

ORDINANCE NO. 2946

Repealed by 3481

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND RELATING TO COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND LAND USE AND AMENDING THE LAND USE POLICIES PLAN (COMPREHENSIVE PLAN) ORDINANCE 2346 AS AMENDED.

Whereas, the City Council has received from the Kirkland Planning Commission a recommendation to amend certain portions of the Land Use Policies Plan (Comprehensive Plan) for the City, Ordinance 2346 as amended, all as set forth in that certain report and recommendation of the Planning Commission dated April 1, 1986, and bearing Kirkland Department of Planning and Community Development File No. IV-85-28; and

Whereas, prior to making said recommendation the Planning Commission, following notice thereof as required by RCW 35A.63.070, held on March 6, 1986, a public hearing on the amendment proposals and considered the comments received at said hearing, as well as the recommendations made by the Houghton Community Council; and

Whereas, pursuant to the State Environmental Policies Act there has accompanied the legislative proposal and recommendation through the entire consideration process, a final determination of non-significance (including supporting environmental documents) issued by the responsible official pursuant to WAC 197-11-340 and WAC 197-11-390; and

Whereas, in regular public meeting the City Council considered the report and recommendation of the Planning Commission,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1: Text amended: Pages 100 - 115 of the text of the Land Use Policies Plan, Ordinance 2346 as amended be and they hereby are deleted and replaced with the text as set forth in Exhibit 1 attached to this ordinance and by this reference incorporated herein.

Section 2: Graphics amended: Figure 9 appearing on page 103 of the Land Use Policies Plan, Ordinance 2346 as amended, be and they hereby are deleted.

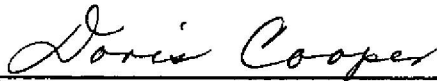
Section 3: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, part or portion of this ordinance, including those parts adopted by reference, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 4: To the extent that the subject matter of this ordinance is subject to the disapproval jurisdiction of the Houghton Community Council as created by Ordinance 2001, said plan shall become effective within the Houghton community either upon approval of the Houghton Community Council, or upon failure of said community council to disapprove this ordinance within 60 days of its passage.

Section 5. Except as provided in Section 4, this ordinance shall be in full force and effect five days from and after its passage by the City Council and publication as required by law.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in regular, open meeting this 7th day of April 1986.

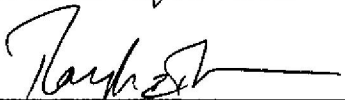
Signed in authentication thereof this 7th day of April 1986.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


Director of Administration & Finance
(ex officio City Clerk)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


City Attorney

2347C/42A:NC:dc

OPEN SPACE/PARKS

INTRODUCTION

To most people the term "open space" suggests a mental picture of a park or other outdoor recreational area. Despite the close association between parks and open space, the terms are by no means synonymous. Open space serves not only a recreational function but may also involve natural drainage systems, building setback areas, agricultural land, ecological study areas, or other nonrecreational purposes. Furthermore, there may be amenity values associated with open space in terms of scenic views, plant and animal life, absence of noise, or psychological relief from crowding.

Despite the expanding definition of open space, the need for public park facilities should still be recognized. Utilitarian and amenity considerations are intended to complement but not entirely replace recreational uses of open space.

Kirkland's park system has numerous facilities to meet a variety of needs (see Figure GP-2). It includes a series of waterfront parks, several baseball fields and active parks, neighborhood parks and passive parks, and special sites such as Juanita Bay Park.

Kirkland residents have had and should continue to have opportunities to voice their opinions and participate in decision-making concerning open space and parks. The Parks Board holds regular monthly meetings, and the City periodically distributes questionnaires and flyers inviting comment concerning the status of major projects.

