

DRAFT PROS Plan Public Comments & Staff Responses				
Category	Date	Source	Comment	Staff Response
Appendices	2/10/2025	Online Form	Data could have been cleaned better. There are many write in responses with the same and could have been tallied and added into the figures or groups so that they could be included.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Appendices	2/10/2025	Online Form	P 728 single comment "Trailhead off of Hansville road" - not sure what this means; there are already trailheads on both sides of the road and no other practical place to put one.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Appendices	3/3/2025	Online Form	We would love veterans memorial park to have a priority over other parks in the county. I am a long time residential of port orchard and have kids playing soccer and other sport here. We would love to see the fields we updated with no pot holes and possible lights! We have lots of play grounds and picnic areas in port orchard and surrounding areas! Please make veterans memorial a BIG priority for kitsap county.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Appendices	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a long time community member of South Kitsap I would love to see improvements to the Veterans Park. My older kids played sports at this park and now my grand kids play there. The fields are in need of repair and I would love to see turf and lights so the fields could be utilized year round. It is a shame that we do not have more turf fields in South Kitsap to be equal to the surrounding area parks. Veteran's park is not in need of a playground or picnic areas, we have plenty of those parks in the area. We need competitive sports fields.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Appendices	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a resident of South Kitsap, parent of 4 young sports players, and community board member for various things I feel very strongly that South Kitsap desperately needs some love to our athletic fields. We have so many great parks with a ton of potential but they just get overlooked. I was disappointed to see that Veterans Memorial park is no longer a top priority for the county when I attended the PROS planning meeting a few weeks ago. Our kids travel all over the county and most other places have at least one nice turf field to use in their community. South kitsap doesn't have any. Veterans memorial is ready for some love!! Let's help our kids play sports safely and be proud of their home field! Please move Veterans to a higher priority!!	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Appendices	3/7/2025	Online Form	Regarding bikeways, I live near Kingston and know I will want to ride my bike into town but I am concerned about doing it along the highway shoulder. I definitely support a focus on enhancing bikeways including widening highway shoulders.	Comment noted. Right of way projects fall out of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, but comments received on the topics will be shared with the Public Works Department.
Appendices	3/7/2025	Online Form	Upgrading Veterans Memorial Park to provide a safe space for children to participate in sporting activities is crucial, especially given the current challenges of poor field conditions and lack of lighting. The park's fields are in need of significant improvement, as the worn-out surfaces can lead to injuries and make it difficult for kids to enjoy their games. Without proper lighting, the park limits playtime, especially in the evening, reducing opportunities for young athletes to practice or participate in team sports. By addressing these issues—upgrading the field surfaces, adding proper lighting, and ensuring safe, accessible equipment—we can create a more enjoyable and secure environment for children to stay active, while fostering a greater sense of community and well-being.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Appendices	3/8/2025	Online Form	Remember: parks are our lungs. Without parks there is no oxygen. And without oxygen? Death and decaying We need to keep preserve and increase the amount of parks in Kitsap county. Let's not have Kitsap county turn into urban jungle. Let's read a book, "The Well-Gardened Mind" about the importance of green spaces on healing cancers and other other illnesses and the importance to bring value to scholars' grades in schools. Let's live to the fullest thanks to green spaces like parks where all living creatures can play be happy joyous and free.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Appendices	3/8/2025	Online Form	For all surveys in general, it would be great if we could get increased participation. Use-maps are only valuable if you have an accurate population reporting. This may have been mentioned in the survey as it's very basic statistics, but just to reiterate- for example young parents with children of the population age 12-27 are likely heavy users of public parks, but have a lack of representation.	Comment noted. The public surveys represent one data point for understanding needs in our community. We also conducted stakeholder interviews during plan development and reviewed comments received during public comment. We will take all of these community touchpoints into consideration when evaluating capital projects and Department decision making. Additionally, there will be outreach and community engagement around park planning and development. More information on all engagement efforts for the PROS Plan can be found in Appendix C.
Appendices	3/8/2025	Online Form	I agree with Lisa Hurt.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Appendices	3/14/2025	Online Form	I am writing to strongly advocate for the inclusion of Veterans Memorial Park in the county's upcoming updates. For too long, this vital community space has been neglected, leaving our children and athletes without safe and competitive fields to play on. It is time to invest in our community's future by revitalizing these fields and ensuring they meet the needs of South Kitsap's growing youth sports programs.  One of the most critical updates needed is the installation of a lighted turf field. Many soccer clubs across Western Washington already have access to such facilities, putting our local athletes at a disadvantage. A turf field with lights would allow for more consistent use throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions, and enable our teams to host competitive matches without worrying about unplayable field conditions.  Additionally, it is essential to level the existing fields and install proper lighting throughout the park. Uneven playing surfaces not only limit the ability to play and practice effectively but also increase the risk of injury. Quality fields are more than just a luxury—they are a necessity for fostering skill development, teamwork, and a sense of community.  South Kitsap's children deserve fields that are safe, modern, and accessible. For years, the county allowed the homeless population to take over Veterans Memorial Park, leading to its deterioration. Now, it is time to restore what was lost and give our children a place where they can play, grow, and take pride in their community.  Investing in these updates is not just about improving soccer fields—it is about investing in the well-being of our youth and strengthening our community. I urge you to prioritize Veterans Memorial Park in the county's improvement plans and ensure that our children have the facilities they deserve.  Thank you for your time and consideration.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.

Appendices	3/14/2025	Online Form	Enforce dogs off leash..I'm so sick of it..and the people who do it act so entitled and are nadyt should you have the audacity to complain	Comment noted. There are park rules signs posted at entrances to every park, which indicate dogs are not allowed off leash (with the exception of off-leash dog parks). The Department does not have enforcement program and relies on the Kitsap County Sheriff Department for rule enforcement.
Appendices	3/14/2025	Online Form	Stop taxes too high	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Appendices	3/15/2025	Online Form	The appendices for open-ended questions needs more synthesis. Raw data should of course be retained but would not typically be put in the appendices of this type of report.	Comment noted. The analysis of the survey data is included in the PROS Plan Public Involvement chapter.
Appendices	3/15/2025	Online Form	The data Appendices should be analyses of data not the raw data. The raw data needs to be kept on file but not put in the report. For example question-by-question analyses of survey data would be appropriate and then the body of the report highlights the most important questions, clearly linked to important data that aligns with intended use by the public and RCO.	Comment noted. The analysis of the survey data is included in the PROS Plan Public Involvement chapter.
Appendices	3/15/2025	Online Form	Leave Banner Forest aline	Comment noted. The Department is currently working on updating its Forest Stewardship Policy and Implementation Plan. More information will be available later this year.
Appendices	3/15/2025	Online Form	638 pages of mostly meaningless survey forms.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Appendices	3/15/2025	Online Form	The public needs more time to provide input and to study the plan. I received the plan 2 days before your deadline and am on the list to receive all county notifications!	Comment noted. See Appendix C for a list of all County and Department communications regarding the PROS Plan public comment period.
Appendices	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>The 2025 PROS Plan should have been a document that made improvements on the 2018 PROS Plan and instead a totally rewritten document is being presented that does not do enough to reflect or build on the many positive aspects of the 2018 plan. The 2018 PROS Plan Appendix (p.133) "Kitsap County Landscape Classification and Public Access Planning Process" section provides a plan to address many of the issues brought up to classify and ensure appropriate use and protection for Kitsap County parks in the 2025 PROS Plan.The 2018 provides an example using Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park for "Developing Landscape Stewardship and Public Use Guiding Principles". The 2018 Appendix also includes a classification system, and the "LAND CLASSIFICATION RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS". The land classification resource provides an outline on p.138 providing a process that is not carried over or clearly addressed in this detail in the 2025 PROS Plan.</p> <p>The only real reference to this same type of process in 2025 is in Appendix G "Review of Previous Plans" under the "Great Peninsula Conservancy Plan (2021-2025)" where there is a mention how GPC's "plan aligns closely with the current PROS Plan..." yet there is no process clearly stated in the 2025 PROS Plan or any of the Appendices that show how the County Parks Department will achieve the GPC plan.</p> <p>Conservation was mentioned often in the public surveys presented in the 2025 PROS Plan, "Public Survey 2: Project Visioning/Community Mapping Summary", (p.61) where 223 participants "identified 1506 locations where they would like to see conservation efforts and specific amenities within the county." If this and similar public issues are to be addressed then a more specific process as provided in the 2018 Appendix should be provided in the 2025 PROS Plan. Having these guidelines identified in the PROS Plan are important to measure the progress and success for managing our parks.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The current PROS Update builds on the 2018 PROS Plan. The concepts in the 2018 PROS goals and objectives are included in the update, they have just been updated to include the recent inventory analysis, demand and need analysis, and public engagement. The goals have also been reorganized to better align with Department operations.</p> <p>The landscape management zones still exist and will be used to guide management and allowed uses in specific areas of parks.</p> <p>The County is not responsible for achieving the GPC Plan. A summary of that plan was provided in the Appendix to highlight how GPC's goals and initiatives relate to and align with the conservation goals, objectives, and projects in the PROS Plan.</p>
Appendices	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>Parks Advisory Board</p> <p>The Parks Advisory Board (PAB) seems to be sidelined throughout the Draft PROS Plan. The PAB needs to be properly included in the development of the PROS Plan and its role presented in the Plan.</p> <p>The PAB, established through Kitsap County Code (Chapter 10.12), is an important body in the operations and governance of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks website says that the PAB "functions as an interface between the community and the county. The Board provides advice to the Commissioners and the Director of Parks concerning the acquisition, development, and administration of parks and recreation facilities throughout the County." Yet, the PAB seems to be sidelined in the plan. For example,</p> <p>The information presented to the public through the presentations being given in February and March 2025 are misleading in this regard. The PAB is listed as one of the stakeholder interview groups (slide 11 of PROS presentation), yet the Plan does not include it.</p> <p>Table 3-1 (p.50) does not include the PAB as one of the stakeholder groups interviewed. It is not included in Appendix H where stakeholder interviews are summarized (pp. 756-758).</p> <p>Pages 39 – 41 of the PROS Plan draft presents the Operations &amp; Governance of the Parks Department. The PAB is not involved in the operations or governance of the Parks Department.</p> <p>There is no indication in the Plan that the PAB was given early versions of the PROS plan for its review. As the key advisory group for the Parks Department, it should have an important role in the development of the written document.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Department shared project updates and collected feedback from the Parks Advisory Board throughout the PROS Plan update process. The PAB was also interviewed by the consultant during the stakeholder interviews. See Appendix C for more information on engagement efforts throughout the process, including all touchpoints with the PAB.</p> <p>The Stakeholder Outreach Matrix (Table 3-1) has been updated to include the Parks Advisory Board, a paragraph summarizing their interview has been added, and a section discussing the PAB's role has been added to the Operations &amp; Governance section.</p>
Appendices	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>1) Disorganized reference to the source documents that were supposedly foundational, many are missing and not referenced in a meaningful way in the Plan.</p> <p>2) The responses from the public surveys are a sea of data that appears to be meant for RCO number-crunching, and does not accurately reflect what the public actually prioritized.</p> <p>3) Natural habitat and conservation were rated highest importance by the public response, yet the PLAN disregards this and lists "safety" and "recreational sports fields " as priorities. Clearly there is a disconnect between the data collected, and the conclusions drawn.</p>	Comment noted. The existing plans section in the PROS Plan has been organized to clarify where the review of each plan is located (either in the PROS Plan or within Appendix G). The Appendix includes the raw data from the public surveys, the PROS Plan includes the analyzed data. Environmental preservation is also included as a priority resulting from the public survey results (pg. 60).
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	We want a turf soccer field and lights SK united number 4 for my whole soccer team. So we have a safe place to play soccer.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.

Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	We want turf soccer fields with lights. Thank you! We also want some gates so soccer balls don't go very far. From: SK United.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	I want a turf field and lighting because the fields are bumpy to play on and bumpy to play on in the dark while playing.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	We want a turf soccer field and lights for SK United number 4 and different soccer teams.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	May we get more soccer fields with turf and lights for the soccer teams and 1 more playground.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	I've been active in the Port Orchard community as a father & a coach. Our fields and play areas are in very poor condition compared to other areas of the peninsula. I feel parks in the south district have been neglected too long and improvements should be prioritized for safety and improvement of South Kitsap.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	Prioritize Veterans Park for full development. Soccer fields/baseball, walking trails, dog park, pickle ball. It's 48 acres and can accommodate all with investment. Partner with SK Soccer Club & SKGSH softball & others to maintain.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	Big supporter of ball fields - brings the community together, supports children's development, etc.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Verbal Comment (SK Meeting)	We need field repairs - I have gotten several ankle injuries because of the poor condition of the fields. I think they should be better. Also lighting for fields.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Online Form	We desperately need fields for youth sports that are open to year round use (DRAINAGE!)	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Online Form	Vetrans memorial park is 43 Acre. This park serves 40-100 youth 6 days a week and their families even at the poor condition. Prioritizing the potential by installing lighting for year around sports for soccer and baseball. Fixing the soccer layout to accomidate all 2000 kids who use it in the fall and create space for other needed elements like pickle ball, walking trails, dog park. It could be an amazing space for the community and needs to be prioritized as the south kitsap are is under served with adequate areas for the above specified	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Online Form	Veterans park improved soccer fields and lights.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/21/2025	Online Form	I have a daughter in South Kitsap soccer and her team frequently uses Veterans Park. I would really like to see more funding for Veterans Park. I feel that improvements and upgrades to the park would absolutely increase community pride and morale, not just for our team. We want the community, visitors, and visiting teams to be able to see this pride reflected in the park. Please consider funding the Veterans Memorial Park!	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/23/2025	Online Form	Veterans park is somewhere I played soccer everyday from 6-17 years old and I believe it needs to be a priority as it is still used daily by many in our community. As a child I played on the field every day for years and was at constant risk of rolling an ankle due to unlevel ground on fields.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/28/2025	Online Form	Veterans park needs better lighting and better fields	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.

Capital Improvement Program	2/21/2025	Online Form	South Kitsap parks are under addressed. I have had 20 year worth of children practicing soccer at vetrans park. South Kitsap and Vetrans park has not been provided with resources to keep up with other parks with sport facilities. Vetrans park needs to be made a priority on this plan. Waiting 6 years does not do it justice.  Why install expensive restrooms for them to be vandalized or locked to the public. Maybe sani cans at trail heads would service the public without providing shelter to the homeless or waist money on a locked bathroom not being used.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	2/10/2025	Online Form	So many parking projects expensive, and slotted for the next 1-6 years when the public isn't that desirous of it. Instead I saw themes of increasing connectivity and adding or improving facilities like shelters, bathrooms, and an outpouring for disc golf (yet disc golf is slotted for years 6+?). I don't think the capital improvement program is aligned with the hard work you did to gather surveys and input from the stakeholders.	Comment noted. The development of the Capital Improvement Project list was informed by community outreach and is organized around themes that arose from public surveys during PROS development. The CIP list includes a number of restroom, shelter/park development, and disc golf course projects targeted for the 1-6 year timeframe.
Capital Improvement Program	2/10/2025	Online Form	1. Item under Connectivity and Trail Development on p 115 "Adding new trailheads at locations such as Hansville Greenway..." I assume this only applies to the new 10-acre parcel connecting Upper and Lower Hawk's Pond. Every other possible location for a trailhead that does not cross private property and has road access already has a trailhead. There are 13 trailheads. 2. Capital Improvement Funding Table 6-3 p 122 repeats "Improving the connection from Buck Lake Park parking lot and restrooms to Hansville Greenway trails" There is a connection now - just walk across the open field. Do you plan to disrupt the ball field and event parking area to construct a trail? 3. Capital Improvement Funding Table 6-3 p 124: Buk Lake Park -"Add a picnic shelter." There is already a picnic shelter there. Do you plan to build another one?	Comment noted. 1. This trailhead proposal came from public comment on Public Survey #2 and is not included in the Capital Improvement Project list. 2. The proposed connection could include signage directing visitors from Buck Lake Park parking lot to the Hansville Greenway Trails and/or a new trail connection. 3. The proposed project is an additional picnic shelter.
Capital Improvement	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK)	Concerning "bathrooms": Please focus on port-a-potties rather than pit toilets.	Comment noted and will be considered at the project phase.
Capital Improvement	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK)	Agree to handrails needed to stairway at Point No Point. 2 levels for adults & children. Yes to restroom/porta potties even esp at Newberry Hill.	Comment noted and will be considered at the project phase.
Capital Improvement	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK)	No pump station in Arness Park.	Comment noted. Pump station projects fall outside of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, but the comment will be shared with the Public Works Department.
Capital Improvement Program	2/11/2025	Online Form	all county skateparks are uncovered and decades old now. there is tremendous potential to do something extraordinary and create a regional covered skatepark that can host tournaments and events - suggest placing somewhere at the fairgrounds so it's central to all the county. @poulsboskateparkk can help advise.	Comment noted. The project suggestion will be noted to be evaluated further in the future.
Capital Improvement Program	2/12/2025	Online Form	The Sound to Olympics trail network should be included in the capital improvement planning process. We have received two grants detailing the feasibility and preliminary engineering for the route through Port Gamble, as well as funds spent by Rayonier to develop the connection through the Babcock property. It is time to get this project built.	Comment noted. The STO is managed by the County's Public Works Department, which is why it is not included in the Capital Improvement Project list in the PROS Plan. Objective 1.5 is focused on trail networks and speaks to collaborating on planning efforts for trails running through County parks and Action 1.5.2 is focused on supporting development of trails for diverse user groups.
Capital Improvement Program	2/12/2025	Online Form	Comment regarding plans for sports fields in North Kitsap. I've written to County Commissioners previously about the Bond Road rezone and Rotary plan for building sports fields and YMCA adjacent to Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. I think this is a bad idea. Sports fields and facilities like that should be built either close to Kingston public schools, or in conjunction with the city of Poulsbo's PERC site near Olympic College. The Bond Road location would diminish the Natural Resources of PGFH park and be an unsightly contributor to suburban sprawl. I urge the county park department to not support that location.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Capital Improvement Program	2/12/2025	Online Form	I did not see any mention of the new habitat restoration happening at Norwegian point park. How is that going to connect to the new fishing pier and restored cabins? Also I would really like to see an actual pedestrian crosswalk in that area, as people come around the blind curve by the Hansgrille quite fast. There are quite a few folks in the neighborhood who walk to and from the park, bakery and Hansgrille daily. Plus visitors of the park crossing the street to access the bakery, grill, or post office. The back in angle street parking proposal is only going to make this area more dangerous for pedestrians I fear. I am very in favor of the habitat restoration, I just want to see it connect to the other amenities in the area. Also would love to see the fishing cabins as a place for pop ups. You could rent them out to food vendors, craft vendors, or markets. Make money for the county and provide engagement for the neighborhood.	Comment noted. The Finn Creek Restoration Project, managed by the Wild Fish Conservancy, is working through conceptual design and identifying funding sources, after which it will go to the Board of County Commissioners for a decision. Park design comments will be notes and taken into consideration as applicable during park development phase. There will also be additional community engagement opportunities during that time.
Capital Improvement Program	2/19/2025	Online Form	I will emphasize the need for better parking, but unless there are better and safer trails the parking will only become and entry for homeless camps. Wicks Lake Park does not need a disc golf course, it needs better trails and trail connections to other facilities.	Comment noted. Developing a trail network in the park, as well as improving parking and access, and developing park amenities are identified in the Capital Improvement Project list in the PROS Plan, targeted for the 1-6 year timeframe.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	CIP Feedback: as you work to develop parks for access (category 2) & trails (category 6) I'd like to ask that category 7 (natural resources) always be considered --> conservation & restoration Wicks Lake --> yes! Thank you Recommendation: Issue parks "access cards" to county residents (pay as you go system - low cost) to give users a passcard w/ a key code that can be used to open a door electronically --> controlled bathroom access	Comment noted. Objective 3.2 and Action 3.2.1 speak to conducting environmental assessments ahead of park planning efforts to inform and guide park use and development. Restroom options will be explored.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	We need more pickleball courts and better soccer/turf fields.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities. The Parks Department also recognizes the community's desire for pickleball courts. The Capital Improvement Project list includes pickleball projects in each Commissioner District.
Capital Improvement Program	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	Recreational - tennis court can be shared with pickleball. Both would be great and welcomed. Similar comment on soccer field - it can act as an open space for other activities (frisbee, etc.)	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities. The Parks Department also recognizes the community's desire for pickleball courts. The Capital Improvement Project list includes pickleball projects in each Commissioner District.
Capital Improvement Program	2/21/2025	Online Form	All parks need a map of the trails at each entrance. I am frequently asked by new visitors where the trails go or how long they are. At harper park, the ball field is used daily by a number of people as an off leash dog area. Since that is what most people are using it for now, perhaps that should be the top capital improvement project.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes the need for maps and signage. Objective 3.3 and its subsequent actions speak to improving trail map and signage at park facilities. The dog park suggestion will be noted and evaluated further.

Capital Improvement Program	2/24/2025	Online Form	Is a Capital Improvement Plan that includes Ecological restoration omitted? or did I miss seeing it? For example Harper Park and the Harper estuary has completed phase one of restoration. Phase two is scheduled for the summer of 2026 removing additional industrial fill and placement of a 120 foot bridge . There is still a phase three needed to remove additional brick fill from the shoreline. Also Harper Creek needs restoration through the section of Harper Park to the west of Southworth Drive. These would be capital project in my opinion but I don't see any of these type projects listed in the PROS plan. There are most likely similar project in other parks.	Comment noted. The referenced bridge project at Harper Park and Estuary Restoration is a Public Works project that happens to be located at Harper Park. There is a Conservation/Landscape Resilience category in the Capital Improvement Project list with a number of projects identified. There may be more projects that are identified and added if capacity is available. Additionally, there are many restoration projects that are outside the scope of the CIP and PROS Plan.
Capital Improvement Program	3/4/2025	Email	The motion is to add 3 line items to the CIP Table 6-3, for Commissioner District 3 (which is the Central Kitsap District of Katie Walters), for the Illahee Preserve Heritage Park.  1. Acquire the 'Heart of the Park' properties. Cat 1, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ , Funding Options: Same as the others Note: This is KC Parks RCO grant 24-1777 ILLAHEE PRESERVE PH 3 HEART OF THE PARK which shows up in Prism as "Pending" funding, which is expected to be funded as there were only 8 applications submitted in the Urban Wildlife category. This is planned to be a multi-year phased acquisition of the 13 properties listed to purchase. 2. Acquire the Watershed Park properties, Cat 1, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ , Funding Options: Same as the others Note: This is KC Parks RCO grant 24-1770 ILLAHEE PRESERVE WATERSHED PARK PH 1 which also shows up in Prism as "Pending" funding. This is an acquisition grant for the 9.6-acre parcel and the last remaining Elliott property, presuming the 3.7-acre home property is purchased first. The acquisition needs to precede the development of the watershed park. 3. Develop Watershed Park with local park amenities along with planned watershed related educational exhibits. Cat 8, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ , Funding Options: Same Note: This is being planned as a future collaborative project between Kitsap County Parks and Bremerton Parks due to its proximity to Bremerton, which meets Bremerton's needs for an additional park in East Bremerton. It is additionally being proposed as a major Kitsap Public Facilities District (PFD) project, as the Illahee Preserve, due to its size and offerings to the Central Kitsap and Bremerton Communities, it will continue to be a regional recreation destination.	Comment noted. Land acquisition projects have been added to the Capital Improvement Project List, for acquisitions related to both recreational access and conservation. These acquisitions could fall under the conservation project category.
Capital Improvement Program	3/5/2025	Verbal Comment (CK Meeting)	There are two outdoor education classroom shelters on the CIP Table - one at Chico Salmon Park, which is listed in the 6+ year timeframe and one at Nick's Lagoon, which is listed in the 1-6 year timeframe. Chico Salmon Park is already being used for education. Nick's Lagoon is more remote. Maybe those should be swapped.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes the need for outdoor education opportunities at Chico Salmon Park. There may be restrictions on the property from grants used for acquisition; this will be explored further.
Capital Improvement Program	3/3/2025	Online Form	We would love veterans memorial park to have a priority over other parks in the county. I am a long time residential of port orchard and have kids playing soccer and other sport here. We would love to see the fields we updated with no pot holes and possible lights! We have lots of play grounds and picnic areas in port orchard and surrounding areas! Please make veterans memorial a BIG priority for kitsap county.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	3/4/2025	Online Form	agree breaking these projects into categories is helpful and appropriate - the list (ideally) should be infused with public comment every 3 years or so  don't recall where funding partners was discussed - but in Kitsap County I feel both the Tribes and Feds (regional military facilities ) offer opportunity for partnering and "boosting" application chances for regional funding - may not need to be called out for in PROS, but should be a thought for Parks Director	Comment noted. The Capital Improvement Project list is updated annually and will have opportunities for public engagement, such as through Parks Advisory Board meetings. The Parks Department currently does and will continue to partner with other groups when appropriate and applicable.
Capital Improvement Program	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a long time community member of South Kitsap I would love to see improvements to the Veterans Park. My older kids played sports at this park and now my grand kids play there. The fields are in need of repair and I would love to see turf and lights so the fields could be utilized year round. It is a shame that we do not have more turf fields in South Kitsap to be equal to the surrounding area parks. Veteran's park is not in need of a playground or picnic areas, we have plenty of those parks in the area. We need competitive sports fields.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	3/5/2025	Online Form	I think the outdoor shelter/classroom at Chico Salmon Park should be a higher priority. The park receives daily visitors year-round, and during the fall salmon runs is the site of weekly field trips with students from elementary to college - age.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes the need for outdoor education opportunities at Chico Salmon Park. However, there may be restrictions on the property from grants used for acquisition; this will be explored further.
Capital Improvement Program	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a resident of South Kitsap, parent of 4 young sports players, and community board member for various things I feel very strongly that South Kitsap desperately needs some love to our athletic fields. We have so many great parks with a ton of potential but they just get overlooked. I was disappointed to see that Veterans Memorial park is no longer a top priority for the county when I attended the PROS planning meeting a few weeks ago. Our kids travel all over the county and most other places have at least one nice turf field to use in their community. South kitsap doesn't have any. Veterans memorial is ready for some love!! Let's help our kids play sports safely and be proud of their home field! Please move Veterans to a higher priority!!	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Capital Improvement Program	3/6/2025	Email	We would like to express our strong support for an updated Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan that recognizes the growing popularity of disc golf and the need for expanded opportunities within Kitsap County, particularly as it relates to the expansion of the Kitsap County Fairgrounds Disc Golf Course and the establishment of a new disc golf course at Square Lake.  For over 20 years, WSDGA has served as a dedicated stewardship group, working alongside local parks departments to promote and maintain disc golf facilities throughout Kitsap County. The Fairgrounds Disc Golf Course has become a popular recreational asset, and its expansion would further enhance access, playability, and capacity for players of all skill levels. Similarly, the creation of a disc golf course at Square Lake represents an exciting opportunity to introduce the sport to a new area while utilizing the natural beauty and recreational potential of the park.  The increasing demand for disc golf facilities, as reflected in community engagement and participation levels, underscores the necessity of incorporating course expansion and enhancements into the PROS Plan. Disc golf provides numerous benefits, including: • Accessible, low-cost recreation for individuals and families of all ages. • Environmental stewardship through responsible park usage and maintenance. • Tourism and economic impact by attracting players and events to the region. • Health and wellness benefits through physical activity in natural spaces. WSDGA is eager to continue our long-standing partnership with Kitsap County to support the development, maintenance, and promotion of disc golf within the parks system. We are committed to course design, volunteer stewardship, and community engagement to ensure that these projects are successful and sustainable.  We appreciate the County's recognition of disc golf as a valuable recreational activity and look forward to further discussions on how we can collaborate to bring these exciting projects to fruition. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for additional support or input.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes the community's desire for disc golf courses. The Capital Improvement Project list includes disc golf courses in each Commissioner District.

<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/6/2025	Online Form	Prioritize Vetrans Memorial park (formerly Retsil). Improved soccer grounds, parking and lighting is a must for year around soccer. Our community has a desire to invest on the youth sports. Our parks need to make this possible now. Not in over 6 years. The need is immediate	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/7/2025	Online Form	Upgrading Veterans Memorial Park to provide a safe space for children to participate in sporting activities is crucial, especially given the current challenges of poor field conditions and lack of lighting. The park's fields are in need of significant improvement, as the worn-out surfaces can lead to injuries and make it difficult for kids to enjoy their games. Without proper lighting, the park limits playtime, especially in the evening, reducing opportunities for young athletes to practice or participate in team sports. By addressing these issues—upgrading the field surfaces, adding proper lighting, and ensuring safe, accessible equipment—we can create a more enjoyable and secure environment for children to stay active, while fostering a greater sense of community and well-being.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/8/2025	Online Form	Capital improvement is vital to having a vibrant community ( even if this would require a slight increase in taxes or adding county/city taxes to build better parks and roads to the parks, park trails, access for wheelchairs).	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/8/2025	Online Form	Pg 116 - Environmental Concerns and Open Space Protection - strongly support concerns listed.  Pg 116 - Community Engagement and Communication - strongly agree. I found out about this via a promoted Facebook Post. I believe this is key as shown on page 61 when an extreme minority of individuals (164 comments) recommend closing major areas to the public.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/8/2025	Online Form	I agree with Lisa Hurt.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/11/2025	Online Form	I own Casey's Batting Range at South Kitsap Park. I am always being asked to open an indoor cage for year round hitting. I have talked to many customers and have run suggesting by them and them to me. Most would like to see an indoor playing field for games and training. I would love to see a full size utility field for baseball, softball. football, soccer and disc golf putting area. The dream would be to work with the parks to run a large indoor facility, an area for an HD SPORTS simulators (golf, baseball, soccer, football, ice hockey), and a mini golf (putt putt) for activities to do year round for all ages. I have seen and heard pedestrians say they want to see the BMX bike track brought back and have seen many more RC (remote control cars) creating their own track at the park. If done, I feel that South Kitsap Park with the open fields and walking paths would be a destination that people would come to from all over. THANK YOU	Comment noted. The Department intends to update the 2008 Master Plan for South Kitsap Regional Park. To inform this process, we will use analysis from the PROS Plan and engage the community and park users about desired amenities and facilities in the park.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/12/2025	Online Form	Pickleball courts are needed. I started playing pickleball during the pandemic as did a large number of people nationwide. Pickleball is a rare, inclusive sport that is played every day by a lot of people. It is also an economic development opportunity for Kitsap County. As the birthplace of pickleball, we have an opportunity to hold large tournaments. If we had a large, centrally located pickleball facility with 16 to 24 courts, not only would they be used every day but tournaments could be held that would attract visitors from around the country. There are at least three pickleball organizations in Kitsap County. My organization, Westsound Pickleball Community currently host daily play with 50 to 80 players and hold yearly tournaments attracting over 220 players at Lion's Park in Bremerton. We could manage daily play and run tournaments with many more participants if we had a larger facility.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes the community's desire for pickleball courts. The Capital Improvement Project list includes pickleball projects in each Commissioner District.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	I am writing to strongly advocate for the inclusion of Veterans Memorial Park in the county's upcoming updates. For too long, this vital community space has been neglected, leaving our children and athletes without safe and competitive fields to play on. It is time to invest in our community's future by revitalizing these fields and ensuring they meet the needs of South Kitsap's growing youth sports programs.  One of the most critical updates needed is the installation of a lighted turf field. Many soccer clubs across Western Washington already have access to such facilities, putting our local athletes at a disadvantage. A turf field with lights would allow for more consistent use throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions, and enable our teams to host competitive matches without worrying about unplayable field conditions.  Additionally, it is essential to level the existing fields and install proper lighting throughout the park. Uneven playing surfaces not only limit the ability to play and practice effectively but also increase the risk of injury. Quality fields are more than just a luxury—they are a necessity for fostering skill development, teamwork, and a sense of community.  South Kitsap's children deserve fields that are safe, modern, and accessible. For years, the county allowed the homeless population to take over Veterans Memorial Park, leading to its deterioration. Now, it is time to restore what was lost and give our children a place where they can play, grow, and take pride in their community.  Investing in these updates is not just about improving soccer fields—it is about investing in the well-being of our youth and strengthening our community. I urge you to prioritize Veterans Memorial Park in the county's improvement plans and ensure that our children have the facilities they deserve.  Thank you for your time and consideration.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Senior center needs a remodel upgrade. Expansion especially for more space..exercise..dinners..clubs..all very cramped	Comment noted. The Parks Department does not operate any senior centers.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Stop taxes too high	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Increase taxes (property and sales) to help fund all the items on the comprehensive plan	Comment noted. Increasing taxes is outside of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department. Funding sources for capital projects are described in the Capital Improvement Program chapter.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	See comment above.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.

Capital Improvement Program	3/15/2025	Online Form	Leave Banner Forest aline	Comment noted. The Department is currently working on updating its Forest Stewardship Policy and Implementation Plan. More information will be available later this year.
Capital Improvement Program	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>Table 6-3 priorities - add 3 items</p> <p>he motion is to add 3 line items to the CIP Table 6-3, for Commissioner District 3 (which is the Central Kitsap District of Katie Walters), for the Illahee Preserve Heritage Park.</p> <p>1. Acquire the 'Heart of the Park' properties. Cat 1, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ ,Funding Options: Same as the others. Note: This is KC Parks RCO grant 24-1777 ILLAHEE PRESERVE PH 3 HEART OF THE PARK which shows up in Prism as "Pending" funding, which is expected to be funded as there were only 8 applications submitted in the Urban Wildlife category. This is planned to be a multi-year phased acquisition of the 13 properties listed to purchase.</p> <p>2. Acquire the Watershed Park properties, Cat 1, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ ,Funding Options: Same as the others. Note: This is KC Parks RCO grant 24-1770 ILLAHEE PRESERVE WATERSHED PARK PH 1 which also shows up in Prism as "Pending" funding. This is an acquisition grant for the 9.6-acre parcel and the last remaining Elliott property, presuming the 3.7-acre home property is purchased first. The acquisition needs to precede the development of the watershed park.</p> <p>3. Develop Watershed Park with local park amenities along with planned watershed related educational exhibits. Cat 8, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ ,Funding Options: Same</p> <p>Note: This is being planned as a future collaborative project between Kitsap County Parks and Bremerton Parks due to its proximity to Bremerton, which meets Bremerton's needs for an additional park in East Bremerton. It is additionally being proposed as a major Kitsap Public Facilities District (PFD) project, as the Illahee Preserve, due to its size and offerings to the Central Kitsap and Bremerton Communities, it will continue to be a regional recreation destination.</p>	Comment noted. Land acquisition projects have been added to the Capital Improvement Project List, for acquisitions related to both recreational access and conservation. These acquisitions could fall under the conservation project category.
Capital Improvement Program	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>Carrying capacity for parks:</p> <p>We want people, especially Kitsap residents, to love our parks, but we don't want them to love them to death. Too many visitors and pets simultaneously using a park can damage trails, disturb native animals, degrade the natural environment and user experience. So, some thought should be given to the carrying capacity for visitors in KC nature parks. This idea was previously presented in the draft NKHP Master Stewardship Plan. Visitor density is, in large part, dependent on the parking lot sizes. Over time the number of Park visitors is expected to increase which may have adverse impact on the carrying capacity of the parks. Parking at entrances and trailheads need to be sized appropriately so as not to exceed each park's carrying capacity. Consideration is also needed for the impact of parking lots on neighbors and traffic flow (where applicable). Stewardship groups can monitor each park's use and impacts of visitor density to the quality of the natural environment, animal habitats and to provide a good visitor experience. Under Capital Improvement Projects, Table 6.3 lists a number of planned projects to expand parking and access at Heritage/Nature Parks. Before adding additional parking and access to these parks, consideration should be given to the carrying capacity of these parks.</p>	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes the concern regarding overuse and the Plan does include some capacity management strategies, particularly for high use areas (such as infrastructure enhancements and adaptive management strategies). Parking lot projects will be sized and located appropriately based on park's intended usage and park management plans, which will be developed with community input.
Capital Improvement Program	3/15/2025	Online Form	It would be immensely helpful if Parks had Electric Vehicle Chargers where possible.	Comment noted and will be considered at the project phase.
Capital Improvement Program	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>Key: Natural Resources</p> <p>Preserving and restoring the natural environment is essential for ecological health and long-term sustainability. This category focuses on habitat restoration, invasive species removal, reforestation, and the creation of greenways and ecological corridors. These efforts help protect biodiversity, improve water quality, and enhance climate resilience while maintaining the county's commitment to environmental stewardship.</p>	Comment noted. These concepts are included in the PROS Plan goals and objectives (Goal PR-2, Objectives 2.1 and 2.2 and their subsequent actions.
Capital Improvement Program	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>pages 122-128 - you absolutely should NOT be adding sports and recreation infrastructure to nature parks. That is contrary to their intended use/function. They should remain natural!!!</p> <p>Restrooms are fine but picnic areas, frisbee golf, pickleball, playgrounds and the like do not belong there. Inserting them in these areas violates your stated goals. from the overview section - Parks goal #5, wildlife and habitat protection goal 2018, environmental protection goal 2018 relate.</p>	Comment noted. The Capital Improvement Project list does not include adding sports infrastructure in nature parks. Park development projects, such as picnic areas, are included in the CIP list and are intended to be located near parking areas. Per Objective 3.2, the Department will conduct environmental assessments ahead of park planning and will engage with the community around these projects.
Capital Improvement Program	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>While the PROS Plan provides an ambitious list of projects (pp. 113-128) to undertake in under and over six years, the extensive list should provide priorities within each of the four sections. The current table timelines (pp. 122-128 Table 6-3) for projects is too vague, and needs a more refined priority list. Current staffing shortages and the removal of many federally funded programs will require a specific and strategic approach to future park projects that can be realistically funded and completed in the near term. Currently the CIP provides no clear direction on what projects and funding the Parks Department will focus their attention to address.</p> <p>Prior to funding specific projects, the Kitsap County Parks Department will need to review the park classification project mentioned in pp. 33-34 through a collaborative process with stakeholders, including the Parks Advisory Board, user groups, park stewards, and neighborhood groups to ensure parks are appropriately defined including recognizing Kitsap County Heritage Parks. This process could also help set project priorities and funding sources.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Capital Improvement Program framework is structured around four core themes: Connectivity &amp; Access, Recreation Facilities &amp; Amenities, Safety, and Conservation &amp; Resiliency. Project prioritization follows an evaluation process that balances environmental, recreational, and fiscal considerations. The 6-Year CIP will also be updated annually per the County's standard process, so some projects may shift over time as need and funding evolves.</p> <p>The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement.</p>
Capital Improvement Program	3/16/2025	Online Form	Regarding the Egton Forest, our newest park. Please consider this to be a walking only park. I have already seen the damage in the park due to mountain bikes. This park could be a wonderful place to enjoy nature without the unsightly scars caused by bikes, and a place to "forest bathe" without the worry of a bike coming around the corner. Please consider keeping mountain bikes out of this newest park.	Comment noted. Developing a trail network in Egton Forest is included in the Capital Improvement Project list and trail usage will be considered as part of that effort. There will also be engagement opportunities as part of that effort.
Capital Improvement Program	3/16/2025	Online Form	Failed to see any discussion on how to enhance usage of existing soccer and baseball fields and fairgrounds by providing overnight camping via tent or RV	Comment noted. Current Park Code (KCC 10.12) does not allow for overnight parking in parks. The campground at the Fairgrounds is currently used for event camping.
Capital Improvement Program	3/16/2025	Online Form	Bathrooms & benches in Illahee Forest Preserve. Increased monitoring, gate closure for safety.	Comment noted. Restrooms and safety projects to reduce crime at Illahee Forest Preserve are both included in the Capital Improvement Project list.

