

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Page &1:11/ or policy	Topic	Item	Modify	Additional clarification OR proposed rewording
	General Format	Written as questions	Edit to be consistent with rest of plan	
Table 1	Inventory of parks outside of Langley	Confirm if up to date	Minimal revisions with updated info.	
Table 2	City of Langley Park and Natural Area		POS members will review and provide updated info.	Confirm Highlands Trac A size and trail. Trac A is city owned/green. Coles Rd on west side is City owned. Cedar subdiv trail publicly owned
	Detailed description of each park		Revise and remove reference to survey and numbers of visitors	Add Earth Sanctuary and Island County trust lands, Whidbey Camano Land Trust Lands. Remove reference to camping in State Park. Marine Public access points in JPA and within City. Middle School has a restricted access trail system.
PO-12	Critical Areas	Repeat	Reduce substantially	The descriptions of the critical areas should be in the LU element. Missing from this discussion are the stream and wetland classifications and their buffers where known, also shoreline and SMP. A brief description of Critical Areas is sufficient in this element
PO-14	Major themes	keep	Use as background in this element.	We don't have a dedicated dog park in the City and we'd like to see one. Add dog park to #6. Change reference from mini-park to pocket parks.
PO-15	Goals/Core Area and Corridor Concept and principles/ LOS	confusing	combining goals and Core area discussion into intro paragraph for section 3, i.e. a design concept for the POS.	

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PO-16-19	Level of Service	Unclear	LOS standards are measures of the amount and quality of park, recreation sites and facilities that must be provided to meet a community's basic needs and expectations. Often expressed as ratios of capacity vs demand. As written these are goals.	Incorporate LOS statements into policies. Move trails list and map to transportation.
PO-18	Conceptual trail system			move to transportation
New Goal 1			include wildlife habitat and ecosystems overarching goal for POS including discussion from pg POS 15/ goals and core area	Parks and open spaces in and around Langley shall be comprised of an integrated and well maintained system of parks and open spaces that are linked by an extensive network of trails all complimenting and protecting critical areas
Move relevant policies identified below under this Goal				
Goal 1	Provide and maintain a safe, attractive, enjoyable and diverse park system that meets the needs of city residents, businesses, and visitors	revise	Establish a broad goal to create a POS management plan.	Develop a parks and open space management plan that balances active, passive and natural areas that are well integrated throughout the city.

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P1-1	Develop a plan to make sure that each park meets the needs of residents, businesses and visitors and work to implement those plans.	similar to 1.6. see below	parks can't be everything to everyone	The parks and open space management plan will establish LOS for each park facility that recognizes the specifics of each locaton and its environmental condition.
P1-2	Provide a balance of active and passive open space and parks that are well integrated throughout the city.			
P1-3	Identify potential parks or open space in areas that are not currently served by the five-minute, quarter mile walking radius and work to achieve public access on those properties.	unclear/revise		Identify neighbourhoods that do not have a park, open space or trail connection within the five minute, quarter mile walking radius and identify future oppportunities.
P1-4	Require larger developments to establish or contribute to the establishment of an accessible park or open space amenity in areas not meeting the five minute or quarter mile-walking radius.	unclear/repeat of 2.7	establish more clear criteria in LMC move to Goal 7 that deals with park acquisition	Review Code regulations and establish clear criteria for new multi-family, mixed use developments, and subdivisions to dedicate public park or public open space or trails.
P1-5	Ensure that each park has a safe access for pedestrians to visit the area.	Repeat 1.1	delete	
P1-6	Povide a mixture of amenities including: viewpoints, beach access, passive use features, community agricultural land, cultural features, and structures and features for children, youth, families, the eld erly, and people with disab ilities. Ensure that each of the amenities provided is suited to the specific location and environmental conditions of the park.	similar to 1.1	combine	Future Park amenities could include: viewpoints, beach access, passive use features, community gardens, cultural features, dog parks, and structures for various community members.
Goal P-2	Work to create an integrated habitat and open space system in Langley, its Urban Growth and Joint Planning Areas in order to preserve large areas of open space beyond the city planning area.	clarify	Reorder goals	Critical areas are the foundation of Langley's parks and open space system and these areas shall be integrated to the greatest extent possible.
P2-1	Ensure that Langley's natural environment is a key to the quality of life and economic development of the City.			

