

71st Ave NW, Stanwood

Acreege: 15.39



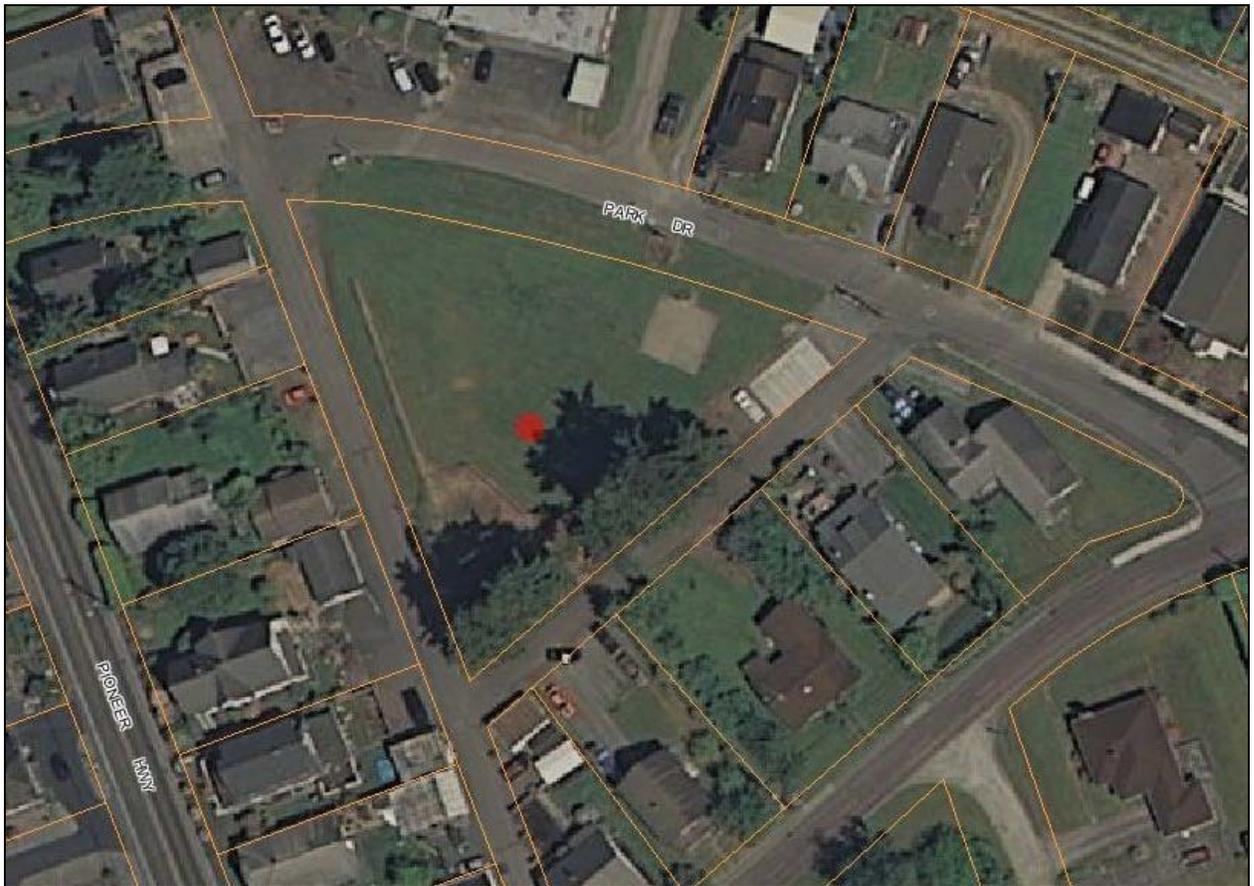
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LIONS PARK

Stanwood

Acreage: .68



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RIVERFRONT PROPERTY

Stanwood
Acreage: .8



LINDSTROM PROPERTY

Stanwood
Acreage: 4.59

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OVENELL PROPERTY

*Stanwood
Acreage: 15*



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HAMILTON PROPERTY

Stanwood

Acreage: 2.01



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Heritage Park & Trails:



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Lions Park:



Church Creek Park:



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VFW Memorial:



Pioneer Highway Trail:



Village Walking Loop Trail:



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Riverfront property



Hamilton property



Ovenell property



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Appendix B: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARIES

Questionnaire

The City held a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Open House for the public on September 24, 2012. Twenty community members had the opportunity to vote on their top four priorities in future parks projects. There were nine options: a city hall park, Church Creek park, an off-leash dog park, a new downtown park, Heritage park improvements, kayak/river access, a new neighborhood park, skate park rehabilitation at Heritage park or trails. The top two votes were tied for kayak/river access and trails. A new downtown park ranked third in votes.

The City also hosted an online PROS plan survey from September 8 to October 1, 2012 and invited the community to give input. The survey received seventy-four responses.

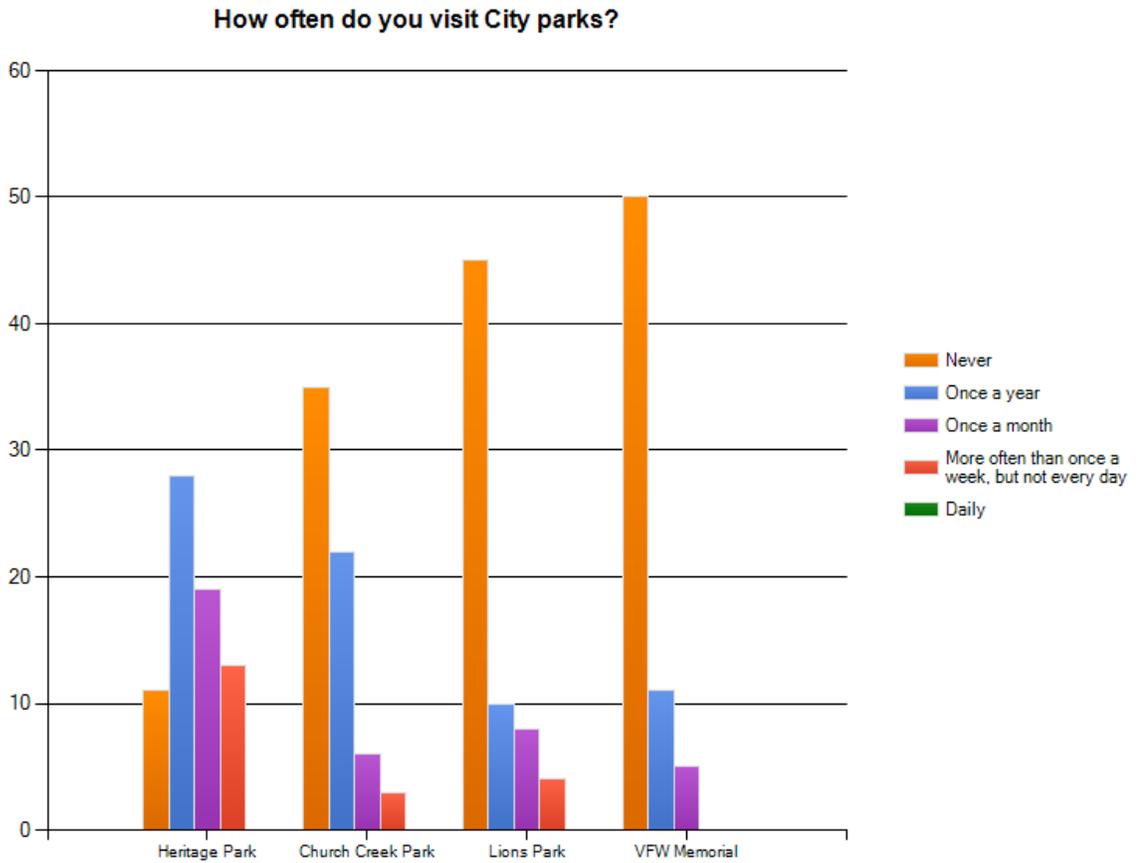
2012 Online Survey Results

City of Stanwood 2012 Park Survey

Where do you live?											
	Bryant	Camano Island	East of 68th St NW	Lake Ketchum	Norman Rd/Marine Dr Area	North of 284th	Silvana	Stanwood (within city limits)	Sunday Lake	Warm Beach	Total Response Count
Your permanent residence	2	20	1	2	1	2	0	41	2	3	74

