GOAL PR-1.

Promote a sustainable parks system that fosters opportunities for both active and passive recreation, encourages healthy lifestyles, safeguards natural habitats, and preserves and enhances significant environmental and historical resources.

Objective 1.1: Park System Optimization

Reorganize the County's parks portfolio to prioritize properties and projects that enhance habitat and trail connectivity, preserve open spaces, conserve critical areas, and promote sustainability.

- **Action 1.1.1:** Evaluate and potentially divest existing park-owned properties that do not align with countywide park and recreation objectives to optimize resource allocation and management.
- **Action 1.1.2:** Prioritize acquisition of parcels that enhance connectivity between existing parks, provide equitable access to green spaces, enhance public recreation, protect natural resources, and preserve cultural heritage sites.
- **Action 1.1.3:** Conduct comprehensive land assessments to identify suitable parcels for acquisition based on community input and ecological assessments.
- **Action 1.1.4:** Expand existing parks and trail systems to improve public access and provide recreational opportunities for diverse user groups.

Objective 1.2: Land Acquisition Policies and Procedures

Develop and implement clear policies and procedures for parkland acquisition that prioritize underserved areas lacking access to parks, aligning acquisitions with county park priorities and natural resource conservation goals.

- **Action 1.2.1:** Establish evaluation criteria to assess potential parkland acquisitions based on park planning and community recreation interests.
- **Action 1.2.2:** Develop a pre-acquisition assessment process to evaluate parcels for suitability, environmental impact, and community benefit.
- **Action 1.2.3:** Pursue funding opportunities and partnerships to support parkland acquisition initiatives and enhance countywide recreational opportunities.
- **Action 1.2.4:** Inventory privately-owned properties suitable for park and open space needs to support strategic acquisition efforts.
- **Action 1.2.5:** Develop partnerships with conservation organizations and government agencies to leverage funding opportunities for land acquisition.

Objective 1.3: Park Development and Infrastructure

Develop and enhance park facilities and amenities to accommodate diverse recreational activities and visitor needs.

- **Action 1.3.1:** Conduct feasibility studies and community surveys in conjunction with partnering entities, e.g., school districts, state, and local agencies, to determine demand for specific amenities (e.g., sports fields, playgrounds, trails).
- **Action 1.3.2:** Implement phased development plans for new parks, prioritizing essential infrastructure such as parking, habitat connectivity & preservation, restroom facilities, and interpretive signage.
- **Action 1.3.3:** Establish maintenance protocols to ensure ongoing upkeep and safety of park facilities.

Objective 1.4: Accessibility Improvements

Enhance park & trail accessibility for all users, including those with disabilities, through design improvements and accommodations.

- **Action 1.4.1:** Conduct accessibility assessments and implement ADA-compliant upgrades such as accessible trails, parking, and facilities.
- **Action 1.4.2:** Provide educational resources and training for trail users and volunteers on inclusive trail etiquette and accessibility guidelines.
- **Action 1.4.3:** Collaborate with disability advocacy groups and community organizations to ensure equitable access to trail experiences for all individuals.
- **Action 1.4.4:** Identify and prioritize areas within Kitsap County that lack access to parks and recreation facilities based on the standards defined by park classifications (e.g., neighborhood parks within a 10-minute walk, regional parks within a 30-minute drive). Develop and implement strategies to create new parks or enhance facilities in these underserved locations.

Objective 1.5: Trail Network Expansion

Support the development of a comprehensive network of multi-use trails and greenways by collaborating on planning efforts for trails running through County Parks.

- **Action 1.5.1:** Collaborate with municipalities, agencies, and private landowners to establish trail easements and rights-of-way when necessary to achieve connection to parks.
- **Action 1.5.2:** Support the development of trails for diverse user groups, including pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, and people with disabilities.
- **Action 1.5.3:** Improve trail signage and wayfinding systems to enhance safety, navigation, and user experience.

Objective 1.6: Enhance Resource Alignment & Strategic Partnerships

Ensure the sustainable management and growth of Kitsap County's park system by balancing funding and staffing resources with the size and demands of the system. Strengthen financial capacity, increase staffing to align service delivery with community expectations, and leverage strategic partnerships to efficiently meet the community's recreational and environmental needs.

- **Action 1.6.1:** Explore and implement innovative funding opportunities such as a Metropolitan Park District (MPD), grants, sponsorships, and other revenue-generating initiatives to support park system operations, maintenance, and development.
- **Action 1.6.2:** Assess and adjust staffing levels to match the scope of the park system and ensure the delivery of high-quality services, maintenance, and programming that meet community expectations.
- **Action 1.6.3:** Build and strengthen partnerships with other agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and community groups to share resources and responsibilities, enhancing service delivery without placing undue burden on County resources.