Capital Improvement Program	3/16/2025	Online Form	Pickleball is listed in all three districts with locations TBD, thank you for recognizing the need in all areas. The courts in District 3 would be a great central location to have a Pickleball Event Center to host large tournaments. The Kitsap County Fairgrounds would be ideal.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Capital Improvement Program	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>We want people, especially Kitsap residents, to love our parks, but we don't want them to love them to death. Too many visitors and pets simultaneously using a park can damage trails, disturb native animals, degrade the natural environment and user experience. So, some thought should be given to the carrying capacity for visitors in Kitsap County nature parks. This idea was previously presented in the draft North Kitsap Heritage Park Master Stewardship Plan. Visitor density is, in large part, dependent on the parking lot sizes and vicinity to large developments or urban areas. Over time the number of Park visitors is expected to increase which may have adverse impact on the carrying capacity of the parks. Parking at entrances and trailheads need to be sized appropriately so as not to exceed each park's carrying capacity. Consideration is also needed for the impact of parking lots on neighbors and traffic flow (where applicable). Stewardship groups can monitor each park's use and impacts of visitor density to the quality of the natural environment, animal habitats and to provide a good visitor experience.</p> <p>Under Capital Improvement Projects, Table 6.3 lists a number of planned projects to expand parking and access at Heritage/Nature Parks. Before adding additional parking and access to these parks, consideration should be given to the carrying capacity of these parks.</p> <p>The foundation for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is framed around four themes —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Conservation and Landscape Resiliency;</li> <li>(b) Connectivity and Trail Development;</li> <li>(c) Access and Safety; and</li> <li>(d) Recreation Facilities and Amenities.</li> </ul> <p>However, the prioritization among these themes is not clear nor are the priorities among the long list of possible CIP projects.</p> <p>The Capital Improvement Plan section of the Draft Plan (pp. 113-128) focuses on four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Conservation and Landscape Resiliency;</li> <li>(b) Connectivity and Trail Development;</li> <li>(c) Access and Safety; and</li> <li>(d) Recreation Facilities and Amenities.</li> </ul> <p>These categories were presented on p.61 as the four themes from the public survey #2 on Project Visioning/Community Mapping. Yet the priorities among these four areas are not clear. It is also not clear how data from interviews and open houses were included.</p> <p>Further, it is not clear what the priorities are within the four areas in Table 6-3 -CIP List-Matrix on pages 122-128. It seems to be a very long list without priorities.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes the concern regarding overuse and the Plan does include some capacity management strategies, particularly for high use areas (such as infrastructure enhancements and adaptive management strategies). Parking lot projects will be sized and located appropriately based on park's intended usage and park management plans, which will be developed with community input. The projects that are included to be targeted in the 1-6 year timeframe are based on existing park needs and public input. This six-year CIP will be updated annually and projects may be shifted over time based on needs, funding, and staff capacity.</p> <p>The funding options presented in Table 6-2 are intended to provide additional options that could be used to complement primary capital funding sources, such as REET II and impact fees.</p>
Capital Improvement Program	3/16/2025	Online Form	See comments for Overview section	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Capital Improvement Program	3/16/2025	Online Form	See comments above	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Capital Improvement Program	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>The CIP projects and resources to develop new and improve Athletic fields are insufficient.</p> <p>The draft plan identifies the need for additional athletic facilities, both indoor and outdoor to support healthy, active recreation as a priority and goal, (PR-1 &amp; PR-5). Yet the listing of Category 4 projects (table 6-3 pages 122-128) shows few athletic projects, indicating to me that the planning and resources for active recreation are neither adequate to narrow the gap between need and current inventory, nor strike the stated balance between recreation and environmental stewardship advocated in the stated "Vision for the Future", (page 103).</p> <p>To be more specific, among the 16 CIP projects for District 1, (N), shown on pages 123 and 124 only 2 are indicated as project category 4. Further, the first District 1 project Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park: Develop new park area at the north parking lot, does not seem to include any sports facilities, only a playground. The other cat 4 project for District 1 is a non-specific, location TBD: Add athletic fields with execution date of 6+ years in the future. This single, long-range plan project is not sufficient, and is not a balanced use of Park's department resources.</p> <p>(A minor point: Why are pickleball courts a category 3 "amenity" project rather than a category 4 "athletic facility" per the table 6.1 on page 119?)</p> <p>Under the Access and Safety section (page 115), the improvement of installing ped and bike lanes ..."especially near Kola Kole Park." should be replaced with "...especially near Nike Park and the Carpenter Lake Preserve." The reason is the safety risk is much higher for the children traveling along Barber Cutoff Road to Gordon Elementary School and to the Kingston High School via the Nike Park Trail.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes the need for athletic fields. Currently there are no athletic fields in North Kitsap, but the Department will look to identify opportunities for field projects. Land acquisition projects have been added in each district for improving access to parks and recreational facilities, which could include fields in the North District.</p> <p>The access and safety suggestions on page 115 came from public comment and are not included in the Capital Improvement Project list because right of way projects are outside of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department.</p>
Capital Improvement Program	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>We want people, especially Kitsap residents, to love our parks, but we don't want them to love them to death. Too many visitors and pets simultaneously using a park can damage trails, disturb native animals, degrade the natural environment and user experience. So, some thought should be given to the carrying capacity for visitors in Kitsap County nature parks. This idea was previously presented in the draft North Kitsap Heritage Park Master Stewardship Plan. Visitor density is, in large part, dependent on the parking lot sizes and vicinity to large developments or urban areas. Over time the number of Park visitors is expected to increase which may have adverse impact on the carrying capacity of the parks. Parking at entrances and trailheads need to be sized appropriately so as not to exceed each park's carrying capacity. Consideration is also needed for the impact of parking lots on neighbors and traffic flow (where applicable). Stewardship groups can monitor each park's use and impacts of visitor density to the quality of the natural environment, animal habitats and to provide a good visitor experience.</p> <p>Under Capital Improvement Projects, Table 6.3 lists a number of planned projects to expand parking and access at Heritage/Nature Parks. Before adding additional parking and access to these parks, consideration should be given to the carrying capacity of these parks.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes the concern regarding overuse and the Plan does include some capacity management strategies, particularly for high use areas (such as infrastructure enhancements and adaptive management strategies). Parking lot projects will be sized and located appropriately based on park's intended usage and park management plans, which will be developed with community input. The projects that are included to be targeted in the 1-6 year timeframe are based on existing park needs and public input. This six-year CIP will be updated annually and projects may be shifted over time based on needs, funding, and staff capacity.</p>
Capital Improvement Program	3/16/2025	Online Form	I am very much against paving any of the trails within Eglen Forest. Please consider leaving Eglen Forest as a Natural Park. Any paving of trails is going to require maintenance that the county does not have the staffing or budget to maintain in the long term. Thanks for allowing the trail system in Eglen to remain one that is not so structured, as it exists today. If in the future it is decided this needs to change, do so at that time. In the meantime, focus on needs of the other parks in the county and leave Eglen natural. Also, if a parking lot is added, please do not incorporate lighting. This should be a park that closes at dusk.	Comment noted. Developing a trail network in Eglen Forest is included in the Capital Improvement Project list and there will be opportunities for engagement during that effort.

<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	all county skateparks are uncovered and decades old now. there is tremendous potential to do something extraordinary and create a regional covered skatepark that can host tournaments and events - suggest placing somewhere at the fairgrounds so it's central to all the county. @poulsboskateparkk can help advise.  please build quality covered skateparks.	Comment noted. The project suggestion will be noted to be evaluated further in the future.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	2/12/2025	Online Form	Question 4: Comment: It is interesting that respondents listed "Pea Patch/Community Gardens" as a top ten project. Port Orchard Rotary raised over \$15,000 over a decade ago to donate to that specific project. It took over 3 years to donate those funds to Kitsap Parks, and it didn't go towards Howe Farms Pea Patch/Community Gardens.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	2/19/2025	Online Form	What Wicks Lake Park needs is better trail system and a trail connection to the Coulter Creek Heritage Park trail system. It does not need a disc golf facility by any stretch of the imagination.	Comment noted. Park development at Wicks Lake is a priority for the Department. Developing a trail network in the park, as well as improving parking and access, and developing park amenities are identified as capital projects in the Capital Improvement Project list, in the 1-6 year timeframe.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	2/20/2025	Online Form	Vetrans memorial park is 1 of 3 parks listed as poor quality/ safety yet no improvements noted for over 6 years.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	2/21/2025	Online Form	Coulter Creek HP: 1. work with park stewards to formalist trails along existing logging/access road and work with local community to name them as is currently done near McCormick Woods section (Warbler, Wren, Junco, etc) followed with signage. Currently these trails are used infrequently due to community members not knowing they exist and when exploring them they are frequently lost or disoriented...this is definitely a public safety issue. 2. The PROS plan considers improvisa G exusting cabins ...request that these be removed as a safety and vandalism concern and all funds used to manita in the lodge as a community space. Thanks for the last night's meeting.	Comment noted. The Department intends to conduct a master planning process for Coulter Creek Heritage Park. To inform this process, we will use analysis from the PROS Plan and engage the community and park users about desired amenities and facilities in the park. Options for the existing cabins and lodge will be explored.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	2/28/2025	Online Form	Please reconsider veterans memorial park for improvements. The South Kitsap Soccer Club almost exclusively uses this park because there are no other good options available. One single turf field, added lighting, or some basic maintenance with sports in mind would be amazing. The field is uneven, lacks proper drainage, and has holes that could cause a serious injury to one of the kids. The South Kitsap Soccer Club is one of the few economical choices for local kids to play soccer in a competitive environment.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	As a soccer coach and parent in the South Kitsap School District, I see firsthand the challenges our young athletes face due to the lack of quality fields. Veterans Memorial Park is one of the few spaces available, yet we only have one field with lighting and barely enough room for teams to practice. With growing participation in youth sports, we need to invest in better facilities to support our kids' development, provide safe and accessible spaces, and foster a strong community through athletics.  Investing in our parks is investing in our youth. The current conditions limit opportunities for players of all ages and skill levels, forcing teams to compete for limited practice space. Without proper funding for maintenance and upgrades, our athletes are at a disadvantage compared to other communities. By improving Veterans Memorial Park and expanding field access in South Kitsap, we can create a positive impact for generations to come. I urge the committee to prioritize youth sports and allocate the necessary resources to improve our parks.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	We would love veterans meemoial park to have a priority over other parks in the county. I am a long time residential of port orchard and have kids playing soccer and other sport here. We would love to see the fields we updated with no pot holes and possible lights! We have lots of play grounds and picnic areas in port orchard and surrounding areas! Please make veterans meemoial a BIG priority for kitsap county.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	As Kitsap county grows, more people want to utilize our parks for functions and events. There are a few locations in Bremerton and Silverdale that allows people to rent space. The covered picnic area that once was at South Kitsap Regional park has long since been removed. Port Orchard and the surrounding area of South Kitsap need covered areas and possibly BBQ spaces at SK park to rent for family gatherings, functions, and other community events. As a past member of Boy Scouts of America, having events in our community was a very important part to our program. Now it seems if you want something like that in South Kitsap, you need to rent space at a state park for a higher price.	Comment noted. There are a number of park development identified in the Capital Improvement Project listed for Distrct 2, which may include picnic shelters. Targeted for the 1-6 year timeframe are Long Lake Park, Horseshoe Lake Park, Veteran's Memorial Park, and Wicks Lake Park. Targeted for the 6+ year timeframe are Banner Forest Heritage Park, Bandix Dog Park, Coulter Creek Heritage Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Wynn-Jones Preserve.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs</b>	3/4/2025	Online Form	Dedicated multi use (walk/bike) trail system linking major towns of Kitsap please. We are the only county that doesn't have a dedicated bike trail system ie rails to trails.	Comment noted. Right of way projects fall out of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, but comments received on the topics will be shared with the Public Works Department.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs</b>	3/4/2025	Online Form	within "Comparative Analysis" I found this information helpful and well described (as not perfect) but does provide a useful metric to help the county move forward - the whole LOS discussion is useful -	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a long time community member of South Kitsap I would love to see improvements to the Veterans Park. My older kids played sports at this park and now my grand kids play there. The fields are in need of repair and I would love to see turf and lights so the fields could be utilized year round. It is a shame that we do not have more turf fields in South Kitsap to be equal to the surrounding area parks. Veteran's park is not in need of a playground or picnic areas, we have plenty of those parks in the area. We need competitive sports fields.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	I am not sure how many years are left on the contract for Village Greens Golf Course, but the good that this facility serves in providing a place for beginning golfers and our county's elderly golfers is very significant. If you spend any time there, you will notice the groups of older patrons that enjoy getting outside and getting exercise and social interactions with others. I really believe that this activity being available on a course like Village Greens is the only thing that motivates some of these folks to leave their house and continue to enjoy life. That along with being a perfect place for our youth and adult beginning golfers to feel comfortable and learn the sport of a lifetime makes this park a very valuable asset to the community in my opinion.	Comment noted. A capital project to make improvements to Village Greens Golf Course has been added to the Capital Improvement Project list. The current lease agreement goes through 2029.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a resident of South Kitsap, parent of 4 young sports players, and community board member for various things I feel very strongly that South Kitsap desperately needs some love to our athletic fields. We have so many great parks with a ton of potential but they just get overlooked.  I was disappointed to see that Veterans Memorial park is no longer a top priority for the county when I attended the PROS planning meeting a few weeks ago. Our kids travel all over the county and most other places have at least one nice turf field to use in their community. South kitsap doesn't have any. Veterans memorial is ready for some love!! Let's help our kids play sports safely and be proud of their home field! Please move Veterans to a higher priority!!	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.

<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	South Kitsap Parks continue to be the lowest priority. As a parent, it is challenging to find safe spaces for our kids to play, particularly in the winter months when it gets dark earlier.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/6/2025	Online Form	South Kitsap parks are over utilized for sport fields. The demand for functional sport fields with lights is extremely high in the now however nothing addressing improvement now. Parks rated poor condition with high use need to be prioritized for improvements immediately	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/7/2025	Online Form	Upgrading Veterans Memorial Park to provide a safe space for children to participate in sporting activities is crucial, especially given the current challenges of poor field conditions and lack of lighting. The park's fields are in need of significant improvement, as the worn-out surfaces can lead to injuries and make it difficult for kids to enjoy their games. Without proper lighting, the park limits playtime, especially in the evening, reducing opportunities for young athletes to practice or participate in team sports. By addressing these issues—upgrading the field surfaces, adding proper lighting, and ensuring safe, accessible equipment—we can create a more enjoyable and secure environment for children to stay active, while fostering a greater sense of community and well-being.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs</b>	3/8/2025	Online Form	I agree with Lisa Hurt.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/12/2025	Online Form	<p>The RCO 2022 report states that "favored pursuits include nature-based activities such as visiting rivers, streams, and beaches, wildlife viewing, attending outdoor events like farmers' markets and fairs, and day hiking. These findings align with state-level trends, underscoring the importance of walking, hiking, and nature-based recreation opportunities in Kitsap County." The same report states: "Participation in youth sports leagues has undergone a complex transformation in recent years. While traditional team sports remain popular, data suggests a decline in children (ages 6-12) consistently playing on teams. The Aspen Project reports a drop from 45% in 2008 to 38% in 2018, and the Sports &amp; Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) confirms this trend with a 6% decline in core participation (ages 6-17) between 2019 and 2022. This translates to roughly 1.2 million fewer participants. Several factors may contribute to this decline, including the financial burden of participation fees, equipment, and travel expenses, concerns about over-specialization leading to burnout, and time constraints due to competing academic and extracurricular demands."</p> <p>The PROS draft plan does not reflect this data. There should be more emphasis on protecting natural areas and in working with schools to enhance their facilities to provide for more active recreation by children in informal settings. There is no need for larger facilities for tournament level competitions.</p>	Comment noted. The RCO report mentioned is for statewide trends and provides context. However, the PROS Plan is focused on Kitsap County and is intended to guide the Parks Department to provide parks and facilities that align with our community's preferences. The Parks Department has heard from the community and recognizes the need for athletic field improvements. Additionally, the PROS Plan has emphasis on protecting natural areas (see Goal 2, Objectives 2.1, 2.2, and 3.2 and their subsequent actions).
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/13/2025	Online Form	We need indoor pickleball courts to serve the hundreds of players during rainy and hot seasons. Pickleball is growing by over 200% a year and Kitsap needs to support this growing sport that helps bring all ages together to stay healthy.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes the community's desire for pickleball courts. The Capital Improvement Project list includes pickleball projects in each Commissioner District.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	I am writing to express my strong support for installing turf fields and lights at Veteran's Memorial Park in Port Orchard. The youth of Port Orchard deserve safe, high quality playing surfaces that allow for year-round participation in outdoor activities. Right now, our young athletes face constant challenges and cancellations due to weather damaged grass fields and lack of daylight. This limits their opportunity for healthy recreation as well as skill development. Installing turf fields would help to eliminate this barrier and would allow for an all-weather solution, ensuring that all kids can play without disruption. Additionally, installing lights would allow for more flexibility scheduling, giving families with hectic work schedules and school commitments more opportunities in the evenings. Investing in these improvements is an investment in the well-being of our youth and the future of this community. Sports teach so many valuable lessons to children that reach far beyond the years of their athletics. Sports teach determination, commitment, leadership, teamwork, discipline and perseverance. By providing our kids with the right resources, we are creating a healthier, more engaged community. We, as a soccer family ourselves, encourage you to make Veteran's Memorial Park a priority with the Parks and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan. Our hope is that this park can be a place for our children to thrive, our community to feel a sense of pride when hosting events, and that the children of our community have a place to feel connected to. Thank you for your time and consideration.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>I am writing to strongly advocate for the inclusion of Veterans Memorial Park in the county's upcoming updates. For too long, this vital community space has been neglected, leaving our children and athletes without safe and competitive fields to play on. It is time to invest in our community's future by revitalizing these fields and ensuring they meet the needs of South Kitsap's growing youth sports programs.</p> <p>One of the most critical updates needed is the installation of a lighted turf field. Many soccer clubs across Western Washington already have access to such facilities, putting our local athletes at a disadvantage. A turf field with lights would allow for more consistent use throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions, and enable our teams to host competitive matches without worrying about unplayable field conditions.</p> <p>Additionally, it is essential to level the existing fields and install proper lighting throughout the park. Uneven playing surfaces not only limit the ability to play and practice effectively but also increase the risk of injury. Quality fields are more than just a luxury—they are a necessity for fostering skill development, teamwork, and a sense of community.</p> <p>South Kitsap's children deserve fields that are safe, modern, and accessible. For years, the county allowed the homeless population to take over Veterans Memorial Park, leading to its deterioration. Now, it is time to restore what was lost and give our children a place where they can play, grow, and take pride in their community.</p> <p>Investing in these updates is not just about improving soccer fields—it is about investing in the well-being of our youth and strengthening our community. I urge you to prioritize Veterans Memorial Park in the county's improvement plans and ensure that our children have the facilities they deserve.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Need to ensure equine access (and adequate parking) at those areas designated appropriately.	Comment noted. The Capital Improvement Project list includes several parking and access improvement projects at a number of different parks. Equine access will be considered as part of these parking lot projects when appropriate.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Slow down, taxes too high	Comment noted, no edits recommended.

<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Extensive invasive plant species and noxious weeds in watershed areas, including Big Beef Creek	Comment noted. Goat 2, Objective 2.1 , Action 2.2.1 speaks to invasive species removal on County park properties.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park is in dire need of the North Gateway Entrance to the park as well as the proposed parking lot & the extension of the STO Trail. This project is a couple years late (per prior agreements with the adjacent land owner & Ride Park) and is really needed ASAP to improve access & safety within the park by reducing the over loaded Bayview Parking Lot.	Comment noted. This project is currently scheduled for 2025.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	Leave Banner Forest aline	Comment noted. The Department is currently working on updating its Forest Stewardship Policy and Implementation Plan. More information will be available later this year.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	No discussion of demand/needs vs cost	Comment noted. Objective 1.6 speaks to balancing funding and staffing resources with the size and demands of the system.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	It is important to protect our parks from the damage caused by the wear and tear of mountain bikes. With our population growing, our parks should be a place of refuge, reflection, and peace. Please regulate the number of trails allowed in our parks and protect our critical areas for wildlife and the future health of our parks. There is a need for safe trails in our Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. The "Hood" trail which states is multi-use should be re-signed to read, mountain bikes only.	Comment noted. Trail safety and multi-use conflicts are acknowledged concerns. Actions have been added to the PROS Plan to improve trail safety and reduce recreational conflicts.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Again, no need identified in Enetal where there is no community park. Given it is near urban center, there should be one. There is an unmet need & demand.	Comment noted. Objective 1.2 speaks to prioritizing land acquisition for areas lacking access to parks. Additionally, projects have been added to the Capital Improvement Project list 1.2 to explore land acquisition that improves access to parks and recreation facilities.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Please see above overview comment	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Community Survey results had some votes for improved parking at Wynn-Jones. Lack of signage is very confusing to newcomers to the area and annoys Wynn Jones road residents. An updated trail map easily found on the parks website could direct people to the waterfront parking area. Similarly 2 simple signs to the waterfront parking could be placed: 1) just 50 feet from the intersection of Beach Drive and Wynn Jones Road directing people to the first left turn onto a "driveway" and 2) a second sign at the left turn immediately before the parking that currently only has a no trespassing sign (referring to the boundary neighbor). Finally the single parking space on Wynn Jones road that is currently indicated on the park website WJP map could have a simple parking sign on site in addition to the trail label that WTA plans to install this spring. That parking site could be expanded to two car width and graveled if need be.	Comment noted. The Capital Improvement Project list includes a project to improve parking at Wynn-Jones Preserve, targeted for the 1-6 year timeframe.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Thank You for recognising Pickleball and Padel. Kitsap County has well over 1,000 players and very few options of places to play. Pickleball was "born" in Kitsap County as it is the Washington State Sport. Kitsap is the perfect place to hold a national tournament that will bring in players and their families from all over the world.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Just because people WANT to be in nature all the time doesn't mean we have to accommodate. I love nature and being outside but I like my areas wild. We don't need access to everything. Bike/Walking paths would be great in some areas to lessen car traffic.	Comment noted. Right of way projects and regional trails fall out of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, but comments received on the topics will be shared with the Public Works Department. Trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	The new parks classification system needs further development. It is among the most fundamentally important decisions about the County Parks contained in this Draft PROS plan. We suggest below both a long- and a short-term approach to developing and using a new classification system. First, we comment on text in the Draft PROS Plan. Text comments The Draft plan presents or makes reference to the current Kitsap County classification system on pp. 33-34 (community recreational complexes; heritage park, legacy parks; open space and greenbelts; partnership parks; special use parks; and waterway/waterfront parks, the Washington State Parks Classification System (p. 34), and a system used by municipalities (pp. 140-141 of the Appendix). It also makes reference to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) classification system (p. 34) but does not explain what it is. Doing an online search, we find that the Washington State Parks classification system has these six classifications: Recreation Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Natural Areas, Heritage Areas, Natural Forest Areas and Natural Area Preserves. Earlier (p. 33) the draft plan says that the current Kitsap County classification system could be adapted to the Washington State Parks system but how that is being done is not explained. On pp. 34-35 it then says the plan is using a combination of the RCO and Washington State Parks framework. It then lists the following categories: Nature Parks, Waterfront Parks, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks Mini-Parks, Regional Parks, Special Use Parks. It does not explain the process by which this newly proposed classification system was developed. Who was involved? What criteria were used? What additional classifications should be included. For example, none of these systems include public gardens which are sometimes included as a type of park classification system. Long term suggestion The criteria for the classification system, who was involved, and what contextual information is taken into account need to be clearly articulated. A classification that has community and neighboring resident participation recognizes the need for the parks and their appropriate use. Diverse stakeholder participation helps shape the recreational use impact and then supports the park's design and maintenance needs. A classification for a park whose original intent is for nature-based recreation and habitat conservation is a much different classification than a park that offers playgrounds and ballfields in an Urban Growth Area. We recommend the establishment of a working group with, for example, members of the tribes; people with a broad range of knowledge about park classification systems; users, stewards, and staff of the current Kitsap County parks; designers of other public and private parks and gardens in the County; a range of stakeholders; and more. A clear and forward-thinking parks classification system that has transparently been developed is needed before any parks are classified. A classification system takes considerable time to develop. The classification system needs to be congruent with the land use decision of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan which emphasizes increasing density in UGAs, with expected climate conditions for the next 20 years, and the needs of the population of Kitsap County. These are a few initial ideas about how such a group would be established. The work group needs to be facilitated by a skilled and independent professional facilitator.	Comment noted. The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement. The suggestion of two separate classifications is appropriate for landscape management zones, which are different from the park classification, and will be applied to specific areas of parks to guide management and allowed use.

			<p>Once a well-developed, publicly reviewed and accepted classification system has been established, then it is time to move forward on classify existing parks. Table 2-12, pp. 37-39 is not appropriate to include in this PROS plan. Much more work needs to be done before presenting the long-term reclassification of specific parks.</p> <p>Short term suggestion</p> <p>We recognize that the above suggestion is going to take time. It represents the long view and the underlying policy orientation for Parks. We also recognize that in the meantime you need a classification system that can be used for grant applications especially through RCO. Therefore, we recommend that you adopt the full classification system and guidelines provided by the Washington State Park Classification System, as they are clear and well-written.</p> <p>We propose a dual classification for PGFHP, incorporating a Recreation Area for the Ride Park to promote more active forms of recreation, while categorizing the rest of the PGFHP as a Nature or Natural Area to encourage passive recreation and better protect critical areas and wildlife habitats. The State classification system utilizes the category of Natural Area, which we believe is more suitable than the county's proposed Nature Park designation. Therefore, we recommend that the county adhere to the classification guidelines established by the Washington State Park Classification System. This can be presented as an interim classification system until the fully engaged strategy described earlier can be developed and implemented.</p>	
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>Provide benches along trails for walkers.</p> <p>Improve security</p> <p>Non selling of surplus property-Conservation easements to guarantee viability of long-term protection</p>	Comment noted. There are a number of park development projects identified in the Capital Improvement Project list, which may include benches. Additionally, there are several projects to improve safety measures to reduce crime at a number of different parks.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	See my comments on the primacy needs of wetlands and wetland delineation.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>The reference to NRPA's 1983 guidance, (pg 87) of " ...6.5 to 10.5 acres of DEVELOPED open space per 1000..." seems to need a further definition of the term developed to support an appropriate comparison with the large undeveloped acreage in the Kitsap Heritage Parks. In the LOS summary section (page 98) states that Kitsap County Parks has 11,400 acres 40.3 acres/1000, with the implication that Kitsap Parks exceed the LOS. But comparing developed parkland such as New York's Central Park to our under developed Heritage Parks is not appropriate.</p> <p>This section seems to focus only on park acreage and does not address the gap in active recreation and athletic facilities such as swimming pools, basket ball courts, or indoor sports facilities.</p>	Comment noted. The Department recognizes that LOS is just one reference point to evaluate performance. The Department intends to revise and update the LOS standards in the future to ensure the Department is providing parks and recreation facilities, trails, and shoreline access at a level necessary to meet community need and support growth. At the same time, the County will also update the inventory of non-County owned facilities to ensure LOS calculations are accurate.
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	The new parks classification system appears to be a hodgepodge or mash-up of the Wa State Park Classification system and a modified view of our county plan. It does not make sense, nor has any rationale been given for making a change. Appreciating that using the Wa State Park Classification System may make RCO grants easier to process, at least identify our current parks correctly. Our Heritage Parks do not align with the WSPCS label of Heritage, but they DO align with "Natural Areas," not the ambiguous label of "nature parks." Moreover, the category of "Regional Park" is completely misapplied to Port Gamble Heritage Park. It would be more appropriate to give it two separate classifications - Recreational (for the north Ride-Park end), and Natural Area for the rest - this dual classification is described in the WSPCS.	<p>Comment noted. Heritage park is not a known or industry standard park classification.</p> <p>The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement.</p> <p>The suggestion of two separate classifications is appropriate for landscape management zones, which are different from the will be applied to specific areas of parks to guide management and allowed use.</p>
<b>Demand &amp; Needs Analysis</b>	3/17/2025	Online Form	Kitsap County is allowing a private business to operate an alternate parking at the Olalla Boat Launch therefore denying access to residents who pay for this park with their tax dollars.	Comment noted. Kitsap County is working with the business owner on a resolution.
<b>General</b>	2/12/2025	Online Form	I object to the City of Bainbridge Island being listed as a 4th parks district in regard to this survey. Residents of Bainbridge can select North Kitsap as their district. Residents of Bremerton can select Central, and residents of Poulsbo can select North.	Comment noted. The comment form has been updated accordingly.
<b>General</b>	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK Meeting)	After two years of comments from the public, conservation of land was a high priority for the public. This seems to be lacking in the new plan. It looks like community parks are the "new" high priority. Why should we trust or how do we know that comments being made now will have any difference to this PROS Plans draft?	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>General</b>	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK Meeting)	Thoughtful plan - well done! Thank you.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>General</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	I find the plan very thorough and inclusive. Job well done!	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>General</b>	2/12/2025	Online Form	Congratulations on a meticulous and exhaustive update.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>General</b>	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK)	Very thorough presentation. Thank you!	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>General</b>	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK Meeting)	Conservation land would require a minimum of employee hours. Why not utilize large parts of parks for wildlife and habitat protection?	Comment noted. The Parks Department will apply landscape management zones as a management tool for parks. They will help guide allowed activities in particular areas of parks as we balance conservation and human recreation. Goal 2, Objective 2.1 and its associated actions speak to analyzing parklands to identify natural resources and guide management practices and recreation facility development. It is also important to note that natural areas still do require staff time and maintenance.
<b>General</b>	2/11/2025	Verbal Comment (NK)	Happy to see climate change and resilience in the plan. We need to make sure we retain natural resources (especially seeing 2044 projections and the County not meeting Natural Resource Area LOS standards).	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>General</b>	2/12/2025	Online Form	I noticed there is alot of emphasis on improving facilities for cars and car parking, to the point where I feel like there may be an over-emphasis on cars. I would like to see more support for bicycles. This can include separated bikeways, multi-use paths, better bike lanes. Non-motorized connectors between parks and urban centers could be designated as "mini-parks" under the proposed plan.	Comment noted. Right of way projects fall out of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, but comments received on the topics will be shared with the Public Works Department.
<b>General</b>	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK Meeting)	Share - MOU with school facilities.	The Parks Department values partnerships and has MOUs in place with school districts currently. We will continue to work together with school districts as applicable to serve the community.
<b>General</b>	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK Meeting)	Multi-use fields - team with schools to use ballfields on weekends - fields (grass) is difficult to maintain - not turf fields for FB/BB are unsafe for kids to play on (research based). And use school gyms for pickleball/handball. There are many school field that could share costs with Parks for community use.	The Parks Department values partnerships and has MOUs in place with school districts currently. We will continue to work together with school districts as applicable to serve the community.

General	2/11/2025	Verbal Comment (NK Meeting)	Partnerships are so important - would like to see more partnerships with transportation and school districts. Using each other's facilities and sharing in maintenance is cost effective.	The Parks Department values partnerships and has MOUs in place with school districts currently. We will continue to work together with school districts as applicable to serve the community.
General	2/10/2025	Online Form	We absolutely must prioritize safety and maintenance at our parks and trails. I took my children to walk Clear Creek trail this past weekend and was absolutely shocked at the graffiti everywhere - on signage, on boardwalks, on the concrete bridge structures, on picnic tables. Our parks and trails should be a place of beauty, as well as a safe place for families to enjoy. Clearly there has been a lack of law enforcement as well as maintenance. These are absolutely mission critical functions of government when it comes to our parks and public spaces, so I would like to see greater emphasis on this in the plans.	Safety and maintenance of our parks are priorities to the Parks Department. The PROS Plan has goals, objectives, and actions that speak to establishing maintenance standards and effectively allocating resources to meet visitor expectations(see Goal 6, Objective 6.1, and Objective 6.2). Additionally, there are several projects identified in the Capital Improvement Program to improve safety and reduce crime at many park locations. The Parks Department will engage with the community around what these improvements mean for specific parks.
General	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK Meeting)	We need better safe pedestrian access to our parks.	Comment noted. Right of way projects fall out of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, but comments received on the topics will be shared with the Public Works Department.
General	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK Meeting)	Safety - divide multi-use trails in large heritage parks with many narrow trails - some should be designated as foot/horse trails only - split from bicycling/mt bike trails that are wide - straight & not curvy can be multi-use - like dirt roads in Newberry & Port Gamble. Bikes do not need to be in small parks like Quiet Place. Bikes coming downhill fast is very unsafe for walkers or horses.	Comment noted. Trail safety and multi-use conflicts are acknowledged concerns. Actions have been added to the PROS Plan to improve trail safety and reduce recreational conflicts.
General	2/11/2025	Verbal Comment (NK Meeting)	Access to a park does not start at the park entrance. There has to be some consideration for how you get to the park. For example, Miller Bay Rd is dangerous for walking. A trail system is not a substitute - people don't always want a recreational trail. Some people might just want to go from Suquamish to Poulsbo on their bike.	Comment noted. Right of way projects fall out of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, but comments received on the topics will be shared with the Public Works Department.
General	2/11/2025	Verbal Comment (NK Meeting)	Safety on multi-use trails (particularly Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park, North Kitsap Heritage Park, and Newberry Heritage Park) - these are huge parks, there can easily be bike areas and walk/horse areas. Bicycles don't have business being on narrow trails (wide trails are ok). I like the foot only trails in Port Gamble and would like to see more of that.	Comment noted. Trail safety and multi-use conflicts are acknowledged concerns. Actions have been added to the PROS Plan to improve trail safety and reduce recreational conflicts.
General	2/12/2025	Online Form	The parks are barely being maintained in good condition now. Where are the permanent earmarked funds to continue to maintain the parks. Parks department continues to add inventory which is good, but a 10% increase in budget will not maintain current inventory. A better plan is needed rather than just a robust volunteer force.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	2/10/2025	Online Form	Great plan overall. As a Hansville resident, frequent park user, and Greenway Association volunteer trail steward, I'd like to know what "improvement" you list to trailheads, connections, and picnic shelters that already exist and don't appear to need any improvements.	Comment noted. The proposed connection could include signage directing visitors from Buck Lake Park parking lot to the Hansville Greenway Trails and/or a new trail connection. The proposed picnic shelter is an additional shelter.
General	2/11/2025	Verbal Comment (NK Meeting)	Stairs at Point No Point need handrails with two levels (one for adults and one for children).	Comment noted and will be considered at the project phase.
General	2/11/2025	Online Form	1. adopt the Living Building Challenge - be the first county in the USA to do so - tangible demonstration of stewardship and visions for smart development.  2. include a covered, regional, concrete modern skatepark at the fairgrounds somewhere to host tournaments and events - would be central and accessible to all of the county; Central and north kitsap have no modern, high quality, year round usable skatepark - look at how popular and used the south kitsap regional skatepark is after more than a decade of use - it's one of the best in the state and a central/north kitsap park and covered would be a boost to the county.	Comment noted. Upgrading park facilities to improve energy efficiency has been added to the Capital Improvement Project list. The Living Building Challenge project suggestion will be noted to be evaluated further in the future.
General	2/16/2025	Online Form	I agree with the goals of safety and accessibility. One example I would recommend is a webcam at the Silverdale dog park due to many break-ins.  I am disappointed that Coulter Creek improvements did not rank in the top 5 priorities. It is not even clear to me how to access all areas of the park. There is such potential there. To update Calvinwood Lodge for educational sessions, kid activities - this is "not" a \$500K project!	Comment noted. Improving safety measures at Silverdale Rotary Gateway Park is identified on the Capital Improvement Project list, slated between 1-6 years. The Department will engage with the community as to what safety measures are appropriate for this park and a camera will be considered. While not in the top five priorities from the public survey, Coulter Creek Heritage Park has several projects included in the Capital Improvement Project list.
General	2/11/2025	Verbal Comment (NK Meeting)	Turf is not a good idea (more injuries, serious injuries) - some agencies are ripping out their turf and going back to grass.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes that improvements to athletic fields are widely needed. When the Department goes to execute a field improvement project, surfacing material will be evaluated for health and environmental impacts, as well as maintenance and operations costs, and field longevity and playability. Additionally, the Department will look to explore and take advantage of available newer technology in surfacing materials. Goal 6, and specifically Objective 6.1 and Action 6.1.1, speak to standardizing maintenance practices, including athletic fields, and aligning maintenance protocols with best practices and industry standards. Goal 3 speaks to minimizing environmental impact in park planning and development.
General	2/10/2025	Online Form	The results clearly show the need to preserve open space for recreation (hiking, biking etc.) and not use it for soccer fields (dog parks are of more interest). This is clearly driven by the demographics of Kitsap County and unless there is a seismic change anticipated, the needs of the current population should be prioritized.	Comment noted. The public surveys represent one data point for understanding needs in our community. We also conducted stakeholder interviews during plan development and reviewed comments received during public comment. We will take all of these community touchpoints into consideration when evaluating capital projects and Department decision making.
General	2/11/2025	Online Form	Good afternoon, Sir/Ma'am-  How will Kitsap County accommodate recreational RC aircraft operation? Where are RC airplane owners like myself allowed to "fly" in Kitsap's open spaces/parks?	Comment noted. Currently, recreational RC aircraft operation is allowed at the Kitsap Aircraft Radio Control Society's airfield. For more information on this group, please visit their website at <a href="http://www.kitsaparcs.org">www.kitsaparcs.org</a> .
General	2/12/2025	Online Form	I would like to see some forethought to fire suppression. I still hear people shooting fireworks at the height of the dry season. If the Greenway were to catch on fire there would be basically no way for fire trucks to get in, or residents to get out, as there is only one road.	Comment noted. Fire danger will be assessed as part of the forest condition analysis when the Parks Department develops natural resource management plans for parks (as mentioned in Objective 2.1). Emergency access would be evaluated as part of a larger park planning effort.
General	2/16/2025	Email	I loved the pictures throughout the document! I was hoping to find credits (including the location) at the end of the document, but did not find these. Hopefully in the final document you can publish the photographer credits as well as these locations.	Comment noted. Picture locations have been updated. All pictures are credited to the Parks Department.
General	2/19/2025	PAB Meeting	Appreciate the quality of the presentation, found it very useful. There is ambiguity in how people speak to access, would want the plan to make a clear statement about the importance of people with movement limitations to have a park experience.	Comment noted. There is language in the PROS Plan that states the importance of improving park access for all ages and abilities. Additionally, there are a number of projects identified on the Capital Improvement Project list to improve some trails at a number of parks to be barrier free and wheel-chair friendly and add inclusive and ADA accessible playgrounds. Objective 3.3 and its subsequent actions also speak to improving the safety and accessibility of trails for all users.

