



**Agenda for Gig Harbor Planning Commission
Gig Harbor Civic Center
Thursday, August 8, 2024 5:30 P.M.**

This meeting may also be accessed through Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/95353411299> or by calling (253) 215- 8782 and entering Meeting ID 953 5341 1299. Please see the Public Comment & Decorum section at the end of this agenda for information on options to make public comment.

This meeting may also be viewed live in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Approval of Minutes: August 1, 2024

Public Comment:

Agenda Items:

Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Element and Arts and Culture Element –
Presentation Robin Bolster-Grant and Commission discussion

Other Business: Next meeting Thursday, August 15, 2024, Introduction to the
Economic Development and Community Design Elements

Adjournment:

PUBLIC COMMENT & DECORUM

The city desires to allow a maximum opportunity for public comment. However, the business of the Planning Commission must proceed in an orderly, timely manner. The purpose of a Planning Commission meeting is to advise on subjects prescribed by the City Council; it is not a public forum.

Public comment may be made in-person from the microphone, remotely via Zoom or by phone during designated portions of the meeting. To speak during the meeting via Zoom, press the Raise Hand button near the bottom of your Zoom window or press *9 on your phone. Please refrain from raising your hand until the Chair has announced

that the Commission has opened the public comment portion of the meeting. Your name or the last three digits of your phone number will be called out when it is your turn to speak. When using your phone to call in, you may need to press *6 to unmute yourself. Speakers will be allotted 3 minutes per individual, unless revised by the chair. Comments shall be made, first giving the speaker's name and address. Anyone making "out of order" comments may be subject to removal from the meeting.

Instead of making oral comments, written comments may be submitted to the Planning Commission at MThomas@gjgharborwa.gov.

All remarks shall be addressed to the commission as a body and not to any specific commissioner. All speakers shall be courteous in their language and deportment and shall not engage in or discuss or comment on personalities or indulge in derogatory remarks or insinuations with regard to any commissioner, or any member of the staff or the public.

There will be no demonstrations during or at the conclusion of any public comment. These guidelines are intended to promote an orderly system of holding public meetings, to give every person an opportunity to be heard and to ensure that no individuals are embarrassed by voicing their opinions.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) ACCOMMODATIONS

ADA accommodations can be provided upon request. Those requiring special accommodations should contact the city clerk at cityclerk@gjgharborwa.gov or (253) 853-7613 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.



**Minutes for Gig Harbor Planning Commission
Gig Harbor Civic Center
Thursday, August 1, 2024 5:30 P.M.**

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chair Krawczyk called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M. Commissioners Snodgrass, Tessicini, Burcar and Bradburry (arrived at 6:10) were present. Commissioners Jordan and Martin were excused. Staff: Interim Community Development Director, Jeff Wilson; Principal Planner, Robin Bolster-Grant and Planning Technician, Michelle Thomas

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Move to approve minutes from July 25, 2024 (Snodgrass/Burcar)

Vote: Unanimously approved

Public Comment: No public comment

Agenda Items:

1. Discussion regarding comments received about Short-term Rentals and the Comprehensive Plan. Short-term Rentals are not part of any of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan. The document included in the meeting packet was the Housing Needs Assessment conducted last year and was only included for reference.
2. Continued discussion of the Housing Element– Principal Planner, Robin Bolster-Grant

Other Business: Next meeting Thursday, August 8, 2024, Introduction of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space / Arts and Culture Elements. Commissioner Tessicini will not be in attendance August 8th and 15th and Commissioner Snodgrass possibly August 8th

Adjournment: 6:54

Michelle Thomas

Michelle Thomas
Planning Technician

11 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

11.1 Introduction

The 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) for Gig Harbor was approved by the City Council on February 28, 2022. The PROS Plan represents the city's vision and provides goals and objectives for the development of parks, recreation and open spaces in Gig Harbor for the next six years and beyond and establishes a road map for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, natural areas and recreational opportunities for Gig Harbor. Only key elements of the PROS Plan are incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. This chapter includes the goals and policies adopted in the PROS Plan, while the inventory, levels of service and 6-year capital facilities projects are included in the Capital Facilities Element.

The planning area for this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan includes the city's existing incorporated area and the city's Urban Growth Area as defined in the Comprehensive Plan. Implementation of the PROS Plan will focus on the city limits with an eye toward serving the residents of the Urban Growth Area as annexations occur over the next 15 years.

The continued high growth in the Gig Harbor peninsula's population has resulted in an increased use of the city's community parks and recreational facilities, which will likely continue over the foreseeable future. The demographics of Gig Harbor are also changing as a younger demographic is moving into the area. The increase in demand coupled with a changing demographic mean new challenges and opportunities for the city.

In an effort to provide quality parks and recreational opportunities for today's residents as well as for future generations, the city initiated a planning process in conjunction with the overall update of the city's Comprehensive Plan. The PROS Plan is a stand-alone document which meets the requirements of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office guidelines. It is also compliant with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). Part or all of the PROS Plan may be incorporated into future updates of the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan. The planning horizon for both plans is 2044, consistent with buildable lands projections for Pierce County and under the GMA requirements for long range planning.

The GMA requires a park and recreation element within the Comprehensive Plan that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. This element includes estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a fifteen-year period; an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.¹

¹ RCW 36.70A.070(8) GMA

During the PROS Plan public outreach effort, the community expressed many ideas for improving parks and recreational opportunities in Gig Harbor including:

- Providing a balance of active and passive activities within the city's parks;
- Seeking dedicated funding to support park management and maintenance responsibilities and costs;
- Providing trail connectivity between parks and connecting residential and commercial neighborhoods to the city's park system; and
- Providing a park system that offers something for all ages and types of users.

This Plan considers today's and tomorrow's needs and is a community-driven plan that has broad-based support and is implementable over the 15-year plan horizon. This update:

- Identifies the anticipated types of activities and the population that the city's parks and recreation facilities will serve,
- Defines the city's vision of the future of the city's park and recreational facilities,
- Identifies the estimated cost to achieve the community's vision, and
- Provides goals and policies to act as a guide for getting there.

The 2022 Gig Harbor Park Recreation and Open Space Plan will help guide the city staff, park commission and city council in meeting identified gaps in services and park development in order to meet the need and support the quality of life for our citizens in the coming years.

11.2 Vision

Gig Harbor's vision for parks is to develop a quintessential system of parks, trails and open spaces that enhance the city's history, environmental features, and sense of place to encourage both active and passive forms of recreation popular on the peninsula.

11.3 Goals and Policies

► PR-1 **Develop a quality, diversified recreational system that provides for all age and interest groups.**

- PR-1.1 Acquire and develop sites for passive and active recreation opportunities that accommodate formal and informal activities that meet the needs of various age groups, recreational interests and abilities.
- PR-1.2 Prioritize facility development based on demonstrated demand, population served, geographic distribution, system gaps, regional appeal, fiscal opportunity, and revenue-generating potential.
- PR-1.3 Pursue accessible, adaptive recreation facilities and services for users with disabilities or health or mobility challenges.

- PR-1.4 Cooperate with a wide range of public and private agencies to acquire and preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, viewing and other related recreational activities and pursuits, while respecting the rights of property owners.
- PR-1.5 Develop and encourage waterfront and watercraft access opportunities, especially for human-powered boating activities on Gig Harbor and along the Puget Sound shoreline.
- PR-1.6 Facilitate field and court activities like soccer, football, baseball, basketball, tennis, pickleball and volleyball to meet the needs of the community.
- PR-1.7 Coordinate a calendar of special events throughout the year in partnership with high-quality providers of recreational programming and special events.
- **PR-2 Preserve and enhance the natural environment and support habitat and other resources for local wildlife as part of park and open space acquisition and management.**
 - PR-2.1 Preserve and protect open space and park land areas with significant environmental features such as wetlands, riparian corridors, forests, steep slopes, plant and animal habitats that support threatened or endangered species.
 - PR-2.2 Develop an interlinked system of open space corridors along natural riparian and wetlands.
 - PR-2.3 Provide appropriate public access and nearby parking where appropriate and feasible for open space areas to support passive recreation.
 - PR-2.4 Provide opportunities for environmental education in open space areas through creative and interactive interpretation strategies, such as hands-on displays, self-guided walks, and other experiences.
 - PR-2.5 Maintain and improve the environmental quality of city-owned parks, trails, and open space areas through invasive species removal, planting of native species, and restoration of urban forests, creeks, wetlands, and other habitat areas.
 - PR-2.6 Foster climate-resilient landscapes in parks and open space areas to manage expected impacts from climate change.
 - PR-2.7 Improve tree management policies and practices in parks and open space in line with an Urban Forestry Management Plan to promote tree retention, tree succession, and more effective wildfire prevention practices.
 - PR-2.8 Map and evaluate riparian areas within salmon-bearing stream corridors on public lands as part of planning for land acquisition, climate change adaptation, and ongoing management.

- **PR-3 Provide alternative transportation options and low impact recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities through a high-quality system of park trails and corridors in coordination with the Gig Harbor Active Transportation Plan.**

Trail and Corridor Planning

- PR-3.1 Create a comprehensive system of shared-use off-road trails using the Cushman Trail as the backbone of the system.
- PR-3.2 Develop trails to provide access to significant environmental features, public facilities, neighborhoods, and business districts to promote physical activities and a health-conscious community.
- PR-3.3 Coordinate with public and private agencies to construct pedestrian crossing for SR-16 and other highways that improve trail system connections.
- PR-3.4 Connect trails to nearby sidewalk facilities where possible to improve the functionality of the off-street trail systems for non-motorized transportation and recreation.
- PR-3.5 Consider the siting of proposed trail segments as part of the development review process.
- PR-3.6 Work with public and private organizations in the region to link and extend Gig Harbor trails to other regional trail facilities.
- PR-3.7 Support broader pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements to improve safety and utilization of the system.

Trail Development and Amenities

- PR-3.8 Develop trails consistent with the park development goals and policies that reach a wide variety of users.
- PR-3.9 Provide trailhead improvements such as interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water and other services.
- PR-3.10 Where appropriate, locate trailheads to consider park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local access to the trail system and integrate supporting improvements.
- PR-3.11 Consider needs for maintenance, security, and access by appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles in park design and construction.
- PR-3.12 Develop and implement branded signage (e.g. trailhead, etiquette, directional, mile markers, emergency location markers, etc.) to mark trails and non-motorized routes that is consistent with broader signage and design standards in the city.

- **PR-4 Ensure that park, open space, and recreational facilities are accessible, safe, easy to maintain, cost efficient, and meet the diverse needs of the residents of the city and Urban Growth Area.**

Planning and Design

- PR-4.1 Maintain park master plans, management plans, and adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.
- PR-4.2 Consider unique features and other characteristics in the design of new parks and upgraded/renovated facilities to enhance the local sense of place, ensure quality of facilities, and minimize maintenance and operations costs.
- PR-4.3 Provide playgrounds that have a community draw and offer unique opportunities for all city residents in a multi-use, multi-generational setting.

Community Accessibility

- PR-4.4 Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels, and ages in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
- PR-4.5 Eliminate accessibility barriers at existing parks and facilities and address other related actions as identified in the city ADA Transition Plan.
- PR-4.6 Reduce barriers to access and expand inclusive opportunities related to other characteristics of users, such as socioeconomic background, language fluency, physical or mental health considerations, geographic location, and transportation access.
- PR-4.7 Implement policies to address service gaps for historically underserved communities and provide a priority matrix to guide the allocation of resources to address known gaps.

Engagement

- PR-4.8 Involve residents and stakeholders in the planning and design of park and recreation facilities and program to incorporate community input and considerations, provide information, and meet public needs.
- PR-4.9 Partner with representative groups of users of specialized facilities, such as sport fields, off-leash areas, disc golf course, skatepark, BMX/pump track, community gardens, etc., to plan the development and management of these facilities.

Branding

- PR-4.10 Provide comprehensive, well-designed maps to identify park and trail opportunities and provide relevant information for users.
- PR-4.11 Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity and aesthetic for all parks and facilities.