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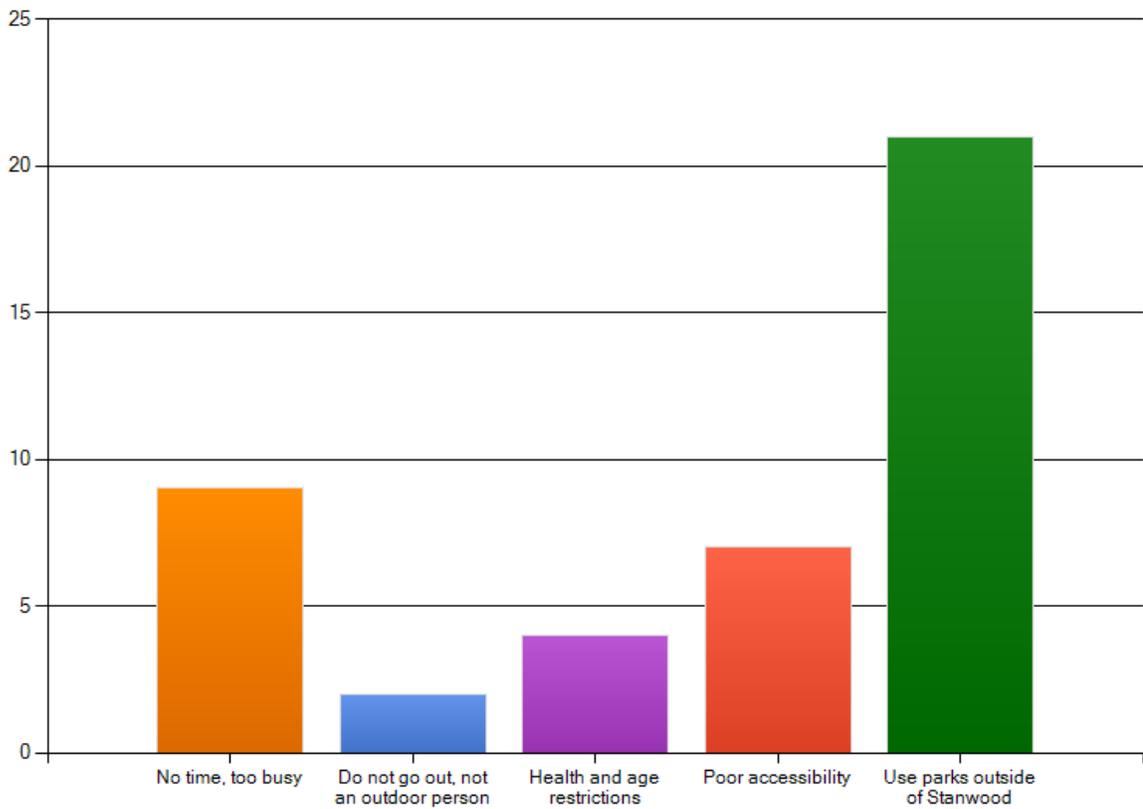
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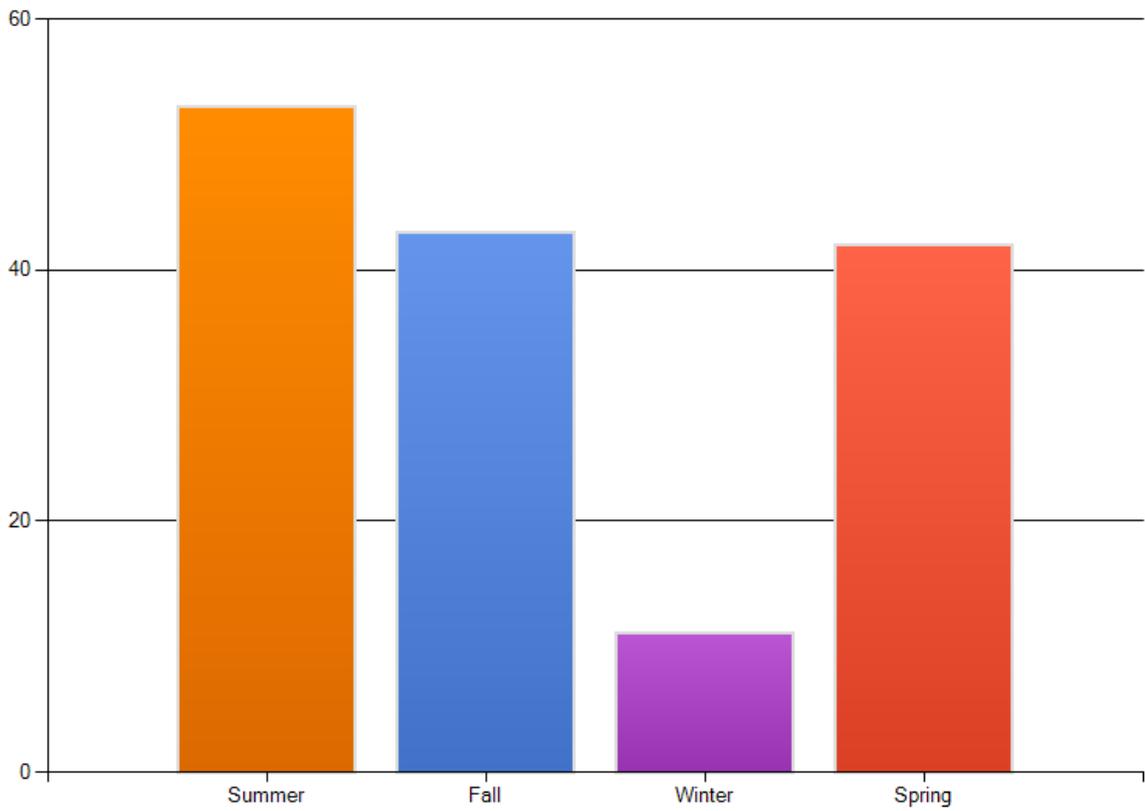
If you do not visit City parks, why not?



