

# A.5 Public Services Appendix

## Existing Policy Guidance

### POLICE SERVICES

#### Seattle Comprehensive Plan

The City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan (City of Seattle 2005) is a 20-year policy plan containing goals and policies that articulate a vision for how the city will grow in ways that sustain its citizens' values. One of the plan's 12 elements—Human Development—contains policies to decrease crime per capita, increase perception of police presence and educate people about crime prevention and organized neighborhood safety activities. The Comprehensive Plan also identifies the following planning goal:

*Patrol units allocated around-the-clock based on calls for service. Location and size of facilities not critical to service provision. Facilities planning is based on guidelines for public safety office space.*

#### Seattle Police Department Strategic Plan

The Seattle Police Department's most recent Strategic Plan (2004) identifies challenges and opportunities that the Department is likely to face during the planning period (2003-2010) and articulates major goals and strategies to help accomplish its mission.

Major issues and implications related to the provision of police services include:

**Issue** Added densities in urban centers and villages will create greater concentrations of people and jobs.

**Implication** *Need to review officer deployment strategies—foot and bike beats versus motor patrol; added emphasis on creative problem-solving [a police beat is a geographic area that is patrolled by a police officer].*

**Issue** Transportation congestion likely to worsen with new construction projects, especially light rail and monorail, while the demand for officer hours to police special events is expected to grow.

**Implication** *Need to review adequacy of staffing for these purposes, consider creative alternatives.*

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The following goal and strategies address the provision of police services:

**Goal 1** *Strengthen Geographic Integrity: Respectful, professional and dependable law enforcement is built from the “ground-up” by officers who have a strong connection to the people they serve. SPD is pursuing a set of strategies designed to ensure that officers identify with discrete geographic areas and are deployed in these areas in a manner that enhances their capacity to interact effectively with those who live, work, visit and attend school there. These strategies are, as follows:*

- *Redraw police beats to focus officer attention in limited geographic areas that they can come to know very well.*
- *Review call priorities and dispatch protocols to reduce unproductive deployment, ensure adequate coverage and free up officer time for community engagement and proactive and preventive enforcement actions.*
- *Develop resources and models for effective public engagement by officers.*

**Seattle Police Department Neighborhood Policing Staffing Plan**

The Seattle Police Department Neighborhood Policing Staffing Plan (2007) was developed in response to the variability of meeting the response time goal of 7 minutes, workload imbalance and limited time spent by patrol officers on proactive and problem solving activities. The Plan recommends the following approaches to resolve these issues:

- Addition of 154 patrol officers between 2005 and 2012, a 25 percent increase, to help meet the targets for faster response time and more time spent on proactive problem solving. Forty-five patrol officers were authorized for hire in advance of the plan.
- Revise patrol officers’ work shifts to match the workload.
- Redraw patrol beats to allow for more balanced and effective deployment of patrol officers.

**FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**Seattle Comprehensive Plan**

The City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan (City of Seattle 2005) contains policies in the Human Development Element to reduce environmental threats and hazards to health in the community. The Comprehensive Plan also identifies the following planning goal:

*Maintain a response time of 4 minutes or less to 90 percent of all fire and emergency medical service (EMS) emergencies.*

**Seattle Fire Department Strategic Plan**

The Seattle Fire Department regularly evaluates their response times and forecasts workload demands consistent with Strategy 3 of their 2012 Strategic Plan (Seattle Fire Department 2012b):

**Strategy 3** *Conduct periodic evaluations of the deployment model and revise the model as needed.*

*Action Steps:*

- *Establish a standing committee to review and annually evaluate the deployment model.*

- *Establish and prioritize deployment outcome objectives such as reducing response times and optimizing coverage to high risk areas and target populations.*
- *Compile historical data, perform trend analysis and forecast deployment workloads.*

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### Seattle Comprehensive Plan