- PR-4.12 Standardize park furniture and improvements such as trash cans, tables, benches, and fencing to reduce maintenance and replacement costs and provide for a more consistent aesthetic for city facilities.

Maintenance

- PR-4.13 Design and develop facilities to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation costs, while providing for adequate and aesthetically appealing facilities and amenities.
- PR-4.14 Incorporate sustainable, low impact design practices into the development of new facilities and rehabilitation of existing facilities.
- PR-4.15 Consider native vegetation for landscaping in parks to conserve native wildlife habitat and limit maintenance requirements.

Security and Safety

- PR-4.16 Maintain parks, trails and open spaces to protect public property, preserve the value of these facilities, and ensure their intended functions, uses, safety, and security over their entire life cycle.
- PR-4.17 Implement adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, police patrols, and other programs to increase safety, security, awareness and visibility.

► PR-5 Provide for long-term banking of potential sites for park and recreation facilities in coordination with other public and private agencies, private landowners, and other organizations.

- PR-5.1 Review needs for parks, recreation and open space prior to the approval of an annexation to determine potential impacts to adopted levels of service.
- PR-5.2 Identify and reserve lands to meet long-term demands for parks, recreation, and open space, especially in developing areas and potential sites with healthy tree canopies, minimal development, or critical areas.

► PR-6 Coordinate with other agencies and non-profit recreational providers to help meet the recreational needs of local residents.

- PR-6.1 Leverage city resources by maintaining partnerships with public and private agencies such as school districts to deliver recreation services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
- PR-6.2 Look for opportunities to partner with other organizations to provide support for indoor recreational facilities.
- PR-6.3 Endorse the efforts of local non-profit providers such as organized sports leagues to plan for projects to expand facilities for athletic fields, and provide city support as needed.

PR-6.4 Coordinate with Pierce County, PenMet Parks and the Peninsula School District about the planning, acquisition, design and operation of parks and recreational facilities in the UGA and unincorporated service area.

► **PR-7 Support and protect historical resources through planning and management of the park and open space system.**

PR-7.1 Identify, enhance and incorporate Gig Harbor’s heritage, indigenous history and cultural features into the park system to preserve these interests and provide a holistic social experience.

PR-7.2 Identify parks, structures and spaces eligible for designation as historic places to ensure they are preserved for the future and planned for long-term preservation and maintenance by the city.

PR-7.3 Assist historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits to the community and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs to promote awareness of Gig Harbor’s heritage.

PR-7.4 Encourage the Harbor History Museum, Gig Harbor BoatShop, Gig Harbor Fisherman’s Civic Club and other organizations to provide cultural programs and activities for the public.

PR-7.5 Encourage the owners of historic sites and structures to provide full or limited public access.

► **PR-8 Acquire, develop, operate, and maintain facilities and programs to be cost efficient and to equitably distribute costs and benefits to the public.**

PR-8.1 Provide the financial and staff resources necessary to maintain the high quality of the city’s park and recreation system.

PR-8.2 Support methods to finance facility development, maintenance, and operations which can supplement city budget allocations while reducing costs, improving flexibility, and better meeting user needs.

PR-8.3 Pursue traditional and alternative funding sources for parks, facilities, and programs, which may include private donations, partnerships, sponsorships, state and federal grant sources, dedicated local taxes and local bonds or levies.

PR-8.4 Apply for recreational system grants, potentially with partner agencies as appropriate.

PR-8.5 Consider joint ventures for projects and programming with other public agencies such as PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, regional, state, and federal agencies, local tribes, and private agencies including for-profit concessionaries.

PR-8.6 Use sponsorships to offset costs of special events and seasonal activities.

PR-8.7 Regularly review and update Park Impact Fee rates and methodologies to support the expansion of the parks system to meet growth in demand.

- PR-8.8 Periodically monitor and review level of service (LOS) metrics and revise park and recreational capital project priorities.
- PR-8.9 Define naming conventions and conversions to include an on-going evaluation of the names of city parks and public recreational facilities.
- PR-8.10 Regularly update GIS data to ensure park, open space, trail, and recreational facility information such as names, classifications, acreages, and ownership are correctly identified.

Policy Audit Document

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.6: DEVELOP A QUALITY, DIVERSIFIED RECREATION SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES FOR ALL AGE AND INTEREST GROUPS.	▪ No change.	PR-1 Develop a quality, diversified recreational system that provides for all age and interest groups.
[new]	▪ Provide explicit policy statements related to developing a recreation system.	PR-1.1 Acquire and develop sites for passive and active recreation opportunities that accommodate formal and informal activities that meet the needs of various age groups, recreational interests and abilities.
[new]	▪ Provide explicit policy statements related to developing a recreation system.	PR-1.2 Prioritize facility development based on demonstrated demand, population served, geographic distribution, system gaps, regional appeal, fiscal opportunity, and revenue-generating potential.
[new]	▪ Provide explicit policy statements related to developing a recreation system.	PR-1.3 Pursue accessible, adaptive recreation facilities and services for users with disabilities or health or mobility challenges.
11.6.1. Cooperate with Pierce County, PenMet Parks, the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, and other public and private agencies to acquire and preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, viewing and other related recreational activities and pursuits, recognizing the rights of property owners in the vicinity of such sites.	▪ Revised to provide more clarity and broad application.	PR-1.4 Cooperate with a wide range of public and private agencies to acquire and preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, viewing and other related recreational activities and pursuits, while respecting the rights of property owners.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.6.2. Develop and/or encourage a mixture of watercraft access opportunities including canoe, kayak, sailboard, and other non-power boating activities, especially on Gig Harbor Bay and along the Puget Sound shoreline.	Minor revisions for clarity.	PR-1.5 Develop and encourage waterfront and watercraft access opportunities, especially for human-powered boating activities on Gig Harbor and along the Puget Sound shoreline.
11.6.3. Concentrate on field and court activities like soccer, football, baseball, basketball, tennis, pickleball and volleyball that provide for the largest number of participants.	Revisions for clarity.	PR-1.6 Facilitate field and court activities like soccer, football, baseball, basketball, tennis, pickleball and volleyball to meet the needs of the community.
11.6.7. Provide play structures for tots (2-5) and school aged children (5-12) and a teen activity area within neighborhood parks.	This is an operational level discussion that may not be needed for higher-level policy.	[removed]
[add]	Added to provide guidance for special events.	PR-1.7 Coordinate a calendar of special events throughout the year in partnership with high-quality providers of recreational programming and special events.
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES		
11.1: DEVELOP A HIGH QUALITY, DIVERSIFIED PARK SYSTEM THAT PRESERVES AND ENHANCES SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND FEATURES. INCORPORATE UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL FEATURES AND RESOURCES TO PROTECT THREATENED SPECIES, PRESERVE HABITAT, AND RETAIN MIGRATION CORRIDORS THAT ARE UNIQUE AND IMPORTANT TO LOCAL WILDLIFE.	Edit for readability and brevity.	PR-2 Preserve and enhance the natural environment and support habitat and other resources for local wildlife as part of park and open space acquisition and management.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.1.1 Acquire and preserve especially sensitive or unique habitat sites that support threatened or endangered species and urban wildlife habitat.	Considerations from this policy are integrated/condensed into PR-2.1.	PR-2.1 Preserve and protect open space and park land areas with significant environmental features such as wetlands, riparian corridors, forests, steep slopes, plant and animal habitats that support threatened or endangered species.
11.1.2 Identify and conserve critical wildlife habitat including nesting sites, foraging areas, and migration corridors within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces, and the developed urban areas.	Considerations from this policy are integrated/condensed into PR-2.1.	[removed]
11.1.3 Develop a system of open space corridors along natural stream and wetlands corridors that establish forest canopy that link to each other and from the uplands to the shore.	Edits for readability and brevity.	PR-2.2 Develop an interlinked system of open space corridors along natural riparian and wetlands.
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.3 Provide appropriate public access and nearby parking where appropriate and feasible for open space areas to support passive recreation.
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.4 Provide opportunities for environmental education in open space areas through creative and interactive interpretation strategies, such as hands-on displays, self-guided walks, and other experiences.
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.5 Maintain and improve the environmental quality of city-owned parks, trails, and open space areas through invasive species removal, planting of native species, and restoration of urban forests, creeks, wetlands, and other habitat areas.
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.6 Foster climate-resilient landscapes in parks and open space areas to manage expected impacts from climate change.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.7 Improve tree management policies and practices in parks and open space in line with an Urban Forestry Management Plan to promote tree retention, tree succession, and more effective wildfire prevention practices.
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.8 Map and evaluate riparian areas within salmon-bearing stream corridors on public lands as part of planning for land acquisition, climate change adaptation, and ongoing management.
DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES		
11.3: THROUGH THE CITY'S PERMIT PROCESS, REQUIRE, WHEN POSSIBLE, NEW DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENT TO PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES AND ACTIVE COMMERCIAL AREAS.	Note that this policy goal is integrated with the considerations for PR-3 below.	[removed]
11.5: DEVELOP A HIGH QUALITY SYSTEM OF MULTIPURPOSE PARK TRAILS AND CORRIDORS THAT PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS AND LOW IMPACT RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES IN COORDINATION WITH THE CITY'S ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.	Minor edits for content.	PR-3 Provide alternative transportation options and low impact recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities through a high-quality system of park trails and corridors in coordination with the Gig Harbor Active Transportation Plan.
		Trail and Corridor Planning