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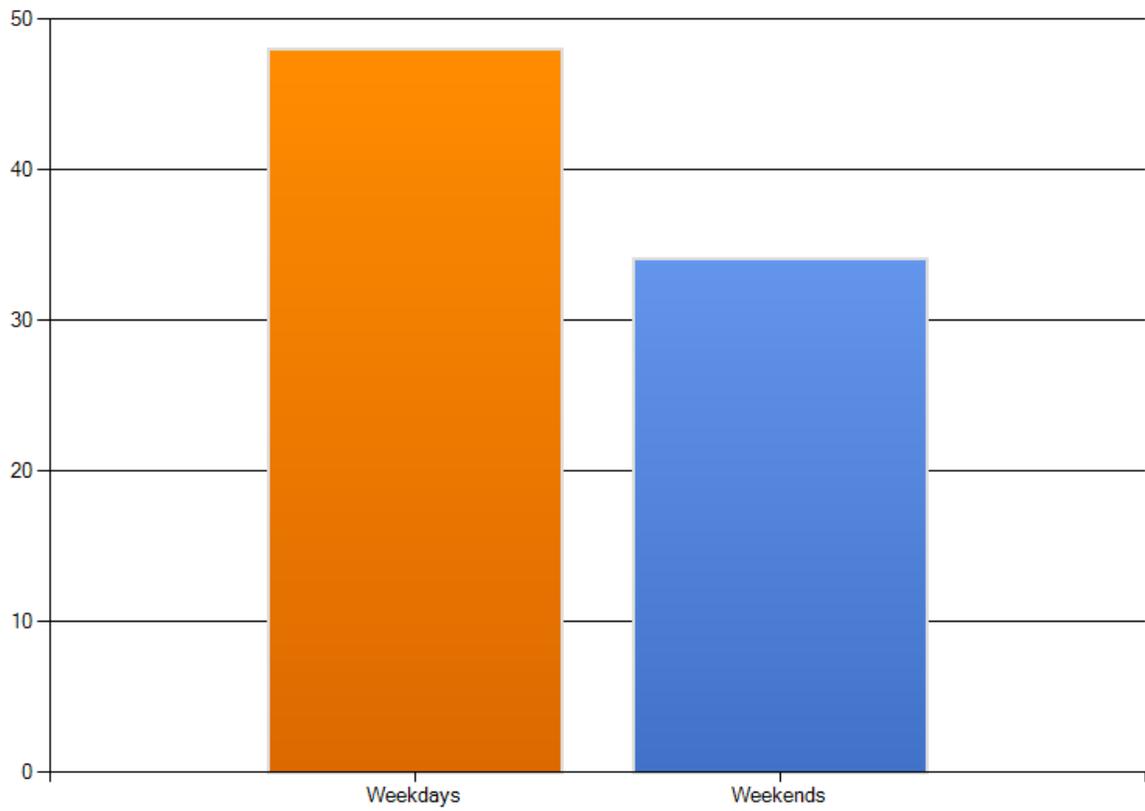
During which season do you typically visit Stanwood parks?



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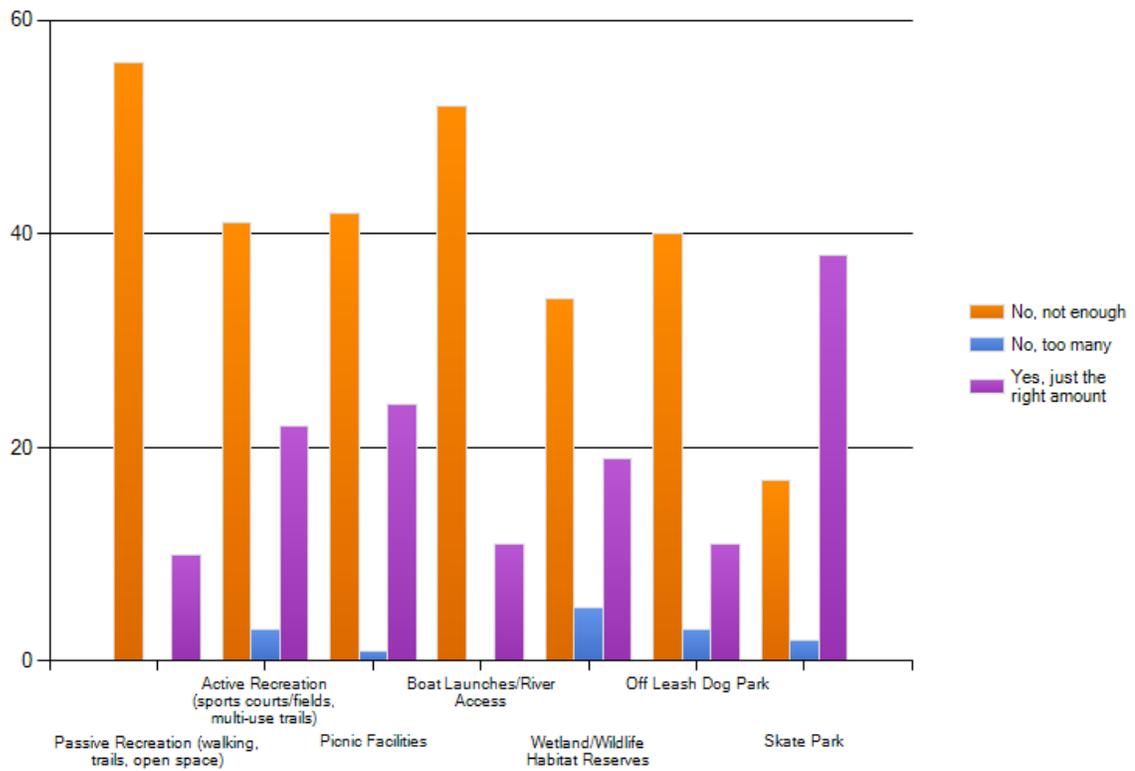
Which days of the week do you typically visit Stanwood parks?



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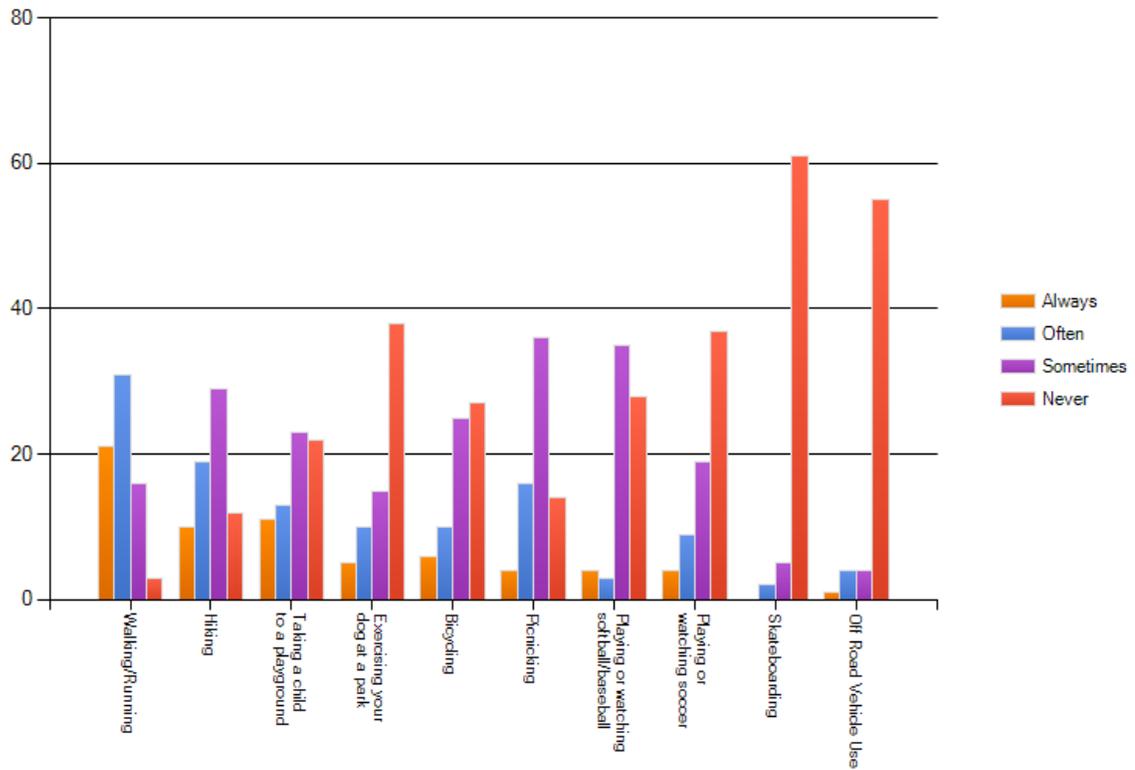
Do Stanwood parks provide enough amenities to meet the needs of the community?