GOAL PR-2.

Develop and implement natural resource management plans to protect biodiversity and cultural resources, establish buffer zones and wildlife corridors, adopt sustainable land management practices, and preserve cultural heritage sites through interpretive signage, educational programs, and collaboration with local tribes and cultural experts.

Objective 2.1: Natural Resource Management Planning

Develop and implement natural resource management plans for all park landscapes managed for conservation and preservation, including but not limited to Heritage Parks, to protect biodiversity, cultural resources, and ecological integrity.

- **Action 2.1.1:** Conduct biodiversity assessments and habitat mapping to prioritize conservation efforts.
- **Action 2.1.2:** Establish buffer zones and wildlife corridors to enhance habitat connectivity and resilience.
- **Action 2.1.3:** Implement sustainable land management practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change on park ecosystems.
- **Action 2.1.4:** Analyze parklands to identify natural resource values, critical areas, and wildlife habitats to guide management practices and recreation facility development.

Objective 2.2: Conservation and Stewardship

Establish & enhance comprehensive stewardship programs to protect and manage natural resources within parklands.

- **Action 2.2.1:** Engage community volunteers in habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, and monitoring of sensitive ecosystems.
- **Action 2.2.2:** Collaborate with educational institutions to conduct ecological research and promote environmental education programs.
- **Action 2.2.3:** Develop partnerships with local tribes and cultural organizations to integrate Indigenous stewardship practices, preserve cultural heritage, and promote traditional ecological knowledge in park management.

GOAL PR-3.

Integrate sustainable design into park planning and development to minimize environmental impact and enhance resource efficiency by incorporating green infrastructure, adopting native landscaping, and implementing energy-efficient practices.

Objective 3.1: Promote Sustainable Park Design and Management

Integrate sustainable design principles into park planning and development to minimize environmental impact and enhance resource efficiency.

- **Action 3.1.1:** Incorporate green infrastructure (e.g., rain gardens, permeable surfaces) to manage stormwater and improve water quality.
- **Action 3.1.2:** Adopt native landscaping practices to enhance biodiversity and reduce maintenance needs.
- **Action 3.1.3:** Implement energy-efficient and environmentally friendly practices in park facility construction and operation.
- **Action 3.1.4:** Identify and reduce potential recreational conflicts during park planning to ensure compatible uses and enhance user experience.

Objective 3.2: Environmental Assessments for Sustainable Planning

Incorporate environmental assessments as a foundational step in park planning and development to ensure sustainable and informed decision-making.

- **Action 3.2.1:** Conduct environmental assessments, including wildlife habitat studies, vegetation surveys, and critical area evaluations, to guide park planning, park uses, and recreation development while minimizing environmental impact.

Objective 3.3: Trail Accessibility and Design

Improve the accessibility and safety of park trails for diverse user groups through inclusive design and infrastructure improvements by conducting accessibility audits, constructing accessible trail segments and amenities, and providing accessible trail maps, signage, and educational materials.

- **Action 3.3.1:** Conduct accessibility audits of park trail systems and prioritize improvements based on ADA guidelines and user feedback.
- **Action 3.3.2:** Design and construct accessible trail segments, trailheads, and amenities to accommodate visitors with mobility challenges.
- **Action 3.3.3:** Provide accessible trail maps, signage, and educational materials to enhance visitor experience and navigation.
- **Action 3.3.4:** Develop and implement a trail classification system to establish design standards and guide maintenance practices, ensuring trails meet the needs of diverse user groups and enhance long-term sustainability.

Objective 3.4: Water Trails Development

Expand and promote the Kitsap Peninsula Water Trail System to enhance marine recreation opportunities and ecotourism.

- **Action 3.4.1:** Designate and develop launch sites and day-use facilities along the water trail to improve access and safety for paddlers.
- **Action 3.4.2:** Partner with Ports and other jurisdictions to establish parking areas and amenities for hand-launch vessels.
- **Action 3.4.3:** Provide educational programs and interpretive signage to promote environmental stewardship and marine conservation along the water trail.

GOAL PR-4.

Enhance visitor amenities and services to improve accessibility and overall experience in County parks by upgrading trail signage, expanding parking and accessibility features, and implementing technology solutions for better engagement.

Objective 4.1: Visitor Services Enhancement

Enhance visitor amenities and services to improve accessibility and overall visitor experience.