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P2-2	Ensure that the community's heritage of natural assets - shorelines, streams, views, wildlife habitat, riparian corridors, wetlands, steep slopes, agricultural land, and abundant natural vegetation is protected, preserved, and enhanced.	Goal, not policy. Repeat of LU	revise	Protect, preserve and enhance the city's natural areas including shorelines, streams, views, wildlife habitat, riparian corridors, wetlands, steep slopes, and abundant native vegetation.
P2.2.1	Control invasive species by mechanical and non-toxic methods whenever possible.	unclear	Add to LU	Work with property owners, developers and other stakeholders to reduce invasive plant and animal species using mechanical and non-toxic methods, where possible.
P2-3	Implement the Core Area and Corridor Concept to protect habitat and other open space areas, and realize the integrated open space system.	unclear	delete	Integrate Core Areas etc into other policies
P2-4	Ensure that core open space areas and connecting corridors are protected by the city to the greatest extent possible, using tools including but not limited to direct acquisition or non-purchase options to the extent permitted by law, such as conservation easements, development standards and agreements and transfer or purchase of development rights.	repeat of Goal 7/ unclear	Core open space areas and connecting corridors are not clearly defined. It is a concept. Move to Goal 7	Establish and protect wildlife and trail corridors that connect parks and open spaces within the City using a variety of tools including but not limited to acquisition, conservation easements, and transfer of development rights.
P2-5	Protect critical areas and their buffers as wildlife corridors throughout the City. Create trails in these areas when the trail is in the best location to connect areas articulated within the trail Level of Service and the trail is designed to be consistent with the Critical Areas Ordinance.	clarify		Preserve and protect critical areas and their buffers as wildlife and trail corridors. Where trails are located within critical area buffers ensure they will not negatively impact the form and function of the ecosystem.
P2-6	Preserve core open space areas adjacent to the critical area or corridor system to provide large areas for wildlife habitat, community agriculture or other open space amenities.	unclear	delete as these are not defined	

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P2-7	Ensure that all new development contributes to open space that connects with critical area corridors or other open spaces.	repeat but more perscriptive than 1.4 above.	revise and combine with 1.4	Where possible, all new multi-family and mixed use development and subdivisions shall provide open space. Where located adjacent to critical areas open space should be contiguous.
P2-8	Preserve a mixture of core natural areas and open space including farmland, forests, steep slopes and riparian habitat.	similar to 2.6	delete as these are not defined	
P2-9	Integrate all of the above policies into the zoning and development codes.	not possible	delete	
	Policies Specific to Land beyond the Joint Planning Area			
P2-10	Encourage the protection and acquisition of large areas of open space in the county including agricultural, forest, and natural resource lands.	repeat of P2.6 and 2.8	move to JPA/UGA New Goal #1	
P-3	Protect treelines essential to the character of the City of Langley	unclear		Protect and enhance Langley's urban forest.
P3-1	Ensure that a contiguous treeline is preserved in all areas articulated within the tree Level of Service.		there is no tree LOS	Prepare and implement an urban forest strategy to guide tree management on private and public lands in Langley.
P3-2	Work with Island County and the Washington Department of Natural Resources to ensure that treelines in the Urban Growth Area and Joint Planning Area are protected.			Work with Island County and the DNR to develop an urban forest strategy for the UGA and JPA, where possible.
P3-3	Integrate these policies into the zoning and development codes.	too general	delete	

