



CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA January 11, 2022

**THIS IS OFFERED AS A ZOOM MEETING ONLY.
CALL IN AND JOINING INFORMATION FOLLOWS:**

Zoom link to join meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/4254157187?pwd=RE9OV0VoU1RFc3psSHdjem9mMk9hdz09>

Meeting ID: 425 415 7187

Password: PC

Telephone dial in options:

+1 206 337 9723 US (Seattle)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 425 415 7187

Password: 941820

6:00 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, AND ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 1) Regular Planning Commission Meeting on December 7, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

PUBLIC HEARING: None

STUDY/WORK SESSION:

- 2) Chair & Vice Chair nominations
- 3) Draft Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan review

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ADJOURN:



CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
December 7, 2021, 6:00 PM
Zoom Virtual Meeting

1) FLAG SALUTE, CALL TO ORDER, and ROLL CALL:

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Richard La Conte (joined meeting late)
Commissioner Steve Jensen
Commissioner Knut Syversen
Commissioner Pam McCain
Commissioner Felicia Wheatfall
Chair/Commissioner John Olson

Unexcused: Commissioner Dave Ambur

Staff: Community Development Director, Mona Davis
Deputy City Clerk, Carina Thornquist

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of October 12, 2021 and Regular Meeting of November 9 2021

- i. The regular meeting minutes of October 12, 2021 were adopted under unanimous consent.
- ii. The regular meeting minutes of November 9, 2021 were adopted under unanimous consent.

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS -

Kristen Bryant from Bellevue

(Chair Olson stated that Commissioner La Conte has joined the meeting appx. 6:07 pm).

4) PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

5) STUDY/WORK SESSION - None

6) UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

a. *Introduction of Planning Commissioners (Term: 1/1/2022-12/31/2025)*

Director Davis expressed her gratitude to the three (3) current Planning Commissioners, Chair John Olson, Commissioner Pam McCain, and Commissioner Dave Ambur. Their term was expiring on December 31,

2021 and the City received nine applications for the three positions. The Mayor and the Director interviewed each of the applicants to narrow it down to the final three, which was a difficult task. The three Planning Commissioners for the Term: 1/1/2022-12/31/2025 are as follows:

Position 4	-	Pam McCain
Position 6	-	Carol Morgan
Position 7	-	John Olson

Director Davis was disappointed not to see Commissioner Ambur in attendance as she wanted to acknowledge him and thank him for his service on the Commission. Ms. Davis and Chair Olson stated that they hope to see Mr. Ambur at future meetings participating through the public sector as he always asks thought-provoking questions and gives a different perspective on things, which is always appreciated.

Ms. Davis introduced Carol Morgan who will be the City's new Planning Commissioner beginning on January 1, 2022.

b. *PROS Plan Overview*

Director Davis introduced Caitlin Hepworth, Planner with Blueline. Ms. Hepworth shared her PowerPoint presentation while giving an overview of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan which they have been contracted to work on with the Community Development Department. The PowerPoint consisted of the following key items:

- i. What the PROS Plan is
- ii. Planning for Future Needs
- iii. Six (6) Elemental Chapters
- iv. What's Been Completed
- v. Community Surveys
- vi. Public Engagement
- vii. Facilities Assessment
- viii. Timelines

7) NEW BUSINESS –

a) *Rules & Procedures for Planning Commission*

Chair Olson gave a brief overview of the Planning Commission Rules & Procedures and his reasoning as to why he feels the verbiage of communication amongst Commissioners should be expanded. He stated no decisions are expected to be made tonight, it was just to start the process for discussion at the beginning of the year with new Commissioners. Chair Olson asked the Commissioners to read the entire document over before the January meeting and to bring anything they

thought was missing from the document, as well as if they believe any changes need to be made to any of the existing rules and procedures.

8) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT –

Director Davis reported that the 2020 Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the City Council at the last regular meeting on December 2nd.. The 2021 Comprehensive Plan was appealed and is scheduled before the hearing examiner on March 31st. There will be a meeting with Grindline regarding the skatepark on 1/18/22 at 6:30 pm at the Council Chambers. She is hoping to have the PROS Plan Draft completed early in the year so it can be presented at either the January or February Planning Commission meeting. Ms. Davis concluded by reporting that she's in the process of closing out a few grant applications and stated that she hopes everyone has been downtown to enjoy the amenities for the small park next to the museum and hopes people will get lots of use from it and enjoy it. She stated it's a work in progress and hope to continue adding to it next year.

9) PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Kristen Bryant from Bellevue
Renee Mix from Black Diamond

10) ADJOURNMENT –

The meeting ended at 7:02 p.m.

These minutes were respectively recorded by Carina A. Thornquist, Deputy City Clerk

ATTEST:

John Olson, Chairperson

Planning Commission Secretary



CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND

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Memo Date: January 4, 2022
Meeting Date: January 11, 2022
To: Planning Commissioners
Staff Contact: Mona Davis, Community Development Director
Subject: DRAFT Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan

Happy New Year Commissioners!

The draft PROS Plan you have in your packet for this meeting is a work in progress!

Our consultants from Blueline will be walking through the draft PROS Plan document during our January meeting, and are continuing to work on the content up to the meeting date. This means that you will be seeing some new information added in the draft PROS Plan document during the presentation from what you reviewed in your packet material. This includes additional content around goals and objectives, along with some updated charts and tables.

Furthermore, there will be additional information in the subsequent draft of the plan for the next regular meeting in February, where we will also hold a public hearing to gather citizen input. This additional content will include:

- Where we are Going
- Budgeting
- CIP
- Updates to Park Profile Pages
- Page Numbers

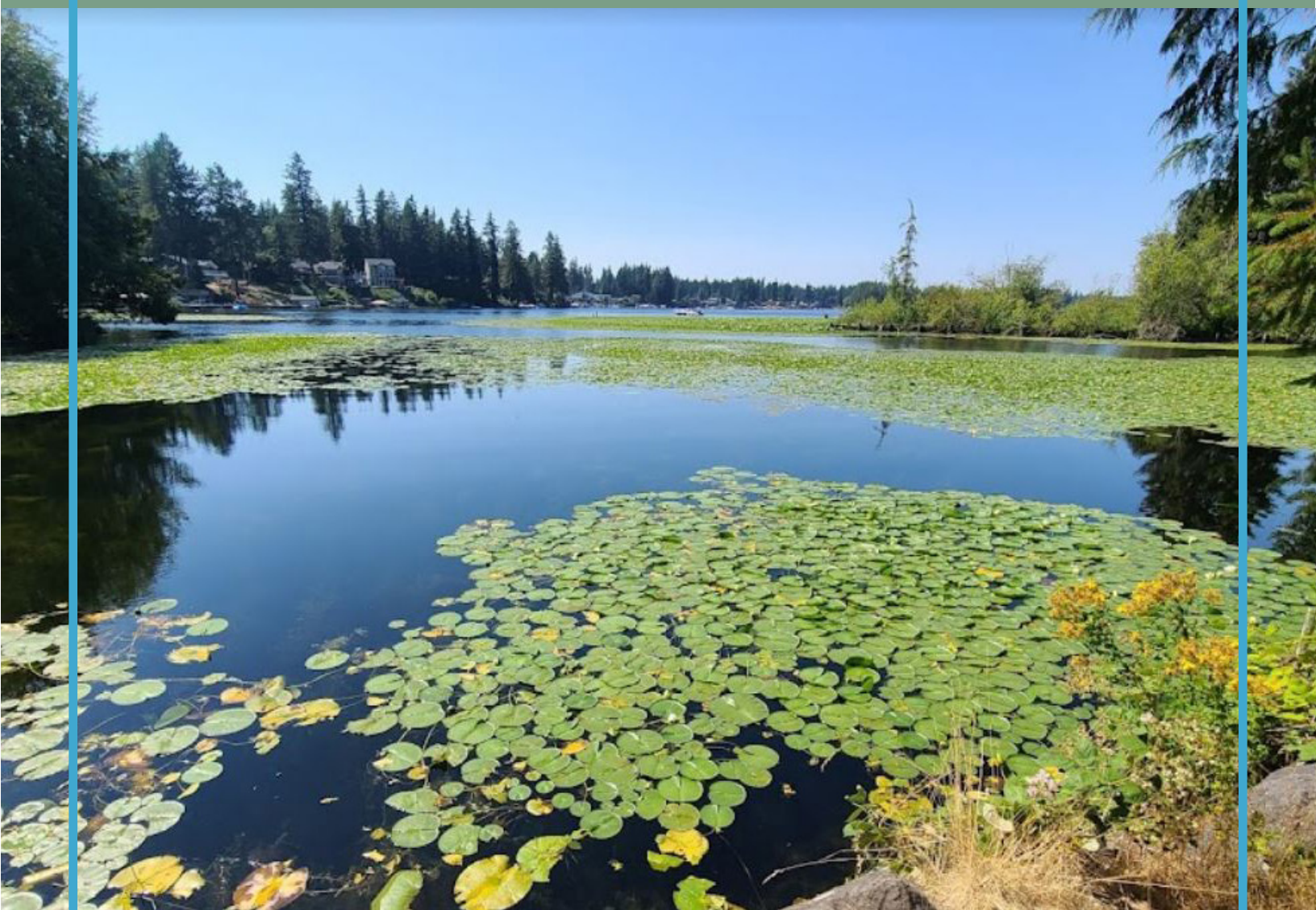
Since the current draft document doesn't have page numbers yet, please refer to PDF page numbers for discussion during the meeting. The next version will have page numbers once we get closer to a final draft.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or needed clarification.

Thank you!

PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND

2021 UPDATE
ADOPTION: XX/XX/2022



"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty, the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."

- David Attenborough



*Lake Sawyer Regional Park
By: Barbara Newton*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THIS IS A PLACEHOLDER
THAT WILL UPDATED BY
1/11/22.





TABLE OF CONTENTS



Acknowledgements	XX
01 Introduction	XX
02 Benefits of PROS	XX
03 Goals Overview	XX
04 Community Snapshot	XX
05 Engaging Our Neighbors	XX
06 A System Assessment	XX
07 A Vision for the Future	XX
08 Objectives and Policies	XX
09 Taking the Leap: Funding	XX
10 Investing in our Parks	XX
Appendix	XX
Appendix A: Glossary of Terms	
Appendix B: Community Survey	
Appendix C: Youth Survey	
Appendix D: Survey Results Summary	
Appendix E: Stakeholder Meeting Summary	
Appendix F: Public Meeting Summary	
Appendix G: Parks System Map	
Appendix H: Trail and Missing Linkages Map	
Appendix I: Capital Investment Map	
Appendix J: Facility Assessment Survey	
Appendix K: Bibliography	



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mayor Carol Benson

City Council

Tamie Deady	Position 1
Trish Stallard	Position 2
Therron Smith	Position 3
Leih Mulvihill	Position 4
Kristiana de Leon	Position 5
Bernie O'Donnel	Position 6
Debbie Page	Position 7

Planning Commission

Richard LaConte	Position 1
Steve Jensen	Position 2
Knut Syversen	Position 3
Pam McCain	Position 4
Felecia Wheatfall	Position 5
Carol Morgan	Position 6
John Olson	Position 7

Stakeholders

Andy Puryear	Valor Soccer
Dean Aldrich	Valor Soccer
Leah Grant	Lake Sawyer Park Foundation
Lauren Landis	Lake Sawyer Community Club
Brock Deady	Community Gym
Bo Burridge	Resident

City Staff

Mona Davis	Community Development Director
Scott Hanis	Public Works Director
Jamey Kiblinger	Police Chief
Brenda Martinez	City Clerk
May Miller	Finance Director
Greg Smith	Fire Chief – Mountain View Fire & Rescue
Carina Thornquist	Deputy City Clerk
Andy Williamson	MDRT/Economic Development Director

Consultant - Blueline

Eric Jensen	Director of Planning
Chris Petersen	Landscape Project Manager
Lee Ann Ryan	Planner, AICP
Chase Killebrew	Planner, AICP
Caitlin Hepworth	Planner
Daniel Robben	Landscape Architect
Raylee McKinley	Landscape Designer
Jake Drake	Project Coordinator

The Public



THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE

The City of Black Diamond would like to thank the members of the community and representatives from stakeholder organizations for their participation and guidance in developing the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. Your input throughout this process is invaluable and the impacts will be felt by our community for years to come.

