



PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, October 05, 2023 at 6:30 PM

City Hall

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. October 5, 2023

A. Approval of the Agenda

October 5, 2023

4. Approval of Minutes

[A.](#) September 7, 2023

5. Reports

6. Old Business

A. Streetlight Standards

[B.](#) Comprehensive Plan - V2 Parks Elements

7. New Business

[A.](#) Natural Environment Element

8. Audience Participation

The Planning Commission encourages public participation during meetings and welcomes your comments. Anyone wishing to make comments will be given three minutes to speak. When addressing the Planning Commission, please speak clearly and audibly and state your name and address for the record.

9. Next Meeting

10. Adjournment

The City of Algona Planning Commission is appointed by and is advisory to the City Council on the preparation and amendment of land use plans and related implementing ordinances. The Planning Commission also reviews and makes recommendations on certain land use permit applications. Planning Commissioners are selected to represent all areas of the City and as many 'walks of life' as possible.

The actions tonight are not final decisions; they are in the form of recommendations to the City

Council who must ultimately make the final decision.

**Algona Planning Commission
September 7, 2023
6:30 PM**



Chair Harper called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Roll call was taken. Chair Harper, Commissioner Bramson, Commissioner Lindy, Commissioner White, and Commissioner Gomez were present. Caitlin Hepworth from Atwell, Cyrus Oswald from Atwell, Russ Avery Public Works Director and Dana Parker – Deputy City Clerk were also present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Commissioner Bramson made a motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Gomez seconded it. Chair Harper asked for a vote from the commissioners and received a unanimous response in favor to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Lindy made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Gomez seconded it. Chair Harper asked for a vote from the commissioners and received a unanimous response in favor to approve the minutes.

REPORTS –

Commissioner Bramson– None

Commissioner Gomez – Just a reminder that school is back in session so we need to be watching out for the kids going to and from school.

Commissioner Harper – None

Commissioner White - None

Deputy City Clerk –None

Public Works Director – We will be closing down West Valley Highway on the 19th so the new transfer station can upgrade the culvert.

Blueline – We had a booth at Algona Days. We received some information on a new Electric Vehicle grant program that we will be checking into.

Old Business –

- A. Streetlights Standards– I will be researching other cities to see what they are doing and we will be going under the Construction Standards. I will update you at the next meeting.

New Business –

- A. Algona Wetland Park Parking Requirements – The Planning Commission has voted in favor of allowing on street only, parallel parking along the western side of Pacific Avenue North, east of the subject site. The site will require two ADA parking stalls, one temporary loading zone for the use of school districts, and as many parking stalls as Pacific Avenue can accommodate for standard parking.
- B. Comprehensive Plan – Caitlin with Atwell went over the Parks and Recreation section of the comprehensive plan. The plan outlines the evaluation of facilities and service needs an estimate of parks and recreation demand for a ten-year period.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

Next Meeting

- A. Streetlights & Standards
- B. Comprehensive Plan – v1 Parks Element draft and policies
- C. Natural Environment Element

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Harper adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

APPROVED:

JAMES HARPER, CHAIR
CITY OF ALGONA
PLANNING COMMISSION

DANA PARKER – DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Chapter 8: Parks and Recreation

Introduction

Algona is a residential community characterized by its single-family homes, placid roadways, and “know your neighbor” atmosphere. The City has the appearance of a suburban community, and it has limited commercial and industrial opportunities, a low-density residential nature, and it places a high value on parks and recreation. The 2024 *Parks and Recreation* element is an update to the 2015 elemental chapter incorporating 9 years of changes in approach, goals, inventory, and strategies improving the City’s parks system and increase opportunities for physical activity and social engagement. As part of the Comprehensive Plan process, Algona anticipates an increase in population warranting a critical evaluation of the current needs of residents and performance of amenities.

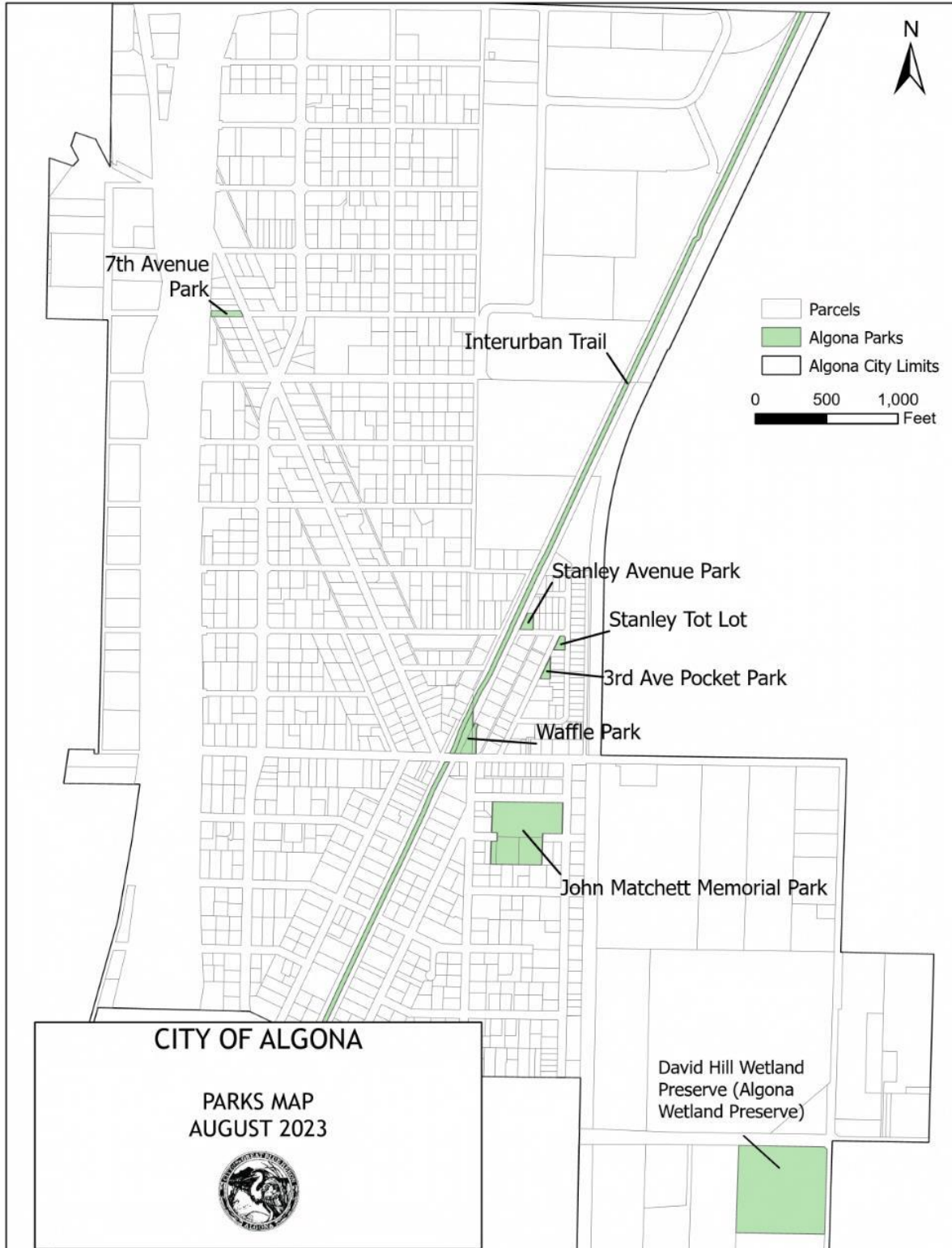
The Growth Management Act (GMA) has an option for fully planning cities to create a *Parks and Recreation* element in the Comprehensive Plan describing the inventory, demand, and goals as it relates to public operating parks and recreation facilities. The Growth Management Checklist directs local governments to identify lands useful for public purposes, as well as open space corridors within the Urban Growth Area useful for recreation. It encourages planning and design policies that integrate park and recreation opportunities with new public and private development.

The City of Algona is committed to providing opportunities for outdoor activity and has opted to update and maintain the *Parks and Recreation* elemental chapter. The Washington Administrative Code (WAC 365-196-440) requires the *Parks and Recreation* element to include:

1. Evaluation of facilities and service needs;
2. Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period;
3. Demonstrates consistency with the Capital Facilities element; and
4. Evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.

The *Parks and Recreation* element plays a critical role in promoting good public health, high quality of life, and preserving sensitive lands for residents and future generations. Algona values investing in parks and recreation opportunities that meet local needs of all abilities, diverse backgrounds, and various interests that all residents can utilize. The following chapter summarizes the current conditions, future demands, and future opportunities for parks and recreation.

Figure 1: Parks Map



Inventory

The City of Algona develops, maintains, and operates parks within the city's boundaries. There are a total of seven parks occupying 13.24 acres across Algona's approximately 661 acres of lands, which means parks account for approximately two percent of city lands. The following is a summary of the existing parks operated by the City of Algona. A map describing the locations of these parks is located at the end of the *Parks and Recreation* elemental chapter.

John Matchett Memorial Park

Matchett Park is a community park covering approximately 3.75 acres at the heart of the city, adjacent to the City Hall and Police Department. The park has both passive and active opportunities for recreation, and includes the following amenities:

- Fenced Baseball/Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Tennis Court
- Playground
- Benches
- Community Garden
- Picnic Tables
- Public Restrooms

The park is also utilized as a community event space. John Matchett Memorial Park adjoins the Algona City Hall, which includes a full commercial kitchen and community space. Events like Movie Night, Algona Days, and the Pumpkin Launch use the park as a hosting space where vendors, residents, and staff members can celebrate community and camaraderie together with kids activities, educational demonstrations, food, and music. The community garden is a recent addition to the park, developed in 2018. Residents may apply to occupy a plot in the community garden on the City's website.