General	2/19/2025	Online Form	<p>Quite a robust plan.</p> <p>One thing I see that may be an oversight is no apparent inclusion of the Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society or its members' input. Seems that an organization, this nature related, should have been solicited for input. Probably too late at this juncture so you should add them for the next PROS plan.</p> <p>Was a spell check done? example page 93 mid page "docuemtn"</p> <p>(An interesting trend noted in the SCORP planning outreach docuemtn is the sustained popularity of walking as a recreational activity.)</p> <p>For all the mentions of dogs and dog parks the problem of dog feces not being picked up in parks is not addressed. Quite a health issue as they carry disease. Also, all the dogs off-leash in parks is not addressed.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department will include Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society as a stakeholder group for relevant future projects.</p> <p>Typos have been corrected.</p> <p>Through Kitsap County's Mutt Mitt Program, community volunteers can sponsor a station in County parks (and other areas). The Parks Department has also sponsored several stations in County parks. Parks code signs are posted at all parks and include that dogs are not allowed off-leash (with the exception of off-leash dog parks).</p>
General	2/19/2025	Online Form	The Parks Department needs to better communicate with the public, especially those who volunteer at a park. Talk to those who live nearby and get their feedback and listen to what they have to say. Some have been here for 40+ decades and have seen Wicks Lake Park go from daily use by neighbors to a homeless camping area. I find it disconcerting that millions are spent on park improvements in North and Central Kitsap yet even Coulter Creek has had little done to improve its public access and Wicks Lake which could provide trail access for hundreds of people who live in rural South Kitsap County has been ignored for decades.	<p>Comment noted. Public engagement is an important and ongoing component to park planning and development. Wicks Lake Park and Coulter Creek Heritage Park both have upcoming capital projects identified in the Capital Improvement Project list targeted for the next 1-6 years (as well as projects targeted for 6+ years).</p>
General	2/19/2025	Online Form	I requested several years ago access to newberry hills trails via klahowya school but was ignored. You do not make it accessible to horse people because you have ignored the need for trailers to be able to turn around if the Klahowya gate is closed. Your answer to me several years ago was to allow access at another area which clearly you have not done! I am again asking for access to these trails with ability of the people with horse trailers to be able to turn around and prevent people from parking in front of the area that trailers need to be able to turn around in front of the gate when its closed or provide another access point for people with trailers. This is a huge frustratration for individuals wanting to access the trail system with horses!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	<p>Comment noted. There is a project listed in the Capital Improvement Project to add a parking lot for Newberry Hill Heritage Park off of Seabeck Highway. Equestrian trailer parking will be looked at as part of this project.</p>
General	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	There seem to be conflicting goals and projects. One that stands out the most to me is that many athletic fields are planned to be replaced by turf. But the rubber in turf releases the chemical 6PPDQ which kills salmon, going against the conservation elements of the goals. An increase in capital development and increased community partnership for environmental education is something I hope to see; like partnerships with KCMS.	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes that improvements to athletic fields are widely needed. When the Department goes to execute a field improvement project, surfacing material will be evaluated for health and environmental impacts, as well as maintenance and operations costs, and field longevity and playability. Additionally, the Department will look to explore and take advantage of available newer technology in surfacing materials. Goal 6, and specifically Objective 6.1 and Action 6.1.1, speak to standardizing maintenance practices, including athletic fields, and aligning maintenance protocols with best practices and industry standards. Goal 3 speaks to minimizing environmental impact in park planning and development.</p>
General	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	On the topic of artifical turf, microplastics and toxic chemicals from rubber have a very negative impact on waterways and animals. Please consider maintaining real grass fields w/o use of pesticide, fungicides, etc. instead of replacing natural fields with plastic and rubber. Sustainability/longevity should be paramount. Also, reach out to Kitsap Mycological Society.	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes that improvements to athletic fields are widely needed. When the Department goes to execute a field improvement project, surfacing material will be evaluated for health and environmental impacts, as well as maintenance and operations costs, and field longevity and playability. Additionally, the Department will look to explore and take advantage of available newer technology in surfacing materials. Goal 6, and specifically Objective 6.1 and Action 6.1.1, speak to standardizing maintenance practices, including athletic fields, and aligning maintenance protocols with best practices and industry standards. Goal 3 speaks to minimizing environmental impact in park planning and development.</p>
General	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	Thank you for hosting this event & the comprehensive & accessible approach to the development of the current/draft PROS Plan. Thank you for the emphasis on stewardship & volunteers.	<p>Comment noted, no edits recommended.</p>
General	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	I understand how many different priorities and parks there are to manage and consider. But, given that, I was thinking it may be helpful to outline the priority framework - do we want a few state of the art parks that have all the bells and whistles, or do we want to ensure every park meets a minimum bar, etc. I'm sure the answer is both, but hard choices are usually needed. The main point here is that if we try to do everything, a lot of stuff will be half-completed or poorly done. I think it would be better to under-promise and commit to fewer things and then crush those things!	<p>Comment noted, no edits recommended.</p>
General	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	I read the PROS Plan - one helpful addition would be highlighting the key difference vs. the 2018 Plan. Thank you for all of your hard work!!!	<p>Comment noted. A paragraph highlighting the main differences between the 2018 and current PROS Plans has been added to the plan.</p>
General	2/20/2025	Verbal Comment (SK Meeting)	Previous Discover Kitsap Parks walks have been largely conservation focused - maybe in the future you could add a recreational facilities component to get the word out there and voice the need for these facilities.	<p>Comment noted. Due to current limitations with volunteer coordinator staff, Discover Kitsap Park Tours have been put on hold, but the Department will look into the suggestion to incorporate recreational facilities in the future.</p>
General	2/20/2025	Verbal Comment (SK Meeting)	Artificial turf have microplastics that have detrimental effects on waterways, would hope that environmental impact assessments would be done on turf fields so that the public can understand the impact.	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes that improvements to athletic fields are widely needed. When the Department goes to execute a field improvement project, surfacing material will be evaluated for health and environmental impacts, as well as maintenance and operations costs, and field longevity and playability. Additionally, the Department will look to explore and take advantage of available newer technology in surfacing materials. Goal 6, and specifically Objective 6.1 and Action 6.1.1, speak to standardizing maintenance practices, including athletic fields, and aligning maintenance protocols with best practices and industry standards. Goal 3 speaks to minimizing environmental impact in park planning and development.</p>
General	2/20/2025	Online Form	Please highly consider helping South Kitsap provide safe and inviting opportunities for our community.	<p>Comment noted. There are a number of park projects identified for District 2 in the Capital Improvement Project list for District 2. Additionally, based on public comments received, field projects at South Kitsap Regional Park and Veteran's Memorial Park have been adjusted to the 1-6 year priority.</p>

General	2/20/2025	Online Form	<p>Veterans Memorial Park shows less rental time because the fields are barely usable.</p> <p>Looking at a "google earth" type view, you can see how well the sprinklers work, their performance reflects the quality of the grass.</p> <p>Field 3 has standing water throughout the winter. Past mentions have talked about connecting this surplus water into the storm water system.</p> <p>The PROS plan has an outline for many years but we also need some immediate focus on improving what we have and what has been neglected through the COVID era.</p> <p>The previous PROS plan outlined turf installation at SK Regional. The lack of this progress shows the lack of attention into the South end as well as builds distrust with the hard work outlining a successful future within our parks. It also raises the question "where did the funds go"?</p> <p>We blame the lack of employment within the Parks Dept, do we ever hire outside contractors to maintenance and improve things such as the current sprinkler system? Somebody specifically trained in sprinklers would obviously yield better results than a standard employee with a screw driver.</p> <p>Is water mitigation a portion of the PROS plan? Getting water off fields would improve their playability as well as properly encourage soils and grass growth.</p> <p>There's a large focus on providing bathroom facilities to new locations but we have bathrooms falling apart and lacking partition walls at Veterans.</p> <p>Veterans Park often closes due to excessive rain. Having youth outdoor in raining conditions is proven to build resilience into adult years when they obtain careers which require them to work outdoors. Closing fields due to rain yields poor results of human behavior in a society where we live in such an electronics demand. Better drainage would help to improve this topic.</p> <p>SK Regional has had a lot more focus for multi use. Though the South Kitsap Soccer Club has been located within Port Orchard since 1975 (50yrs!). A sustaining program providing soccer for many generations should be a higher priority to our county parks.</p> <p>Veterans has lots of potential for multi use if developed well. There is a basketball court in the northern portion of the park with little to no use. The quality of the hoops are poor and would also serve for a potential platform for a pickle ball court.</p> <p>Seems the grass playing surfaces of Veterans is much superior to SK Regional. Veterans can host our whole soccer program in one location which is the largest soccer program of SK.</p> <p>If Veterans was a reputable field space, it would host members from all around Kitsap Co. The soccer program is a bit different than other youth sports in the aspect that it competes against all of Kitsap. The governing body over SKSC is NSVSA and connects 13 clubs throughout Kitsap County as well as reaching into N. Mason and Jefferson. This complex does and could better serve more than just a portion of Port Orchard.</p> <p>Currently there is 1 turf field at SKHS. It is booked out to support all the programs that our county parks should be able to assist with supporting. Multiple turf fields would better serve many sports programs.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.</p>
			<p>Lighting is a major issue in several months. When daylight ends around 4-5pm and our elementary students aren't off the bus until 4pm or later, this prevents their ability to play.</p> <p>Turf fields also have lines on them. This reduces the paint sprayed onto the ground as well as the hours involved in doing so and the financial burden of the task. As well as the trash waste from dozens of aerosol cans per week during peak seasons.</p> <p>The softball infields that were built are lacking quality in their construction. Essentially just dumped sand on the ground, proper research should've been done to utilize infield mix which is a combination of dirt and clay to make the moisture retain but not pond. The dirt/sand is not a good investment of county funds and shows poor workmanship.</p> <p>The roadway through Veterans is an old county road prior to the development of what is now Retsil Rd. This surface is failed, pot holes everywhere and sidewalks beginning to fail with no rebar which truly tells the age of their construction.</p> <p>Charging a cost to rent these fields in this condition is a disservice to our community. They should be free until the county provides the needed improvement to make them playable surfaces throughout the year.</p> <p>The soccer program has a wood framed building onsite. This is beginning to show its age as well as the county's recent repairs to the sprinkler system causing flooding to enter the building. The building is built in a lower portion of the complex and is a target for water intrusion.</p> <p>The NW is a huge region for soccer. Our MLS team highlights this with their ticket sales. And it starts with our youth in our parks. When you have children leaving Port Orchard to play in Gig Harbor and Silverdale, it begs the question "what is the issue"? The parks and this park specifically is a huge issue! If you research the importance of travel time for youth and then realize children commute from Manchester to Gig Harbor or Silverdale, this truly outlines issues within the south end.</p> <p>Lack of maintenance during COVID as well as a homeless population causing dramatic damages to the grass playing surfaces is a huge impact for this complex. Actions need to be taken to improve the past handful of years of neglect.</p> <p>As we consider to spend funds providing bathrooms to parks that have never had such amenities, we should sharpen our focus to look at the places with the amenities so abused and outdated. Maintenance of existing systems should be far superior than adding a permanent building in the middle of the woods which can't be accessed until your hike is over. A porta potty would service this need for the next 6 years in my opinion, just like we have at Veterans Memorial.</p> <p>Quite the list to carry on with one park but hopefully shows the issues and what its ability to serve the south end as well as the county as a whole. Open ended promises of a PROS plan that doesn't even install the turf it had previously outlined is an insult to the use of tax funds. The amount of time and funds invested into outlining a successful PROS plan should also be looking at why the past plans have provided a lack of results.</p> <p>We are looking forward to the leadership and staff of our parks department to improve the issues within our parks.</p>	
			<p>Thank you for your dedication into our parks system and thank you for collecting the feedback.</p>	
General	2/21/2025	Online Form	<p>South Kitsap is lacking adequate youth sports fields. We really need to put a focus on improving these so more youth can play and have a more healthy outlet, leading to better members of society as adults.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.</p>
General	2/21/2025	Online Form	<p>Having this plan for the community involvement is a great way to assess needs and have the community share a voice where funds go. Great job team. A follow up plan of what things actually got accomplished and actual costs should be published annual to keep up with this plan.</p>	<p>Comment noted. It is the Department's intention to track progress in working towards the Goals &amp; Objectives listed in the PROS Plan, as well as the Capital Improvement Projects. We will ensure future plans, policies, and decisions are consistent with the PROS Plan and reference back to it.</p>
General	2/22/2025	Online Form	<p>Parks should be a place where everyone feels included, and where all should be included. Please consider putting money towards improving the field quality for the growing soccer community! We also need lights for the early sundown seasons.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.</p>
General	2/24/2025	Online Form	<p>I believe that over all the PROS plan is well planned and written.</p>	<p>Comment noted, no edits recommended.</p>
General	2/24/2025	Email	<p>I work with children and youth with special health care needs, how does this plan work with wheelchairs, scooters, strollers. I encourage families to get outside and explore, that it improves the wellbeing of children, and adults. Being outdoors and participating in activities is proven to be beneficial to our mental health. I like to keep families informed of what is available in the county.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The PROS Plan includes several projects in the Capital Improvement Projects list to improve some trails to be barrier free and wheelchair friendly at a number of different parks. The PROS Plan also notes the importance of providing access to all park users regardless of age and ability. Objective 3.3 and its subsequent actions also speak to improving the safety and accessibility of trails for all users. Additionally, the County's Non-Motorized Facility Plan may be a good resource to learn more about additional non-motorized transportation planning and priorities.</p>

General	2/28/2025	Online Form	make it turf	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
General	2/28/2025	Online Form	I would like to see better communication with stake holders and the community as a whole. Overall it looks good and sounds great. But there are some things that need to be improved at all parks. Also as a member of Team Rubicon, which is a Disaster response organization there are some things in our toolkit that could help on some things within the parks of this great county. A side note, I have lived in south kitsap since 1967 as have seen how things have improved but also declined over the years.	Comment noted. Community engagement is an important component to park development and planning and the Department will reach out to and engage with the community during park specific planning processes.
General	3/1/2025	Online Form	I feel that the PROS plan update document was presented in a very professional and polished manner. I think that the revised mission and vision statements are clear and represent the priorities and needs of Kitsap county residents. Kudos to all involved for the clear efforts at transparency and resident engagement in the review process!	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/3/2025	Online Form	Our kids of South Kitsap have few options to engage them in healthy activities, the lack of concern for the parks they rely on to do this in a safe and healthy manner is unbelievable. I see construction/road projects happening in our city that make little sense as a tax payer but we won't invest in our kids, if you want the growth you say you seek, an investment that actually impacts the daily lives of families would make more sense. It is long overdue, the idea that you would wait another 6 years to address a level 2 concern(lowest rating that was even given) makes no sense, your goals should reflect the needs of the community, this plan does not achieve that.	Comment noted. There are a number of park projects identified for District 2 in the Capital Improvement Project list for District 2. Additionally, based on public comments received, field projects at South Kitsap Regional Park and Veteran's Memorial Park have been adjusted to the 1-6 year priority.
General	3/3/2025	Online Form	We would love veterans meemorial park to have a priority over other parks in the county. I am a long time residential of port orchard and have kids playing soccer and other sport here. We would love to see the fields we updated with no pot holes and possible lights! We have lots of play grounds and picnic areas in port orchard and surrounding areas! Please make veterans meemorial a BIG priority for kitsap county.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
General	3/3/2025	Online Form	When	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/4/2025	Online Form	quality piece of work - thanks for the opportunity to comment	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a long time community member of South Kitsap I would love to see improvements to the Veterans Park. My older kids played sports at this park and now my grand kids play there. The fields are in need of repair and I would love to see turf and lights so the fields could be utilized year round. It is a shame that we do not have more turf fields in South Kitsap to be equal to the surrounding area parks. Veteran's park is not in need of a playground or picnic areas, we have plenty of those parks in the area. We need competitive sports fields.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
General	3/5/2025	Online Form	<p>The motion is to add 3 line items to the CIP Table 6-3, for Commissioner District 3 (which is the Central Kitsap District of Katie Walters), for the Illahee Preserve Heritage Park.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire the 'Heart of the Park' properties. Cat 1, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ , Funding Options: Same as the others</li> </ol> <p>Note: This is KC Parks RCO grant 24-1777 ILLAHEE PRESERVE PH 3 HEART OF THE PARK which shows up in Prism as "Pending" funding, which is expected to be funded as there were only 8 applications submitted in the Urban Wildlife category. This is planned to be a multi-year phased acquisition of the 13 properties listed to purchase.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire the Watershed Park properties, Cat 1, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ , Funding Options: Same as the others</li> </ol> <p>Note: This is KC Parks RCO grant 24-1770 ILLAHEE PRESERVE WATERSHED PARK PH 1 which also shows up in Prism as "Pending" funding. This is an acquisition grant for the 9.6-acre parcel and the last remaining Elliott property, presuming the 3.7-acre home property is purchased first. The acquisition needs to precede the development of the watershed park.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Watershed Park with local park amenities along with planned watershed related educational exhibits. Cat 8, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ , Funding Options: Same</li> </ol> <p>Note: This is being planned as a future collaborative project between Kitsap County Parks and Bremerton Parks due to its proximity to Bremerton, which meets Bremerton's needs for an additional park in East Bremerton. It is additionally being proposed as a major Kitsap Public Facilities District (PFD) project, as the Illahee Preserve, due to its size and offerings to the Central Kitsap and Bremerton Communities, it will continue to be a regional recreation destination.</p>	Comment noted. Land acquisition projects have been added to the Capital Improvement Project List, for acquisitions related to both recreational access and conservation. These acquisitions could fall under the conservation project category.
General	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a resident of South Kitsap, parent of 4 young sports players, and community board member for various things I feel very strongly that South Kitsap desperately needs some love to our athletic fields. We have so many great parks with a ton of potential but they just get overlooked. I was disappointed to see that Veterans Memorial park is no longer a top priority for the county when I attended the PROS planning meeting a few weeks ago. Our kids travel all over the county and most other places have at least one nice turf field to use in their community. South kitsap doesn't have any. Veterans memorial is ready for some love!! Let's help our kids play sports safely and be proud of their home field! Please move Veterans to a higher priority!!	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
General	3/5/2025	Online Form	Please end the neglect of South Kitsap Parks!	Comment noted. There are a number of park development projects identified in the Capital Improvement Project list for District 2. Additionally, field improvement projects at Veteran's Memorial Park and South Kitsap Regional Park have been updated to the 1-6 year priority. There is also a project for land acquisitions that improve equitable access to parks and recreation facilities.
General	3/6/2025	Online Form	Please do not consider paving any dirt trails. Especially the ones in NK Heritage park. Asphalt is detrimental to marine life and sensitive marine invertebrates including frogs. There is a small section already paved by Whitehorse that becomes extremely slippery and dangerous and requires continued maintenance. I am sure this would be harmful in other parks too. Environmental stewardship of these areas should be our top priority, and asphalt in any form has been shown in many studies to damage the invertebrates and their ecosystem. If easier access is needed for a few, consider providing the the large, wheeled wheelchairs available in other places. Thank you for honoring nature.	Comment noted. Regional trails are included in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan and are managed by the Public Works Department, not the Parks Department. These trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails.
General	3/6/2025	Online Form	Very thoughtful. Well organized	Comment noted, no edits recommended.

General	3/7/2025	Online Form	<p>Upgrading Veterans Memorial Park to provide a safe space for children to participate in sporting activities is crucial, especially given the current challenges of poor field conditions and lack of lighting. The park's fields are in need of significant improvement, as the worn-out surfaces can lead to injuries and make it difficult for kids to enjoy their games. Without proper lighting, the park limits playtime, especially in the evening, reducing opportunities for young athletes to practice or participate in team sports. By addressing these issues—upgrading the field surfaces, adding proper lighting, and ensuring safe, accessible equipment—we can create a more enjoyable and secure environment for children to stay active, while fostering a greater sense of community and well-being</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.</p>
General	3/7/2025	Online Form	<p>I am very impressed with the plan. Thank you for all the work that went into it.</p>	<p>Comment noted, no edits recommended.</p>
General	3/7/2025	Online Form Email	<p>After reading and digesting the new 2025 PROS Plan, I would like to know how Kitsap Facilities District (KFD) seems to have been able to usurp the Kitsap County Heritage Parks for their vision of a regional system of connected offroad trails. Perhaps Pope, Olympic Property group, Jon Rose, the parks director made a back-room deal?</p> <p>If this is truly the case, then I feel like the community was misled in a bait and switch scheme to get donations to buy the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park (PGFHP) for KFD's ultimate goal, which just happens to align with Jon Rose's vision of connecting his development assets. Many of the contributions to purchase PGFHP came from residents and donors who wanted to protect and restore the park for future generations. The 2018 PROS Plan gave people the belief that this was the direction the parks were going. The majority of the people who commented on the creation of the update expressed that point (to keep the vision of the 2018 plan) and to possibly help influence the development of the new plan as promised.</p> <p>I must say that I am disappointed with the process of the creation of the update, the public comment charade and the presentation of the new 2025 PROS Plan.</p> <p>The classification system has been completely changed for reasons that don't really justify such drastic changes. The reasons given were to make it more consistent with other parks and organization's classification systems and to help avoid confusion when applying for funding.</p> <p>Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has NOT requested a different classification system to apply for funding. The 2018 PROS Plan recognized the unique character of Kitsap County's different parks. For example, PGFHP is so large, it had a number of classifications within the park so there could be room for conservation, and restoration that would be free of active recreation, while also providing ample room for active recreation.</p> <p>I feel this new PROS Plan takes a cookie-cutter approach to standardizing our parks so they can become a large "regional park system" to capitalize on tourism and active recreation. The majority of the people who supported buying and using Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park never intended this. These comments are documented in the Appendix of the new plan.</p> <p>With this "vision" of a regional trail system, not only do the animals that already live here lose but the local people who enjoy a peaceful, restorative walk in the forest lose too. To make this regional trail system vision work, North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) has been thrown into the mix too. NKHP is the crown jewel of Kitsap and this regional trail (let's just call it what it really is, a road) would destroy what makes it special. An unspoiled habitat for animals, a large watershed, diversity of flora and fauna, and best of all, peace and quiet.</p> <p>An example would be like taking the Grand Old Forest on Bainbridge and running a road right through the center. I don't think Bainbridge residents would tolerate that.</p> <p>We are already being overrun by bikers in PGFHP, many who don't understand the proposed dual nature of a shared trail. With an entitled air, they think they own the park. They go out of bounds and ride through streams, their tires degrade the forest floor and damage tree roots. Many of the younger boys do not yield to pedestrians or equestrians.</p> <p>If indeed, a regional trail system goes through NKHP, joining the Arborwood development and the Port Gamble development with the newly acquired GPC property, the public will know the truth. That this plan was never intended to have the public's desires and comments make any difference in the outcome. The effort Parks made to have public engagement was just a show. It was just another box needing to be checked as a way to get funding.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration of this comment.</p>	<p>Comment noted. There is not a vision for a regional off-road trail system in the PROS Plan. Off-road trails are included in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan and are managed by the Public Works Department, not the Parks Department. These trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails.</p> <p>The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement. The classifications mentioned with regards to Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park are the landscape management zones, which are included in the draft Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park Framework, and are different from the proposed park classifications. These landscape management zones still exist and will be reevaluated as part of edits to the Draft Framework.</p>
General	3/8/2025	Online Form	<p>The PROS Plan is an important step forward in rebuilding trust that things can be done for the public not for the deep pockets that want to build more condominiums and apartments and have no regard to preserve nature and the beauty of safe parks</p>	<p>Comment noted, no edits recommended.</p>
General	3/8/2025	Online Form	<p>Thank you for any increase in advertising of these public surveys. I try to be an active member of these discussions, but many of us either do not see or are not notified of opportunities for involvement, or are too busy to respond. I would love to see more folks in my demographic (34 yo) responding to these surveys to provide input for the land in their future and their children's future.</p>	<p>Comment noted, no edits recommended.</p>
General	3/8/2025	Online Form	<p>Seems to me this is not thoughtful. It seems we gave money to keep Kitsap green, and now it's becoming a cookie cutter space we dont want.</p>	<p>Comment noted, no edits recommended.</p>
General	3/8/2025	Online Form	<p>As we live in South Kitsap, not having a parks and recreation center or program is awful. Growing up on Bainbridge Island as a child, we had access to parks and recreation. As a kid we had the options to attend fun summer day camps and activities as well as recreational sports such as soccer. Now as a parent living in south Kitsap, we have to out source our kids activities to different areas out of our way. Having a parks and recreation program will create jobs, help kids learn, keep them smart and active. It would be nice for kids who can't afford club sports like south kitsap peeewees and recreation seasonal sports is a lot cheaper. It would give many kids the opportunity to play sports and learn team work and commitment.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Kitsap County defunded recreation programming due to impacts from the Great Recession. The Parks Department currently does not provide recreational programming. Instead, we seek partnerships to provide recreational programming opportunities for the community, such as sports leagues and camps, bike lessons, gardening, and archery and other 4H activities.</p>
General	3/11/2025	Online Form	<p>I recently moved to Port Orchard and live in the McCormick area. We are a household of two with only one car and I have find that the public transportation is not accessible/clear in this area. There are different kinds of buses all around PO, but I don't understand what's the difference between each one.</p> <p>We are also mountain bikers, and besides Port Gamble, we usually go to areas where this sport is more developed, some examples are Tiger Mountain, Raging River, Galbraith Mountain. However, in this area, there are no trails open for MTB.</p> <p>I noticed the city has created a lot of roundabouts, but these concrete spaces should be transformed into pollinator gardens with different native flowers. Unless there's another reason for them to have empty middles.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Public transportation and right of way projects fall outside of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, but will be shared with the applicable agencies. Unless otherwise specified, all trails within County parks are open to mountain bikes. The only developed mountain bike ride park within County parks is at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.</p>
General	3/13/2025	Online Form	<p>South kitsap is in desperate need in improving all parks to support the local recreational sports programs. Veterans memorial park and south kitsap regional park two of kitsaps greatest assets are in terrible condition and not only lack youth sports programs but are uninviting to programs which wish to use them. The fields are in deplorable conditions and are shocking to see. The surrounding communities including gig harbor and tacoma have great community programs and constantly update and maintain the sports fields. Kitsap could not only use updated fields but also updated programming. Sksc is trying to improve our sports programming but south kitsap seriously lacks the support for both youth and adult sports.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.</p>

General	3/13/2025	Online Form	<p>Upgrading Veterans Memorial Park to provide a safe space for children to participate in sporting activities is crucial, especially given the current challenges of poor field conditions and lack of lighting. The park's fields are in need of significant improvement, as the worn-out surfaces can lead to injuries and make it difficult for kids to enjoy their games. Without proper lighting, the park limits playtime, especially in the evening, reducing opportunities for young athletes to practice or participate in team sports. By addressing these issues—upgrading the field surfaces, adding proper lighting, and ensuring safe, accessible equipment—we can create a more enjoyable and secure environment for children to stay active, while fostering a greater sense of community and well-being.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.</p>
General	3/13/2025	Online Form	<p>Support the quickly growing sport of pickleball.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes the community's desire for pickleball courts. The Capital Improvement Project list includes pickleball projects in each Commissioner District.</p>
General	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>Comparison of 2025 to 2018 PROS Plan</p> <p>The 2025 PROS Plan has the task to build on and make updated improvements from the previous 2018 PROS Plan. Instead the draft 2025 version is a rewritten document that doesn't reflect back to 2018, eliminates or adds goals not presented for public discussion and doesn't always align with the current Comprehensive Plan. As stated in the 2025 PROS Plan Preface (p.5) "The PROS Plan is intended to refresh and update", and as stated in the Purpose section (p. 4), "is an element of the Kitsap County's Comprehensive Plan."</p> <p>The new plan was envisioned during a staff meeting (Nov 2023), not built on the foundation of the 2018 Plan. It lacks the policies of land use conservation established in 2018, and hints at divesting of parks that aren't income-producing.</p> <p>Park Classification</p> <p>The new classification system needs further explanation of the purpose and consequences of its use. Also the draft PROS Plan uses the Washington State Parks Classification System inconsistently. For example, Kitsap Heritage Parks are not properly identified, and a Regional Park designation is questionable for Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The goals from the 2018 PROS Plan have been carried forward and incorporated into the 2025 PROS Plan goals and objectives. The goals have been reorganized to better align with Department operations.</p> <p>The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement.</p>
General	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>The Role of Park Stewardship Program in Heritage Parks</p> <p>The park stewardship program has operated for decades as community-based park ambassadors organized to maintain and enhance the county's heritage parks. The new Plan relegates stewards to the role of maintenance and would be a waste of valuable local knowledge to assist planning future park improvements.</p> <p>Comparison of 2025 to 2018 PROS Plan</p> <p>The 2025 PROS Plan has the task to build on and make updated improvements from the previous 2018 PROS Plan. Instead the draft 2025 version is a rewritten document that doesn't reflect back to 2018, eliminates or adds goals not presented for public discussion and doesn't always align with the current Comprehensive Plan. As stated in the 2025 PROS Plan Preface (p.5) "The PROS Plan is intended to refresh and update", and as stated in the Purpose section (p. 4), "is an element of the Kitsap County's Comprehensive Plan."</p> <p>The new plan was envisioned during a staff meeting (Nov 2023), not built on the foundation of the 2018 Plan. It lacks the policies of land use conservation established in 2018, and hints at divesting of parks that aren't income-producing.</p> <p>Park Classification</p> <p>The new classification system needs further explanation of the purpose and consequences of its use. Also the draft PROS Plan uses the Washington State Parks Classification System inconsistently. For example, Kitsap Heritage Parks are not properly identified, and a Regional Park designation is questionable for Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.</p> <p>Parks Carrying Capacity</p> <p>Parks can be loved to death—overuse and lack of enforcement threaten sustainability and safety. Entrance parking and trailheads need to be sized appropriately so as to not exceed park's carrying capacity. There must be a balance between park sustainability versus promoting parks as a business opportunity or income stream.</p> <p>Trail Usage</p> <p>Safe trail use is inadequately enforced, and nothing in the Plan addresses how this will be managed. For example, the 10-mph speed limit is not enforced, and the mixed use of trails by bikers, hikers, equestrians, and pets puts them all at risk. Moreover, crisscrossing cycle tracks have torn up trails, damaged tree roots, and impacted wildlife corridors.</p> <p>Parks Advisory Board</p> <p>The Parks Advisory Board (PAB) seems to be sidelined throughout the Draft PROS Plan. The PAB needs to be properly included in the development of the PROS Plan and its role presented in the Plan.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The Parks Department has a long lived volunteer program and the PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers. There is limited staff time available to manage and coordinate the volunteer program. Given the constraints, we do our best to provide ongoing volunteer opportunities. Additionally, Objective 4.4 and its subsequent actions speak to fostering a robust volunteer stewardship program.</p> <p>The goals from the 2018 PROS Plan have been carried forward and incorporated into the 2025 PROS Plan goals and objectives. The goals have been reorganized to better align with Department operations.</p> <p>The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement.</p> <p>The Department shared project updates and collected feedback from the Parks Advisory Board throughout the PROS Plan update process. The Parks Advisory Board has been added to Table 3-1, as well as a paragraph summarizing their interview, and a section explaining their role has been added to the Operations &amp; Governance section in the Inventory &amp; Assessment chapter. See Appendix C for more information on engagement efforts throughout the process, including all touchpoints with the PAB. While this is the first time the Draft PROS Plan has been released for public comment, it is based on extensive community engagement.</p> <p>Trail safety and multi-use conflicts are acknowledged concerns. Actions have been added to the PROS Plan to improve trail safety and reduce recreational conflicts.</p> <p>The PROS Plan's emphasis on professional park management should not be misinterpreted as sidelining public involvement. The county's responsibility includes ensuring that land use, maintenance, and long-term investments are managed efficiently and sustainably. The Department had one meeting with the consultant. Department staff are a key contributor to system conditions and have valuable insight. The Plan retains public participation mechanisms while ensuring that trained staff play an integral role in implementation and strategic direction. Community input, as well as inventory assessment and demand and needs analysis all also informed the development of the Plan.</p> <p>The Parks Department recognizes the concern regarding overuse and the Plan does include some capacity management strategies, particularly for high use areas (such as infrastructure enhancements and adaptive management strategies). Parking lot projects will be sized and located appropriately based on park's intended usage and park management plans, which will be developed with community input.</p> <p>The Department acknowledges that large policy documents can always be refined for clarity. The Plan's organization follows standard best practices for planning documents, with sections logically structured to provide policy guidance, inventory assessments, and capital project frameworks as expected by RCO. The PROS Plan follows RCO's preferred structure for these types of plans.</p> <p>The 1-6 year capital project list will get updated on an annual basis and these get approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The Department tries to balance projects by geographic location and project type.</p>
			<p>Parks Department Staff Roles</p> <p>The role of the Parks Department staff seemed inappropriately elevated over the public's involvement and the proper governance structure of the County.</p> <p>Relationship to Existing County Policy Documents</p> <p>The draft PROS Plan inadequately draws on important existing documents such as the 2024 Comprehensive Plan and the 2018 PROS Plan.</p> <p>The draft PROS Plan lacks an analysis of the big picture documents—the policy documents—within which the new PROS Plan should be situated. The Kitsap County 2024 Comprehensive Plan, the Kitsap County Habitat Conservation Plans, the Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facility Plan, and the 2018 PROS plan present the policy context for the new PROS Plan. Yet this analysis is not provided in the draft PROS plan.</p> <p>PROS Plan Vision</p> <p>The relationship between the Draft PROS plan goals and the goals from the 2018 PROS plan and the 2024 Comp Plan PROS chapter is not clear. A comparison of the goals and rationale for the differences need to be explained.</p> <p>Capital Improvement Plan</p> <p>The foundation for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is framed around four themes —(a) Conservation and Landscape Resiliency; (b) Connectivity and Trail Development; (c) Access and Safety; and (d) Recreation Facilities and Amenities. However, the prioritization among these themes is not clear nor are the priorities among the long list of possible CIP projects.</p> <p>Public Involvement Survey Data Presentation and Analysis</p> <p>There is a disconnect between the data collected from the Public Surveys and the interpretations and priorities set. The Public Involvement section (p. 46-84) has data presentation and analysis problems. The survey data have been inadequately analyzed and data from multiple data collection methods have not been integrated into meaningful presentations and interpretations.</p> <p>Public Involvement (p. 8) "A description of how the planning process gave the public ample opportunity to be involved in plan development and adoption." The public had no opportunity to view or comment on the draft or data analysis early in the draft process.</p> <p>Organization of PROS Plan</p> <p>The organization of the 2025 PROS Plan needs improvement. It is internally inconsistent and repetitive.</p>	