INTRODUCTION

THE PURPOSE

The Black Diamond Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan is an update to the previous PROS Plan adopted in 2008. Plan updates are required by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and is typically updated every six (6) years to meet grant eligibility and Growth Management Act (GMA) planning requirements. The plan addresses the anticipated population growth over the next 20 years by proposing changes to the existing park system.

A Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan is a guide for City of Black Diamond staff or representatives to make decisions or take action on the parks and recreation program. The plan outlines the minimum service provision requirements to develop and maintain an enjoyable, quality park. The plan describes the existing condition of the parks system and includes a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to address system deficiencies. The CIP will guide future park program investments for the planning period 2022-2028 and includes an estimate for improvement construction costs, an implementation timeline, and scope. Proposed projects are included in the City's CIP and Final Budget.

PROS planning is an opportunity for City staff to critically evaluate the performance and quality of existing services and facilities and to consider the impacts population growth will have on parks programming. The PROS Plan has been updated to incorporate 14 years of changes to the City's demographics, design, facilities, and development and establishes a re-energized vision of the future of Black Diamond's parks, recreation, and open spaces.



THE PLANNING PROCESS

The PROS Plan update began in early Spring 2021 with the intent to have a completed plan ready for adoption in Winter 2022. The plan is part of a year-long effort to determine Black Diamond's needs for parks, recreation, and open spaces over the next 20 years.

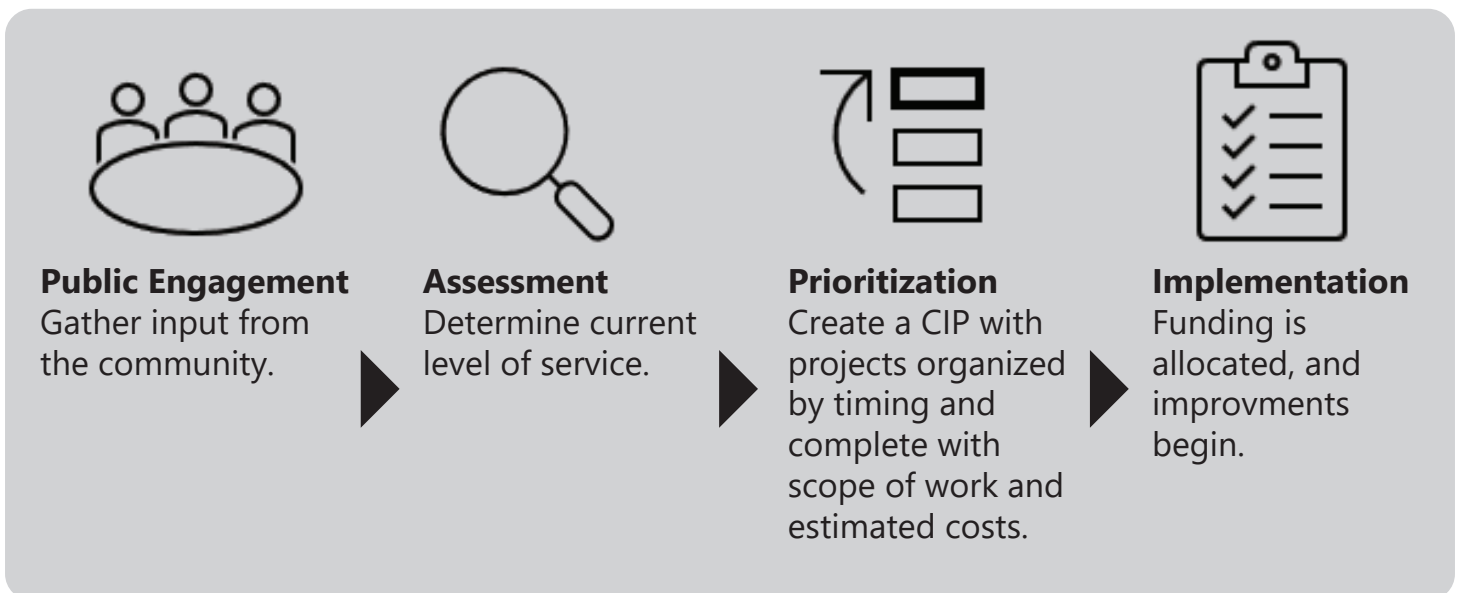
Public engagement was at the forefront of planning efforts to encourage feedback on park quality, priority investment areas, and what the parks system should look like in the future.

An examination of the existing parks and facilities was completed to quantify the existing level of service of the parks. The survey recorded the quality and availability of park amenities, structures, and facilities as well as identified maintenance improvement projects for the City to consider investment in. A separate walkability evaluation was completed to verify deficiencies in pedestrian accessibility to facilities from nearby neighborhoods.

The engagement and examination phases of the process led to the evaluation phase. A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was developed to improve the parks system. The CIP describes the timing, implementation, estimated construction costs, and scope of work proposed for each project.

The proposed projects represent a culmination of efforts from the City, the public, and consultants to ensure a consistent, equitable, and representative plan that will direct parks and recreation improvements, maintenance, and funding over the next 20 years.

FIGURE X: THE PLANNING PROCESS





Members of the community were invited to attend a parks and recreation stakeholder meeting at Council Chambers on September 22, 2021.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Public input and engagement is vital to the achieving an inclusive planning process. The City launched a focused outreach campaign to understand current priorities and needs for the community. Several outreach methods were utilized to maximize engagement in the PROS process, including:

- **A mailed community survey**
- **A supplementary youth survey, distributed at Miner’s Day celebration**
- **Informational displays at local events and celebrations**
- **One (1) stakeholder meeting**
- **One (1) public open house**
- **Website updates on the planning process**
- **Two (2) Planning Commission meetings**
- **Two (2) City Council Meetings**
- **One (1) Public Hearing**

Public feedback influenced Black Diamond’s selection and prioritization of projects. Community feedback generated within the survey, stakeholder meeting, and public open house is located within the Appendices of this plan.

“A City’s reputation is based on it’s quantity and quality of parks and open spaces.”

-2021 Community Survey Input

THE EXISTING PARKS PROGRAM

The City is located in the southeast corner of King County at the foothills of the Cascade Range, approximately 30 miles southeast of Seattle. Residents enjoy scenic views of Mt. Rainier, the serenity of Lake Sawyer, and untouched nature in wooded parks.

The City of Black Diamond operates nine (9) parks and one (1) community facility over approximately 230 acres of land. The City offers a range of active and passive recreation opportunities, including specialized activities such as the BMX course. The City provides public access to, and operates, a boat launch on Lake Sawyer.

Additional parklands are available to the public within city limits and are maintained by various homeowners associations, such as Ten Trails. Additional park and recreation opportunities that are not maintained by the City are described in *Chapter 5: A System Assessment*.

Black Diamond does not offer a recreation program for its residents currently, as described in *A System Assessment*. *Chapter 6: Envision the Future* describes constraining factors the City faces in adopting a recreation program.

A steady population growth rate of 9% is anticipated for the City of Black Diamond and the rural community is transforming into a city. Community feedback and facility maintenance survey results indicate that park amenities are not readily available or accessible, and that there is a greater variety of activities needed within City limits. Existing facilities will continue to degrade with a growing demand for parks and recreational amenities, and the time is



*A scenic view of Mt. Rainier from Lake Sawyer Park
Source: Denise S., Google Maps*

PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED PLANS

Previously adopted plans were reviewed for past goals and policies applicable to planning and developing parks, recreation, and open spaces. Our community has changed since the last PROS plan was completed in 2008, and we are overdue for a critical examination of how our goals and policies have impacted Black Diamond over the last 13 years.

Previous goals and policies have been revised to better incorporate existing community needs and parks visioning during the 2021 planning process. The goals and policies of this plan have been reviewed by the community in public meetings and adopted by the City Council. The following is a summary of applicable, previously adopted plans that were considered during the PROS planning process and incorporated into the new goals, objectives, and strategies described in *Chapter 3: Goals Overview*.



Playgrounds, recreation facilities, and beautiful landscapes are designed within Master Planned Development projects, such as TenTrails shown above. Source: Lennar; TenTrails.

2019 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Cities planning under Washington State's Growth Management Act (GMA) are required to include a parks and recreation element in their comprehensive plan, and must include the following three components:

- 1. Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a 10-year period;**
- 2. An evaluation of facilities and service needs;**
- 3. An evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand**

Black Diamond's Parks and Recreation Element meets these requirements and also outlines two overarching goals: support the stewardship of natural resources and amenities throughout the community in the form of parks, trails, and open space; and develop an interconnected system of local and regional parks, trails and open space.

At the time the plan was adopted in 2019, the City-owned parks, recreation, trails and open space system contained about 227 acres of land for active and passive activities. The analysis conducted for the 2019 comprehensive plan update indicates the City is lacking in parks, trails, and dedicated open-space lands. It also recognizes the significant amount of development that will occur due to the ongoing implementation of two master-planned communities, known as Lawson Hills and Ten Trails.

These two communities, as part of the executed Development Agreement (DA), are required to provide parks, trails, recreation and open space areas due to their expected impact on existing facilities. The Lawson Hills Master Planned Development (MPD) is required to designate 134 acres of open space and the Ten Trails open space requirement is 481.4 acres. Additionally, both permit approvals include a requirement for the construction of trails. The master developer is obligated under the DA to provide recreational facilities based on the City's adopted LOS standards.

Below is a table showing the future recreational facility needs based on expected population growth, as well as two tables showing the required MPD contributions.

FIGURE X: MPD RECREATIONAL FACILITY

Facility Type	Minimum Units Per Population	Additional Facilities Needed
Basketball Court	1:2,000	7
Soccer Field	1:2,000	9
Tennis Court	1:2,000	8
Play Area	1:2,000	8
Youth Baseball/Adult Softball Field	1:2,000	8

Facility Type	Minimum Units Per Population	Additional Facilities Needed
Adult Baseball Diamond	1:5,000	3
Community Center	1:10,000	0
Skate Park	1:10,000	0
Youth Football Field	1:10,000	1
BMX Track	1:20,000	0
Swimming Pool/Beach	1:20,000	0

2016 KING COUNTY OPEN SPACE PLAN

The King County Open Space Plan: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas 2016 Update (Open Space Plan), an update to the 2010 plan, provides a framework guiding King County in the acquisition, planning, development, stewardship, maintenance and management of its complex system of 200 parks, 175 miles of regional trails, and 28,000 acres of open space, including Black Diamond Natural Area, Henry's Ridge, and Danville-Georgetown Open Space.

The Open Space Plan is a strategic plan guiding the activities and goals of the Parks and Recreation and the Water and Land Resources Divisions of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks for the next six years. The plan identified the following four goals:

- 1. Take care of King County's existing system of parks and trails, ensuring the system remains clean, safe and open.**
- 2. Grow and connect regional open space and natural lands to protect important habitats for fish and wildlife and to provide recreation opportunities.**
- 3. Improve regional trails and nonmotorized mobility, to ensure that essential connections are completed and existing trails are maintained.**
- 4. Make parks and recreation opportunities more accessible for all King County residents to enjoy.**



Hikers enjoying the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail, maintained by King County. Source: Cascade Bicycle Club.

CONT.

King County is responsible for maintaining major regional parks, natural and recreational areas that lay just beyond the City's jurisdiction that many residents of Black Diamond frequent for all types of outdoor activities.

Active opportunities are available, such as mountain biking in the Black Diamond Open Space, as well as passive opportunities such as bird watching in the Black Diamond Natural Area. Natural areas are typically characterized by a site's uniqueness or diversity of native vegetation and fish and wildlife habitat, and embody the beauty and character of the region's landscape.

While these facilities are under King County's jurisdiction, it is important to recognize their value as recreational resources for the Black Diamond community. The City shall work closely with the County to ensure collaboration in continuing to meet the needs of the community. King County's Open Space Plan should be used as a guiding document in helping the City draft a PROS Plan to promote equitable, safe, accessible, and sustainable recreational development.