Shown left: An overview of the John Matchett Memorial Park, taken via drone. The park is named after Mayor Matchett, who ran the city for 13 years between 1968-1981.

David E. Hill Wetland Preserve

Built in 2023, the David E. Hill Wetland Preserve is the City's newest and largest park addition. The 8.9-acre open space park is a passive recreation opportunity with walking trails meandering through the wetland to an overlook deck and benches. Interpretive signage is available throughout the site providing residents with educational information about wetland ecology, Native American uses of local flora, and the benefit of wetlands as stormwater systems. The site is located south of the Boeing Facility and west of Washington Boulevard. The City is in the process of acquiring an adjacent property to expand the park and trails under a future addition project. See the *Capital Improvement Plan* for additional details.

Insert picture when park is developed/in construction, est. Mid 2024.

7th Avenue Park

A small neighborhood park, developed in 2005, the 7th Avenue Pocket Park is located at the west end of 7th Avenue N, adjacent to SR 167. The park has a playground, open space, barbeque, bench, and picnic table. The open space is approximately 4,770 square feet.

Insert picture

Stanley Avenue Park

Stanley Avenue Park is a neighborhood park located along the northeastern portion of Stanley Avenue, north of Pullman Avenue. The park is approximately 5,770 square feet and has a swing set, a bench, and one picnic table.

Insert picture

Waffle Park

Waffle Park is a triangle-shaped pocket park of approximately 23,000 square feet and adjoins the Interurban Trail, which is operated by the county. The park provides a resting place for trail users with a picnic shelter, benches, and picnic tables. The park shares approximately 5,300 square feet of open green space with King County for open use.



Shown Above: Waffle Park, named after Mayor Waffle (1988-1992).

3rd Ave Pocket Park

A small park on Third Avenue N is also adjacent to the Interurban Trail and operates as a pocket park. There is a shelter, barbecue facility, picnic tables, and benches. The park serves as a resting spot for Interurban Trail users and provides a grassy open space for residents to use. The park is approximately 7,800 square feet, however due to its shared boundary with the trail there is an open space of approximately 4,200 square feet.



Shown Above: 3rd Avenue Pocket Park

Stanley Tot Lot

Located at the intersection of Stanley Avenue and Iron Avenue, the Stanley Tot Park has two picnic tables, a bench, and a playground oriented toward young children four and under. The park is considered a pocket park meant to serve residents in the immediate vicinity of the property.



Shown Above: Stanley Tot Lot

Interurban Trail

The Electric Avenue Interurban Trail, although not part of City-owned property, is maintained by Puget Sound Power and Light Company and is part of the larger Interurban trail system connecting several cities in south King County. The paved trail cuts through the entire Algona community east of SR 167 and provides opportunities for walking, biking, or other non-motorized activities like skating. While this amenity is not provided by the City of Algona, the City does consider this key trail in its level of service analysis.



Shown Above: A resident and their dog enjoying the Interurban Trail on a quiet summer evening.

Current Conditions

Algona's Public Works Department maintains and operates the city's parks network while the *Community Connector* coordinates city events, community newsletters and communication, and youth activities. There is no Parks Department, Parks Division, or recreation program operated by the City. There are limited opportunities to annex new lands into the city's limits and the demand for land that supports housing, new jobs, and municipal services leave a limited number of lands suitable for park development.

With a target of 4,660 residents by 2044, Algona will remain a small-town community likely without a Parks Department or recreation program. A Parks Division may be sustained with one

to two full or part time staff members as Algona grows larger in 2044 and beyond. The division would focus on park projects, maintenance coordination, grant administration, and developing partnerships. A fiscal analysis is a necessary first step toward developing a Parks Division or hiring parks staff. Partnerships and grants will equally be a critical step toward expanding opportunities to engage with the outdoors as discussed in *Interagency Coordination*.

Local Needs and Demand

A key component to understanding local needs is identifying the community's vision for future parks and amenities. Residents participated in a variety of methods during public engagement, as described in the *Introduction* chapter. Parks were consistently highly prioritized by the community, receiving the most funding during the Funding Bucket activity.

Community Feedback

A community survey for the Comprehensive Plan was distributed by mail, social media, and community events to the City's residents beginning on July 1, 2023 and was requested to be returned no later than September 30, 2023. Of the 3,315 residents, XX surveys were completed and returned with a response rate of X%. Responses were tracked and are described in the *Public Engagement Summary*. The survey identified the following needs relating to parks: **TO BE PROVIDED AFTER SURVEY CLOSES.**

Figure 2: Parks Needs Word Cloud

TO BE PROVIDED AFTER SURVEY CLOSES.

Statewide Trends

While local residential needs were gathered through the engagement process, Algona also evaluates new opportunities for recreation through trends seen at the state level. The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) tracks current trends in preferred active and passive recreation in the *State Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP)*. The plan was recently updated in 2023 ranking the popularity of activities residents valued. The top twelve activity trends statewide are described in *Figure 3*. Residents across Washington State most often participated in walking or day hiking, nature viewing, and leisurely activities like hanging out, scenic driving, or enjoying a picnic outdoors.

Figure 3: Statewide Recreation Trends (2023)

Activity	Activity Category	Percent of Population	Number of Responses
Walking or using Mobility Device on Roads or Sidewalks	Trail and Road Based Activity	91%	5,390
Walking or Day Hiking or Using Mobility Device on Trails	Trail and Road Based Activity	90%	5,331
Wildlife and Nature Viewing	Nature and Culture Based Activity	85%	4,812
Scenic Driving (Sightseeing)	Nature and Culture Based Activity	85%	4,767
Hanging Out	Leisure Activities in Parks	70%	3,679
Picnic, Barbecue, or Cookout	Leisure Activities in Parks	68%	3,639
Community Garden or Farmers' Market	Leisure Activities in Parks	66%	3,556
Visiting Outdoor Cultural or Historical Facility, includes Attending Cultural Events	Nature and Culture Based Activity	62%	3,413
Swimming in Natural Settings	Water Based Activity	61%	3,374
Paddle Sports (Rafting, Canoes, Kayaks, Stand-up, Rowing)	Water Based Activity	52%	2,910
Outdoor Concert or Special Event	Leisure Activities in Parks	49%	2,602
Gathering or Collecting Anything in Nature	Nature and Culture Based Activity	49%	2,635

Source: Washington RCO, State Recreation and Conservation Plan (2023)

Level of Service

Level of Service (LOS) is a measurable standard utilized in understanding the quality and quantity of parks and recreation spaces necessary to meet a community's local needs. The NRPA and the RCO do not have universally recommended level of service standards for parks or recreation programs. Parks are difficult to measure – they are places we experience and feel as users but often do not measure. Park amenities are often determined by available budgets, community interests, and location of available undeveloped lands. Instead, the NRPA and RCO recommend jurisdictions craft their own LOS standards that cater to the unique qualities of their communities. This creative approach to LOS standards grants localities flexibility to design standards that fit into their existing character and development pattern that residents and city staff alike can identify with and support.



Shown Above: A warm evening at the Community Garden at John Matchett Memorial Park. Residents are able to reserve a plot in the community garden and often grow perennials, fruit, and vegetables.

LOS Standards

Algona strives to acquire, develop, and maintain high-quality parks within close proximity to residents. Historically, Algona has not administered parks LOS standards due to the limited population it serves and its proximity to neighboring communities that administer a Parks Department or recreation program (City of Auburn, City of Pacific, and King County).

Much like the Puget Sound region, Algona has grown. Populations have steadily and consistently increased since 2000 and Algona is serving a greater population now than it did 24 years ago.

Changing community conditions are pushing Algona to consider how to support equity in parks and recreation opportunities for residents. This drive for park availability and equitable development triggers the need to begin administering LOS standards to evaluate where the City should invest new park development to better meet all needs.

One standard the City has evaluated in past iterations of the Comprehensive Plan is service areas. A service area indicates how many people are served within an appropriate distance to a certain park type. Appropriate distances are determined by what is seen as a walkable distance to a park, based on the size and amenities of the park. Service areas are an ideal starting place for park LOS metrics as they evaluate the availability of a park against how accessible the park is to residents who are likely walking to the amenity. *Figure 4* describes the City’s parks service area metric.

Service area metrics are driven by accessibility – how far are residents likely walking to visit a park or use equipment and facilities? Typically, residents will walk approximately 15 minutes, or a quarter mile, comfortably to visit a location. Otherwise, residents are more likely to drive. Algona’s parks have limited parking facilities – only John Matchett Memorial Park and Waffle Park have their own designated parking lots. Other parks rely upon on-street parking to accommodate residents who are outside the service area or are more likely to drive than walk to the park.

Figure 4: Algona Parks Level of Service

Level of Service Standard	Performance Metric				
	E	D	C	B	A
Pocket Park - 50% of the population within 0.15 mile	<30%	30-49%	69-50%	84-70%	>85%
Neighborhood Park -- 75% of the population within 1/4 mile					
Community Park -- 90% of the population within ½ mile					
Trails -- 90% of population within ½ mile of a trail					

Park Classifications

There are four park types that exist within Algona as described in *Figure 5*. Park classifications determine how the LOS metrics are applied to the City’s parks and ultimately what the current needs are to enhance the demand for parks now and over the next 20 years. Park classifications are noted in the *Inventory* subsection and are categorized concisely here.