General	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>I am writing to strongly advocate for the inclusion of Veterans Memorial Park in the county's upcoming updates. For too long, this vital community space has been neglected, leaving our children and athletes without safe and competitive fields to play on. It is time to invest in our community's future by revitalizing these fields and ensuring they meet the needs of South Kitsap's growing youth sports programs.</p> <p>One of the most critical updates needed is the installation of a lighted turf field. Many soccer clubs across Western Washington already have access to such facilities, putting our local athletes at a disadvantage. A turf field with lights would allow for more consistent use throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions, and enable our teams to host competitive matches without worrying about unplayable field conditions.</p> <p>Additionally, it is essential to level the existing fields and install proper lighting throughout the park. Uneven playing surfaces not only limit the ability to play and practice effectively but also increase the risk of injury. Quality fields are more than just a luxury—they are a necessity for fostering skill development, teamwork, and a sense of community.</p> <p>South Kitsap's children deserve fields that are safe, modern, and accessible. For years, the county allowed the homeless population to take over Veterans Memorial Park, leading to its deterioration. Now, it is time to restore what was lost and give our children a place where they can play, grow, and take pride in their community.</p> <p>Investing in these updates is not just about improving soccer fields—it is about investing in the well-being of our youth and strengthening our community. I urge you to prioritize Veterans Memorial Park in the county's improvement plans and ensure that our children have the facilities they deserve.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.</p>
General	3/14/2025	Online Form	Agree with all.it was very well written and addresses the needs of our community.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>Stop taxes too high</p> <p>You'll just go crazy spending so why do i bother.</p>	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/14/2025	Online Form	I love our Kitsap Parks and I generally think the parks dept does a great job acquiring land and making it available to the public	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>As a 40+ year resident of Kitsap County, ~10 year resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, ~5 year resident of Seattle, ~19 year resident of Tacoma, member of the Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society, member of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Tahuya /Green Mountain State Forest Recreation Focus Group, &amp; as a volunteer with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Forest Watch, my main concern is that the acquisition of property is totally out of balance with the ability of Kitsap County &amp; the Parks Department to property &amp; efficiently maintain &amp; manage its current inventory. Indeed, current park property inventory far exceeds the funding &amp; staff required to be responsible stewards of forested natural resource lands as well as recreational parks. Funding &amp; staffing are critical to public safety &amp; public access of these publicly owned properties. The shortfalls in funding &amp; staffing speak directly to the need to curtail further land acquisition. With the vast real estate &amp; real property holdings of county for which the Parks Department is responsible, liability for the personal safety of the staff &amp; public as well as property value is of great concern.</p> <p>Further acquisitions can have catastrophic consequences to existing park inventory. Climate change is here. Fire &amp; natural disasters can devastate well maintained resources, but will obliterate neglected resources.</p> <p>As a resident of nearby Newberry Hill Heritage Park, I absolutely endorse a much needed access area off Seabeck Highway. This was part of the original proposal when this property was transferred to the county by DNR. A promise not kept.</p> <p>While this PROS Plan seems to be very detailed as befitting a professionally created document, I find it unnecessarily cold, lacking a necessary warm, local feel. I think this might be remedied quite easily with dated, captions identifying the locations of the photos thus easily "tailoring" it to Kitsap County. I assumed the photos were of Kitsap County Park, Recreation &amp; Open Space properties, however, I was SHOCKED to see the Green Mountain State Forest Vista viewpoint pictured on page 12. This is obviously not owned by Kitsap County nor is it encumbered by this proposed PROS Plan &amp; as such should be omitted. Another properly identified Kitsap County property should replace it.</p> <p>Also, noted on page 12, "Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park, the county's largest forested tract spans over 3000 acres..." This is incorrect &amp; should read county owned forested tract. Green Mountain State Forest at over 6,00 acres is the largest forested tract in Kitsap County.</p> <p>There is an increased emphasis on forested tracts as in the establishment of large Heritage Parks which I believe are important, but I also believe that smaller, urban parks &amp; open space are also needed. Easily accessed, preferably forested or natural open space is beneficial to a more everyday natural resource experience. The intrinsic educational value &amp; appreciation of &amp; for natural resources must be a part of everyday life &amp; available to everyone regardless of there economic situation. It's especially important that urban density areas include green, preferably forested, open space.</p> <p>I found the stylized, possible intentional insertion of the graphic art logo of the SJC Alliance consulting firm overlay on pages 3, 9, 46, 85, 100, &amp; 113 to be disingenuous. The beauty of the unidentified photographs is disrupted. The insinuation of their graphic finger print should have no place on this document.</p> <p>I found the maps very, very messy &amp; difficult to understand lacking legends &amp; definitions of terminology such as "heat" &amp; captioned "points". Are points, locations? Public responses?</p> <p>On page 37, identification of the county owned "Stavis Estuary" property is easily confused with the 120 acre State Department of Natural Resources Stavis Estuary which is part of the 3,020 acre Stavis Natural Recreation Area.</p> <p>I understand that this document is necessarily huge as befitting the vast property for which the Parks Department is responsible, however, I wish that the tables were organized by district as well as by classification or project. While unfortunately expanding the document, it would allow the public to more easily assess park property in the district in which they live or recreate.</p> <p>I assume typos as on page 93, 3rd paragraph, "docuemetrn" &amp; capital "N" Recreation term on page 139 will be spell checked &amp; corrected.</p> <p>Also, that the over printing on pages 158, 160, 173 will be corrected.</p> <p>Since Kitsap County Park properties are non-motorized, will an E-Bike policy be addressed?</p> <p>I am surprised to see "F" FARR, Firearms listed in the capital improvement table, page 121, as a "funding source program to acquire, develop, renovate firearm ranges &amp; archery training &amp; practice facilities". Archery is a stretch, but firearms?</p> <p>Furthermore, in reviewing this document I still have questions &amp; concerns which probably need to be addressed outside of this document. Those questions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of the 27 acres in Silverdale transferred from DNR to Kitsap County with assessors office property use listing as undeveloped land.</li> <li>• Jupiter Trail (Olympic View Park) property zoned rural residential with assessors office property use listing as undeveloped land.</li> <li>• Eglon property zoned part Rural Residential &amp; part Rural Wooded with assessors office property use listing as undeveloped land.</li> <li>• 17.88 acres adjacent to the county Fairgrounds &amp; Tracyton Blvd. purchased by the county in 1994, zoned "Park" with assessors office property use listing as "Single Family Residence". Is this just reflective of a lag in updating county records?</li> </ul>	<p>Comment noted. The PROS Plan does identify maintenance challenges given the Department's current limited staffing and large inventory. Action 1.1.1, Objective 1.6 and its subsequent actions, Goal 6, Action 6.1.3, and Objective 6.2 and its subsequent actions speak to improving efficiency and balancing staffing resources with the demands of the system.</p> <p>The Plan has been updated to include picture locations and the picture of Green Mountain has been replaced. The Plan has also been updated to clarify Port Gamble as the largest County-owned forested tract.</p> <p>The map results from Public Survey #2 can be difficult to interpret as they include all the results laid on each other. However, the Plan text provides analysis of the maps. table 2-12 represents the County's inventory and Stavis Estuary can be distinguished from the DNR property by size (13.33 acres compared to the much larger State property). Table 2-12, and Figure 2-9 have been reorganized by district (North, South, and Central). Typos have been corrected. E-bike policy will be addressed as part of updates to the Park Code. The Funding Options simply represent possible options for funding sources to complement the major capital funding sources, such as REET II or impact fees. Additional questions will be followed up on. The Fairgrounds &amp; Event Center does have an archery facility.</p>

			Admittedly, it's extremely difficult to slog through this PROS Plan, complete with appendices, but I tried. Thank you for attention to my concerns.	
General	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>Organization of Plan: The organization of the plan needs improvement. Here are examples of improvements needed in the organization of the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Figure 1-1(p.8) appears to be a depiction of the order of the chapters. The Demand and Needs Analysis chapter is shown as coming before the Goals and Objectives chapter. These are reversed in the text.</li> <li>•Most of the first 4 pages of the Overview and the Demand &amp; Needs Analysis chapter seems more logically to fit in the Inventory &amp; Assessment chapter which provides background and the general picture of the context for the PROS Plan.</li> <li>•The information about Vision is scattered and, in one case, inaccurate. The Kitsap County vision statement (p. 17) that opens the Planning Context of the Draft PROS plan section is stated as "from the approved 2024 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan." That is incorrect. The vision statement given there is from the 2018 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan.</li> <li>•On pages 101 and following, the County's 2024 Comprehensive Plan vision is mixed in a confusing way with the vision of the Parks Department staff.</li> <li>•Overall, the plan seems wordy, repetitive, and unfocused.</li> </ul>	Comment noted. The Department acknowledges that large policy documents can always be refined for clarity. The Plan's organization follows standard best practices for planning documents, with sections logically structured to provide policy guidance, inventory assessments, and capital project frameworks as expected by RCO. The PROS Plan follows RCO's preferred structure for these types of plans. The Demand and Needs Analysis does come before the Goals and Objectives chapter. The Vision on page 17 has been updated.
General	3/15/2025	Online Form	Just leave Banner Forest alone. South Kitsap Regional Park still hasn't recovered from the "few" trees you cut down and it's awful.	Comment noted. The Department is currently working on updating its Forest Stewardship Policy and Implementation Plan. More information will be available later this year.
General	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>A little over 10 years ago, the County acquired the Rolling Hills Golf Course. This facility is an excellent addition to the County's Parks assets. It is well designed and accommodates the great majority of all golfers. As a senior golfer, I appreciate that the course is both walkable and cart-friendly, affordable, and has a fine restaurant. As the County's population ages, the demand for golf is likely to increase, because it offers both a mental challenge and physical fitness.</p> <p>With some modest investment, Rolling Hills should continue to be a real asset to the County's Parks system.</p>	Comment noted. A project to make improvements to Rolling Hills Golf Course has been added to the Capital Improvement Project list and a discussion of its operation has been added to the Inventory & Assessment Chapter.
General	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>Park speed limits. Kitsap County code requirements: 10.12.100 Riding vehicles or animals. It is unlawful to ride or drive any motor vehicle, bicycle, tricycle or other self-propelled vehicle or any horse or other animal through any park except along and upon park roads and such trails as are marked for bicycles, horses or motorcycles; or at speeds in excess of ten miles per hour; or to park any vehicle except in areas designated by the park director.</p> <p>Many of the trails/roads in Heritage Parks are multiuse mixing bicycle, horse and pedestrian traffic. Many walkers are accompanied by pets on leash. When bicyclists exceed 10 MPH, this creates a dangerous situation. In Appendix D under safety concerns, several respondents voiced their concern about excessive bike speeds on these trails. Shouldn't the 2025 PROS Plan address ways to control excessive bicycle speeds in county parks such as signage at park entrances and additional monitoring? This is of particular concern in Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.</p>	Comment noted. Trail safety and multi-use conflicts are acknowledged concerns. Actions have been added to the PROS Plan to improve trail safety and reduce recreational conflicts. There are park rules signs posted at entrances to every park. The Department does not have an enforcement program and instead relies on the Kitsap County Sheriff for rule enforcement.
General	3/15/2025	Online Form	I think the PROS plan shows a balanced approach to managing the parks (conservation, recreation, fields, trails, etc.). I agree with the goals and objectives and I think they represent this balance well. Overall, I think it's very thorough and I appreciate the opportunity to comment.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/15/2025	Online Form	Will send separately	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>On February 20, 2025, it is clear that the Parks Department has decided to eliminate the park stewards program that has been emphasized at least since the 2018 PROS Plan. The Department has decided, without Commissioner approval or Steward input, to supervise volunteers with staff in the Maintenance and Operations group, not the Natural Resources group. The Natural Resources group has inadequately communicated with and inadequately supported most stewards groups in 2024. There are two differences between an average volunteer and a steward. Stewards are much more committed to and knowledgeable about 1-2 parks. Secondly, stewards are typically eager to be involved in planning future management and improvements in the parks using their knowledge and experience. Stewards will be bored out of their minds if supervised by M&amp;O.</p> <p>At a minimum, the 2025 PROS Plan must declare that this change in supervision will occur.</p>	Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.
General	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>1. KEC promotes net ecological gain. We applaud the County Parks system for increasing the amount of protected natural areas in the County.</p> <p>2. The PGFHP Framework calls for almost 10 acres of asphalt pavement for the STO transportation route. Yet two Goals/Actions (3.1.1 and 6.4.2) in the PROS Plan declare that impermeable surfaces are not desired.</p> <p>3. Action 3.1.1: Incorporate green infrastructure (e.g., rain gardens, permeable surfaces) to manage stormwater and improve water quality.</p> <p>4. Action 6.4.2: Utilize environmentally friendly trail construction materials and techniques to minimize ecological footprint and erosion risks.</p> <p>5. Alex W. via C. Rolfes stated the following on Feb. 26, 2025</p> <p>6. The Port Gamble Framework will NOT be approved by means of PROS approval. I've indicated this to the Commissioners, the Parks Advisory Board, and the public that the Framework is on a different path – it will be updated after (1) the wildlife utilization study (2025) and (2) direction on the STO from the Commissioners (2025?). With an update complete, we'll then take it through another public comment period before bringing it to the Commissioners for approval (2026)." Yet this conflicts with the official public statement in the PGFHP Framework included in Appendix that Commissioners will approve Framework in the next PROS Plan (meaning this draft PROS Plan). Please help the public understand by inserting a clear statement about what will happen to Framework in this PROS Plan. We need to trust the leaders of the County.</p> <p>7. The PROS Plan should not encourage transportation routes passing through the Parks, especially Heritage Parks. On page 138, a trail is defined: "A trail is a recreational facility that also can serve as a non-motorized route for transportation." We believe that this definition is bad. Heritage Park trails should allow users to appreciate the Park and its wildlife, not provide transportation.</p> <p>8. It is clear from the definition in Appendix B that the STO is a bikeway not a trail. Bikeways are distinct from recreational trails in that they prioritize efficient, non-motorized transportation. Designed for bicycle commuters, fitness riders, and competitive cyclists, bikeways emphasize direct routes, speed, and connectivity to roadway networks. Yet, the STO promoted by the County is not a direct route. The County has purposefully altered the routes to take advantage of the free land available in Heritage Parks, essentially ignoring their own definition of bikeway to save some money and satisfy corporate sponsors.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Regional trails are included in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan and are managed by the Public Works Department, not the Parks Department. These trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails.</p> <p>The Draft Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park Framework will not be adopted by means of PROS Plan approval. The PROS Plan makes no indication that the Framework will be adopted with PROS adoption.</p>

General	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>General Comment</p> <p>Will paved shared use paths be built to allow access for all ages and abilities? If yes, which classifications of parks will include SUP trail facilities? Please specify in the park classifications chart or state explicitly somewhere else in the document where paved shared use paths that meet Federal ADA Standards will be built to allow access for all ages and abilities. I believe it is important to clarify this, and here's why.</p> <p>Over the past few years there has been ongoing controversy between community members surrounding paved trails in the Heritage Parks. Many people in the community would very much appreciate clarity surrounding shared use paths and the PROS Plan document seems an appropriate place to define the areas where Shared use paths will be built. Sincerely, I believe the community would like to move forward. Thank you for considering my comment on this topic, I very much appreciate it.</p>	Comment noted. Regional trails are included in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan and are managed by the Public Works Department, not the Parks Department. These trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails.
General	3/15/2025	Online Form	Safety around existing park entrances is not well addressed. Any thought about reducing speed at park entrances? Banner forest parking areas relate. Speed should be reduced where pedestrians are moving about to reduce chance of someone being run over. 45MPH with pedestrians is insane.	Comment noted. Road speed limits fall outside of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, but will be shared with the Public Works Department.
General	3/15/2025	Online Form	Same as above.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/15/2025	Online Form	Additional time to provide comments should have been provided for this draft PROS Plan. It is taking a lot of time to wade through the PROS Plan and appendices to understand its organization and understand the direction and processes the Parks Department will put in place to safeguard our heritage parks, especially after the majority of comments talked about the importance of protecting these forests, habitats and natural spaces.	Comment noted. The public comment period was five weeks long and included three presentations at community meetings and one presentation at a Parks Advisory Board meeting. While this is the first time the Draft plan has been released for public comment, the Plan is based on extensive community engagement. See Appendix C for more information on engagement opportunities during plan development and the public comment period.
General	3/15/2025	Email	<p>Many of us have patiently waited for reasons unknown for the release of the 2025 draft PROS Plan. We were not told what was in it or much of anything except there was some problems that existed with the group that was creating the document. We were asked to give input based on the 2018 PROS plan, which was a fairly acceptable document, only to find out that what was put out was completely different from the 2018 Plan, not to mention the gigantic size of this new document.</p> <p>At the first presentation provided by Alex Wisniewski it was barely touched on that the Park Classification System they intended to use was totally different than the current system. This change lacks the transparency and public discourse that is essential. It was stated that this was due to RCO grants, there is no indication that this is true. I looked into the State Classification system, which is generally impressive and it was obvious that the County's proposed classification was neither similar to the state system nor similar to the previous county classification system, but was something totally different. Changing the classification of our Heritage Parks in Kitsap County, which gives our parks their unique distinctions, to Nature Parks or Regional Parks, is totally unacceptable. These changes should have been brought to the public, park volunteers, Park Advisory Board and Stewardship groups even before the draft was created. Washington State's classification system gives each park a 12-15 month period of public input before creating a classification for a park. These parks belong to us, and the Kitsap County Parks Department is there only to help manage our parks.</p> <p>A second issue I would like to discuss is safety problems in our parks due to the concept of multiuse trails. The 2025 PROS states there are problems due to multiuse trails but offers no solutions. It states that users of the park have asked for more pedestrian only trails, but offers no solution. It is common knowledge, county and state wide, that pedestrians are the major users in the park trail systems, yet there is little weight given to hikers' and walkers' comments. Yes, bicycles on the trails are a major safety hazard as well as the amount of damage bicycles cause to the trails, especially during the wet seasons. It is crucial that the PROS plan creates clear solutions for these problems.</p> <p>The heritage parks in Kitsap County hold much of the county's natural resources and should be treated with the importance this entails. Climate Change is here and we need the forests and all the wetlands the county can muster or people will be leaving here in droves. I'm sure you understand the importance of these critical areas as our county relies totally on its rainfall for our drinking water. It is poor practice that the county does not require detailed analysis of our Park's wetlands and other critical areas before considering any kinds of development in the parks, including trails. I hope this will be corrected as they look at Eglen.</p> <p>One last point is the creation of specific habitat areas for wildlife within the current heritage parks. It is listed as a primary use of the heritage parks yet remains to be addressed. Our county is seriously lacking in this area.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement.</p> <p>Trail safety and multi-use conflicts are acknowledged concerns. Actions have been added to the PROS Plan to improve trail safety and reduce recreational conflicts. There are park rules signs posted at entrances to every park. The Department does not have an enforcement program and instead relies on the Kitsap County Sheriff for rule enforcement.</p> <p>Goals 2 and 3, as well as Objectives 2.1, 2.2, and 3.2 (and their subsequent actions) speak to developing and implementing natural resource management plans, protecting wildlife and habitat, and conducting environmental assessments ahead of planning efforts.</p>
General	3/16/2025	Online Form	With our warming climate and our population increasing day by day, it is important to keep in mind and implement actions to protect our park environments. We want to be sure our recreation is not "wreckreation". Protect our parks natural environment, use our knowledgeable park stewards thus ensuring the sustainability of our wild places for the future generations. Our 2025 PROS Plan must reflect our needs for a healthy park system that we can be proud of for years to come. Thank you for working toward this goal.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/16/2025	Online Form	I have identified a 2 acre parcel well suited for a community garden in Enetai. I have identified a 9 acre wooded (flat) parcel owned by Bremerton School District in Enetai. It is perfect for shaded picnic areas, fort-style playground for children, multi-generational accessibility in natural setting. Can also incorporate a dog park and disc golf. There is a need for this in Enetai and can be used by adjacent communities. Contact Save Enetai for more info.	Comment noted. Objective 1.2 speaks to prioritizing land acquisition for areas lacking access to parks. Additionally, projects have been added to the Capital Improvement Project list 1.2 to explore land acquisition that improves access to parks and recreation facilities.
General	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>Page 22 talks of broadening and sustaining park stewards. Meanwhile the dedicated stewards for NKHP were presented with obstacle after obstacle to effectively carrying out their work on a shoestring budget.</p> <p>Lean staffing (page 41) calls for having an open, transparent system of getting feedback from departing staff about their real reasons for leaving without repercussions for doing so. No matter what the vocation, people are reluctant to say anything negative in an honest manner for fear of retribution.</p> <p>Parts of the document could be trimmed/reduced as they cover other GMA areas like the comprehensive plan or the county governance making the PROS plan document bloated. There could be a paragraph or two and then refer to other resources so as to not overwhelm the reader.</p>	Comment noted. The Department acknowledges that large policy documents can always be refined for clarity. The Plan's organization follows standard best practices for planning documents, with sections logically structured to provide policy guidance, inventory assessments, and capital project frameworks as expected by RCO. The PROS Plan follows RCO's preferred structure for these types of plans.

General	3/16/2025	Online Form Email	<p>1. In the wake of large land acquisitions and creation of the Heritage Park concept, the 2012 PROS Plan received a major update. The 2018 PROS Plan incorporated and operationalized the County's vision for managing Heritage Parks and other large parcels. The value of the natural environment, habitat, and wildlife were placed as a core element, alongside the usage of parks for quality recreation. The 2018 plan incorporated citizens' visions for Heritage Parks, defined a process for master plans, and provided a creative and realistic community-based management plan.</p> <p>ⒶA large portion of the 2018 PROS Plan was devoted to environmental values.</p> <p>ⒶA process of resources assessments and landscape classifications, leading to identification of restoration needs and appropriate levels of development, was defined in the former Appendix 5.</p> <p>ⒶRecognizing financial limitations, the 2018 PROS and 2016 Comprehensive Plans relied upon creating a stewardship group system that proved to be wildly successful, from day-to-day monitoring to major restoration and trail projects.</p> <p>Over the last four years, the Parks Department has systematically departed from the 2018 PROS Plan. The proposed 2025 plan is a complete rewrite that abandons the 2018 plan, makes significant policy changes without citizen input, ignores core elements of the community vision, is financially unsound, and overlooks issues that have to be addressed. The plan has many platitudes and few specifics.</p> <p>2. Omission of critical issues in need of immediate acknowledgement and attention in the plan:</p> <p>ⒶSummary of deletions and additions to park policies;</p> <p>ⒶCarrying capacity;</p> <p>ⒶUser conflicts and bicyclist behavior;</p> <p>ⒶE-bikes and other powered mobility devices.</p> <p>3. The concept and value of heritage parks needs to be formalized and highlighted in the PROS Plan. Large area heritage parks protecting wildlife and habitat is an idea that has been met with wide approval by the citizens of Kitsap County. These relatively unique parks need to be placed on a pedestal in the plan. They should not disappear within state or national classification systems. The connection between protecting quality environments and providing quality visitor experiences needs to be prominently stated.</p> <p>4. An essential policy of the 2018 PROS Plan was to protect all wildlife and habitat in our large parks. That intent and policy needs to be repeated and emphasized in the proposed plan. It must be clear that the standard for protecting environment in our large area parks is not mere compliance with loopholes of the Critical Areas Ordinance or with endangered species requirements in state and federal laws. This policy must be included in the goals and objectives for wildlife and habitat protection, environmental protection, and forest stewardship (p20).</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>1. The goals from the 2018 PROS Plan have been carried forward and incorporated into the 2025 PROS Plan goals and objectives. The goals have been reorganized to better align with Department operations.</p> <p>2. Goal 2, Objectives 2.1, 3.1, and 3.2 speak to developing and implementing natural resource management plans, incorporating sustainable design in park planning and evaluating environmental impact. User conflicts and e-bikes are related to park management practices and will be evaluated when park management policies are developed.</p> <p>3. Heritage parks are not a known or industry standard park classification. The value of heritage parks is not diminished and these parks will continue to serve important roles in conservation and resource protection.</p> <p>4. See Goal PR-2, Objective 2.1, Action 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 regarding wildlife and habitat protection.</p> <p>5. The Department has a long lived volunteer program and will continue to provide volunteer opportunities.</p> <p>6. See Objective 1.6.</p> <p>7. While this is the first opportunity for public comment on the plan, the goals and objectives were created based on the public engagement process, as well as the inventory analysis and demand and needs analysis. See Appendix C for more information on engagement opportunities.</p> <p>8. The PAB role is identified in the Board's by-laws and a section on their role has been added to the Operations &amp; Governance section in the Inventory &amp; Assessment chapter. Appendix C identifies all touchpoints with the PAB throughout the PROS process.</p> <p>9. Goal 2, Objectives 2.1, 3.1, and 3.2 speak to developing and implementing natural resource management plans, incorporating sustainable design in park planning and evaluating environmental impact.</p> <p>10. The Department will conduct environmental assessments ahead of a park management and/or development project. The Department will be conducting a wildlife utilization study at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park and vegetation mapping study at Coulter Creek Heritage Park in 2025.</p> <p>11. The use of standardized designs and practices helps provide consistency and reduces maintenance costs.</p> <p>12. While some existing park specific management and master plans are old and in need of updating, those that are approved remain the current guide for those specific park locations.</p> <p>13. Actions have been added to the PROS Plan to improve trail safety and reduce recreational conflicts.</p> <p>14. E-bikes will be evaluated when the Park Code is updated.</p> <p>15. The Table of Contents has been updated to include the Appendices.</p> <p>16. The 2018 PROS Plan is contained within the PROS Plan (pg. 19-22).</p> <p>17. The criteria is missing from the 2018 PROS Plan.</p>
			<p>Also, conservation Priority #5 (p78) for protection of endangered species needs context that such protection falls well within the higher standard we set for our parks.</p> <p>5. Abandonment of stewardship group program.</p> <p>For four years Parks has systematically degraded the role of community-based stewardship groups at the major parks. This plan finishes the job. "The Park Stewardship Program...has been a valuable asset," but "managing and controlling this program demands significant staff time" (p22, emphasis added). The truth is Parks does not know how to work with or leverage the time and experience of engaged, experienced, and long-term community volunteers, often retired professionals with extensive skill sets and their own equipment. Stewardship groups have unique dynamics that require just a bit of autonomy. In recent years, we have seen the departure of stewards out of frustration with Parks' myopic view of "controlling" community members, rather than working with them.</p> <p>The remedies here are to (1) reinstate the heritage park stewardship group system in the semi-autonomous manner previously existing under Director Dunwiddie and (2) give the chairs of said groups ex officio potions on the parks advisory board.</p> <p>6. The 2025 plan is not financially sound.</p> <p>Somehow, the County has to replace the stewardship groups that provided services from day-to-day monitoring to trail maintenance to significant restoration projects outside of the Parks budget. Three "volunteer coordinators" cannot come close to providing those services. Perhaps an additional ten staff could make a dent in the need?</p> <p>The 6-year capital plan is more of a 6-month plan. As the Board of Commissioners is well aware, the Parks Department has not done any significant capital planning in years. As evidence consider the \$200K item for a new entry to North Kitsap Heritage Park—it has sat on the 6-Year Plan for almost that long—a plan which is not supported by either the Stewardship Group or the local community.</p> <p>Deferred maintenance needs of existing facilities, which is in the millions according to previous staff, is not addressed.</p> <p>The remedy for the above three items is a formal financial analysis of the County park system.</p> <p>7. There was NO public involvement in policy issues. This despite a plan with 29% of its pages devoted to explaining public involvement. Note that the so-called "New Vision" was attributed to short-term Park staff (p101) and lacked input from actual citizens and park users with nearly two decades of heritage park planning and implementation experience. In an inadequate effort, park stewards were consulted only in one meeting with Parks-selected stewards. The statements "Public involvement is integral..." and "[d]eveloped collaboratively" ring hollow (p41,5).</p> <p>The remedies are deferral of approval until there has been identification of changes, a new public discussion and comment period, and resultant editing of the document.</p>	

			<p>8. The role of the Parks Advisory Board needs to be identified and specified. It is increasingly clear that Parks operates non-transparently with respect to the Board. The Board did not receive or review the draft PROS Plan until it was finalized and presented to the public.</p> <p>9. Analysis of CARRYING CAPACITY of individual parks is critical! Parks with significant natural areas are at real risk of being “loved to death.” The plan calls for more access points and more trails without limitation. Parking is a critical element for affecting usage and such development projects should not go forward without an understanding of carrying capacity. The remedies are two. First, significant projects (e.g. access points, more trails, new facilities) must be delayed until a carrying capacity analysis is performed. Second, the analysis of carrying capacity at the parks must be accomplished in the very near future with a defined time frame and an appropriate budget.</p> <p>10. The plan requires explanation about Objective 2.1 and, specifically, Action 3.2.1 for environmental assessments. Parks has been and is currently adamantly avoiding and/or delaying performance of proper assessments (including e.g. wetland, buffers, and riparian areas) at the Port Gamble, Coulter Creek, and “Egdon” heritage parks. Parks had the opportunity and budget to perform the work at PGFHP under the “Framework.” The public needs to know if Parks is reversing its policy and, if so, how and when these assessments will be prioritized and realized in its planning and budget. Has Parks abandoned the landscape classification system in the 2018 PROS Plan?</p> <p>11. Goal PR-6 for standardization must be modified to allow for accommodations of different park plans. For example, North Kitsap Heritage Park is valued specifically for its undeveloped nature and narrow trails. Rebuilding trails to USFS standards, as has been done in places, is unnecessary and degrades visitor experiences. “Standardization” is not always appropriate.</p> <p>12. The individual park plans need to be added to the PROS Plan. Considerable effort has been put in developing master plans by both community and staff. The plans differ. Parks staff needs follow these plans. These plans need to be honored and take their rightful place in the overall management of our parks. In addition, the plans, as land use plans, must undergo GMA-accepted approval processes.</p> <p>13. User conflicts and bicycle behavior needs to be addressed. Too many of us have been pushed off trails by high-speed cyclists, most typically by mountain bikers. There have been life-changing accidents. This is a known problem that demands solutions. The PROS Plan needs to recognize the problem in print and formulate a plan for addressing the issue.</p> <p>14. Parks and the County need policies on powered mobility devices, including e-bikes. These devices are becoming more and more ubiquitous with increasing speed capabilities. The RCW “Class” system is ineffective and there are no plans for enforcement staff. There needs to be a public discussion as to whether powered devices are appropriate for protecting the natural environment and quality visitor experiences in our heritage parks. The plan needs to acknowledge the issues and propose a path for addressing the e-bike issue.</p>	
			<p>15. The Table of Contents does not list appendices.</p> <p>16. Appendix G – Review of Previous Plans omits the 2018 PROS Plan.</p> <p>17. Missing text at page 20. “Objective: Identify priority landscapes...on the following criteria:” No criteria are listed.</p>	
General	3/16/2025	Online Form	This was a very long document to review and provide input on. It doesn't seem like there was a long enough period for public comment given how long the document was. There should also have been public meetings where the county presented the plan and gave the opportunity for QA.	Comment noted. The public comment period was five weeks long and included three public presentations across the County and one presentation at a Parks Advisory Board meeting. Additional public engagement opportunities are described in Appendix C.
General	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>I am dismayed that the full rewrite of the PROS plan was released with such a short period for public comment. This plan makes some radical changes that the public has not had time to fully consider and discuss. As someone who has participated with public comment in many Kitsap County projects, too often I come away feeling that public comment was just “theatre” and not truly heard or considered. This is one of those moments for me.</p> <p>Overall, it appears that wildlife, habitat and natural areas conservation are less regarded in the 2025 plan than the 2018 plan despite what citizens have wanted and the increasingly urgent need in regard to climate change, increased development and biodiversity loss. The “regional park” and regional trail system approach opens parks to a standardized approach that overemphasizes active recreation like mountain biking- that harms environmental values. Many of us value our parks for their role in providing a natural place that is habitat and protective of forests and watersheds, as well as a quiet beautiful place to walk and enjoy. The conservation value of large land acquisition was part of the compelling community vision for these heritage parks. We feel that the Parks Department has been pushing hard for developing parks for more active recreation such as mountain biking. This new approach seems aligned with the active recreation push and I believe will be a loss to these community environmental treasures.</p> <p>I want to stress that public comment was overwhelmingly AGAINST a paved trail going through North Kitsap Heritage Park, but the County seems hell bent on going forward with it despite public preference.</p> <p>I am concerned about the sudden change in “classification” of parks and there does not seem to be a good explanation for it and no public input. WHY???</p> <p>I am disappointed that the County Parks is changing the relationship of parks with stewards' groups. Instead of using the expertise of these dedicated volunteers, County Parks is labeling them as challenging to work with and losing out on their valuable contributions.</p> <p>Please consider rewriting this plan with a greater focus on environmental values, a more honest citizen participation process, and reinstating the valuable contribution of the park stewards.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The public comment period was five weeks long and included three public presentations across the County and one presentation at a Parks Advisory Board meeting. Additional public engagement opportunities throughout the process are described in Appendix C.</p> <p>Goal 2, Objective 2.1, Action 2.1.1 and Action 2.1.2 speak to protecting wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Comment noted. Regional trails are included in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan and are managed by the Public Works Department, not the Parks Department. These trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails.</p> <p>The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks’ and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement.</p> <p>The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The Parks Department has a long lived volunteer program and the PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers. There is limited staff time available to manage and coordinate the volunteer program. Given the constraints, we do our best to provide ongoing volunteer opportunities. Additionally, Objective 4.4 and its subsequent actions speak to fostering a robust volunteer stewardship program.</p>
General	3/16/2025	Online Form	I am a member of the Kitsap Environmental Coalition. These are not my own comments, but are gathered by the KEC Working Group and so I am forwarding them to you as they are a reflection of my concerns.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/16/2025	Online Form	See comments for Overview section	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
General	3/16/2025	Online Form	Much to long- A shorter version would be easier to grasp!	Comment noted. The Department acknowledges that large policy documents can always be refined for clarity. The Plan’s organization follows standard best practices for planning documents, with sections logically structured to provide policy guidance, inventory assessments, and capital project frameworks as expected by RCO. The PROS Plan follows RCO’s preferred structure for these types of plans.
General	3/16/2025	Online Form	Don't let all the comments be just a way to check that box. You can pay attention to what people really want- not just the developers who have dollars to throw around. Listen to the community groups. Kitsap is special because of the people who live here-listen to us.	Comment noted. The PROS Plan’s two primary outputs, the Goals & Objectives and the Capital Improvement Program, were developed based on comments received during plan development, as well as inventory analysis and demand and needs analysis. See Appendix C for more information on all the engagement opportunities throughout the PROS Plan process.

<b>General</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	The draft PROS Plan has a great deal of interesting and useful information, but fails to provide a concise GAP ANALYSIS of current facilities inventory compared to projected facility needs. Further, the inventory of current athletic facilities should be comprehensive to show facilities throughout the county including those under urban parks, those under the school districts, and private facilities such as YMCA and Kitsap Swim and Tennis club. The document could be more concise, less confusing and have a bigger impact by moving the discussion of the 2018 PROS plan, (pages 19-22), and Community Population Profile, (pages 25 to 32) to Appendices.	Comment noted. The Inventory & Assessment chapter is just focused on County-owned properties. However, the Department recognizes that there are several other groups that provide parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces within Kitsap County. Those additional properties are factored into the level of service (LOS) analysis, however the non-County inventory needs to be updated for accuracy. The Department intends to review and update the LOS metrics, including getting an updated and accurate non-County facility inventory.
<b>General</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	The slide show and appearance of the DRAFT PROS Plan are very pretty. And the volume of the Plan is exhaustive, yet seems to be quite vague. It appears that it is intentionally meant to be so long few will actually read it, but will assume that its length indicates that it is a comprehensive study. Its vagueness on policy hides the fact that it can be used however anyone might want, which is very disturbing. The fact that it was not shared in draft form at 30% and again at 60% suggests that it does not want too close of a review, either by the public or by Commissioners. It is overdue, perhaps intentionally so that its approval now seems rushed. This shortcutting the process does not appear to be in the public's best interests.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>General</b>	3/17/2025	Online Form	I believe the Stewardship Program in Kitsap's Heritage Parks is vital as an information base and liaison between park visitors and the Parks Department. The park stewards have valuable scientific knowledge and experience in the parks they work in. The stewards are an excellent resource for future park plans. They address problems that arise quickly with boots on the ground. Kitsap County is fortunate to have such dedicated stewards.  Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park was designated a Regional Park in the PROS Plan. This park has seen too much development of trails and sections for mountain bikers only. When Kitsap County citizens (including me) envisioned restoring a more diverse forest after years of clearcutting, we thought we were contributing to a Heritage Park for wildlife and trails to enjoy nature. I think the Park should remain Pt. Gamble Forest Heritage Park. It was the forest, after all, that we aimed to restore.  Too much emphasis is put on our parks' income-producing possibilities. Heritage Parks require less cost to maintain when they are unpaved and undeveloped, thus providing a more immersive experience in nature, while providing more habitat for native plants and animals.	Comment noted. The name and purpose of Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park will not change with the park being reclassified as a Regional Park. Heritage parks will continue to play an important role in conservation and natural resource protection. The PROS Plan does not put emphasis on parks' income-producing possibilities. The revenue generation described in Objective 5.1 refers to athletic field and event facility rentals and is focused on improving efficiency.
<b>General</b>	3/17/2025	Online Form	Kitsap County should enforce the park rules. Do not allow a private business to profit by using a county park for a parking lot.	Comment noted. Kitsap County is working with the business owner on a resolution.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	2/22/2025	Online Form	The goal should be to give our youth safe spaces to be, to practice all the sports and to give those who wish to mentor and coach safe areas to do so. As well as families!	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	2/28/2025	Online Form	Veterans field, The children need light and better field conditions.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	2/12/2025	Online Form	The stated goal of "broadening and sustaining the volunteer parks steward program" is admirable and has been integral to park development and maintenance in the past. However, as a long-time volunteer with the Port Gamble Forest Stewardship Committee, I have witnessed the opposite occurring. There has been a reduction in the utilization and a marginalization of the volunteers in our group. I would like to see the parks department revitalize the volunteer programs.	Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The Parks Department has a long lived volunteer program and the PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers. There is limited staff time available to manage and coordinate the volunteer program. Given the constraints, we do our best to provide ongoing volunteer opportunities. Additionally, Objective 4.4 and its subsequent actions speak to fostering a robust volunteer stewardship program.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	2/19/2025	Online Form	The verbiage to involve the public is there, but past actions over the last 3 or 4 years shows that many of those goals and objectives are just talking points and not actual working concepts for improvements.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/1/2025	Online Form	The goals and objectives are well thought out and clearly defined.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	2/10/2025	Online Form	Action item 1.1 (p. 107) suggests divesting in some park properties. No where in the above document makes that a priority. If anything, the residents of Kitsap county have requested preserving and acquiring more land, not selling it!  Action item 4.1.2 (p.109)expanding parking — while there are many car dependent people in Kitsap county we should stop expending so much money to them!! It is expensive to expand parking lots and makes the community even more car dependent. The money would be better used to improve non-motorized connectivity across Kitsap county and other needs of the parks.	Comment noted. Action 1.1.1 speaks to exploring divestiture of properties that do not align with the Department's recreation and conservation objectives, which would allow the Department to better serve the community due to the staffing limitations that are explained throughout the PROS Plan. Actions 1.1.2 and 1.1.3, as well as Objective 1.2 and its actions all speak to acquisition of land that aligns with Department objectives. There are also land acquisition projects to improve equitable access to parks and recreation facilities and to improve conservation that have been added to the Capital Improvement Project list.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK Meeting)	I like Goal PR-1 with a focus on healthy lifestyles & active recreation.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	all county skateparks are uncovered and decades old now. there is tremendous potential to do something extraordinary and create a regional covered skatepark that can host tournaments and events - suggest placing somewhere at the fairgrounds so it's central to all the county. @poulsboskateparkk can help advise.	Comment noted. The project suggestion will be noted to be evaluated further in the future.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	The goals (and PROS plan overall) seem to be quite repetitive and overlapping - curious if using the four themes as the goals would be more clear. The level of detail and content is amazing (kudos), it just seems to be an opportunity to tighten the organization of the goals/objectives.	Comment noted. The goals were intentionally organized around the Department's five program areas (Administration, Natural Resources, Planning & Capital Projects, Events, and Maintenance & Operations). It is the Department's intent to
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	2/21/2025	Online Form	The priority of maintaining the trails below everything else doesn't make any sense to me. Your first priority should be keeping up what you have. Also, as a volunteer, i think we are underutilized. If the department can't keep Volunteer coordinators, use the stewards to organize the efforts in each park.	Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The Parks Department has a long lived volunteer program and the PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers. There is limited staff time available to manage and coordinate the volunteer program. Given the constraints, we do our best to provide ongoing volunteer opportunities. Additionally, Objective 4.4 and its subsequent actions speak to fostering a robust volunteer stewardship program.

