



Pierce County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan Update (2026)

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Peninsula Advisory Commission
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What is PROS?

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan

- Department long-range plan for implementation of policy
- 20-year Capital Improvement Plan
- Must be updated every six years to maintain eligibility for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Grants (RCO)



The Role of Parks



Healthy Communities

Physical activity, connection to nature, respite, play + education, community-building



Conservation & Resiliency

Habitat, carbon capture, stormwater management, heat mitigation



Economic Development

Benefits to businesses, residents, developers

"I ride the Foothills trail a couple of times a week. ...[will] be able to access the Pipeline trail ... I am a disabled veteran ...but the e-bike and these trails have opened up my opportunities...I appreciate them greatly."

"This is so exciting for our community. We finally feel like we have something for our families to enjoy that is up to date and equally as good as other surrounding cities/towns facilities."

"A park finally in our community! I love that you let the community decide! I love our new park!"

Purdy Sand Spit - this is the only Pierce county space in my area. The park provides a boat ramp, has ample space at low tide to explore and is a habitat to many species (orcas visit!)

"So Happy it's a cool place to hang out with the Kids and don't have to drive all the way to Tacoma"

2026 PROS Update

- Vision, goals, and objectives
- Assessment of demand and needs
- Regional Trails Plan
- Capital Improvement Plan
- System Management
- Recreation Programming Plan
- Open Space Plan

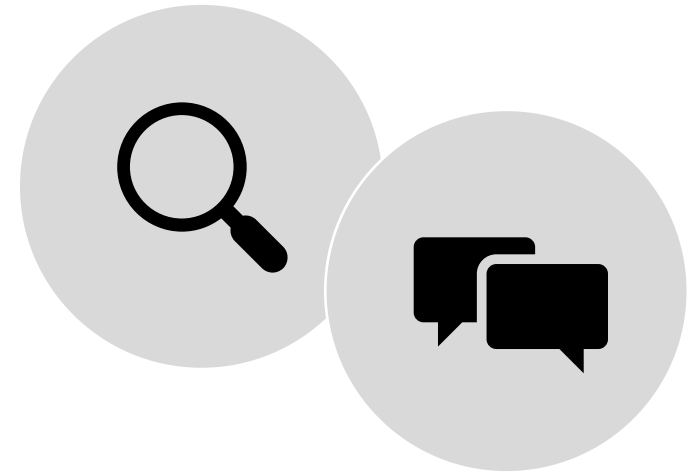
Key Opportunities

- Focus on trail network connectivity
- Align with policies for growth and urban development
- Strategy for park system expansion
- Balancing role as local and regional provider

Understanding Community Needs

Demand and Needs Assessment

- Community Profiles:
 - Data on Demographics, Growth, Geographic Characteristics, Parks Access
- Park system geographic gaps analysis
- Recreation trends
- Community engagement



What are the needs?

Where are the needs?

How much is needed?

Regions



Characteristics		Moderate ○ Strong ●	West	Central	South	North
 Demographics	Age (large youth or older adult %)		●	●	●	●
	Poverty		○	●	○	-
 Health	Asthma		○	●	●	○
	Heart Disease		○	●	●	○
 Environment	Low Tree Canopy		-	●	Urban: ●	○
	Heat		-	●	Urban: ●	○
 Geography	Low Park Access		-	●	●	-
	Typology		Rural/Suburban	Urban/Suburban	Varies	Rural/Suburban

Pen Met



People

- High share of older adults (22% of population is over 65)



Place

- High tree canopy cover
- Lower summer high temperature than other areas



Parks and Access

- Higher acreage of parks and open spaces per 1,000



Public Survey



Summer 2024 Public Survey

773 responses (482 unincorporated)