Figure 5: Park Classifications

Park Type	Definition	Designation
Pocket Park	A small, pedestrian oriented park of one-half acres or less that provides green space in more developed areas. Pocket parks typically include landscaping, seating, art, smaller play features, and community identification features such as interpretive signage or historic markers.	Waffle Park
		Stanley Ave Park
		3 rd Ave Pocket Park
		Stanley Tot Lot
Neighborhood Park	A pedestrian oriented park that is typically one acre or less and is intended to serve adjacent residential units. Parks typically provides playground area and open space. Neighborhood parks can provide a single sports court.	7 th Avenue Park
Community Park	A large park ranging from one to five acres in size. Park provides active recreation facilities and includes features such as parking lots, sports fields/courts, and natural areas.	John Matchett Memorial Park
		David E. Hill Wetland Preserve
Trail	Trails are identified as a network or pathway for the exclusive use of pedestrians, cyclists, or other non-motorized forms of transportation. The intent of trails is to both provide recreational and transportation uses. Ideally, trails create a well connected city and supplement sidewalks and bike lanes. Trails can include features such as parking areas, paved or unpaved paths, picnic tables or benches, and informational markers.	Interurban Trail

Source: National Parks and Recreation Association, *Park, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines* (1996).

LOS Analysis

On average, 1,625 residents live within the service area of a City park¹ and the City overall has an average park performance of LOS D (49%). Algona’s parks serve most of the community in one way or another – most residents are within the service area of the Interurban Trail and one of the community parks. There is a noticeable discrepancy in who has access to pocket and neighborhood parks. Algona, as a whole, has an adequate number of parks; however they are not distributed equitably resulting in a lack of park access in certain areas of the City. In particular, the north half of Algona (north of 10th Avenue, east of Celery Avenue) and along the western side of SR 167 have the lowest access to City operated parks as shown in *Figure 8*.

¹ As of 2023, the estimated population is 3,315 people and the estimated housing units are 1,061. There are approximately 3.12 residents per housing unit assumed in service area calculations.

The Interurban Trail effectively serves the community within its assigned service area. Only about 11% of the population is located outside a walkable distance (one half mile) from the corridor. It is the overall highest performing park facility within the City with a LOS A despite not being owned, maintained, or operated by the city.

Algona's greatest performing park is John Matchett Memorial Park which serves the most residents. This park likely performs better than all of the City's other parks because it is a community park with more amenities, it has a centralized location near residential units, and a larger service area. The park individually serves approximately 2,140 residents. Community parks and has an LOS C. The David E. Hill Wetland Preserve also serves a great need for park access in the southeast area. The Preserve has a lower LOS since it serves a limited number of Algona residents due to its location adjacent to a commercial corridor (Ellingson Road) and its remote location. When the Preserve is combined with John Matchett Memorial Park, Algona's community parks overall have a LOS B and serve about 74% of the overall population.

Algona only has one neighborhood park, 7th Ave Park, and effectively meets immediate park and recreation needs in the northern half of the City. This park alone serves nearly a fifth of residents. One neighborhood park on its own cannot meet the citywide service area metric of 75% of residents within a quarter mile of a neighborhood park. An additional park is needed to improve the LOS grade.

There is an over-concentration of pocket parks in one area of the city, along Stanly Avenue, and a lack of pocket park opportunities throughout the city. The clustering of the pocket parks results in a lower LOS since they are serving the same households in their respective service areas. A greater distribution of pocket parks in the future will increase the city's performance in small, informal park opportunities. Pocket parks only serve about 41% of the population.



Above: Algona's youth enjoying activities coordinated by Gary Klein, the *Community Connector*, at Algona Days 2022.

Figure 6: Park LOS Analysis by Park

Park	Classification	Service Area	Est. Population within Service Area ²	% of Population in Service Area
Stanley Tot Lot	Pocket Park	50% of the population within 0.15 mile	321	9.7%
3 rd Ave Pocket Park	Pocket Park	50% of the population within 0.15 mile	409	12.33%
Waffle Park	Pocket Park	50% of the population within 0.15 mile	552	16.65%
Stanley Ave Park	Pocket Park	50% of the population within 0.15 mile	399	12.04%
7 th Ave Park	Neighborhood Park	75% of the population within 1/4 mile	643	19.38%
Algona Wetland Preserve	Community Park	Community Park -- 90% of the population within 1/2 mile	468	14.11%
John Matchett Memorial Park	Community Park	Community Park -- 90% of the population within 1/2 mile	2140	64.56%
Interurban Trail	Trail	90% of population within 1/2 mile of a trail	2976	89.78%

Figure 7: Park LOS Analysis by Class

Classification	Service Area	Est. Population within Service Area ³	% of Population in Service Area	Park Classification LOS
Pocket Park	50% of the population within 0.15 mile	680	41%	D
Neighborhood Park	75% of the population within 1/4 mile	643	25%	E
Community Park	Community Park -- 90% of the population within 1/2 mile	2200	73.7%	B
Trail	90% of population within 1/2 mile of a trail	2976	99%	A
Average No. of People in Service Area:			1,625	
Average LOS:			D	

² Service areas are estimated based on the number of residential units within each park’s service area and the average number of residents per household. Parks may overlap with one another.

³ Service areas are estimated based on the number of residential units within each park’s service area and the average number of residents per household. Parks may overlap with one another

Consistency with Capital Facilities

The State requires the *Parks and Recreation* element to describe how it is consistent with the *Capital Facilities* element under WAC 365-196-440. Parks are considered to be a capital facility, or an asset/property owned and maintained by the City. Parks are described as assets within the *Capital Facilities* element, however their level of service performance is described within this *Parks and Recreation* element. There are a number of proposed parks projects the City is currently considering, including:

- 1. David E. Hill Wetland Preserve – Acquisition and Expansion:** The City is in the process of acquiring additional lands west of the current site. There are plans to expand the trail westerly and create an loop trail throughout the site connecting to a small parking lot along Ellingson Road.
- 2. Algona Village Trail Acquisition and Development:** A trail is proposed to be developed along the wooded, steep slopes off the West Valley Highway South, adjacent to the old site of the South King County Transfer Station connecting to a proposed mixed-use project in the southwest corner of Algona.
- 3. New Park – Acquisition and Development:** The City is evaluating opportunities to acquire new public lands in the Algona, north of 8th Avenue North. The city is aiming to develop a neighborhood or community park in this area to effectively have all residents be served by a community park within the service area standards described in *Level of Service Standards* subsection above.

The city will continue to acquire parcels for new within its neighborhoods as opportunities become available. Details on the above proposed projects as well as other parks projects and *Capital Facilities* projects are detailed in the *Capital Improvement Plan*.

Park Impact Fees

Algona currently collects a Parks Impact Fee as described in Algona Municipal Code Chapter 2.50. As of 2024, the City collects \$1,000 per new residential unit. The impact fee program was established in 2004 and updated in 2017 as a result of a clear community interest in improving park accessibility, anticipated influx of new residential development spurred by code updates expanding permitted forms of housing, and inflation.

The City will evaluate the need to incrementally increase park impact fees as it corresponds with inflation costs for materials, permitting, construction, and property values. Updating fee schedules for impact fees is a complex process requiring rate studies and a fiscal analysis. Generally, impact fees do not recover the full cost of developing new facilities since the fee must be directly related to specific development projects and their proportional impacts.

In Washington, impact fees are authorized for those jurisdictions planning under the Growth Management Act and creating a comprehensive plan, as part of “voluntary agreements” under RCW 82.02.020 and to mitigate for impacts of new development.



Shown Above: A basketball lies on the court at John Matchett Memorial Park ready to be used.

Interagency Opportunities

Additionally, the State requires the *Parks and Recreation* element to describe opportunities to work collaboratively with other agencies to expand park and recreation opportunities under WAC 365-196-440. As noted previously, it is critical for the City to work toward grant opportunities and partnership development to effectively meet local parks needs. Algona is a relatively small community, it is the ninth smallest⁴ in geographic size and eighth smallest⁵ in population in King County. Due to its limited size and population, creative approaches to getting the community outside to enjoy recreation are absolutely necessary to maintain level of service while expanding opportunity.

Grants

Public grants are an option to supplement the City's budget for parks development, acquisition, design, and construction. The City of Algona has successfully obtained parks grants in the past to fund acquisition, design, and development projects. While the grant process is competitive

⁴ Algona is 1.29 square miles in geographic size. Smallest cities by geographic area in King County (in order): Beaux Arts Village, Skykomish, Wilderness Rim, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Clyde Hill, Baring, and Carnation

⁵ Algona's population is 28th out of 35 jurisdictions in King County. Smallest city populations in King County (in order): Skykomish, Beaux Arts Village, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Carnation, Medina, and Clyde Hill.

and provides limited financial assistance, it historically has been instrumental in providing complete funding for projects in smaller communities like Algona where there is a more limited residential and commercial tax base.