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.5.1. Create a comprehensive system of multipurpose off-road trails using the Cushman Trail as the backbone of the system. Trails should be developed to provide access to significant environmental features, public facilities, neighborhoods and businesses districts to promote physical activity and a health conscious community.	▪ This policy has been included here to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors. ▪ Note that this is split with PR-3.2 below.	PR-3.1 Create a comprehensive system of shared-use off-road trails using the Cushman Trail as the backbone of the system.
[new]	▪ This provides for a complementary policy to PR-3.1 to build the trail network, and adapts concepts from 11.3.1.	PR-3.2 Develop trails to provide access to significant environmental features, public facilities, neighborhoods, and business districts to promote physical activities and a health-conscious community.
11.3.1. Require pedestrian friendly design features (including but not limited to placement of new buildings, on-site walkways, and pedestrian scale site features) on new developments to promote active healthy lifestyles within the community.	▪ The considerations of this policy have been provided in PR-3.2 and elsewhere, and this can be removed.	[removed]
11.3.2. Require non-residential developments to provide common areas (such as town squares, plazas, or pocket parks) proportional to size of the development and the impact on existing park infrastructure to serve the recreational needs of employees and customers. Encourage these spaces to be used as the focus of commercial and civic buildings.	▪ This goal has been removed with its considerations included as part of the Urban Design Element and other components.	[removed]
11.5.2. Leveraging the resources of WSDOT, private developers and other agencies, construct pedestrian facilities that cross SR-16 and other highways (ex: pedestrian overpass at BB16).	▪ This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.3 Coordinate with public and private agencies to construct pedestrian crossing for SR-16 and other highways that improve trail system connections.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.5.3. Trails should be connected to nearby sidewalk facilities wherever feasible to facilitate the use of the off-street trail systems for non-motorized transportation and recreation. Where sidewalks are an integrated component of a trail system, larger sidewalks may be needed.	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.4 Connect trails to nearby sidewalk facilities where possible to improve the functionality of the off-street trail systems for non-motorized transportation and recreation.
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.5 Consider the siting of proposed trail segments as part of the development review process.
11.5.4. Work with PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Tacoma, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and other appropriate jurisdictions to link and extend Gig Harbor trails to other regional trail facilities.	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.6 Work with public and private organizations in the region to link and extend Gig Harbor trails to other regional trail facilities.
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.7 Support broader pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements to improve safety and utilization of the system.
11.5.5. Extend trails through natural area corridors like the Crescent and Donkey (North) Creek corridors, and Wollochet Drive wetlands within the City that will provide a high quality, diverse sampling of area environmental resources, in balance with habitat protection.	These considerations are included elsewhere in this Element and the Environment Element.	[removed]
[new]		Trail Development and Amenities
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.8 Develop trails consistent with the park development goals and policies that reach a wide variety of users.
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.9 Provide trailhead improvements such as interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water and other services.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.10 Where appropriate, locate trailheads to consider park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local access to the trail system and integrate supporting improvements.
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.11 Consider needs for maintenance, security, and access by appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles in park design and construction.
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.12 Develop and implement branded signage (e.g. trailhead, etiquette, directional, mile markers, emergency location markers, etc.) to mark trails and non-motorized routes that is consistent with broader signage and design standards in the city.
PARK DESIGN STANDARDS		
11.4: DESIGN AND DEVELOP FACILITIES THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE, SAFE, AND EASY TO MAINTAIN WHILE PROVIDING A FULL RANGE OF FACILITIES FOR ALL AGE GROUPS BOTH INSIDE THE PRESENT CITY LIMITS AND IN THE UGA. PARKS FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT SHOULD HAVE LIFE CYCLE FEATURES THAT ACCOUNT FOR LONG-TERM COSTS AND BENEFITS.	Revised for clarity/ brevity.	PR-4 Ensure that park, open space, and recreational facilities are accessible, safe, easy to maintain, cost efficient, and meet the diverse needs of the residents of the city and Urban Growth Area.
General		Planning and Design
11.4.1. Create park plans for the potential development and re-development of City park properties.	Revised to provide more specific details about planning.	PR-4.1 Maintain park master plans, management plans, and adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.4.2. Incorporate features and amenities into parks that fit the local context; contribute to environmental sustainability; and are accessible, safe, and easy to maintain for the long term.	Revised to provide more details.	PR-4.2 Consider unique features and other characteristics in the design of new parks and upgraded/renovated facilities to enhance the local sense of place, ensure quality of facilities, and minimize maintenance and operations costs.
[new]	Considerations added here to address community needs.	PR-4.3 Provide playgrounds that have a community draw and offer unique opportunities for all city residents in a multi-use, multi-generational setting.
Accessibility		Community Accessibility
11.4.6. Design park and recreation facilities to be accessible in accordance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).	Provide revisions and expand these considerations to broader barriers to access.	PR-4.4 Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels, and ages in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
[new]	Provide additional discussion of addressing barriers to park use.	PR-4.5 Eliminate accessibility barriers at existing parks and facilities and address other related actions as identified in the city ADA Transition Plan.
[new]	Provide additional discussion of addressing barriers to park use.	PR-4.6 Reduce barriers to access and expand inclusive opportunities related to other characteristics of users, such as socioeconomic background, language fluency, physical or mental health considerations, geographic location, and transportation access.
[new]	Provide additional discussion of addressing barriers to park use.	PR-4.7 Implement policies to address service gaps for historically underserved communities and provide a priority matrix to guide the allocation of resources to address known gaps.
		Engagement

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
[new]	Specific statements included for engagement.	PR-4.8 Involve residents and stakeholders in the planning and design of park and recreation facilities and program to incorporate community input and considerations, provide information, and meet public needs.
[new]	Specific statements included for engagement.	PR-4.9 Partner with representative groups of users of specialized facilities, such as sport fields, off-leash areas, disc golf course, skatepark, BMX/pump track, community gardens, etc., to plan the development and management of these facilities.
		Branding
11.4.3. Provide maps at the City's larger parks, documenting park and trail opportunities in the vicinity of the park.	Minor revisions provided.	PR-4.10 Provide comprehensive, well-designed maps to identify park and trail opportunities and provide relevant information for users.
[new]	Expanded discussions about park branding.	PR-4.11 Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity and aesthetic for all parks and facilities.
[new]	Expanded discussions about park branding.	PR-4.12 Standardize park furniture and improvements such as trash cans, tables, benches, and fencing to reduce maintenance and replacement costs and provide for a more consistent aesthetic for city facilities.
11.4.4. Develop and maintain parks consistent with local, state and federal environmental regulations.	This is an expectation that can be assumed; no policy is necessary.	[removed]
11.4.5. Provide facilities for all age groups and throughout the City and its UGA.	This is more appropriate as a goal, and has been included elsewhere.	[removed]
Maintenance		Maintenance

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.4.7. Design and develop facilities that are of low maintenance and high capacity design to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs while providing for adequate facilities, amenities and attractive landscaping.	Revisions for clarity / brevity.	PR-4.13 Design and develop facilities to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation costs, while providing for adequate and aesthetically appealing facilities and amenities.
11.4.8. Where appropriate, use low maintenance materials, settings or other value engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements, and retain natural conditions and experiences.	- Revisions for clarity / brevity. - Separation of the considerations of natural conditions into the following policy.	PR-4.14 Incorporate sustainable, low impact design practices into the development of new facilities and rehabilitation of existing facilities.
[new]	Policy added to include considerations of native vegetation from 11.4.8.	PR-4.15 Consider native vegetation for landscaping in parks to conserve native wildlife habitat and limit maintenance requirements.
Security and Safety		Security and Safety
11.4.9. Implement design and development standards that will improve park facility safety and implement security features for park users, department personnel, and the public-at-large.	Considerations integrated under PR-4.14.	PR-4.16 Maintain parks, trails and open spaces to protect public property, preserve the value of these facilities, and ensure their intended functions, uses, safety, and security over their entire life cycle.
11.4.10. Continue to develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that will provide proper training and awareness for department personnel.	Considerations integrated under PR-4.14.	[removed]
11.4.11. Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that will protect user groups, department personnel, and the general public-at-large.	Considerations integrated under PR-4.14.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.4.12. Where appropriate, use adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, park police patrols, and other innovative programs that will increase safety and security awareness and visibility on-Motorized Access	Revised for readability / brevity.	PR-4.17 Implement adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, police patrols, and other programs to increase safety, security, awareness and visibility.
IDENTIFY URBAN GROWTH PRESERVES		
11.2: COORDINATE WITH OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES, AND WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS TO PRESERVE LAND AND RESOURCES NECESSARY TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, CONVENIENT PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES BEFORE THE MOST SUITABLE SITES ARE LOST TO DEVELOPMENT.	Edited for readability / brevity.	PR-5 Provide for long-term banking of potential sites for park and recreation facilities in coordination with other public and private agencies, private landowners, and other organizations.
11.2.3. Prior to annexation of urban growth areas review park, recreation, and open space needs to determine potential impacts to adopted levels of service. Such impacts shall be considered when determining the impacts of a potential annexation.	Edited for readability / brevity.	PR-5.1 Review needs for parks, recreation and open space prior to the approval of an annexation to determine potential impacts to adopted levels of service.
11.2.2. Identify lands needed to meet long-term demand for parks, recreation and open space in developing areas such as the wooded, undeveloped, and sensitive lands.	Edited for readability / brevity.	PR-5.2 Identify and reserve lands to meet long-term demands for parks, recreation, and open space, especially in developing areas and potential sites with healthy tree canopies, minimal development, or critical areas.
SPECIAL PURPOSE FACILITIES		
11.7: ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY FACILITIES THAT MEET THE INTERESTS OF ALL SEGMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY.	This has been removed, as the city has little policy impact on these facilities. Provisions for partnering with other organizations is included elsewhere.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.7.1. Where appropriate and economically feasible (self-supporting), encourage other organizations to develop and operate specialized and special interest recreational or cultural facilities like theater, golf and water parks for these interests in the general population.	This has been removed, as the city has little policy impact on these facilities. Provisions for partnering with other organizations is included elsewhere.	[removed]
11.7.2. Where appropriate, facilitate and encourage joint planning and operating programs with other public and private agencies to determine need and provide for special activities like golf, performing arts, water parks, and camping on an area wide basis.	This has been removed, as the city has little policy impact on these facilities. Provisions for partnering with other organizations is included elsewhere.	[removed]
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS		
11.8: COORDINATE WITH AND ENCOURAGE THE EFFORTS OF OTHER AGENCIES AND NON-PROFIT RECREATIONAL PROVIDERS TO ASSURE THAT THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE GIG HARBOR RESIDENTS ARE MET.	Minor revisions for clarity/brevity.	PR-6 Coordinate with other agencies and non-profit recreational providers to help meet the recreational needs of local residents.
11.6.5. Facilitate the continued development by the Peninsula School District and other organizations, of special meeting, assembly, eating, health, cultural, and other community facilities that provide general support to school age populations and the community-at-large at elementary, middle, and high schools within the City, urban growth area and the greater peninsula.	Edited for clarity/brevity.	PR-6.1 Leverage city resources by maintaining partnerships with public and private agencies such as school districts to deliver recreation services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
11.6.6. Look for opportunities to partner with PenMet and other organization to provide indoor recreational facilities for all ages (including play structures and both organized and individual sports facilities).	Edited for clarity/brevity.	PR-6.2 Look for opportunities to partner with other organizations to provide support for indoor recreational facilities.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.8.2. Endorse the efforts of local non-profit organizations to provide soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, and other instruction and participatory programs for all age, skill level, and income groups in the community.	▪ Edited for clarity/brevity.	PR-6.3 Endorse the efforts of local non-profit providers such as organized sports leagues to plan for projects to expand facilities for athletic fields, and provide city support as needed.
11.2.1. Continue coordination with PenMet Parks and other agencies on meeting park, recreation, and open space needs through the City and urban growth area to assure that needs are met, and services are not duplicated.	▪ Edited for readability / brevity.	PR-6.4 Coordinate with Pierce County, PenMet Parks and the Peninsula School District about the planning, acquisition, design and operation of parks and recreational facilities in the UGA and unincorporated service area.
11.8.1. Facilitate and encourage other organizations to provide arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care, meeting facilities, daycare, latch key, and other program activities for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in the community.	▪ This is addressed in the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.8.3. Assist historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits; and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs that document and develop awareness of Gig Harbor's heritage.	▪ This is addressed in the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.6.4. Encourage, leverage the development, or develop, where appropriate, a select number of facilities that provide a quality playing environment, possibly in conjunction with PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, and other public or private agencies. Such facilities should be developed to meet the requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests where possible.	This is covered in more detail in other policies and can be removed.	[removed]
HISTORIC RESOURCES		
11.9: DEVELOP A HIGH QUALITY, DIVERSIFIED PARK SYSTEM THAT PRESERVES SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY AREAS AND FEATURES.	Edited for clarity / brevity.	PR-7 Support and protect historical resources through planning and management of the park and open space system.
11.9.1. Identify, preserve, and enhance Gig Harbor's multicultural heritage, human history of the City and its neighborhoods, traditions, and cultural features including historic sites, buildings, artworks, objects, views, and monuments.	This policy is integrated with 11.9.2 in PR-7.1 to provide a focus on the parks system.	PR-7.1 Identify, enhance and incorporate Gig Harbor's heritage, indigenous history and cultural features into the park system to preserve these interests and provide a holistic social experience.
11.9.2. Identify and incorporate significant historic and cultural lands, sites, artifacts, and facilities into the park system to preserve these interests and to provide a balanced social experience.	This policy is integrated with 11.9.1 in PR-7.1 to provide a focus on the parks system.	[removed]
11.9.3. Register City owned parks, structures and open space properties that are eligible for the Gig Harbor Register of Historic Places and utilize the City's Certified Local Government (CLG) board to determine appropriate preservation methods and traditional uses.	Edited for clarity/brevity.	PR-7.2 Identify parks, structures and spaces eligible for designation as historic places to ensure they are preserved for the future and planned for long-term preservation and maintenance by the city.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
[new]	Provide a specific linkage between recreational programs and historical resources.	PR-7.3 Assist historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits to the community and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs to promote awareness of Gig Harbor's heritage.
11.9.4. Encourage the Harbor History Museum, Gig Harbor BoatShop, Gig Harbor Fishermen's Civic Club and others to make cultural programs and activities more accessible to the public.	Minor edits.	PR-7.4 Encourage the Harbor History Museum, Gig Harbor BoatShop, Gig Harbor Fisherman's Civic Club and other organizations to provide cultural programs and activities for the public.
11.9.5. Encourage the owners of historic sites and structures to provide increased public access.	Minor edits.	PR-7.5 Encourage the owners of historic sites and structures to provide full or limited public access.
11.9.6. Consider adopting incentives for properties listed on the City's Historic Register to encourage maintenance and retention of structures as properties are re-developed, including adaptive re-use provisions.	This should be considered in other elements, as the PROS Element is not intended for historical resource protection.	[removed]
11.10: CELEBRATE THE CREATIVE SPIRIT OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ENCOURAGE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS THAT REFLECT THE COMMUNITY'S VISION AND CULTURE.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.1. Identify public visual, written and performing art opportunities that highlight the cultural and historical connections within our community through local history, environmental systems, cultural traditions, and visual symbols.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.10.2.Enhance the reputation of Gig Harbor as a livable and creative community by encouraging artists of all types to display and perform their work and supporting opportunities for creative expression.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.3.Use public art to create visible landmarks and artistic points of reference to reinforce Gig Harbor’s identity, unique culture and character.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.4.Acquire works of art through a variety of methods including commissioned works, temporary works, direct purchases, and community projects.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.5.In cooperation with area artists and cultural organizations, utilize the city’s website as a clearinghouse for arts information and resource sharing.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.6.Encourage the development of spaces where visual and performing arts can be enjoyed by all. This includes visual and performing arts centers, street fairs, and market places that include performance and display spaces. (Resolution No. 861.)	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.7.Encourage and support work by local artists and support visual, written and performing arts programs and partnerships that reflect our community's vision and culture.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND COORDINATION		