The City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan (City of Seattle 2005) contains goals and policies that encourage the location and expansion of parks in urban villages and urban centers and a network of connections linking urban centers, urban villages and the regional open space system. Most neighborhood plans identified in the Neighborhood Planning Element also contain policies that address the need for preserving and expanding the parks and open space system. The following are key goals and policies from the Seattle Comprehensive Plan that address the provision of parks and open space:

#### **Urban Village Element**

**Goal UVG39** *Enhance the urban village strategy through the provision of:*

1. *Amenities in more densely populated areas*
2. *Recreational opportunities for daytime populations in urban centers*
3. *Mitigation of the impacts of large scale development*
4. *Increased opportunities to walk regularly to open spaces by providing them close by*
5. *Connections linking urban centers and villages, through a system of parks, boulevards, community gardens, urban trails and natural areas*
6. *A network of connections to the regional open space system*
7. *Protected environmentally critical areas*
8. *Enhanced tree canopy and understory throughout the city*

#### **Capital Facilities Element**

**Policy CF9** *Encourage the location of new community based capital facilities, such as schools, libraries, neighborhood service centers, parks and playgrounds, community centers, clinics and human services facilities, in urban village areas. The City will consider providing capital facilities or amenities in urban villages as an incentive to attract both public and private investments to an area.*

#### **Cultural Resource Element**

**Policy CR4** *Continue Seattle's long tradition of providing a rich variety of public open spaces, community gardens and public facilities to provide residents with recreational and cultural opportunities, promote environmental stewardship and attract desirable economic development.*

**Policy CR7** *Promote the development or expansion of cultural facilities, including libraries, schools, parks, performing arts and art exhibition facilities, museums and community centers, in areas designated as urban villages and urban centers.*

### Seattle Department of Parks & Recreation Development Plan

The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) last updated its comprehensive plan in November 2011. The 2011 Development Plan is a revision of the original 1993 Parks

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COMPLAN that addressed open space, park and recreation services for a 10- to 20-year time frame (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2011b). The document was revised in 2000 and again in 2006, and will be updated in 2016. The 2011 Development Plan describes Parks' acquisition and development goals and policies through 2017. The document also incorporates the City's 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program for parks and recreation facilities. The following are key goals and objectives that address the provision of parks and open space:

***Goal 1** Provide recreation and learning opportunities by providing and maintaining an adequate balance of parks, open spaces, recreational facilities and programs tailored to their need to promote respite, socialization and education.*

***Objective 1.1** Provide for the number and distribution of park and recreation facilities based upon community demands and consideration of distribution guidelines as presented later in this document.*

***Objective 1.3** Provide and maintain a sufficient geographic distribution of facility and park amenities that support programming such as art, music and environmental education.*

***Goal 3** Acquire property for parks and open space to fill the identified gaps in usable open space and to manage future growth and change consistent with the City's growth management goals and policies as outlined in the City's Comprehensive Plan.*

***Objective 3.1** Plan for preservation and acquisition of other open space on a geographic basis. The quantity of open space will be based upon the following considerations:*

- 1. Distribution guidelines presented later in this document.*
- 2. Usable open space as identified in the Parks 2010 Open Space Gap Analysis report.*
- 3. The open space functions of boulevard trails, green streets and public shoreline access in meeting open space needs shall be recognized. A distribution guideline for shorelines is presented later in this document.*
- 4. Unique characteristics of properties, user patterns (local, citywide and regional) and densities in the analysis of open space needs shall be considered.*
- 5. Available opportunities, long-term budget impacts and priorities as established in the City's Comprehensive Plan shall be considered in each potential acquisition.*

***Objective 3.4** In general, priority for the expansion of the open space network shall be given to areas of the City subject to population growth, including urban villages targeted for the largest share of residential growth and those areas not adequately served at present according to the population-based goals for open space.*

**Seattle Parks Legacy Plan**

The Seattle Parks Legacy Plan establishes a strategic direction for the future to ensure that Seattle parks and facilities are accessible, full of opportunity, and financially and environmentally sustainable for everyone who wants to use them. The Parks Legacy Plan includes a detailed data assessment of parks operations, recreation programs, maintenance costs, and public input on Seattle's park system. The Parks Legacy Plan also includes goal statements regarding planning and development, recreation, regional/specialty parks, maintenance, and department-wide policies.