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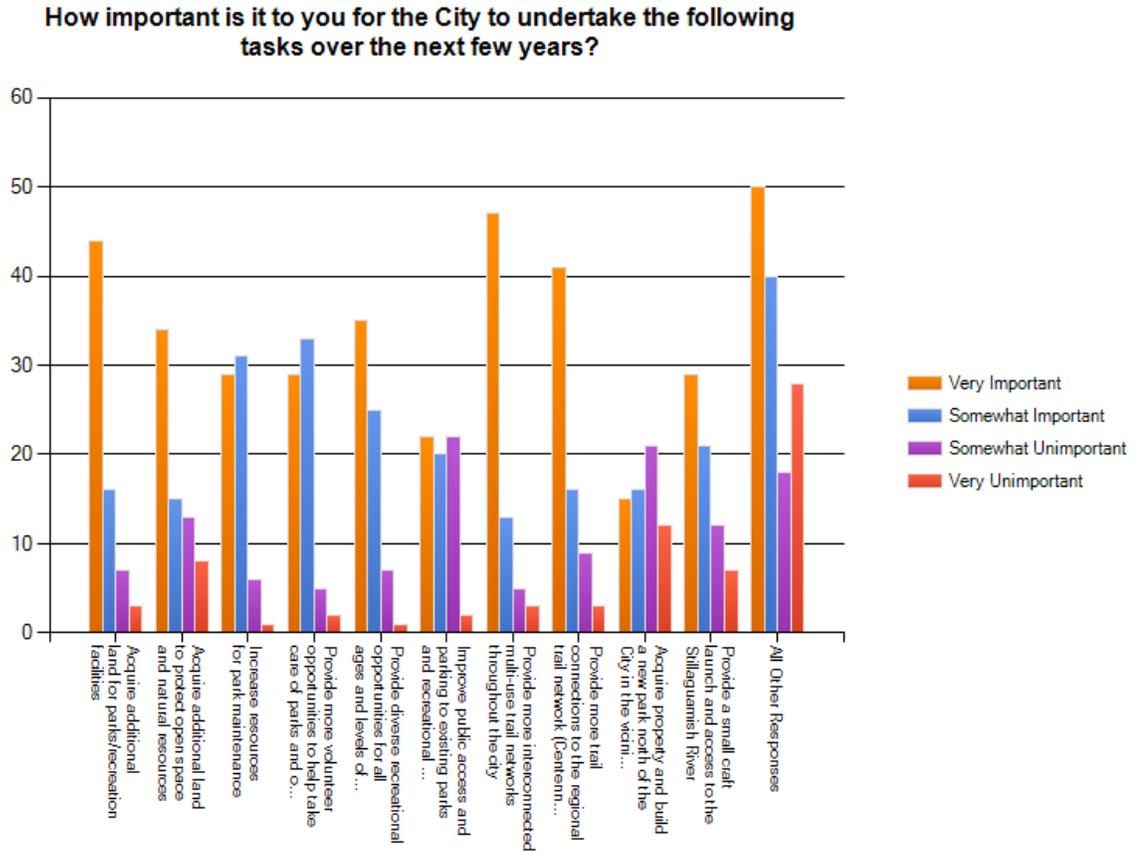
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Please identify how often you participate in the following outdoor activities:



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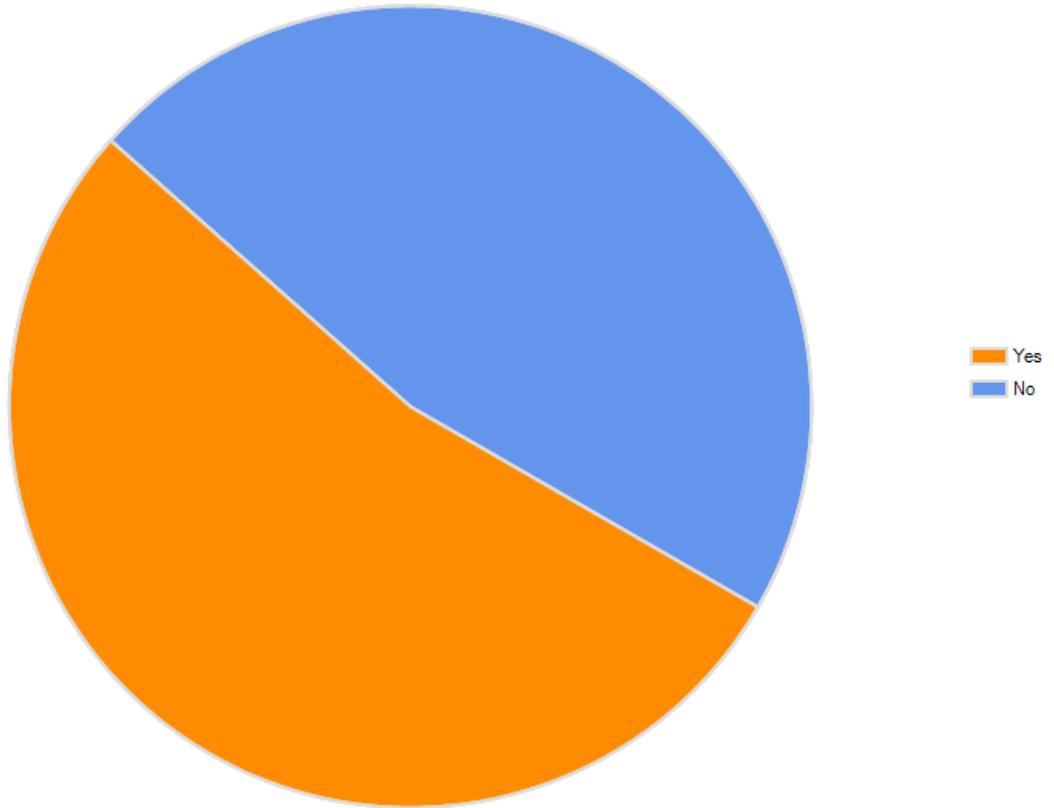
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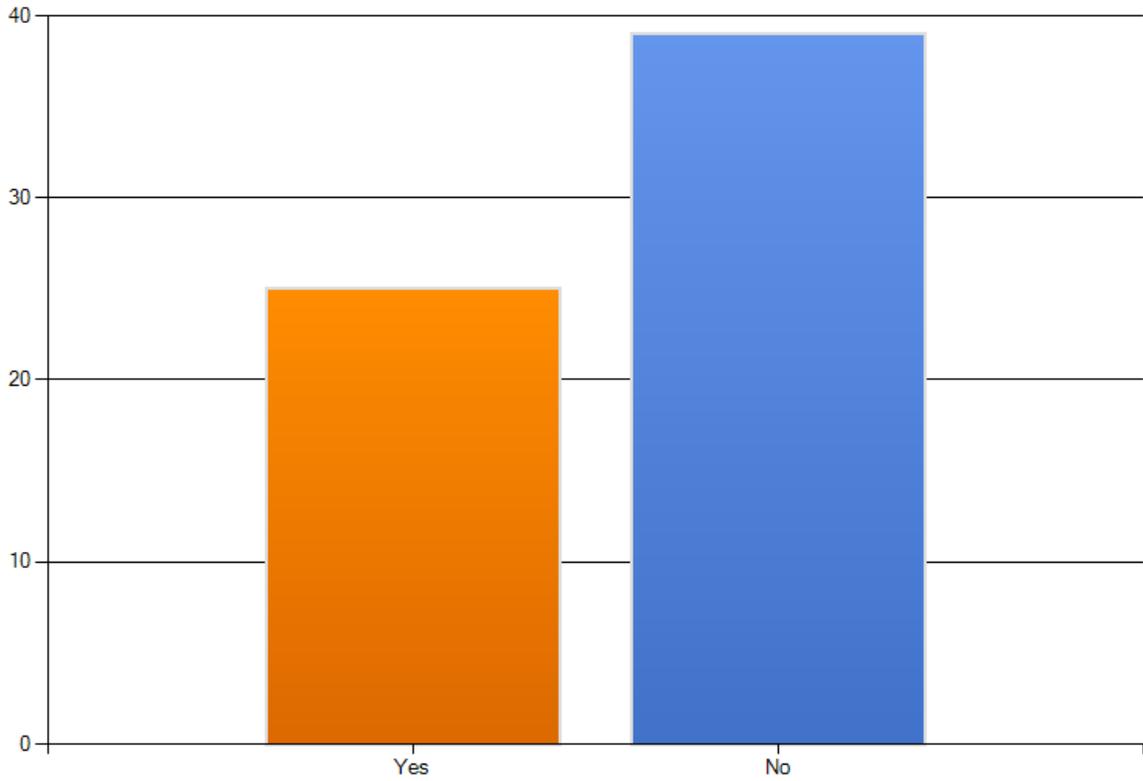
Should the City-owned lot next to City Hall be developed for park use?