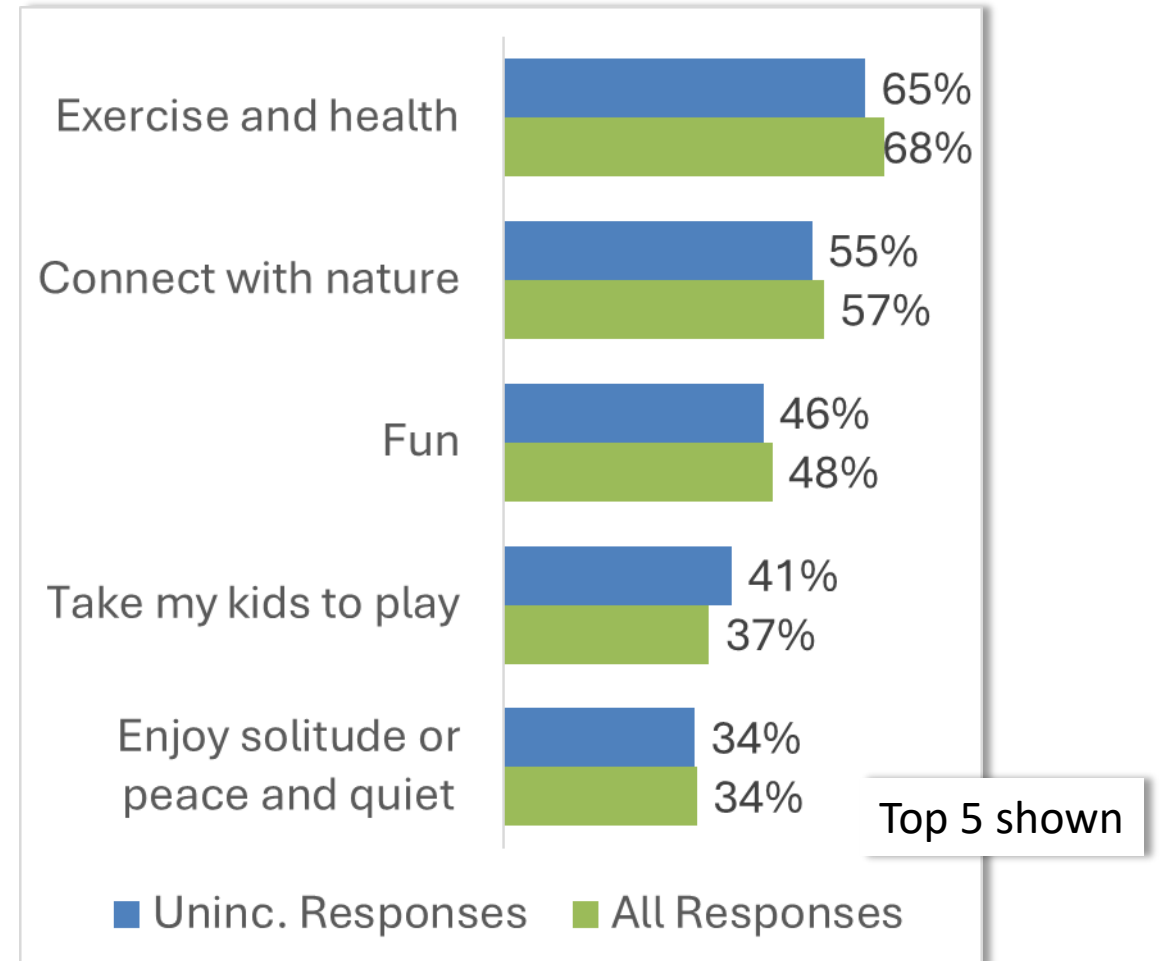
Parks Most Visited (All Responses)	Parks Most Visited (Unincorporated)
Chambers Creek Regional Park	Spanaway Park
Spanaway Park	Frontier Park
Frontier Park	Sprinker Recreation Center
Sprinker Recreation Center	Chambers Creek Regional Park
Foothills Trail	Foothills Trail

Reasons to Use Parks

Finding:

Most use parks for individual enjoyment – health, nature, fun

Q: What are your primary reasons for using parks?