## **Neighborhood Park Plans**

Neighborhood park plans were developed for First Hill Urban Center, North Downtown and University District (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2004; 2005a; 2005b). These park plans identify approaches to addressing existing and projected open space deficits according to the standards of the Comprehensive Plan. The Downtown Parks Renaissance report is another neighborhood plan that provides recommendations to revitalize existing parks in downtown (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2006).

## **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

### **Seattle Comprehensive Plan**

The City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan (City of Seattle 2005) contains goals and policies directing the City to encourage the location and expansion of schools in urban villages and urban centers and the improvement of the multi-modal transportation system to increase access to schools. In the Neighborhood Planning Element, most neighborhood plans have included policies that address the need for safe access to schools and, for a few neighborhoods, the need for new school facilities. The following are key goals and policies from the Seattle Comprehensive Plan that reference public school services:

#### **Land Use Element**

***Goal LUG67** Provide opportunities for residents of transit communities to lower their cost of living by providing safe and convenient walking or transit access to employment, education and goods and services to meet their daily needs.*

***Goal TG13** Provide mobility and access by public transportation for the greatest number of people to the greatest number of services, jobs, educational opportunities and other destinations.*

***Policy T30** Improve mobility and safe access for walking and bicycling, and create incentives to promote non-motorized travel to employment centers, commercial districts, transit stations, schools and major institutions and recreational destinations.*

***Policy T33** Accelerate the maintenance, development and improvement of pedestrian facilities, including public stairways. Give special consideration to: a) access to recommended school walking routes.*

#### **Capital Facilities Element**

***Policy CF9** Encourage the location of new community based capital facilities, such as schools, libraries, neighborhood service centers, parks and playgrounds, community centers, clinics and human services facilities, in urban village areas. The City will consider providing capital facilities or amenities in urban villages as an incentive to attract both public and private investments to an area.*

***Policy CF15** Work with the School District to encourage siting, renovation and expansion of school facilities in areas that are best equipped to accommodate growth.*

#### **Human Development Element**

***Policy HD19** Work with community colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning to promote life-long learning opportunities for community members and encourage the broadest possible*

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*use of libraries, community centers, schools and other existing facilities throughout the city, focusing on development of these resources in urban village areas.*

**Policy HD51** *Work to ensure equitable sharing and siting of facilities in ways that promote access and efficient use of community resources; b) Encourage use of existing facilities and co-location of services, including joint use of schools and City and community facilities, to make services more available in urban village areas.*

**Cultural Resources Element**

**Policy CR7** *Promote the development or expansion of cultural facilities, including libraries, schools, parks, performing arts and art exhibition facilities, museums and community centers, in areas designated as urban villages and urban centers.*

**Seattle Public Schools Facilities Master Plan**

The Seattle Public Schools Facilities Master Plan (SPS 2012b) outlines planned improvements to existing facilities (renovations, additions and replacements) and new school construction. To guide long range facility planning, the Seattle School Board adopted the following list of priorities in descending order of importance, although no single factor is considered determinative:

1. All projects should align with the District's mission and vision.
2. The health, safety and security of students, staff and public are important and must be protected.
3. Capacity Management needs must be met to assure that short, intermediate and long-term enrollment are matched with available space, taking into account costs and educational adequacy of facilities.
4. Building condition scores for building systems, such as exterior, HVAC, plumbing, structural
5. Educational adequacy of buildings, focusing on raising student achievement.
6. Planning will take into account past capital projects and future levy plans.

**Seattle Public Schools Guidelines for New or Modernized Schools**

SPS does not establish minimum site size or acreage standards for schools of a certain grade level or enrollment range. The Board has adopted Educational Specifications to support specific types and sizes of schools. These specifications are used to guide the design of new and significantly modernized schools. For more information, see Design Standards and Educational Specifications.