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Goal 4:	Foster attractive and signature gateways at the city entrances	unclear. Is this from the scenic corridor element?	revise as a policy and move to Goal 3 as part of the urban forest strategy. (needs definition)	An urban forest strategy shall include the gateway corridors into the City.
Goal 5:	Develop a trail system that connects parks, open space, residential neighborhoods, and commercial areas inside and outside the City of Langley.		All Goal 5 will move to Transportation element	Develop, maintain, and enhance a trail system that connects parks, riparian areas, waterfront, harbor, open space, residential neighborhoods, and commercial areas inside and outside the City of Langley.
NEW				Develop a trail management plan that includes LOS, funding mechasims, priorities, etc
P5-1	Implement the trail Level of Service through City funding, development regulations, shared use street standards; development set asides, acquisition, easements and other means.	revise		Implement the trail Level of Service through a variety of mechanisms including City funding, development regulations, shared use street standards; development amenities, acquisition, easements and other means.
P5-2	Enhance circulation among parks and open space features and strengthen connections to neighborhoods through the use of the following features:	revise	Put in the context of the trail management plan	The trail management plan shall be designed to enhance circulation between parks and open space features and strengthen connections to neighborhoods through the use of the following features:
	a)Pedestrian Paths and Bikeways. Develop a multi-use pathway or trail system that connects points in the city and areas in the county.			a) A multi-modal pathway or trail system that connects points in the city and areas in the county.
	b) Shared Use Streets. View the street as a social space and an extension of the park, open space and trail system. Design and use streets and alleys for several modes of travel, not just the automobile.			b) Shared use streets/alleys where the streets are an extension of the parks, open space and trail network.
	c)Scenic Roads. Enhance the open space role that scenic corridors play for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.			c) Scenic roads that form Langley's gateway.

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	d) Marine Recreation and Water Access. Increase opportunities for public access to the water and create additional connections between access points along the water. Utilize stream corridors/ ravines as opportunities for developing further access to the water.			d) Increased opportunities for public access to and across the marine and freshwater environments.
P5-3	Develop trail easement guidelines; and work with landowners and encourage the donation of trail easements.		Incorporate with trail management plan policy	e) guidelines for trail easements and working with landowners to encourage the donation of trail easements.
P5-4	Provide public education about trail use etiquette.		move to trail management plan policy	f) public education about trail use etiquette.
P5-5	Approach Island County to include trail easements in the Public Benefit Rating System for reduced property taxes.	keep		
P5-6	Work with Island County to implement the Non-Motorized Trails Plan. Work specifically to achieve a non-motorized connection to the Saratoga Woods and Putney Woods complex.			Work with Island County to implement the 2006 Non-Motorized Trails Plan. Work specifically to achieve a non-motorized connection from Langley to the Saratoga Woods and Putney Woods complex
P5-7	Ensure that new trails utilize native soil as a surface material and that no gravel or manmade surfaces are imported except when handicapped accessibility is sought.	delete	too specific / incorporate with trail management plan above	g) Trail standards for each trail type that would include at a minimum surface requirements, width, grade, etc.
P5-8	Develop new trails that provide access to natural features with minimal disturbance to the ecosystem. Ensure that trail widths are the minimum necessary for the intended user and native vegetation surrounding the trail is retained.	delete	too specific / covered in g) above	
Goal 6	Create a signage system for the parks and open space system.		Incorporate under Goal 1 - POS management plan	Develop a wayfinding program for the City that includes the parks, trails and open spaces.

