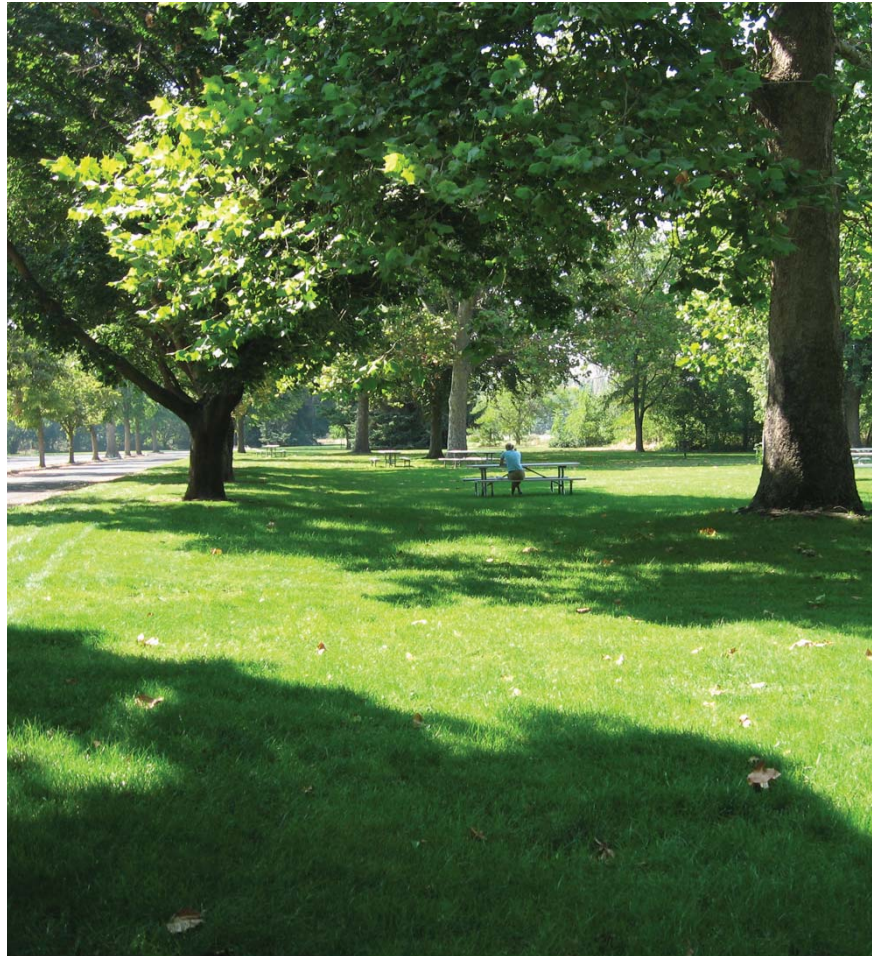

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

We want a ground to which people may easily go after their days work is done, and where they may stroll for an hour, seeing, hearing, and feeling nothing of the bustle and jar of the streets, where they shall, in effect, find the city put far away from them... Practically, what we most want is a simple, broad, open space of clean greensward, with sufficient play of surface and a sufficient number of trees about it to supply a variety of light and shade.

- Frederick law Olmsted





In choosing an alternative (or combination of alternatives), the Park Committee and Design Team returned to the goals and actions, evaluating each alternative for how well it met the goals of the project. A summary is provided in Table 1. The park alternatives are ranked according to whether they met, exceeded, or did not meet the goals of the park project.



While no one alternative was deemed perfect, the Parks Committee preferred the general scale, activity level and design themes of the Nature and Community Alternative. It exceeded many of the goals and actions set by the Parks Committee, particularly goals 1 and 2, related to the protection of the forest ecosystem and the park's natural history and character. By preserving large sections of the forest, impacts to the wetland and forest ecosystem are minimized, while still creating a place for education, recreation and healthy living. The alternative had few drawbacks, although a complete range of recreational experiences would not have been available.