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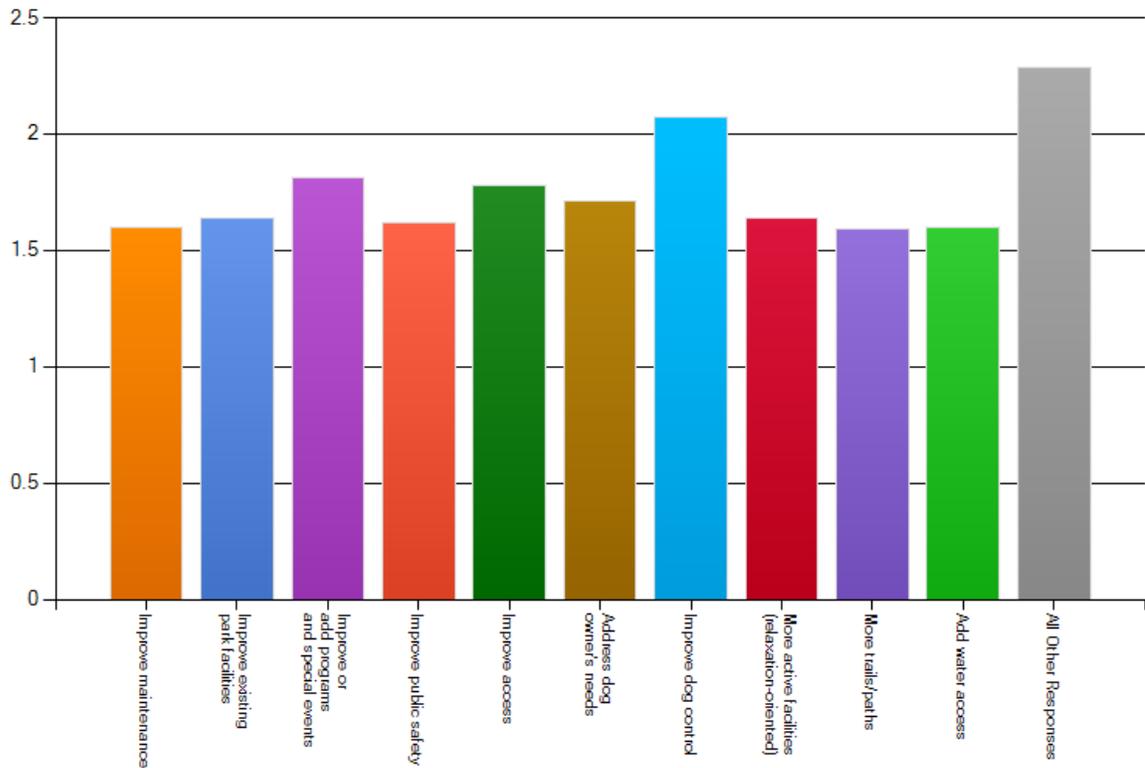
Would you like more private mini parks/tot lots for homeowner association use located in Stanwood residential neighborhoods?



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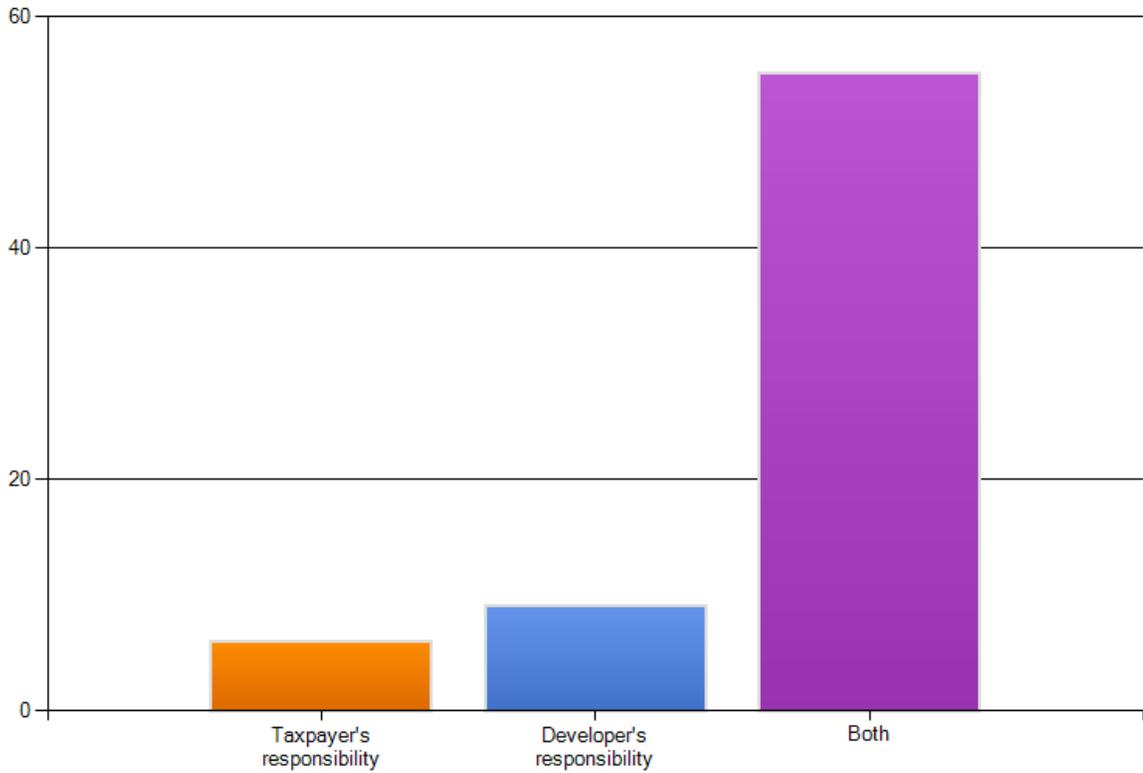
What changes, if any, would you and members of your household like to see in the Stanwood parks? (Select three changes that are the most important to you)