Grants are not intended to be relied upon for nominal funding for each project the City pursues. However, grants reduce the burden of a project’s overall cost on local taxpayers and annual budgets. The following is a list of grants the City is eligible to pursue in future parks related capital improvement projects:

<i>King County Grants</i>	<i>Description</i>
Parks Capital and Open Space Grant	This grant can fund a broad range of parks projects, including land acquisition, park planning, and development of passive and active parks and trails.
Healthy Communities and Park Fund	This grant funds projects and programs that provide new, increased, or enhanced access to recreation, parks, and open space in underserved communities, including investing in capacity-building for community groups.
Youth and Amateur Sports	This grant funds programs and capital projects that increase youth access to physical activity.
Conservation Futures	This grant funds the purchasing or preservation of open space lands to be used for passive, low-impact recreation.
Water Works	The Water Works program funds park projects that improve water quality in the service area of the County’s regional wastewater system, including creek and wetland restoration projects.
<i>Washington State Grants</i>	<i>Description</i>
RCO – Planning for Recreation Access	Grants are used to support planning, community engagement, and collaboration between local governments, community-based organizations, and residents to define outdoor recreation needs, prioritize investments to address those needs, and prepare on-the-ground projects for RCO and other funding opportunities.
RCO – Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities	Eligible community outdoor athletic facilities should attract and accommodate practice, training, or competition using a participant’s physical skills or capabilities. Such athletic activities should be the primary focus of the facility rather than leisure activities. Specific policies for eligible elements, costs and activities are in development; however, examples of typical projects that

likely could be funded through this program include the following outdoor facilities:

- Rectangular fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.
- Fields for baseball, softball, cricket, etc.
- Tracks and courses
- Skateparks, BMX, and mountain bike parks
- Paddling facilities, rock climbing
- Ice and roller hockey
- Swimming pools
- Acquisition of land for such facilities

RCO – Parks Maintenance Grant

The Washington State Legislature provided one-time funding in the operating budget to help local parks departments maintain their working facilities to meet the needs of their residents. This program will focus on helping communities in need address maintenance backlogs for key local parks facilities and capital improvements. Accessed through a simple application process, grants can be used for general maintenance of things such as trails, restrooms, picnic sites, playgrounds, signs, and kiosks.

No Child Left Inside

The Washington State Legislature created the No Child Left Inside grant program to provide under-served youth with quality opportunities to experience the natural world. Grants are available for outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural, or other natural resource-based education and recreation programs serving youth. Funding focuses on serving youth with the greatest needs and helping them improve their overall academic performance, self-esteem, personal responsibility, community involvement, personal health, and understanding of nature.

Youth Athletic Facilities

The Youth Athletic Facilities program provides grants to buy land and develop or renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as ball fields, courts, swimming pools, mountain bike tracks, and skate parks that serve youth through the age of 18.

While the program focuses on youth, RCO strongly encourages grant recipients to design facilities to serve all ages and multiple activities.

An athletic facility is an outdoor facility used for playing sports or participating in competitive athletics and excludes playgrounds, tot lots, vacant lots, open or undeveloped fields, and level open space used for non-athletic play.

Partnerships

Partnerships are another pathway to supporting growing demands for parks and recreational activities in Algonia, and can include land donations, funding, interlocal agreements, and park stewardship. Partnerships can happen between public, private, and non-profit agencies to help meet community needs publicly or privately. Mutual goals shared between agencies drive the need to develop partnerships.

Algonia does not currently have any parks partnerships, however there is interest in beginning to partner with other agencies, community groups, and non-profits to increase public access to recreation and garner environmental stewardship. Partnerships in particular are beneficial in granting opportunities to participate in recreation programs. The City of Auburn has an established recreation program that the City of Algonia could develop an interlocal agreement to help fund and participate in. Other cities in King County have similar agreements – in particular the City of Clyde Hill has an interlocal agreement with the City of Bellevue to be eligible for participation in recreation programming.

Partnerships can advance completion of various park projects and opportunities and also reduce the demand for funding from local taxpayers. For example, Algonia could consider a partnership with its jurisdictional neighbors (City of Auburn or City of Pacific) to help meet mutual needs for parks or recreation.



Shown Above: YMCA Booth at 2022 Algonia Days presented different opportunities for youth and adults to get active in nearby YMCA facilities.

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

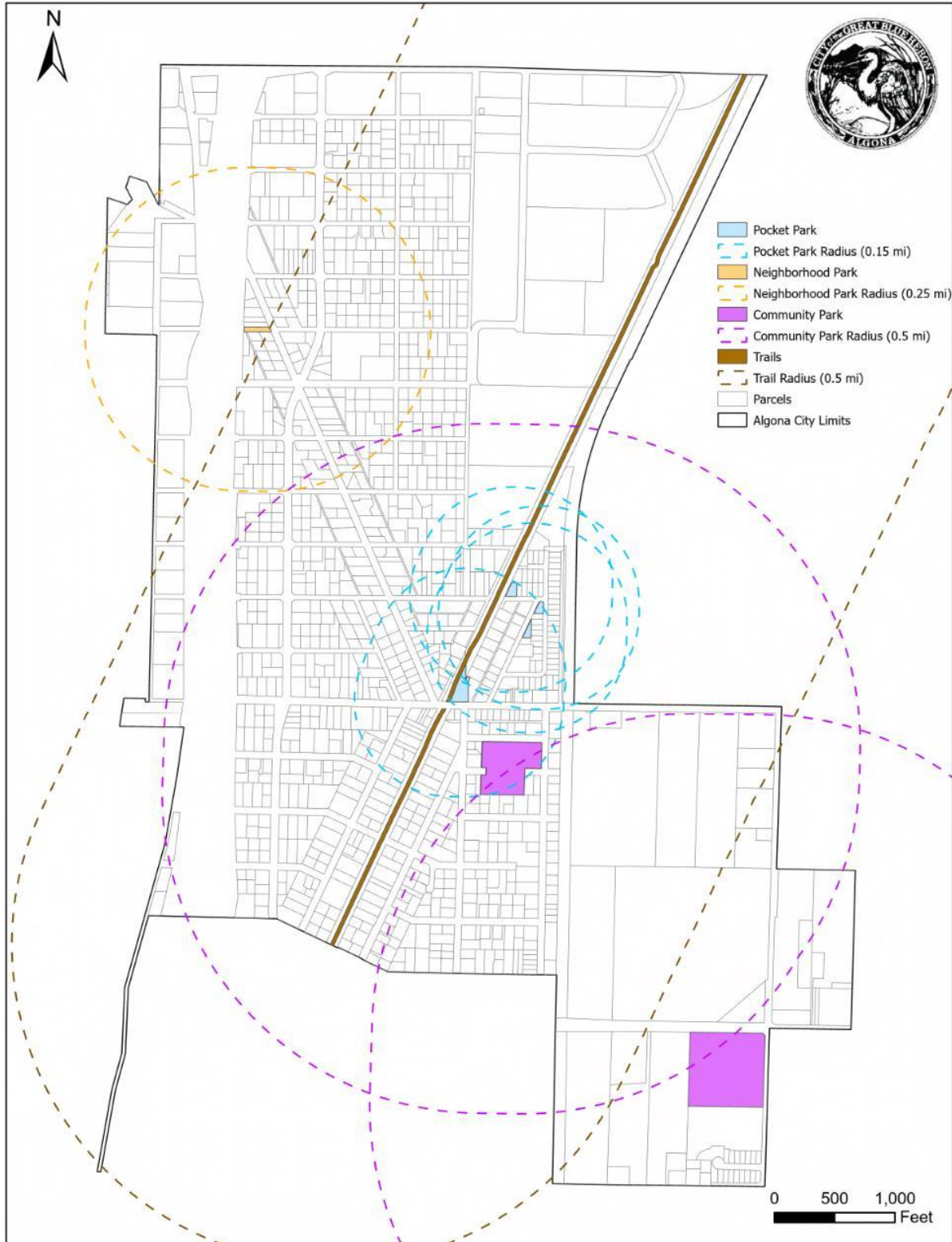
The Washington RCO offers a number of grant programs annually to assist local jurisdictions in planning for parks and recreation to meet local and future demands. While some grants are eligible for any jurisdiction to apply for, there are a number of grants that are exclusively developed and eligible for cities that develop a *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan)*. A PROS Plan would need to be reviewed and certified by the RCO to allow Algona to have additional grant opportunities. Certification is conducted by RCO every even numbered year and expires after six (6) years. A PROS Plan requires the following elements to be considered a complete report:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Goals and Policies | 4. Needs and Demand Analysis |
| 2. Inventory | 5. Capital Improvement Plan |
| 3. Public Engagement | 6. Adoption |



Shown Above: Community events like Algona Days bring the community together sparking a love for the outdoors, community, and recreation while championing community pride and identity.

Figure 8: Parks Service Area Map



Commenter	Date
James Harper	9.11.2023
James Harper	9.11.2023
James Harper	9.11.2023
James Harper	9.11.2023
James Harper	9.11.2023
James Harper	9.11.2023
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James Harper	9.11.2023
James Harper	9.11.2023
James Harper	9.11.2023
James Harper	9.11.2023
James Harper	9.11.2023
James Harper	9.11.2023

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James Harper 9.11.2023

James Harper 9.11.2023

James Harper 9.11.2023

James Harper 9.11.2023

Jessica Griess 9.13.2023

Wayne Lindy 9.17.2023

Wayne Lindy 9.17.2023

Wayne Lindy 9.17.2023

Wayne Lindy 9.17.2023

Chris Gomez 9.18.2023

Steve Bramson 9.15.2023

Steve Bramson 9.15.2023

David White 9.15.2023

David White 9.15.2023

Comment

I reiterate my request that there be a map of all the Algona parks at the front of the Chapter, either at the Introduction or the Inventory. I think that would help give context when reading the Chapter.