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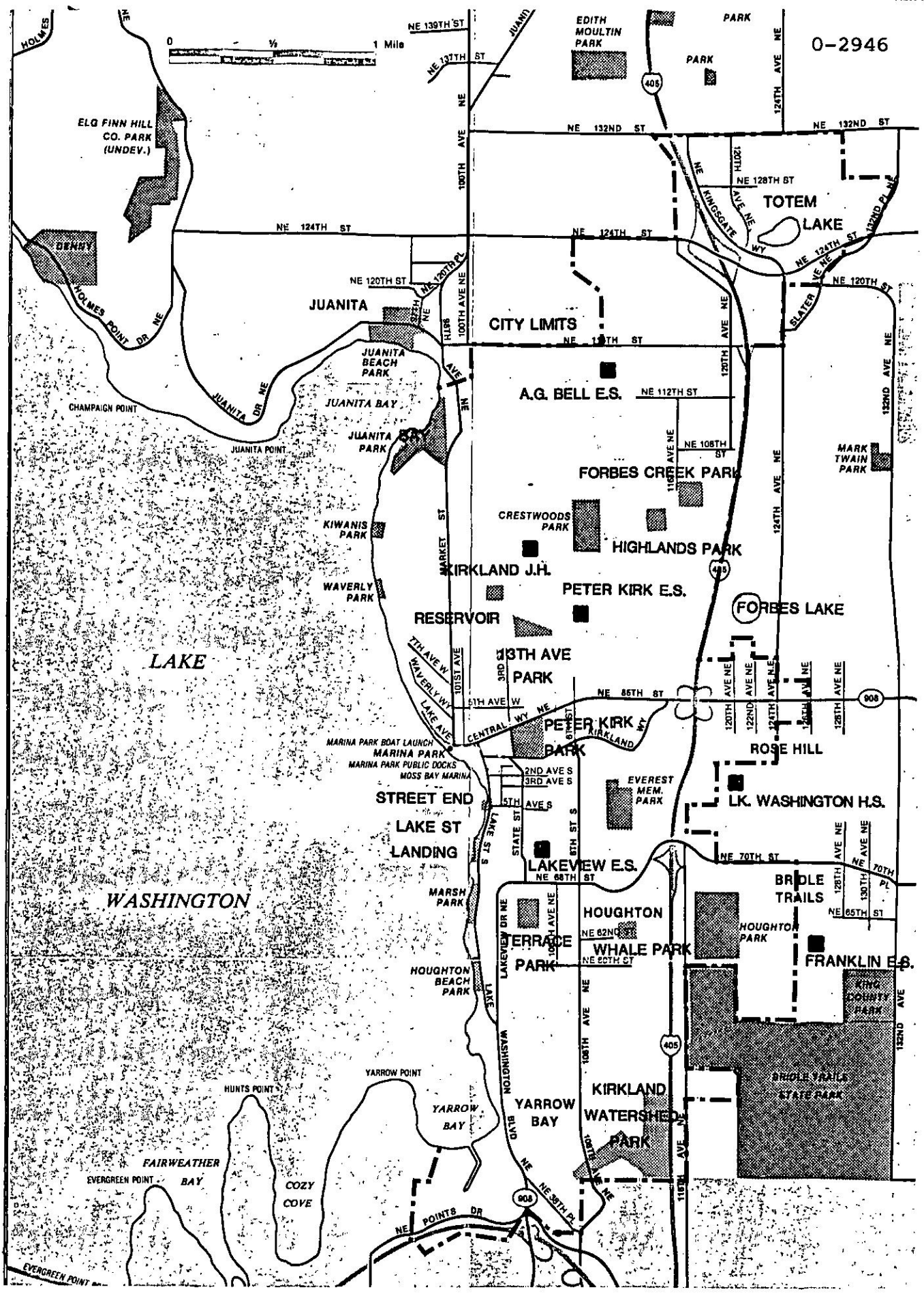


FIGURE GP-2

OPEN SPACE / PARKS

OPEN SPACE/PARKS

GOALS AND POLICIES

DISCUSSION

Goal 1

To acquire, develop and redevelop a system of parks, recreation facilities and open spaces that is attractive, safe, functional and available to all segments of the population.