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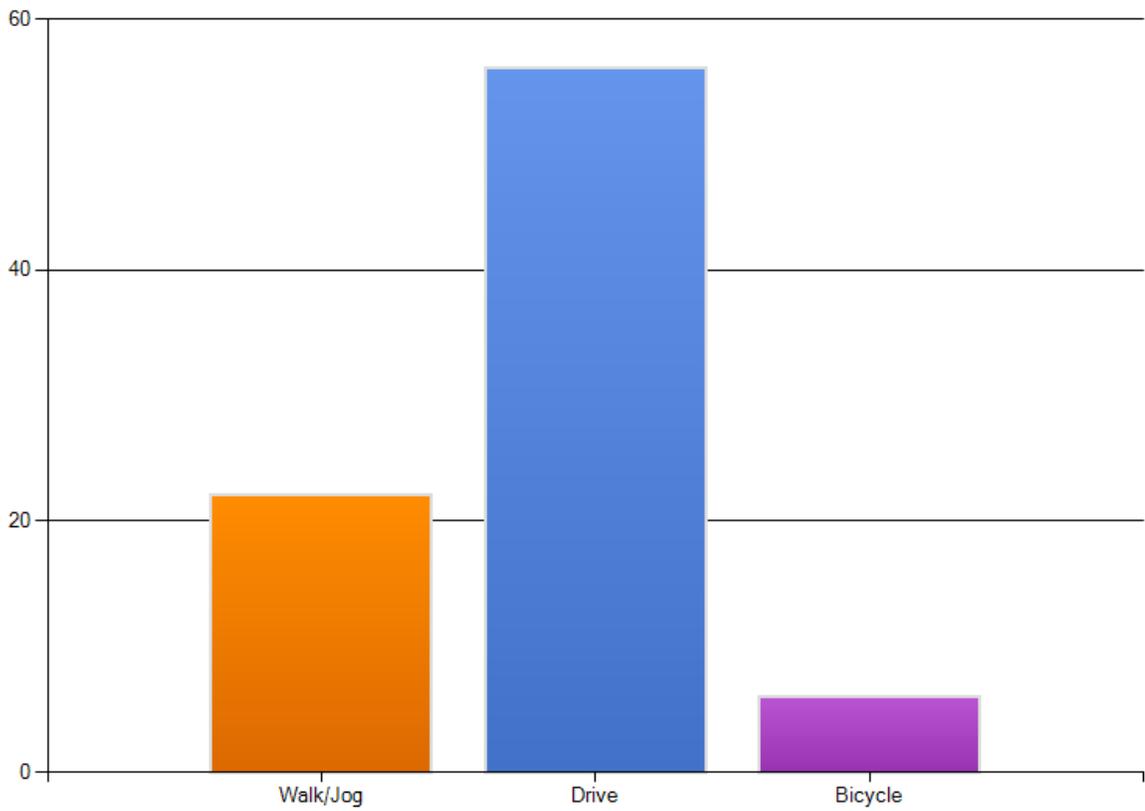
Who should be responsible for funding and the associated maintenance costs of new parks?



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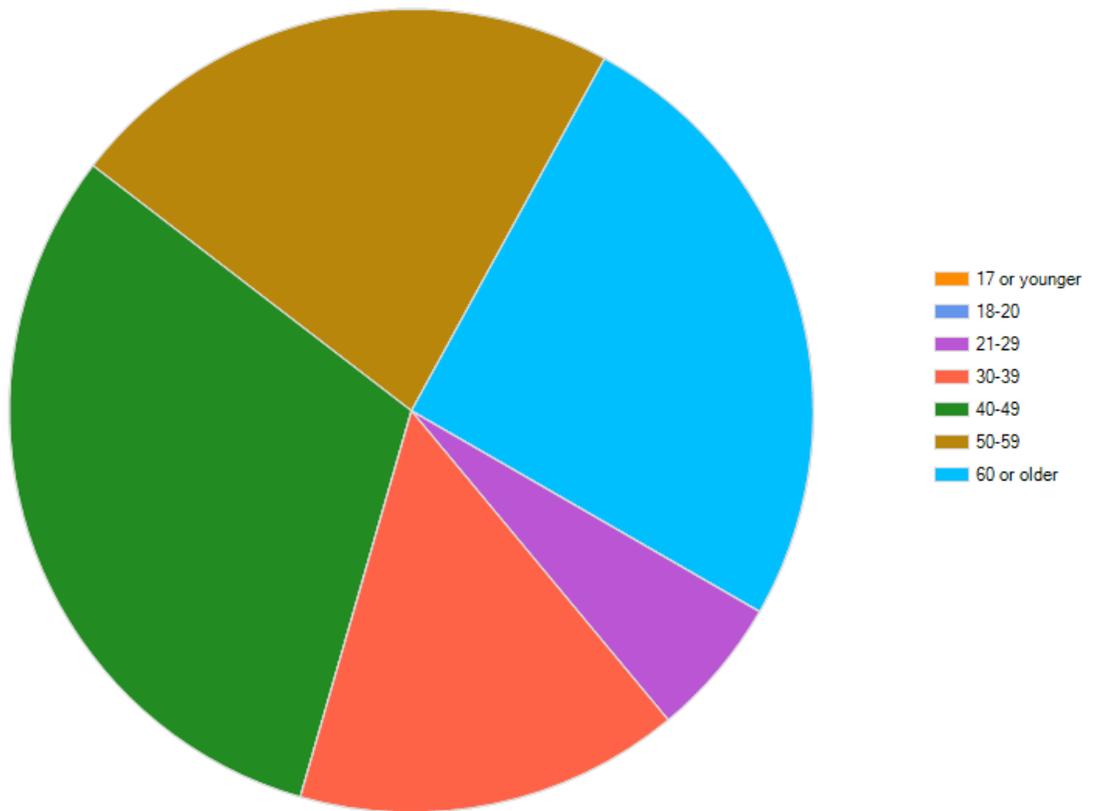
How do you usually travel to and from the park?