*A bicyclist enjoys the tree tunnel in Black Diamond Open Space Park;
Source: 2016 King County Open Space Plan*



2011 BLACK DIAMOND TRAILS PLAN

In 2011, Black Diamond adopted a city-wide Trails Plan with the intent of achieving LOS standards outlined in the 2008 PROS Plan, with a goal of having 75% of Black Diamond's population live within a half-mile of trail access. The plan identified several goals and objectives for obtaining this desired standard, including:

1. Define the City's role in trail development and facility maintenance.
2. Identify agencies to work closely with to ensure the conservation of wildlife habitats, natural areas, forestlands, and open space areas.
3. Work to preserve and incorporate historical and cultural resources into the park and trails systems in order to create a unique experience for users.
4. Create a variety of trail systems that include hiking, biking, and even horse-back riding trails
5. Develop a trail system that is accessible to all with lifecycle features that account for long-term costs and benefits.

The Trails Plan identified projects found in the figure below in order to achieve the trail development and expansion goals.

FIGURE X: PROPOSED AND LEVEL OF FUNDING FROM 2011 TRAILS PLAN

Proposed Proposed Projects and Level of Funding							
Length	units	facility addtn	Facility cost /unit	BIDd funding required	BIDd funding share	BIDd funding required	Comments
Land							
linear trails - 40 ft w	acres	33.9	\$20,000	\$678,788	100%	\$678,788	Cedar to Green Trail Extension
30 feet	acres	6.5	\$20,000	\$130,909	0%	\$0	Lake Sawyer Trail
20 feet	acres	6.1	\$20,000	\$121,212	100%	\$121,212	Roberts Drive Trail
100 feet	acres	36.4	\$20,000	\$727,273	0%	\$0	King County Equestrian Trail
20 feet	acres	3.6	\$20,000	\$72,727	0%	\$0	Black Diamond Lake Trail*
20 feet	acres	4.8	\$20,000	\$96,970	0%	\$0	Lawson Hills Trail*
20 feet	acres	5.6	\$20,000	\$111,515	0%	\$0	Villages Trail*
20 feet	acres	2.9	\$20,000	\$58,182	100%	\$58,182	Old Black Diamond Trail
20 feet	acres	4.4	\$20,000	\$87,273	100%	\$87,273	Black Diamond Wetlands Trail
20 feet	acres	0.5	\$20,000	\$9,697	100%	\$9,697	Ginder Creek Trail
		104.2		\$2,094,545		\$945,455	
Facilities							
Trail Sections							
asphalt 8 foot	mile	7.0	\$253,456	\$1,774,192	100%	\$1,774,192	Cedar to Green Trail Extension
asphalt 8 foot	mile	1.8	\$253,456	\$456,221	25%	\$114,055	Lake Sawyer Trail
Sidewalk 4 foot	mile	2.5	\$136,996	\$342,490	100%	\$342,490	Roberts Drive Trail
dirt 6 + 2 foot horse	mile	3.0	\$163,056	\$489,168	25%	\$122,292	King County Equestrian Trail
dirt 6 foot	mile	1.5	\$151,465	\$227,198	0%	\$0	Black Diamond Lake Trail*
asphalt 8 foot	mile	2.0	\$253,456	\$506,912	0%	\$0	Lawson Hills Trail*
asphalt 8 foot	mile	2.3	\$253,456	\$582,949	0%	\$0	Villages Trail*
Sidewalk 4 foot	mile	1.2	\$136,996	\$164,395	100%	\$164,395	Old Black Diamond Trail
dirt 6 foot	mile	1.8	\$151,465	\$272,637	100%	\$272,637	Black Diamond Wetlands Trail
dirt 6 foot	mile	0.5	\$151,465	\$75,733	100%	\$75,733	Ginder Creek Trail
Subtotal for facility impact		23.6		\$4,891,894		\$2,865,794	
Total impact for land and facilities						\$3,811,248	

* Subject to review and approval of Master Planned Developments (MPD) by City Council.

Source: Black Diamond 2011 Trails Plan



Two happy dogs walking through Lake Sawyer Regional Park. Source: Traci Sciuchetti, Google Maps.

2008 PROS PLAN

The City of Black Diamond created the 2008 PROS Plan after the City began anticipating growth and development. The City developed a Comprehensive Park Plan in 1989 that was shelved due to a lack of budget and personnel for park development.

The 1989 Comprehensive Plan was not adequately prepared to guide the anticipated growth on the City's horizon. City staff began work on the PROS Plan that would guide capital investments in property, facility, and programs for the planning period of 2008-2013. The five main objectives of that plan are the following:

- 1. Maintain an updated and financially viable plan for meeting park and recreation needs.**
- 2. Enhance and maintain existing parks to provide a greater level of public enjoyment.**
- 3. Open undeveloped parks in a safe, timely, and fiscally responsible manner.**
- 4. Design parks that protect and improve the functions of the natural environment and strike a balance between public use and preservation.**
- 5. Design parks that include a wide variety of recreation opportunities to serve multiple interests and a broad cross-section of the area population.**

FIGURE X: PROS 2008 LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) STANDARDS**Existing Parks LOS****Table 1-5**

Type	LOS Standard	Existing LOS
Regional	None	N/A
Community	90% of population within 1.5 miles	52% within 1.5 miles
Neighborhood	75% of population within 0.5 miles	0% within 0.5 miles
Pocket	None	N/A
Trail (Non-motorized)	75% within 0.5 miles	0% within 0.5 miles
Open-space	10% of City land area	6% of City

Existing Recreational Facility Standards**Table 1-6**

Facility Type	Minimum Units per Population	Existing Units per Population
Youth Baseball/Adult Softball Field	1:2,000	1:4,120
Soccer Field	1:2,000	0
Tennis Court	1:2,000	1:4,120
Basketball Court	1:2,000	1:2,060
Adult Baseball Diamond	1:5,000	0
Gymnasium	1:5,000	1:4,120
Youth Football Field	1:10,000	0
Track	1:10,000	0
Community Center	1:10,000	0
Swimming Pool/Beach	1:20,000	0

At the time this plan was adopted, Black Diamond had 41.3 acres of open space and approximately 214.8 acres total of park and open space, made up of eight specific sites throughout the City.

During the development of this plan, Black Diamond found they had park and recreational facility deficits with only 52 percent of households living within 1.5 miles of a community park, well below the then 90 percent standard. While the City had a fair amount of designated open space (6%), it fell below the City's standard of 10 percent of the City's gross area.

Black Diamond had no existing neighborhood parks or trails, and their recreational facilities needed to include a second youth baseball or softball field, two soccer fields, a second tennis court, and an adult baseball diamond.

The LOS results from the 2008 PROS Plan were used to identify eight capital improvement projects as described in the future below.

A portion of these projects were completed, including work at the School (Skate) Park improvements, Union Stump historical marker, and Lake Sawyer Regional Park trail development. Other projects did not receive the funding necessary to proceed and have been included in the 2021 PROS Capital Improvement Plan, in *Chapter 10: Investing In Our Parks*.

FIGURE X: 2008 PROS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Facility	Acreage	Current Features	Proposed Improvements	Cost Estimate
Years 2008-2013				
School Park	3.5	Skate Park, tennis/basketball court and baseball field	Facility needs to be made more family friendly with a swing set, benches and picnic tables.	\$25,000
Union Stump Historical Site	0.1	Historical marker, benches	Improved parking facilities, fencing and signage	\$112,000
Coal Car Historical Triangle	0.1	Bare land	N/A	\$0
Eagle Creek Community Park	0.43	Basketball court, benches and grassy open space	Playground equipment	\$25,000
BMX Park	3.1	Off road bicycle course	General expansion and provide use area for street bicycles.	\$260,000
Lake Sawyer Boat Launch	1.8	Boat launch facility, parking, barbeque facilities and benches	Rehabilitate boat launch facility, increase parking area, add restrooms and provide access dock	\$948,000
City-Wide Trail System Development	N/A	N/A	Begin land acquisition and preliminary design work	\$340,000
Lake Sawyer Regional Park (Phase I)	40	Bare land	Trail system, improved access, parking, restrooms and athletic fields	\$4,200,000

Source: Black Diamond 2008 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT (GMA)

The Washington State Legislature, through the Growth Management Act (GMA), provides 13 planning goals to “guide the development and adoption of a comprehensive plan and development regulations” (RCW 36.70A.020). The park and recreation element is one of the mandatory elements required in a comprehensive plan, which contains broad goals for the development of parks and recreational facilities.

While a separate Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan is not required under the GMA, the City has chosen to create this document to elaborate on the goals and policies expressed in the 2019 Comprehensive Plan. The City wishes to better assess the current needs and deficiencies of its parks, recreation, and open space opportunities with the changing population. This will allow the City to better define its future long-term acquisition priorities and capital investments to include in the upcoming 8-year comprehensive plan periodic update.

Each Washington city and county planning under GMA is required to update its comprehensive plan every eight years, as per the schedule in RCW 36.70A.130. The next mandatory periodic update for Black Diamond must occur by June 30, 2024. Therefore, the timing of this PROS plan will allow it to be aptly incorporated into the comprehensive plan update.

Goals of the GMA

Comprehensive plans and localized planning efforts fulfill the intent of the GMA and gives jurisdictions an opportunity to understand the state of their services. The GMA is guided by the following thirteen (13) state planning goals:

1. Encourage infill development and urban growth
2. Reduce sprawl
3. Coordinate efficient, multi-modal transportation
4. Develop affordable housing
5. Spur economic development
6. Protect private property rights
7. Predictable and timely permit processing
8. Maintain natural resources
9. Retain and increase access to open and recreational spaces
10. Protect and enhance the environment
11. Encourage public participation
12. Ensure sufficient public facilities and services
13. Preserve historic lands, sites, and features

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO)

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan is required by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to maintain the City's eligibility for state grants and funding programs that can help realize outdoor recreation development and open space acquisition projects. There is a minimum of six elements RCO requires for an eligible plan, as shown below.

Once the plan is submitted to RCO and the planning requirements are met, the City may apply for grants for up to six calendar years from the date when the City Council adopts the plan.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1

Goals are broad statements of purpose, and objectives are measures that describe when these purposes will be achieved.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

3

The plan is developed and adopted with ample opportunity for input from the public.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

5

The plan includes a capital improvement program that lists projects with the year of anticipated implementation and funding source.

INVENTORY

2

The plan includes a service area and description of the service area's facilities, lands, programs, and their condition in either a quantitative or qualitative format.

DEMAND AND ANALYSIS

4

The analysis in the plan defines priorities for acquisition, development, management, etc., and explains why these actions are necessary. The analysis is developed by assessing community desires for PROS in a manner appropriate for the service area.

ADOPTION

6

The plan has received formal approval.

THE BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACES

Park and recreational facilities are foundational components of a healthy and engaged community. Parks can improve the physical and psychological health of residents, bring a resurgence in economic vitality, and can be tools for enhancing environmental quality. PROS strengthen our communities and have a variety of benefits worthy of consistent investment as described by the Trust for Public Land's report titled *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Spaces*.

PHYSICAL

Nearly half of Americans do not get the recommended minimum amount of physical activity in a day. Parks provide opportunities for fitness and active recreation, which improves physical and mental health. Physical activity is more likely to occur when residents are within a quarter mile of a park. Daily interaction with plants and nature facilitates the release of dopamine which improves moods.



ECONOMIC

Development and maintenance of parks can financially benefit retailers and residents. Tourism spurs economic activity, and parks are destinations that attract pass-by visitors. Tourism that can bring new dollars into the community. When there are recreational opportunities available at a free or low cost to residents, residents can benefit from those facilities and reduce potential medical costs associated with inactivity. Property values are enhanced when parks are within walking distance increasing property tax values.



*A group of local artists create murals for judging at the 2019 Miner's Day celebration.
Source: Miner's Day Facebook page*

SOCIAL/COMMUNITY

Parks provide opportunities for comrardery and interaction fostering relationships with neighbors creating a sense of community. The development of relationships with community members improves local connections and sense of place for residents. People who feel engaged with their community are more likely to participate in recreational activities and use communcal spaces. A greater park presence from users reduces opportunities for crime.