The basis of Kirkland's parks system is the provision of diverse recreation opportunities and experiences for all Kirkland residents. Specifically, the open space, parks, park facilities, and recreation programs have a number of purposes:

- * To contribute to the overall quality of life for Kirkland residents by providing facilities and programs for both active and passive recreation opportunities.
- * To educate and entertain the public through a variety of recreation programs.
- * To improve the visual aesthetics of the City including flowers and other beautification efforts.
- * To ensure that the park system is accessible and available without regard to race, color, creed, sex and/or physical disability, and is accessible and available without any initiation or membership fees.

Policy 1.1

Parks, recreation and open space facilities should be acquired in those areas of the City facing intense population growth, commercial development and/or in areas where facilities are deficient.

The City should be sensitive to the demographic projections for population growth in the Kirkland Planning Areas. As a consequence, the City should continue to consider and review all potential acquisition and development projects in light of their utility for the expanded population and, specifically, for the geographic areas where growth is predicted.

Policy 1.2

Parks and open spaces, both passive and active, should be distributed throughout the City to ensure natural buffers as well as sufficient space for recreation.

The City should continue to strive toward a balanced and diverse park system. Passive park areas provide open space within an urbanized area, separation between land uses, and buffers to roadways. They also provide an important nonvehicular linkage between various neighborhoods, schools and parks. Private open spaces sometimes serve as recreation areas or greenbelts and provide pedestrian linkages, light penetration, and air circulation.

Active park areas provide citizens opportunities for both organized and unstructured recreational pursuits, such as baseball, swimming, softball, tennis, jogging, basketball, and soccer.

Policy 1.3

Park and open space acquisition, development and redevelopment should be actively sought through a variety of methods.

The City has had a long and successful history of acquiring and developing its park system from local bond issues, state, federal, and private sources. The resources necessary to continue to add and redevelop the park system are limited. It is in recognition of constraints associated with these limited resources that the City continue to pursue alternative methods to acquire, develop and redevelop its parks. These include private donations of land, equipment or funds, land trading and development permit conditions which require installation of park improvements (i.e., 10th Street) or land dedication.

Policy 1.4

Selected parks and facilities should be renovated in a manner that will conserve the use of energy and maximize efficient maintenance practices.

As the City's park system matures and requires periodic renovation work, much greater emphasis should be placed on implementing improved technological methods of conserving energy, applying use of better equipment and innovative practices and designing park areas in such a manner as to reduce long-term net maintenance and operating expenses.

Policy 1.5

Parks or recreational facilities should be developed only when adequate maintenance and operation funding is available to maximize maintenance efficiency, safety and public enjoyment.

Developing park sites before adequate maintenance and operation funds are available often results in poor use, vandalism and, above all, poor return in the park investment. The City should place a high priority on acquiring land and landbanking property. The City should provide at least minimal maintenance for land-banked properties intended for future development.

Policy 1.6

Parks facilities should be designed and developed with sensitivity and respect for natural ecosystems and environmental uniqueness.

Protection and enhancement of the natural resources within the park system should be encouraged and should continue to be implemented and expanded as new and improved technological methods of preservation and restoration are advanced in dealing with environmentally sensitive areas.

Natural features and systems are valuable to the community because they provide wildlife habitat, irreplaceable amenities, and utilitarian functions. Protecting and enhancing natural resources in parks will insure the availability of these features for future generations.

Policy 1.7

The development of a City-wide comprehensive tree plan should be encouraged which would include: 1) the selection of appropriate tree species for median strips, sidewalks, developed parks and other publically owned landscaped areas; 2) maintenance guidelines; and 3) policies regarding the cutting, clearing or topping of trees in devel-

The City has a significant investment in its street trees and other trees located in parks. A policy plan should be developed to adequately maintain existing and future trees in the City's urban landscape. Urban street tree landscaping is an important aesthetic amenity to the community. Planting the appropriate tree species in the urban landscape will minimize tree maintenance costs, such as pruning, spraying and damage caused to sidewalks by root systems. Furthermore, to properly maintain the

oped parks or natural areas.

health of street trees and other tree species important to park landscaping, maintenance guidelines should be established.