Introduction, Paragraph 1: "The City has the appearance of a suburban neighborhood with limited commercial and industrial opportunities, low density residential nature, and high value on parks and recreation." Consider revising to: "The City has the appearance of a suburban community, and it has limited commercial and industrial opportunities, a low density residential nature, and it places a high value on parks and recreation."

Introduction, Paragraph 2: "The Growth Management Act (GMA) has an option for fully planning cities to create a Parks and Recreation element to the Comprehensive Plan describing the inventory, demand, and goals as it relates to public operation parks and recreation facilities."

Inventory, Paragraph 1: "There are a total of seven parks across its 661 acres of lands occupying approximately 13.24 acres, which is two percent of this City's gross lands." Consider revising to: "There are a total of seven parks occupying approximately 13.24 acres across Algona's approximate 661 acres of land, which means parks account for approximately two percent of City lands."

Generally: Change "David Hill Wetland Preserve" to "David E. Hill Wetland Preserve". As a person who almost always uses my middle initial of "E.", I understand that could be an important part of one's identity.

Stanley Avenue Park: "Stanley Avenue Park is a neighborhood park located along the northeastern portion of Stanley Avenue..."

Waffle Park: "The park shares an approximately 5,300 square feet open green space with King County for open use and is approximately 5,300 square feet."

Current Conditions, Paragraph 2: "With a target of 4,660 residents by 2044, Algona will remain a small-town community most likely without a Parks Department or recreation program."

Statewide Trends, Paragraph 1: "... Algona also evaluates new opportunities for recreational through trends seen at the state level."

Figure 2: This chart is difficult to see or read. Consider revising chart and text colors.

Figure 3: Consider reversing the Performance Mark, from "E" on the left to "A" on the right. Mathematically, this would make the "greater than" and "less than" symbols not seem (to me) to be out of place. Also, this chart is similarly difficult to read: consider revising chart and text colors.

Figure 4: This chart is, somehow, not difficult to read. ??

Figure 4: Consider revising the Definition for each park type. The wording seems (to me) to be awkward, and too definitive (yeah, I understand it is a "definition"). By "definitive", I mean too exclusionary. For example: "Trails are identified as a network or pathway for the exclusive use of pedestrians or cyclists." This excludes skateboarders, skaters, etc. Consider revising to "... primarily for the use of ..."

Figure 4: You previously identify Waffle Park as having approximately 23,000 square feet (Inventory). That would be greater than a half acre (52.8% of an acre). Figure 4 Pocket Park Definition states "A small, pedestrian oriented park of one-half acres or less ..." I question if Waffle Park should be recategorized to a Neighborhood Park.

LOS Analysis, Paragraph 2: states "Only about 11% of the population is located outside a walkable distance (one half mile) from the corridor." Where does that "walkable distance" come from?

LOS Analysis, Paragraph 2: "It is the City's highest performing park with a LOS A despite not being owned, maintained, or operated by a municipality." Consider revising to "It is the highest performing park within the City with a LOS A, despite not being owned, maintained, or operated by the City."

LOS Analysis, Paragraph 3: "... due to it's location adjacent to a commercial corridor (Ellingson Road) and it's proximity to city limits remote location." Should be "its", not "it's". There are other parks similarly close the the city limits that have a higher LOS. I would argue that the low LOS is due more to the remote location rather than proximity to city limits

Consistency with Capital Facilities: Check language for readability, consistency and accuracy.

The LOS Analysis seems to be somewhat difficult to decipher: **the different distances for different parks seems arbitrary (no clear idea where they came from)**, and those differences in distance seem like they could easily be lost in a casual reading of this element. Perhaps add language identifying where those distance standards come from. Also, consider doing the Park Classifications chart in front of the LOS chart. The LOS chart identifies park types before those types are actually described or defined (which is done later in this section) - this could be confusing to use terms that are defined later in the text.

I agree with your comments about whether some of the Algona parks should have formally adopted names "so they feel like publicly identifiable spaces designated for community use". On that subject, I question if Algona should have some policy or guidance for park naming. With a limited number of parks available, naming parks after former mayors seems like a poor process - we're gonna have a lot more mayors than parks available. Now that I'm thinking about parks, I think it would be appropriate if Matchet Memorial Park were fitted with a memorial dedicated to and naming "volunteer community service" for all past, present, and future City Council members and Planning Commissioners. What better way to recognize individuals for what is essentially volunteer service (although Council members are paid, it is a small symbolic amount IMO), while also helping to educate the citizens of Algona that its local government is run by an essentially volunteer force. Heck, that might even prompt more citizens to take up the call to serve Algona.

The Council would like to see the baseball field and the gazebo facilitated better by doing reservation/rental requirement. Would this prevent that from being an option?

I would also like to echo David White's desire to have more parks on the west side of our town, since there's only one. Is there any thought or mention to have the proposed Algona Village development incorporate at least a small park in its plans? I also concur that Dave Hill's middle initial should also be included in the naming of the Wetland Preserve, just as it's listed in the invitations all of the Planning Commissioners received: David E. Hill.

I really liked the idea on P.34 - PR-2.4 : Explore concession "enterprises" at Matchet Park from April 1st to September 1st. "These funds are to be designated to the Park Facilities fund for upkeep and improvements."

It might be late in the game now but - I think it would benefit Algona's survey responses by mailing the 2-3 forms to be completed to each resident, for them to fill out. Also perhaps the City could offer either a \$100 - \$200? Gift Certificate for the best Survey response? What do other municipalities utilize to generate better participation in their city's surveys?

I would hope the we make history signs at each park and like where the name came from and develop a newer park at the north end of Algona. These are my inputs

I think having the parks location map at the beginning makes for better understanding and knowledge of locations before reading of the descriptions of the parks.

I also found the explanations of distance for population to the parks confusing in the rating system

I have also visited each park (I think) and would like very much to see signs designating each park so the community knows the names and where they are located.

I would also LOVE to see more parks on the West side of our City if there is any possibility of this. I only see the 7th Ave Park in this area!

Response	Action
Understood- this move makes sense to better set the tone and provide context for the reader	Figure 7 (old) moved to new Fig 1
Fair gramatical change	Changed to match request
Good clarifying intention	Changed to reference Comp Plan
Fair syntax change	Changed to match request
Good clarifying intention	Changed to David E. Hill throughout
Fair gramatical change	Changed to match request
Good clarifying intention	Changed to match request
Good clarifying intention	Changed to mostly match request
Fair gramatical change	Changed to match request
Fair critique	Text color changed to black
Fair critique	Changed order to ascent in performance from left to right
Understood	No change

Definitions were sourced from the NRPA's definitions of parks. The definition of a trail has been updated to reflect non-motorized forms of transportation more broadly. Language in definitions is indicative of the typical size and amenities provided at each park type to help delineate what Algona parks fall into each category. Each park category has unique level of service standards which is why some of the definitions feel precise.

Minor language changes to definition of a Trail.

While Waffle park may be slightly larger than the recommended category size, it's other attributes are characteristic of the category.

No Change

Walkability is inherently subjective. Recently a 15 minute walking time has become accepted as benchmark, allowing a half mile of movement at a leisurely pace.

No change

Fair grammatical change

Changed to match request

Fair grammatical and clarifying change

Changed to match request

Understood

Parks and Capital facilities must be consistent with one another per the RCW

Understood. Figure 7 should clarify the distances for different parks, which come from National Parks and Recreation Association Guidelines and the old Algona Comp Plan. Ultimately, the LOS is somewhat subjective and could be changed.

No change

Understood No, this policy (PR-2.4) would not prevent reservation or rental requirements for the baseball field and gazebo	No change no change
This is not relevant to comp plan level policy making, this is municipal code/development review level	No Change
Good correction to naming convention	Changed to match request
Understood	No change
Understood- some jurisdictions seem to just have higher response rates. In-person outreach seems to illicitate higher responses as well	No change
Hisotry or name explanation signs have come up repeatedly as desired amenities. The LOS analysis and parks service areas show that there is a lack of parks in the north end of the city. Understood- this move makes sense to better set the tone and provide context for the reader	Policy added to encourage history and placemaking signs at each park. Figure 7 (old) moved to new Fig 1

Understood. Figure 7 should clarify the distances for different parks, which come from National Parks and Recreation Association Guidelines and the old Algona Comp Plan. Ultimately, the LOS is somewhat subjective and could be changed. No Change

History or name explanation signs have come up repeatedly as desired amenities. The LOS analysis and parks service areas show that there is a lack of parks in the north end of the city. Policy added to encourage history and placemaking signs at each park.

The LOS analysis and parks service areas show that there is a lack of parks in the north and west end of the city. No Change

Chapter 6: Natural Environment

Introduction

Algona recognizes the significance of the natural environment to the health, sustainability, and longevity of our community. The natural environment is a complex system of interconnected components that feed on each other. Human activity impacts these components, including air, water, soils, plants, and animals. While development is necessary to accommodate population growth, consideration of the natural environment is required to ensure the community has access to natural lands and associated resources for generations to come. Algona shall accommodate growth by implementing local, state, and federal regulations and thoughtfully considering planning techniques that maintain a healthy and sustainable community.