*A lovely day in the Black Diamond Open Space park.
Source: Emily Moore, Google Maps*

ENVIRONMENTAL

Parks and open spaces bring a wide variety of environmental benefits. Trees store water and reduce the rate stormwater flows into community facilities. Trees and plants purify the air by releasing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide. Tree canopies reduce the impacts of urban heat that is absorbed in hardscaped surfaces. Open spaces protect undisturbed habitats supporting the native wildlife. There is educational value in parks; signage at parks can provide information that fosters community stewardship for the environment.

OVERVIEW OF GOALS

THIS IS A PLACEHOLDER THAT WILL UPDATED
BY 1/11/22:

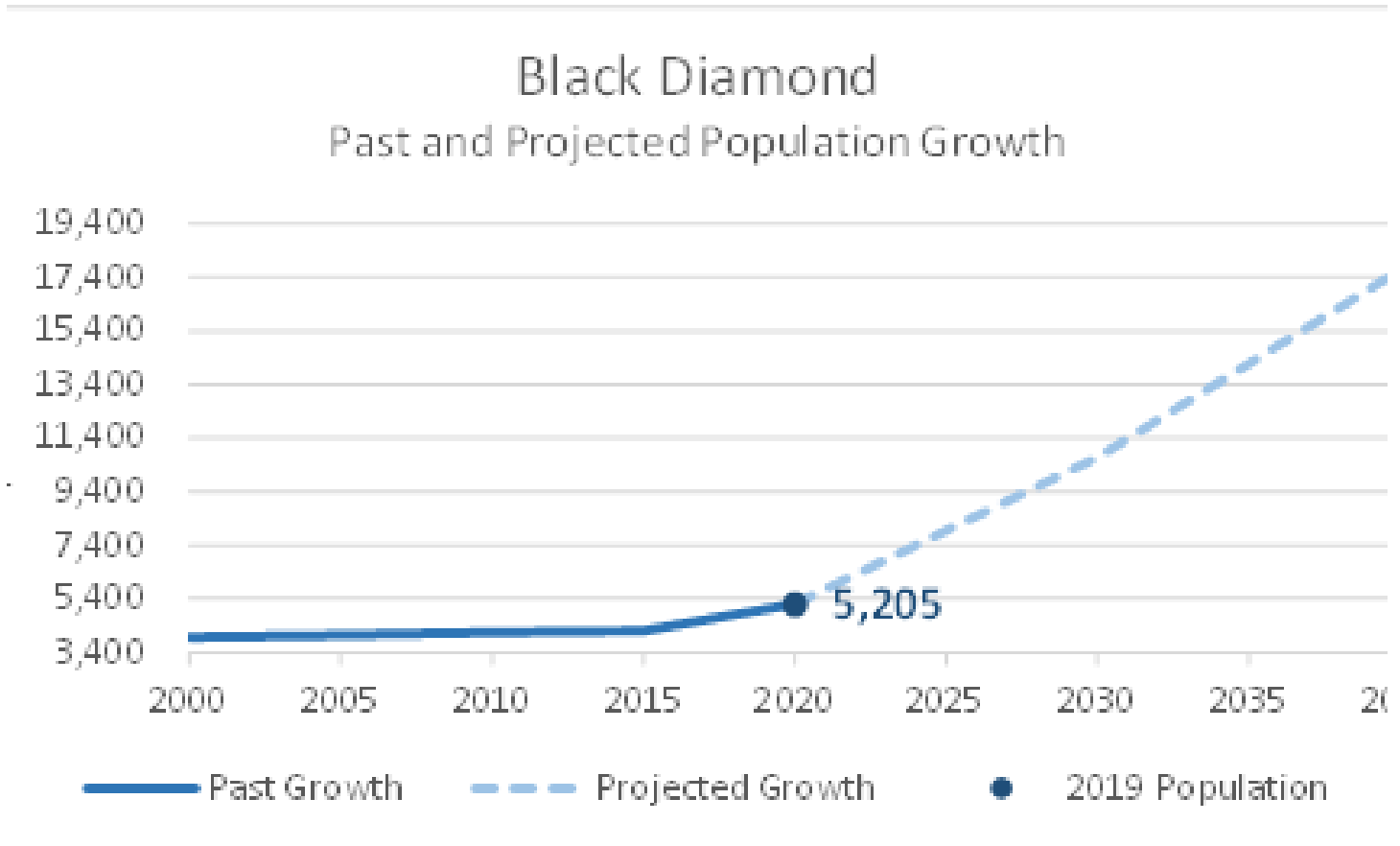
BACKGROUND

Historically, Black Diamond was a rural coal town from the 1880s until the late 1930s. Incorporated in 1959, the City has since then seen unprecedented growth in recent years accompanying considerable growth in residential development. The City is primarily home to older adults and families with children. The community is predominately white and primarily speaks English. The community has a high median income in comparison to King County, however there is a significant portion of people living below the poverty line.

The following section analyzes who makes up our community and what kind of special considerations should be taken into account for parks planning.

The History Museum shines a spotlight on Black Diamond's origins. Source: Ron Heusser, Google Maps.



FIGURE X: POPULATION GROWTH ESTIMATE

SOURCE: PSRC LAND USE VISION 2, 2017; OFM POPULATION ESTIAMTES, 2020; BLACK DIAMOND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 2020.

PROJECTED GROWTH

Black Diamond's population had consistently very little growth prior to 2015. Today, we are experiencing consistently high residential growth. As of 2021, the population is 5,990, representing a 15% increase in population in just a single year. Prior to the approval of two Master Planned Developments (MPDs), Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) had projected that the 2040 population of Black Diamond would be 7,094, which would have been a modest 36% increase in population over 20 years.

Since these communities are in the construction phase, this plan will utilize the projection that factors in development capacity, as it is more accurate to account for the MPD buildout. As of 2021, Black Diamond's total population was 5,990. By 2030, it is expected to reach 10,677, and by 2040, 17,661 residents. This represents a dramatic 198% increase in residents in just under 20 years.

DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE BREAKDOWN

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Understanding the age distribution within the community is vital in assessing recreational needs. Different age groups will have different interests and needs.

Approximately one-third of the City's households have children under the age of 18, and the City's median age is 42. Adults between 24 and 54 make up the largest age group, accounting for just over 42% of the total population.

- 6% are under 5
- 12% are between 5-14
- 9% are between 15-24
- 12% are between 25-34
- 30% are between 35-54
- 30% are 55+

FIGURE X: POPULATION GROWTH COMPARISON

Demographics	Black Diamond	King County
<i>Population Characteristics</i>		
Population 2021	5,990	2,293,300
Population 2020	5,205	2,260,800
Population 2019	4,525	2,226,300
Population 2010	4,153	1,931,249
Population 2000	3,970	1,737,046
<i>Household Characteristics (2015-2019)</i>		
Households	1,759	882,028
Households with Children	531	253,853
Median Household Income	\$108,490	\$94,974
Average Household Size	2.54	2.45
Average Family Size	2.94	3.06
<i>Age Groups (2015-2019)</i>		
Median Age	42	37
Population < 5 years of age	247	128,327
Population < 18 years of age	896	448,094
Population 18-64 years of age	2,889	1,463,076
Population > 65 years of age	691	284,332

SOURCES: WASHINGTON OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT POPULATION ESTIMATES, 2021;
U.S. CENSUS 2000, 2010 CENSUS, 2015-2019 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOUSEHOLDS

As of 2019, there are 1,759 households in Black Diamond. About 75% of households are families and one-third of them have children under the age of 18. The average household size is 2.54 with an average family size of 2.94, compared to King County where the average household size is slightly lower at 2.45, but the average family size is larger at 3.06. As mentioned earlier, factoring in maximum build out of these two MPDs, Black Diamond is projected to reach 19,262 residents and 7,674 households by 2035



Aerial view of the Ten Trails development. Source: Heidi Wells, Google Maps.

INCOME AND POVERTY

As of 2019, Black Diamond's median household income was higher than King County's at \$108,490, a 14% increase since 2018. King County's median income as of 2019 was \$94,974, a six percent increase over 2018. Nearly 15% of the City's households make less than \$25,000 annually, slightly higher than King County where 12% of the population makes less than \$25,000 annually. Nearly four percent of the City's families were living at or below the poverty line, lower than King County where nearly six percent of families were living below the poverty line in 2019.

For reference, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported in 2019 that the national poverty threshold for a family or household of four was \$25,750.

Understanding the community's spectrum of household incomes can impact the types of recreational services households choose to participate in due to their willingness and ability to pay for recreational services. It is important for the City to provide accessible and affordable recreational opportunities for the entire community's socioeconomic spectrum.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

As of 2019, the City's population was 94% White, four percent Asian, one percent Black, and one percent are American Indian or Alaskan Native.

King County is slightly more diverse, where 69% of the population is White, just over 21% is Asian, eight percent is Black, two percent is American Indian or Alaskan Native, and just over one percent is Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

Less than nine percent of Black Diamond's population speaks another language other than English at home, and just over four percent of the population speaks Spanish. Just over three percent of the population reports that they speak English less than "very well". In King County, nearly 28% of the population speaks another language besides English; 11% of them speak and Asian and Pacific Islander language, and just over six percent speak Spanish. Ten percent of the County's population reports speaking English less than "very well".

While the City lacks diversity, it will consider how it could best provide accessible recreational opportunities, programs, and information to all of its community members.

**THIS IS A PLACEHOLDER FOR THE RACE AND
ETHNICITIES GRAPHIC THAT WILL UPDATED BY
1/11/22.**

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Approximately 11% of Black Diamond's population lives with a disability, compared to King County where nine percent of the population has a disability. About eight percent of those aged 18 to 64 years have a disability, but nearly 37% of those in Black Diamond 65 or older live with a disability. Just as planning for a variety of ages and income levels is important to creating an equitable recreation system for the City, so is planning for those with disabilities.

ENGAGING OUR NEIGHBORS



Members of the community gather for a public open house to discuss park improvements and priorities.

A major component of PROS planning is identifying the community's vision for how Black Diamond's parks and facilities should operate, look, and feel. The City has undertaken a public participation strategy to encourage feedback from users of all backgrounds. The outreach strategy was broken up into three phases: surveying, public meetings, and online engagement. A variety of public outreach methods were employed to provide the community several opportunities to participate in the planning process.

Feedback generated from outreach efforts was regularly updated to City staff, the Mayor, and the Planning Commission. This section describes the extent of the outreach effort and key takeaways from each phase.

**"I HOPE TO SEE MORE PARKS
LIKE LAKE SAWYER SO OUR
TOWN KEEPS ITS SMALL TOWN FEEL"**

- 2021 COMMUNITY SURVEY

COMMUNITY SURVEY

A survey form was distributed by mail to 2,055 residents beginning in April 2021 and was requested to be returned no later than the end of June 2021. Of the 2,055 that were sent out, 149 were completed and returned for a response rate of 7.3%

The survey collected information on demographics, perceptions, and activity preferences. Respondents were asked to rate the cleanliness, quality, and accessibility of parks and to describe their preferred activities. A copy of the community survey is included in *Appendix B* and a copy of the results summary is included in *Appendix D*.