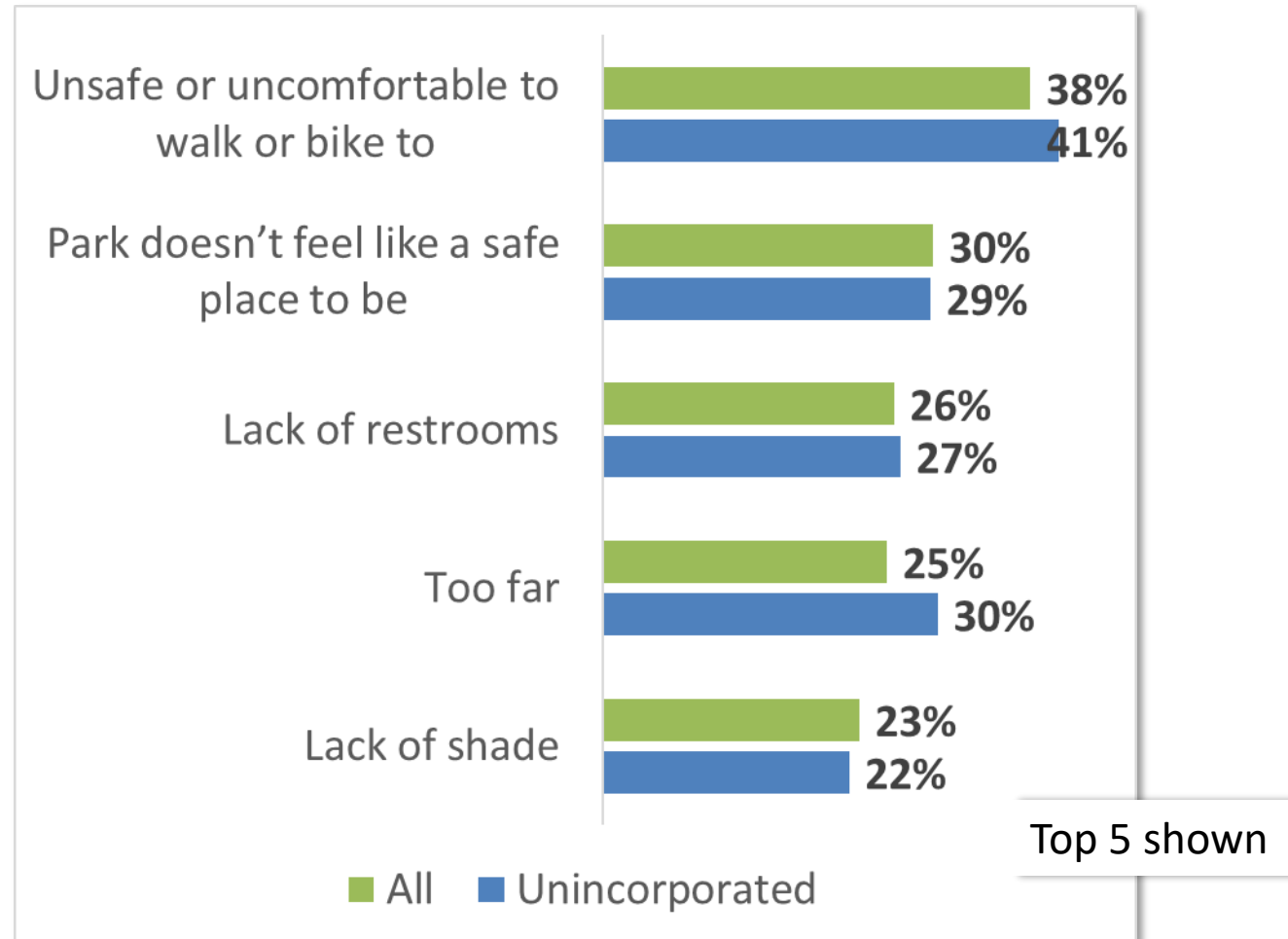


Barriers

Finding:

Addressing access and safety could allow greater use of parks

Q: Is there anything preventing you from using the parks near where you live?



Public Survey – Facility Demand

* = also a national/state trend

Category	Demand	West	Central	South	North
Quantity	More park facilities	●	●	●	●
	More parks*			●	
	More trails			●	●
Quality	More habitat restoration				●
	Improved maintenance/safety	●	●		
	More restrooms		●	●	●
	Improved park facilities*	●	●	●	
Access + Connectivity	More parking*	●	●		●
	Improved trail connectivity	●			
	Improved walking/biking safety and access*		●	●	●

Public Survey – Program Demand

* = also a national trend

Category	Demand	West	Central	South	North
Topic	Outdoor activities	●	●		●
	Sports + fitness*	●	●	●	●
	Life skills		●		
	Environment/conservation*	●		●	●
	Arts + culture*		●	●	●
Format	Community and family events*	●	●	●	●
	Adult programs*		●	●	
	Youth/family programs*	●	●	●	●
Access	Inclusivity (affordability, accessibility)*	●	●	●	●

Public Survey Key Findings

Top priorities countywide:

- Indoor facilities
- Special use facilities
- Regional trails and connectivity to schools, parks, shopping

Biggest barriers:

- Bike/ped safe access
- Safety
- Distance
- Lack of restrooms
- Inclusion (programming)

Central & South Regions have the lowest park access + greatest health/environmental disparities

Demand varies by region but **all areas want more facilities**

*Public engagement findings will be updated based on upcoming focus groups

Public Survey Comments

Pierce County Parks Most Visited

- Chambers Creek Regional Park
- Purdy Sandspit
- Swan Creek
- Foothills Trail

What types of recreation programming and services would you like Pierce County Parks to provide?