The purpose of the *Natural Environment* element (RCW36.70A.060) is to demonstrate Algona's commitment to protecting natural lands and critical areas, complying with the GMA, and maintaining transparency on delineated sensitive and natural lands. Additionally, the *Natural Environment* element describes the regulations and processes in place to preserve the natural environment and protect citizens and public or private properties from natural hazards or environmental degradation.

The *Natural Environment* element describes the existing inventory of associated natural lands, including:

- Critical Areas
- Mineral Resource Lands
- Forest Lands
- Agricultural Lands

Algona only has delineated critical areas within its boundaries, and there are no lands that fall under mineral resources, forest lands, or agricultural lands in accordance with the state's adopted definitions.



Algona is home to a plethora of wetlands scattered throughout the City, attracting Blue Herons and other wildlife.

The *Natural Environment* element is intended to meet the objectives of the State Growth Management Act (GMA); Endangered Species Act (ESA); State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Countywide Planning Policies of King County and Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC); and other federal, state, and county policies. The GMA requires the adoption of development regulations that protect critical areas (RCW 36.70A.060), and the use of the “**best available science**” in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas (RCW 36.70A.172).

Best Available Science

What exactly does the state mean when it requires the use of “best available science” as it relates to the natural environment, policies, and regulations for critical areas? Local governments are responsible for identifying, collecting, and accessing available scientific information related to protecting critical areas. Additionally, local governments must also determine what constitutes as “best available science”. The GMA requires cities to ensure that the Best Available Science measures are used to protect slopes, soils, aquifers, stormwater runoff, and other elements of the environment.

Scientific methods are updated and improved over time, which requires jurisdictions to routinely consider how emerging scientific tools and resources should be appropriately reflected in local policies, regulations, and processes. The *Comprehensive Plan* is an opportunity to examine newly available tools measuring or identifying critical areas. Resources available from state or federal agencies, universities, tribes, subject matter experts, Salmon Recovery lead entities, and Puget Sound Local Integrating Organization technical committees are considered valid sources. The state recognizes that there could be financial constraints relating to utilizing the best available science. While the burden of proof of “best available science” falls on local governments, the state also allows science and tools that are practical and economically feasible to use.

The purpose of using the best available science is to “protect the functions and values of critical areas”. While science plays a key role in determining what lands are considered to be critical areas, the functions and values of the area, and determines appropriate mitigation for development, science ultimately creates recommended policies and regulations that can be tailored at the local level. Science cannot be forgone at the local level – jurisdictions do not have the ability to favor competing considerations over science and data. Additionally, using the best available science helps protect

National Environment Regulatory Agencies

Federal:

- National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

State:

- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Department of Natural Resources

Regional/Local

- Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- King County

communities from natural hazards by outlining the potential risk and magnitude of development in certain critical areas, steep slopes and frequently flooded areas.

As of 2024, Algona defines “best available science” as “*current scientific information used in the process to designate, protect, or restore critical areas, which is derived from a valid scientific process as defined by WAC [365-195-900](#) through [365-195-925](#). Examples of best available science are included in Citations of Recommended Sources of Best Available Science for Designating and Protecting Critical Areas published by the Washington State Department of Commerce*” (AMC 16.18A.040).

Defining Our Natural Lands

As noted above, there are four primary types of “natural lands” as defined by the state. Each city or county planning under the GMA is required to designate if any of the four following natural lands are present within municipal boundaries. Described below are the state’s definitions for each type of natural land.

- **Critical Areas:** Wetlands, streams, areas with critical recharging effect on aquifers, fish and wildlife habitat, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas.
- **Mineral Resource Lands:** Lands that are not characterized by urban growth and have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals.
- **Forest Lands:** Lands that are not characterized by urban growth and have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber.
- **Agricultural Lands:** Lands that are not characterized by urban growth and have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products.

As of 2023, there are no recognized mineral, forest, or agricultural lands within the City. There are recognized critical areas throughout the community; each type of critical area exists within Algona’s boundaries. In the next section, *Conditions and Trends*, components of the natural environment, and each recognized type of critical area are described.

Conditions and Trends

General Conditions

The City of Algona lies in a river valley running in a north/south direction along SR 167. The City has two drainage basins that bisect the community along 4th Avenue North – the Mill Creek Basin to the north and the Lower White River to the south. The valley floor is relatively flat (slopes less than 1 percent). The base elevation of the City is approximately 70 feet. To the west of the City inside and outside the Urban Growth Boundary are steeply sloping bluffs (slopes of 50 to 90 percent) which are regulated through the Critical Areas Ordinance (Title 16). To the north and south, the terrain is level with a gradual slope, with for drainage generally moving north and south. A portion of the City drains to the Green River via Mill Creek, and the remainder drains to the White River.

There have been no major changes to the environmental setting of Algona since the last comprehensive plan update; however, Algona adopted a revised critical areas ordinance in early 2015 as part of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan implementation and code updates. A map inventory of the City’s critical areas

was created by a consultant in 2017 using field-gathered observations and records. As of 2024, the City began collecting map files for development projects that require critical areas reports and is updating the critical areas map more routinely to refine the map and provide transparency to the community on critical area delineations.

Soils

The load-bearing capacity of the soil, the hydric properties, erosion potential and characteristics with respect to shrink-swell potential all play a significant role in development of land. In particular, the hydric properties determine the potential existence of wetlands and signal the potential for other environmental concerns.

The Soil Survey conducted by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service includes detailed soil maps that can be used for site selection and planning. The survey explains in great detail each soil's suitability for agricultural, residential, sanitary facility, recreational, woodland wildlife habitat, and other land uses. The primary soils in Algona are nearly level, poorly drained, and of fine texture. With a high-water table, placement of buildings and foundation construction is a challenge for new development.

Figure 1 describes each of the soil types that exist within Algona’s city limits.

Figure 1: Algona Soil Types

Soil Type	Acres in City (estimate)	Percent of City
Alderwood gravelly sand loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	6.7	0.4%
Alderwood and Kitsap soils, very steep	152.0	8.4%
Briscot silt loam	84.2	4.6%
Oridia silt loam	6.3	0.3%
Puget silty clay loam	2.0	0.1%
Renton silt loam	115.7	6.4%
Seattle muck	709.7	39.0%
Shalcar muck	11.8	0.6%
Snohomish silt loam	92.5	5.1%
Urban land	633.8	34.9%
Water	3.2	0.2%
Totals:	1,818	100%

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Web Soil Survey, (2023).

Surface Water

Algona sits on the basin boundary between the White and the Green Rivers. Most of the City north of 3rd Avenue North drains north to the Green River system. The rest of the City drains to Mill Creek and the White River. A stream south of 1st Ave N and the unclassified water feature that runs north/south next to the Boeing facility (known locally as the Boeing Canal or Government Ditch) drain south to the White River. An unnamed tributary to Algona Creek to the west of SR 167 drains north to the Mill

Creek/Green River system. It may also connect with the ditch along the east side of SR 167 and a portion of that ditch may drain south to the White River.

Future development must consider point source discharges, non-point source discharges, and soil erosion. Development within Algona can have a severe impact on the habitat value of affected surface water in ways that may impact the viability of the ecological system. The City maintains a storm drainage management plan, consistent with the current edition of the Department of Ecology Stormwater Manual.

Frequently Flooded Areas

Algona residents are greatly familiar with flooding. Over the last 20 years, Algona has experienced more frequent and intensive flooding along the eastern side of the SR167 corridor. The City of Algona's flooding problems have occurred since development began but have not been well documented on a regional or national level. The area has always had a high groundwater table which is often at or near the ground surface. Increased development including that of SR 167 altered the original drainage patterns of the City. Flooding is especially experienced in the north end of the city from 8th St. N. to Boundary Blvd. where houses in the vicinity experience one to two feet of submergence on a nearly annual basis.

To control runoff and to reduce flood volumes entering Mill Creek (north of Algona), the "Auburn 400 ponds" were constructed in the 1990s, however, maintenance is largely deferred and the pond's ability to detain runoff has been reduced which adds to Algona's flooding issues. In addition, downstream of the ponds approximately 0.3 miles away, is a Mill Creek culvert that is often inundated and therefore, causes backup of flow into the City of Algona.

Algona is located downstream from other jurisdictions along the Mill Creek drainage basin. Runoff generated from other cities – such as the City of Auburn and City of Kent – in addition to other agencies with nearby jurisdiction, including WSDOT and WDFW, and even private entities, PSE in particular, have stormwater drainage systems that connect to Algona.

In 1997, the city created a Flood Hazard Management Plan which discussed the historical background of flooding in the city. The plan also provided potential alternatives as well as recommendations for moving forward. As a result, the city adopted the stormwater utility and the code requiring construction one foot above the floodplain however, homes still flood, especially in the areas of Iowa Drive, 9th Ave.



Flooding is a common occurrence during the winter and spring along 11th Avenue North which is primarily a residential area. Homeowners are forced to pay for the costs of underperforming stormwater discharge systems operated and maintained by local, county, and state agencies.

N. and 11th Ave. N. City of Algona crews have had to sandbag properties to ensure rights-of-way remain passable.

Notably, FEMA has not mapped any areas in Algona as floodplain and officially there is no floodplain in the City (see Figure 2-4a). Current FEMA flood map data cuts off along the northern boundary line between the City of Auburn and the City of Algona. However, Figure 2-4b from the 1997 Flood Hazard Plan was derived by extending the estimated 100-year floodplain in Auburn south until it intersected the ground elevation in Algona. The area shown is considered by the City to be an area of potential flooding. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the northwest portion of the City did flood periodically. Once the downstream conveyance was cleared of vegetation and debris, the flooding seemed to stop. Maintenance of the system is an annual program by the City.