Discussion by the Parks Committee on Alternative 2: Fitness and Community centered on the suitability of the park for active recreational uses and not on need. It was generally acknowledged that the City of Port Orchard needs more soccer fields for a burgeoning population. The Committee realized that the McCormick Village Park site was not an ideal location for providing those recreational athletic fields. Its long narrow shape flanked by sensitive wetland and forests makes the siting of large athletic fields and the parking lots and amenities necessary to serve them problematic. So, this alternative proposes two fields, one of synthetic turf that is easily accessible and one with natural lawn that is less accessible. The combination is not ideal, leading to lower rankings for the alternative, particularly in the area of preserving tall trees, providing for environmental education, quiet contemplation, and flexible community gathering spaces. The alternative did have a lot to recommend it, particularly in the range of recreational experiences provided. But ultimately, the Parks Committee decided that the character of the alternative did not match the desired future character of the park.

Table 1:
Park Alternatives Matrix

	Alternative exceeds the stated goal or action	Alternative meets the stated goal or action	Alternative does not meet the stated goal or action		Alt 1 Nature	Alt 2 Fitness	Alt 3 Arts
Parks should protect the health of the land							
<i>Goal 1: A protected wetland and forest ecosystem</i>							
1a. Preserve wetlands in their natural state	Green	Green	Green		Green	Yellow	Yellow
1b. Buffer park development to avoid harmful impacts	Green	Yellow	Yellow		Green	Yellow	Yellow
1c. Integrate tall trees and forested ecosystem into recreational uses	Green	Yellow	Orange		Green	Orange	Yellow
1d. Avoid development that impacts steep slopes	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
1e. Protect the natural habitat of the resident wildlife	Green	Yellow	Orange		Green	Yellow	Orange
<i>Goal 2: People immersed in the park's illuminated natural history and character</i>							
2a. Provide environmental learning experiences in the forest ecosystem	Green	Yellow	Green		Green	Yellow	Green
2b. Create a unique park identity particular to the community and place	Green	Orange	Yellow		Green	Orange	Yellow
2c. Inspire community stewardship of the park	Green	Yellow	Green		Green	Yellow	Green
Parks should promote a healthy community							
<i>Goal 3: A community of healthy and fit individuals</i>							
3a. Provide a place for diverse recreational activities	Yellow	Orange	Green		Yellow	Orange	Yellow
3b. Make the place easily accessible from neighborhoods and trails	Yellow	Yellow	Green		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
3c. Provide barrier free trails and experiences (Universal Access)	Yellow	Green	Yellow		Yellow	Green	Yellow
3d. Provide opportunities for contemplation	Green	Yellow	Orange		Green	Orange	Yellow
<i>Goal 4: A place where people can come together</i>							
4a. Provide a flexible gathering space for family or community events	Yellow	Orange	Green		Yellow	Orange	Green
4b. Partner with local groups to help build and maintain the park	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
4c. Provide opportunities for education for kids and their parents	Green	Green	Yellow		Green	Green	Yellow
4d. Reflect the values and character of the Port Orchard community	Green	Yellow	Green		Green	Yellow	Green
4e. Balance impact of active recreation with preservation of nature	Green	Yellow	Yellow		Green	Yellow	Yellow
Parks should be available to all							
<i>Goal 5: Equity among a variety and diversity of public park users</i>							
5a. Instill a sense of belonging in park users with a variety of activities	Green	Yellow	Green		Green	Yellow	Green
5b. Bridge the gap in interest groups and age differences among users	Green	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green
5c. Encourage participation of Port Orchard residents and future residents	Green	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green

The Arts and Community Alternative did not meet the higher rankings of the Nature and Community Alternative, but it also did not have as many problem areas as the Fitness and Community Alternative. The alternative was strong in the areas of community identity and expression, and not as strong in the areas of protection of natural habitat, as most of the forest within the buffers would be cleared. Interestingly, this alternative's real strength was its art installations, which was not a directly stated goal. The Committee found that by placing elements of the Arts and Community Alternative into the final Preferred Alternative, they could capture the community expression necessary for any unique neighborhood park.

