H.1 Goals and Objectives

The City of Port Orchard has maintained a consistent set of goals and objectives in its endeavor to provide recreational opportunities to the community. In order for the park system to complement the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the current goals and objectives of the Parks and Open Space Element are adopted. The Port Orchard Comprehensive Parks Plan is the adopted document that further identifies the short term application and details the analysis for the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The overall goal of the Parks and Open Space element is as follows:

To develop and maintain adequate and convenient Parks, Recreation, and Open Space areas and facilities for all age groups and to better serve both the existing and future population of Port Orchard and surrounding areas. This goal can be achieved by several objectives.

Objective 1: Increase public access to the marine shoreline by using municipal authority to encourage better public access to the shoreline.

Objective 2: Preserve open space considered cultural and scenic in value by:
   a. enhancing and expanding park facilities
   b. discouraging obstructions of scenic views

Objective 3: Increase the size and number of parks and open spaces by:
a. establishing partnerships with other agencies to jointly utilize public facilities
b. promoting through public and private investments, the acquisition of open space facilities and assuring proper maintenance thereof
c. providing for public input when developing plans for public parks
d. providing for a mixture of active and passive open spaces within residential and commercial areas with consideration of nearby public facilities
e. providing input when others develop plans for public parks within Port Orchard's Urban Growth Boundary

The comprehensive goals and objectives, which are restated for reference, are consistent with those of the adopted Comprehensive Parks Plan,

**Open Space, Recreation and Resource Protection**

**Goal 1.  Establish a coordinated and connected system of open space throughout the City that:**

Goal 1. Preserves natural systems.

Goal 2. Protects wildlife habitat and corridors.

Goal 3. Provides land for recreation.

Goal 4. Increases opportunities for physical activity.

Goal 5. Preserves natural landforms and scenic areas.

Policy POP-1 Preserve and enhance the natural and aesthetic qualities of shoreline areas while allowing reasonable development to meet the needs of residents.

Policy POP-2 Promote visual and public access to shorelines where it is not in conflict with preserving environmentally sensitive areas or protecting significant wildlife habitat.

Policy POP-3 Distribute parks and open spaces throughout the City, but particularly focus new facilities in areas of the City facing the greatest population growth, in areas where facilities are deficient, and/or in areas where connections of the open space network could be made.

Policy POP-4 Work with adjacent jurisdictions and state, federal, and tribal governments to identify and protect open space networks to be preserved within and around Port Orchard.

Policy POP-5 Preserve environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., Blackjack Creek) to delineate neighborhood boundaries and create open space corridors.
Policy POP-6 As new parcels along the Sinclair Inlet are incorporated within the City, additional access to the shoreline should be explored, consistent with the Mosquito Fleet Plan and the shoreline section of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Goal 2. Encourage the development and maintenance of open space and recreational facilities, where possible, in the established areas of the City.**

Policy POP-7 Preserve sufficient open space to serve the existing and future population of the City, including the pass through as well as the permanent population.

Policy POP-8 Develop the passive recreational and educational potential of Blackjack Creek watershed, the shoreline, and adjacent areas in balance with residential, commercial, and other uses.

Policy POP-9 Shape and seek the right balance for urban development through the use of open space, thereby strengthening the beauty, identity, and aesthetic qualities of the City and surrounding areas.

Policy POP-10 Develop shoreline parks, including walking and biking trails, which would link the shopping center to the shoreline. Proposed walking and biking trails would also be designed to serve residential areas.

Policy POP-11 Encourage safe parks and recreational equipment by maintaining existing facilities.

Policy POP-12 Develop covered play structures whenever feasible to encourage use of parks and facilities in inclement weather.

As South Kitsap County and Port Orchard continue to grow, the importance of the limited recreational resources continues to increase. Greater population pressures demand well-defined goals and priorities. In order to achieve these comprehensive goals and objectives, the concise and realistic objectives must be specified:

**Goal 3. To provide open space or natural landscaping throughout the City limits**

Policy POP-13 Zoning ordinances shall identify and preserve open space areas.

Policy POP-14 Landscaping, such as trees and shrubbery, should be included in the commercial areas of the City.

Policy POP-15 Vacant municipal land not required for municipal services shall be maintained to provide a pleasing natural condition.
**Goal 4.**  
**Neighborhood parks and recreational facilities should be conveniently located throughout the City.**

Policy POP-16  
The Active Club should continue to be maintained and improved.

Policy POP-17  
A performing arts center should be encouraged.

Policy POP-18  
All facilities should accommodate the handicapped and the elderly and meet the federal American Disabilities Act.

Policy POP-19  
Maximize the use of State and Federal grants for future improvements whenever possible.

Policy POP-20  
Coordinate with other governmental entities and civic organizations to provide new facilities to the public.

Policy POP-21  
Encourage commercial enterprises to establish facilities which are harmonious with the community vision and goals.

**Goal 5.**  
**Athletic endeavors and organized sports should be encouraged throughout the community.**

Policy POP-22  
Athletic fields should be supplemented with picnic and playground facilities to encourage family participation.

Policy POP-23  
Any vacant public land large enough for an athletic field should be used for this purpose, when feasible.

Policy POP-24  
Private sports programs should be encouraged.

Policy POP-25  
A trail system should be established along the shoreline.

Policy POP-26  
Coordinate with sports councils and committees when possible.

Policy POP-27  
Support the development of a skate park in the South Kitsap area.

**Goal 6.**  
**The waterfront should be preserved and protected to enhance public use.**

Policy POP-28  
Boat docks and marinas should be encouraged; however, these activities are not to be construed as the sole resource of the waterfront.

Policy POP-29  
Public access to the water is required and should be provided for new municipal and commercial development.

Policy POP-30  
Viewing decks and similar pedestrian-oriented structures are needed and should be constructed in the urban waterfront area.
Policy POP-31  A waterfront bicycle and walking path should be constructed.

Policy POP-32  Beach access should be identified and developed. This should be integrated with waterfront trail system.

**Goal 7.** **Ensure maximum access to the marine shoreline.**

Policy POP-33  Public access should be considered as a condition of a Shoreline Development Permit (SDP).

Policy POP-34  Joint public access on adjacent property should be encouraged.

**Goal 8.** **Provide for a mixture of active and passive open space within residential and commercial developments and preserve open space considered cultural and scenic in value.**

Policy POP-35  Buffers and open space should be a required design element in new developments.

Policy POP-36  Steep slopes and sensitive areas should be protected with critical area restrictions.

**Goal 9.** **To promote the acquisition and maintenance of open space through public and private investment.**

Policy POP-37  Countywide open space acquisition should be encouraged.

Policy POP-38  Maintenance of City-owned open space should take precedence over acquisition of new City parks, unless the proposed park serves a specific need.

**Goal 10.** **Enhance and expand existing park facilities.**

Policy POP-39  Improvements in parks should be done annually.

**Goal 11.** **Preserve and enhance environmentally sensitive open space.**

Policy POP-40  Identify environmentally sensitive open space.

Policy POP-41  Protect environmentally sensitive open space by limiting public intrusion.

Policy POP-42  Preserve sensitive areas by implementing legal instruments to dedicate them for this purpose.
Goal 12. Place and construct community entry monuments on arterial city entrances.

Policy POP-43 Maintain and landscape existing Gateway areas.

Policy POP-44 Prepare Gateway designs and seek public/private funding.

Policy POP-45 Set-up and preserve historical monuments at key points within the City.