To mitigate the apparent flood hazard condition, the City passed an ordinance in 2021 setting a minimum floor elevation requiring a minimum finished floor level of at least seventy-one feet above sea level or one foot above the level of any abutting street, whichever is higher. This is considered adequate to accommodate the area shown on the map.

In 2022, the City won a grant from the King County Flood Control District to update the *1997 Flood Hazard Management Plan* to reflect current conditions and determine an approach to finding relief from downstream stormwater inundation in the northern half of the City. The updated *Flood Hazard Management Plan* is anticipated to be completed in 2024 with an revised flood map and recommendations for policies, actions, and regulations to mitigate flooding.



City Public Works staff typically sandbag vulnerable neighborhoods in northern Algona to reduce the impacts of seasonal flooding. Sandbagging is not a permanent solution. Significant infrastructural improvements are necessary to maintain homes and businesses.

Groundwater

Groundwater is derived from precipitation and surface water filtering through the ground to aquifers. The ground where this filtering process takes place is called an aquifer recharge area. The quality of recharge areas and surface waters needs to be protected to ensure the quality of the groundwater used in the immediate area, as well as the quality of water for users down gradient from the recharge zone. Groundwater pollution is exceedingly difficult, often impossible, to clean.

Groundwater in Algona can be near the surface in the winter which, in turn, can cause increases in surface water (ponding) and decreased stormwater runoff efficiency.

The City of Algona purchases its drinking water from the City of Auburn. The water quality is chlorinated and treated by the City of Auburn. The City of Algona checks water quality at monthly intervals in compliance with the Washington Department of Health requirements.

In 2006 a hazardous waste permit was issued to Boeing for its Auburn Fabrication Plant. As part of the permit, the company was required to document and remediate waste “plumes” had been found in nearby groundwater. A plume was found in the northeast corner of the Algona residential area. The plume contains “volatile organic compounds” (VOCs). Monitoring wells were installed in 2009 and cleanup continues, but there does not appear to be significant threats to health or water supplies. The levels of TCE (Tetrachloroethylene) contamination found at two locations are below the Federal Drinking Water standard. Testing continues north of 9th Street.

Climate

Summers are dry, shorter, warm, and partly cloudy with an average high temperature of 78F and low of 52F. Summertime weather brings less precipitation with less than 5-inches of rainfall. Winters are typically cold, wet, and overcast, but comparatively mild to the continental United States. The average winter temperatures are a high of 52F and a low of 37F. Most of the precipitation comes in the form of rain during the winter months. Average annual precipitation is 38 inches which does not vary greatly from year to year, however, November is typically the rainiest month with an average of 8.2 inches of rainfall. The prevailing wind is southwesterly most of the year. Snow is uncommon but can occur in Algona. Snow is typically seen between December and February and does not usually exceed 3-inches.

Wetlands and Streams

Wetlands and streams are fragile ecosystems that assist in the reduction of erosion, flooding, and surface water pollution. Both wetlands and streams provide an important habitat for wildlife, plants, and fisheries. Algona is home to a multitude of verified wetland areas which are inventoried in adopted maps. There are limited streams mapped throughout the City, which are mostly noted along existing drainage ditches near roadways, including SR 167, Chicago Avenue, West Valley Highway, and along the railway.

Wetlands and streams have been verified through aerial mapping and field reconnaissance, and are identified on a case-by-case basis as new developments are proposed. Before new development can occur on areas with, or adjacent to, critical areas, a critical area review must occur. The wetlands

identified are protected under the City's Critical Areas Ordinance (Title 16) adopted in early 2015. As of 2023, the City has begun collecting maps of confirmed critical areas which they use to update their critical area inventory on a routine basis.

Vegetation and Wildlife

Disturbance of ecological communities and division into isolated habitats are the major causes of the decline in animal and plant species. Conserving viable ecological habitats in an interconnected system is the most efficient way of conserving vegetation and wildlife. Many animals that use habitats that are conserved for environmental or scenic reasons cannot survive further division of the habitat into small, isolated land parcels.

The City supports various deciduous and coniferous trees and native shrubs and grasses through development landscaping requirements outlined in Title 22.60. The western fringe of the City (steep slopes) can provide habitat for various wildlife and birds. The more developed portions of the City share the habitat with squirrels and a variety of birds. On October 5th, 2023, the City will be dedicating 8.8 acres of land in the southeast corner of the City as the David E. Hill Memorial Wetland Preserve where Blue Herons are often seen.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has developed a robust tool to identify critical, priority, and endangered species using their *Priority Habitats and Species* application. The map identifies that Algona is home to priority freshwater forested/shrub wetland habitats as shown in **Figure 2**. Another available tool is available through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) which maps out threatened and endangered species active in critical habitats. While the map currently does not show any subject species living within Algona's limits, the City is committed to routinely checking for mapping updates or revised threatened and endangered species lists and taking action if necessary.

Related Federal Laws

Species and Habitats

- Endangered Species Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Lacey Act
- Wildlife Restoration Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- National Wildlife Refuge System Act
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act

Water:

- Clean Water Act
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Ground Water Rule
- Source Water Protection

Figure 2: Priority Habitats in Algona



Implementation

The Natural Environment element is unique in that there are no proposed capital improvement projects related to maintaining and preserving the environment. Instead, the element is typically implemented by local regulations, plans, and programs that implement the element. The following is a list of Algona's adopted programs protecting natural land:

- Algona Municipal Code Chapter 16 (Environmental Protection)
- 2024 Flood Hazard Management Plan
- Algona Stormwater Management Plan and federal NPDES Stormwater Permit
- Critical Areas Map

Relationship to Land Use

Natural lands and critical areas are considered in the *Land Use* element, which sets zoning precedent for the City over the next 20 years. The *Land Use* element measures the amount of vacant developable land available to meet growth projections for housing and jobs. Vacant developable lands exclude any potential or mapped critical areas, indicating no development is anticipated to be possible in critical areas. Algona has historically rezoned properties with verified critical areas to the Open Space and Critical Areas (OS/CA) zone to protect sensitive lands from any consideration of future development or capacity building.

Climate Change

In 2023, the Washington State Legislature passed HB 1181 which adds a climate goal to the Growth Management Act (GMA) requiring local jurisdictions planning under the GMA to create a *Climate Change* element with resilience and greenhouse gas emissions mitigation sub-elements or appendices. The element must include the following:

- Include goals and policies to address climate change and develop local resiliency to natural hazards;
- Measure greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled;
- Describe and prepare for climate impact scenarios;
- Foster resiliency to climate impacts and natural hazards;
- Protect and enhance environmental, economic, and human health and safety; and
- Advance environmental justice.

King County as a whole is not required to complete the *Climate Change* element until 2029 during the mid-period evaluation for the comprehensive plan. Additionally, the state requires a *Climate Change* element for counties and cities with a population greater than 6,000 as of April 1, 2021¹, and Algona's population does not trigger the requirement to complete the *Climate Change* element (3,920). Algona's target population for 2044 is 4,660; while it is currently unlikely that Algona will need to prepare a

¹ Office of Financial Management, *Population Estimates*. (2021).

Climate Change element in the near future, the City will evaluate economically feasible opportunities to evaluate Algona’s climate impact and reduce greenhouse emissions. Algona recognizes that climate change is anticipated to impact the frequency and severity of natural hazards, such as wildfires and landslides, and climate events, such as flooding or droughts.

ALGONA: Natural Environment Goals and Policies

GOAL NE-1 Critical Areas

Review and amend as necessary, local codes to protect critical areas and habitat.

GOAL NE-1 Critical Areas (revised)

Review and amend local codes, regulations, and practices to protect critical areas, wildlife habitat, and the natural environment.

Policies:

NE-1.1 (new)

Develop and implement an integrated and comprehensive approach to managing fish and wildlife habitat to accelerate ecosystem recovery, focusing on enhancing the habitat of threatened and endangered species, and species of local importance.

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-16 and King Countywide Planning Policies EN-9.*

NE-1.2 (new)

Identify and protect wildlife corridors both inside and outside the urban growth area. Actively engage with King Conservation District to develop a stewardship program to encourage private landowners to manage their land in ways that support the preservation of sensitive areas and associated buffers.

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-14*

NE-1.3

Ensure that codes, when updated, contain Best Available Science and Best Management Practices (BMP) covering the following environmental elements:

1. Wetlands
2. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas
3. Habitat Conservation Areas
4. Frequently flooded areas
5. Geohazards

NE-1.3 (1.1 revised)

Ensure that codes and standards, when updated and implemented, contain language that designates and protects critical areas including wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat protection areas (habitat conservation areas), frequently flooded areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, and geologically hazardous areas. Adopt new codes and standards containing Best Available

Science and Best Management Practices (BMP) in order to protect the functions and values of critical areas, and give “special consideration” to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries.

- Aligns with Land Use Element requirements of the PERIODIC UPDATE CHECKLIST FOR FULLY PLANNING CITIES – REVISED MARCH 2023 (see Item K). However, Algona separates Natural Environment from Land Use in the 2015 Comp Plan.
- *Aligns with King County-Wide Planning Policy EN-8 and MPP-EN-6.*

NE-1.4 (new)

Locate development and supportive infrastructure in a manner that minimizes impacts to natural features. Promote the use of traditional and innovative environmentally sensitive development practices, including site design, housing types, materials, construction, and ongoing maintenance.

