Introduction

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 in a coordinated, efficient and responsible manner. These goals and policies become more valuable as development occurs and the availability of park land becomes scarce to still ensure that park, trail, and recreation needs of the community are met and the quality of life in Newcastle remains high.

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. The Parks, Trails, and Recreation Element not only provides for the park, trail, and recreational needs of Newcastle’s residents by providing stewardship, protection, and access to public lands while encouraging growth, but it is also supportive of a broader pattern of regional open space and trail facilities that surround the community.

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 accessible 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.

In preparing this Element, the park, trail, and recreation systems of Edgewood, Enumclaw, Lake Forest Park, Mill Creek, Sammamish, and Snoqualmie were also reviewed and evaluated, along with considering those opportunities available with our neighbors of Bellevue, Renton, and King County’s Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park.
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 City’s Comprehensive Plan.

### Parks, Trails and Recreation Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PTR-G1</th>
<th>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.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTR-G2</td>
<td>The City of Newcastle should, as much as practical, develop and maintain public access to Lake Boren through direct purchase and public/private partnerships.</td>
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<td>PTR-G3</td>
<td>The City of Newcastle should build and maintain a system of public trails that provide recreational and mobility opportunities for Newcastle residents.</td>
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<td>PTR-G4</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>PTR-G5</td>
<td>The City of Newcastle should promote opportunities for public participation in planning parks, trails, and recreation facilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTR-G6</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTR-G7</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTR-G8</td>
<td>The City of Newcastle should apply best management practices in the maintenance, conservation, and management of the City’s parks, trails, and recreation facilities to promote their physical and natural sustainability and to preserve environmental quality for future generations</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTR-G9</td>
<td>The City of Newcastle should implement appropriate design principles based in the effective use of the built environment while designing park, trail and recreation spaces in an effort to deter crime – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTR-G10</td>
<td>The City of Newcastle should preserve open space for the aesthetic enjoyment of Newcastle residents; as a buffer between uses where needed; to protect and preserve critical areas and sites of historical significance; and to provide trails, wildlife corridors, and greenways.</td>
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Parks, Trails and Recreation Policies

Parks, Trails, 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, trails, and recreation facilities as shown in Figure PTR-1 and PTR-2. Planned parks, trails, and recreation facilities are based on the following Level of Service (LOS) standards and on projected year 2032 population:

a. Total park land: 6.6 acres per 1,000 population with the following distribution amongst the classifications of parks and trails:
   i. Mini-parks: no pre-established level of service standard;
   ii. Neighborhood parks: 1.6 acres per 1,000 population;
   iii. Community parks and recreational facilities: 5.0 acres per 1,000 population;
   iv. Resource parks: no pre-established level of service standard.

b. Trails: 1.1 miles per 1,000 population

The City of Newcastle shall develop parks, trails, and facilities incrementally through the 20-year planning period consistent with the Capital Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan, to adequately serve the short and long term needs of 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 seek to develop an athletic field complex that parallels the adopted version of the Park @ 95th Master Plan.

PTR-P5 The City of Newcastle should take advantage of opportunities to secure property for parks, trails, and recreation facilities, including purchase, grant funding, private donation, easements, availability of public lands for parks use, and dedication of private land.

PTR-P6 Developers shall be required to develop and dedicate parks and trails or pay an impact fee or provide mitigation for parks consistent with applicable City development standards as identified in the City’s Municipal Code.

PTR-P7 The City of Newcastle shall continue to develop Lake Boren Park as the primary community park within the City of Newcastle. Improvements to Lake Boren Park shall be guided by the adopted version of the Lake Boren Park Master Plan.
The City of Newcastle should pursue opportunities to acquire properties around Lake Boren as they become available.

The City of Newcastle shall focus on enhancing and retaining the natural qualities of May Creek Park, in addition to expanding the trail and its interpretation elements.

The City of Newcastle should strive to negotiate and enter into written joint-use agreements with the Renton and Issaquah School Districts providing for the use of school district facilities for City-sponsored and community-sponsored recreational programs and activities.

The City of Newcastle should identify opportunities for partnerships with other public sector entities, and with private groups, to expand parks, trails, and recreation opportunities for Newcastle residents.

The City of Newcastle shall ensure that development adjacent to parks, trails, and recreation facilities is designed to minimize impacts on the surrounding parks, trails, and recreation areas and vice versa.

The City of Newcastle shall maximize where possible the retention of existing native vegetation in new parks, trails, and recreation facilities while meeting the purpose of the park, trail, or recreation facility.

The City of Newcastle should situate or buffer active play facilities in parks, trails, and recreation facilities to protect the privacy of adjacent property.

The City of Newcastle shall consider the level of use, ease of maintenance, access, and longevity in the selection and design of parks, trails, and recreation facilities.

The City of Newcastle shall design parks, trails, and recreation facility improvements to maximize sustainability through; the preservation of a site’s natural systems, the use of recycled materials when possible, and the application of best management practices for the long term improvements and maintenance of land and facilities.