After the Parks Committee stated their preference for the Nature and Community Alternative as a basis for the future park design, they selected the best elements from the other alternatives to add to the park, creating a new alternative. So, an amphitheater and picnic area was added to the west side of the park to provide an outlet for music and outdoor theater. Fitness stations were sprinkled near an area off the main loop trail to improve the health of active adults. Sculpture was added to several key areas to provide a visual focal point to the park and link the park more closely with the adjacent fire station. These park elements were integrated into the park design to form a cost-effective and robust park plan to guide park development over the next decade.

The preferred alternative meets the goals of the park identified by the Parks Committee:

Goal 1: A protect wetland and forest ecosystem

All development, with the exception of trails and boardwalks, will be kept out of the wetland buffer. Stormwater will be controlled and treated before being released to the environment. The significant trees and thick portions of the forest will all be preserved to provide a learning environment and wildlife habitat.

Goal 2: People immersed in the park's illuminated natural history and character

There will be a network of interpretive signs and experiences to provide an immersion in the understanding of a forest. There are multiple park elements that the community can rally around.

Goal 3: A community of healthy and fit individuals

The 1 mile loop trail, nature trails, meadows and fitness stations will all provide a place for people to exercise out of doors and interact with the forest environment.

Goal 4: A place where people can come together

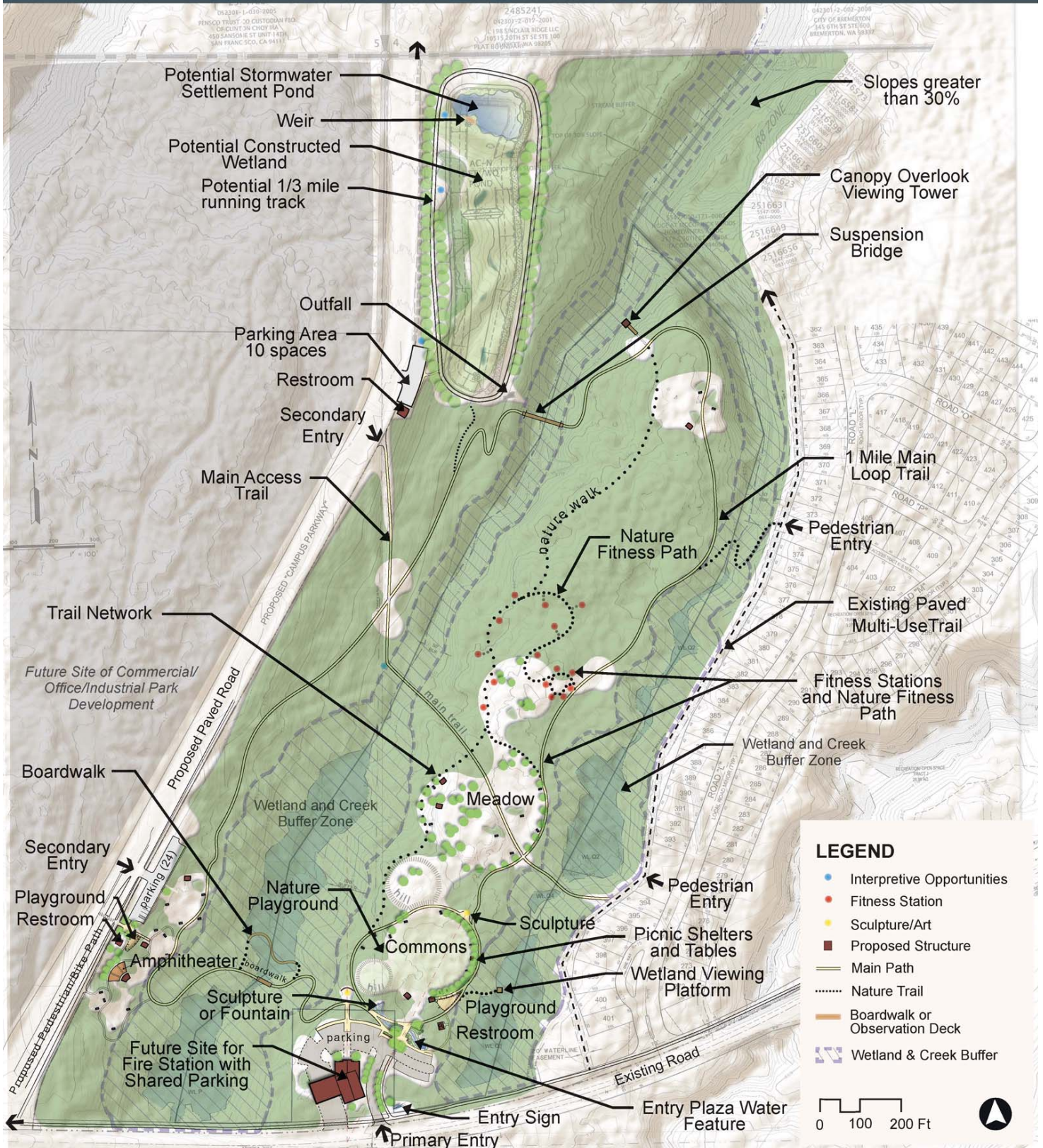
There are two main gathering areas for the community: the Commons, a large green open space with a ring of trees and shelters surrounding it, and the amphitheater for more formal events and community activities.