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-5 and King Countywide Planning Policy EN-5.*

NE-1.5 (new)

Encourage clustering and density transfers for both commercial and residential development to retain natural features, habitat, and sensitive areas as open space.

- *Action specific policy.*
- *This policy could be moved under recommended GOAL NE-5 Open Space, if the City decides to include Open Space policies under the Natural Environment Element.*

NE-1.6 (new)

Reduce stormwater discharge impacts that pollute waters of the state from transportation and development through watershed planning, redevelopment and retrofit projects, and low-impact development.

- *This policy is more actionable.*
- *Aligns with MPP-EN-18.*
- *Aligns Land Use Element requirements of the PERIODIC UPDATE CHECKLIST FOR FULLY PLANNING CITIES – REVISED MARCH 2023 (see Item J).*

NE-1.7 (previously 1.2) Ensure that the City maintains a Sensitive Areas Ordinance (SAO) consistent with the current Washington State Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SWMM).

NE-1.8 (new)

Coordinate approaches and standards for defining and protecting critical areas, especially where such areas and impacts to them cross jurisdictional boundaries. Consider development of a coordinated regional critical areas protection program that combines interjurisdictional cooperation, public education, incentives to promote voluntary protective measures, and regulatory standards that serve to protect critical areas.

- *Aligns with WAC 365-190-080(3) referenced in the Land Use Element requirements of the PERIODIC UPDATE CHECKLIST FOR FULLY PLANNING CITIES – REVISED MARCH 2023 (see Item K).*

NE-1.9 (previously 1.3) Work with state, regional and local agencies and jurisdictions to accomplish air pollution reduction goals.

NE-1.10 (new)

Ensure that new development, open space protection efforts, and mitigation projects support the State’s streamflow restoration law. Promote robust, healthy, and sustainable salmon populations and other ecosystem functions working closely within Water Resource Inventory Areas and utilizing adopted regional watershed plans.

GOAL NE-2 - Environmental Sustainability and Justice (new)

Encourage environmental stability and justice by integrating sustainable development and business practices with ecological, social, and economic concerns, and addressing environmental impacts on frontline communities and by pursuing fairness in the application of policies and regulations.

NE-2.1 (New)

Incorporate environmental protection and restoration efforts including climate action, mitigation, and resilience into local comprehensive plans to ensure that the quality of the natural environment and its contributions to human health and vitality is sustained now and for future generations.

NE-2.2 (new)

Develop and implement environmental strategies using integrated and interdisciplinary approaches to environmental assessment and planning, in coordination with local jurisdictions, tribes, and other stakeholders.

NE-2.3 (new)

Ensure public and private projects incorporate locally appropriate, low-impact development approaches developed using a watershed planning framework for managing stormwater, protecting water quality, minimizing flooding and erosion, protecting habitat, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

NE-2.4 (new)

Encourage the transition to a sustainable energy future by reducing demand through efficiency and conservation, supporting the development of energy management technology, and meeting reduced needs from sustainable sources.

NE-2.5 (new)

Enhance the urban tree canopy to provide wildlife habitat, support community resilience, mitigate urban heat, manage stormwater, conserve energy, protect and improve mental and physical health, and strengthen economic prosperity.

- *Aligns with King County-Wide Planning Policy EN-11 and MPP-EN-9.*

NE-2.6 (new)

Ensure all residents of the region regardless of race, social, or economic status have a clean and healthy environment. Identify, mitigate, and correct for unavoidable negative impacts of public actions that disproportionately affect those frontline communities impacted by existing and historical racial, social, environmental, and economic inequities, and who have limited resources or capacity to adapt to a changing environment.

NE-2.7 (new)

Prioritize natural and manmade places where Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; low-income populations; and other frontline community members live, work, and play.

NE-2.8 (new)

Ensure that all residents of the region, regardless of race, social, or economic status, have clean air, clean water, and other elements of a healthy environment.

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-4.*

GOAL NE-3 - Flood Hazards

Establish local and regional partnerships (i.e., King County Flood Control District) to manage floodplain development and conserve aquatic habitats. Protect public health and safety, regional economic centers, public and private property, and transportation corridors through effective and collaborative floodplain management.

NE-3.1 (new)

Coordinate and fund holistic flood hazard management efforts through the King County Flood Control District.

NE-3.2 (new)

Work cooperatively to meet regulatory standards for floodplain development as these standards are updated for consistency with relevant federal requirements including those related to the Endangered Species Act.

NE-3.3 (new)

Cooperate with federal, state, and regional agencies and forums to develop and implement regional levee maintenance standards that ensure public safety and protect habitat.

GOAL NE-4 - Water Resources

Manage natural drainage systems to improve water quality and habitat functions, minimize erosion and sedimentation, protect public health, reduce flood risks, and moderate peak stormwater runoff rates. Work cooperatively among local, regional, state, national, and tribal jurisdictions to establish, monitor, and enforce consistent standards for managing streams and wetlands throughout drainage basins.

NE-4.1 (new)

Encourage basin-wide approaches to wetland protection, emphasizing preservation and enhancement of the highest quality wetlands and wetland systems.

NE-4.2 (new)

Support and incentivize environmental stewardship on private and public lands to protect and enhance habitat, water quality, and other ecosystem services, including the protection of watersheds and wellhead areas that are sources of the region’s drinking water supplies.

- *Aligns with MPP-En-10 and King County Countywide Planning Policies EN-18*

NE-4.3 (new)

Collaborate with the Puget Sound Partnership to implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda and to coordinate land use and transportation plans and actions for the benefit of Puget Sound and its watersheds.

NE-4.4 (new)

Establish a multi-jurisdictional approach for funding and monitoring water quality, quantity, biological conditions, and outcome measures and for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of monitoring efforts.

NE-4.5 (New)

Plan for long term water provision which takes into account future growth and the potential impacts of climate change on regional water resources

GOAL NE-5 - Open Space

Develop strategies and funding to protect lands that provide the following valuable functions: Ecosystem linkages and migratory corridors crossing jurisdictional boundaries; Physical or visual separation delineating growth boundaries or providing buffers between incompatible uses; Active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities; Wildlife habitat and migration corridors that preserve and enhance ecosystem resiliency in the face of urbanization and climate change; Preservation of ecologically sensitive, scenic, or cultural resources; Urban green space, habitats, and ecosystems; Forest resources; and Food production potential.

NE-5.1 (new)

Identify, preserve, and enhance regionally significant open space networks and linkages (i.e., lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of critical areas) across jurisdictional boundaries through implementation and participation in the [Regional Open Space Conservation Plan](#).

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-12 and King Countywide Planning Policies EN-20.*
- *Aligns with the Land Use Element requirements of the PERIODIC UPDATE CHECKLIST FOR FULLY PLANNING CITIES – REVISED MARCH 2023 (see Item H).*

NE-5.2 (new)

Preserve and restore native vegetation and tree canopy, especially where it protects habitat and contributes to overall ecological function.

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-13 and King Countywide Planning Policies EN-21*

NE-5.3 (new)

Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents. Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-15 and King Countywide Planning Policies EN-11.*

GOAL NE-6 – Restoration and Pollution

Adopt policies, regulations, and processes, related to new or existing fossil fuel facilities, which are designed to: Protect public health, safety, and welfare from all impacts of fossil fuel facilities; Mitigate and prepare for any impacts of fossil fuel facility disasters on all communities; Protect and preserve natural ecosystems from the construction and operational impacts of fossil fuel facilities; Manage impacts on public services and infrastructure in emergency management, resilience planning, and capital spending; Ensure comprehensive environmental review, and extensive community engagement, during initial siting, modifications, and on a periodic basis; and Reduce climate change impacts from fossil fuel facility construction and operations.

NE-6.1

Reduce the use of toxic pesticides, chemical fertilizers, and other products and promote alternatives that minimize risks to human health and the environment.

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-19 and King Countywide Planning Policies and EN-23.*

NE-6.2

Restore - where appropriate and possible - the region’s freshwater and marine shorelines, watersheds, estuaries, and other waterbodies to a natural condition for ecological function and value in coordination with other cities, counties, federally recognized tribes, federal and state agencies, utilities, and other partners ..

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-20 and King Countywide Planning Policies EN-24.*

OR

Maintain and restore natural hydrological functions and water quality within the region’s ecosystems and watersheds to recover the health of Puget Sound in coordination with other cities, counties, federally recognized tribes, federal and state agencies, utilities, and other partners .

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-17 and King Countywide Planning Policies EN-24.*

NE-6.3 (new)

Continue efforts to reduce pollutants from transportation activities, including use of cleaner fuels and vehicles and increasing alternatives to driving alone, as well as design and land use.

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-21*

NE-6.4 (new)

Reduce and mitigate noise and light pollution caused by transportation, industries, public facilities, and other sources.

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-7.*

NE-6.5 (new)

Prevent, mitigate, and remediate harmful environmental pollutants and hazards, including light, air, noise, soil, and structural hazards, where they have contributed to racialized health or environmental disparities, and increase environmental resiliency in frontline communities.

NE-6.6 (new)

Establish partnerships with cultural institutions, faith groups, neighborhood organizations, community centers, and other community resources to understand polluted related harms amongst vulnerable communities. Implement community vetted strategies to reduce impacts to vulnerable populations and areas that have been disproportionately affected by noise, air pollution, other environmental pollutants.

- *Aligns with MPP-EN-8*