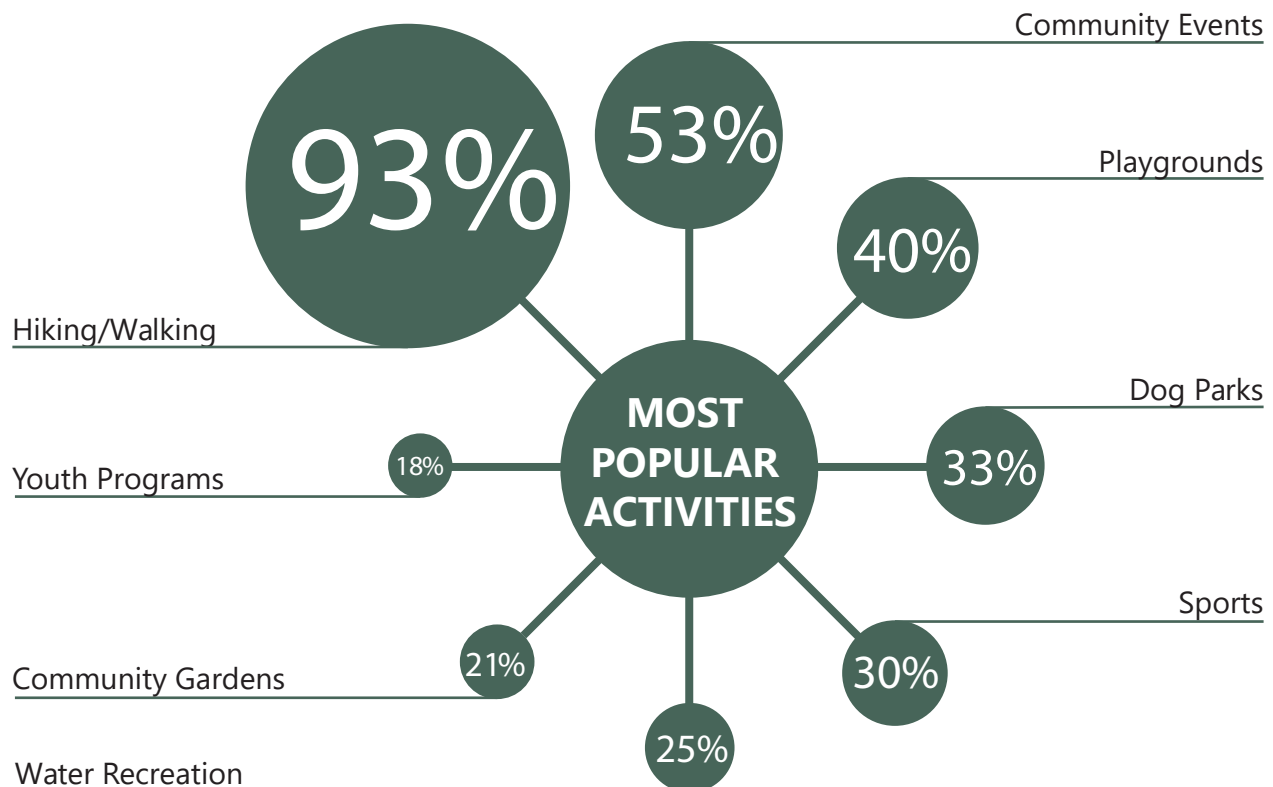
FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY

Community perceptions on existing facilities were mixed: approximately half of residents are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of parks and a resounding 96% report feeling safe within parks. However, over two thirds of residents feel they experience more than one barrier to utilize park facilities. The following is an analysis of how the community currently perceives existing park facilities.

Preferences

There is a range of activities in which adult users of Black Diamond's parks find most important for the parks to offer. The most popular activity is hiking/walking as it was selected by 93% of respondents. The other popular park activities are shown below in Figure X.

FIGURE X: ADULT SURVEY MOST POPULAR ACTIVITIES



Opportunities

Respondents are moderately satisfied with existing park activities but reported a need for a greater variety of active opportunities. One in three survey respondents feel the parks system has a great or excellent number of recreational opportunities. Participants were most frequently interested in a swimming pool, trail system, sports fields and courts, and a new skate park. Participants were also vocal about increasing the number of playgrounds and adding a dog park.

The survey found that the City's existing parks do not offer enough activities to interest a wide spectrum of age groups. Approximately 20% of users report that parks do not offer enough activities or do not have the right equipment. Figure X is a word cloud showing the types of programs and features respondents listed as being offered in other communities but not in Black Diamond. The larger the words, the more often the feature was listed, indicating a desire to see more of that program or feature in the city.

FIGURE X: ADULT SURVEY MOST DESIRED PROGRAMS AND FEATURES



Accessibility

Accessibility is a major concern for the community identified in public comments and survey questions. Approximately 46% of respondents report that they do not have access to a park within a walkable distance. Participants cite a lack of a trail system and sidewalks connecting to existing facilities as a major barrier to use. Public comments report parks did not meet accessibility design requirements and did not provide adequate parking or pathways for wheelchair users. Over 15% of survey respondents cite that park are not in convenient locations.

Recreation

Public comments submitted with the survey indicated an interest in the city developing a recreation program.

Due to the lack of a local recreation program, respondents reported traveling as far as Bellevue to participate in recreation program activities, such as group sports, youth programs, and community events.

One quarter of participants reported a need for youth services and programs, adult programs, and concerts/community events. One in five stated they use parks and recreation facilities provided by another city or organization.



Youth Bubble Dot Survey completed at Black Diamond Miner's Day 2021.



A steep erosion bank at Lake Sawyer Park makes swimming in the lake difficult for users.

Quality

Respondents supported a higher frequency of park maintenance. Comments identified unkept restrooms, full garbage receptacles, and unkept vegetation as commonly found. Approximately 47% report park maintenance hindering their use of parks and 53.1% report park cleanliness ranging from poor to fair.

Some public comments were received regarding the quality the boat ramp at Lake Sawyer Park. The location of the ramp is not perpendicular to the access road causing difficulties for drivers to maneuver boats into the lake. Additionally, bank erosion has occurred along the north end of the park and does not provide a safe route for swimmers. Maintenance on the ramp and banks is recommended to facilitate safer access.

Overall maintenance improvements are warranted to enhance to cleanliness and appearance of the parks system and shall be address in *Chapter X: Envision the Future*.

YOUTH SURVEY

The initial community survey yielded no responses from parks users under the age of 20. Youth parks users are a key demographic and the City coordinated an additional survey to be prepared to gauge responses. The youth survey was distributed on July 7, 2021, at the City's Miner's Day event. The youth survey was a reduced version of the adult survey and asked a limited number of questions on interests.

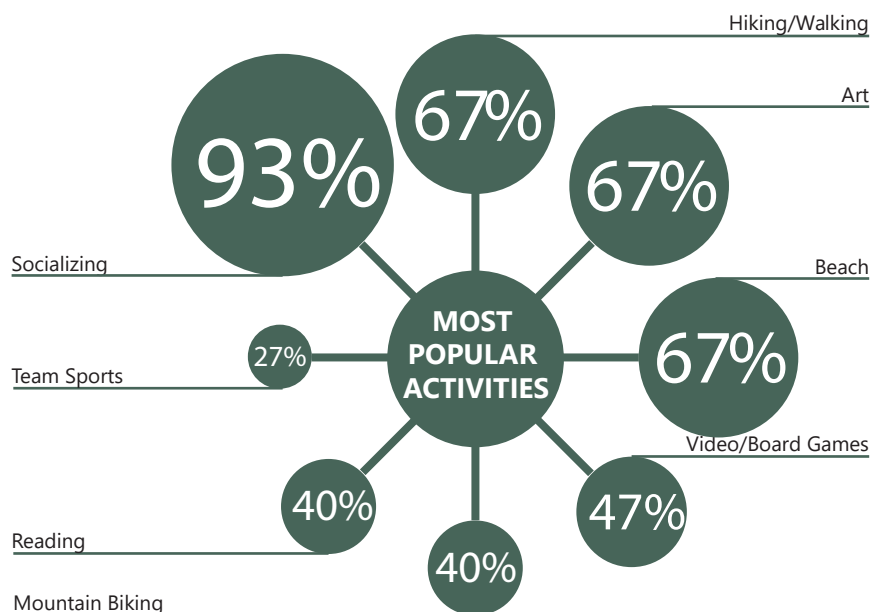
Fifteen youth surveys were completed at the event. In addition to the survey, a bubble dot preference survey was available at the event to encourage additional responses from youth on their priorities for park services and programs. The preference survey had 134 responses. A copy of the youth survey is included in *Appendix C*.

FINDINGS FROM THE YOUTH SURVEY

Respondents report wanting to see parks be more walkable and have a greater variety of activities available. The most popular active recreation interests were hiking/walking (66.7%), biking (40%), and team sports (26.7%). The most frequently requested new or expanded activities were a pool/splash park (86.7%), open space and trails (53.3%) and BMX/remote control track (53.3%). The city has some trails and a BMX track, but users may not find these amenities to be satisfactory in length, variety, or quantity. Figure X describes the activities most important to youth users.

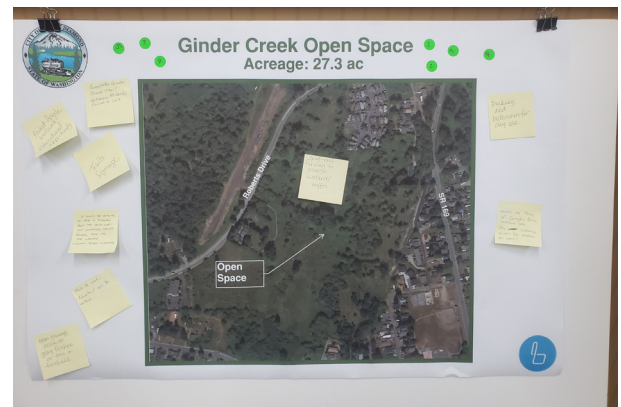
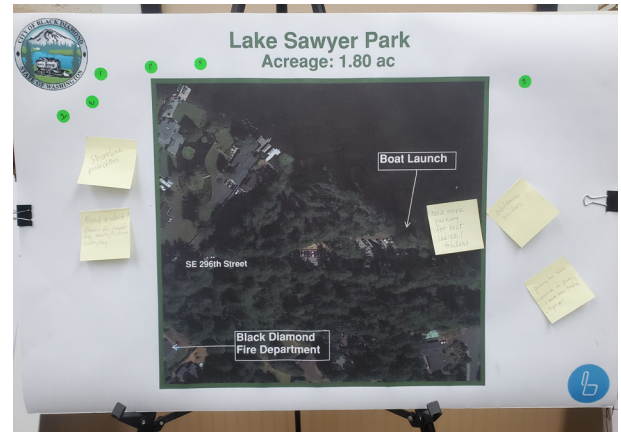
Participants voiced the need for a recreation program. Despite team sports being considered popular by youth users, there are no available programs operating within the City. Youth users must rely on motorized transportation to participate in team sports offered outside of Black Diamond. Walkability is an important factor for youth users who may not have access to motorized transportation. The development of new recreational activities in existing parks is a priority. The City should take into careful consideration how youth users can access amenities and parks.

FIGURE X: POPULAR YOUTH ACTIVITIES





Top: Mayor Benson meeting with stakeholders to evaluate parks and discuss priority sites.



Right: Stakeholders provide feedback on how to improve our existing parks and open spaces.

STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Black Diamond selected a handful of community members to participate in a stakeholder meeting on September 22, 2021. Stakeholders were selected based on historical interactions between special interest groups and their frequent use of local parks.

Stakeholders participated in a guided discussion on current PROS facilities and amenities. Black Diamond facilitated two (2) break out activities to get firsthand feedback on parks operations. The first activity requested stakeholders to leave suggestions, comments, or ideas for each park using sticky notes. Here are some frequented comments from the meeting:

- Improve the wayfinding and park identification signage.
- ADA access should be improved throughout parks.
- A dock is needed for a safe and functional boat launch at Lake Sawyer.
- The City should have a designated dog park.
- Restrooms and drinking water facilities are needed throughout all parks.
- Passive recreation areas should be preserved as passive.
- There should be more ball fields within City limits

The second activity was a bubble dot survey that evaluated which parks deserve the most funding based on a 1 (high) to 5 (low) scale. Stakeholders found Lake Sawyer Regional Park and the Skate Park to be the highest priority parks. Coal Car Historical Triangle and Union Stump were considered the lowest priorities. A copy of the Stakeholder Meeting Summary is located in *Appendix X*.



Members of the community attending the PROS open house meeting to voice their ideas and concerns.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Separately from the stakeholder meeting, the City organized a public open house on the PROS Plan update process. Interest in the public open house was generated at pop up booths at Miner's Day and Labor Day events advertising the event and online advertaising. The purpose of the meeting was to gather ideas on park strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities within the community.

The meeting occurred on October 5, 2021 at the community gym. Consultants gave a brief overview presentation on the existing park's system and recreational opportunities. The open house included opportunities to speak with City staff and participate in break out activities.

City staff, elected representatives, and consultants attended the meeting to answer questions and have conversations with attendees on the state of our parks. Similarly to stakeholders, participants determined that Lake Sawyer Regional Park and the Skate Park were the City's top priorities, as shown in Figure X.