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P6-1	Develop entrance signage or other methods to identify parks, open space, or trails where public access is allowed.		delete - all part of wayfinding program	
P6-2	Develop a consistent signage and wayfinding system that can be used to guide individuals to parks, open space, and trails throughout the City.		delete - all part of wayfinding program	
P7	Utilize a variety of methods to create , preserve and protect parks, open space, and trails			
P7-1	Develop a broad and creative funding strategy for park creation, open space protection, and trail development. Utilize regulatory, non-regulatory and taxation methods to achieve the acquisition of fee simple property, the acquisition of development rights or easements, the protection of privately owned land, and the use of other organizations' land.			Develop a broad and creative funding strategy to acquire, develop, protect and manage parks, open space, and trails including regulatory and non-regulatory methods.
P7-2	Develop a designated land acquisition fund.		include	Investigate the feasibility of a dedicated land acquisition fund.
P7-3	Ensure that public open space is incorporated as an essential component of new public, residential and commercial development.	repeat of 1.4	delete	
P7-4	Require private development in the city to provide or contribute to open space in proportion to the size and type of development involved. Utilize the option of off-site open space when the parcel is less than two acres in size; when the open space will not be used for community agriculture; and when the parcel does not directly abut neighboring open space or critical area land.	Repeat and too perscriptive	moved from P1-4 but locate in this goal as it's all dealing with acquisition	Review Code regulations and establish clear criteria for new multi-family, mixed use developments, and subdivisions to dedicate public park or public open space or trails.

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P7-5	Take advantage of opportunities to incorporate public open space as an important element of major public projects, including transportation and public utilities and facilities required to meet the increased demand for public services resulting from growth.	simplify		Where possible, capital projects should be designed to incorporate public open space.
P7-6	Maximize the potential of the street system for public use through the use of public rights-of-way, where appropriate, for open space, waterfront access, tree planting, landscaping, pedestrian amenities, recreation space, and view corridors.	unclear	slight revision	Maximize the use of existing rights of way including streets for open space, waterfront access, tree planting, landscaping, pedestrian amenities, recreation space, and view corridors.
P7-7	Retain city-owned lands, including excess rights-of-way, for open space purposes.			Retain city-owned lands, including excess rights-of-way, for open space purposes.
P7-8	Promote private recreation facilities within the city by making allowances for such uses in the zoning and land use regulations.	Change the verb		Permit private recreation facilities to a greater extent.
Goal 8	Ensure that parks, natural areas and trails are well-cared for and maintained to preserve the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the area.	revise		Parks, open spaces and trails shall be well maintained to maximize use consistent with ecological integrity of the area.
P8-1	Write and implement maintenance plans and procedures for each new and existing City-owned park, open space and trail feature. Ensure that these plans and procedures address the following items when applicable:	very detailed	combine with POS management plan	The parks and open space management plan will establish maintenance plans and procedures for existing and future parks, open spaces and trails recognizing Langley's limited resources. These plans shall include the following elements at a minimum:
	1. Irrigation;			a) irrigation
	2. Soil amendment, grading, mulching, and/ or drainage;			b) drainage
	3. Pruning;			c) landscaping requirements
	4. Lawn management;			d) invasive plant species

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	5. Control and/ or eradication of invasive or exotic plant species;			e) structures and facilities
	6. Maintenance of structures and facilities;			f) waste
	7. Garbage removal; and			
	8. Weeding of landscaped areas.			
P8-2	Ensure that each open space parcel donated to the City, or dedicated as open space as part of the recordation of a subdivision or Planned Unit Development, has a maintenance plan to promote the long-term health of the area.	revise		A long term maintenance program shall accompany all parks, trails and open spaces acquired through development approvals to establish budgeting and maintenance requirements.
P8-3	Ensure that each park, open space, and trail acquisition and/ or design is based on realistic maintenance capabilities.	delete	combined with 8-1 above	
P8-4	Include long-term maintenance considerations into the design of each park, open space and trail feature through methods such as the use of native drought tolerant species, low water landscaping design, and the minimization of habitat disturbance.			Parks, trails and open spaces shall be designed with long term maintenance and budgeting considerations.
P8-5	Control and/ or eradicate invasive or exotic plant species in City-owned parks, open space and trails.	repeat of 2.2.1 and 8.1	delete	
P8-6	Develop and implement strategies to encourage owners of privately-owned natural areas and critical areas to control and/ or eradicate invasive or exotic plant species on their land.	repeat of 2.2.1 and 8.1	delete	
P-9	Maximize partnerships to: develop a cooperative, coordinated, and community - based park and open space system; and retain natural amenities essential to the character of Langley.		move to JPA/UGA New Goal #1	