- **Action 4.1.1:** Upgrade trail signage, maps, and interpretive displays to provide clear navigation and educational information.
- **Action 4.1.2:** Expand parking facilities and improve accessibility features to accommodate diverse visitor needs.
- **Action 4.1.3:** Implement technology solutions (e.g., mobile apps, virtual tours) to enhance visitor engagement and accessibility.

Objective 4.2: Community Engagement

Foster community stewardship and support through volunteer programs and public outreach initiatives.

- **Action 4.2.1:** Recruit and train volunteer docents to lead educational programs and assist with park maintenance tasks.
- **Action 4.2.2:** Establish partnerships with local schools and youth organizations to promote environmental education and outdoor recreation.
- **Action 4.2.3:** Partner with and host community events and cultural festivals to celebrate local heritage and foster civic pride.
- **Action 4.2.4:** Partner with and host youth programs and clinics in collaboration with sports leagues and educational institutions to foster athletic development at key regional facilities.
- **Action 4.2.5:** Host community events and cultural festivals at event facilities to celebrate local heritage and promote tourism.

Objective 4.3: Trail Outreach Programs

Enhance visitor engagement and education by developing interpretive signage and multimedia resources, partnering with local organizations for educational programs, and organizing community events and guided hikes.

- **Action 4.3.1:** Develop interpretive signage, educational displays, and multimedia resources to inform visitors about local flora, fauna, and cultural history.

- **Action 4.3.2:** Partner with schools, community groups, and nature centers to offer field trips, workshops, and nature walks focused on environmental education.
- **Action 4.3.3:** Organize community events, guided hikes, and outdoor workshops to promote trail use, health, and wellness benefits among residents.

Objective 4.4: Volunteer Stewardship and Educational Programs

Foster a robust volunteer network to support park stewardship, trail maintenance, visitor education, and the promotion of natural, cultural, and historic resources. Expand interpretive and docent-led programs to enhance public awareness, engagement, and appreciation of Kitsap County's diverse landscapes and heritage.

- **Action 4.4.1:** Expand recruitment efforts to attract a diverse pool of volunteers, including youth, seniors, and corporate groups.
- **Action 4.4.2:** Recruit and train volunteers from diverse backgrounds to support trail and park maintenance, environmental conservation, and visitor education efforts.
- **Action 4.4.3:** Provide ongoing training, certification, and professional development opportunities for volunteers to enhance skills in park management, stewardship ethics, and interpretive programming.
- **Action 4.4.4:** Recognize and reward volunteer contributions through appreciation events, certification milestones, and commendation programs to encourage retention and morale.
- **Action 4.4.5:** Collaborate with environmental education groups, historical societies, and community organizations to expand interpretive and docent-led programs that highlight natural, cultural, and historic resources.
- **Action 4.4.6:** Recruit and train volunteers for existing docent programs to lead interpretive tours and educational programs in parklands.
- **Action 4.4.7:** Encourage the development of interpretive docent programs by environmental education groups, historical societies, and community organizations to diversify educational offerings in parks.

Objective 4.5: Cultural Heritage Preservation

Preserve and interpret cultural heritage sites within Heritage Parks to educate the public about local history and indigenous cultures.

- **Action 4.7.1:** Develop interpretive signage and educational programs to highlight the historical significance of park landmarks.
- **Action 4.7.2:** Collaborate with local tribes and cultural experts to ensure respectful stewardship of ancestral lands and archaeological sites.

- **Action 4.7.3:** Promote public engagement through heritage tours, workshops, and community events celebrating cultural diversity.

GOAL PR-5.

Enhance event and athletic facilities through infrastructure improvements, efficient management, and revenue-generating strategies to support local recreation and attract regional events. Position Kitsap County as a premier recreation destination by showcasing its unique assets, supporting local businesses, and promoting sustainable practices.

Objective 5.1: Facility Management Efficiency

Optimize service delivery and revenue generation by streamlining facility management operations through facility management programs, enhanced reservation systems, improved customer service, and exploring sponsorship and marketing opportunities.

- **Action 5.1.1:** Develop and implement an facility management program to track facility inventory, condition, and lifecycle costs.
- **Action 5.1.2:** Enhance reservation systems and customer service protocols to improve user experience and maximize facility usage.
- **Action 5.1.3:** Explore sponsorship and marketing opportunities to increase revenue streams and support facility upgrades and programs.

Objective 5.2: Recreation Tourism Development

Position Kitsap County as a destination for recreation tourism through strategic marketing and event management.