FIGURE X: OPEN HOUSE DOT SURVEY

PARKS	PRIORITY RATING				
	1 - HIGH	2	3	4	5 - LOW
Lake Sawyer Regional Park	●●●	●●●	●●●	●	
Lake Sawyer Park	●●	●●	●	●	
Skate Park	●●	●	●	●●●	●●
Ginder Creek Open Space		●●	●●	●●	●
Railroad Pocket Park				●	●●●
Eagle Creek Park			●		●
BMX Park					●
Union Stump Park					
Coal Car Histroical Triangle					

In general, residents felt there were not enough activity options and would like to see an increase in the types of facilities available. Frequent requests were to add a new ball court (such as pickleball), a dog park, and an expansion of trails. People requested improved identification signage and new wayfinding maps at parks. People were unaware that some parks existed or were operated by the City.

Most parks had comments regarding a need for improvement in accessibility. There are parks missing or lacking pedestrian connections to the site. Users report a need for an expanded parking lot at Lake Sawyer Regional Park and the boat launch. Bicycles report a great need for non-motorized vehicle pathways between the BMX park, skate park, pump track, and the Lake Sawyer Regional Park.



City staff and consultants hand out presentation materials to the public, including statistics from the community survey, a factsheet on the parks inventory, and activity sheets to participate in engagement activities.

ONLINE

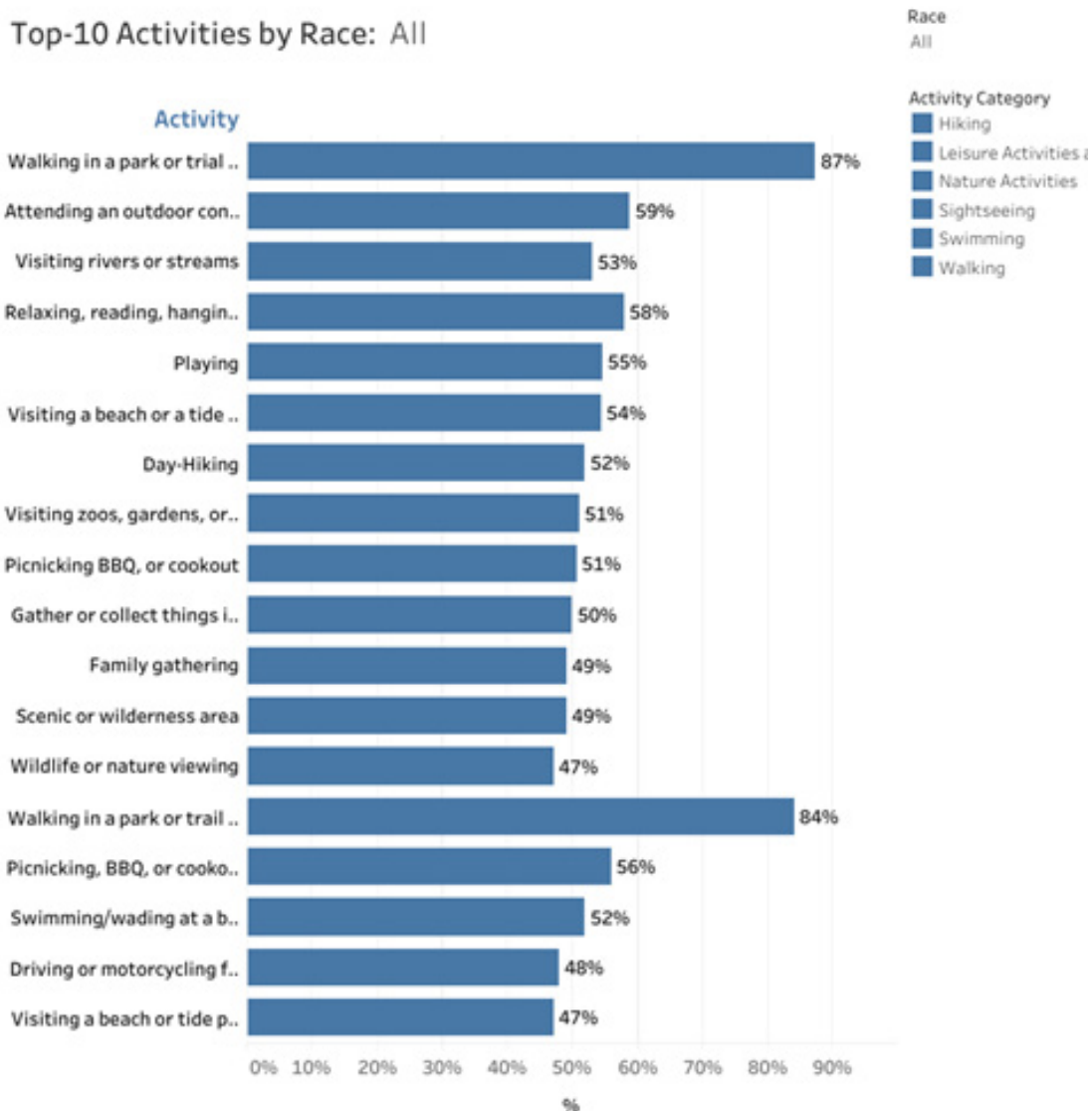
Black Diamond's website provided updates to the public throughout the PROS process and included public meeting notices, the survey summary results, and updates on plan adoption timing. Public comments were collected from the website in addition to survey and public meeting comments.

SCORP RECREATION TRENDS

The Washington State Comprehensive Recreation and Outdoor Plan 2018 update (SCORP) is a Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) document that guides park investments over a 5-year period. The 2018 SCORP identifies the priorities for recreational development to meet future needs of the growing population. Priorities were established through an analysis of current offerings and state trends in activity use. Figure X is the ranking of popular activities statewide that should be considered when developing or renovating parks.

Black Diamond anticipates a significant increase in population between now and 2042, and the City should keep statewide popular activities in mind. Similarly to Black Diamond, Washington State users report over 90% participation in walking/hiking. The demand for trails is expected to continue with the City's population growth. State users also report a high level of participation in passive recreation activities, such as nature viewing, picnicking, or relaxing.

FIGURE X: SCORP 2018 RECREATION TREND



Source: Washington RCO, 2018 SCORP

A SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

Black Diamond's access to untouched natural spaces defines the community's character as a growing rural City intertwined with nature. Public input affirms that residents desire to preserve the history and aesthetic of Black Diamond by preserving natural spaces for appreciation and recreational use. But how does a City measure the intrinsic value of a park and a community's demand?

The assessment evaluates existing parks, current demands, and gaps in service. The assessment provides standards to quantify park function and use. The standards are designed to enhance Black Diamond's understanding of the performance of its parks, recreation, open spaces, and maintenance operations. Standards are used as benchmarks for progress and will pave a pathway for improving the system. The assessment, along with public input and facility maintenance results, determine how Black Diamond funds should be appropriated between 2022 to 2028.

**“City parks & open space improve
our physical health
and strengthens our communities.”**

-2021 Community Survey

WHAT IS LEVEL OF SERVICE?

Level of Service (LOS) is a measurable standard utilized in understanding the quality and quantity of parks and recreational spaces necessary to meet a community's needs. Parks and recreation do not typically have measurable features; we feel and experience parks so it can be difficult to quantify quality, value, and enjoyment. Measurable standards provide specific feedback on service shortcomings and can evaluate progress made on improvement projects or PROS Plan objectives. LOS standards also provide a platform for cross comparison against Black Diamond's previous parks system and nearby jurisdictions' existing systems or programs.

LOS standards are flexible and unique to each municipality. The City selects the type of service standard that would best represent how the parks program is operating. The purpose of this is to allow each community to have the most input of the service standards that best meet local values and needs. LOS standards are required by the Growth Management act within the Comprehensive Plan, and the standards adopted in the PROS Plan will be incorporated and used within the Parks and Recreation chapter. Each City is responsible for estimating the future demand and capacity needs on services for anticipated population growth. Standards provide clear guidance on how parks projects within the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) should be prioritized.

A CHANGE IN STANDARDS

Since the previous PROS Plan was adopted, Black Diamond and the region have seen a tremendous change in population growth, development patterns, and planning policies. Thus, the previously adopted LOS standards should be revised to follow planning guidelines and reflect the current Black Diamond community. The 2008 PROS Plan described two level of service standards:

- **Park Distance:** Service standards were based on resident distance to parks, with a unique service radius for each park type. The standard measured accessibility in radius distance and evaluated the percent of residents within the vicinity of each park. For example, 90% of the City's population should be within 1.5 miles of a community park.
- **Recreation Facility Frequency:** A separate standard for recreation was adopted that measured the frequency of facilities against population. Recreational facilities can be large municipal investments and there must be a minimum population level to support installing facilities. The frequency describes the minimum number of people necessary to support construction of facilities. Below is a table from the previous plan describing Black Diamond's minimum frequency standards.

FIGURE X: 2008 PROS PARK STANDARDS

New Park LOS Standards

Table 1-2

<u>Park Types</u>	<u>LOS Standard</u>
Regional	Lake Sawyer Regional Park
Community	90% of population within 1.5 miles of community park
Neighborhood	75% of population within 0.5 miles of a neighborhood park
Pocket	None
Trail (Non-motorized)	75% of population within 0.5 of a trail
Open-Space	10% of City's land area

FIGURE X: 2008 PROS RECREATION STANDARDS

Recreational Facility Standards

Table 1-4

<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Minimum Units per Population</u>
Youth Baseball/Adult Softball Field	1:2,000
Soccer Field	1:2,000
Tennis Court	1:2,000
Basketball Court	1:2,000
Adult Baseball Diamond	1:5,000
Gymnasium	1:5,000
Youth Football Field	1:10,000
Track	1:10,000
Community Center	1:10,000
Swimming Pool	1:20,000

The previous standards are outdated compared to current standards from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and are worth amending. A specific park distance standard was not provided for every park type, and a different LOS measurement standard was also selected for open space requiring ten percent of Black Diamond's land area to be designated as open space. Distance standards have been amended since the 2008 Plan and have been updated in this plan.

The previous park standards also did not describe park accessibility. The standard evaluated population density within the vicinity of a park but did not assess the routes users would take to access parks. While there may be a high density of users living near a park, there may also be a lack of available and safe pedestrian or bicycle routes to get there.

The NRPA no longer recommends a recreational facility standard based on minimum populations. This metric was previously used to benchmark when it would be appropriate to add or expand upon amenities. Each jurisdiction has unique population needs that may not be reflective of the metric. Additionally, the metric did not describe the quality or demand of the facility. Over 73 % of survey respondents reported a need for greater access and frequency of recreational opportunities showing a greater demand for activities beyond the standards previously selected.

A quiet afternoon at the Eagle Creek Park.



THE NEW STANDARDS

Standards were selected based on the feedback generated in public outreach and amended to meet the characteristics of Black Diamond. This plan proposes a three-tiered approach to assessing the level of service that Black Diamond provides its users.

I. PARK ACCESSIBILITY

Similar to the 2008 standard, the standard is described by walkability and frequency. Walkability was ranked as a major priority to the community with 36% reporting it being a barrier to use within the community survey and 47% reporting that parks are not within a walkable distance. A new metric for measuring walkability is warranted and should measure the pathways users would use within the vicinity of a park.

Accessibility shall be measured in two ways: **by population within the service area of a park** and **by availability of sidewalks within .25 miles of parks**. Figure X shows the RCO recommended accessibility metrics. The service areas for each park classification are adjusted to meet our service standards as described in Current Level of Service. The walkability metric is adjusted as well and will be measured as percentage of complete sidewalks within a $\frac{1}{4}$ radius of each facility.