Goal 5: Equity among a variety and diversity of public park users

There is a diversity of park elements catering to visitors with different needs.

To meet this goal and to address community health (Goal 3), it is important that park trails and open space are fully accessible. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Washington State regulations (WAC 51-30) require public places to be accessible to people with different abilities. With that in mind, all trails, boardwalks and plazas will be sloped less than 5%, stairs will have required handrails and structures will cater to those in wheelchairs. Where stairs and structures preclude wheelchair access, a similar alternative route or experience is provided.

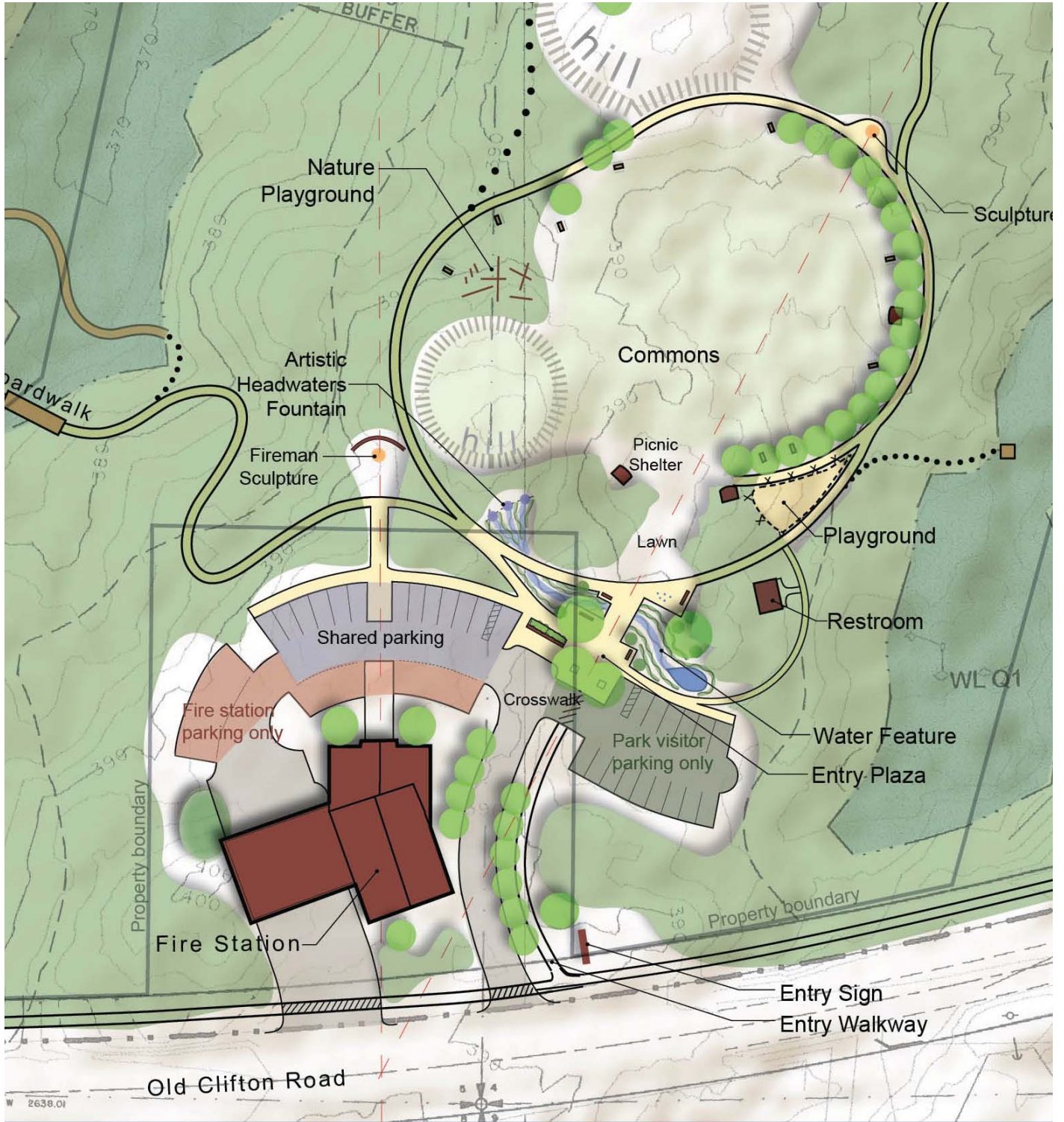
Preferred Alternative





The McCormick Village Park entry and plaza has the following features:

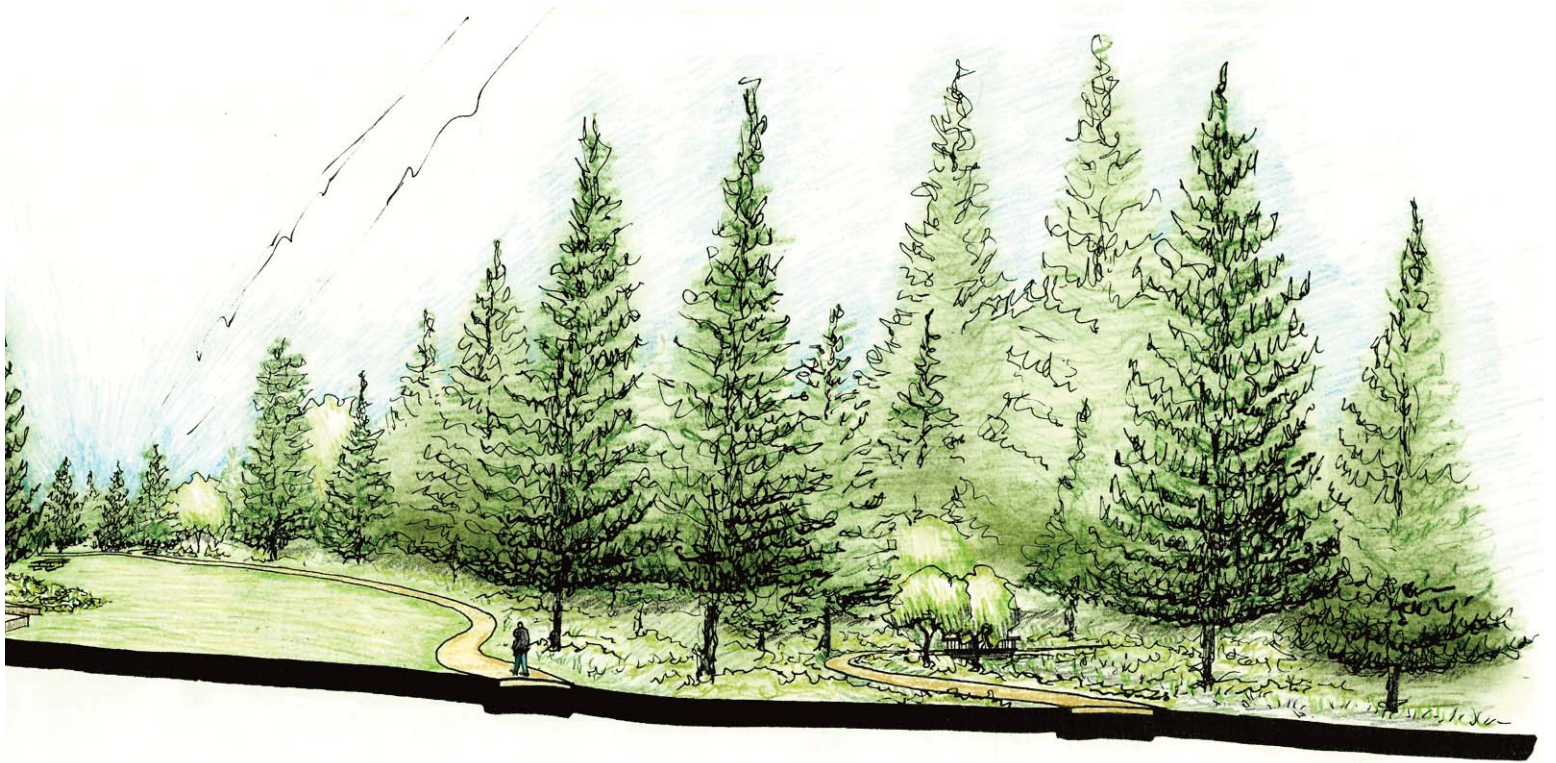
- Monumental entry sign - see page 50
- Entry drive - see page 52
- Shared parking with the proposed Kitsap Fire Station - Dependent on fire department review, the park would have 16 designated spaces, while the fire station would have 15 designated spaces and an informal staging area. The two entities would share 13 spaces.
- Entry walkway - An entry walkway and bike trail will connect the regional paths along Old Clifton Road with the park's trail network.
- Entry plaza - An entry plaza will have a relaxed feel with seating and plantings. The visitor will be able to have a clear view along the formal entry axis to the park commons and the sculpture beyond.
- Water feature - A fountain or artistic installation will be the source of a small, linear water feature that refers to the small forest streams of the Kitsap Peninsula and their dynamic nature. The moving water will mask traffic noise from the parking lot and Old Clifton Road.
- Restrooms - Restrooms will be sized for three facilities in each side.
- Playground - A small play area for smaller children will be located on the edge of the Commons. See page 70



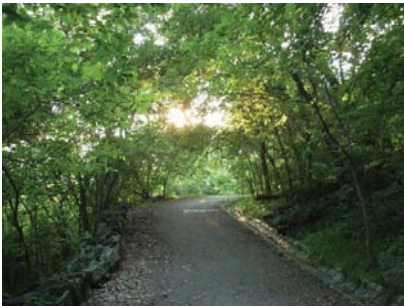
Entry and Commons Plan



West Park and Amphitheater



The west side of McCormick Village Park will be centered on a hillside amphitheater where visitors can hear a string quartet or watch an outdoor play on a summer evening. It will provide an alternative means of accessing the park. Eventually, a light industrial complex that may include commercial and retail will be constructed west of Campus Parkway. This portion of the park will provide lunchtime picnicking and quiet contemplative space for nearby workers. In the afternoon and evening, it may be used for community events and performances.



There is a small valley and wetlands between this portion of the park and the main entrance area, but the distance is not great. The main loop trail and a boardwalk provides a close connection for park visitors to access other park amenities. There will be adequate parking (24 space) and on-street parking for visitors to park and access the trail system.