At times, it is necessary to cut, limb, clear, or top trees in parks or along streets, to reduce liability, enhance health of trees and provide park users a sense of safety. Policies should be established to determine when it is appropriate to remove or alter a tree. These include such policy questions as should trees on public property be topped for residential view enhancement?

Policy 1.8

The City should coordinate with neighboring cities, King County and Lake Washington School District in the planning and provision of recreation activities and facilities.

In order to avoid duplication, complement services, and to determine if certain park needs in Kirkland are being met elsewhere, close cooperation and coordination must occur among neighboring cities, King County, Lake Washington School District, and the private sector. Of particular concern over the past several years has been the significant use of Kirkland's park system by nonresidents. Cooperative efforts, particularly between Kirkland and King County, should be encouraged to address the need for park facilities.

Policy 1.9

Pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian linkages between parks and open spaces should be developed where feasible.

Nonmotorized linkages should be encouraged between parks and open space to allow ease of movement.

Policy 1.10

The need for a community recreation facility should be examined to meet indoor recreation needs for athletics, recreation classes and meeting space.

The Parks Department has been extremely fortunate in being able to use Lake Washington School District indoor facilities for City-sponsored recreation activities and programs. The joint-use arrangements with the School District has enabled the City to provide a much higher level of service than would otherwise have been possible. However, while the City's

recreation program has grown and prospered through the use of School District facilities, a number of notable and obvious changes have taken place to suggest that the City reexamine its nearly exclusive dependence on School District indoor facilities.

- 1) The demand for City recreation programs has grown substantially in the early 1980's. Attendance has increased by 60% largely due to the tremendous popularity of fitness, gymnastics, day camps, and athletic programs.
- 2) Agencies, such as the Boys/Girls Club, Lake Washington Voc-Tech, and other organizations are increasing their use of school facilities, creating competing demands for indoor facilities.
- 3) School District refurbishment of gymnasium floors and classrooms creates lengthy recreation program cancellations and disruptions of program continuity.

Policy 1.11

The development of a park refurbishment and acquisition plan should be encouraged.

The development of a park acquisition, development and redevelopment plan should be encouraged to: 1) identify and prioritize park improvements and acquisitions; and 2) determine funding alternatives for consideration in the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Policy 1.12

The City should enhance the quality of maintenance of the Municipal Cemetery facility to ensure its natural and aesthetic value to the community.

The City's Municipal Cemetery facility has a long history and is an important asset to the community. The quality of maintenance should be enhanced to ensure its natural and aesthetic value through use of better equipment and improved standards of cemetery maintenance.

Policy 1.13

Parks should be designed and developed with acknowledgment of existing and anticipated adjacent uses and competing interests.

When parks are planned for eventual development, it is important to acknowledge the surrounding existing and anticipated land uses, such as residential neighborhoods, commercial activities and natural features. Possible impacts which should be minimized may be from traffic, access, noise or light.

Goal 2

To enhance the quality of life in the community by providing recreation program services that are creative, productive and responsive to the needs of the public.

Recreation provides individuals in the community with opportunities for satisfying use of their leisure time. Participation in recreation activities enriches lives, prevents social isolation, and increases the sense of community. The public needs exposure to a wide variety of recreation skills and experience so that their leisure choices can be beneficial and satisfying. A significant share of the recreation service load is provided through the private sector and non-profit organizations and agencies. However, a large segment of the population does not have the opportunity or inclination to participate in private recreation. It is the responsibility of the City to provide recreation facilities and programs which are sensitive to the unique needs of the community and unique resources of the park system. It is the intent of the Parks and Recreation Department to offer diverse, accessible, and affordable recreation opportunities.