FIGURE X: RCO ACCESSIBILITY METRICS

Distribution and Access Criteria					
Population within Service Areas Percentage of population within the following services areas (considering barriers to access): • 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park/trail • 5 miles of a community park/trail • 25 miles of a regional park/trail	>75%	61-75%	46-60%	30-45%	<30%
Access Percentage of parks and recreation facilities that may be accessed safely via foot, bicycle, or public transportation	>80%	61-80%	41-60%	20-40%	<20%

2. RECREATION AVAILABILITY

While park acreage is no longer a recommended metric, it is still widely used by many jurisdictions and is a helpful standard for cross comparison. Park acreage may make up one component of availability, but the standard should be expanded upon to gain a deeper understanding of availability of amenities and opportunities. Quantifying recreational availability should be completed in two ways: **15 acres of parkland per 1,000 people** and **\$530 of recreational capital value per person**.

FIGURE X: RCO PARK ACREAGE METRIC

Indicators and Criteria For Local Agencies	A	B	C	D	E
Quantity Criteria					
Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities Percentage difference between existing quantity or per capita average of parks and recreation facilities and the desired quantity or per capita average.	<10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	>41%

The Skate Park’s swingset is untouched on a sunny September afternoon.



3. PARK QUALITY

Park quality and maintenance was another major concern cited within the community survey, with 53% reporting poor to fair park cleanliness and 47% reporting maintenance issues as a barrier to park use. Park quality can impact how users perceive availability and accessibility. Design functionality is measured through results of the facilities assessment completed by City staff measuring how closely aligned each park is to Black Diamond's Municipal Code and the Public Works Guidelines.

FIGURE X: RCO LOS QUALITY METRIC

Indicators and Criteria For Local Agencies	A	B	C	D	E
Quality Criteria					
Agency-Based Assessment Percentage of facilities that are fully functional for their specific design and safety guidelines	>80%	61-80%	41-60%	20-40%	<20%

The newly adopted standards paint a new and more detailed picture of the state of Black Diamond's current level of service. Below is a summary of how Black Diamond measures against the newly revised standards. Figure X describes the City's new standards and how they will be measured.

FIGURE X: LOS STANDARDS

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD	A	B	C	D	E
ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA					
Service Area: Percentage of population within the park service areas.	>75%	61-75%	46-60%	30-45%	<30%
Walkability: Percentage of parks and recreation facilities that may be accessed by foot within ¼ mile of site.	>80%	61-80%	40-60%	20-40%	<20%
AVAILABILITY CRITERIA					
Park Acreage: Percentage difference of the minimum standard of 15 acres per 1,000 and the existing quantity.	<10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-41%	>41%
Recreation: Percentage difference between recreational capital value per person and the desired value.	<20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	>80%
QUALITY CRITERIA					
Agency Based Assessment: The existing parks and facilities are fully functional and meet safety/design guidelines.	>80%	61-80%	41-60%	21-40%	<20%

CURRENT LOS

I. PARK ACCESSIBILITY

Service Area

Approximately 60% of residents live within the service area of a City park. The City's regional and community parks have a larger service area because they are larger parks intended to attract users from farther distances to visit. The City has a LOS A for regional and community parks, meeting the frequency and distribution needs for users. The City averages a LOS C in service area as described in Figure X.

Neighborhood and pocket parks have a more localized service area than regional or community parks because the intent of these parks is to serve the users in immediately surrounding area. Neighborhood and pocket parks are not as well distributed or widely available within the City and rank as an LOS E, bringing the City's average LOS down to a C. Neighborhood and pocket parks are centralized around the business core, servicing many of the same users within the vicinity downtown Black Diamond. Residents living within the downtown core have greater access to neighborhood or pocket parks.

LOS standards are only used to measure the City's primary service area and parks that are owned and operated by the City. There are a variety of additional recreational opportunities that are operated by Home Owner Associations (HOA's), King County, and Washington State, as described below in Other Opportunities, and are not included in the LOS analysis because they are not served or maintained by the City. Residents of subdivisions, such as TenTrails or Lawson Hills, may have greater access to neighborhood or pocket parks through parks established and maintained by HOA's.

FIGURE X: POPULATION WITHIN SERVICE AREA

PARK TYPE	SERVICE AREA STANDARD (RADIUS)	POPULATION WITH SERVICE AREA	LOS
Regional Park/Trail	5 miles	5,990	A
Community Park/Trail	3 miles	5,990	A
Neighborhood Park/Trail	0.5 miles	1163	E
Pocket Park	0.25 miles	1030	E
Average Number of People in Service Area:		3,543	
Average LOS:		C	

Walkability

Pedestrian infrastructure to existing parks is limited within the pedestrian walkshed. The City's average sidewalk coverage is 63.4%, or LOS B as described in Figure X. When parks do not have enough pedestrian infrastructure, it discourages nearby residents from utilizing Black Diamond's park and recreation opportunities.

Existing pedestrian infrastructure is primarily located within the downtown core, improving the overall walkability score. The average score for the downtown core parks (Skate Park, BMX, and Railroad) is 86.8%, exceeding Black Diamond's average walkability LOS by over 15%.

Pedestrian infrastructure is limited outside of the downtown core, specifically by Lake Sawyer.

There are no sidewalks within the vicinity of Lake Sawyer Regional Park and Lake Sawyer Park, which brings the City's walkability score down to LOS C.

FIGURE X: WALKABILITY OF PARKS

PARKS	TOTAL POSSIBLE SIDEWALK LENGTH (1 STREET SIDE WITHIN 1/4, LINEAL FEET)	SIDEWALK LENGTH PROVIDED (LINEAL FEET)	SIDEWALK COVERAGE	LEVEL OF SERVICE
Lake Sawyer Regional Park	4,046 feet	0 feet	0%	E
Lake Sawyer Park	2,270 feet	0 feet	0%	E
Skate Park	17,103 feet	11,180 feet	64.4%	B
Ginder Creek Open Space	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Railroad Pocket Park	8,784 feet	7,804 feet	88.8%	A
Eagle Creek Park	11,528 feet	10,858 feet	94.1%	A
BMX Park	3,644 feet	3,582 feet	98%	A
Union Stump Park	10,206 feet	6,301 feet	61.7%	B
Coal Car Historical Triangle	7,472 feet	1,515 feet	20.2%	D
Total/Average	65,053 feet	41,240 feet	63.4%	B

WHAT IS THE PEDESTRIAN WALKSHED?

THE PEDESTRIAN WALKSHED IS A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE AVERAGE DISTANCE AN INDIVIDUAL IS WILLING TO WALK TO A DESTINATION.

INDIVIDUALS ARE TYPICALLY WILLING TO WALK UP TO A ¼ MILE OR APPROXIMATELY 5-10 MINUTES.

While pedestrian infrastructure is not what is typically used to assess a parks program, it is a component that influences an individual's interest and participation in nearby activities. During public outreach, the public consistently reported poor walkability and lack of sidewalks as a barrier to park use. Pedestrian infrastructure improvements at parks will be coordinated closely with the Public Works Department in the future iterations of the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

The TIP is a planning document that addresses planned improvements to the City's rights-of-way, and would include sidewalks. Future Black Diamond parks will not be permitted for construction unless frontage improvements are included. The CIP proposes projects that address gaps in access around the Skate Park frontage and a trail connection from Ginder Creek to Lake Sawyer Regional Park.

Only City-owned and operated streets were used to determine the walkability scores. Private streets and alleyways were not included in the calculation. Data compiled in the walkability assessment was used to generate the Walkability/Trails Map in Appendix X.

2. RECREATION AVAILABILITY

Park Acreage

At 33.4 acres per 1,000 people, Black Diamond greatly exceeds park acreage availability compared to nearby cities and King County, providing on average 21 acres more per 1,000 people, as shown in Figure X. Three of four Black Diamond residents preferred forested, trail areas over passive parks. The community is attracted to the available open space and natural aesthetic of Black Diamond.

With an estimated population of 19,626 anticipated by 2035, Black Diamond would need to provide 460 acres of new parkland to continue to meet its existing level of service. However, this is not deemed feasible because there is limited space within the City's limits that is zoned for public use. Since the City greatly exceeds its proposed park acreage availability standards, funding should be prioritized on increasing recreation availability or improving park accessibility and quality.

FIGURE X: PARK ACREAGE COMPARISON

JURISDICTION	POPULATION	NUMBER OF PARKS	PARKS ACREAGE	PARKS ACREAGE PER 1,000 PEOPLE
Black Diamond	5,990	9	197 acres	33.4 acres
Maple Valley	28,013	9	362 acres	12.9 acres
Enumclaw	12,543	23	117 acres	9.3 acres
Auburn	87,256	59	989 acres	11.3 acres
King County	2,269,675	205	32,000 acres	14.1 acres

It is appropriate for Black Diamond to revise its level of service down to 15 acres per 1,000 people. Maintaining the existing level of service would not be appropriate for the growth anticipated. The 15-acre standard is still greater than what the surrounding jurisdictions are providing and demonstrates Black Diamond's goal of maintaining the community's character. To meet this goal, the City anticipates needing to acquire 64 acres of new land by 2035, which is more feasible for the City's size and available resources.



The Coal Miner's Honor Garden at the Historic Museum on a late summer day.

Recreational Value

New recreational standards were developed for the 2021 PROS Plan that analyze the investments made toward providing park users with recreation activities. Recreational value demonstrates more than a municipality's ability to provide quality, accessible, large parks; it reveals both the historical investment in existing recreation options and the required level of funding required to sustain the current level of service. The standard quantifies the overall investment into recreation per person the City has made.

Recreational facilities were evaluated by estimating the cost of construction and installation of park features which include active recreation, such as a basketball court or trails, and passive recreation, such as seating amenities and infrastructure. Recreational value does not include land acquisition or maintenance costs and does not indicate the total project costs. The purpose of evaluating the level of investment into activities is to demonstrate and anticipate the future demand for funding and recreational activities.

HOW WAS THIS VALUE DETERMINED?

Total Estimated Investment / Population = Recreation Investment per Person

$$\$3,192,332 / 5,990 = \$532.94 \text{ per person}$$

Existing Investment per person X projected population = cumulative investment needed by 2040

$$\$532.94 \times 17,661 = \$9,412,316.44 \text{ needed in cumulative investment by 2040}$$

Cumulative Investment - Existing Investment = New investment needed by 2040

$$9,412,316.44 - 3,192,332 = \$6,219,984.44 \text{ of new investment by 2040}$$

FIGURE X: ESTIMATED EXISTING RECREATIONAL INVESTMENT

PARKS	ESTIMATED INVESTMENT
Lake Sawyer Regional Park	\$427,028
Lake Sawyer Park	\$568,927
Skate Park	\$976,556
Ginder Creek Open Space	\$0
Railroad Pocket Park	\$26,251
Eagle Creek Park	\$213,375
BMX Park	\$56,663
Union Stump Park	\$47,928
Coal Car Histroical Triangle	\$21,565
Community Gym	\$854,039
Estimated Investment:	\$3,192,332

The City has cumulatively invested over \$3.1 million into existing recreation opportunities averaging \$532 of investment per person, as described in Figure X. To maintain the existing level of service for a population of 17,661 by 2040, approximately \$6.2 million in new capital investments is required. The required annual investment to recreation would be based upon the annual increase in population. The City does not have a recreation program generating revenue to the capital fund; new capital investments must come from the annual budget, grants, and partnerships, as described in Chapter X: Taking the Leap: Funding Options.

Feedback from public outreach indicates that the City does not offer enough options for activities, suggesting that the existing investments to recreation are below an LOS A; it can be assumed that \$532 per person is falling below an appropriate funding level for the community. If the existing investment per person is falling below an LOS A, the greatest operational level it is performing at is 79%. An investment of \$670 per person is required to be considered operating at 100% of LOS and a cumulative \$8,640,538 of new capital recreation investment by 2040.

HOW DO YOU ESTIMATE FUTURE DEMAND?

What would an LOS A investment look like?

$$\frac{79}{100} \times \frac{\$532}{\$X} = 79 \times \$532,000 = \$670 \text{ per person for LOS A}$$

LOS A Investment per person X projected population = cumulative investment needed by 2040

$$\$670 \times 17,661 = \$11,832,870 \text{ needed in cumulative investment by 2040}$$

LOS A Investment – Existing Investment = New investment needed by 2040

$$11,832,870 - 3,192,332 = \$8,640,538 \text{ of new investment by 2040}$$

3. PARK QUALITY

Overall, the City's existing parks and recreational opportunities are operating as intended, as described in Figure X. The Quality LOS metric describes how well park features are operating in comparison to potential optimal use, or if the park was brand new.