- Acquire 1000 forest acres east of Crescent Creek Rd for a park
- Help complete Gig Harbor Sports Complex
- Usable trails and sidewalks to access parks
- New sports complex in Gig Harbor

Capital Improvement Plan

Comprehensive Plan

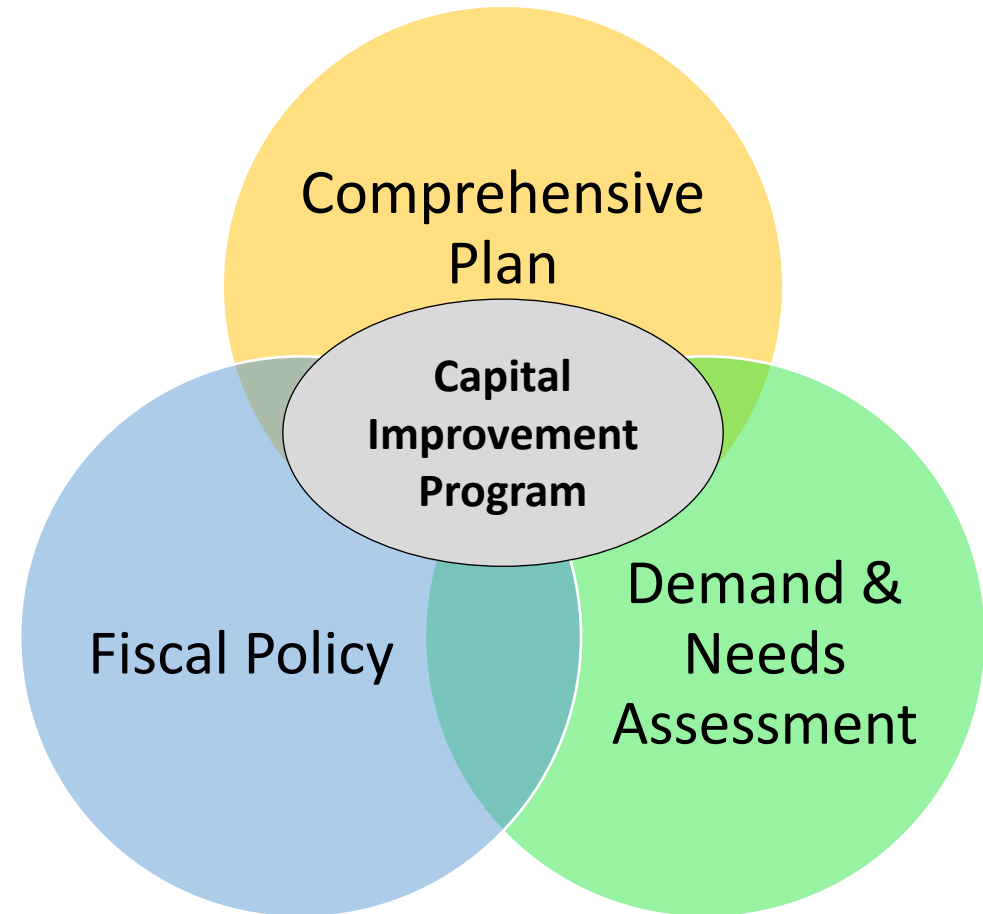
- Type of system
- Growth projections
- Community Plans