The City of Newcastle shall assign a level of maintenance to parks, trails, and recreation facilities appropriate to sustain them as attractive and useful facilities. Before acquisition or construction, a funding plan for long-term operation and maintenance shall be established.

The City of Newcastle shall pursue opportunities to acquire and develop one or more parks that take advantage of existing water, mountain, or territorial views.

The City of Newcastle shall appropriately sign all parks, trails, and recreation facilities. Signage may include interpretive, cultural, or historical information.

The City of Newcastle shall provide park, trail, and recreation facilities for all age groups and, where feasible, shall conform all park, trail, and
recreation facilities to the principles of Universal Design and consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

**Trails**

**PTR-P21** The City of Newcastle establishes the following categories for trails: Official Trails and Proposed Trails.

a. Official Trails: constructed to City standards on public property

b. Proposed: informal footpaths, proposed routes not yet constructed to City standards or may not be on public property.

**PTR-P22** The City of Newcastle shall prioritize the acquisition and development of trail segments required to complete the proposed trail system consistent with the adopted version of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMP) and the Capital Facilities Plan.

**PTR-P23** The City of Newcastle shall establish, maintain, and update appropriate design and construction standards for trails, which shall be based on best available practices and the City of Newcastle Trail Guidelines.

**PTR-P24** The City of Newcastle shall coordinate trail planning with the City’s designated bicycle route system and other existing and planned bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the street right-of-way in accordance with the adopted Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMP).

**PTR-P25** The City of Newcastle should identify trail connections from Newcastle to parks and trails in King County, Bellevue, Renton, and Issaquah, and coordinate with those jurisdictions to promote development of a regional trail network.

**PTR-P26** The City of Newcastle shall assess the feasibility of equestrian use of trails on an individual basis. Equestrian use shall be allowed where needed to serve Newcastle residents where practicable in accordance with the approved Trails Use Plan.

**Recreation Programs and Community Events**

**PTR-P27** The City of Newcastle shall strive to assure that citizens of all ages and abilities are offered recreation opportunities that are comprehensive, enriching, and affordable in clean, properly maintained, safe, and accessible facilities.

**PTR-P28** The City of Newcastle should provide a balance of recreation facilities including athletic facilities for competitive, organized sports as well as facilities for non-competitive, non-organized, active recreation pursuits.

**PTR-P29** The City of Newcastle residents should be given priority or preference in registering for recreation programs and use of park facilities. The City should also consider establishing a non-resident fee to help offset City expenses for park and recreation services and facilities.
PTR-P30  The City of Newcastle shall promote historical, environmental, and cultural education through special event programs, the preservation of historical sites, and the support of festivals and events reflecting the cultural heritage of the City.

PTR-P31  The City of Newcastle shall encourage the development of a comprehensive, diverse, and enriching public art program throughout the City, including the display of a variety of artwork in public places and buildings.

Public Participation and Volunteerism
PTR-P32  The City of Newcastle shall provide and publicize opportunities for public participation in the planning of new or upgraded parks, trails, and recreation facilities.

PTR-P33  The City of Newcastle shall publicize and solicit volunteer expertise, labor, and contribution opportunities for operation and maintenance of parks, trails, and recreation facilities and for the operation of recreation programs.

PTR-P34  The City of Newcastle should consider establishing an “Adopt-a-Park” or “Adopt-a-Trail” program to assist in the operation and maintenance of facilities.

PTR-P35  The City of Newcastle should encourage private and corporate support of community events and public art.

PTR-P36  The City of Newcastle should increase public awareness of upcoming projects and community events.

PTR-P37  The City of Newcastle shall encourage volunteerism by local schools, churches, community service organizations, and businesses.

Sustainability
PTR-P38  The City of Newcastle should utilize best management practices associated with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) while maintaining parks, trails, and recreation facilities.

PTR-P39  The City of Newcastle shall continue to keep our trail, recreation facilities, and open space pesticide free and our park spaces pesticide reduced in accordance with King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program.

PTR-P40  The City of Newcastle shall implement and monitor necessary preservation and restoration plans for riparian and sensitive areas of the City’s parks, trails, recreation facilities, and open space.

Crime Prevention
PTR-P41  The City of Newcastle shall utilize strategies that encourage the use of natural surveillance, access, control, territorial reinforcement, maintenance, and activity support while evaluating appropriate park planning design.
Open Space
PTR-P42 The City of Newcastle shall use a variety of land development techniques including density averaging or clustering to preserve open space, maintain open space corridors that define urban growth boundaries, and use open space to provide separation between communities and between differing land use densities. (LU-30)

PTR-P43 The City of Newcastle shall encourage the protection, preservation, recovery, and rehabilitation of significant archaeological resources and historic sites including those sites and areas designated as King County landmarks. (LU-34)

PTR-P44 The City of Newcastle shall use acquisition, enhancement, incentive programs, and appropriate regulations to protect land where development would pose hazards to health, property, important ecological functions, or environmental quality. Incentives may include buffer averaging, density credit transfers, and appropriate non-regulatory measures. (LU-43)

List of Parks, Trails, and Recreation Figures
PTR-1 City of Newcastle Parks Map
PTR-2 City of Newcastle Trails Map