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.11: CREATE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT METHODS OF ACQUIRING, DEVELOPING, OPERATING AND MAINTAINING FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS THAT ACCURATELY DISTRIBUTE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT.	Minor edits.	PR-8 Acquire, develop, operate, and maintain facilities and programs to be cost efficient and to equitably distribute costs and benefits to the public.
[add]	Added to summarize intent of Goal 11.12 and provide basis for administrative resources.	PR-8.1 Provide the financial and staff resources necessary to maintain the high quality of the city's park and recreation system.
Finance		
11.11.1. Investigate available methods for the financing of facility development, maintenance, and operation in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase facility services.	Provide additional examples as needed.	PR-8.2 Support methods to finance facility development, maintenance, and operations which can supplement city budget allocations while reducing costs, improving flexibility, and better meeting user needs.
[new]	Expand on potential alternative funding opportunities.	PR-8.3 Pursue traditional and alternative funding sources for parks, facilities, and programs, which may include private donations, partnerships, sponsorships, state and federal grant sources, dedicated local taxes and local bonds or levies.
	Expand on potential alternative funding opportunities.	PR-8.4 Apply for recreational system grants, potentially with partner agencies as appropriate.
11.11.2. Consider joint ventures with other public and private agencies such as PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, regional, state, federal, and other public and private agencies including for-profit concessionaires, where feasible and desirable.	Minor edits.	PR-8.5 Consider joint ventures for projects and programming with other public agencies such as PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, regional, state, and federal agencies, local tribes, and private agencies including for-profit concessionaries.
Public and Private Resource Coordination		

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.11.3. Cooperate with PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, and other public and private agencies to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and represent resident area interests through joint planning and development efforts.	▪ This should be consolidated under PR-9.5.	[removed]
[add]	Added to provide guidance for financing special events.	PR-8.6 Use sponsorships to offset costs of special events and seasonal activities.
Cost/Benefit Assessment		
	▪ Coordinate impact fee considerations.	PR-8.7 Regularly review and update Park Impact Fee rates and methodologies to support the expansion of the parks system to meet growth in demand.
11.11.4. Define existing and proposed land and facility levels-of-service (ELOS/PLOS) that differentiate requirements due to: population growth impacts versus improved facility standards; neighborhood versus community nexus of benefit; city versus the combination of city, county, school, and other provider agency efforts; in order to effectively plan and program park and recreation needs within the existing city and urban growth area boundaries.	▪ Provide enabling language for park LOS standards.	PR-8.8 Periodically monitor and review level of service (LOS) metrics and revise park and recreational capital project priorities.
11.11.5. Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining park and recreational facilities in manners that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private user interests - including the application of growth impact fees where new developments impact existing level-of-service (ELOS) standards.	▪ This is considered elsewhere through more succinct policy language.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
[add]	Additional policy to provide administrative focus on naming.	PR-8.9 Define naming conventions and conversions to include an on-going evaluation of the names of city parks and public recreational facilities.
[add]	Additional administrative policy to address administrative focus on naming/classification.	PR-8.10 Regularly update GIS data to ensure park, open space, trail, and recreational facility information such as names, classifications, acreages, and ownership are correctly identified.
OPERATIONAL AND STAFF CONSIDERATIONS		
11.12: DEVELOP, TRAIN, AND SUPPORT A PROFESSIONAL PARKS STAFF THAT EFFECTIVELY SERVES THE COMMUNITY IN THE REALIZATION OF THE ABOVE LISTED GOALS AND POLICIES.	This is more of an operational strategy and not a policy or goal. As such, this goal and the associated policies have been removed.	[removed]
11.12.1.Continue to train a diverse, well-trained work force that is motivated to achieve department and citywide goals.		[removed]
11.12.2.Encourage teamwork through communications, creativity, positive image, risk taking, sharing of resources, and cooperation toward common goals.		[removed]
11.12.3.Where appropriate, provide staff with education, training, and modern equipment and supplies to increase personal productivity, efficiency, and pride.		[removed]

14 Arts and Culture

14.1 Introduction

The arts and cultural activities are valuable tools for accomplishing larger community goals, including economic vitality, quality education, and community design. Investment in the arts is an investment in making Gig Harbor a better place to live, work, and visit.

This Arts & Culture Element identifies ways in which the city's goals and aspirations can be realized through inclusion of arts and culture among other considerations in comprehensive planning. The vision for the city's arts and cultural future is expressed here, identifying relationships with other city policies, and presenting specific policies and strategies the city may pursue to realize desired outcomes.

This element also recognizes the essential nature of arts and cultural activities as ways to express, honor, and educate residents about the past, from the community's early formation to narratives rooted in native culture and pre-history.

14.2 Using this Element

The City of Gig Harbor hopes to explore the expansive potential of local arts and culture, addressing the community's needs for artistic involvement and expression and recognizing how powerful the arts can be in achieving multiple community aspirations. This element serves multiple roles and audiences, seeking to:

- Clarify city policy related to arts and culture;
- Guide decision-making and future investments by other city departments, the Gig Harbor Arts Commission, and other local groups and organizations;
- Identify complementary policies and community initiatives, including land use, community design, transportation, economic development, parks and recreation, and capital facilities.

While the topic of arts and culture can include many different aspects of local culture, this Plan Element is focused on several key topics:

- **Creativity + Economic Vitality:** Acknowledge the important dynamic between creative enterprises and economic vitality by recognizing how the arts contribute to the overall economic health and vibrancy of the community.
- **Public Art + Community Design:** Sponsor functional anchors for pride of place that are unique to Gig Harbor and ensure that public art and thoughtful design both reflect and enhance community identity.
- **Education + Engagement:** Support various ways to engage residents in lifelong learning opportunities in arts and culture. This should be directed towards fostering a community that values ongoing education and active participation in cultural and artistic activities.

- **Spaces + Places:** Recognize the need for space and facilities to foster cultural activities, with a focus on creating and maintaining environments where culture can thrive.
- **Culture + Heritage:** Understand the past to guide plans for the future and ensure that cultural heritage can be preserved and incorporated into future community development.

14.3 History

Arts and cultural activities have long played an important role in establishing Gig Harbor's visual identity and pride of place. In 1999, the idea for a memorial celebrating Gig Harbor's maritime history spurred the formation of a group that championed the installation of such a feature and later became the city's first Gig Harbor Arts Commission (GHAC) in 2001. Since then, the GHAC has helped lead and support a wide range of arts and cultural activities, including art fairs, festivals, concerts, theatrical and dance performances, workshops, and lectures – all helping draw tourists to Gig Harbor and boosting local revenues. In addition, the GHAC has led the commission of numerous artworks in the city, including several important installations in City Hall and sculptures at the Bogue Viewing Platform, Maritime Pier, and in Ancich Park.

Gig Harbor incorporated arts-related policy in its 2012 comprehensive plan's parks and recreation element. In February 2018, the City Council approved a work plan including the goal to create a separate and distinct arts and culture element for the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan. By this, the city set a course to more effectively coordinate its resources with arts and cultural activities, boosting the city's unique position in the region and helping realize many of the community's long-term goals.

The 2018 work plan also led to the creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), which reviewed numerous other regional and state arts and culture plans, reports, and economic studies. Among benefits seen in their research findings, the CAC noted numerous outcomes applicable to Gig Harbor and its goals, including:

- Arts, culture, and creativity contribute to the physical, mental, social, and economic well-being of communities;
- Arts and culture nurture creative thought and expression and encourage an exchange of ideas among residents;
- The arts provide tools for accomplishing larger community goals, such as economic vitality, quality education, and community planning and design;
- The arts help strengthen the cultural fabric of communities and enrich the lives and spirits of residents;
- Arts and cultural activities contribute to local prosperity by providing employment, attracting out of town visitors, and boosting sales tax revenues;
- Arts and cultural programs can enhance the image of a community, thereby attracting new businesses and workers;

The CAC, with the help of the city's Tourism & Marketing Department, also created a widely distributed and successful survey regarding arts and culture values in Gig Harbor. Findings from this questionnaire – reflecting responses from 915 community members – show strong support for the idea that arts and culture are essential in creating a healthy, vibrant, and prosperous city.

These and other findings show that Gig Harbor residents understand and support the value of arts and culture as a means of strengthening the community and fostering economic growth.

14.4 The Gig Harbor Arts Commission

The Gig Harbor Arts Commission (GHAC) plays a vital role in local culture by supporting and promoting the arts and arts organizations. The commission, whose authority is established by GHMC 2.49.030, oversees the acquisition and placement of public art, fosters arts and cultural programs for the enrichment of residents and visitors, encourages an environment for the success of working artists, and strengthens new and existing arts organizations. The Arts Commission supports the following statements:

- The arts provide tools for accomplishing larger community goals, such as economic vitality, quality education, and community planning and design.
- Arts and culture are essential to the continued growth and development of our community's economy, education, and quality of life. Support of the arts is an investment in making our community a better place to live.
- The arts help strengthen our cultural fabric and enrich the lives and spirits of our residents.
- Arts and cultural programs are a powerful economic development tool in their ability to enhance Gig Harbor's image and thereby entice new businesses to locate here.
- The arts can be a source of civic pride and Gig Harbor is a place where residents and visitors alike can be engaged and inspired.

14.5 Goals and Policies

► AC-1 **Create an environment for artistic and cultural activities to flourish to benefit local quality of life.**

- AC-1.1 Provide leadership in arts and culture by advocating for the development of arts and cultural activities that benefit residents.
- AC-1.2 Collaborate with the city's Direct Marketing Organization and Pierce County Tourism to enhance local artistic, historic, and cultural tourism.
- AC-1.3 Establish a city arts fund to provide grants for artists, writers, performers, and nonprofit organizations offering creative and cultural experiences in the community.
- AC-1.4 Monitor needs and trends in community arts and culture to keep policies and programs relevant and up to date.

► **AC-2 Maintain and enhance the city’s public art program to create visible landmarks and cultural points of reference that reinforce local identities, cultures, and character.**

- AC-2.1 Advocate for creative public spaces such as display areas, performance spaces, and other public venues to serve residents and visitors.
- AC-2.2 Create a cohesive wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy and incorporate unique city landmarks into this system.
- AC-2.3 Explore expanding the Public Art Fund to acquire and manage public art such as commissioned works, temporary installations, direct purchases, and community projects.
- AC-2.4 Encourage the integration of high-quality public art into new development projects.
- AC-2.5 Provide oversight and support for community resources dedicated to arts and culture.
- AC-2.6 Develop selection criteria for public art that addresses the physical context and provides opportunities for local artists to participate.