<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	2/28/2025	Online Form	Years ago when the county took over the South Kitsap Regional Park the then current powers that be decided that fences were not a good look for the park, thus the fencing that we had at that time was taken down. ALL Horseshoe courts in ALL county parks were removed except for Fairgrounds and South Kitsap. Due to this we only have a conditional NHPA Court Certification which is required for us to hold Sanctioned Tournaments. One of the Goals & Objectives I would like to see is that the county contact us about requirements to place a fence around the horseshoe courts that meet NHPA requirements. This would be safer for those that are passing by especially when we are having a tournament and I could go on.	Comment noted. The Department intends to update the 2008 Master Plan for South Kitsap Regional Park. To inform this process, we will use analysis from the PROS Plan and engage the community and park users about desired amenities and facilities in the park.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	115 - Your top mission goal is have engaged and connected communities yet the very thing that allows for this to occur is being ignored and neglected. Not sure how bathrooms help stay engaged and connected.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	We would love veterans memorial park to have a priority over other parks in the county. I am a long time residential of port orchard and have kids playing soccer and other sport here. We would love to see the fields we updated with no pot holes and possible lights! We have lots of play grounds and picnic areas in port orchard and surrounding areas! Please make veterans memorial a BIG priority for kitsap county.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	Have space that is for community focused and usable for events. Increase the quality of trails so that everyone can use them. More trails to be handicap accessible with paving or compacted crushed rock.	Comment noted. There are several projects listed in the Capital Improvement Project section to for park development, which may include picnic shelters that could be rented for events, and to improve some trails to be barrier free and wheelchair friendly at a number of different parks.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	Where is the goals for fixing veterans park in Port orchard. There is no maintenance and is either dust and brown or a puddle!  Our kids in Port Orchard need places for sports and recreation clubs we have nothing here	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/4/2025	Online Form	Dedicated bike/walk trail system linking major towns.	Comment noted. Right of way projects fall out of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, but comments received on the topics will be shared with the Public Works Department.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/4/2025	Online Form	there is a lot here! I do like the idea (embedded somewhere) that the county work on developing policy regarding how to manage "natural" areas - Also feel there is a need to develop a "threshold" (possibly based on parking overflow - how often to parking areas max out) that would trigger consideration for parking improvements (enlargements). those decisions should be linked to a parks objective - for example, a "natural park" may have a carrying capacity for daily visitors to reduce impacts - so a parking limit may be appropriate ?	Comment noted. Goal 2 and Objective 2.1 and its subsequent actions speak to developing and implementing natural resource management plans for park lands managed for conservation and preservation. The Parks Department recognizes the concern regarding overuse and the Plan does include some capacity management strategies, particularly for high use areas (such as infrastructure enhancements and adaptive management strategies). Parking lot projects will be sized and located appropriately based on park's intended usage and park management plans, which will be developed with community input.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	Our county parks and fields are only as good as the worst of them. Veteran's Memorial Park in Retsil is among the worst, only due to neglect by the county. The baseball fields, paths and other improvements made a decade or more ago were just a step. One that has now been lost over time. Homeless 'campers' have claimed some of it over recent years, leaving the city of PO and county to sort them out. Since the city of PO does NOT have its own parks dept., we are left at the mercy of the county. That's not going well for Retsil.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Park development for Veteran's Memorial Park is also included in the CIP, targeted for 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a long time community member of South Kitsap I would love to see improvements to the Veterans Park. My older kids played sports at this park and now my grand kids play there. The fields are in need of repair and I would love to see turf and lights so the fields could be utilized year round. It is a shame that we do not have more turf fields in South Kitsap to be equal to the surrounding area parks. Veteran's park is not in need of a playground or picnic areas, we have plenty of those parks in the area. We need competitive sports fields.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	The motion is to add 3 line items to the CIP Table 6-3, for Commissioner District 3 (which is the Central Kitsap District of Katie Walters), for the Illahee Preserve Heritage Park.  1. Acquire the 'Heart of the Park' properties. Cat 1, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ , Funding Options: Same as the others  Note: This is KC Parks RCO grant 24-1777 ILLAHEE PRESERVE PH 3 HEART OF THE PARK which shows up in Prism as "Pending" funding, which is expected to be funded as there were only 8 applications submitted in the Urban Wildlife category. This is planned to be a multi-year phased acquisition of the 13 properties listed to purchase.  2. Acquire the Watershed Park properties, Cat 1, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ , Funding Options: Same as the others  Note: This is KC Parks RCO grant 24-1770 ILLAHEE PRESERVE WATERSHED PARK PH 1 which also shows up in Prism as "Pending" funding. This is an acquisition grant for the 9.6-acre parcel and the last remaining Elliott property, presuming the 3.7-acre home property is purchased first. The acquisition needs to precede the development of the watershed park.  3. Develop Watershed Park with local park amenities along with planned watershed related educational exhibits. Cat 8, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ , Funding Options: Same  Note: This is being planned as a future collaborative project between Kitsap County Parks and Bremerton Parks due to its proximity to Bremerton, which meets Bremerton's needs for an additional park in East Bremerton. It is additionally being proposed as a major Kitsap Public Facilities District (PFD) project, as the Illahee Preserve, due to its size and offerings to the Central Kitsap and Bremerton Communities, it will continue to be a regional recreation destination.	Comment noted. Land acquisition projects have been added to the Capital Improvement Project List, for acquisitions related to both recreational access and conservation. These acquisitions could fall under the conservation project category.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a resident of South Kitsap, parent of 4 young sports players, and community board member for various things I feel very strongly that South Kitsap desperately needs some love to our athletic fields. We have so many great parks with a ton of potential but they just get overlooked. I was disappointed to see that Veterans Memorial park is no longer a top priority for the county when I attended the PROS planning meeting a few weeks ago. Our kids travel all over the county and most other places have at least one nice turf field to use in their community. South kitsap doesn't have any. Veterans memorial is ready for some love!! Let's help our kids play sports safely and be proud of their home field! Please move Veterans to a higher priority!!	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.

<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	It appears critical south Kitsap improvements continue to be deprioritized, our parks, particularly fields and trails, are in very poor condition. I would like to see a higher prioritization of fields, lights and trails at South Regional and Veterans Memorial	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/6/2025	Online Form	In re: S5, Village Greens Golf Course. I have been playing this course and enjoying the property for 62 years. This recreational property is essential, especially for the youth and elderly as well as everyone who wishes to take up the game of golf. It adds immensely to the value of the neighborhood.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/7/2025	Online Form	I do not feel that the plan is addressing objectives 1.2.2, .3, .4, and point .5 by not prioritizing the acquisition	Comment noted. Land acquisition projects have been added to the Capital Improvement Project List, for both improving access to parks and recreational facilities and for conservation.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/7/2025	Online Form	Upgrading Veterans Memorial Park to provide a safe space for children to participate in sporting activities is crucial, especially given the current challenges of poor field conditions and lack of lighting. The park's fields are in need of significant improvement, as the worn-out surfaces can lead to injuries and make it difficult for kids to enjoy their games. Without proper lighting, the park limits playtime, especially in the evening, reducing opportunities for young athletes to practice or participate in team sports. By addressing these issues—upgrading the field surfaces, adding proper lighting, and ensuring safe, accessible equipment—we can create a more enjoyable and secure environment for children to stay active, while fostering a greater sense of community and well-being.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/7/2025	Online Form Email	<p>After reading and digesting the new 2025 PROS Plan, I would like to know how Kitsap Facilities District (KFD) seems to have been able to usurp the Kitsap County Heritage Parks for their vision of a regional system of connected offroad trails. Perhaps Pope, Olympic Property group, Jon Rose, the parks director made a back-room deal?</p> <p>If this is truly the case, then I feel like the community was misled in a bait and switch scheme to get donations to buy the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park (PGFHP) for KFD's ultimate goal, which just happens to align with Jon Rose's vision of connecting his development assets. Many of the contributions to purchase PGFHP came from residents and donors who wanted to protect and restore the park for future generations. The 2018 PROS Plan gave people the belief that this was the direction the parks were going. The majority of the people who commented on the creation of the update expressed that point (to keep the vision of the 2018 plan) and to possibly help influence the development of the new plan as promised.</p> <p>I must say that I am disappointed with the process of the creation of the update, the public comment charade and the presentation of the new 2025 PROS Plan.</p> <p>The classification system has been completely changed for reasons that don't really justify such drastic changes. The reasons given were to make it more consistent with other parks and organization's classification systems and to help avoid confusion when applying for funding.</p> <p>Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has NOT requested a different classification system to apply for funding. The 2018 PROS Plan recognized the unique character of Kitsap County's different parks. For example, PGFHP is so large, it had a number of classifications within the park so there could be room for conservation, and restoration that would be free of active recreation, while also providing ample room for active recreation.</p> <p>I feel this new PROS Plan takes a cookie-cutter approach to standardizing our parks so they can become a large "regional park system" to capitalize on tourism and active recreation. The majority of the people who supported buying and using Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park never intended this. These comments are documented in the Appendix of the new plan.</p> <p>With this "vision" of a regional trail system, not only do the animals that already live here lose but the local people who enjoy a peaceful, restorative walk in the forest lose too. To make this regional trail system vision work, North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) has been thrown into the mix too. NKHP is the crown jewel of Kitsap and this regional trail (let's just call it what it really is, a road) would destroy what makes it special. An unspoiled habitat for animals, a large watershed, diversity of flora and fauna, and best of all, peace and quiet.</p> <p>An example would be like taking the Grand Old Forest on Bainbridge and running a road right through the center. I don't think Bainbridge residents would tolerate that.</p> <p>We are already being overrun by bikers in PGFHP, many who don't understand the proposed dual nature of a shared trail. With an entitled air, they think they own the park. They go out of bounds and ride through streams, their tires degrade the forest floor and damage tree roots. Many of the younger boys do not yield to pedestrians or equestrians.</p>	<p>Comment noted. There is not a vision for a regional off-road trail system in the PROS Plan. Off-road trails are included in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan and are managed by the Public Works Department, not the Parks Department. These trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails.</p> <p>The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement. The classifications mentioned with regards to Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park are the landscape management zones, which are included in the draft Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park Framework, and are different from the proposed park classifications. These landscape management zones still exist and will be reevaluated as part of edits to the Draft Framework.</p>
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/8/2025	Online Form	Goals and objectives need to be straightforward and to the point. They should be clear so that a 3rd grade student would understand it.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/8/2025	Online Form	I agree with Lisa Hurt.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/11/2025	Online Form	<p>Improving public fields at Veterans Park, including the addition of better lighting, is crucial for creating accessible and safe spaces for all members of the community, particularly for youth sports. Well-lit fields extend the hours of play, allowing children and teens to engage in sports, exercise, and recreational activities after dark, especially in areas where daylight is limited. Proper lighting enhances safety, reduces the risk of accidents, and creates a more welcoming environment for athletes and families.</p> <p>Investing in these fields, especially in support of youth sports programs, can also play a key role in mitigating criminal activities. Providing young people with structured, positive outlets like sports not only promotes healthier lifestyles but also reduces the likelihood of them becoming involved in delinquent behavior. Active, well-maintained spaces can foster a sense of community, pride, and responsibility, while also offering a safer alternative to the streets.</p> <p>By prioritizing the improvement of Veterans Park, with a focus on lighting and supporting youth sports, we can create a space that promotes well-being, reduces crime, and strengthens community ties. This investment is an important step in ensuring the park remains a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for all.</p>	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/13/2025	Online Form	The draft plan includes a Goal PR5 that is NOT included in the Comp Plan chapter on Parks, despite the contention in the draft and it does NOT reflect the priorities or goals of the public: "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." This should NOT be a goal of Kitsap Parks.	Comment noted. The PROS Plan will be adopted by reference into the County's Comprehensive Plan and will supersede the goals listed in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element. The Parks Department has heard from the community and recognizes the need for athletic field improvements.

<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>I admire the vision set forth in the PROS plan, but have little confidence that anybody in the county (outside of the Parks dept staff themselves who are dedicated and would do far more for our community if given the chance) will actually fight to see anything listed in this plan prioritized as highly as it should be. Our political leaders will talk all day about how much they want to see perfect, beautiful parks in our communities, but they won't commit to any steps that might threaten their positions even to the slightest degree. The funding shortfalls are literally spelled out in the Capital Improvement section - this whole plan is built on the recognition that our parks are understaffed and underfunded, so what confidence can we have that anything we request will be heeded? I expect endless excuses and failures (again, from the political leadership, not our hard-working Parks employees). Obviously, I won't let the futility silence my voice.</p> <p>I spend hundreds of hours each year working with people in our county and neighboring counties who are living unhoused, out of tents, cars, hotels, etc. Our parks should not be the last refuge of people who have been failed and shunned by the systems designed to support them but, unfortunately, if not the parks then where are people to go? As part of a much, much larger response, I think the parks in Kitsap county should take a unique and admittedly very brave approach and dedicate some spaces for approved habitation. Throughout the county, we have been persecuting people who have no options and no hope, kicking them from place to place with no end in sight. I very successfully operated a pseudo-approved encampment out of Veterans Memorial Park several years ago. Along with other unpaid volunteers, I was able to greatly reduce the health risks and hazards to people living in the park and the surrounding community by providing resources and supplies to people so they had solutions for their waste and options to connect with services. Today, people are forced to move so frequently that our parks are suffering far more because we, the mutual aid community, are unable to provide the resources needed to maintain an area. It may not be as visible yet, but trash and devastation are piling up in our community because people have no access to tools or support. The parks can play a huge part in addressing this problem by selecting small sections of a few parks throughout the county to grant access for people living in tents and cars. People need stability to successfully navigate the network of resources we have here in Kitsap which are, unsurprisingly, at least as understaffed and underfunded as our beloved parks.</p> <p>Short of sanctioned living spaces, I think that our parks require and would benefit greatly from improved public bathroom access - 24/7/365. Bathrooms and even showers that our unhoused community can access without judgment, harassment, or persecution. Designs exist that minimize the problems our current designs run into, we just need to see the value in the lives of the people in our community and invest in those improved, more accessible bathrooms. Kitsap County parks should be a model of services and accessibility for neighboring counties to aspire to. Europe has bathrooms around every corner. Sure, you need to pay for most of them, but at least they are there. We can do that and better if we prioritize the health and safety of our community and youth.</p> <p>I also dedicate hundreds of hours each year to coaching youth soccer with the South Kitsap Soccer Club. Our kids, coaches, and staff work incredibly hard, and we have an impressively competitive and fun league, especially considering our geography and population size relative to some of our neighbors. Our players deserve much better than the field options they have access to. Our coaches deserve much better from the community than to be jostled around from torn up field to different torn up and muddy field. Parks must be given more funding to properly maintain the fields they have for all of our youth sports - we might even get an outdoor adult league down in South Kitsap for once if we had the fields for it. Veterans Memorial Park, which I know like the back of my hand after personally coordinating volunteers to remove well over 80,000 pounds of trash from that one park alone, should be fast-tracked for a high-quality, multi-field sports facility. No amount of capital invested into such a project will go to waste. It will pay for itself financially eventually, but the value for the health and safety of the youth in our community will be incalculable immediately. If not Vets park then, please, find some place in South Kitsap to invest in our successful future with a sports facility designed for the next 50 years+. Central Kitsap is also desperate for improved field space. North Kitsap has a few more options, but even there the quality and choices do not match the passion of our sports programs, the skill of our youth, nor the needs of our community.</p> <p>The county can do few things more important for the safety, health, engagement, resilience, and vibrancy of our community than to invest much more heavily in our parks and open spaces.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The County has a formal program for responding to unhoused community members. The program is called Homeless Encampment Action Response and Transitions (HEART) and was designed to ensure that the County has a consistent, coordinated, and compassionate response to unhoused encampments on Kitsap County property. Parks staff will contact the HEART Team when we have unhoused community members in our parts and the HEART Team will look to connect them with available services and resources.</p> <p>The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. The CIP list also includes athletic field projects in North Kitsap. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.</p>
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Our goals should be for the future. Better parks, better trails, roads, schools and facilities that will help build our youth. Sports is an important way to teach hard work and dedication. We need more places for youth to play year round with lights and better field. Our future deserves better	Comment noted. Road and school projects fall out of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. The CIP list also includes athletic field projects in North Kitsap. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>I am writing to strongly advocate for the inclusion of Veterans Memorial Park in the county's upcoming updates. For too long, this vital community space has been neglected, leaving our children and athletes without safe and competitive fields to play on. It is time to invest in our community's future by revitalizing these fields and ensuring they meet the needs of South Kitsap's growing youth sports programs.</p> <p>One of the most critical updates needed is the installation of a lighted turf field. Many soccer clubs across Western Washington already have access to such facilities, putting our local athletes at a disadvantage. A turf field with lights would allow for more consistent use throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions, and enable our teams to host competitive matches without worrying about unplayable field conditions.</p> <p>Additionally, it is essential to level the existing fields and install proper lighting throughout the park. Uneven playing surfaces not only limit the ability to play and practice effectively but also increase the risk of injury. Quality fields are more than just a luxury—they are a necessity for fostering skill development, teamwork, and a sense of community.</p> <p>South Kitsap's children deserve fields that are safe, modern, and accessible. For years, the county allowed the homeless population to take over Veterans Memorial Park, leading to its deterioration. Now, it is time to restore what was lost and give our children a place where they can play, grow, and take pride in their community.</p> <p>Investing in these updates is not just about improving soccer fields—it is about investing in the well-being of our youth and strengthening our community. I urge you to prioritize Veterans Memorial Park in the county's improvement plans and ensure that our children have the facilities they deserve.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Please be sure to answer all questions and include all experience and opinions rendered by the Kitsap Environmental Coalition, as I feel they have extensive volunteer and hands-on-the-ground experience that will add value to this report.	Comment noted. Comments that reflect KEC's position have been included and responded to.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Car free bike paths like discovery trail. Someplace away from traffic...countryside or ocean views...10 plus miles each way	Comment noted. Regional trails are included in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan and are managed by the Public Works Department, not the Parks Department. These trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails.

<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Stop taxes too high	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	I agree that we need trails that are use specific. Most can be multi use but have some that cater to Hiking or Biking is very helpful. Also, in regards to park stewards. We are lucky to have so many volunteers, but it is difficult to heavily depend on volunteers. We easily burn out	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	If you want to protect critical watershed, remove invasive and noxious weeds from the watershed, including Big Beef Creek.	Comment noted. Goal 2, Objective 2.1 , Action 2.2.1 speaks to invasive species removal on County park properties.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	One thing I've noticed is the more frequent off leash dogs at several parks despite signage. "It's ok they're friendly" simply doesn't cut it. Asking people to leash their dog usually results in a negative encounter, if it already hasn't resulted in a negative encounter because of the owners ability to recall their dog. I used to walk at Banner and Heritage constantly, but after over 20+ times coming across off leash dogs, we've had to go to trails that are more leash proactive. Gateway Park in Wauna does a GREAT job of making sure dogs are leashed despite its off trail system, I think because it lists the fine. But better signage and advocacy would be great here as opposed to putting it on the patron.	Comment noted. Park rules signs are posted at every park location indicating dogs must be leashed (except off-leash dog parks). The Department does not have an enforcement program, but relies on the Kitsap County Sheriff to provide rule enforcement.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	Leave Banner Forest alone	Comment noted. The Department is currently working on updating its Forest Stewardship Policy and Implementation Plan. More information will be available later this year.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>Stewardship Roles:</p> <p>The park stewardship program has operated for decades as community-based groups of concerned citizens organized to maintain and enhance the county's heritage parks, often acting independently addressing approved park projects. This system worked well with little expense or staff time from Parks and was recognized in the 2018 PROS Plan. Users of the parks have always expressed appreciation of steward's efforts. Over the last four years, this system has been gutted leaving stewardship groups without a role in planning and accomplishing projects in heritage parks. As a result, many park stewards have left to pursue more productive and rewarding roles. Now, the 2025 draft PROS plan formalizes a new system where park stewards become park volunteers under supervision by parks maintenance and operations employees. In order to replace the thousands of volunteer hours given annually by volunteer stewards, the Parks department will need to drastically increase staffing levels and use of tax dollars. The knowledge and skills of these stewards is irreplaceable. The importance and independence of this stewardship program was recognized in the 2018 PROS Plan on page 37: "The Stewardship Program creates a formal partnership with interested parties who work cooperatively with staff within designated park areas. These Stewardship organizations develop and implement approved, annual work-plans. The organizations contribute to overall park stewardship plans, trail planning, construction and maintenance, natural restoration projects, invasive species removal, interpretation programs, mapping, and fundraising to support park functions and facilities. Within the large-scale parks, stewards handle much of the park maintenance, including landscaping and natural vegetation, and trail maintenance. They work with Park staff guidance and training, but often act independently, addressing approved park projects."</p> <p>Stewards include community members with advanced degrees in various fields of biology, geology and engineering. Many stewards have become trained and certified in stream stewardship, forest stewardship, first aid, chainsaw and other tool safety. Some stewards became certified Washington State Naturalists. Some stewards are certified as wetland specialists. Some are surveyors and GIS experts giving freely of their time and talents. Stewardship groups have done an amazing variety of important tasks. They maintain trails and remove invasive plants, but also conduct many larger projects including planning and creating new trails, removing derelict vehicles and other trash, decommissioning logging roads, and culverts, maintaining parking lots, creating park stewardship plans, and forest stewardship plans based on steward-led wetland surveys, thinning of overstocked forest stands and underplanting thousands of seedlings for forest diversity. Another benefit of volunteer stewards working in the park is their role in community engagement, inspiring other park users to get involved and providing interactions to get ideas for improvements. All this work has been accomplished at nearly no cost to the county. These stewards have spent thousands of hours each year planning and accomplishing projects to enhance the natural beauty and health of the parks they love. The 2025 Draft PROS Plan relegates volunteer stewardship to a very limited role in parks as evidenced by the following quotes on pg. 43-45: "Volunteers may lack the professional expertise and experience of paid staff, which can affect the quality of work performed."</p> <p>Ensuring high standards may require additional oversight and quality control measures." "They provide residents with opportunities to engage with their local environment, develop new skills, and give back to their communities. However, to ensure their long-term success, these programs require dedicated staffing and structured oversight."</p> <p>These statements and the statements and actions of park management reflect a disregard for the work and accomplishments of the various park stewardship groups and an apparent effort to do away with these groups. The current Parks Director has never followed the 2018 PROS or Comp Plan regarding stewardship groups. Over the last four years, Parks has systematically downgraded and marginalized stewardship groups. It is clear that the Parks Department has decided to eliminate the park stewardship program that has been working for more than a decade and emphasized at least since the 2018 PROS Plan. If the 2025 PROS Plan and the vision of the KC Parks department is to throw away this valuable resource of park stewardship groups and relegate stewards to the role of trimming trails and pulling invasive weeds under park staff supervision, it would be a foolish waste of talent and resources!</p>	<p>Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. Additionally, Action 4.4.4 speaks to recognizing and appreciating volunteer efforts. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.</p>
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	Key point: staff is there to serve the people of the county, not decide the goals	Comment noted. The PROS Plan is developed based on extensive community engagement, as well as system inventory analysis and demands and need analysis. The Department had one meeting with the consultant. Department staff are a key contributor to system conditions and have valuable insight. The Plan retains public participation mechanisms while ensuring that trained staff play an integral role in implementation and strategic direction.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	one goal not being properly assessed is conservation and how it relates to adding sports and recreation infrastructure to nature parks. That is contrary to their intended use/function. They should remain natural!!! Restrooms are fine but picnic areas, frisbee golf, pickleball, playgrounds and the like do not belong there. Inserting them in these areas violates your stated goals. from the overview section - Parks goal #5, wildlife and habitat protection goal 2018, environmental protection goal 2018 relate.	Comment noted. The Capital Improvement Project list does not include adding sports infrastructure in nature parks. Park development projects, such as picnic areas, are included in the CIP list and are intended to be located near parking areas. Per Objective 3.2, the Department will conduct environmental assessments ahead of park planning and will engage with the community around these projects.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Objective 1.5: Trail Expansion. Please consider not including new trails in the NKHP. There are too many trails in this park interrupting wildlife corridors. It would be helpful to restore many of the trails to their natural state that were created by mountain bikers in the past. Many of these trails are not sanctioned trails and go helter-skelter throughout the park.	Comment noted. Regional trails are included in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan and are managed by the Public Works Department, not the Parks Department. These trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Goals should include community park in Enetai. ie: playground, multi generational, accessible, dog park	Comment noted. Objective 1.2 speaks to prioritizing land acquisition for areas lacking access to parks. Additionally, projects have been added to the Capital Improvement Project list 1.2 to explore land acquisition that improves access to parks and recreation facilities.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	5.3 seems unnecessary. Do we have county locations that primarily rely upon tourism to survive and thrive? We are not Leavenworth. Downplay the focus on drawing people from out of the county. We are not their entertainment destination, especially if our tax dollars and volunteer hours create these resources.	Comment noted. The Fairgrounds and Event Center is the largest event facility on the Olympic Peninsula and the Pavilion (located at the Kitsap Fairgrounds and Event Center) is the largest indoor event facility on the Olympic Peninsula. These facilities are large assets for the Department's Events Program and host hundreds of events per year. In 2024, there were 967 reservations for events at the Fairgrounds and Events Center.

Goals & Objectives	3/16/2025	Online Form	Please See above overview comment	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Goals & Objectives	3/16/2025	Online Form	p 23 Population growth estimates in the plan are based on State demographer data but may be an underestimate. p 37 Thus where possible capital funds in the next decade should be spent on acquiring more green space and natural areas and not recreational hardscape and facilities.	Comment noted. The Department and PROS Plan seeks to balance natural areas and developed parks. The Department has heard and recognizes the need for both from the community.
Goals & Objectives	3/16/2025	Online Form	Appreciate goals and objectives	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Goals & Objectives	3/16/2025	Online Form	1. On page 107, Obj 1.1, Action 1.1.1 says that the county will "Evaluate and potentially divest existing park owned properties that do not align with countywide park and recreation objectives" - this is a bit alarming and I sure hope you will provide for public input when the county is contemplating divesting itself of a park-owned property. 2. On page 108, Objective 2.2: Conservation and Stewardship, I would like to see the county leverage the expertise and insights of its volunteers in a similar way as the tribes and cultural organizations described in Action 2.2.3.	Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.
Goals & Objectives	3/16/2025	Online Form	Parks Department Staff Roles The role of the Parks Department staff seemed inappropriately elevated over the public's involvement and the proper governance structure of the County.  For example:  Table 3-1 (p. 50) lists the Governance groups. It lists Board of County Commissioners and Parks Department Staff as the governance units. The Parks Advisory Board is not included. P. 101 states that the renewed vision for Parks "began with an all-staff meeting in November 2023, marking a pivotal moment in shaping the future of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update." The revised mission and vision statements highlighted on p. 104 seem to be stated as the mission and vision of the staff. The "we" in these statements seems to be the staff. The Heritage Parks Stewardship groups have long been a key expression of significant public involvement as well as a resource that expands the capacity of the department with minimal financial costs to the department. (See later discussion of park stewardship groups). They have been relegated to a role in relation to Parks staff that seriously reduces their contribution.	Comment noted. The PROS Plan's emphasis on professional park management should not be misinterpreted as sidelining public involvement. The county's responsibility includes ensuring that land use, maintenance, and long-term investments are managed efficiently and sustainably. The Department had one meeting with the consultant. Department staff are a key contributor to system conditions and have valuable insight. The Plan retains public participation mechanisms while ensuring that trained staff play an integral role in implementation and strategic direction. Community input, as well as inventory assessment and demand and needs analysis all also informed the development of the Plan.  The Department shared project updates and collected feedback from the Parks Advisory Board throughout the PROS Plan update process. The PAB was also interviewed by the consultant during the stakeholder interviews. See Appendix C for more information on engagement efforts throughout the process, including all touchpoints with the PAB. The Parks Advisory Board has been added to Table 3-1, as well as a paragraph summarizing their interview, and a section explaining their role has been added to the Operations & Governance section in the Inventory & Assessment chapter.  The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.
Goals & Objectives	3/16/2025	Online Form	Stewardship needs to be the top priority	Comment noted. Stewardship could mean multiple things. Conservation and stewardship to protect and manage natural resources is detailed on Objective 2.2. Maintaining a robust volunteer program is detailed in Objective 4.4.
Goals & Objectives	3/16/2025	Online Form	The vision expressed in the Draft PROS Plan is not appropriately connected to the Vision expressed in the 2024 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan and the public survey data. Pages 101 and following has the county's 2024 Comp Plan Vision, however, it is mixed with the vision of the Parks Department staff in a confusing way. Information in these pages gives the impression that the vision for the PROS Plan is being limited by the vision of the Parks Department staff. The vision in the 2024 Comp Plan and responses of the public in Parks data gathering for the PROS Plan development is more appropriate to primarily guide the PROS Plan vision.	Comment noted. The PROS Vision is based on community input received during the plan development process, as well as the Kitsap County vision, and insights from one workshop with the Parks Department staff.
Goals & Objectives	3/16/2025	Online Form	See comments for Overview section	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Goals & Objectives	3/16/2025	Online Form	Perhaps a Metropolitan concept might be a good choice.	Comment noted. Action 1.6.1 speaks to exploring alternative funding sources, such as a Metropolitan Park District (MPD).

<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>Goals, Objectives, and Actions: The relationship between the Draft PROS plan goals and the goals from the 2018 PROS plan and the 2024 Comp Plan PROS chapter is not clear. A comparison of the goals and rationale for differences need to be explained.</p> <p>The Draft PROS Plan has six goals given on pp. 107-112. The 2024 Comprehensive Plan PROS chapter has six different goals. The 2018 PROS plan has nine goals. The 2018 PROS plan has these goals: Equity of Parks, Trails and Open Space; Environmental Protection, Wildlife and Habitat Protection; Forest Stewardship; Park Trails and Regional Trail Systems; Developed Event and Athletic Facilities; Maintenance and Operations; Volunteers and Park Stewardship Program; and Parkland Acquisitions. These goals are listed on pp. 20-22 of the 2025 Draft PROS plan but the link to the new goals is not provided. The goals in the 2024 Comp Plan PROS chapter are: Equity, Funding, Efficiency, Water Access, and Environmental Compatibility.</p> <p>In this new 2025 PROS plan draft the six goals are each given a number but there is no title/label that identifies its focus. A table or other format is needed to show the link between these three sets of goals. A narrative about the rationale for changes is also needed.</p> <p>Given the lack of title/focus for each of the goals in the 2025 Draft, it is also unclear why some objectives are under one goal versus another.</p> <p>This section has another example of lack of coherence in the Draft Plan. The second half of p. 106 begins by saying: "As outlined in the introduction to this section, the goals and policies presented herein are derived from existing related policies and are designed to complement those outlined in the County's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space PROS Plan Update. A concise overview of the content in this section includes:" Here it goes on to list 7 bulleted topics (e.g., Support for a Financially Sustainable System; Enhancing Public Access to Shoreline Areas, Support for the County's Shoreline Master Program). One would think that a "concise overview of the content in the section" would follow the bulleted topics here. That is not the case. The section now lists the six goals along with their objectives and related actions with no apparent connection to this list of bulleted topics.</p> <p>Vision: The vision expressed in the Draft PROS Plan is not appropriately connected to the Vision expressed in the 2024 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan and the public survey data.</p> <p>Pages 101 and following has the county's 2024 Comp Plan Vision, however, it is mixed with the vision of the Parks Department staff in a confusing way. Information in these pages gives the impression that the vision for the PROS Plan is being limited by the vision of the Parks Department staff. The vision in the 2024 Comp Plan and responses of the public in Parks data gathering for the PROS Plan development is more appropriate to primarily guide the PROS Plan vision.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The current PROS Update builds on the 2018 PROS Plan. The concepts in the 2018 PROS goals and objectives are included in the update, they have just been updated to include the recent inventory analysis, demand and need analysis, and public engagement. The goals do not have a label identifying their focus, but they have been reorganized to better align with Department operations (Administration, Natural Resources, Planning &amp; Capital, Events, and Maintenance &amp; Operations). Objectives related to these program areas were included under the respective goal.</p> <p>Page 106 has been edited for clarity and to provide an introduction to the goals and objectives.</p> <p>The PROS Vision is based on community input received during the plan development process, as well as the Kitsap County vision, and insights from one workshop with the Parks Department staff.</p>
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	For long term quality of life here in Kitsap, keep the parks natural and without development and keep the farms that we have here via whatever means possible. We need to be and stay the rural environment that we currently are. We will not improve lives by adding huge numbers of apartments and homes (aka Arbonwood) to our land. Please do not turn Silverdale into nothing but a paved parking lot and apartments-therein lies Los Angeles...	Comment noted. Land use and zoning is outside of the jurisdiction of the Parks Department. Goal PR-2, Objective 2.1, and its subsequent actions speak to developing and implementing natural resource management plans for parklands that are managed for conservation.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Each "Action" item and/or Objective needs to have a corresponding metric that would be used annually to show progress toward completion of that action and objective.	Comment noted. It is the Department's intention to track progress in working towards the Goals & Objectives listed in the PROS Plan, as well as the Capital Improvement Projects. We will ensure future plans, policies, and decisions are consistent with the PROS Plan and reference back to it.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>Comparing the policies in the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan (p. 151-156) to policies listed in the 2025 draft PROS Plan (106-112) is difficult. There is no direct connection between policies laid out in the Comprehensive Plan to the "Policy Goals, Objectives, and Actions" listed in the draft PROS Plan.</p> <p>For example, Comprehensive Plan: "Parks Goal 5. Environmental Compatibility" has eleven policies and six strategies. How do the draft PROS Plan goals, objectives and action match back to Comp Plan policies? There should be a clearer description in the draft PROS Plan to explain how Comp Plan policies are being addressed.</p> <p>Since many of the objectives and actions will require funds to complete they should also be mentioned in the Capital Improvement Plan. For instance, in the Comp Plan performing assessments to better understand crucial areas (Parks Policy 5.2) or "Identify, assess, and prioritize parks resource areas for their suitability for recreational uses and needs for habitat restoration or preservation, utilizing the Kitsap Natural Resource Asset Management Program as a tool." (Parks Strategy 5.c). In the PROS Plan it looks like Goal PR2, Objective 2.1 and the actions 2.1.1 - 2.1.4 discuss performing assessments that support the Comp Plan Parks Policy 5.2. Why aren't these goals and objectives mentioned as CIP priorities to fund before funding many of the other items listed in Table 6-3 CIP? Assessments should be performed before other actions such as building trails, adding fishing piers or building bathrooms.</p> <p>Furthermore, the 2025 amendment to the 2024 Comp Plan has a special focus on the Silverdale Subarea Planning and Design Districts. Given this important focus, the PROS plan needs special attention to parks, recreations, and open space that would serve the Silverdale UGA and under what conditions. Buried on p. 98 in the Draft PROS Plan is reference to the need for more community parks but it is scarcely mentioned otherwise.</p>	Comment noted. The PROS Plan supersedes the goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan. The goals and objectives of the PROS Plan apply to both the rural and urban areas, such as UGAs, of unincorporated Kitsap County. Environmental assessments will be related to specific projects and will be factored in as part of park development projects identified in the Capital Improvement Project list.
<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>The vision expressed in the Draft PROS Plan is not appropriately connected to the Vision expressed in the 2024 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan and the public survey data.</p> <p>Pages 101 and following has the county's 2024 Comp Plan Vision, however, it is mixed with the vision of the Parks Department staff in a confusing way. Information in these pages gives the impression that the vision for the PROS Plan is being limited by the vision of the Parks Department staff. The vision in the 2024 Comp Plan and responses of the public in Parks data gathering for the PROS Plan development is more appropriate to primarily guide the PROS Plan vision.</p>	Comment noted. The PROS Vision is based on community input received during the plan development process, as well as the Kitsap County vision, and insights from one workshop with the Parks Department staff.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/10/2025	Online Form	I like the change of classification of the Hansville Greenway to "Nature Park" (p 37). I find it odd that Point No Point Lighthouse Park's rating is "3" since it's been over 2 years since it's been closed to vehicles and storm damage is still evident.	Comment noted. Point No Point Lighthouse & Park's rating is a 3 because of the storm damage. Once repaired, the park's rating is likely a 4.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	<p>all county skateparks are uncovered and decades old now. there is tremendous potential to do something extraordinary and create a regional covered skatepark that can host tournaments and events - suggest placing somewhere at the fairgrounds so it's central to all the county. @poulsboskateparkk can help advise.</p> <p>please build quality covered skateparks.</p>	Comment noted. The project suggestion will be noted to be evaluated further in the future.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/11/2025	Comment Card (NK Meeting)	It's disturbing that parks are planning to start using a "state" cookie cutter approach for managing and acquiring funding. Kitsap County is unique. Not Spokane, Walla Walla, or Chehalis. Keep Kitsap rural. We don't need a huge influx of tourists to our parks.	Comment noted. The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement.