Recreation programs have been a significant part of the Kirkland Parks and Recreation Department for many years. It has been a period of tremendous change. Recreation has become an increasingly significant component of the nation's economy fueled by social factors, such as greater flexibility of work and leisure hours and the emergence of the health and fitness movement. Just ten years ago, children's day camps, summer performing arts, and outdoor recreation were virtually nonexistent within City programs. Youth baseball in Kirkland

continues to be a very popular athletic activity sponsored by volunteer organizations. Also, within the past ten years, a number of new sports have been introduced and embraced which are accessible to large numbers of people, such as soccer, volleyball, and slow-pitch. The City also has very limited involvement in the delivery of recreation services for the elderly.

In all of the aforementioned activities, the City plays both a primary and supportive role. In certain instances, the Department's role is to provide facilities and coordination, while in other cases, the Department assumes a direct operating role. For example, the City's role in youth baseball and soccer is to provide, schedule, and maintain ballfields within the City's park system, while the City assumes direct responsibility for offering recreation programs and services to the elderly.

The following policy statements are intended to describe the City's emphasis in recreation programming during the next several years, while recognizing that recreation is a very fluid and changing service often subject to national and local trends. Although many of the recreation policy statements do not have direct land use implications, it is important to provide the overall direction and emphasis of the recreation program in the context of this plan. Furthermore, the inclusion of recreation policies into this plan assists in establishing eligibility for funding from various state and federal sources.

Policy 2.1

A variety of health-fitness activities should be made available to the community in order to improve or maintain an individual's health and well being.

The City should continue to provide a variety of health and fitness programs in the community. The City can provide quality, low-cost programs that improve the health and well-being of individuals. Outreach programs to areas not being served by other groups, such as PTSA groups, other

governmental agencies, and private enterprise should continue. As indoor facilities continue to be heavily utilized, the City should actively encourage outdoor fitness activities, such as walking, biking, and swimming. The City should strive to keep abreast of current fitness trends and gear its programming accordingly.

Policy 2.2

The City should act as a resource agency to the community in promoting, coordinating, developing, and maintaining community leisure programs.

The City should be knowledgeable about what is being offered, so that it can refer, assist, and support other groups in the provision of leisure programs. The City should act as a resource to the community in assisting groups interested in developing special events. The City should know what other leisure services are available to the public and where the community might find them. The City should also provide assistance to groups, organizations, or individuals interested in developing special events.

Policy 2.3

The City should continue to work with local businesses and community organizations or groups in the support of both City-sponsored and selected community-wide events that meet the diverse and changing interests of the City's residents.

The City should continue to work with local businesses and community organizations or groups in the support of selected community-wide activities. Examples of such events could include summer festival, seasonal events, such as Easter Egg Hunt (with community service organizations), Halloween Party (local shopping centers), and winter festival and other activities.

Policy 2.4

Water-oriented recreation activities should be encouraged along the shoreline where appropriate and in keeping with the public interest and needs.

The City possesses miles of unique waterfront with major portions of waterfront in public ownership as parks. The City should strive to maximize its use to the continued benefit of its citizens. Organized water-oriented activities, such as windsurfing, sailing, and fishing should be encouraged. Public boat launch facilities provide important access to Lake Washington. The City should cooperate with other jurisdictions to assure that this regional need is addressed with regional participation and resources. Such facilities are best located where there is an opportunity for adequate on-site parking and where intrusions into neighborhoods can be kept to a minimum.

Policy 2.5

A variety of aquatic recreational programs and activities to enhance water safety, public enjoyment and fitness should continue.

The City-owned outdoor public swimming pool has been in operation since 1968. During this period, the City has continued to offer low-cost aquatic recreation programs, such as swimming lessons and public swims, to enable its citizens to safely enjoy their water-oriented community. The City should continue to enhance public enjoyment of these special facilities by attempting to create attractive settings that promote leisure activities. The City should also strive to make these activities accessible to the broadest sector of the population, including citizens with physical disabilities.

Policy 2.6

There should be coordination among governmental, private agencies and service organizations in the support of the summer performing arts programs.