► **AC-3 Foster a learning-oriented arts and cultural environment that meets the needs of residents and visitors.**

- AC-3.1 Support quality arts education and life-long learning to integrate the arts into the community.
- AC-3.2 Foster partnerships between the city, the business community, and arts and culture organizations to support arts and cultural programming.
- AC-3.3 Explore opportunities for public engagement with artists, conservators, and historic preservationists to allow the community to observe and learn from their work.

► **AC-4 Encourage adequate, affordable, and appropriate spaces for artistic and cultural activities for all.**

- AC-4.1 Identify short- and long-term arts and cultural facility needs and priorities to address these needs.
- AC-4.2 Encourage new venues for different cultural and artistic activities, such as visual and performing arts centers, marketplaces, performance and exhibition spaces, and maker spaces.
- AC-4.3 Advocate for current and future arts-related businesses and support facilities such as open studio spaces and live-work housing.

► **AC-5 Identify, preserve, and advance cultural heritage and history.**

- AC-5.1 Preserve and reuse historic and cultural sites in partnership with local entities devoted to preservation.
- AC-5.2 Encourage historical interpretation to be integrated with adaptive reuse of historical and cultural sites.

AC-5.3 Promote tourism through geographical, cultural, and historic themes that complement other strategies.

AC-5.4 Support cultural interpretation and learning through art.

Policy Audit Document

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
Creative + Economic Vitality. Acknowledging the important dynamic between creative enterprise and economic vitality.	This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.1 Enhance the quality of life in Gig Harbor by creating an environment in which artistic and cultural activities flourish.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1 Create an environment for artistic and cultural activities to flourish to benefit local quality of life.
14.1.1. Provide arts and cultural leadership for the city as advocates to the Mayor and Council for the development of arts and cultural activities for the benefit of its citizens.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1.1 Provide leadership in arts and culture by advocating for the development of arts and cultural activities that benefit residents.
14.1.2. Collaborate with the Gig Harbor Tourism and Marketing Department and Pierce County Tourism to increase artistic, historic, and cultural tourism in Gig Harbor.	- Edited for length/simplicity. - Change the “Tourism and Marketing Department” to the “Direct Marketing Organization” to reflect structure.	AC-1.2 Collaborate with the city’s Direct Marketing Organization and Pierce County Tourism to enhance local artistic, historic, and cultural tourism.
14.1.3. Strengthen the operational capacity of the arts, heritage, and cultural community through the development of a city arts fund to support grants for artists/writers/performers and non-profit organizations that offer creative and cultural experiences.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1.3 Establish a city arts fund to provide grants for artists, writers, performers, and nonprofit organizations offering creative and cultural experiences in the community.
14.1.4. Keep current with community arts and culture needs and trends, shaping actions to be adaptive and relevant to changing conditions.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1.4 Monitor needs and trends in community arts and culture to keep policies and programs relevant and up to date.
Public Arts + Community Design. Sponsoring functional anchors for pride of place that are unique to the community.	This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
14.2 Strengthen and expand Gig Harbor's public art program to create visible landmarks and cultural points of reference to reinforce the harbor's identity, culture and character.	Note that this has been rephrased slightly to consider that Gig Harbor may include multiple cultures and backgrounds.	AC-2 Maintain and enhance the city's public art program to create visible landmarks and cultural points of reference that reinforce local identities, cultures, and character.
14.2.1 Advocate for the development of creative public spaces; create a cohesive wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy, including the identification of unique city landmarks.	- Edited for length/simplicity. - Note that this should be split as it appears that two policies are joined together.	AC-2.1 Advocate for creative public spaces such as display areas, performance spaces, and other public venues to serve residents and visitors.
[new]	This adapts the wayfinding/signage details from the original 14.2.1.	AC-2.2 Create a cohesive wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy and incorporate unique city landmarks into this system.
14.2.2 Consider expansion of the Public Art Fund to acquire and manage works of public art through commissioned works, temporary works, direct purchases, and community projects;	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-2.3 Explore expanding the Public Art Fund to acquire and manage public art such as commissioned works, temporary installations, direct purchases, and community projects.
14.2.3 Advocate for the inclusion of quality public art in new construction projects.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-2.4 Encourage the integration of high-quality public art into new development projects.
14.2.4 Manage the community' resources dedicated to arts and culture and provide tools to guide grant programs for the arts, protocols for accepting donated art, a framework for arts commissions, locational criteria for public art, and other needs as they may arise in Gig Harbor's evolving arts environment.	- Edited for length/simplicity. - Note that the mention of "locational criteria" should be split off and discussed in a separate policy. See below.	AC-2.5 Provide oversight and support for community resources dedicated to arts and culture.
[new]	This addresses locational criteria and other considerations for prioritizing public art.	AC-2.6 Develop selection criteria for public art that addresses the physical context and provides opportunities for local artists to participate.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
Education + Engagement. Supporting ways to engage citizens in lifelong arts- and culture-related learning opportunities.	▪ This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.3 Foster a unique, plentiful and learning-oriented arts and cultural environment.	▪ Edited for simplicity.	AC-3 Foster a learning-oriented arts and cultural environment that meets the needs of residents and visitors.
14.3.1 Demonstrate a commitment to quality arts education and life-long learning by advocating for comprehensive inclusion of the arts throughout our community.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-3.1 Support quality arts education and life-long learning to integrate the arts into the community.
14.3.2 Foster partnerships between the city, the business community and arts and culture organizations to create and produce education and engagement opportunities for Gig Harbor citizens through the sponsorship of arts and cultural programming.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-3.2 Foster partnerships between the city, the business community, and arts and culture organizations to support arts and cultural programming.
14.3.3 Explore opportunities for the public to watch artists, conservators, and historic preservationists at work and to observe the creative process as well as participate in hands-on learning experiences.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-3.3 Explore opportunities for public engagement with artists, conservators, and historic preservationists to allow the community to observe and learn from their work.
Spaces + Places. Recognizing the need for space and facilities to foster culture activities.	▪ This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.4 Encourage the development of adequate, affordable and appropriate spaces for artistic and cultural activities for all.	▪ Minor edit to remove “development”, as existing spaces may also need to be considered.	AC-4 Encourage adequate, affordable, and appropriate spaces for artistic and cultural activities for all.
14.4.1 Respond to the growing need for artistic and cultural facilities; identify short- and long-term facility needs and priorities.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-4.1 Identify short- and long-term arts and cultural facility needs and priorities to address these needs.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
14.4.2 Encourage the development of venues suitable for cultural and artistic activities including visual and performing arts centers, marketplaces, performance and exhibition spaces and maker spaces.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-4.2 Encourage new venues for different cultural and artistic activities, such as visual and performing arts centers, marketplaces, performance and exhibition spaces, and maker spaces.
14.4.3 Advocate for current and future arts-related businesses, open studio spaces and live-work housing.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-4.3 Advocate for current and future arts-related businesses and support facilities such as open studio spaces and live-work housing.
Culture + Heritage. Understanding the past to guide plans for the future.	This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.5 Identify, preserve, and advance the city's cultural heritage and history.	No change.	AC-5 Identify, preserve, and advance cultural heritage and history.
14.5.1 Advocate for the preservation, interpretation, and adaptive reuse of historic and cultural sites in partnership with local entities devoted to preservation.	- Edited for length/simplicity. - Note that the mention of "interpretation" may be better referenced as an additional policy. See below.	AC-5.1 Preserve and reuse historic and cultural sites in partnership with local entities devoted to preservation.
[new]	This includes a specific mention of interpretation to be included with preservation and adaptive reuse.	AC-5.2 Encourage historical interpretation to be integrated with adaptive reuse of historical and cultural sites.
14.5.2 Recognize the value of heritage and cultural arts to promote tourism for Gig Harbor using geographic and historic themes that complement other types of visitation and travel experiences.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-5.3 Promote tourism through geographical, cultural, and historic themes that complement other strategies.
14.5.3 Support projects that use the arts as a vehicle for understanding and celebrating other cultures and Gig Harbor heritage.	- Edited for length/simplicity. - Note that this has been rephrased slightly to consider that Gig Harbor may include multiple cultures and backgrounds.	AC-5.4 Support cultural interpretation and learning through art.

From: [Julie Martin](#)
To: [Michelle Thomas](#)
Subject: Re: Planning Commission NEX Thursday
Date: Monday, August 5, 2024 3:49:45 PM

For some reason I am unable to add comments to the documents, I am sure it is me!

Regarding the Arts/Culture:

1. Add our strategic goals number 3 and 5 showing support for the arts commission and creative district please.
2. When it states to provide oversight, I would suggest language of continued support of our arts commission please. I would also like to hear from the arts commission on ideas they might have for this section.
3. I agree art and culture activities and works/displays add a vibrancy to a town.

Responsibilities

The arts commission is authorized to encourage, conduct, sponsor, or co-sponsor public programs to further the development and public awareness of fine arts and performing arts in our community. The full scope of the arts commission is defined in [Gig Harbor Municipal Code \(GHMC\) Title 2.49](#).

Background

The arts commission was formed largely due to a growing interest in public art for Gig Harbor. Prior to 2001, there were no city-sponsored cultural art grants or monies for public art. In 1999, the Fishermen's Memorial proposal was making its way through a committee of local volunteers committed to creating a bronze tribute to Gig Harbor's maritime history in partnership with the Cultural Arts Commission (which later disbanded). The group reviewed design proposals from nationally acclaimed sculptors and eventually approved the large bronze design by Russian artist, Alexandre Safonov, of a fishermen pulling his net from the sea that is represented in Jerisich Park today. The same group eventually became the city's first membership of the Gig Harbor Arts Commission (GHAC) in 2001.

Public Art Inventory

The [Public Art Inventory \(PDF\)](#) represents a record of all art gifted to, acquired, or commissioned by the City of Gig Harbor. It was published in 2010.

I think this language, which is on our website could and should be added to the document, and state continued support. This document gives the appearance that the city is not supporting the arts to this level.

4. I would also like to see what dollar amount is recommended for a city of our size to support art and culture events.

I don't want to forget our history museum and again our relationship with the Puyallup Indians please.

PARKS:

Second paragraph seems clunky, would recommend review and rewriting.

The planning area for this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan includes the city's existing incorporated area and the city's Urban Growth Area as defined in the Comprehensive Plan. Implementation of the PROS Plan will focus on the city limits with an eye toward serving the residents of the Urban Growth Area as **annexations occur over the next 15 years.**

"The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) plan includes the city's existing incorporated area and the Urban Growth Area as defined in the Comprehensive Plan.

Do we have a plan for annexation over the next 15 years, or should it say possible annexations?

The GMA requires a park and recreation element within the Comprehensive Plan that **implements**, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. This element includes estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a fifteen-year period; an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.¹
1 RCW 36.70A.070(8) GMA

Not sure implements is the correct word. Sentence needs to be more clear please. Suggestion: The GMA requires a parks and recreation element within the Comprehensive Plan that is consistent with (or aligns with) the capital facilities plan element dealing with park and recreation facilities.

1.4 I would suggest collaborating, planning, or working with rather than cooperating.

1.6 Facilitate seems odd, maybe identify and work with partners/other entities?

I would like to see a policy for naming rights of parks and open areas please.