<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	Page 38 , Park P-11 , Southworth Open space, Parcel 4823-000-016-0009 was sold 5-23-2022 to a private party.	Comment noted. The property has been removed from the County's inventory.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/12/2025	Online Form	I agree with the concept of standardizing parks categories to match those of the state of Washington and federal standards.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/12/2025	Online Form	Tables 2-13 and 2-14. Comment: These charts tell an important story about Kitsap's governance commitment to our parks. We are vastly larger than average parks and resourced with fractions of the employees and funds. We are an "Upper Quartile" park system which is nationally funded at \$160 per capita and \$12,000 per acre, Kitsap spends \$17.35 per capita and \$434 per acre. I would be interested in seeing what our neighboring Parks Districts spend per capita and per acre? This data must be skewed via the vast areas of preserve lands, at the expense of active recreational facilities.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/17/2025	Online Form	I would like to add additional information into the PROS document. I am, and have been for the past 6 years, the principal County Volunteer for Howe Farm Dog Park. In the PROS document Howe Farm Park is listed as a Legacy Park and now Community Park, containing about 81 acres. The use table lists about 14 visitors per day for this Park. Howe Farm Dog Park became a separate entity in early 2008 when an area of about 13 acres, 7.5 ac in forest and 5.5 ac in grassland, was fenced off from the rest of Howe Farm. Howe Farm Dog Park is maintained by myself and other volunteers who work on selected days during the summer. Funding for materials needed to maintain the Park (trail gravel, fence posts, and some tools) is provided by Kitsap Dog Parks Inc. The Parks Dept. provides help with removing fallen and hazardous trees and with mowing of the grassland in summer. The Parks Dept is still responsible for the Park and no work, outside of everyday maintenance, can be done without there notification and approval. Two, week-long use studies were done in the winter of 2018-19 and the summer of 2019. Average daily people visits were 186 and average daily dog visits were 215 animals. There are currently three dog Parks in the County. Only Bandix Dog Park is listed by name. Howe Farm Dog Park and Silverdale Dog Park are not named but the area Park of which they are associated, is. On page 94 of the PROS, a section on Canines is dedicated to the importance of dogs to many County residents but the Dog Parks are not mentioned specifically. I mention this because the County is under counting the number of users of their Parks since Howe Farm has only 14 visitors per day where as Howe Farm Dog Park has average daily people visits of 186.	Comment noted. Thank you for the information. The counts from the survey are not comprehensive park visitation counts, they merely indicate survey participants' frequency of use. In this case, 14 survey participants indicated they frequent Howe Farm Park daily. Only Bandix Dog Farm is specifically listed by name because it is the only dog park, out of the three you note, that is solely a dog park. At Howe Farm Park and Silverdale Rotary Gateway Park, the dog parks are features part of the larger park. The Capital Improvement Project list identifies improvement projects at Bandix Dog Park and the dog park at Howe Farm.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/19/2025	Online Form	I was very disappointed in the lack of information on Wicks Lake as it had not been assessed in the 40 years we have lived near Wicks Lake Park. It has gotten bigger over the years yet the use of it and has decreased due to a lack of care by Kitsap County Parks.	Comment noted. Wicks Lake has several projects identified in the capital projects list, both in the 1-6 year timeframe and the 6+ year timeframe.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK	Park classification proposed change is a good idea.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK	Park classification proposed change is a good idea.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/20/2025	Comment Card (SK Meeting)	Love the reclassification work & the new dept. focused on natural resource (conservation).	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	2/20/2025	Verbal Comment (SK Meeting)	There should be more emphasis on dog parks in the PROS Plan. There are there dog parks in the County (Silverdale, Howe Farm, and Bandix). Bandix is the only one explicitly labeled as a dog park. Howe Farm has 186 visitors and over 200 dogs in the dog park alone (table says 14 visitors daily to Howe Farm). There should be more attention paid to dog parks.	Comment noted. Thank you for the information. The counts from the survey are not comprehensive park visitation counts, they merely indicate survey participants' frequency of use. In this case, 14 survey participants indicated they frequent Howe Farm Park daily. Only Bandix Dog Farm is specifically listed by name because it is the only dog park, out of the three you note, that is solely a dog park. At Howe Farm Park and Silverdale Rotary Gateway Park, the dog parks are features part of the larger park. The Capital Improvement Project list identifies improvement projects at Bandix Dog Park and the dog park at Howe Farm.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	PG 46-48, How can Veteran's park not be addressed as 1 of only 5 parks to be rated as a 2, how can the safety of children who are trying to invest time in their community activities and personal health not be a priority or an extra bathroom somewhere. This park is a disgrace to our community and that lack of concern given it's extremely poor rating is a disgrace. Our kids deserve so much better.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	We would love veterans meemoial park to have a priority over other parks in the county. I am a long time residential of port orchard and have kids playing soccer and other sport here. We would love to see the fields we updated with no pot holes and possible lights! We have lots of play grounds and picnic areas in port orchard and surrounding areas! Please make veterans meemoial a BIG priority for kitsap county.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	There are no restroom facilities in so many park locations. We need at least an out house!!!	Comment noted. Restroom projects have been identified as priorities for a number of different parks and are included in the Capital Improvement Project list.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/4/2025	Online Form	agree with the proposal to align park descriptions (categories) with the RCO categories for a better fit with most abundant funding	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	The assessment of Veteran's Memorial Park in Retsil is accurate. This possible 'gem' for the people of South Kitsap is being allowed to fall apart. We are watching the lack of action with dismay and with future voting alliances in mind. This could be a wonder soccer area for our youth and is much needed in our area. If the county continues to ignore its issues then perhaps an effort can be made to SELL the land in a public/private partnership that allows something similar to Starfire Sports Complex in Tukwila, WA to be imagined. Doing nothing is getting us nowhere.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a long time community member of South Kitsap I would love to see improvements to the Veterans Park. My older kids played sports at this park and now my grand kids play there. The fields are in need of repair and I would love to see turf and lights so the fields could be utilized year round. It is a shame that we do not have more turf fields in South Kitsap to be equal to the surrounding area parks. Veteran's park is not in need of a playground or picnic areas, we have plenty of those parks in the area. We need competitive sports fields.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	I feel that our county has done a good job of acquiring and preserving land for us to all get outside and use. One that I feel isn't mentioned often enough is the Village Green Golf Course.	Comment noted. A project to make improvements to Village Greens Golf Course has been added to the Capital Improvement Project list and a discussion of its operation has been added to the Inventory & Assessment Chapter.

Inventory & Assessment	3/5/2025	Online Form	<p>The motion is to add 3 line items to the CIP Table 6-3, for Commissioner District 3 (which is the Central Kitsap District of Katie Walters), for the Illahee Preserve Heritage Park.</p> <p>1. Acquire the ‘Heart of the Park’ properties. Cat 1, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ ,Funding Options: Same as the others</p> <p>Note: This is KC Parks RCO grant 24-1777 ILLAHEE PRESERVE PH 3 HEART OF THE PARK which shows up in Prism as “Pending” funding, which is expected to be funded as there were only 8 applications submitted in the Urban Wildlife category. This is planned to be a multi-year phased acquisition of the 13 properties listed to purchase.</p> <p>2. Acquire the Watershed Park properties, Cat 1, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ ,Funding Options: Same as the others</p> <p>Note: This is KC Parks RCO grant 24-1770 ILLAHEE PRESERVE WATERSHED PARK PH 1 which also shows up in Prism as “Pending” funding. This is an acquisition grant for the 9.6-acre parcel and the last remaining Elliott property, presuming the 3.7-acre home property is purchased first. The acquisition needs to precede the development of the watershed park.</p> <p>3. Develop Watershed Park with local park amenities along with planned watershed related educational exhibits. Cat 8, Priority Year 1-6, Cost Rating: \$\$\$\$ ,Funding Options: Same</p> <p>Note: This is being planned as a future collaborative project between Kitsap County Parks and Bremerton Parks due to its proximity to Bremerton, which meets Bremerton’s needs for an additional park in East Bremerton. It is additionally being proposed as a major Kitsap Public Facilities District (PFD) project, as the Illahee Preserve, due to its size and offerings to the Central Kitsap and Bremerton Communities, it will continue to be a regional recreation destination.</p>	Comment noted. Land acquisition projects have been added to the Capital Improvement Project List, for acquisitions related to both recreational access and conservation.
Inventory & Assessment	3/5/2025	Online Form	<p>As a resident of South Kitsap, parent of 4 young sports players, and community board member for various things I feel very strongly that South Kitsap desperately needs some love to our athletic fields. We have so many great parks with a ton of potential but they just get overlooked.</p> <p>I was disappointed to see that Veterans Memorial park is no longer a top priority for the county when I attended the PROS planning meeting a few weeks ago. Our kids travel all over the county and most other places have at least one nice turf field to use in their community. South kitsap doesn’t have any. Veterans memorial is ready for some love!! Let’s help our kids play sports safely and be proud of their home field! Please move Veterans to a higher priority!!</p>	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran’s Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department’s ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Inventory & Assessment	3/5/2025	Online Form	This clarifies the plans of the county based on current inventory and county park goals	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Inventory & Assessment	3/7/2025	Online Form	I am most curious about the Eglon parcel which was just transferred to the county. Please keep county residents, especially Parcels Rd NE residents, appraised of its management plans.	Comment noted. Thank you for your interest in Eglon Forest. There are a couple of projects identified for Eglon Forest in the Capital Improvement Project list, including developing a natural resource management plan, improving parking and accessing, and developing a trail network. There will be community engagement associated with future planning efforts.
Inventory & Assessment	3/7/2025	Online Form	Upgrading Veterans Memorial Park to provide a safe space for children to participate in sporting activities is crucial, especially given the current challenges of poor field conditions and lack of lighting. The park’s fields are in need of significant improvement, as the worn-out surfaces can lead to injuries and make it difficult for kids to enjoy their games. Without proper lighting, the park limits playtime, especially in the evening, reducing opportunities for young athletes to practice or participate in team sports. By addressing these issues—upgrading the field surfaces, adding proper lighting, and ensuring safe, accessible equipment—we can create a more enjoyable and secure environment for children to stay active, while fostering a greater sense of community and well-being.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran’s Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department’s ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Inventory & Assessment	3/8/2025	Online Form	I agree with Lisa Hurt.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Inventory & Assessment	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>I am writing to strongly advocate for the inclusion of Veterans Memorial Park in the county’s upcoming updates. For too long, this vital community space has been neglected, leaving our children and athletes without safe and competitive fields to play on. It is time to invest in our community’s future by revitalizing these fields and ensuring they meet the needs of South Kitsap’s growing youth sports programs.</p> <p>One of the most critical updates needed is the installation of a lighted turf field. Many soccer clubs across Western Washington already have access to such facilities, putting our local athletes at a disadvantage. A turf field with lights would allow for more consistent use throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions, and enable our teams to host competitive matches without worrying about unplayable field conditions.</p> <p>Additionally, it is essential to level the existing fields and install proper lighting throughout the park. Uneven playing surfaces not only limit the ability to play and practice effectively but also increase the risk of injury. Quality fields are more than just a luxury—they are a necessity for fostering skill development, teamwork, and a sense of community.</p> <p>South Kitsap’s children deserve fields that are safe, modern, and accessible. For years, the county allowed the homeless population to take over Veterans Memorial Park, leading to its deterioration. Now, it is time to restore what was lost and give our children a place where they can play, grow, and take pride in their community.</p> <p>Investing in these updates is not just about improving soccer fields—it is about investing in the well-being of our youth and strengthening our community. I urge you to prioritize Veterans Memorial Park in the county’s improvement plans and ensure that our children have the facilities they deserve.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran’s Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department’s ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Inventory & Assessment	3/14/2025	Online Form	Slow it down, taxes are too high	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Inventory & Assessment	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>This is about the YMCA parking lot in Silverdale. I hope you can help. The south side parking lot has two sets of steps each with no railing. This is a barrier for me. I need a railing.</p> <p>I hope you can fix this.</p>	Comment noted. The Parks Department does not operate the YMCA parking lot in Silverdale.

Inventory & Assessment	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>Relationship to Existing County Policy Documents</p> <p>Relationship to Existing Plans: The draft PROS Plan inadequately draws on important existing documents such as the 2024 Comprehensive Plan and the 2018 PROS Plan. On 2/27 the Parks Planner provided Appendix G and H that were missing from the PROS Plan draft document. Appendix G, Review of Previous Plans, is the one referred to on p. 18 of the plan. Page 18 says "In Appendix X[G], the relevant goals and policies from each of these plans have been recoded and analyzed. "The documents listed are:</p> <p>Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan  Kitsap County Habitat Conservation Plans  Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facility Plan  Port Gamble Heritage Park Draft Framework</p> <p>Specific Park Master Plans and Supporting Documents</p> <p>Appendix G provides information on only the following documents:</p> <p>Integrated Forest Stewardship policy (2012, Revised 2015)  Management Plan for Banner Forest Heritage Park (2015)  Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park Draft Framework (2022)  Great Peninsula Conservancy Conservation Plan (2021-2025) (email from Carmen says "Kitsap County Habitat Conservation Plans" in list in report is actually this one from GPC)</p> <p>These would be the last two items listed on p. 18. (PGFHP draft Framework and Specific Park Master Plans and Supporting Documents)</p> <p>However, note that the North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) draft plan was not included. It was prepared in 2019.</p> <p>Importantly, no information is provided on the analysis of the first three documents:</p> <p>Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan  Kitsap County Habitat Conservation Plans  Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facility Plan</p> <p>Also, the 2018 PROS Plan is not included in this list as a document that was analyzed for its goals and policies.</p> <p>Note the major difference between the documents that were analyzed as given in Appendix G. They are all park specific documents. These first three documents plus the 2018 PROS Plan are the broader context documents within which Parks is situated. These appear to have not been analyzed.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The review of the 2018 PROS Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and the Non-Motorized Facility are not provided in Appendix G because they are included in the PROS Plan (pg. 18-22). The Kitsap County Habitat Conservation Plan is mislabeled - it is the Great Peninsula Conservancy Conservation Plan, for which a review is included in Appendix G. The goals and objectives of the PROS Plan apply to both the rural and urban areas, such as UGAs, of unincorporated Kitsap County .</p> <p>The Department currently does not have aquisition policy or procedures, but Objective 1.2, Action 1.2.1, and Action 1.2.2 all speak to developing policies and procedures for parkland aquisition.</p>
			<p>Relationship to County Policy Documents: As noted above, the draft PROS Plan is missing an analysis of the big picture documents—the policy documents—within which the new PROS Plan should be situated. The Kitsap County 2024 Comprehensive Plan, the Kitsap County Habitat Conservation Plans, the Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facility Plan, and the 2018 PROS plan present the policy context for the new PROS Plan. Yet this analysis is not provided in the draft PROS plan.</p> <p>Here is an example of the consequences of the lack of analysis of county policy documents:</p> <p>The 2024 Comprehensive Plan is based on Alternative 2 Land Use which focused on increased density in the UGAs. This is fundamentally different from Alternative 1 (the continuation of previous land use practices) and Alternative 3 (sprawl into rural areas.)</p> <p>An important implication for the PROS plan would seem to be how to increase parks, recreation, and open space in UGAs. This would likely involve increases in parks, recreation, and open space in the Silverdale and Kingston UGAs since both are intended to become incorporated cities within the 20 years of the Comp Plan (by 2044).</p> <p>The 2025 amendment to the 2024 Comp Plan has a special focus on the Silverdale Subarea Planning and Design Districts. Given this important focus, the PROS plan needs special attention to parks, recreations, and open space that would serve the Silverdale UGA and under what conditions. Buried on p. 98 in the Draft PROS Plan is reference to the need for more community parks but it is scarcely mentioned otherwise.</p> <p>Analysis of the relationship between the Habitat Conservation Plan, Non-Motorized Facility Plan, and 2018 PROS Plan are similarly important for establishing the foundation for the 2025 PROS Plan.</p>	
Inventory & Assessment	3/15/2025	Online Form	Leave Banner Forest aline	Comment noted. The Department is currently working on updating its Forest Stewardship Policy and Implementation Plan. More information will be available later this year.
Inventory & Assessment	3/15/2025	Online Form	As more development comes to Kitsap, maintaining and enhancing our urban forests becomes more and more critical for our own health and well-being and that of wildlife that is being displaced. They also play a role in keeping regulating temperatures. We must not give up our greenspaces to developers easily for once they're lost, we can never get them back.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Inventory & Assessment	3/15/2025	Online Form	This is an excellent starting point. When combined with the Demand and Needs analysis and public input, the County should have a good roadmap for future work.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Inventory & Assessment	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>General Comment</p> <p>Will paved shared use paths be built to allow access for all ages and abilities? If yes, which classifications of parks will include SUP trail facilities? Please specify in the park classifications chart or state explicitly somewhere else in the document where paved shared use paths that meet Federal ADA Standards will be built to allow access for all ages and abilities. I believe it is important to clarify this, and here's why.</p> <p>Over the past few years there has been ongoing controversy between community members surrounding paved trails in the Heritage Parks. Many people in the community would very much appreciate clarity surrounding shared use paths and the PROS Plan document seems an appropriate place to define the areas where Shared use paths will be built. Sincerely, I believe the community would like to move forward. Thank you for considering my comment on this topic, I very much appreciate it.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Page 21 Please reinstate the PARK TRAILS AND REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEMS Goal from the 2018 PROS Plan. It has been removed in the 2025 update. I would like to understand why it was taken out. The goal ensures alignment with the current Non-Motorized Facilities Plan. Specifically the parts highlighted below.</p> <p>Park Trails Goal: Improve public access, orientation, and user experience with existing trail systems. ☐</p> <p>Park Trails Goal: Improve the quality of in-park trail planning, development, and stewardship. ☐Objective: Improve the overall system of trails, trail mapping, linkages to outside transportation systems, and enhance trail stewardship partnerships.</p> <p>Regional Trails Goal: Improve coordination with other trail plans and trail management systems throughout the County.</p> <p>☐Objective: Plan a coordinated, interconnected non motorized trail system with parks and regional trail systems.</p> <p>Regional Trails Goal: Address trail needs for specialized users.</p> <p>Objective: Develop innovative trail opportunities to address under served populations and specialist trail user's needs.</p> <p>Water Trail Goal: Increase the availability and management of the developing water trails sites throughout Kitsap County.</p> <p>☐Objective: Support the acquisition, development, and management of water trail sites to improve and expand waterway access through the Regional Water Trails Alliance</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Regional trails are included in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan and are managed by the Public Works Department, not the Parks Department. These trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails. More information on trails can be found in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan.</p> <p>Biking will still be allowed on all trails in Nature Parks, unless otherwise specified. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers, but does not provide specific operational guidance on the volunteer program. Comment will be noted and taken into consideration.</p>

			<p>Pages 37 Table 2-12: Existing Parks &amp; Open Spaces</p> <p>There are a number of parks changing from a current classification of Heritage Park to a new classification of Nature Park. Specifically, the North Kitsap Heritage Park, Newberry Hill Heritage Park, Banner Forest Heritage Park, and Coulter Creek Heritage Park are currently used for active recreation, which seems in conflict with the description for Nature Parks, which states, "offering opportunities for passive recreation, such as hiking, bird watching, and interpretive education." For sure, this will be a drastic change for many park users accessing and using these parks for more active recreation. As an example, Banner Forest Heritage Park is used by mountain bikers. Would active recreation be eliminated in these parks? If yes, I believe this goes counter to the priority stated on page 18 which states, "Prioritizing parks and recreation access for all, as the beauty of the natural area is a consistent draw for tourists and residents of the area." Please re-access the changes in park classifications such that they will not reduce access and reduce the active recreational functions of these parks which are in very high demand in our county. Furthermore, Changing the classification of the North Kitsap Heritage Park to a Nature Park would be in conflict with the adopted Non-Motorized Plan which prioritizes and plans for a regional shared use path for regional connectivity through the North Kitsap Heritage Park. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <hr/> <p>Page 44 Volunteers/Stewardship Groups</p> <p>In the past Stewardship groups were primarily run by local volunteers, and that is still occurring today, although with more Parks Staff oversight. I would encourage more Parks Staff oversight to ensure stewardship groups are not being dominated and run by special interest groups. Rather, the stewardship group should aim to fairly reflect all park users. A clear policy outlining the need for inclusion and reasonably fair representation and leadership within stewardship groups would go a long way towards reducing the exclusive feel of groups run by community members with special interests. I didn't see any language to address this need in the Volunteer/Stewardship Group section. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Committing to the implementation of both an Adopt-A-Park/Trail Program and Park Ambassadors &amp; Volunteer Park Rangers Program would be very much welcomed and should be prioritized. These programs would help support the limited park staffing and help transitions occurring due to the continuous turn-over in the Parks Department. While training can be time-intensive, these programs would likely improve communication between the community and Parks staff, facilitate more timely park maintenance, and improve response time for issues within the parks when they arise. Happy to see those programs listed!</p>	
Inventory & Assessment	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>1- page 38 fix sorting error - W16.</p> <p>2- page 36 Is there a file somewhere where one can see this map and the associated table (pages 37-39) interactively? Would be helpful.</p> <p>3- page 40 it is not obvious which part of the county Bainbridge Island is - central or north</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>1. The key has been updated to reflect park location (North, South and Central).</p> <p>2. There is not currently an interactive map, but we will note the suggestion to be explored further.</p> <p>3. The map has been updated with the County's standard Commissioner District map for clarity.</p>
Inventory & Assessment	3/15/2024	Online Form	<p>New Parks Classification System</p> <p>The new parks classification system needs further development. It is among the most fundamentally important decisions about the County Parks contained in this Draft PROS plan. We suggest below both a long- and a short-term approach to developing and using a new classification system. First, we comment on text in the Draft PROS Plan.</p> <p>Text comments</p> <p>The Draft plan presents or makes reference to the current Kitsap County classification system on pp. 33-34 (community recreational complexes; heritage park; legacy parks; open space and greenbelts; partnership parks; special use parks; and waterway/waterfront parks, the Washington State Parks Classification System (p. 34), and a system used by municipalities (pp. 140-141 of the Appendix). It also makes reference to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) classification system (p. 34) but does not explain what it is. Doing an online search, we find that the Washington State Parks classification system has these six classifications: Recreation Areas, Natural Areas, Heritage Areas Natural Forest Areas and Natural Area Preserves. Earlier (p. 33) the draft plan says that the current Kitsap County classification system could be adapted to the Washington State Parks system but how that is being done is not explained. On pp. 34-35 it then says the plan is using a combination of the RCO and Washington State Parks framework. It then lists the following categories: Nature Parks, Waterfront Parks, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks Mini-Parks, Regional Parks, Special Use Parks. It does not explain the process by which this newly proposed classification system was developed. Who was involved? What criteria were used? What additional classifications should be included. For example, none of these systems include public gardens which are sometimes included as a type of park classification system.</p> <p>Long term suggestion</p> <p>The criteria for the classification system, who was involved, and what contextual information is taken into account need to be clearly articulated. A classification that has community and neighboring resident participation recognizes the need for the parks and their appropriate use. Diverse stakeholder participation helps shape the recreational use impact and then supports the Park's design and maintenance needs. A classification for a park whose original intent is for nature-based recreation and habitat conservation is a much different classification than a park that offers playgrounds and ballfields in an Urban Growth Area. We recommend the establishment of a working group with, for example, members of the tribes; people with a broad range of knowledge about park classification systems; users, stewards, and staff of the current Kitsap County parks; designers of other public and private parks and gardens in the County; a range of stakeholders; and more. A clear and forward-thinking parks classification system that has transparently been developed is needed before any parks are classified. The classification system needs to be congruent with the land use decision of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan which emphasizes increasing density in UGAs, with expected climate</p>	<p>Comment noted. The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement.</p>
			<p>ParksClassification.New.DFR.3-13b 01:00, Page 2 conditions for the next 20 years, and the needs of the population of Kitsap County. These are a few initial ideas about how such a group would be established. The work group needs to be facilitated by a skilled and independent professional facilitator. Once a well-developed, publicly reviewed and accepted classification system has been established, then it is time to move forward on classify existing parks. Table 2-12, pp. 37-39 is not appropriate to include in this PROS plan. Much more work needs to be done before presenting the long-term reclassification of specific parks.</p> <p>Short term suggestion</p> <p>We recognize that the above suggestion is going to take time. It represents the long view and the underlying policy orientation for Parks. We also recognize that in the meantime you need a classification system that can be used for grant applications especially through RCO. Therefore, we recommend that you fully adopting the classification system and guidelines provided by the Washington State Park Classification System, as they are clear and well-written.</p> <p>We propose a dual classification system for PGFHP, incorporating a recreational aspect for the Ride Park to promote more active forms of recreation, while categorizing the rest of the PGFHP as a Nature or Natural Area to encourage passive recreation and better protect critical areas and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>The State classification system utilizes the category of Natural Area, which we believe is more suitable than the county's proposed Nature Park designation. Therefore, we recommend that the county adhere to the classification guidelines established by the Washington State Park Classification System. This can be presented as an interim classification system until the fully engaged strategy described earlier can be developed and implemented.</p>	

<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	You have not identified any inventory or assessment in Enetai community. There is NO inventory. Why not? There is a gaping hole in this community that is being ignored.	Comment noted. Objective 1.2 speaks to prioritizing land acquisition for areas lacking access to parks. Additionally, projects have been added to the Capital Improvement Project list 1.2 to explore land acquisition that improves access to parks and recreation facilities.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>s a positive move Kitsap County Parks is aligning itself with the Washington State Parks Conservation and Management Planning classification system (CAMP) p. 33 to classify its parklands. Two of Washington State Park's classifications are Recreational and Natural Park Area, but in the PROS Plan (p. 37) appear as Nature Park and Regional Park. The definitions, App. Pg 139, 161 are essentially the same as stated in the CAMP definition. That these are the same should be made clear in the Plan document p. 33-34 along with the Washington State Conservation and Management Plan philosophy and use restrictions.</p> <p>The PROS Plan lists Part Gamble Heritage Park as a Regional Park (Appendix, p.139) and should equate it to a Recreational Park as stated in CAMP/ RCO classification system which allows more intensive, wide-ranging uses. This would be appropriate for the northern most area of PGFHP, while the remaining larger southern area of the park should be listed as a Natural Area Park. PGFHP Framework Plan (ES6) makes clear the vast areas of valuable forest and critical aquifer recharge area contained there. These areas make a valuable contribution to mitigating climate change, increasing healthy habitat for wildlife and enhancing North Kitsap water resources.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement.</p> <p>The suggestion of two separate classifications is appropriate for landscape management zones, which will be applied to specific areas of parks to guide management and allowed use.</p>
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	See above overview comment	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>p 35 I encourage Nature Park designation for Wynn-Jones Preserve Park (WJP) 52.18 acres. This is consistent with current use and the Great Peninsula Conservancy easement on part of WJP that prohibits bicycle use, dog parks, etc.</p> <p>The draft states: "Nature Parks Focused on preserving ecological integrity, these parks protect natural habitats and biodiversity while offering opportunities for passive recreation, such as hiking, birdwatching, and interpretive education. Minimal development ensures low environmental impact."</p> <p>pag 35 and In Table 2-12 Wynn-Jones Preserve Park has two asterisks meaning "natural / open space not assessed." I would rate it a 4. Trash pick up in the woods adjacent to the waterfront area needs to be done and more invasive species work needs to be done on the waterfront parking area and driveway, Wynn Jones Road and on the northern boundary area and the area east of Watauga Beach drive. The unpaved access road to the waterfront sector needs to be graded perhaps twice a year as potholes develop due to park use and the local residents.</p>	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>1. On pages 33 and 34 the plan describes moving to the state park classification system and the argument is lacking so I disagree with the proposed change to the state classification system. The rationale provided on pages 34 and 35 doesn't actually explain how changing the classification will help "allow for flexibility in meeting local needs, securing funding, and ensuring the county's park system remains accessible, 2024 Kitsap County PROS Plan Update   Inventory &amp; Assessment 35 sustainable, and adaptable to changing community priorities". It only asserts that it does, which is insufficient. There is also nothing in this section that says whether the parks would be managed differently by virtue of changing classification, i.e., a heritage park now being a nature park. Therefore, I strongly disagree with changing to the state classification system as you have not cited any specific and tangible benefit to the change, and do not describe the ramifications of the changes to the management of the parks.</p> <p>2. Under the Volunteer/Stewardship Program section starting on page 43, this plan seems to focus primarily on volunteers as grunt labor for activities that the county doesn't have staff to do. While Kitsap County Parks Dept is clearly understaffed given how many parks and acreage we have (tables 2-13 and 2-14), there is no mention of leveraging volunteers for input into crafting the vision for parks and their management. Benefit #5 (diverse perspectives leading to innovations solutions/improvements in park management) won't be realized in this plan because this plan does not have them contributing to park management in the Volunteer Programs outlined on page 44. The volunteers would make a fantastic feedback loop to letting KCPD how well the park management plans are working.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement.</p> <p>The suggestion of two separate classifications is appropriate for landscape management zones, which will be applied to specific areas of parks to guide management and allowed use.</p> <p>The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.</p>
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>Parks Advisory Board The Parks Advisory Board (PAB) seems to be sidelined throughout the Draft PROS Plan. The PAB needs to be properly included in the development of the PROS Plan and its role presented in the Plan.</p> <p>The PAB, established through Kitsap County Code (Chapter 10.12), is an important body in the operations and governance of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks website says that the PAB "functions as an interface between the community and the county. The Board provides advice to the Commissioners and the Director of Parks concerning the acquisition, development, and administration of parks and recreation facilities throughout the County." Yet, the PAB seems to be sidelined in the plan. For example,</p> <p>The information presented to the public through the presentations being given in February and March 2025 are misleading in this regard. The PAB is listed as one of the stakeholder interview groups (slide 11 of PROS presentation), yet the Plan does not include it. Table 3-1 (p.50) does not include the PAB as one of the stakeholder groups interviewed. It is not included in Appendix H where stakeholder interviews are summarized (pp. 756-758). Pages 39 – 41 of the PROS Plan draft presents the Operations &amp; Governance of the Parks Department. The PAB is not involved in the operations or governance of the Parks Department. There is no indication in the Plan that the PAB was given early versions of the PROS plan for its review. As the key advisory group for the Parks Department, it should have an important role in the development of the written document.</p>	Comment noted. The Department shared project updates and collected feedback from the Parks Advisory Board throughout the PROS Plan update process. The Parks Advisory Board has been added to Table 3-1, as well as a paragraph summarizing their interview, and a section explaining their role has been added to the Operations & Governance section in the Inventory & Assessment chapter. See Appendix C for more information on engagement efforts throughout the process, including all touchpoints with the PAB.
<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	We need to stop harvesting trees for lumber. Our tree canopy is important for humans and wildlife. I do not agree with selling trees for profit.	Comment noted. The primary objective of the Forest Stewardship Policy is to restore forest health and ecosystem function.

Inventory & Assessment	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>The Parks Advisory Board (PAB) seems to be sidelined throughout the Draft PROS Plan. The PAB needs to be properly included in the development of the PROS Plan and its role presented in the Plan.</p> <p>The PAB, established through Kitsap County Code (Chapter 10.12), is an important body in the operations and governance of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks website says that the PAB “functions as an interface between the community and the county. The Board provides advice to the Commissioners and the Director of Parks concerning the acquisition, development, and administration of parks and recreation facilities throughout the County.” Yet, the PAB seems to be sidelined in the plan. For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The information presented to the public through the presentations being given in February and March 2025 are misleading in this regard. The PAB is listed as one of the stakeholder interview groups (slide 11 of PROS presentation), yet the Plan does not include it.</li> <li>•Table 3-1 (p.50) does not include the PAB as one of the stakeholder groups interviewed. It is not included in Appendix H where stakeholder interviews are summarized (pp. 756-758).</li> <li>•Pages 39 – 41 of the PROS Plan draft presents the Operations &amp; Governance of the Parks Department. The PAB is not involved in the operations or governance of the Parks Department.</li> <li>•There is no indication in the Plan that the PAB was given early versions of the PROS plan for its review. As the key advisory group for the Parks Department, it should have an important role in the development of the written document.</li> </ul> <p>Relationship to Existing Plans: The draft PROS Plan inadequately draws on important existing documents such as the 2024 Comprehensive Plan and the 2018 PROS Plan.</p> <p>On 2/27 Carmen Smith, Parks planner provided Appendix G and H that were missing from the PROS Plan draft document. Appendix G, Review of Previous Plans, is the one referred to on p. 18 of the plan. Page 18 says “In Appendix X[G], the relevant goals and policies from each of these plans have been recoded and analyzed.” The documents listed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan</li> <li>•Kitsap County Habitat Conservation Plans</li> <li>•Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facility Plan</li> <li>•Port Gamble Heritage Park Draft Framework</li> <li>•Specific Park Master Plans and Supporting Documents</li> </ul>	<p>Comment noted. The Department shared project updates and collected feedback from the Parks Advisory Board throughout the PROS Plan update process. The Parks Advisory Board has been added to Table 3-1, as well as a paragraph summarizing their interview, and a section explaining their role has been added to the Operations &amp; Governance section in the Inventory &amp; Assessment chapter. See Appendix C for more information on engagement efforts throughout the process, including all touchpoints with the PAB.</p> <p>The review of the 2018 PROS Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and the Non-Motorized Facility are not provided in Appendix G because they are included in the PROS Plan (pg. 18-22). The Kitsap County Habitat Conservation Plan is mislabeled - it is the Great Peninsula Conservancy Conservation Plan, for which a review is included in Appendix G.</p>
			<p>Appendix G provides information on only the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Integrated Forest Stewardship policy (2012, Revised 2015)</li> <li>•Management Plan for Banner Forest Heritage Park (2015)</li> <li>•Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park Draft Framework (2022)</li> <li>•Great Peninsula Conservancy Conservation Plan (2021-2025) (email from Carmen says “Kitsap County Habitat Conservation Plans” in list in report is actually this one from GPC)</li> </ul> <p>These would be the last two items listed on p. 18. (PGFHP draft Framework and Specific Park Master Plans and Supporting Documents)</p> <p>However, note that the North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) draft plan was not included. It was prepared in 2019.</p> <p>Importantly, no information is provided on the analysis of the first three documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan</li> <li>•Kitsap County Habitat Conservation Plans</li> <li>•Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facility Plan</li> </ul> <p>Also, the 2018 PROS Plan is not included in this list as a document that was analyzed for its goals and policies.</p> <p>Note the major difference between the documents that were analyzed as given in Appendix G. They are all park specific documents. These first three documents plus the 2018 PROS Plan are the broader context documents within which Parks is situated. These appear to have not been analyzed.</p> <p>Relationship to County Policy Documents: As noted above, the draft PROS Plan is missing an analysis of the big picture documents—the policy documents—within which the new PROS Plan should be situated. The Kitsap County 2024 Comprehensive Plan, the Kitsap County Habitat Conservation Plans, the Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facility Plan, and the 2018 PROS plan present the policy context for the new PROS Plan. Yet this analysis is not provided in the draft PROS plan.</p> <p>Here is an example of the consequences of the lack of analysis of county policy documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The 2024 Comprehensive Plan is based on Alternative 2 Land Use which focused on increased density in the UGAs. This is fundamentally different from Alternative 1 (the continuation of previous land use practices) and Alternative 3 (sprawl into rural areas.)</li> </ul> <p>An important implication for the PROS plan would seem to be how to increase parks, recreation, and open space is UGAs. This would likely involve increases in parks, recreation, and open space in the Silverdale and Kingston UGAs since both are intended to become incorporated cities within the 20 years of the Comp Plan (by 2044).</p> <p>The 2025 amendment to the 2024 Comp Plan has a special focus on the Silverdale Subarea Planning and Design Districts. Given this important focus, the PROS plan needs special attention to parks, recreations, and open space that would serve the Silverdale UGA and under what conditions.</p>	
			<p>Buried on p. 98 in the Draft PROS Plan is reference to the need for more community parks but it is scarcely mentioned otherwise.</p> <p>Analysis of the relationship between the Habitat Conservation Plan, Non-Motorized Facility Plan, and 2018 PROS Plan are similarly important for establishing the foundation for the 2025 PROS Plan.</p>	
Inventory & Assessment	3/16/2025	Online Form	See comments for Overview section	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Inventory & Assessment	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>No inventory is complete without best practices analysis of the parcel. Where are the wetlands delineations? The wetlands are critical for the watershed and should be primary for any decision on usage or development. Kitsap cannot afford to screw up its watershed. Public officials and the public should be educated. Developers have only short term profit motives but we need our public officials to have the fortitude to plot for a long term vision which requires attention to where the water is going to come from in the future. It's easy to take water availability for granted during our winters but we are not guaranteed plenty of water since we don't have rivers and mountains within the county here in Kitsap.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Goal 2, Objective 2.1, Goal 3, and Objective 3.2 speak to developing and implementing natural resource management plans for parklands and conducting environmental assessments as a foundational step in park planning, which would include wetland delineations as applicable. These studies would be conducted as part of a park or natural resource plan or project.</p>
Inventory & Assessment	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>The inventory should include facilities in incorporated areas, other park districts and port districts as well as the county “ rural areas”. For instance, how are the pickleball courts in the Kingston Village Green accounted for?</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Inventory &amp; Assessment chapter is just focused on County-owned properties. However, the Department recognizes that there are several other groups that provide parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces within Kitsap County. Those additional properties are factored into the level of service (LOS) analysis, however the non-County inventory needs to be updated for accuracy. The Department intends to review and update the LOS metrics, including getting an updated and accurate non-County facility inventory.</p>

<b>Inventory &amp; Assessment</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>he Parks Advisory Board (PAB) seems to be sidelined throughout the Draft PROS Plan. The PAB needs to be properly included in the development of the PROS Plan and its role presented in the Plan.</p> <p>The PAB, established through Kitsap County Code (Chapter 10.12), is an important body in the operations and governance of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks website says that the PAB “functions as an interface between the community and the county. The Board provides advice to the Commissioners and the Director of Parks concerning the acquisition, development, and administration of parks and recreation facilities throughout the County.” Yet, the PAB seems to be sidelined in the plan. For example,</p> <p>The information presented to the public through the presentations being given in February and March 2025 are misleading in this regard. The PAB is listed as one of the stakeholder interview groups (slide 11 of PROS presentation), yet the Plan does not include it.</p> <p>Table 3-1 (p.50) does not include the PAB as one of the stakeholder groups interviewed. It is not included in Appendix H where stakeholder interviews are summarized (pp. 756-758).</p> <p>Pages 39 – 41 of the PROS Plan draft presents the Operations &amp; Governance of the Parks Department. The PAB is not involved in the operations or governance of the Parks Department.</p> <p>There is no indication in the Plan that the PAB was given early versions of the PROS plan for its review. As the key advisory group for the Parks Department, it should have an important role in the development of the written document.</p>	The Department shared project updates and collected feedback from the Parks Advisory Board throughout the PROS Plan update process. The Parks Advisory Board has been added to Table 3-1, as well as a paragraph summarizing their interview, and a section explaining their role has been added to the Operations & Governance section in the Inventory & Assessment chapter. See Appendix C for more information on engagement efforts throughout the process, including all touchpoints with the PAB.
<b>Overview</b>	2/10/2025	Online Form	You missed Mountain Lions on your wildlife list!	Comment noted. The mention of wildlife is not an exhaustive list of all species within the County, but rather it is intended to note a few.
<b>Overview</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	be the first county in the USA to adopt the principles of the Living Building Challenge as a guiding protocol for future development and operations of parks. The creator and founder of the LBC is on Bainbridge and can help guide work to align with mission and vision for the future.	Comment noted. Upgrading park facilities to improve energy efficiency has been added to the capital project list.
<b>Overview</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	Not sure where this comment is categorized, but that is the focus of this comment which can't find a place for maintenance of our heritage properties. Very impressive document. However, there are very few references to the maintenance of this large inventory of properties. As a taxpayer, I'm impressed with the burden of a small staff. My experience suggests this is insufficient. The Port Gamble park is a very recent acquisition. In the two years that I have been cycling there, 600+ accumulated miles, I have experienced the degradation of trails, with some trails now impassable and abandoned. Former logging roads/trails are becoming impassable with encroaching shoulder growth. The logging trails that Rayonier maintain are spectacular, others are being lost. The County has shown no evidence in being able to maintain this property. We will find that volunteers with hand shears will be insufficient. Kitsap PW is proficient at trimming shoulders and has good equipment. Alternately, experienced volunteers with mini excavators and rotary brush heads can start to fulfill this need. For this I would volunteer.	Comment noted. Objectives 6.3 and 6.4, and their subsequent actions, are focused on trail maintenance and speak to volunteer opportunities for trail maintenance. The Department hosts volunteer work parties for trail maintenance and also contracts for some trail maintenance. Specific to Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park, the Draft Framework looks to update or decommission some trails, as well as proposes standardized trail classifications which would dictate their maintenance schedules.
<b>Overview</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	Amazing work! Looking forward to the implementation!	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Overview</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	Link doesn't work.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Overview</b>	2/12/2025	Online Form	<p>PROS Plan Summary: “Central to the plan is its vision for a resilient, inclusive, and accessible park system that balances active recreation, environmental stewardship, and cultural preservation.”</p> <p>Comment: Is “Active Recreation” currently in balance with open space? Perhaps we should divest of some of the unused preserve area in exchange for publicly accessible recreational parks? Balance is listed as a “Central” element of the plan.</p> <p>PROS Plan Summary: “A robust Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is at the heart of the PROS Plan”</p> <p>Comment: CIP=\$. Our traditional CIP for Kitsap Parks = limited/insufficient \$. Perhaps its time to pursue a Parks District cojoined with the other municipal parks in Kitsap. Lets state it right in the PROS Plan a goal to pursue a Parks District.</p> <p>Commissioners if you are reading this – I have lived in Kitsap for 60 years and have seen very slow growth in our Parks. (Exception, we purchased vast areas of preserve area). It is time for a Parks District.</p> <p>PROS Plan Summary: “Funding strategies outlined in the plan leverage local, state, and federal resources, including grants and partnerships, to maximize community investments.”</p> <p>Comment: Local = Commissioners allotment from County budget, they traditionally find inadequate local budget to meet this Plan. State and Federal is wholly inadequate to support this plan and grants are limited and competitive. Partnerships exist, but I have seen some pretty big ones squandered. A Parks District is your answer.</p> <p>PROS Plan Summary: “In essence, the Kitsap County PROS Plan is a testament to the county’s commitment to creating vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable parks and recreational spaces that reflect the community’s aspirations and enhance quality of life for generations to come.”</p> <p>Comment: This is lip service in context of funding, the proof is in the history, we have always been under funded (See tables 2-13 and 2-14).</p> <p>PROS Introduction and Purpose: new approaches and ideas to ensure. Stated goal – “acquiring new park properties....”</p> <p>Comment: We already have the property in mass (11,000 acres), convert some of those areas into active recreational parks. We spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on park development masterplans for NK Heritage park (Berger) with little implementation the past 20 years, same for SK Regional Park (BCRA).</p>	Comment noted. Action 1.6.1 speaks to exploring alternative funding sources, such as a Metropolitan Park District (MPD). The Department and the PROS Plan seeks to provide a balance of natural resource areas and developed parks. The Department has heard and recognizes the need for both from the community. Projects have been added to pursue land acquisition that improves access to parks and recreational facilities in each of the three districts.
<b>Overview</b>	2/20/2025	Online Form	South Kitsap has been severely neglected by the county for their parks. It is unsafe to use in the evening. We needed lighted fields, grass that is kept up or turf would be even better. Many youth sports use the community parks and we need to invest in our kids. Veteran's and Jackson Park should not be neglected for about 6 years. Our county dollars should go to upgrading South Kitsap, many other areas of Kitsap county have been upgraded so the same for South.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Overview</b>	2/20/2025	Online Form	Upgrading current south kitsap parks like retail with turf fields and lights would provide a safer space for our kids and other recreational activities.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Overview</b>	2/22/2025	Online Form	Please do something for our youth soccer fields, baseball has all the great fields and SKUNITED has to beg, borrow and steal just to practice on some grass! The fields are in terrible shape and or closed for extensive time periods only to find they just filled holes with sand. Our kids deserve better!	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Overview</b>	2/23/2025	Online Form	Veterans park is somewhere I played soccer everyday from 6-17 years old and I believe it need to be a priority as it is still used daily by many in our community.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.