In 1979, the City coordinated the efforts of many local agencies, including the Moss Bay Celebration, Inc., Creative Arts League, Northwest Seaport, Kirkland Library, Kirkland Senior Center, and the Kirkland Boys and Girls Club, to establish the first Kirkland Summer Arts Series, held at the Marina Park during the months of July and August. The seed money for this project was granted by the King County Arts Commission. During the past years, funding for the summer

arts programs has been generated with matching funds granted through City, county, and state government with supporting funds and in-kind services from Moss Bay Celebration, Inc., the Renton Musicians Union Trust Fund, the Lake Washington School District, Kirkland Kiwanis Club, and many local businesses.

Music and theatre performances add to the uniqueness and quality of life in our community, serving an estimated 18,000 individuals each summer.

Each season, the City should strive to increase community awareness, accessibility, and performance quality.

Policy 2.7

A variety of general recreation programs and classes, such as fine arts, self-improvement, creative and educational classes should be designed to serve residents and complement programs being offered by other recreation providers in the community.

In recent years the City has become more selective in the kinds of recreation programs that are being provided to the community. This has been brought about by the emergence of other private and public providers of recreation services to the community. The City's general recreation program has shifted its priorities away from some of the more traditional recreation offerings to those that capitalize on (1) our City and School District's unique resources, and (2) needs that are not being met by other service providers.

Specifically, the Parks and Recreation Department places high priority on coordinating recreation programs for the community, and using school and community facilities to the fullest. There is concern regarding the impact on scarcity of indoor recreation space as other organizations and agencies apply for use in facilities traditionally used by existing recreation programs offered by the City. Therefore, it is essential that the City work closely with other agencies in the coordination and delivery of recreation services to the community.

Policy 2.8

The quality of life for the older adult population should be enhanced by providing opportunities to engage in social, recreational, educational, nutritional and health programs which are designed to encourage independence.

The first programs initiated by the City for Senior Citizens were primarily recreational in nature. In the summer of 1974, the Parks Department saw the need to expand its existing concept to become involved in contracting with independent social and health service agencies geared to improve the total well-being of its senior population. The Meals on Wheels program, Outreach Assistance, and hot lunches were added to the recreational activities.

As the demand for new programs and services increased, the need for a larger facility became apparent. In November, 1976, a bicentennial bond issue was approved which included funds to develop a facility for senior citizens. The Senior Center recreational program is the fastest growing in the Parks and Recreation Department. The U.S. population is growing older, while the average life span is increasing, which has created several trends, including the demand for more health and fitness-oriented activities and educational enrichment programs and increased participation.

It is important that we recognize these changes and focus our attention on programs that meet these changing needs.

Policy 2.9

The City should determine need and provide access to recreation programs to citizens with physical and developmental disabilities.

The City should identify the need for providing recreation programs to citizens with physical and developmental disabilities and encourage their participation, to the extent possible, in regular recreation programs and activities. King County, the cities of Bellevue and Redmond, and the Gordon Hauck Center provide programs and facilities specifically designed to accommodate the special recreation needs for the disabled.

Rather than duplicate the efforts already underway by other agencies, the City of Kirkland should cooperate with these agencies to ensure that special needs are being met. For instance, the City of Bellevue is redeveloping an existing facility for priority use by the physically and developmentally disabled. The facility will not only serve the needs of Bellevue's program participants, but will serve a regional role as well, for other groups to utilize its facilities. The City of Kirkland should be knowledgeable about this facility and other local programs to refer and assist others in the provision of recreation programs for the physically and developmentally disabled.

Policy 2.10

The development of a pricing policy for recreation program and facility fees and charges should be encouraged.

The City should develop a pricing policy, describing the type of fees and charges administered in the Parks and Recreation Department and its rationale for assessing each type of fee. These include fees, such as admission, rental, facility, user, recreation activity, and moorage fees. Furthermore, the pricing policy should include policies on assessing fees for youths versus adults, private versus nonprofit groups, and athletic field maintenance.

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