Regards,

On Fri, Aug 2, 2024 at 1:14 PM Michelle Thomas <mthomas@gigharborwa.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon,

As promised last night, below is the link to the meeting materials for next week's Planning Commission meeting

[Meeting Materials](#)

Michelle Thomas | Planning Technician

3510 Grandview St • Gig Harbor, WA 98335

253-851-6170 | 253-853-8255 (direct) | www.gigharborwa.gov

Stay Connected! [Sign up for the city's weekly Gig-A-Byte email newsletter](#)

From: Michelle Thomas

Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:58 PM

To: Robin Bolster-Grant <RBolster-Grant@gigharborwa.gov>

Subject: Planning Commission NEX Thursday

Good afternoon Commissioners,

We will be having a meeting next week to discuss the PROS & Arts & Culture Elements. We will have materials out to you tomorrow. Thank you for your patients and we will see you tonight

Michelle Thomas | Planning Technician

3510 Grandview St • Gig Harbor, WA 98335

253-851-6170 | 253-853-8255 (direct) | www.gigharborwa.gov

Stay Connected! [Sign up for the city's weekly Gig-A-Byte email newsletter](#)

14 Arts and Culture

14.1 Introduction

The arts and cultural activities are valuable tools for accomplishing larger community goals, including economic vitality, quality education, and community design. Investment in the arts is an investment in making Gig Harbor a better place to live, work, and visit.

Within the context of the City of Gig Harbor's Comprehensive Plan: culture, alongside the arts, refers to the shared values, beliefs, customs, traditions and creative expressions of the city - while also promoting diversity and inclusivity. Culture encompasses the unique character and identity of Gig Harbor, as shaped by its history, its demographics and community spirit. The Arts and Culture element includes supporting all aspects of community that contribute to a rich and vibrant quality of life:

- the visual arts (e.g., paintings, sculptures, photography)
- the performing arts (e.g., music, dance, theater)
- the literary arts (e.g., poetry, fiction, journalism)
- indigenous and folk arts and traditions
- cultural heritage and history
- community events and festivals
- community spirit (building connections, social cohesion and a sense of belonging among residents)
- recognizing the importance of preserving and celebrating local culinary traditions, supporting local food systems, and fostering a vibrant food culture that contributes to the community's character and quality of life
- preserving any element of language and dialect unique to Gig Harbor

This Arts & Culture Element identifies ways in which the city's goals and aspirations can be realized through inclusion of the arts and culture among other considerations in comprehensive planning. The vision for the city's arts and cultural future is expressed here, identifying relationships with other city policies, and presenting specific policies and strategies the city may pursue to realize desired outcomes.

This element also recognizes the essential nature of the arts and cultural activities as ways to express, honor, and educate residents about the past, from the community's early formation, to narratives rooted in native culture and pre-history.

14.2 Using this Element

The City of Gig Harbor hopes to explore the expansive potential of local arts and culture, addressing the community's needs for artistic involvement and expression and recognizing how powerful the arts can be in achieving multiple community aspirations. This element serves multiple roles and audiences, seeking to:

- Clarify city policy related to the arts and culture;
- Guide decision-making and future investments by other city departments, the Gig Harbor Arts Commission, and other local groups and organizations;

- Identify complementary policies and community initiatives, including land use, community design, transportation, economic development, parks and recreation, and capital facilities.

Arts and culture are more than just enjoyable activities - they're vital elements of what makes Gig Harbor special. This element of Gig Harbor's Comprehensive Plan focuses on how we can use the arts and culture to make our city a better place for everyone:

While the topic of arts and culture can include many different aspects of local culture, this Plan Element is focused on several key topics:

- **Creativity + Economic Vitality:** Support creative businesses, individuals and initiatives that bring jobs, innovation and vibrancy to our city. Arts and culture aren't just nice to have - they can be a big part of what makes Gig Harbor unique and economically strong. Acknowledge the important dynamic between creative enterprises and economic vitality by recognizing how the arts contribute to the overall economic health and vibrancy of the community.
- **Public Art + Community Design:** Sponsor public art, art that speaks to Gig Harbor's identity – with sculptures, murals, and installations. Great design and art in public spaces help build pride and a sense of belonging among residents and it helps to have Gig Harbor stand out. It's like a friendly nod from our town, saying, "This is Gig Harbor!" Sponsor functional anchors for pride of place that are unique to Gig Harbor and ensure that public art and thoughtful design both reflect and enhance community identity.
- **Education + Engagement:** We believe in lifelong learning and want to support opportunities for everyone to engage with the arts and other cultural endeavors. Whether it's through classes in public schools, workshops or community events, we want to foster a culture where learning and participation in the arts and culture are valued. Support various ways to engage residents in lifelong learning opportunities in arts and culture. This should be directed towards fostering a community that values ongoing education and active participation in cultural and artistic activities.
- **Spaces + Places:** Support the formation and maintenance of welcoming spaces for cultural and artistic activities, events, and connections that bring us together. Spaces and places that would help our cultural scene thrive, from maker spaces to performance venues to art galleries. Recognize the need for space and facilities to foster cultural activities, with a focus on creating and maintaining environments where culture can thrive.
- **Culture + Heritage:** Our past shapes our future. We'll work to preserve and share our city's history, traditions and cultural legacy; while integrating it into our development plans. These activities help to ensure a strong sense of roots and community. Understand the past to guide plans for the future and ensure that cultural heritage can be preserved and incorporated into future community development.
- **Inclusivity:** Ensure that the arts and cultural initiatives are accessible, representative and inclusive of diverse peoples, perspectives, ages and abilities.

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14.3 History

~~Arts-~~The arts and cultural activities have long played an important role in establishing Gig Harbor's visual identity and pride of place. In 1999, the idea for a memorial celebrating Gig Harbor's maritime history spurred the formation of a group that championed the installation of such a feature and later became the city's first Gig Harbor Arts Commission (GHAC) in 2001. Since then, the GHAC has helped lead and support a wide range of arts and cultural activities, including art fairs, festivals, concerts, theatrical and dance performances, workshops, and lectures – all helping to draw tourists to Gig Harbor and boosting local revenues. In addition, the GHAC has led the commission of numerous artworks in the city, including several important installations in City Hall and sculptures at the Bogue Viewing Platform, Maritime Pier, and in Ancich Park.

Gig Harbor incorporated arts-related policy in its 2012 comprehensive plan's parks and recreation element. In February 2018, the City Council approved a work plan including the goal to create a separate and distinct arts and culture element for the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan. By this, the city set a course to more effectively coordinate its resources with arts and cultural activities, boosting the city's unique position in the region and helping realize many of the community's long-term goals.

The 2018 work plan also led to the creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), which reviewed numerous other regional and state arts and culture plans, reports, and economic studies. Among benefits seen in their research findings, the CAC noted numerous outcomes applicable to Gig Harbor and its goals, including:

- Arts, culture, and creativity contribute to the physical, mental, social, and economic well-being of communities;
- Arts and culture nurture creative thought and expression and encourage an exchange of ideas among residents;
- The arts provide tools for accomplishing larger community goals, such as economic vitality, quality education, and community planning and design;
- The arts help strengthen the cultural fabric of communities and enrich the lives and spirits of residents;
- Arts and cultural activities contribute to local prosperity by providing employment, attracting out of town visitors, and boosting sales tax revenues;
- Arts and cultural programs can enhance the image of a community, thereby attracting new businesses and workers;

The CAC, with the help of the city's Tourism & Marketing Department, also created a widely distributed and successful survey regarding arts and culture values in Gig Harbor. Findings from this questionnaire – reflecting responses from 915 community members – show strong support for the idea that arts and culture are essential in creating a healthy, vibrant, and prosperous city.

These and other findings show that Gig Harbor residents understand and support the value of arts and culture as a means of strengthening the community and fostering economic growth.

14.4 The Gig Harbor Arts Commission

The Gig Harbor Arts Commission (GHAC) plays a vital role in local culture by supporting and promoting the arts and arts organizations. The commission, whose authority is established by GHMC 2.49.030, oversees the acquisition and placement of public art, fosters arts and cultural programs for the enrichment of residents and visitors, encourages an environment for the success of working artists, and strengthens new and existing arts organizations. The Arts Commission supports the following statements:

- The arts provide tools for accomplishing larger community goals, such as economic vitality, quality education, and community planning and design.
- Arts and culture are essential to the continued growth and development of our community's economy, education, and quality of life. Support of the arts is an investment in making our community a better place to live.
- The arts help strengthen our cultural fabric and enrich the lives and spirits of our residents.
- Arts and cultural programs are a powerful economic development tool in their ability to enhance Gig Harbor's image and thereby entice new businesses to locate here.
- The arts can be a source of civic pride and Gig Harbor is a place where residents and visitors alike can be engaged and inspired.

14.5 Goals and Policies

► AC-1 Create an environment for artistic and cultural activities to flourish to benefit local quality of life.

- AC-1.1 Provide leadership in the arts and culture by advocating for the development of various arts and cultural activities that benefit residents.
- AC-1.2 Collaborate with the city's Direct Marketing Organization and Pierce County Tourism to enhance local artistic, historic, and cultural tourism.
- AC-1.3 Establish a city arts fund to provide grants for artists, writers, performers, and nonprofit organizations offering creative and cultural experiences in the community.
- AC-1.4 Monitor needs and trends in community arts and culture to keep policies and programs relevant and up to date.

► **AC-2 Maintain and enhance the city's public art program to create visible landmarks and cultural points of reference that reinforce local identities, cultures, and character.**

- AC-2.1 Advocate for creative public spaces such as display areas, performance spaces, and other public venues to serve residents and visitors.
- AC-2.2 Create a cohesive wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy and incorporate unique city landmarks into this system.
- AC-2.3 Explore expanding the Public Art Fund to acquire and manage public art such as commissioned works, temporary installations, direct purchases, and community projects.
- AC-2.4 Encourage the integration of high-quality public art into new development projects.
- AC-2.5 Provide oversight and support for community resources dedicated to arts and culture.
- AC-2.6 Develop selection criteria for public art that addresses the physical context and provides opportunities for local artists to participate.

► **AC-3 Foster a learning-oriented arts and cultural environment that meets the needs of residents and visitors.**

- AC-3.1 Support quality arts education and life-long learning to integrate the arts into the community.
- AC-3.2 Foster partnerships between the city, the business community, and arts and culture organizations to support arts and cultural programming.
- AC-3.3 Explore opportunities for public engagement with artists, conservators, and historic preservationists to allow the community to observe and learn from their work.

► **AC-4 Encourage adequate, affordable, and appropriate spaces for artistic and cultural activities for all.**

- AC-4.1 Identify short- and long-term arts and cultural facility needs and priorities to address these needs.
- AC-4.2 Encourage new venues for different cultural and artistic activities, such as visual and performing arts centers, marketplaces, performance and exhibition spaces, and maker spaces.
- AC-4.3 Advocate for current and future arts-related businesses and support facilities such as open studio spaces, maker spaces, and live-work housing.

► **AC-5 Identify, preserve, and advance cultural heritage and history.**

- AC-5.1 Preserve and reuse historic and cultural sites in partnership with local entities devoted to preservation.
- AC-5.2 Encourage historical interpretation to be integrated with adaptive reuse of historical and cultural sites.

AC-5.3 Promote tourism through geographical, cultural, and historic themes that complement other strategies.

AC-5.4 Support cultural interpretation and learning through art.