<b>Overview</b>	2/24/2025	Online Form	yes, please see Capital Improvement comments	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Overview</b>	2/27/2025	Online Form	Sea levels rise at approximately 1.1 inch per decade for the last 30+ years. Stop making excuses to spend more money.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Overview</b>	2/28/2025	Online Form	Please reconsider veterans memorial park for improvements. The South Kitsap Soccer Club almost exclusively uses this park because there are no other good options available. One single turf field, added lighting, or some basic maintenance with sports in mind would be amazing. The field is uneven, lacks proper drainage, and has holes that could cause a serious injury to one of the kids. The South Kitsap Soccer Club is one of the few economical choices for local kids to play soccer in a competitive environment.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Overview</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	We would love veterans meemeorial park to have a priority over other parks in the county. I am a long time residential of port orchard and have kids playing soccer and other sport here. We would love to see the fields we updated with no pot holes and possible lights! We have lots of play grounds and picnic areas in port orchard and surrounding areas! Please make veterans meemeorial a BIG priority for kitsap county.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Overview</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	Having restroom facilities would greatly	Comment noted. Restroom projects have been identified as priorities for a number of different parks and are included in the Capital Improvement Project list.
<b>Overview</b>	3/4/2025	Online Form	the "Vision Statement". (I think in overview?) has a number of typographical errors...	Comment noted. Typos have been corrected.
<b>Overview</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a long time community member of South Kitsap I would love to see improvements to the Veterans Park. My older kids played sports at this park and now my grand kids play there. The fields are in need of repair and I would love to see turf and lights so the fields could be utilized year round. It is a shame that we do not have more turf fields in South Kitsap to be equal to the surrounding area parks. Veteran's park is not in need of a playground or picnic areas, we have plenty of those parks in the area. We need competitive sports fields.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Overview</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a resident of South Kitsap, parent of 4 young sports players, and community board member for various things I feel very strongly that South Kitsap desperately needs some love to our athletic fields. We have so many great parks with a ton of potential but they just get overlooked. I was disappointed to see that Veterans Memorial park is no longer a top priority for the county when I attended the PROS planning meeting a few weeks ago. Our kids travel all over the county and most other places have at least one nice turf field to use in their community. South kitsap doesn't have any. Veterans memorial is ready for some love!! Let's help our kids play sports safely and be proud of their home field! Please move Veterans to a higher priority!!	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Overview</b>	3/6/2025	Online Form	This is a well outlined overview and explains country priorities clearly	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Overview</b>	3/7/2025	Online Form	Upgrading Veterans Memorial Park to provide a safe space for children to participate in sporting activities is crucial, especially given the current challenges of poor field conditions and lack of lighting. The park's fields are in need of significant improvement, as the worn-out surfaces can lead to injuries and make it difficult for kids to enjoy their games. Without proper lighting, the park limits playtime, especially in the evening, reducing opportunities for young athletes to practice or participate in team sports. By addressing these issues—upgrading the field surfaces, adding proper lighting, and ensuring safe, accessible equipment—we can create a more enjoyable and secure environment for children to stay active, while fostering a greater sense of community and well-being.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Overview</b>	3/7/2025	Online Form Email	<p>After reading and digesting the new 2025 PROS Plan, I would like to know how Kitsap Facilities District (KFD) seems to have been able to usurp the Kitsap County Heritage Parks for their vision of a regional system of connected offroad trails. Perhaps Pope, Olympic Property group, Jon Rose, the parks director made a back-room deal?</p> <p>If this is truly the case, then I feel like the community was misled in a bait and switch scheme to get donations to buy the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park (PGFHP) for KFD's ultimate goal, which just happens to align with Jon Rose's visions of connecting his development assets. Many of the contributions to purchase PGFHP came from residents and donors who wanted to protect and restore the park for future generations. The 2018 PROS Plan gave people the belief that this was the direction the parks were going. The majority of the people who commented on the creation of the update expressed that point (to keep the vision of the 2018 plan) and to possibly help influence the development of the new plan as promised.</p> <p>I must say that I am disappointed with the process of the creation of the update, the public comment charade and the presentation of the new 2025 PROS Plan.</p> <p>The classification system has been completely changed for reasons that don't really justify such drastic changes. The reasons given were to make it more consistent with other parks and organization's classification systems and to help avoid confusion when applying for funding.</p> <p>Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has NOT requested a different classification system to apply for funding. The 2018 PROS Plan recognized the unique character of Kitsap County's different parks. For example, PGFHP is so large, it had a number of classifications within the park so there could be room for conservation, and restoration that would be free of active recreation, while also providing ample room for active recreation.</p> <p>I feel this new PROS Plan takes a cookie-cutter approach to standardizing our parks so they can become a large "regional park system" to capitalize on tourism and active recreation. The majority of the people who supported buying and using Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park never intended this. These comments are documented in the Appendix of the new plan.</p> <p>With this "vision" of a regional trail system, not only do the animals that already live here lose but the local people who enjoy a peaceful, restorative walk in the forest lose too. To make this regional trail system vision work, North Kitsap Heritage Park (NKHP) has been thrown into the mix too. NKHP is the crown jewel of Kitsap and this regional trail (let's just call it what it really is, a road) would destroy what makes it special. An unspoiled habitat for animals, a large watershed, diversity of flora and fauna, and best of all, peace and quiet.</p> <p>An example would be like taking the Grand Old Forest on Bainbridge and running a road right through the center. I don't think Bainbridge residents would tolerate that.</p> <p>We are already being overrun by bikers in PGFHP, many who don't understand the proposed dual nature of a shared trail. With an entitled air, they think they own the park. They go out of bounds and ride through streams, their tires degrade the forest floor and damage tree roots. Many of the younger boys do not yield to pedestrians or equestrians.</p> <p>If indeed, a regional trail system goes through NKHP, joining the Arborwood development and the Port Gamble development with the newly acquired GPC property, the public will know the truth. That this plan was never intended to have the public's desires and comments make any difference in the outcome. The effort Parks made to have public engagement was just a show. It was just another box needing to be checked as a way to get funding.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration of this comment.</p>	<p>Comment noted. There is not a vision for a regional off-road trail system in the PROS Plan. Off-road trails are included in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan and are managed by the Public Works Department, not the Parks Department. These trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails.</p> <p>The reclassification approach better follows industry standards and aligns with Washington State Parks' and RCO classification criteria. The redefined classifications is a way to group parks with similar purposes, attributes, and use, and utilize standard language for grants. Park classifications do not dictate how parks will be managed; management plans will be developed on a park by park basis with community involvement. The classifications mentioned with regards to Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park are the landscape management zones, which are included in the draft Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park Framework, and are different from the proposed park classifications. These landscape management zones still exist and will be reevaluated as part of edits to the Draft Framework.</p>
<b>Overview</b>	3/8/2025	Online Form	I have a general comment that there must be a creation with parks especially in Port Orchard and surrounding areas where wild consumable mushrooms will grow and people be able to gather them in season.	Comment noted. Mushroom harvesting is allowed in Kitsap County parks and is subject to the policies laid out in Kitsap County Resolution No. 164, approved October 27, 2014.
<b>Overview</b>	3/8/2025	Online Form	I agree with Lisa Hurt.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.

<b>Overview</b>	3/8/2025	Online Form	As we live in South Kitsap, not having a parks and recreation center or program is awful. Growing up on Bainbridge Island as a child, we had access to parks and recreation. As a kid we had the options to attend fun summer day camps and activities as well as recreational sports such as soccer. Now as a parent living in south kitsap, we have to out source our kids activities to different areas out of our way. Having a parks and recreation program will create jobs, help kids learn, keep them smart and active. It would be nice for kids who can't afford club sports like south kitsap peeewees and recreation seasonal sports is a lot cheaper. It would give many kids the opportunity to play sports and learn team work and commitment.	Comment noted. Kitsap Country defunded recreation programming due to impacts from the Great Recession. The Parks Department currently does not provide recreational programming. Instead, we seek partnerships to provide recreational programming opportunities for the community, such as sports leagues and camps, bike lessons, gardening, and archery and other 4H activities.
<b>Overview</b>	3/10/2025	Online Form	I am requesting that you extend the comment period of this document. This is too complicated and far reaching to have the comment period end on the 15th.Please extend for 1 month.	Comment noted.
<b>Overview</b>	3/13/2025	Online Form	Upgrading Veterans Memorial Park to provide a safe space for children to participate in sporting activities is crucial, especially given the current challenges of poor field conditions and lack of lighting. The park's fields are in need of significant improvement, as the worn-out surfaces can lead to injuries and make it difficult for kids to enjoy their games. Without proper lighting, the park limits playtime, especially in the evening, reducing opportunities for young athletes to practice or participate in team sports. By addressing these issues—upgrading the field surfaces, adding proper lighting, and ensuring safe, accessible equipment—we can create a more enjoyable and secure environment for children to stay active, while fostering a greater sense of community and well-being.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Overview</b>	3/13/2025	Online Form	As a parent and coach of a talented soccer player I would love Retsil/Veterans Memorial and Sk Regional parks to get some love. I'd say the fields at Sk Regional are in pretty good shape for grass fields but it could use some lights around fields, skate park, and walking paths for safety as well as sports activities. Veterans is in need of urgent care. They flood, they are covered in poop from geese and off leash dogs, Field looks like its been shelled by artillery in places. I'm amazed by the resilience of the kids in SK United. They continue to succeed even in those conditions. Please help our youth athletes with the tools they need to thrive and our neighbors a safe and clean place to enjoy the outdoors.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Overview</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>I am writing to strongly advocate for the inclusion of Veterans Memorial Park in the county's upcoming updates. For too long, this vital community space has been neglected, leaving our children and athletes without safe and competitive fields to play on. It is time to invest in our community's future by revitalizing these fields and ensuring they meet the needs of South Kitsap's growing youth sports programs.</p> <p>One of the most critical updates needed is the installation of a lighted turf field. Many soccer clubs across Western Washington already have access to such facilities, putting our local athletes at a disadvantage. A turf field with lights would allow for more consistent use throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions, and enable our teams to host competitive matches without worrying about unplayable field conditions.</p> <p>Additionally, it is essential to level the existing fields and install proper lighting throughout the park. Uneven playing surfaces not only limit the ability to play and practice effectively but also increase the risk of injury. Quality fields are more than just a luxury—they are a necessity for fostering skill development, teamwork, and a sense of community.</p> <p>South Kitsap's children deserve fields that are safe, modern, and accessible. For years, the county allowed the homeless population to take over Veterans Memorial Park, leading to its deterioration. Now, it is time to restore what was lost and give our children a place where they can play, grow, and take pride in their community.</p> <p>Investing in these updates is not just about improving soccer fields—it is about investing in the well-being of our youth and strengthening our community. I urge you to prioritize Veterans Memorial Park in the county's improvement plans and ensure that our children have the facilities they deserve.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Overview</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Proposals that are rushed through are rightly viewed as suspect. People who try to rush things through are usually up to something. Are you afraid of transparency? Let's slow this down so it can be explored fully. It looks like someone here is trying to push something through before people can figure out what is involved. That is not in the public's interest, although it may be of benefit for a narrow few—a business perhaps?	Comment noted. The public comment period was five weeks long and included three public presentations across the County and one presentation at a Parks Advisory Board meeting. Additional public engagement opportunities are described in Appendix C. While this is the first time the Draft PROS Plan has been released to the public for review, the Plan is based on extensive community engagement. The Plan's schedule has been published since the beginning of the project.
<b>Overview</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Moved to retire here and vey happy to read about all the local opportunities we have here. Got this report thru the Kitsap Environmental Coalition. Did not know about it before they sent it to me.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Overview</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Point No Point has been left badly damaged, closed and ignored for years now! All these new plans yet this lovely spot left a mess! Please take care of what we have prior to new developments! We live here, look at it everyday and it's sad, very sad	Comment noted. The capital project to repair storm damage is underway and is currently in the permitting process.
<b>Overview</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Slow it down, taxes are excessive	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Overview</b>	3/14/2025	Online Form	Please include a leash your dog sign. Slowly the ability to go on trails has gotten smaller and smaller	Comment noted. There are park rules signs posted at entrances to every park, which indicate dogs are not allowed off leash (with the exception of off-leash dog parks). The Department does not have enforcement program and relies on the Kitsap County Sheriff.
<b>Overview</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	Leave Banner Forest alone	Comment noted. The Department is currently working on updating its Forest Stewardship Policy and Implementation Plan. More information will be available later this year.
<b>Overview</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	I disagree that this builds on the 2018 PROS Plan. It is a totally different document.	Comment noted. The goals from the 2018 PROS Plan have been carried forward and incorporated into the 2025 PROS Plan goals and objectives. The goals have been reorganized to better align with Department operations.
<b>Overview</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	Because I am in the park daily, I saw the tremendous job being done by the stewards in North Kitsap Heritage Park. I got to know many different volunteers who were devoting tremendous amounts of time and expertise to various jobs. Their level of expertise always astounded me and provided the highest level of environmental, scientific to the development of the parks ecosystem and habitats	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Overview</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	I just submitted comments and was upset that I didn't see this survey until yesterday but I see now that I did receive the plan on 2/10 and then was unable to attend the public forum about it so I apologize for saying that I was not notified. Sorry! I still would have appreciated more input than just the public forum and receiving the plan with little chance for public input.	Comment noted. The public comment period was five weeks long and included three public presentations across the County and one presentation at a Parks Advisory Board meeting. Additional public engagement opportunities are described in Appendix C.

Overview	3/16/2025	Online Form	Our parks are the gems of Washington State and are necessary for the health and well-being of the people who live in Kitsap County. Please do not sell-out our beautiful parks with the promotion of the mountain-biking industry. PGFHP has been over-run with the use of mountain bikes and one who wants to simply walk in the park cannot do so anymore on the weekends without having to constantly give way to bikers. Our trails need to be restored from the damage that these bikes have caused. When there is a promoted event for mountain bikers, it is impossible to walk safely in the park. These events should be better regulated.	Comment noted. Trail safety and multi-use conflicts are acknowledged concerns. Actions have been added to the PROS Plan to improve trail safety and reduce recreational conflicts. The Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park Draft Framework will be updated and trail safety will be considered as part of that effort.
Overview	3/16/2025	Online Form	The overview section seemed to be too general, lacking specific examples being cited along the lines of "Here we are now, this is where we'd like to be."	Comment noted. The Overview chapter is intended to provide a higher level look at the contents of the plan. More detailed analysis and discussion is contained within the subsequent chapters.
Overview	3/16/2025	Online Form	Unfortunately a current health issue inhibits me the ability to go through each section of this plan and to separate my comments on each. My son and many friends and families kids are part of United soccer club and South Kitsap soccer here and use these fields multiple times weekly. Our family is a big supporter of the local soccer programs and coaches/community involved. The state of these fields are clearly in need some attention and loving care for playing all games safely and for adequate coaching to our little humans. Our community deserves to take pride in our sports here as our children and next generation grow together here. It would be amazing to have decision made that support and help provide adequate field maintenance and proper lighting for our community. I see coaches carrying and packing in ( and out) multiple portable lights during the winter so kids don't get more injuries playing. They are trying to support our future kids and community. Any supportive decisions that could be made to assist these coaches would be amazing for everyone in our shared community.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Overview	3/16/2025	Online Form	p 23 Population growth estimates in the plan are based on State demographer data but may be an underestimate. p 37 Thus where possible capital funds in the next decade should be spent on acquiring more green space and natural areas and not recreational hardscape and facilities. p 71 BTW: The high response for disc golf (Figure 3-24) is the result of a highly organized campaign by a special interest group that does not correspond with widespread community interest	Comment noted. The Department and PROS Plan seeks to balance natural areas and developed parks. The Department has heard and recognizes the need for both from the community. The public surveys represent one data point for understanding needs in our community. We also conducted stakeholder interviews during plan development and reviewed comments received during public comment. We will take all of these community touchpoints into consideration when evaluating capital projects and Department decision making. More information on all engagement efforts for the PROS Plan can be found in Appendix C.
Overview	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>The 2025 PROS Plan has the task to build on and make updated improvements from the previous 2018 PROS Plan. Instead the draft 2025 version is a rewritten document that doesn't reflect back to 2018, eliminates or adds goals not presented for public discussion and doesn't always align with the current Comprehensive Plan. As stated in the 2025 PROS Plan Preface (p.5) "The PROS Plan is intended to refresh and update", and as stated in the Purpose section (p. 4), "is an element of the Kitsap County's Comprehensive Plan."</p> <p>The 2018 PROS Plan is 45 pages in length. The 2025 Draft is 147 pages and 638 pages of appendices. Completion and release of the Plan to the public was delayed for months. Much of the text is repetitive and some of it is not internally consistent and hard to follow. It represents a radical departure from the style and substance of the 2018 plan. There has been little effort to show what parts of the plan are changes from the 2018 plan. Meaningful review of it is very difficult and time-consuming. The draft plan is months overdue without any chance for review and input from concerned groups such as the Parks Advisory Board or KEC. The public and concerned groups should be given additional time to digest this lengthy document and to make meaningful suggestions or voice concerns about changes in park policy and planning.</p> <p>The organization of the plan needs improvement. Here are examples of improvements needed in the organization of the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Figure 1-1(p.8) appears to be a depiction of the order of the chapters. The Demand and Needs Analysis chapter is shown as coming before the Goals and Objectives chapter. These are reversed in the text.</li> <li>•Most of the first four pages of the Overview and the Demand &amp; Needs Analysis chapter seems more logically to fit in the Inventory &amp; Assessment chapter which provides background and the general picture of the context for the PROS Plan.</li> <li>•The information about Vision is scattered and, in one case, inaccurate. The Kitsap County vision statement (p. 17) that opens the Planning Context of the Draft PROS plan section is stated as "from the approved 2024 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan." That is incorrect. The vision statement given there is from the 2018 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan.</li> <li>•On pages 101 and following, the County's 2024 Comprehensive Plan vision is mixed in a confusing way with the vision of the Parks Department staff.</li> <li>•Overall, the plan seems wordy, repetitive, and unfocused.</li> </ul>	<p>Comment noted. The goals from the 2018 PROS Plan have been carried forward and incorporated into the 2025 PROS Plan goals and objectives. The goals have been reorganized to better align with Department operations.</p> <p>The Department shared project updates and collected feedback from the Parks Advisory Board throughout the PROS Plan update process. The PAB was also interviewed by the consultant during the stakeholder interviews. The Parks Advisory Board has been added to Table 3-1, as well as a paragraph summarizing their interview, and a section explaining their role has been added to the Operations &amp; Governance section in the Inventory &amp; Assessment chapter.</p> <p>See Appendix C for more information on engagement opportunities throughout the plan development process and the public comment period.</p> <p>The Department acknowledges that large policy documents can always be refined for clarity. The Plan's organization follows standard best practices for planning documents, with sections logically structured to provide policy guidance, inventory assessments, and capital project frameworks as expected by RCO. The PROS Plan follows RCO's preferred structure for these types of plans. The Demand and Needs Analysis does come before the Goals and Objectives chapter. The Vision on page 17 has been updated.</p>
Overview	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>I am the current president of the Kitsap Live Steamers (KLS) railroad located in the South Kitsap Regional Park, I could find no mention of our railroad in the PROS Plan, so I am offering the following information for your consideration in crafting the final document.</p> <p>Whereas, Kitsap County Parks and Kitsap Live Steamers has been in a three decade partnership; and</p> <p>Whereas, the Kitsap Live Steamers railroad is a unique facility within the region with the nearest like facility open to the public would be in Skykomish WA to the east, beyond the Canadian border to the north, and the Portland OR vicinity to the south; and</p> <p>Whereas, KLS membership is 140 members (plus 25 children family members) from within and beyond Kitsap county; and</p> <p>Whereas, KLS makes lease payments (revenue generation) to the Kitsap Parks Department; and</p> <p>Whereas, KLS works with two non-profit organizations to support their fund raising efforts; and</p> <p>Whereas, KLS maintained right of way on non public run days is available as additional walking and biking trails utilized by the public; and</p> <p>Whereas, KLS provided 27,000 rides in 2024 and continues to grow (with the exception of a reset due to COVID pandemic where 2019 rides was at a high of 29,700 that declined to 20,481 rides in 2021 when we resumed operations) that draws riders from the greater Puget Sound region;</p> <p>I provide the following input to the plan as it relates to the South Kitsap Regional Park:</p> <p>Accessibility improvements - KLS has built a wheelchair train car and improved our right of way to allow its passage for visitors who are unable to ride on our straddle passenger cars.</p> <p>Currently the sidewalk from the parking lot terminates at the restroom near our station area. Mobility chair, wheel chair, and even some walker users can find it difficult to navigate across the dirt from the end of the sidewalk to our station load/unload area. Request that the county look at extending that sidewalk to our entrance/exit gates.</p> <p>Facilities improvements - Request that the county look at prioritizing upgrade of public restrooms near the KLS station, as well as installation of benches and tables in the vicinity of the station area.</p> <p>Expansion buffer - As noted above, we service a number of visitors and we expect it to grow due to word of mouth and social media. Since there is a practical limit to the length that one of our trains can safely run, to accommodate visitors with the same level of service, we need to be able to run more trains and when needing safety between trains, there may be a time when we need to extend our routes to accommodate the extra trains as well as address extra parking needs for additional members to crew those trains which may also include trailers and tow vehicles to bring engines to support those extra trains. Request that the county look at preserving buffer for future expansion outside of the current railroad footprint, along with limiting encroachment into the current footprint.</p> <p>Thanks in advance for consideration of my input.</p>	Comment noted. The Department intends to update the 2008 Master Plan for South Kitsap Regional Park. To inform this process, we will use analysis from the PROS Plan and engage the community and park users about desired amenities and facilities in the park.

<b>Overview</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	This document has too much information and needless chapters. It is too lengthy. Who is going to read 140 pages?	Comment noted. The Department acknowledges that large policy documents can always be refined for clarity. The Plan's organization follows standard best practices for planning documents, with sections logically structured to provide policy guidance, inventory assessments, and capital project frameworks as expected by RCO. The PROS Plan follows RCO's preferred structure for these types of plans.
<b>Overview</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	I do not agree with this update and the role of the park stewards. Park stewards have been sidelined by the parks department in recent years and the PRO S plan doesn't remedy that situation. Park stewards are the best resource that the county has. Not only are they knowledgeable about the parks, more so than the parks department staff, but they are willing and able to work for free! Why should taxpayers pay parks staff so much more when volunteers are ready willing and able to many of the functions. Example is NKHP where stewards performed a complete wetlands delineation, provided a forest management plan (signed off by the commissioners), and a significant restoration project. All these actions were accomplished with minimal cost because the stewards have skills, experience and drive that the parks staff cannot match. As a taxpayer, I do not want to fund a parks department that doesn't take advantage of local experience and expertise. The parks are an essential resource for the community and the community should be involved and be part of the decisions determining the outcome.	Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.
<b>Overview</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	The 2025 PROS Plan is NOT an update. The 2025 PROS Plan has the task to build on and make updated improvements from the previous 2018 PROS Plan. Instead the draft 2025 version is a rewritten document that doesn't reflect back to 2018, eliminates or adds goals not presented for public discussion and doesn't align with the current Comprehensive Plan. As stated in the 2025 PROS Plan Preface (p.5) "The PROS Plan is intended to refresh and update", and as stated in the Purpose section (p.4), "is an element of the Kitsap County's Comprehensive Plan."  The 2025 Draft is 147 pages and 638 pages of appendices. Completion and release of the Plan to the public was delayed for months. Much of the text is repetitive and some of it is not internally consistent and hard to follow. It represents a radical departure from the style and substance of the 2018 plan. There has been little effort to show what parts of the plan are changes from the 2018 plan. Meaningful review of it is very difficult and time-consuming. The draft plan is months overdue without any chance for review and input from concerned groups such as the Parks Advisory Board. Instead, the public is given a brief review period at the "Final Draft" stage, which appears to be intended for grant writing, and not reflective of the the pubic's interests.	Comment noted. The current PROS Update builds on the 2018 PROS Plan. The concepts in the 2018 PROS goals and objectives are included in the update, they have just been updated to include the recent inventory analysis, demand and need analysis, and public engagement. The goals have also been reorganized to better align with Department operations.
<b>Overview</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	The Vision Statement on Page 28 has many grammatical errors. It's difficult to even know if this was proof read.	Comment noted, typos have been corrected.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/10/2025	Online Form	I'm baffled at the listing of "Improving the connection from Buck Lake Park parking lot and restrooms to Hansville Greenway trails" as trail/access improvement #3 (p 75 and table on p 80). The connection from the parking lot and restrooms is a stroll across an open field. The trailhead kiosk is visible from the parking lot and restrooms. I don't see any way to "improve" that connection? Do you plan to build a gravel or paved trail across the field, which is a combination ball field and parking lot?	Comment noted. The proposed connection could include signage directing visitors from Buck Lake Park parking lot to the Hansville Greenway Trails and/or a new trail connection.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	all county skateparks are uncovered and decades old now. there is tremendous potential to do something extraordinary and create a regional covered skatepark that can host tournaments and events - suggest placing somewhere at the fairgrounds so it's central to all the county. @poulsboskateparkk can help advise.  please build quality covered skateparks.	Comment noted. The project suggestion will be noted to be evaluated further in the future.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	Page 67 , heat map Fig 3-20 for Harper Park ( L-4 ) , A new Harper Bridge / estuary restoration is schedule for 2026 , See Kitsap County Public works TIP program for 2026.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/11/2025	Online Form	Our taxes dollars must continue to provide maintenance, parking, restrooms, emotional and recreational advantages to all!! There are many County and State Parks as well as trails that need to be maintained for us and all animals Our state is beautiful and magnificent and we need to all help to keep it that way....	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/12/2025	Online Form	As a member of the Port Gamble Forest Stewardship committee, I don't recall any reaching out for feedback on the PROS plan from our group	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/12/2025	Online Form	I am very impressed by the effort put into the public involvement process.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/14/2025	Email	I was, however, able to quickly read thru the PROS Plan results and the packet that accompanied it. There was one thing that jumped out at me that I feel is important for the County to recognize and note. As we expected going into it, the demographics of the PROS survey respondents did not match up with county demographics. This leaves those people (kids, students and younger families – under age 27) who represent roughly 1/3 of the population and who commonly use active sports fields underrepresented. I suspect it is because they aren't aware of these endeavors and don't have the time to get involved because they are constantly going from school/work to shutting kids off to activities, to make dinner, do bedtime and then repeat for the next day. This, in turn, leaves the passive recreational users and pickleballers (there are a lot of them!) as a bit skewed and overrepresented (similar to what I'm sure you are and have been getting/hearing from vocal individuals in our community).  What jumped out to me from the results:  Age 55 and older: PROS survey respondents 53%; Kitsap County demographics 32% Age 29 and under: PROS survey respondents 3% (27 and younger); Kitsap County demographics 34%  I make mention of this because most people can't deduct or identify this when reading thru the information or hearing the results from you in meetings. I think it is important that those of you representing the PROS plan acknowledge this gap in survey respondents – essentially stating that the results are somewhat biased towards age groups that prefer passive recreation vs. other activities (active recreation like using sports fields and indoor facilities). This is exactly what was highlighted and acknowledged from our BERK report in the feasibility study we forwarded to you. To address this needs gap, the PROS plan should reference the survey work done by Rotary, the YMCA, and other Kitsap Youth Organizations recently conducted... and include these results in the PROS plan appendices. This is why we felt it was prudent and important to put in a lot of time (and pay a lot of money) to get other information to compliment your PROS Plan Survey.	Comment noted. The public surveys represent one data point for understanding needs in our community. We also conducted stakeholder interviews during plan development and reviewed comments received during public comment. We will take all of these community touchpoints into consideration when evaluating capital projects and Department decision making. More information on all engagement efforts for the PROS Plan can be found in Appendix C.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/19/2025	PAB Meeting	The draft PROS Plan is missing Appendix X mentioned on page 18 and the notes from the stakeholder interviews with park stewards mentioned on page 48. Incorporate these missing documents and extend the public comment period once they have been incorporated.	Comment noted.

<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/19/2025	PAB Meeting	The schedule lists SCJ making updates to the PROS Plan March 17th-28th based on public comments. Does that mean public comment period closes on March 16th? That seems too soon, we need time to read it. My request is to extend that deadline.	Comment noted.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/19/2025	Online Form	Myself and a few others were volunteers for Wicks Lake Park. We had a few work sessions and cleared lots of scotch broom and trash from the park. That was a few years ago and Kitsap County Parks and the past Kitsap County Commissioner stopped communicating with that particular volunteer group. It was like the County did not care about Wicks Lake Park and had zero intention of improving this particular park for the local residents. I was told I would also be on the Coulter Creek Heritage Park committee and I have heard nothing for a few years. It seems the County picks and chooses who they want to communicate with when it comes to public involvement with the parks.	Comment noted. Volunteer work parties will be included on the Volunteer Calendar on the Parks website and advertised through our electronic notification system. You can sign up to be included in email updates. For more information, you may contact ParksNRD@kitsap.gov.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/20/2025	Online Form	PLEASE consider working with local sports programs to allow them the opportunity to make capital improvements in fields and facilities.	Comment noted and will be considered.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/20/2025	Online Form	A wider range to obtain survey info would be better reached from organization participation such as sports clubs, all school levels, flyers at schools to take home, facebook feeds like Bremerton, silverdale and port orchard pages ect	Comment noted and will be taken into account for future engagement.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/20/2025	Verbal Comment (SK Meeting)	One group that should have been consulted is the Kitsap Mycological Society.	Comment noted and will be taken into account for future engagement.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/21/2025	Online Form	I learned about PROS plans and how the community has a voice late in the game. I hope the current comment sways the needle to the newly voiced residents of kitsap.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	2/28/2025	Online Form	As a member of an established Sport organization I have not heard anything about this until now. I am a member of the Kitsap County Horeshoe club and we are associated with the Washington State Horseshoe Pitchers Assoc. and the NHPS (National Horseshoe pitching Assoc.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	88 - How can restrooms be a priority over unsafe grounds that children use daily! The top 10 doesn't even include the lowest rated parks, Veteran's should be a priority, a significant number of families utilize this park and rely on it for their children's access to outdoor sports, it is a liability, kids get injured because of lack of maintenance	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	We would love veterans meemoial park to have a priority over other parks in the county. I am a long time residential of port orchard and have kids playing soccer and other sport here. We would love to see the fields we updated with no pot holes and possible lights! We have lots of play grounds and picnic areas in port orchard and surrounding areas! Please make veterans meemoial a BIG priority for kitsap county.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/3/2025	Online Form	I have signed up for the volunteer stewardship program some time ago. I see via the emails I receive that a lot of volunteer work occurs in North and central kitsap but not too much in south kitsap. Banner park seems to be the only main park in south kitsap that may have anything occurring. I specifcally want to help at South Kitsap Regional park but very little is happening there.	Comment noted. There are occasional public work parties that occur at South Kitsap Regional Park. These work parties will be included on the Volunteer Calendar on the Parks website and advertised through our electronic notification system. You can sign up to be included in email updates. For more information, you may contact ParksNRD@kitsap.gov.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/4/2025	Online Form	just to say this section was well done! in terms of summarizing the process and emphasizing the importance	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	The people of South Kitsap are some of the most kind and giving folks in the county. They want to help the process of making Port Orchard area sports fields better. They just need a county that is finally willing to send the leadership and funds to make it all happen.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a long time community member of South Kitsap I would love to see improvements to the Veterans Park. My older kids played sports at this park and now my grand kids play there. The fields are in need of repair and I would love to see turf and lights so the fields could be utilized year round. It is a shame that we do not have more turf fields in South Kitsap to be equal to the surrounding area parks. Veteran's park is not in need of a playground or picnic areas, we have plenty of those parks in the area. We need competitive sports fields.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	As a resident of South Kitsap, parent of 4 young sports players, and community board member for various things I feel very strongly that South Kitsap desperately needs some love to our athletic fields. We have so many great parks with a ton of potential but they just get overlooked. I was disappointed to see that Veterans Memorial park is no longer a top priority for the county when I attended the PROS planning meeting a few weeks ago. Our kids travel all over the county and most other places have at least one nice turf field to use in their community. South kitsap doesn't have any. Veterans memorial is ready for some love!! Let's help our kids play sports safely and be proud of their home field! Please move Veterans to a higher priority!!	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/5/2025	Online Form	I believe that south Kitsap has been under represented in the plan thus far because the community does not have confidence our voices matter	Comment noted. The Parks Department values perspectives and opinions from all community members. Based on feedback from residents of South Kitsap, field improvement projects at Veteran's Memorial Park and South Kitsap Regional Park have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, there are a number of park development projects identified for District 2, which the Department will engage with the community and park users about desired amenities and facilities in the park.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/6/2025	Online Form	South kitsap had under representation at survey time. Perhaps expand marketing efforts to the survey	Comment noted and will be taken into account for future public surveys to work to ensure broad and representative participation.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/7/2025	Online Form	Upgrading Veterans Memorial Park to provide a safe space for children to participate in sporting activities is crucial, especially given the current challenges of poor field conditions and lack of lighting. The park's fields are in need of significant improvement, as the worn-out surfaces can lead to injuries and make it difficult for kids to enjoy their games. Without proper lighting, the park limits playtime, especially in the evening, reducing opportunities for young athletes to practice or participate in team sports. By addressing these issues—upgrading the field surfaces, adding proper lighting, and ensuring safe, accessible equipment—we can create a more enjoyable and secure environment for children to stay active, while fostering a greater sense of community and well-being.	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/8/2025	Online Form	Public has the right and civic duty to be involved and to care about preservation and creation of public parks. Important to notice is that there is a need for park rangers either paid or volunteers to protect and use preventative measures in keeping the public in check (enforcing no littering and nonlittering), having a safe space for seniors with pets and families to gather for picnics bbqes chess games with chessboards permanently attached. To have a space for gathering for concerts and crafts making (take Kirkland waterfront park as an example). Let's make Kitsap parks the envy of the entire country so that others could learn from us how to create and preserve nature and build stronger communities part of it is having wild edible mushrooms grow in the parks where people can gather and learn the mushrooming art.	Comment noted. While the Parks Department does not currently have a park ranger or enforcement program, the PROS Plan recognizes this and identifies that a Park Ambassador/Volunteer Park Ranger program could be created. Amenities, such as picnic shelters, chessboards, etc. could be addressed through park development projects that are included in the Capital Improvement Program list for several different parks. The County has three off leash dog parks. Mushroom harvesting is allowed in Kitsap County parks and is subject to the policies laid out in Kitsap County Resolution No. 164, approved October 27, 2014.