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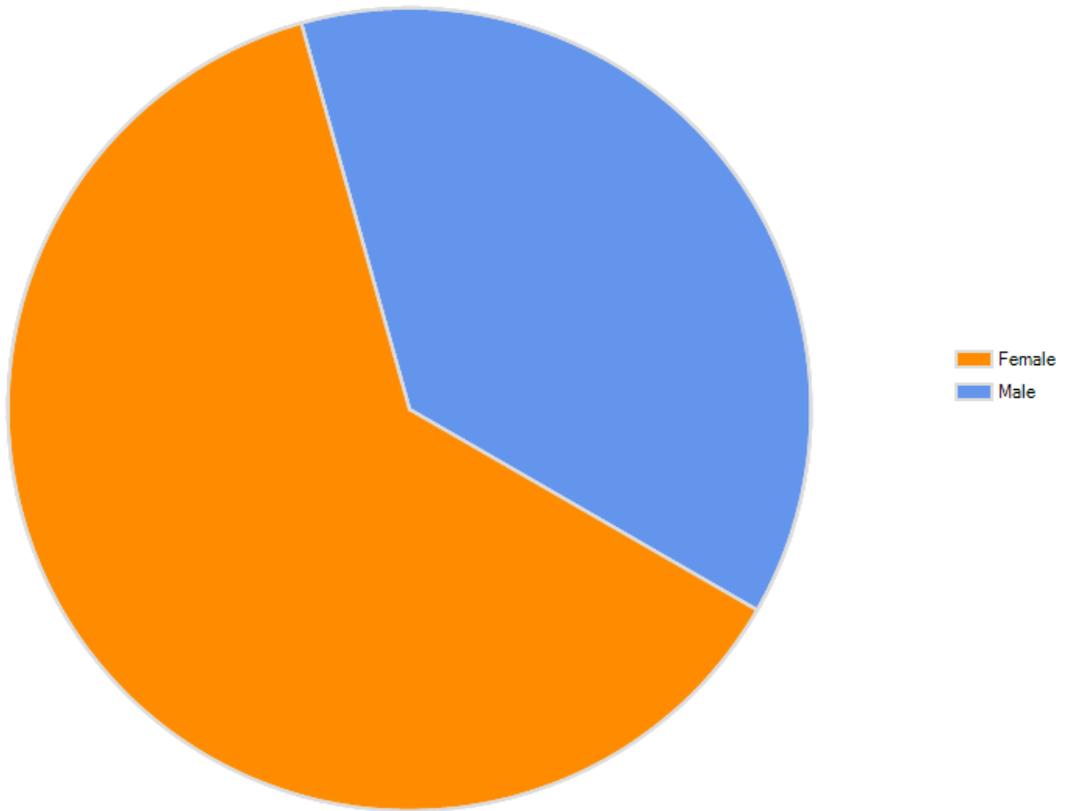
Which category below includes your age?



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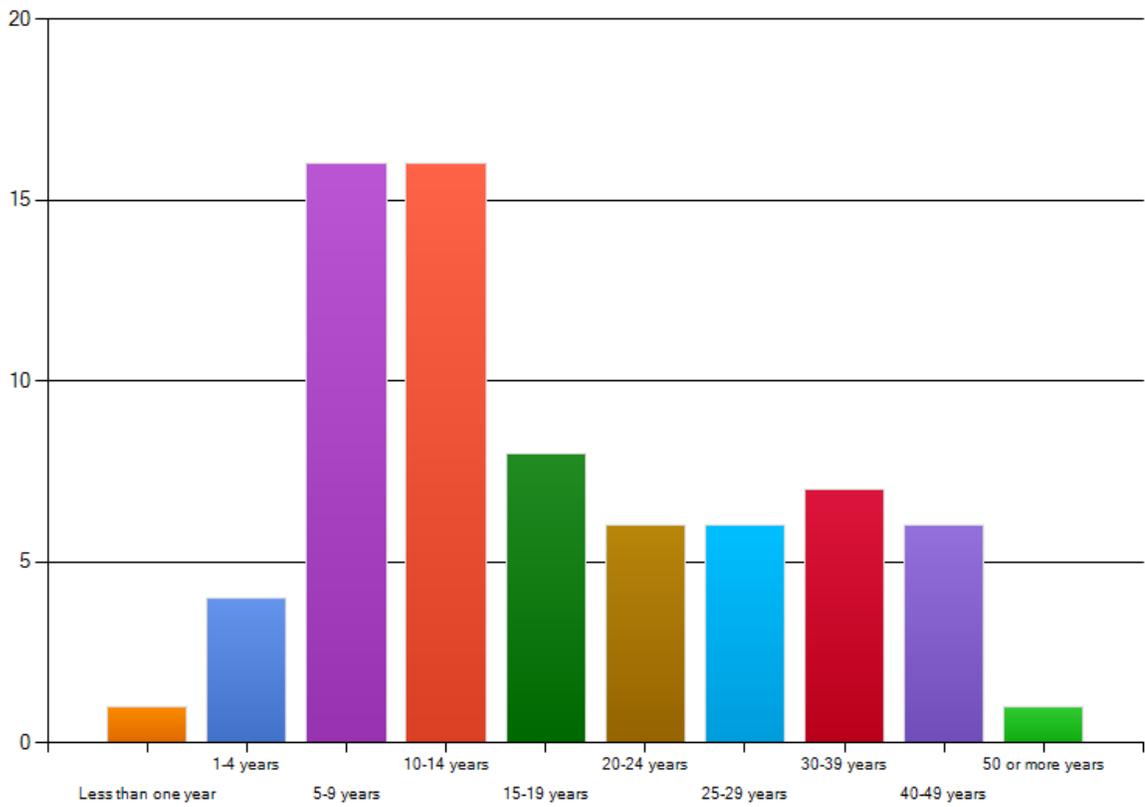
What is your gender?



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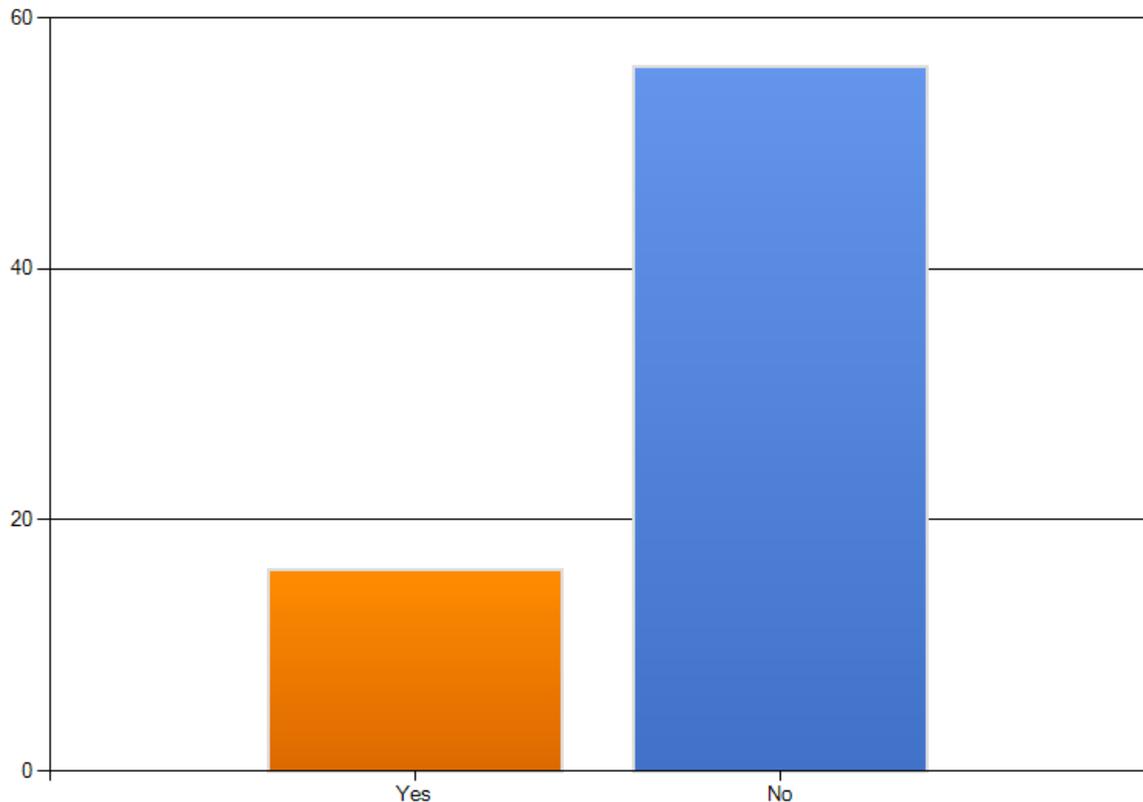
How long have you lived in the Stanwood area?