Policy Audit Document

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
Creative + Economic Vitality. Acknowledging the important dynamic between creative enterprise and economic vitality.	This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.1 Enhance the quality of life in Gig Harbor by creating an environment in which artistic and cultural activities flourish.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1 Create an environment for artistic and cultural activities to flourish to benefit local quality of life.
14.1.1. Provide arts and cultural leadership for the city as advocates to the Mayor and Council for the development of arts and cultural activities for the benefit of its citizens.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1.1 Provide leadership in arts and culture by advocating for the development of arts and cultural activities that benefit residents.
14.1.2. Collaborate with the Gig Harbor Tourism and Marketing Department and Pierce County Tourism to increase artistic, historic, and cultural tourism in Gig Harbor.	- Edited for length/simplicity. - Change the "Tourism and Marketing Department" to the "Direct Marketing Organization" to reflect structure.	AC-1.2 Collaborate with the city's Direct Marketing Organization and Pierce County Tourism to enhance local artistic, historic, and cultural tourism.
14.1.3. Strengthen the operational capacity of the arts, heritage, and cultural community through the development of a city arts fund to support grants for artists/writers/performers and non-profit organizations that offer creative and cultural experiences.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1.3 Establish a city arts fund to provide grants for artists, writers, performers, and nonprofit organizations offering creative and cultural experiences in the community.
14.1.4. Keep current with community arts and culture needs and trends, shaping actions to be adaptive and relevant to changing conditions.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1.4 Monitor needs and trends in community arts and culture to keep policies and programs relevant and up to date.
Public Arts + Community Design. Sponsoring functional anchors for pride of place that are unique to the community.	This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
14.2 Strengthen and expand Gig Harbor's public art program to create visible landmarks and cultural points of reference to reinforce the harbor's identity, culture and character.	▪ Note that this has been rephrased slightly to consider that Gig Harbor may include multiple cultures and backgrounds.	AC-2 Maintain and enhance the city's public art program to create visible landmarks and cultural points of reference that reinforce local identities, cultures, and character.
14.2.1 Advocate for the development of creative public spaces; create a cohesive wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy, including the identification of unique city landmarks.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity. ▪ Note that this should be split as it appears that two policies are joined together.	AC-2.1 Advocate for creative public spaces such as display areas, performance spaces, and other public venues to serve residents and visitors.
[new]	▪ This adapts the wayfinding/signage details from the original 14.2.1.	AC-2.2 Create a cohesive wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy and incorporate unique city landmarks into this system.
14.2.2 Consider expansion of the Public Art Fund to acquire and manage works of public art through commissioned works, temporary works, direct purchases, and community projects;	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-2.3 Explore expanding the Public Art Fund to acquire and manage public art such as commissioned works, temporary installations, direct purchases, and community projects.
14.2.3 Advocate for the inclusion of quality public art in new construction projects.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-2.4 Encourage the integration of high-quality public art into new development projects.
14.2.4 Manage the community' resources dedicated to arts and culture and provide tools to guide grant programs for the arts, protocols for accepting donated art, a framework for arts commissions, locational criteria for public art, and other needs as they may arise in Gig Harbor's evolving arts environment.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity. ▪ Note that the mention of "locational criteria" should be split off and discussed in a separate policy. See below.	AC-2.5 Provide oversight and support for community resources dedicated to arts and culture.
[new]	▪ This addresses locational criteria and other considerations for prioritizing public art.	AC-2.6 Develop selection criteria for public art that addresses the physical context and provides opportunities for local artists to participate.

Commented [L1]: Is physical context the same as locational criteria?

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
Education + Engagement. Supporting ways to engage citizens in lifelong arts- and culture-related learning opportunities.	This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.3 Foster a unique, plentiful and learning-oriented arts and cultural environment.	Edited for simplicity.	AC-3 Foster a learning-oriented arts and cultural environment that meets the needs of residents and visitors.
14.3.1 Demonstrate a commitment to quality arts education and life-long learning by advocating for comprehensive inclusion of the arts throughout our community.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-3.1 Support quality arts education and life-long learning to integrate the arts into the community.
14.3.2 Foster partnerships between the city, the business community and arts and culture organizations to create and produce education and engagement opportunities for Gig Harbor citizens through the sponsorship of arts and cultural programming.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-3.2 Foster partnerships between the city, the business community, and arts and culture organizations to support arts and cultural programming.
14.3.3 Explore opportunities for the public to watch artists, conservators, and historic preservationists at work and to observe the creative process as well as participate in hands-on learning experiences.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-3.3 Explore opportunities for public engagement with artists, conservators, and historic preservationists to allow the community to observe and learn from their work.
Spaces + Places. Recognizing the need for space and facilities to foster culture activities.	This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.4 Encourage the development of adequate, affordable and appropriate spaces for artistic and cultural activities for all.	Minor edit to remove “development”, as existing spaces may also need to be considered.	AC-4 Encourage adequate, affordable, and appropriate spaces for artistic and cultural activities for all.
14.4.1 Respond to the growing need for artistic and cultural facilities; identify short- and long-term facility needs and priorities.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-4.1 Identify short- and long-term arts and cultural facility needs and priorities to address these needs.

Commented [L2]: ...education in our schools...

Commented [L3]: ...community, our schools, and our arts...

Commented [L4]: ...develop priorities

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
14.4.2 Encourage the development of venues suitable for cultural and artistic activities including visual and performing arts centers, marketplaces, performance and exhibition spaces and maker spaces.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-4.2 Encourage new venues for different cultural and artistic activities, such as visual and performing arts centers, marketplaces, performance and exhibition spaces, and maker spaces.
14.4.3 Advocate for current and future arts-related businesses, open studio spaces and live-work housing.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-4.3 Advocate for current and future arts-related businesses and support facilities such as open studio spaces and live-work housing.
Culture + Heritage. Understanding the past to guide plans for the future.	This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.5 Identify, preserve, and advance the city's cultural heritage and history.	No change.	AC-5 Identify, preserve, and advance cultural heritage and history.
14.5.1 Advocate for the preservation, interpretation, and adaptive reuse of historic and cultural sites in partnership with local entities devoted to preservation.	- Edited for length/simplicity. - Note that the mention of "interpretation" may be better referenced as an additional policy. See below.	AC-5.1 Preserve and reuse historic and cultural sites in partnership with local entities devoted to preservation.
[new]	This includes a specific mention of interpretation to be included with preservation and adaptive reuse.	AC-5.2 Encourage historical interpretation to be integrated with adaptive reuse of historical and cultural sites.
14.5.2 Recognize the value of heritage and cultural arts to promote tourism for Gig Harbor using geographic and historic themes that complement other types of visitation and travel experiences.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-5.3 Promote tourism through geographical, cultural, and historic themes that complement other strategies.
14.5.3 Support projects that use the arts as a vehicle for understanding and celebrating other cultures and Gig Harbor heritage.	- Edited for length/simplicity. - Note that this has been rephrased slightly to consider that Gig Harbor may include multiple cultures and backgrounds.	AC-5.4 Support cultural interpretation and learning through art.

Commented [L5]: ...studio spaces, maker spaces, and live-work...

Commented [L6]: This misses the intent of the original.

11 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

11.1 Introduction

The 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) for Gig Harbor was approved by the City Council on February 28, 2022. The PROS Plan represents the city's vision and provides goals and objectives for the development of parks, recreation and open spaces in Gig Harbor for the next six years and beyond and establishes a road map for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, natural areas and recreational opportunities for Gig Harbor. Only key elements of the PROS Plan are incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. This chapter includes the goals and policies adopted in the PROS Plan, while the inventory, levels of service and 6-year capital facilities projects are included in the Capital Facilities Element.

The planning area for this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan includes the city's existing incorporated area and the city's Urban Growth Area as defined in the Comprehensive Plan. Implementation of the PROS Plan will focus on the city limits with an eye toward serving the residents of the Urban Growth Area as annexations occur over the next 15 years.

The continued high growth in the Gig Harbor peninsula's population has resulted in an increased use of the city's community parks and recreational facilities, which will likely continue over the foreseeable future. The demographics of Gig Harbor are also changing as a younger demographic is moving into the area. The increase in demand coupled with a changing demographic mean new challenges and opportunities for the city.

In an effort to provide quality parks and recreational opportunities for today's residents as well as for future generations, the city initiated a planning process in conjunction with the overall update of the city's Comprehensive Plan. The PROS Plan is a stand-alone document which meets the requirements of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office guidelines. It is also compliant with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). Part or all of the PROS Plan may be incorporated into future updates of the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan. The planning horizon for both plans is 2044, consistent with buildable lands projections for Pierce County and under the GMA requirements for long range planning.

The GMA requires a park and recreation element within the Comprehensive Plan that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. This element includes estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a fifteen-year period; an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.¹

¹ RCW 36.70A.070(8) GMA

During the PROS Plan public outreach effort, the community expressed many ideas for improving parks and recreational opportunities in Gig Harbor including:

- Providing a balance of active and passive activities within the city's parks;
- Seeking dedicated funding to support park management and maintenance responsibilities and costs;
- Providing trail connectivity between parks and connecting residential and commercial neighborhoods to the city's park system; and
- Providing a park system that offers something for all ages and types of users.

This Plan considers today's and tomorrow's needs and is a community-driven plan that has broad-based support and is implementable over the 15-year plan horizon. This update:

- Identifies the anticipated types of activities and the population that the city's parks and recreation facilities will serve,
- Defines the city's vision of the future of the city's park and recreational facilities,
- Identifies the estimated cost to achieve the community's vision, and
- Provides goals and policies to act as a guide for getting there.

The 2022 Gig Harbor Park Recreation and Open Space Plan will help guide the city staff, park commission and city council in meeting identified gaps in services and park development in order to meet the need and support the quality of life for our citizens in the coming years.

11.2 Vision

Gig Harbor's vision for parks is to develop a quintessential system of parks, trails and open spaces that enhance the city's history, environmental features, and sense of place to encourage both active and passive forms of recreation popular on the peninsula.

11.3 Goals and Policies

► PR-1 Develop a quality, diversified recreational system that provides for all age and interest groups.

- PR-1.1 Acquire and develop sites for passive and active recreation opportunities that accommodate formal and informal activities that meet the needs of various age groups, recreational interests and abilities.
- PR-1.2 Prioritize facility development based on demonstrated demand, population served, geographic distribution, system gaps, regional appeal, fiscal opportunity, and revenue-generating potential.
- PR-1.3 Pursue accessible, adaptive recreation facilities and services for users with disabilities or health or mobility challenges.

- PR-1.4 Cooperate with a wide range of public and private agencies to acquire and preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, viewing and other related recreational activities and pursuits, while respecting the rights of property owners.
- PR-1.5 Develop and encourage waterfront and watercraft access opportunities, especially for human-powered boating and board sports (e.g. paddle boarding) activities on Gig Harbor and along the Puget Sound shoreline.
- PR-1.6 Facilitate field and court activities like soccer, football, baseball, basketball, tennis, pickleball and volleyball to meet the needs of the community.
- PR-1.7 Coordinate a calendar of special events throughout the year in partnership with high-quality providers of recreational programming and special events.

► **PR-2 Preserve and enhance the natural environment and support habitat and other resources for local wildlife as part of park and open space acquisition and management.**

- PR-2.1 Preserve and protect open space and park land areas with significant environmental features such as wetlands, riparian corridors, forests, steep slopes, plant and animal habitats that support threatened or endangered species.
- PR-2.2 Develop an interlinked system of open space corridors along natural riparian and wetlands.
- PR-2.3 Provide appropriate public access and nearby parking where appropriate and feasible for open space areas to support passive recreation.
- PR-2.4 Provide opportunities for environmental education in open space areas through creative and interactive interpretation strategies, such as hands-on displays, self-guided walks, and other experiences.
- PR-2.5 Maintain and improve the environmental quality of city-owned parks, trails, and open space areas through invasive species removal, planting of native species, and restoration of urban forests, creeks, wetlands, and other habitat areas.
- PR-2.6 Foster climate-resilient landscapes in parks and open space areas to manage expected impacts from climate change.
- PR-2.7 Improve tree management policies and practices in parks and open space in line with an Urban Forestry Management Plan to promote tree retention, tree succession, and more effective wildfire prevention practices.
- PR-2.8 Map and evaluate riparian areas within salmon-bearing stream corridors on public lands as part of planning for land acquisition, climate change adaptation, and ongoing management.

- **PR-3 Provide alternative transportation options and low impact recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities through a high-quality system of park trails and corridors in coordination with the Gig Harbor Active Transportation Plan.**

Trail and Corridor Planning

- PR-3.1 Create a comprehensive system of shared-use off-road trails using the Cushman Trail as the backbone of the system.
- PR-3.2 Develop trails to provide access to significant environmental features, public facilities, neighborhoods, and business districts to promote physical activities and a health-conscious community.
- PR-3.3 Coordinate with public and private agencies to construct pedestrian crossing for SR-16 and other highways that improve trail system connections.
- PR-3.4 Connect trails to nearby sidewalk facilities where possible to improve the functionality of the off-street trail systems for non-motorized transportation and recreation.
- PR-3.5 Consider the siting of proposed trail segments as part of the development review process.
- PR-3.6 Work with public and private organizations in the region to link and extend Gig Harbor trails to other regional trail facilities.
- PR-3.7 Support broader pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements to improve safety and utilization of the system.