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P9-1	Cooperate with Island County, the South Whidbey School District, the Island County Fair Board, the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District, and others to develop and maintain park and open space areas.		add trails and move to New Goal #1	Cooperate with Island County, the South Whidbey School District, the South Whidbey Port Authority, the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District, and others to develop and maintain park and open space areas and trail corridors.
P9-2	Partner with Island County to better coordinate project review in the Urban Growth Area, Joint Planning Area and beyond to ensure that open spaces and natural amenities important to the character of Langley are preserved during development.		add trails and move to New Goal #1	Partner with Island County to better coordinate project review in the Urban Growth Area, Joint Planning Area and beyond to ensure that open spaces, trail corridors and natural amenities important to the character of Langley are preserved during development.
P9-3	Work with the county and other jurisdictions to establish linkages between open space areas.	repeat	delete	
P9-4	Promote volunteer programs to plan, develop, operate, maintain and improve parks.		move to goal 8 as this deals with maintenance	
P-10	Preserve, protect and expand, when possible, opportunities for the public to have access to and enjoyment of the waterfront area of the city.	simplify		Preserve existing and expand new opportunities for the public to access and enjoy the waterfront.
P10-1	Work cooperatively with the Port District of South Whidbey with the objective of expanding boat moorage, improving the boat ramp and the associated Phil Simon Park, and facilitating public access to the waterfront area.	simplify		Work with the Port of South Whidbey and property owners to expand boat moorage, improve the boat ramp and Phil Simon Park, and facilitate public access to and across the waterfront.
P10-2	Work cooperatively with private property owners as they seek to expand business opportunities in the waterfront area, recognizing the need to do so in an environmentally responsible manner and through means that are consistent with local, State and Federal regulations.	simplify		New or redevelopment of waterfront lands shall be consistent with the Shoreline Master Plan and State and Federal regulations.

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NEW				Work with property owners, developers and other stakeholders to redevelop Seawall Park.

Delete the whole 'Priorities' section below. Many of these priorities are unachievable and others are repetitive.

	Priorities			
1.1	Implement the Core Area and Corridor Concept			
	Continue to protect existing critical areas regulated under the Langley Municipal Code to maintain the natural corridor system that is the foundation for the parks and open space system.			
1.2	Protect core and corridor conservation areas (in the following prioritized order) to supplement the critical area system:			
	1. Agricultural land (Over Fifteen Acres).			
	2. Land adjacent to wetlands and streams.			
	3. Areas that fill gaps between parks and critical areas and critical areas and critical areas.			
	4. Areas of Priority Forests.			
	5. Agricultural Land (Under Fifteen Acres).			
	6. Areas of Other Forests			
	7. Shorelands including areas of shore access.			
	Enhance existing parks and open space amenities			
	Prepare management plans for each City-owned park and natural area within the City of Langley, including items such as maintenance, signage, and desired enhancements.			
	Implement the management plans for selected parks and natural areas.			
	Develop a trail system throughout the City of Langley.			

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	Develop a trail easement information packet, acquire trail easements, and develop trails			
	Work with Island County to implement their Non-motorized Trail Plan, with particular focus on a connection between Langley and the Saratoga/ Putney Woods complex			
NEW P-11	Support Community Agriculture	keep & establish as a goal		Urban agriculture should be an integral component of Langley's Parks and Open Space program.
NEW				Where possible, establish community gardens in public parks and open spaces.
NEW				Consider planting fruit and vegetable producing vegetation for public landscaping.
NEW				Review the Municipal Code and remove barriers to urban agriculture activities on private property.
Section 5. How Do We Pay for Future Projects to be moved to an Appendix. Many of these strategies are identified in Goal 7.				