

# Parks, Trails and Recreation Element

## Introduction

### Purpose and Relationship to GMA

The purpose of the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Element is to provide goals and policies to guide the acquisition and development of parks, trails and recreation facilities throughout the city and surrounding areas.

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Element is developed in accordance with the Growth Management Act to direct the City of Newcastle's current and future passive and active recreational needs. RCW 36.70A.070 requires the City to plan, scheme or design all of the following:

*Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period;*

*An evaluation of facilities and service needs;*

*An evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.*

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Element is consistent with the King County Countywide Planning Policies and elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

### Organization of the Element

This Element begins by listing the Parks, Trails and Recreation Goals for the City of Newcastle. The Goals are followed by Policies necessary to support the City's desire for desirable parks, trails and recreation facilities. The Parks, Trails and Recreation Element is closely linked to the Land Use Element, Transportation Element and Capital Facilities Element.

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Appendix provides further information on public participation, park facilities and categories, inventories of existing parks, trail facilities and projected demands and needs. Cost and strategies for implementing the goals and policies of the Parks, Trails and Recreations Element are located in the Capital Facilities portion of the document.

## Parks, Trails and Recreation Goals

- PTR-G1 The City of Newcastle should build, operate, and maintain a system of parks and recreational facilities that are distributed throughout the City and responsive to the needs of Newcastle residents.
- PTR-G2 The City of Newcastle should, as much as practical, develop and maintain public access to Lake Boren through direct purchase and public/private partnerships.

- PTR-G3 The City of Newcastle should build and maintain a system of public trails that provide recreational and mobility opportunities for Newcastle residents.
- PTR-G4 The City of Newcastle should provide opportunities for varied recreation activities and programs that are responsive to the needs of a wide range of Newcastle residents.
- PTR-G5 The City of Newcastle should promote opportunities for public participation in planning parks, trails, and recreation facilities.
- PTR-G6 The City of Newcastle should create and promote opportunities for private contributions and volunteerism in the acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance of parks, trails, and recreation facilities.
- PTR-G7 The City of Newcastle should participate with other jurisdictions and public sector entities in promoting a region-wide parks, trails, and recreation system, for recreational as well as educational purposes.

## Parks, Trails and Recreation Policies

### Parks and Recreation Facilities

- PTR-P1 The City of Newcastle establishes the following categories for existing and planned parks and recreation facilities; mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks and recreational facilities, resource parks.
  
- PTR-P2 The City of Newcastle shall provide parks and recreation facilities as shown in **Figure PTR-1**. Planned parks and recreation facilities are based on the following Level of Service (LOS) standards and on projected year 2022 population:
  - a. Mini-parks: 0.5 acre per 1,000 population;
  - b. Neighborhood parks: 2.0 acres per 1,000 population;
  - c. Community parks and recreational facilities: 5.0 acres per 1,000 population;
  - d. Resource parks: no pre-established level of service standard.

The City of Newcastle shall develop these planned parks and facilities incrementally through the 20-year planning period, to adequately serve Newcastle’s growing population.
- PTR-P3 The City of Newcastle shall adopt, implement, and maintain an impact fee system for assessing and mitigating the impact of new development upon the City’s parks, trails and recreation facilities.
- PTR-P4 The City of Newcastle shall prioritize and implement parks and recreation projects through the Capital Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- PTR-P5 The City of Newcastle shall seek to develop an athletic field complex.
- PTR-P6 The City of Newcastle should take advantage of opportunities to secure property for parks and recreation facilities, including purchase, grant funding, private donation, easements, availability of public lands for parks use, and dedication of private land as part of the development review process.







**List of Parks, Trails, and Recreation Figures**

PTR-1 City of Newcastle Parks Map

PTR-2 City of Newcastle Trails Map