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Do you operate a commercial or non-profit business in Stanwood?



Public Workshop Comments

The following comments were received from the public during the public workshop on September 24, 2012:

- Kayak launch on west side of riverfront property.
- 3 major city loops should connect and overlap.
- 3 major loops should include 1: waterfront, 2: Cedarhome, 3: Downtown/Heritage Park.
- Kayak/small craft launch at riverfront property or city property between Schuh Market and Twin City Foods.
- Heritage Park, Drainage Field 1
- Long riverfront bike trail (paved) on top of dikes.
- East to West along 271st Bike Route and Lane.
- Cedarhome retirement center has a trail loop at 276th street and could be connected up to Church Creek Park and surrounding areas with sidewalk improvements.
- Improvements are needed to Church Creek Park.

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ONLINE 2012 PROS PLAN SURVEY COMMENTS

1.

I coach baseball, and football in Stanwood. The quality of baseball fields in our city is embarrassing. The fields do not drain properly, and the soil used in the infields are improper. I am amazed at some other small city fields, and embarrassed hosting a visiting team in Stanwood. Football: It is a constant fight between two youth football leagues a several soccer leagues in the city. Practice and game fields are hard to come by, and some are downright dangerous to play on because of holes, poor soil composition, poor drainage. Kids are twisting ankles, twisting knees, slamming their heads/bodies on rock hard soil. Something needs to be done! I grew up in Redmond when it was a small, back woods city and our fields were never as bad as they are in Stanwood.

2.

A great deal of Stanwood residents live outside of central downtown areas and have difficulty accessing parks due to the lack of walking/riding/biking trails. I have heard from more than a dozen parents that they drive to Arlington with their kids' bikes in the back of the truck so they can ride on the Centennial Trail. They have also said they usually go out to eat or watch a movie while they are there. If we had easy access to a similar trail in our town we might not lose as much business to local cities with more accessible/visible parks.

3.

I really have enjoyed using parks as my children grew. I would like to see more interconnected trails. The parking is fine...people could just walk to recreate. Use what we have and improve! Thanks for doing this.

4.

Improve trails and safety in wooded area of Church Creek Park.

5.

Could not correctly answer Question #2 since not given options between once a year and once a month (few times a year, should have been a choice) and between Once a Month and More than Once a Week (Few Times a Month, should have been a choice). This community needs safe, wide, paved trails for biking/walking/running activities. I do not consider any of the "three trails"; Stanwood-Village Loop, Pioneer Hwy Trail or Heritage Park Trail actual viable trails. Thanks.

6.

Please think of the entire district of Stanwood-Camano when you are planning parks and recreation. Our family is supportive of an additional tax to support parks and recreation throughout our community.

7.

Existing parks could be improved to increase usage and would love to see a dike top trail system to access one of the key scenic amenities of the Stanwood area.

8.

In need of a recreation activity program for all ages in multi-sport capacities.

9.

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The playgrounds in Stanwood are lacking in safe play structures. Heritage park is too difficult for my small children, and Church Creek is woefully inadequate. Stanwood does a good job of keeping their ball fields in nice condition, but if we want to play we ALWAYS go out of town- usually to the Camano Island Rotary park where there is something for all of my kids, from the biggest (15) to my smallest (2), to do.

10.

River access should be a priority.

11.

We need more community parks but they need to be monitored, i.e. police and cameras for crime control. Some of the parks are nice but bike trails are needed along the rivers/dike. Free doggy pick up bags in parks and fines for those who don't use them. More tables, benches at parks and streets. Have volunteer gardens available for those who can't have them, Turn the wasted water runoff containments into usable park areas. (Foxhill, Pioneer hwy) Create usable paths to schools, encourage people to walk to stores businesses. Remove school barriers (Port Susan Middle school) for Foxhill residents to walk to Haggen's.

12.

Love the murals it brightens up the city and there is an air of excitement amongst the store owners as well as shoppers. With the train stopping here now we need to create an atmosphere that will draw people in to spend a day or more and shop, relax and enjoy.

13.

The empty lot on the corner by the bus station would make a great park area. The lot where the city Christmas tree was on display last year. Some trees and grass with tables. We need some space in downtown.

14.

The banner program is missed. They added a nice look to Stanwood and Camano Island. Maybe Stanwood could get a bunch of the snow goose banners by Candi Martin Baker made and hang them on the posts on Main Street.

15.

Need to improve empty lot across from train depot - would make a great park/sitting area for downtown. Get the arts guild involved for great ideas.

16.

Help business owners, not hinder like with the sign tax. The flowers are GREAT!!! The new trash cans are nice, let's keep them clean. Get business owners to NOT park in front of the stores in east Stanwood. When they do there is nowhere for ALL of our customers.

17.

This improvement is small and would improve the Downtown look -- it is an eyesore as is for visitors and locals as well.

18.

Two priorities for our household: provide more environmentally friendly outdoor recreation space for community and transform ugly, potentially dangerous empty lots into minimum use park space (benches and foliage)- especially the lot that greet train travelers to Stanwood.

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19.

Charge reasonable day use fees for large events that use the parks. Maintenance isn't free!

20.

Church Creek should not be closed on week days. When a city has two parks, and one is mainly ball fields, it is atrocious to have Church Creek closed. Church Creek is a beautiful park.

21.

When will the city do some thing with the empty lot that it owns on 74th Ave / Bayview Ln?

22.

The parks need help. Irrigation leaks at heritage park go left unnoticed, grass clippings and dog poop are left on the paths. I appreciate the opportunities to use the parks, but would like to see them cared for at a higher level.

23.

This year Stanwood Lacrosse and the local soccer organization attempted to do some reseeding at Heritage at our cost, but due to an inability to water the area to encourage growth we had to shelve the plan. Plumbing Heritage with accessible water spigots would make it possible for our organizations to help maintain the fields we use.

24.

Access to the water and a small craft boat launch on the Stilly is the most important.

25.

We would LOVE to have river/dike walking access in town!

26.

Parks are only used and enjoyed when they are well kept up, safe and enjoyable to be in. Without those things, we can build all the parks we want, but they still won't be enjoyed or used, and will only attract the wrong type of activity the city does not need or want. A good example is Church Creek and the well known drug activity there...a place I refuse to go to or let my children go to.

27.

I would like to see more walking/biking trails that connect the parks, and small parks so there is enough green space so as the community grows there will be ample park space.

28.

Question 8 A small park like setting across from the train depot, with a restroom a few benches a couple planter boxes maybe atable or bench with a cover as it rains a lot. The first thing peple on the train see when boarding or leaving is the dirt parking area that isn't even a parking area.

29.

Creative planning and responsible community development is definitely in order, to include building a hotel and a center gathering area in downtown Stanwood first, while at the same time planning recreational areas that will draw tourists and businesses to our area. Connectivity in planning should occur with representatives and leaders from

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Camano Island so that we can learn to support each others commerce.

30.

I go by all 4 parks at least once a week and check them out noticing their use, however I do not go into use any of them.

31.

Do not think of doing a park district. Keep the parks City parks and start charging big users (little league and soccer) what it really costs to have the fields ready for them to play on. Get money from Island County as well. Many users of the city parks are from Camano Island.

32.

We love Stanwood and hope for its overall growth over the coming years. It is sad that there does not seem to be that much park use in the area except for organized sports. Heritage Park is awesome but there is just so much open unused space. Perfect areas for off leash park. Thank you for this method of input. I saw it mentioned in the Crab Cracker.

33.

I support the idea of user fees for our parks/fields, with a reduced fee for City residents.