

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING
COMMISSION TO THE PARKS DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE 2025 PROS PLAN
UPDATE.

Section 1. General Findings.

The Kitsap County Planning Commission finds as follows:

1. Kitsap County is subject to the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), Chapter 36.70A RCW. Parks and Recreation is a mandatory Comprehensive Plan element per RCW 36.70A.070(8).
2. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space element of the Comprehensive Plan was updated in December 2024. This PROS Plan implements the Comprehensive Plan.
3. The GMA, in RCW 36.70A.130(1), mandates that Kitsap County's Comprehensive Plan and development regulations be subject to continuing review and evaluation.
4. The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requires jurisdictions to update their Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plans every six (6) years in order to be eligible for RCO's grant program per WAC 286-13-040(2).
5. The last update to the Kitsap County PROS Plan was completed in 2018.
6. The 2025 PROS Plan will be adopted by reference into the 2024 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan.
7. Kitsap County Code (KCC) Chapter 21.08.100 establishes procedures for Planning Commission review of the County's comprehensive plan, development regulations, and amendments thereto. In its making recommendations, the Planning Commission shall consider:
 - a. whether the proposal is supported by the capital facility plan;
 - b. whether the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the GMA, Kitsap Countywide Planning Policies or other applicable laws or provisions of the Comprehensive Plan;
 - c. whether the proposal reflects current local circumstances; and
 - d. whether the proposal bears a substantial relationship to the public's general health, safety, morals or welfare.

Section 2. General Procedural Findings.

The Kitsap County Planning Commission finds as follows:

1. The Parks Department held multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the 2025 PROS Plan Update process. The Parks Department kept a record of these public engagement opportunities and their dates.

2. The Parks Department sent notifications for public engagement opportunities via GovDelivery (all Kitsap County subscribers), Volgistics (the Department's volunteer contact list), RecDesk (the Department's events and facility renters contact list), social media posts (via both Kitsap County and Parks Department accounts), and flyers placed at parks. Public engagement opportunities throughout the plan development process included three community surveys, community open houses, and interviews with stakeholder groups.
3. The Parks Department released the Draft PROS Plan on February 10, 2025 for a five-week public comment period (running through March 16, 2025). During this comment period, the Parks Department held three community presentations to share information about the Draft Plan and collect community comments. The Parks Department received a total of 447 comments during this period.
4. The Parks Department provided the Parks Advisory Board (PAB) project updates and opportunities for engagement during plan development and the draft public comment period. On April 16, 2025, the PAB voted to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that they approve and adopt the 2025 PROS Plan.
5. The Parks Department provided a dedicated project website for the PROS Plan, which includes an overview of the project, original and revised drafts of the PROS Plan, comments received during the public comment period, a list of edits made to the PROS Plan, public presentation, and a project schedule.
6. Parks Department staff submitted a PROS Plan and Comprehensive Plan consistency review to the Department of Community Development (DCD) for review on April 2, 2025, and on April 3, 2025, DCD staff determined the PROS Plan to be consistent with the 2024 Comprehensive Plan.
7. On April 15, 2025, during a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting, the Planning Commission held a briefing to review the scope and purpose of the PROS Plan Update.
8. On April 29, 2025, a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Non-significance was issued for the 2025 PROS Plan. A 14-day comment period concluded on May 13, 2025. No SEPA comments were received.
9. On May 5, 2025, the County published the Draft PROS Plan and Appendices, SEPA DNS, and SEPA checklist to the Planning Commission website.
10. On May 6, 2025, during a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting, the Planning Commission held a work study session to review and discuss the proposed PROS Plan Update.

11. On May 20, 2025, following timely and effective public notification, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to accept comments and testimony from interested parties.
12. On May 20, 2025, the written comment period closed with 48 comments received. The comment period was extended to May 27, 2025, and seven additional comments were received.
13. On June 3, 2025, during a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting, the Planning Commission considered the 2025 PROS Plan, the testimony presented, and the record, and made a recommendation via approved motion during deliberations.
9. On June 17, 2025, during a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting, the Planning Commission approved findings of fact, conclusions, and recommendations regarding the 2025 PROS Plan and forwarded them to the Parks Department for consideration by the Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners.

Section 3. General Substantive Findings.

The Kitsap County Planning Commission finds as follows:

1. The 2025 PROS Plan was developed with multiple opportunities for public participation and comment as required by the GMA.
2. The 2025 PROS Plan is consistent with the requirements of GMA, chapter 36.70A RCW, the County-wide Planning Policies, the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan, Kitsap County Code, and other applicable laws and policies.
3. The 2025 PROS Plan is consistent with the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan by:
 - a. Promoting a system of parks and recreation facilities to serve a population of diverse ages, backgrounds, abilities, and interests.
 - b. Directing the development and implementation of natural resource management plans for lands managed for conservation and preservation.
 - c. Promoting equitable access to parks and open spaces.
 - d. Fulfilling state requirements for parks and open space planning and remaining eligible for RCO grants.
4. The 2025 PROS Plan promotes the public interest and welfare of the citizens of Kitsap County.

NOW THEREFORE, the Kitsap County Planning Commission recommends to the Parks Department as follows:

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the 2025 PROS Plan as proposed by staff, and as amended by the Planning Commission.

1 This motion passed unanimously and was supported by 1 approved motion that made changes to
2 the 2025 PROS Plan presented by staff, which is shown in Attachment 2. No recommendations
3 or edits were made to the Appendices.

4 **Attachments**

5 **1 – Draft PROS Plan & Appendices**

6 **2 – Deliberations Table with Planning Commission Amendments**
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8 **APPROVED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF KITSAP COUNTY,**
9 **WASHINGTON, AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF, HELD THIS 17th DAY OF**
10 **JUNE, 2025**
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14 **BY** _____
15 **ALAN BEAM, CHAIR**