Most parks have essential public infrastructure operating correctly, such as restrooms/portable toilets, drinking fountains, and trash receptacles. Recreation amenities such as sports courts and playgrounds were found to be typically safe and functional. There are components that could be improved in virtually every park, as the highest scored received was an 87.5% for Union Stump and following shortly behind, the Skate Park at 83.3%.

The vast majority of issues cited at parks can be addressed through an improved City maintenance and operations schedule, which is described in greater detail in Park Conditions and Maintenance. Minor improvements needed to address park quality include cleaner restrooms, functional waste bins, and improved signage.

Some parks have more significant quality and operational issues that will be addressed in the CIP. For example, the Community Gym's roof is in disrepair and in need of immediate attention. The roof is not completely attached to the building. While this is not a structural concern, the facility's score drops because the building itself is not optimal for use. Another example is the Lake Sawyer boat launch parking area. The parking lot has several deep potholes. Boat launch users find it difficult to back up to the boat ramp safely due to the ramp configuration. The parking lot and boat ramp are not operating seamlessly and are an example of difficulties users have in accessing parks and recreational opportunities.

FIGURE X: PARK QUALITY LOS

PARKS	OPERATIONAL SCORE	LEVEL OF SERVICE
Lake Sawyer Regional Park	81.3%	A
Lake Sawyer Park	67.2%	B
Skate Park	83.3%	A
Ginder Creek Open Space	N/A	N/A
Railroad Pocket Park	81.3%	A
Eagle Creek Park	81.8%	A
BMX Park	57.1%	C
Union Stump Park	87.5%	A
Coal Car Histroical Triangle	69.2%	B
Community Gym	71.4%	B
Average Quality	77.20%	B

SERVICE AREA

The survey identified that residents of the City are the primary users of parks and amenities, but also that there are secondary users. Secondary users are residents of unincorporated King County, adjacent cities or towns that are pass-by users to Black Diamond's parks. The city's park service area can be divided into two sections: the **primary service area** and the **secondary service area**.

The primary service area is made up of individuals living within City limits. The primary service area is made up of those who are anticipated outright to utilize park facilities.

The secondary service area is comprised of those who may pass by the City to use nearby facilities or parks, and correlates with other City limits and areas of unincorporated King County within the service area of all parks within City limits. The RCO requires local agencies to evaluate needs within the primary and secondary service areas to remain eligible for grants.

FIGURE X: BLACK DIAMOND SERVICE AREA

Insert map of primary and secondary area

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Below is a description of the different classifications of parks available within the City and are based on National Parks Recreation Association guidelines. Each classification has unique level of service measures that reflect the services and activities appropriate for the use. The below is not a comprehensive list of all park types and includes facilities the City currently operates.

REGIONAL PARK

Parks of at least two acres in size with the capacity to host many people. Park offers activities over a wide service area and connects to adjacent parks or activities. Park typically includes a parking lot, waterfront access, natural areas, and/or amphitheaters.

COMMUNITY PARK

Large parks ranging from one to five acres in size. Park provides active recreation facilities and include features such as parking lots, sports fields/courts, and natural areas.

RESOURCE PARK

A natural open space park with limited development. Park is typically more passive use and includes trails and interpretive signage. The intent of the park is to preserve natural habitat areas and create educational opportunities on conservation efforts.

OPEN SPACE

Limited development areas intended to preserve natural areas within the City and include features such as picnic areas, trails, and interpretive facilities.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Pedestrian oriented parks ranging from one acre or less and serves adjacent residential units. Park includes play areas, basketball courts, community gardens, and open space.

POCKET PARK

A small, pedestrian oriented park of one half acre or less that provides a green space in higher density, developed areas. Pocket parks typically include historical informational markers, landscaping, seating, and public art.

TRAILS

A network of pedestrian or bicycle-oriented paths for recreational or transportation uses. Ideally, trails should create a well connected city and include features such as parking areas, paved or graveled paths, picnic areas, and/or informational markers.

COMMUNITY FACILITY

A building that is used for public gatherings or specialized physical activities.

FIGURE X: PARK FACILITY CLASSIFICATION

THIS IS A PLACEHOLDER FOR THE
CLASSIFICATION GRAPHIC THAT WILL UPDATED
BY 1/11/22.

FIGURE X: FACILITY CLASSIFICATION FREQUENCY

THIS IS A PLACEHOLDER FOR THE
FREQUENCY GRAPHIC THAT WILL UPDATED BY
1/11/22.

PARK INVENTORY PROFILES



LAKE SAWYER REGIONAL PARK

Park Classification

Regional Park

Recreation Type

Passive

Amenities

- Trails
- Open Space
- Picnic Areas
- Portapotty
- Educational Signage
- Waste Receptacles

Public Comments:

- Maintain the passive use.
- Increase safe pathways to park.
- Improve lake accessibility.
- Add variety of uses to the park.
- Add a restroom and drinking fountain.
- Name the trails.
- Expand picnic table area.



*A photo of the wetland exhibit on the trail in Lake Sawyer Regional Park.
Photo by Mona Davis.*

LAKE SAWYER PARK

Park Classification: Community Park

Recreation Type: Passive

Amenities:

- Boat Launch
- Walking Path
- Open Space
- Picnic Areas
- Barbeques
- Portable Toilet
- Waste Receptacles

Public Comments:

- Maintain the passive use.
- Expand parking lot for boat trailers.
- Reduce bank erosion at launch.
- Replace boat ramp for improved auto maneuverability.
- Create a dock for safer boat access.
- Improve police lake presence.



A picnic bench sits under a Douglas Fir; the perfect view for lunch.

GINDER CREEK OPEN SPACE

Park Classification: Resource Park

Recreation Type: Passive

Amenities:

- Informal trails

Public Comments:

- Develop trails.
- Maintain vegetation for trail accessibility.
- Construct a designated parking area.
- Preserve park as an open, natural space.



Trail blocked at Ginder Creek Open Space due to fallen tree.

UNION STUMP PARK

Park Classification: Pocket Park

Recreation Type: Passive

Amenities:

- Historical Marker
- Picnic Area
- Waste Receptacles
- Native Plant Landscaping

Public Comments:

- Preserve the historical marker.
- Improve park aesthetics with new plantings and rock work.
- Great educational opportunity.
- Add a picnic table and benches.



An open grassy area of Union Stump Park; perfect for a picnic.

EAGLE CREEK PARK

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Recreation Type: Active

Amenities:

- Playground
- Basketball Hoop
- Walking Path
- Open Space
- Picnic Areas
- Waste Receptacles

Public Comments:

- Not clearly designated as a public park.
- Add nature learning component.
- Keep the basketball half court.
- Add a picnic table and benches.
- Add a dog park.
- Install new playground structure appropriate for 5+ ages.



Existing playground structure at Eagle Creek Park.

SKATE PARK

Park Classification: Regional Park

Recreation Type: Active

Amenities:

- Playground
- Swing Set
- Tennis Court
- Basketball Court
- Baseball Field
- Picnic Area
- Portatable Toilet

Public Comments:

- Install a new, larger skate park.
- Add pump track.
- Pave the parking lot.
- Construct sidewalks to park.
- Replace play structure.
- Develop a restroom with flushing toilets.
- Install a drinking fountain.



Existing playground structure, swing set, and sports courts at the Skate Park.

BMX PARK

Park Classification: Community Facility

Recreation Type: Active

Amenities:

- BMX Course

Public Comments:

- Turns/jumps are too close and should be wider in width.
- Replace with sport courts.
- Replace with toddler playground.
- Park is too small for existing use.
- Replace with a pump track.



Southerly facing photo of the BMX course.

COAL CAR HISTORICAL TRIANGLE

Park Classification: Pocket Park

Recreation Type: Passive

Amenities:

- Historical Marker
- Native Plant Landscaping

Public Comments:

- Install new landscaping.
- Construct sidewalks to park.
- Add a public art feature.
- Construct sidewalks to park.



The coal car is missing the flower plantings from the summer.

RAILROAD POCKET PARK

Park Classification: Pocket Park

Recreation Type: Passive

Amenities:

- Historical Marker
- Native Plant Landscaping
- Picnic Tables

Public Comments:

- Install new landscaping.
- Add tables or benches.
- Add public art or mural.
- Construct accessible sidewalks.
- Install a covered seating area.
- Add wayfinding signage.



Picnic area at Railroad Pocket Park.

COMMUNITY GYM

Park Classification: Community Facility

Recreation Type: Active

Amenities:

- Basketball Court
- Weight Equipment
- Stage
- Restroom
- Waste Recepticals
- Open Space

Public Comments:

- Widen the basketball courts.
- Remodel facility to install a kitchen.
- Enhance exterior apperance.



Black Diamond Community Gym

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

There are nearby opportunities that Black Diamond residents can capitalize on for recreation that are not maintained by the City. Nearby jurisdictions work in tandem with municipalities to ensure a variety of recreation opportunities are provided to users. The City will prioritize investments into new activities that are not provided by neighboring jurisdictions. Below is a description of nearby parks with amenities that residents can use in addition to the City's program.

MASTER PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS

TenTrails

THIS SECTION SHALL BE UPDATED BY 1/11/22.

Lawson Hills

THIS SECTION SHALL BE UPDATED BY 1/11/22.

MAPLE VALLEY

Maple Valley is located 6 miles north of Black Diamond and offers a comprehensive recreational program for adult and youth users, including sports, fitness, education, music, and art. Recreation programs are available on a quarterly basis and registration is available on the City's Parks and Recreation webpage. Youth scholarships are available to those who live within the Tahoma School District boundary or attend a Tahoma School.

COVINGTON

Covington is located just over 8 miles west of Black Diamond and has an aquatic center for public use. The aquatic center has recreational offerings such as lessons, fitness classes, and special events. The pool has lap swimming and a children's play area with a slide. In addition, Covington offers a vast recreational program for adult, teen, and youth users to participate in. Youth scholarships and fee waivers are available to users who have financial limitations.

KING COUNTY

Black Diamond Open Space

This massive 1,240-acre forested park has approximately 17 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails. Black Diamond Open Space is a restored forest with streams, wetlands, and peat bogs that is actively maintained by the Forest Stewardship Council. The Park is free to use for the public and includes restroom facilities and a parking lot.

Henry's Ridge Natural Area

Henry's Ridge is a 250-acre untouched forest with nearly 20 miles of multi-use trails. The Park does not have a formal parking lot or access point but is available to the public for day use. There are trails ranging in difficulty, and occasionally you'll find a friendly gnome sitting on a tree trunk.

Ravensdale Park

Ravensdale Park is a master plan development within unincorporated King County. There are four (4) all-purpose sports fields, one baseball field, and a community gathering area. Fields are available for reservation by recreational teams. The park also offers restrooms, concessions stand, and picnic areas.

WASHINGTON STATE

Flaming Geyser State Park

Flaming Geyser is a 503-acre day use park within the Green River Valley. Stunning views of the Green River and natural landscapes provide a scenic backdrop for daytime users. There are a wide variety of options for activities including hiking, kayaking, swimming, volleyball, and fishing. Picnic tables and shelters are available throughout the open space area. Informational signage is available throughout the park about native flora and fauna. The Park requires a day pass or a Discover Pass for use, and the parking lot is equipped with a pay station.

Kanaskat-Palmer State Park

Kanaskat-Palmer State Park is a low, forested plateau bordering 2 miles of shoreline along the Green River. The 541-acre park is open for day use with activities like hiking, biking trails, white-water kayaking, and swimming. Camping and picnicking areas are available. Users may also rent yurts for overnight stays that are equipped with a fire grill and utility hookup. The Park requires a day pass or a Discover Pass for use, and the parking lot is equipped with a pay station.

Nolte State Park

This 111-acre day-use park has over 7,000 feet of shoreline along idyllic Deep Lake providing ample aquatic opportunities like kayaking, swimming, and fishing. Nolte State Park is equipped with picnic areas, grassy open spaces, and a short hiking trail with interpretive signage. Trees surround the perimeter of the lake with ample opportunities for birdwatching. The Park requires a day pass or a Discover Pass for use, and the parking lot is equipped with a pay station.