Demand & Needs Assessment

- Public Engagement
- Gaps, Trends, Benchmarks

Fiscal Policy

- Priorities
- Revenue & Investments



Gig Harbor Peninsula Community Plan

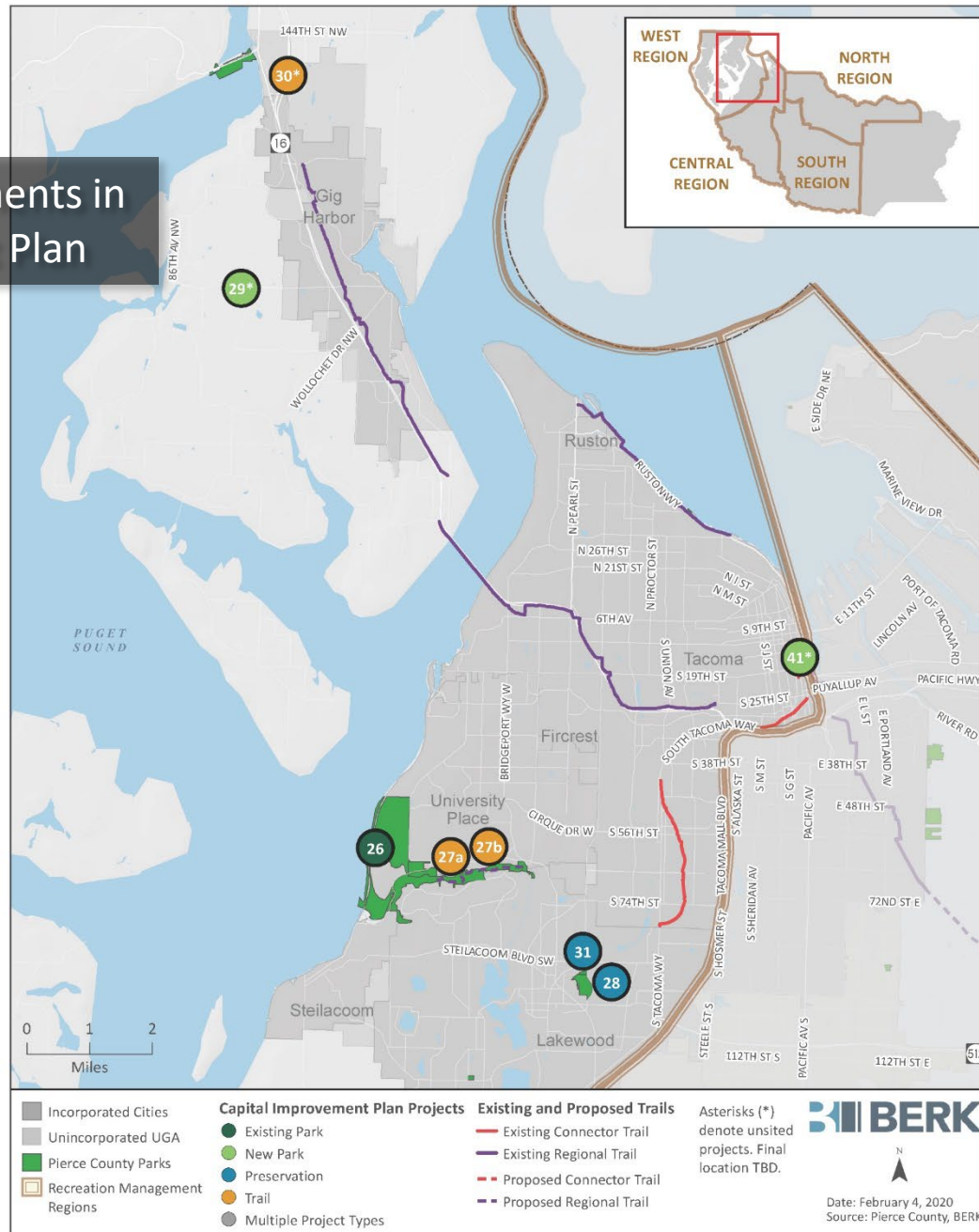
Community Plan policies focus:

- New regional parks
 - Priority for shorelines, forested areas, natural areas
 - Priority for looped or circuit trails and connections to Cushman Trail
 - Prefer 40+ acres, unless shoreline
 - Acquire property when it becomes available

Note: Community plan preceded PenMet Park District



Investments in Current Plan



2020-2030 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

West Region Projects

Num.	Name	Implementation	Features
26	Chambers Creek Regional Park – Central Meadow Improvements Design and Construction (partially unfunded)	2020-22	
27a	Chambers Creek Regional Park – Chambers Creek Canyon Trail Expansion Design and Construction Phase 1	2019-21	
27b	Chambers Creek Regional Park – Chambers Creek Canyon Trail Expansion Design and Construction Phase 2	2027-30	
28	Lakewood Community Center Building Improvements Construction	2020	
29*	KeyPen/PenMet Park Districts Regional Park Partnership* (location to be determined)	2020-2023	
30*	KeyPen/PenMet Park Districts Regional Trail Partnership (location to be determined)	2027-30	
31	Seeley Lake Park Improvements Construction	2020	
41*	Thea Foss Boat Launch Study	2020	

Feature Legend

Trails	Sports Complex	Open Space	Community Center
Family Activities	Water Access	Preservation	Plans

* Additional features may be identified during the planning phase.

Note: Special uses may be included based on master plans, community interest, and partnership opportunities. Additional detail can be found in Appendix F.

Disclaimer: The map features are approximate and are intended only to provide an indication of said feature. Additional areas that have not been mapped may be present. This is not a survey. The County assumes no liability for variations ascertained by actual survey. ALL DATA IS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED 'AS IS' AND 'WITH ALL FAULTS'. The County makes no warranty of fitness for a particular purpose.

Get Involved!

Fall 2024 – Winter 2025

Understand park and trail needs from diverse perspectives



Community Events

Discussion Groups –
Gaps, Needs

Survey

Summer 2025

Develop shared vision and ideas for parks & trails



Story Map & Interactive
Maps



Share Early Drafts



Discussion Groups -
Priorities

Fall 2025 – Winter 2026

Share and refine a draft plan



Share Hearing Drafts



Meetings & Hearings

Questions & Discussion

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