- **Action 5.2.1:** Create marketing campaigns highlighting Kitsap County's unique recreational assets, e.g., the birthplace of pickleball, and event venues to attract regional and national events.
- **Action 5.2.2:** Collaborate with tourism agencies, chambers of commerce, and local businesses to promote lodging, dining, and retail opportunities for event attendees.
- **Action 5.2.3:** Evaluate economic impacts and return on investment for major events and tourism initiatives to inform future planning and decision-making.
- **Action 5.2.4:** Establish eco-friendly guidelines and best practices for local outfitters, tour operators and visitors to minimize environmental impact.

Objective 5.3: Adaptive Event Support and Community Engagement

Track trends in community needs and recreational events to enhance Kitsap County's ability to provide appropriate services, facilities, and support equipment, ensuring the County remains a premier recreation destination.

- ◆ **Action 5.3.1:** Conduct regular assessments of recreational trends, community preferences, and event demands to inform planning and resource allocation.
- ◆ **Action 5.3.2:** Expand the County's inventory of event support equipment and facilities to accommodate a wider range of events and activities.
- ◆ **Action 5.3.3:** Develop partnerships with event organizers, businesses, and community groups to align services with emerging needs and attract diverse events.
- ◆ **Action 5.3.4:** Monitor event satisfaction and community feedback to identify areas for improvement.

GOAL PR-6.

Ensure high standards in park maintenance and operations by establishing standardized management practices and effectively allocating resources to sustain park facilities and natural settings.

Objective 6.1: Standardized Management Practices

Establish and implement standardized management practices for park facilities and natural settings by developing and updating field manuals, conducting regular facility assessments, and integrating management prescriptions into staffing and funding levels.

- ◆ **Action 6.1.1:** Develop and update operational field manuals and maintenance protocols based on best practices and industry standards.
- ◆ **Action 6.1.2:** Conduct regular assessments of park facilities and recreational areas to ensure compliance with maintenance standards and visitor expectations.
- ◆ **Action 6.1.3:** Integrate management prescriptions into staffing and funding levels to support sustainable park operations and visitor services.

Objective 6.2: Resource Allocation and Management

Effectively allocate resources to manage open spaces and diverse parkland facilities by developing a Park Management Prospectus, establishing maintenance standards, and implementing green infrastructure solutions.

Point No Point Park

- **Action 6.2.1:** Develop a Park Management Prospectus to identify property assets, public access determinations, and resource management needs.
- **Action 6.2.2:** Establish maintenance and operation standards to optimize facility longevity and enhance visitor experiences across park facilities.
- **Action 6.2.3:** Seek partnerships with stormwater programs.

Objective 6.3: Trail Management Enhancement

Ensure safe and sustainable trail experiences through comprehensive maintenance programs and the use of technology.

- **Action 6.3.1:** Establish regular trail maintenance schedules and protocols for vegetation management, erosion control, and infrastructure upkeep.
- **Action 6.3.2:** Train and deploy volunteer trail stewards to assist with trail monitoring, maintenance, and emergency response.
- **Action 6.3.3:** Utilize technology such as GPS trail markers and mobile apps to improve trail monitoring, emergency response, and visitor safety.
- **Action 6.3.4:** Develop and implement management practices to improve trail safety and reduce user conflicts.

Objective 6.4: Trail Maintenance and Sustainability

Implement sustainable trail management practices to preserve natural resources and ensure long-term trail viability.

- **Action 6.4.1:** Develop a trail maintenance plan with scheduled inspections, routine maintenance tasks, and volunteer engagement opportunities.
- **Action 6.4.2:** Utilize environmentally friendly trail construction materials and techniques to minimize ecological footprint and erosion risks.
- **Action 6.4.3:** Collaborate with conservation organizations and volunteer groups to conduct habitat restoration and invasive species management along trail corridors.

Objective 6.5: Facility Upgrades and Maintenance

Upgrade and maintain event and athletic facilities to attract regional events and support local recreation programs through condition assessments, proactive maintenance schedules, cost-effective management strategies, and improved data tracking systems.

- **Action 6.5.1:** Conduct facility condition assessments and prioritize infrastructure upgrades based on safety, usability, and market demand.
- **Action 6.5.2:** Implement a proactive maintenance schedule for buildings, fields, and equipment to extend their operational lifespan.
- **Action 6.5.3:** Evaluate cost-effective strategies for facility management, including outsourcing services and exploring public-private partnerships.
- **Action 6.5.4:** Explore options to re-build usage data on key regional facilities, including implementing new data tracking systems.

By implementing these structured goals, objectives, and actions, Kitsap County can effectively plan, manage, and steward its park system to meet current and future community needs while preserving natural and cultural resources for generations to come.

Harper Park