Public Involvement	3/8/2025	Online Form	<p>Pg 61-63 -Conservation - "164 comments" - this is an unfortunately small amount of comments. Figures 3-16 and 3-17 provide almost no value and are incomprehensible.</p> <p>Pg 64 - No Access - this is extremely likely to be bias as individuals who live nearby attempt to privatize areas for themselves. One would hope the county evaluating the survey would recognize this when comparing the survey response population and the listed extremely well known and used parks (e.g. Illahee Preserve).</p>	Comment noted. The public surveys represent one data point for understanding needs in our community. We also conducted stakeholder interviews during plan development and reviewed comments received during public comment. We will take all of these community touchpoints into consideration when evaluating capital projects and Department decision making.
Public Involvement	3/8/2025	Online Form	I agree with Lisa Hurt.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Public Involvement	3/11/2025	Online Form	<p>Although I am not a Kitsap County resident, I work in South Kitsap schools and my kids participate in sports in SK. We travel to SK for soccer, baseball, and basketball because we love the community in SK.</p> <p>Improving public fields at Veterans Park, including the addition of better lighting, is crucial for creating accessible and safe spaces for all members of the community, particularly for youth sports. Well-lit fields extend the hours of play, allowing children and teens to engage in sports, exercise, and recreational activities after dark, especially in areas where daylight is limited. Proper lighting enhances safety, reduces the risk of accidents, and creates a more welcoming environment for athletes and families.</p> <p>Investing in these fields, especially in support of youth sports programs, can also play a key role in mitigating criminal activities. Providing young people with structured, positive outlets like sports not only promotes healthier lifestyles but also reduces the likelihood of them becoming involved in delinquent behavior. Active, well-maintained spaces can foster a sense of community, pride, and responsibility, while also offering a safer alternative to the streets.</p> <p>By prioritizing the improvement of Veterans Park, with a focus on lighting and supporting youth sports, we can create a space that promotes well-being, reduces crime, and strengthens community ties. This investment is an important step in ensuring the park remains a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for all.</p>	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Public Involvement	3/13/2025	Online Form	The school districts were contacted as part of outreach. What was the result of this meeting? Can't school athletic facilities meet some or many of the active recreation needs of children if they work together with Parks in scheduling, support, etc., especially since the need is more for less structured sport facilities and opportunities.	Comment noted. Information from the stakeholder interviews, including school districts, can be found in the Public Involvement Section and in Appendix C. The Parks Department values partnerships and has MOUs in place with school districts currently. We will continue to work together with school districts as applicable to serve the community.
Public Involvement	3/14/2025	Online Form	This method of collecting public comments is ineffective and feels intentionally designed to be inefficient. A large portion of Kitsap's public has a stake in our parks and open spaces, and a significant number of them would like to share their input on what should be prioritized. Releasing a 135-page document to be reviewed by the public primarily through word of mouth is a ridiculous strategy that completely fails our community. People will not have time to read and comprehend the plan sufficiently to submit productive comments. Breaking the feedback form up into sections will highlight peoples' ignorance on the parts they don't have time to read, and intimidate them into not sharing their opinions. As public comments are part of the process, it seems clear that the goal here is to collect as few remarks and ensure that those collected are as inapplicable as possible so that the powers that be can push through whatever plans they already want to see implemented. Public comments and simplified explanations of the plan should have been made much more accessible to our Kitsap communities. I searched and was unable to find any coverage of it in the Kitsap Sun, for one example. Perhaps I missed an article, but this should be a featured opportunity for engagement with our community, not something skipping past in the background.	Comment noted. While this is the first time the Draft PROS Plan has been released to the public for review, the Plan is based on extensive community engagement (see the Public Involvement Section). All of the comment boxes on the comment form are optional and community members can provide comments on any section(s) of the plan that they wish. Appendix C contains more information as to what public engagement opportunities were available and how they were advertised to the community.
Public Involvement	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>The Role of Park Stewardship Program in Heritage Parks</p> <p>NKHP Fieldtrip: The park stewardship program has operated for decades as community-based park ambassadors organized to maintain and enhance the county's heritage parks. The new Plan relegates stewards to the role of maintenance and would be a waste of valuable local knowledge to assist in planning future improvements.</p>	Comment noted. The Parks Department has a long lived volunteer program and the PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers. Additionally, Objective 4.4 and its subsequent actions speak to fostering a robust volunteer stewardship program.
Public Involvement	3/14/2025	Online Form	<p>I am writing to strongly advocate for the inclusion of Veterans Memorial Park in the county's upcoming updates. For too long, this vital community space has been neglected, leaving our children and athletes without safe and competitive fields to play on. It is time to invest in our community's future by revitalizing these fields and ensuring they meet the needs of South Kitsap's growing youth sports programs.</p> <p>One of the most critical updates needed is the installation of a lighted turf field. Many soccer clubs across Western Washington already have access to such facilities, putting our local athletes at a disadvantage. A turf field with lights would allow for more consistent use throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions, and enable our teams to host competitive matches without worrying about unplayable field conditions.</p> <p>Additionally, it is essential to level the existing fields and install proper lighting throughout the park. Uneven playing surfaces not only limit the ability to play and practice effectively but also increase the risk of injury. Quality fields are more than just a luxury—they are a necessity for fostering skill development, teamwork, and a sense of community.</p> <p>South Kitsap's children deserve fields that are safe, modern, and accessible. For years, the county allowed the homeless population to take over Veterans Memorial Park, leading to its deterioration. Now, it is time to restore what was lost and give our children a place where they can play, grow, and take pride in their community.</p> <p>Investing in these updates is not just about improving soccer fields—it is about investing in the well-being of our youth and strengthening our community. I urge you to prioritize Veterans Memorial Park in the county's improvement plans and ensure that our children have the facilities they deserve.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	Comment noted. The Parks Department recognizes a need for field improvement projects. Field improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park, South Kitsap Regional Park, and Anderson Hill Athletic Fields have been moved to 1-6 year priority. Additionally, Goal 5 speaks to enhancing athletic facilities and Objective 5.3 speaks to tracking trends in community needs and recreational events to improve the Department's ability to provide appropriate facilities.
Public Involvement	3/14/2025	Online Form	The Kitsap Environmental Coalition has many points to make about public input and questions that need to be answered and I would very much like for their concerns to be adequately addressed and included in this report.	Comment noted. Comments that reflect KEC's position have been included and responded to.
Public Involvement	3/14/2025	Online Form	How about supplying bags for people who routinely pick up trash on daily walks	Comment noted and will be considered.
Public Involvement	3/14/2025	Online Form	Slow it down, taxes are too high	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Public Involvement	3/14/2025	Online Form	For more reviews and feedback there could be a Parks Passport similar to how the Kitsap Library did their Passport to get #'s up and patrons in to see what each branch offers. A shirt is usually a great "prize" & would be given to people who visited each park. In addition, there can be a QR at trail heads asking for surveys/reviews/ premade stats.	Comment noted and will be considered for future engagement.

<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>Public involvement survey data presentation and analysis: The Public Involvement section (p. 46-84) has data presentation and analysis problems. The survey data has been inadequately analyzed and data from multiple data collection methods has not been integrated into meaningful presentations and interpretations.</p> <p>The lack of adequate analysis is evident in the separate Appendix document that provides the survey responses. It is simply a listing of responses with the most minimal analysis. Take for example the questions that ask respondents to indicate their agreement or disagreement with certain statements. Look at Question 15 of one survey (appendix p. 174 or 34 depending on what numbering systems is being used at the bottom of the page). It asks "Do you agree or disagree that Kitsap County needs more of the following?" The table shows for each item the percent of response for each category from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree" but no analysis is done to show the order from high to low of the options in regard to those rated agree or strongly agree. It appears that some such analysis was done because p. 60 lists the four top choices (activities needed in Kitsap County). One would expect that the four choices would be reported in terms of percent who agreed/strongly agreed not the number of respondents. Also, our analysis of the data in the appendix for this question puts the four top items in a different order than that given on p. 60. The analysis on p. 60 had waterfront (1197 respondents), parking (1173), habitat (1090), and picnic areas (1064) whereas our analysis from the table for question 15 in the appendix has: parking 71.3%; waterfront 70.6%; picnic tables 65.3%; and habitat 64.7%. For statistically correct analyses, percents rather than absolute number of respondents needs to be used. Also, the number of respondents the Plan show on p. 60 isn't the same as what is given in the appendix for this question. Is there an error here? This is just one minor example of the overall issue.</p> <p>The appendix of survey responses of the type provided is simply little more than a listing or responses. No significant analysis has been done. Among other things, there are no analyses by demographics of any type.</p> <p>This lack of meaningful analysis is seen in the tables presented on p. 54-57. First of all, far too much information is presented in these tables. Only the percent of responses is needed, not the number of people. That should remain in the Appendix if given at all in the published documents.</p> <p>The data needs to be summarized in a more meaningful way with more clustering of responses (for example, possibly grouping "daily, weekly, and monthly" as one group, "semi-annually and annually" as another group and "rarely and never" as a group) and then giving "percent of responses" for each group.</p> <p>The one paragraph analysis statement on pp. 54-57 for each table does not present meaningful information. Why is the focus on whether the majority of respondents rarely or never used a given park? These data would also need to be analyzed by different parts of the county to make much sense of it.</p> <p>Also note the confusing info on p. 71 about new facilities. It's not clear how the bullets on this page align with Figure 3-24. Also, the relative importance of new amenities (e.g., restrooms, picnic areas) versus new facilities seems confused.</p> <p>No overall Data Design Plan for the data collection, analysis, and use is provided. Such a plan would begin with a link between overarching questions that needed to be addressed to guide the PROS plan. Then those questions would be linked to specific questions for each respondent group and method of data collection.</p> <p>A Data Design Plan would not stop with data collection but would go on to identify the methods of analysis which would include how data gathered through multiple methods would be synthesized to answer the overarching questions for which the developers of the PROS plan needed data.</p> <p>Please provide the data design plan. It would be a useful document to have in the Appendix. Also include the questions that were asked in each of the data collection activities.</p>	Comment noted. The Appendix includes the raw results from the public surveys; the analyzed results are included in the Plan. The surveys are not intended to be and do not claim to be statistically valid. The public surveys represent one form of engagement with the community and are not the sole guide for projects. The Department will engage with the community on specific park development and natural resource plans and projects.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	Let the public enjoy Banner Forest as it is	Comment noted. The Department is currently working on updating its Forest Stewardship Policy and Implementation Plan. More information will be available later this year.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>1-#reparation of the 2025 PROS Plan document.</p> <p>The 2018 PROS Plan is 45 pages in length. The 2025 Draft is 147 pages and 638 pages of appendices. Much of the text is repetitive and some of it is not internally consistent and hard to follow. It represents a radical departure from the style and substance of the 2018 plan. There has been little effort to show what parts of the plan are changes from the 2018 plan. Meaningful review of it is very difficult and time consuming. The draft plan is months overdue without any chance for review and input from concerned groups such as the Parks Advisory Board or KEC. The public and concerned groups should be given additional time to digest this lengthy document and to make meaningful suggestions or voice concerns about changes in park policy and planning.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The goals from the 2018 PROS Plan have been carried forward and incorporated into the 2025 PROS Plan goals and objectives. The goals have been reorganized to better align with Department operations.</p> <p>The public comment period was five weeks long and included three presentations at community meetings and one presentation at a Parks Advisory Board meeting. See Appendix C for more information on engagement opportunities throughout plan development and the public comment period.</p> <p>The Department shared project updates and collected feedback from the Parks Advisory Board throughout the PROS Plan update process. The PAB was also interviewed by the consultant during the stakeholder interviews. See Appendix C for more information on engagement efforts throughout the process, including all touchpoints with the PAB.</p>
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	There was no public involvement in the reclassification of the parks and this is unacceptable	Comment noted. The public comment period provided the opportunity to comment on the proposed updates to park classifications. The public comment period was five weeks long and included three presentations at community meetings and one presentation at a Parks Advisory Board meeting. See Appendix C for more information on engagement opportunities throughout plan development and the public comment period.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>1- throughout especially page 50 - biggest problem I see is the lack of consideration in groups surveyed whereas a group that extensively uses parks for recreation is not represented, that being the Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society.</p> <p>2- the above comment drives the lack of one multi-faceted key recreation item, that being mushroom: collecting, study, photography, education, relationship to health of the forest, etc.</p> <p>3- page 81/82/83 and more - you absolutely should NOT be adding sports and recreation infrastructure to nature parks. That is contrary to their intended use/function. They should remain natural!!! Restrooms are fine but picnic areas, frisbee golf, pickleball, playgrounds and the like do not belong there. Inserting them in these areas violates your stated goals. from the overview section - Parks goal #5, wildlife and habitat protection goal 2018, environmental protection goal 2018 relate.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Department will record Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society as a group to engage with on future projects as applicable.</p> <p>The Capital Improvement Project list does not include adding sports infrastructure in nature parks. Park development projects, such as picnic areas, are included in the CIP list and are intended to be located near parking areas. Per Objective 3.2, the Department will conduct environmental assessments ahead of park planning and will engage with the community around these projects.</p>
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/15/2025	Online Form	<p>Because I am in the park daily, I feel I have a stake in what is decided. Although I try to keep up with these issues, I feel like this information came too late and there is no time to study the new plan to provide input. Were there chances all along to provide input? If so it's news to me!</p> <p>I also think that relegating park stewards to be maintenance workers while being supervised by park personnel is a terrible waste of great expertise. The former North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewards conducted environmental surveys, developed the best routes for trails, did healthy forest management besides holding a minimum of once a month work parties to do trail maintenance and many other important tasks. This has all ended because their expertise was unwanted by county park personnel. NKHP has suffered a terrible loss because of this. The former stewards were also excellent educators who were more than willing to share their expert knowledge. For those of us that encountered them in the park it is a great loss now that they are gone and a great loss for the ecosystem of the park.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The public comment period was five weeks long and included three presentations at community meetings and one presentation at a Parks Advisory Board meeting. See Appendix C for more information on engagement opportunities throughout plan development and the public comment period.</p> <p>The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.</p>
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	I am concerned that your 2025 PROS plan is to get rid of the stewards in the parks. Please continue the use of the knowledgeable and trained stewards in Kitsap County. It would be a shame to regulate their valuable skills to "maintenance". This valuable system of using park stewards has worked well in the past and was recognized in the 2018 PROS Plan (pg.37). Please continue to do so in the new '25 PROS Plan.	Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	I believe your survey questions need tweaking. I live in Enetai, I never got a survey or postcard in mail. Your outreach in our community was minimal.	Comment noted. See Appendix C for a list of all County and Department communications regarding the PROS Plan development and public comment period.

<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Asking the public to read 146 pages and then make comments on portions of that is a cumbersome process. It might be more manageable to have the public read parts of the PDF and highlight/comment on parts that inspire input for them. And having taken part in several of these drafts asking for public input, there is also a great challenge in easily finding out what others have commented upon. The public shouldn't have to do public records requests, wait a long time, then weed through a spreadsheet. There could be anonymous comments that people could upvote or disagree with to better spur on engagement with the process.	Comment noted. The public comment period was five weeks long and included three presentations at community meetings and one presentation at a Parks Advisory Board meeting. The Department shared comments received on the Plan on a weekly basis on the project website. Suggestions will be taken into account for future comment periods. See Appendix C for more information on engagement opportunities during plan development and the public comment period.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Please see above overview comment	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	At both an informal and formal level the Wynn-Jones Preserve Park has community volunteers running trail programs, invasive species control and trail maintenance. After the heroic trail renovation by the Washington Trail Association in 2024-25 that built on prior ad hoc community work, the trails are in great shape. At a monthly gathering of the Watauga Beach Drive community group on March 16, 2025, volunteers agreed to work on a regular schedule of trail brushing especially after large storms.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Thank you for listing Westsound Pickleball Community and North Kitsap Pickleball as stakeholders in the sport. We are eager to assist anyway we can in your assessment of places to build courts to meet the growing need.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	Page 54-56. What about the Stewardship Program? I hope to become a Parks volunteer when I retire this year but it doesn't look like the stewardship program is being maintained. As a former stream monitor with Stillwaters and a volunteer vechatation and wildlife surveyor in another state, I can attest to the value of having a dedicated group of steward Volunteers Who take ownership of a park, develop in depth knowledge and can train new Volunteers. This saves staff time and reduces the need for more paid staff. Those I have worked with have experience and degrees in environmental sciences, biology, etc. If you relegate Volunteers to intermittent work parties you will loose a valuable dedicated community resource. I have done a lot of volunteering. You can count hours but the quality of the contribution makes a stewardship group worth much more than the hours they put in	Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	1. There were many maps provided with little to no interpretation next to them to describe what we as readers are supposed to take away from them (pages 62-74), which is confusing. A better way to present this material would be to have the narrative and then the relevant map, and then another narrative and the corresponding map, instead of putting all of the narrative at the beginning and then having a long series of maps without any context. 2. In contrast, the Public Survey #3: Capital Projects & Prioritization Summary was very nicely laid out and easy to follow with the survey question and the corresponding data on the same page. I especially liked the use of the font size to denote the ranking of the top selections for each question. 3. When reading this whole section, I did not come away with any understanding of how the county will prioritize or make decisions on which improvements they will make and under what circumstances they will select lower ranked improvements over higher ranked improvements. Can you please explain about this?	Comment noted. The 1-6 year capital project list will get updated on an annual basis and will get approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The Department tries to balance projects by geographic location and project type.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>Parks Advisory Board</p> <p>The Parks Advisory Board (PAB) seems to be sidelined throughout the Draft PROS Plan. The PAB needs to be properly included in the development of the PROS Plan and its role presented in the Plan.</p> <p>The PAB, established through Kitsap County Code (Chapter 10.12), is an important body in the operations and governance of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks website says that the PAB “functions as an interface between the community and the county. The Board provides advice to the Commissioners and the Director of Parks concerning the acquisition, development, and administration of parks and recreation facilities throughout the County.” Yet, the PAB seems to be sidelined in the plan. For example,</p> <p>The information presented to the public through the presentations being given in February and March 2025 are misleading in this regard. The PAB is listed as one of the stakeholder interview groups (slide 11 of PROS presentation), yet the Plan does not include it. Table 3-1 (p.50) does not include the PAB as one of the stakeholder groups interviewed. It is not included in Appendix H where stakeholder interviews are summarized (pp. 756-758). Pages 39 – 41 of the PROS Plan draft presents the Operations &amp; Governance of the Parks Department. The PAB is not involved in the operations or governance of the Parks Department. There is no indication in the Plan that the PAB was given early versions of the PROS plan for its review. As the key advisory group for the Parks Department, it should have an important role in the development of the written document.</p>	Comment noted. The Department shared project updates and collected feedback from the Parks Advisory Board throughout the PROS Plan update process. The PAB was also interviewed by the consultant during the stakeholder interviews. See Appendix C for more information on engagement efforts throughout the process, including all touchpoints with the PAB. The Parks Advisory Board has been added to Table 3-1, as well as a paragraph summarizing their interview, and a section explaining their role has been added to the Operations & Governance section in the Inventory & Assessment chapter.
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>Parks Department Staff Roles</p> <p>The role of the Parks Department staff seemed inappropriately elevated over the public's involvement and the proper governance structure of the County.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>Table 3-1 (p. 50) lists the Governance groups. It lists Board of County Commissioners and Parks Department Staff as the governance units. The Parks Advisory Board is not included. P. 101 states that the renewed vision for Parks “began with an all-staff meeting in November 2023, marking a pivotal moment in shaping the future of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update.” The revised mission and vision statements highlighted on p. 104 seem to be stated as the mission and vision of the staff. The “we” in these statements seems to be the staff. The Heritage Parks Stewardship groups have long been a key expression of significant public involvement as well as a resource that expands the capacity of the department with minimal financial costs to the department. (See later discussion of park stewardship groups). They have been relegated to a role in relation to Parks staff that seriously reduces their contribution.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The PROS Plan's emphasis on professional park management should not be misinterpreted as sidelining public involvement. The county's responsibility includes ensuring that land use, maintenance, and long-term investments are managed efficiently and sustainably. The Department had one meeting with the consultant. Department staff are a key contributor to system conditions and have valuable insight. The Plan retains public participation mechanisms while ensuring that trained staff play an integral role in implementation and strategic direction. Community input, as well as inventory assessment and demand and needs analysis all also informed the development of the Plan.</p> <p>The Department shared project updates and collected feedback from the Parks Advisory Board throughout the PROS Plan update process. The Parks Advisory Board has been added to Table 3-1, as well as a paragraph summarizing their interview, and a section explaining their role has been added to the Operations &amp; Governance section in the Inventory &amp; Assessment chapter. See Appendix C for more information on engagement efforts throughout the process, including all touchpoints with the PAB.</p> <p>The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.</p>
<b>Public Involvement</b>	3/16/2025	Online Form	You wrote about public involvement more than you actually fully consider public preference. Also the quick turnaround time for this current plan which has major changes to it makes public involvement difficult. Due March 16h and only recently released.	Comment noted. The public comment period was five weeks long and included three presentations at community meetings and one presentation at a Parks Advisory Board meeting. While this is the first time the Draft plan has been released for public comment, the Plan is based on extensive community engagement. See Appendix C for more information on engagement opportunities during plan development and the public comment period.

Public Involvement	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>The park Stewardship Program has operated for decades as community-based groups of concerned citizens organized to maintain and enhance the county's heritage parks, often acting independently addressing approved park projects. This system worked well with little expense or staff time from Parks and was recognized in the 2018 PROS Plan. Park users frequently express appreciation of steward's efforts. Over the last four years, this system has been gutted leaving stewardship groups without a role in planning and accomplishing projects in heritage parks. As a result, many park stewards have left to pursue more productive and rewarding roles. Now, the 2025 draft PROS plan formalizes a new system where park stewards become park volunteers under supervision by parks maintenance and operations employees. In order to replace the thousands of volunteer hours given annually by volunteer stewards, the Parks department will need to drastically increase staffing levels and use of tax dollars. The knowledge and skills of these stewards is irreplaceable.</p> <p>The importance and independence of this stewardship program was recognized in the 2018 PROS Plan on page 37: "The Stewardship Program creates a formal partnership with interested parties who work cooperatively with staff within designated park areas. These Stewardship organizations develop and implement approved, annual work-plans. The organizations contribute to overall park stewardship plans, trail planning, construction and maintenance, natural restoration projects, invasive species removal, interpretation programs, mapping, and fundraising to support park functions and facilities. Within the large-scale parks, stewards handle much of the park maintenance, including landscaping and natural vegetation, and trail maintenance. They work with Park staff guidance and training, but often act independently, addressing approved park projects."</p> <p>Stewards include community members with advanced degrees in various fields of biology, geology and engineering. Many Stewards have become trained and certified in stream stewardship, forest stewardship, first aid, chainsaw and other tool safety. Some Stewards became certified Washington State Naturalists. Some Stewards are certified as wetland specialists. Some are surveyors and GIS experts giving freely of their time and talents. Stewardship groups have done an amazing variety of important tasks. They maintain trails and remove invasive plants, but also conduct many larger projects including planning and creating new trails, removing derelict vehicles and other trash, decommissioning logging roads, and culverts, maintaining parking lots, creating park stewardship plans, and forest stewardship plans based on steward-led wetland surveys, thinning of overstocked forest stands and underplanting thousands of seedlings for forest diversity. Another benefit of volunteer stewards working in the park is their role in community engagement, inspiring other park users to get involved and providing interactions to get ideas for improvements. All this work has been accomplished at nearly no cost to the county. These stewards have spent thousands of hours each year planning and accomplishing projects to enhance the natural beauty and health of the parks they love.</p> <p>The Parks Department has decided, without Commissioner approval or Steward input, to supervise volunteers with staff in the Maintenance and Operations group, rather than a cooperative relationship with Parks Dept.</p> <p>There are two differences between an average volunteer and a steward. Stewards are much more committed to and knowledgeable about individual parks. Secondly, stewards are typically eager to be involved in planning future park improvement using their knowledge and experience. Furthermore, this change in supervision seems to contradict Objective 2.2: Conservation and Stewardship. "Establish &amp; enhance comprehensive stewardship programs to protect and manage natural resources within parklands."</p> <p>The 2025 Draft PROS Plan relegates volunteer stewardship to a very limited role in parks as evidenced by the following quotes on pg. 43-45: "Volunteers may lack the professional expertise and experience of paid staff, which can affect the quality of work performed. Ensuring high standards may require additional oversight and quality control measures." "They provide residents with opportunities to engage with their local environment, develop new skills, and give back to their communities. However, to ensure their long-term success, these programs require dedicated staffing and structured oversight."</p> <p>These statements and the statements and actions of park management reflect a disregard for the work and accomplishments of the various park stewardship groups and an apparent effort to do away with these groups. The 2025 PROS Plan doesn't support the 2018 PROS or Comprehensive Plan regarding stewardship groups. Over the last four years, Parks has systematically downgraded and marginalized stewardship groups. If the 2025 PROS Plan and the vision of the KC Parks department is to throw away this valuable resource of park stewardship groups and relegate stewards to the role of trimming trails and pulling invasive weeds under park staff supervision, it would be a waste of talent and resources! Many of the trails/roads in Heritage Parks are multiuse mixing bicycle, horse and pedestrian traffic. Many walkers are accompanied by pets on leash. When bicyclists exceed 10 MPH, this creates a dangerous situation. In Appendix D under safety concerns, several respondents voiced their concern about excessive bike speeds on these trails. Shouldn't the 2025 PROS Plan address ways to control excessive bicycle speeds in county parks such as signage at park entrances and additional monitoring? This is of particular concern in Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.</p> <p>Park speed limits. Kitsap County code requirements: 10.12.100 Riding vehicles or animals.</p> <p>It is unlawful to ride or drive any motor vehicle, bicycle, tricycle or other self-propelled vehicle or any horse or other animal through any park except along and upon park roads and such trails as are marked for bicycles, horses or motorcycles; or at speeds in excess of ten miles per hour; or to park any vehicle except in areas designated by the park director. The Parks Advisory Board (PAB) seems to be sidelined throughout the Draft PROS Plan. The PAB needs to be properly included in the development of the PROS Plan and its role presented in the Plan.</p> <p>The PAB, established through Kitsap County Code (Chapter 10.12), is an important body in the operations and governance of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks website says that the PAB "functions as an interface between the community and the county. The Board provides advice to the Commissioners and the Director of Parks concerning the acquisition, development, and administration of parks and recreation facilities throughout the County."</p>	<p>Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.</p> <p>The Department shared project updates and collected feedback from the Parks Advisory Board throughout the PROS Plan update process. The Parks Advisory Board has been added to Table 3-1, as well as a paragraph summarizing their interview, and a section explaining their role has been added to the Operations &amp; Governance section in the Inventory &amp; Assessment chapter. See Appendix C for more information on engagement efforts throughout the process, including all touchpoints with the PAB.</p> <p>Trail safety and multi-use conflicts are acknowledged concerns. Actions have been added to the PROS Plan to improve trail safety and reduce recreational conflicts. There are park rules signs posted at entrances to every park. The Department does not have an enforcement program and instead relies on the Kitsap County Sheriff for rule enforcement.</p> <p>The Appendix includes the raw results from the public surveys; the analyzed results are included in the Plan. The surveys are not intended to be and do not claim to be statistically valid. The public surveys represent one form of engagement with the community and are not the sole guide of projects. The Department will engage with the community on specific park development and natural resource plans and projects.</p>
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			<p>Yet, the PAB seems to be sidelined in the plan. For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The information presented to the public through the presentations being given in February and March 2025 are misleading in this regard. The PAB is listed as one of the stakeholder interview groups (slide 11 of PROS presentation), yet the Plan does not include it.</li> <li>•Table 3-1 (p.50) does not include the PAB as one of the stakeholder groups interviewed. It is not included in Appendix H where stakeholder interviews are summarized (pp. 756-758).</li> <li>•Pages 39 – 41 of the PROS Plan draft presents the Operations &amp; Governance of the Parks Department. The PAB is not involved in the operations or governance of the Parks Department.</li> <li>•There is no indication in the Plan that the PAB was given early versions of the PROS plan for its review. As the key advisory group for the Parks Department, it should have an important role in the development of the written document.</li> </ul> <p>The Public Involvement section (p. 46-84) has data presentation and analysis problems. The survey data has been inadequately analyzed and data from multiple data collection methods has not been integrated into meaningful presentations and interpretations.</p> <p>The lack of adequate analysis is evident in the separate Appendix document that provides the survey responses. It is simply a listing of responses with the most minimal analysis. Take for example the questions that ask respondents to indicate their agreement or disagreement with certain statements. Look at Question 15 of one survey (appendix p. 174 or 34 depending on what numbering systems is being used at the bottom of the page). It asks "Do you agree or disagree that Kitsap County needs more of the following?" The table shows for each item the percent of response for each category from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree" but no analysis is done to show the order from high to low of the options in regard to those rated agree or strongly agree. It appears that some such analysis was done because p. 60 lists the four top choices (activities needed in Kitsap County). One would expect that the four choices would be reported in terms of percent who agreed/strongly agreed not the number of respondents. Also, our analysis of the data in the appendix for this question puts the four top items in a different order than that given on p. 60. The analysis on p. 60 had waterfront (1197 respondents ), parking (1173) , habitat (1090), and picnic areas (1064) whereas our analysis from the table for question 15 in the appendix has: parking 71.3%; waterfront 70.6%; picnic tables 65.3%; and habitat 64.7%. For statistically correct analyses, percents rather than absolute number of respondents needs to be used. Also, the number of respondents the Plan show on p. 60 isn't the same as what is given in the appendix for this question. Is there an error here? This is just one minor example of the overall issue.</p> <p>The appendix of survey responses of the type provided is simply little more than a listing or responses. No significant analysis has been done. Among other things, there are no analyses by demographics of any type.</p> <p>This lack of meaningful analysis is seen in the tables presented on p. 54-57. First of all , far too much information is presented in these tables. published documents.</p>	
			<p>Only the percent of responses is needed, not the number of people. That should remain in the Appendix if given at all in the published documents.</p> <p>The data needs to be summarized in a more meaningful way with more clustering of responses (for example, possibly grouping "daily, weekly, and monthly" as one group, "semi-annually and annually" as another group and "rarely and never" as a group) and then giving "percent of responses" for each group.</p> <p>The one paragraph analysis statement on pp. 54-57 for each table does not present meaningful information. Why is the focus on whether the majority of respondents rarely or never used a given park? These data would also need to be analyzed by different parts of the county to make much sense of it.</p> <p>Also note the confusing info on p. 71 about new facilities. It's not clear how the bullets on this page align with Figure 3-24. Also, the relative importance of new amenities (e.g., restrooms, picnic areas) versus new facilities seems confused. This also brings us to the issue of who were the respondent groups that provided the data for this plan.</p>	
Public Involvement	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>More appreciation for park stewards who do the thousands of hours of volunteer work in the parks.</p> <p>One size does not fit the uniqueness of each individual park. Listen to the stewards who care for their parks and accept their stewardship plans that have been voted on by the BOCC.(Illahee Preserve)</p> <p>Administration is not visible enough. Aaron is top notch!!</p>	<p>Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance.</p> <p>Additionally, Action 4.4.4 speaks to recognizing and appreciating volunteer efforts. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.</p>
Public Involvement	3/16/2025	Online Form	See my comments above re: stewardship.	Comment noted, no edits recommended.
Public Involvement	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>The participants in the surveys are not representative of the county's demographics. For instance, look at the small number of young people that responded, thus the needs of our youth are not well represented. The over representation of senior adults seems too overweight to demand for preservation.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The public surveys represent one data point for understanding needs in our community. We also conducted stakeholder interviews during plan development and reviewed comments received during public comment. We will take all of these community touchpoints into consideration when evaluating capital projects and Department decision making. More information on all engagement efforts for the PROS Plan can be found in Appendix C.</p>
Public Involvement	3/16/2025	Online Form	<p>One of the most valuable components of public engagement is caring for our Heritage Parks, by our community-based park stewards. This program has been successful for years, and was recognized in the 2018 PROS Plan but is entirely missing from the DRAFT 2025 Plan. Why? The only reason seems to be a shift from valuing the natural features of a park, to one of conforming to a factory-system for the sake of mindless efficiency. But to maintain a system of industrial parks, one needs an army of maintenance workers, and these come at a price. \$30,000 contract to WTA, to replace free, and much more knowledgeable volunteers. Does not make economic sense. Does not fit with what we, the public want. The parks are for the public, not for the park's staff's concept of ease of management.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The Parks Department has a long lived volunteer program and the PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers. There is limited staff time available to manage and coordinate the volunteer program. Given the constraints, we do our best to provide ongoing volunteer opportunities. Additionally, Objective 4.4 and its subsequent actions speak to fostering a robust volunteer stewardship program.</p>

## Trails

The trails in Kitsap Parks come in many varieties, from quiet paths under tree canopy to steep, carved, and bermed trails built for mountain bikers. Park visitors may prefer a stroll, some want to walk their dog, some come for a physical challenge, and so on--different users want different trails. While by no means comprehensive, the following paragraphs address specific trails' issues found in the 2025 PROS Plan.

Action 6.4.2 (pg 112): I support the **utilization of environmentally friendly trail construction materials** and techniques to minimize ecological footprint and erosion risks.

On page 16 in the Plan, "aquifer recharge zones...influence land use decisions that often limit intensive recreational development." Further this Plan notes that "public recreation and **critical areas** are not always mutually supportive." Sensitive habitats, intermittently wet areas, wetlands, and streams must be protected "to safeguard ecological functions". **And the Plan notes that "thoughtful planning is essential". The process for carrying out such planning needs to be formalized and included in the 2025 PROS Plan. I urge KC Parks to follow through on these protections.** Even low-impact activities like hiking and nature observation in these areas needs to be monitored carefully.

On pg 19 in the **non-motorized transportation** section from the 2018 PROS Plan, it's stated that the KC Facility Plan "strives to provide a region-wide vision for a connected system of off-road shared use paths." Please state directly if this is a reference to the **STO, and if the path(s) will be paved.** This lengthy phrase is used often by Parks and KC. Clarity please.

The PROS Plan should not encourage transportation routes passing through the Parks, especially Heritage Parks. On page 138, a trail is defined: "A trail is a recreational facility that also can **serve as a non-motorized route for transportation.**" I believe that this definition is bad. Heritage Park trails should allow users to appreciate the Park and its wildlife, not provide transportation

It is clear from the definition in Appendix B that the **STO is a bikeway not a trail. Bikeways are distinct from recreational trails in that they prioritize efficient, non-motorized transportation. Designed for bicycle commuters, fitness riders, and competitive cyclists, bikeways emphasize direct routes, speed, and connectivity to roadway networks.** Yet, the STO promoted by the County is not a direct route. The County has purposefully altered the routes to take advantage of the free land available in Heritage Parks, essentially ignoring their own definition of bikeway to save some money and satisfy corporate sponsors.

**Volunteers help maintain the extensive network of trails,** as noted on pg 44. Since the **stewardship groups** for the parks have been disbanded, it is unclear who will work with and oversee these groups. This Plan is vague about who will be building new trails. We understand the Washington Trails Association has been contracted by Parks to do trail management. We maintain that the residents of the County need to be active participants in trail planning and decision making.

Regarding the survey results on pg 75, the new **Eglon** park will need assessments and wetland delineations, not to mention thoughtful planning, well **before any trail building occurs.**

The “Parks Bucks” survey, pg 79, showed that trails are a priority for the majority of users. Trail usage increased notably during COVID and has remained elevated even post pandemic (pg 93). The Popular Amenities survey, pg 58, revealed that trails for “walking, hiking, biking, running” were the park amenities used most frequently. **But if separate options for pedestrian and biking usage had been offered, this survey would have been more revealing.** The RCO Activity Assessment on page 92 also lumps these activities together, finding that walking, hiking, or using a “mobility device” were the leading outdoor recreational activities in our state. (The assumption is that mobility devices are bikes?). However in the 2018 PROS Plan, a survey from the state RCO, clearly showed that the **top Recreation Activities were walking (94%) and nature activities**, while biking was way down the list at 28%. Yet Parks continues to insist that trails be built and maintained for multiple uses including biking and horseback riding. Finally the kinds of trails preferred by mountain bikers are built differently than trails that pedestrians enjoy. This is most apparent at PGFHP. We urge Parks to scale back multi-use trails, and designate separate trails for user types. Adding to all of this, there has been a recent **down-turn in the mountain bike industry** which further supports reducing the amount of trails for this sport. (<https://cyclingmagazine.ca/mtb/the-mountain-bike-industry-is-in-freefall-and-no-one-knows-where-itll-land/>)

Regarding survey results on **safety improvements**, pg 77, if KC Parks dealt with the **resentments of multi-use trail users first**, perhaps there wouldn’t be actual conflicts. Safety measures such as posting speed limits for bikers will be impossible to enforce. The multi-use trail model needs real examination and revision; designating separate-trails-by-use needs to be assessed as a solution to both resentment and conflict.

While this Parks Plan addresses user conflict as a **safety** issue, the inherent danger of mountain biking is ignored. There have been at least 2 life altering accidents on the Ranger Corridor at PGFHP, and yet as far as we know there are no official records kept on emergency medical events in our parks. I urge Parks to be transparent regarding accidents; safety records need to be maintained and the Parks Advisory Board notified. Knowing what the safety issues are will inform us what improvements are needed.

While there is no reference to **motorized mobility devices**, such as electric bikes, in this PROS Plan, they already pose **serious safety issues for all park users**. Such devices do not belong in a park to begin with, but they certainly have no place on **park trails**. Trail users on mountain bikes *or* motorized devices move much faster than pedestrians, increasing chances of accidents and conflict.

On pg 64, Parks acknowledges suggestions by the public for no-bike areas to increase pedestrian safety, but offers no follow-up in the PROS safety section.

I urge our local officials to shift their focus in the PROS Plan from **the usage of parks to an emphasis on responsibility for parklands and wildlife; shift the emphasis from park users to humans as park visitors**. At the same time, **conservation, restoration and protection for parklands** needs to be prioritized *over* the PROS Plan’s single-minded focus on access for all **humans to recreate**. This approach can encourage stewardship, improve quality and ambiance of our parks, and increase support and advocacy for wildlife and native plants. **Let’s grow a deeper appreciation and responsibility for the true wealth of the natural world found in Kitsap’s 11,600 acres of parks. This is a necessity not an ideal.**

***Staff Response:***

Comment noted. Trail safety and multi-use conflicts are acknowledged concerns. Actions have been added to the PROS Plan to improve trail safety and reduce recreational conflicts.

E-bikes will be addressed during updates to the Park Code.

Regional trails are included in the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan and are managed by the Public Works Department, not the Parks Department. These trails may connect and go through parks, which the Parks Department will collaborate on, as noted in Objective 1.5, but the Parks Department does not manage regional trails.

The PROS Plan does not include specific operations for Department programs, such as the volunteer program. The PROS Plan recognizes the value of volunteers and includes several objectives and actions that speak to fostering a robust volunteer program and engaging volunteers in topics such as habitat restoration projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance. The Department will engage with volunteers and community members to collect input as part of park development and natural resource management plans and projects.

Goal 2, Objective 2.1, Goal 3, and Objective 3.2 speak to developing and implementing natural resource management plans for parklands and conducting environmental assessments as a foundational step in park planning, which would include wetland delineations as applicable. These studies would be conducted as part of a park or natural resource plan or project.