Trail Development and Amenities

- PR-3.8 Develop trails consistent with the park development goals and policies that reach a wide variety of users.
- PR-3.9 Provide trailhead improvements such as interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water and other services.
- PR-3.10 Where appropriate, locate trailheads to consider park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local access to the trail system and integrate supporting improvements.
- PR-3.11 Consider needs for maintenance, security, and access by appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles in park design and construction.
- PR-3.12 Develop and implement branded signage (e.g. trailhead, etiquette, directional, mile markers, emergency location markers, etc.) to mark trails and non-motorized routes that is consistent with broader signage and design standards in the city.

- **PR-4 Ensure that park, open space, and recreational facilities are accessible, safe, easy to maintain, cost efficient, and meet the diverse needs of the residents of the city and Urban Growth Area.**

Planning and Design

- PR-4.1 Maintain park master plans, management plans, and adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.
- PR-4.2 Consider unique features and other characteristics in the design of new parks and upgraded/renovated facilities to enhance the local sense of place, ensure quality of facilities, and minimize maintenance and operations costs.
- PR-4.3 Provide playgrounds that have a community draw and offer unique opportunities for all city residents in a multi-use, multi-generational setting.

Community Accessibility

- PR-4.4 Design, convert, and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels, and ages in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
- PR-4.5 Eliminate accessibility barriers at existing parks and facilities and address other related actions as identified in the city ADA Transition Plan.
- PR-4.6 Reduce barriers to access and expand inclusive opportunities related to other characteristics of users, such as socioeconomic background, language fluency, physical or mental health considerations, geographic location, and transportation access.
- PR-4.7 Implement policies to address service gaps for historically underserved communities and provide a priority matrix to guide the allocation of resources to address known gaps.

Engagement

- PR-4.8 Involve residents and stakeholders in the planning and design of park and recreation facilities and program to incorporate community input and considerations, provide information, and meet public needs.
- PR-4.9 Partner with representative groups of users of specialized facilities, such as sport fields, off-leash areas, disc golf course, skatepark, BMX/pump track, community gardens, etc., to plan the development and management of these facilities.

Branding

- PR-4.10 Provide comprehensive, well-designed maps to identify park and trail opportunities and provide relevant information for users.
- PR-4.11 Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity and aesthetic for all parks and facilities.

PR-4.12 Standardize park furniture and improvements such as trash cans, tables, benches, and fencing to reduce maintenance and replacement costs and provide for a more consistent aesthetic for city facilities.

Maintenance

PR-4.13 Design and develop facilities to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation costs, while providing for adequate and aesthetically appealing facilities and amenities.

PR-4.14 Incorporate sustainable, low impact design practices into the development of new facilities and rehabilitation of existing facilities.

PR-4.15 Consider native vegetation for landscaping in parks to conserve native wildlife habitat and limit maintenance requirements.

Security and Safety

PR-4.16 Maintain parks, trails and open spaces to protect public property, preserve the value of these facilities, and ensure their intended functions, uses, safety, and security over their entire life cycle.

PR-4.17 Implement adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, police patrols, and other programs to increase safety, security, awareness and visibility.

► PR-5 **Provide for long-term banking of potential sites for park and recreation facilities in coordination with other public and private agencies, private landowners, and other organizations.**

PR-5.1 Review needs for parks, recreation and open space prior to the approval of an annexation to determine potential impacts to adopted levels of service.

PR-5.2 Identify and reserve lands to meet long-term demands for parks, recreation, and open space, especially in developing areas and potential sites with healthy tree canopies, minimal development, or critical areas.

► PR-6 **Coordinate with other agencies and non-profit recreational providers to help meet the recreational needs of local residents.**

PR-6.1 Leverage city resources by maintaining partnerships with public and private agencies such as school districts to deliver recreation services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.

PR-6.2 Look for opportunities to partner with other organizations to provide support for indoor recreational facilities.

PR-6.3 Endorse the efforts of local non-profit providers such as organized sports leagues to plan for projects to expand facilities for athletic fields, and provide city support as needed.

Commented [L1]: It is unclear that the related subsections (5.1 and 5.2) are actually elements of a definition for long-term banking. Also, might need to add a 5.3 along the lines of: PR-5.3 Holding onto these sites for an extended period, until resource are available for development or preservation.

PR-6.4 Coordinate with Pierce County, PenMet Parks and the Peninsula School District about the planning, acquisition, design and operation of parks and recreational facilities in the UGA and unincorporated service area.

► **PR-7 Support and protect historical resources through planning and management of the park and open space system.**

PR-7.1 Identify, enhance and incorporate Gig Harbor's heritage, indigenous history and cultural features into the park system to preserve these interests and provide a holistic social experience.

PR-7.2 Identify parks, structures and spaces eligible for designation as historic places to ensure they are preserved for the future and planned for long-term preservation and maintenance by the city.

PR-7.3 Assist historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits to the community and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs to promote awareness of Gig Harbor's heritage.

PR-7.4 Encourage the Harbor History Museum, Gig Harbor BoatShop, Gig Harbor Fisherman's Civic Club and other organizations to provide cultural programs and activities for the public.

Commented [L2]: Might add some examples of how the city would 'encourage' the entities mentioned. Basically, some examples of 'how'.

PR-7.5 Encourage the owners of historic sites and structures to provide full or limited public access.

► **PR-8 Acquire, develop, operate, and maintain facilities and programs to be cost efficient and to equitably distribute costs and benefits to the public.**

PR-8.1 Provide the financial and staff resources necessary to maintain the high quality of the city's park and recreation system.

PR-8.2 Support methods to finance facility development, maintenance, and operations which can supplement city budget allocations while reducing costs, improving flexibility, and better meeting user needs.

PR-8.3 Pursue traditional and alternative funding sources for parks, facilities, and programs, which may include private donations, partnerships, sponsorships, state and federal grant sources, dedicated local taxes and local bonds or levies.

PR-8.4 Apply for recreational system grants, potentially with partner agencies as appropriate.

PR-8.5 Consider joint ventures for projects and programming with other public agencies such as PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, regional, state, and federal agencies, local tribes, and private agencies including for-profit concessionaries.

PR-8.6 Use sponsorships to offset costs of special events and seasonal activities.

PR-8.7 Regularly review and update Park Impact Fee rates and methodologies to support the expansion of the parks system to meet growth in demand.

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- PR-8.8 Periodically monitor and review level of service (LOS) metrics and revise park and recreational capital project priorities.
- PR-8.9 Define naming conventions and conversions to include an on-going evaluation of the names of city parks and public recreational facilities.
- PR-8.10 Regularly update GIS data to ensure park, open space, trail, and recreational facility information such as names, classifications, acreages, and ownership are correctly identified.

Policy Audit Document

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.6: DEVELOP A QUALITY, DIVERSIFIED RECREATION SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES FOR ALL AGE AND INTEREST GROUPS.	No change.	PR-1 Develop a quality, diversified recreational system that provides for all age and interest groups.
[new]	Provide explicit policy statements related to developing a recreation system.	PR-1.1 Acquire and develop sites for passive and active recreation opportunities that accommodate formal and informal activities that meet the needs of various age groups, recreational interests and abilities.
[new]	Provide explicit policy statements related to developing a recreation system.	PR-1.2 Prioritize facility development based on demonstrated demand, population served, geographic distribution, system gaps, regional appeal, fiscal opportunity, and revenue-generating potential.
[new]	Provide explicit policy statements related to developing a recreation system.	PR-1.3 Pursue accessible, adaptive recreation facilities and services for users with disabilities or health or mobility challenges.
11.6.1. Cooperate with Pierce County, PenMet Parks, the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, and other public and private agencies to acquire and preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, viewing and other related recreational activities and pursuits, recognizing the rights of property owners in the vicinity of such sites.	Revised to provide more clarity and broad application.	PR-1.4 Cooperate with a wide range of public and private agencies to acquire and preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, viewing and other related recreational activities and pursuits, while respecting the rights of property owners.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.6.2. Develop and/or encourage a mixture of watercraft access opportunities including canoe, kayak, sailboard, and other non-power boating activities, especially on Gig Harbor Bay and along the Puget Sound shoreline.	Minor revisions for clarity.	PR-1.5 Develop and encourage waterfront and watercraft access opportunities, especially for human-powered boating activities <u>and board sports</u> on Gig Harbor and along the Puget Sound shoreline.
11.6.3. Concentrate on field and court activities like soccer, football, baseball, basketball, tennis, pickleball and volleyball that provide for the largest number of participants.	Revisions for clarity.	PR-1.6 Facilitate field and court activities like soccer, football, baseball, basketball, tennis, pickleball and volleyball to meet the needs of the community.
11.6.7. Provide play structures for tots (2-5) and school aged children (5-12) and a teen activity area within neighborhood parks.	This is an operational level discussion that may not be needed for higher-level policy.	[removed]
[add]	Added to provide guidance for special events.	PR-1.7 Coordinate a calendar of special events throughout the year in partnership with high-quality providers of recreational programming and special events.
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES		
11.1: DEVELOP A HIGH QUALITY, DIVERSIFIED PARK SYSTEM THAT PRESERVES AND ENHANCES SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND FEATURES. INCORPORATE UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL FEATURES AND RESOURCES TO PROTECT THREATENED SPECIES, PRESERVE HABITAT, AND RETAIN MIGRATION CORRIDORS THAT ARE UNIQUE AND IMPORTANT TO LOCAL WILDLIFE.	Edit for readability and brevity.	PR-2 Preserve and enhance the natural environment and support habitat and other resources for local wildlife as part of park and open space acquisition and management.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.1.1 Acquire and preserve especially sensitive or unique habitat sites that support threatened or endangered species and urban wildlife habitat.	Considerations from this policy are integrated/condensed into PR-2.1.	PR-2.1 Preserve and protect open space and park land areas with significant environmental features such as wetlands, riparian corridors, forests, steep slopes, plant and animal habitats that support threatened or endangered species.
11.1.2 Identify and conserve critical wildlife habitat including nesting sites, foraging areas, and migration corridors within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces, and the developed urban areas.	Considerations from this policy are integrated/condensed into PR-2.1.	[removed]
11.1.3 Develop a system of open space corridors along natural stream and wetlands corridors that establish forest canopy that link to each other and from the uplands to the shore.	Edits for readability and brevity.	PR-2.2 Develop an interlinked system of open space corridors along natural riparian and wetlands.
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.3 Provide appropriate public access and nearby parking where appropriate and feasible for open space areas to support passive recreation.
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.4 Provide opportunities for environmental education in open space areas through creative and interactive interpretation strategies, such as hands-on displays, self-guided walks, and other experiences.
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.5 Maintain and improve the environmental quality of city-owned parks, trails, and open space areas through invasive species removal, planting of native species, and restoration of urban forests, creeks, wetlands, and other habitat areas.
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.6 Foster climate-resilient landscapes in parks and open space areas to manage expected impacts from climate change.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.7 Improve tree management policies and practices in parks and open space in line with an Urban Forestry Management Plan to promote tree retention, tree succession, and more effective wildfire prevention practices.
[new]	Policy added to provide more detail about environmental considerations in parks and open space.	PR-2.8 Map and evaluate riparian areas within salmon-bearing stream corridors on public lands as part of planning for land acquisition, climate change adaptation, and ongoing management.
DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES		
11.3: THROUGH THE CITY'S PERMIT PROCESS, REQUIRE, WHEN POSSIBLE, NEW DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENT TO PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES AND ACTIVE COMMERCIAL AREAS.	Note that this policy goal is integrated with the considerations for PR-3 below.	[removed]
11.5: DEVELOP A HIGH QUALITY SYSTEM OF MULTIPURPOSE PARK TRAILS AND CORRIDORS THAT PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS AND LOW IMPACT RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES IN COORDINATION WITH THE CITY'S ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.	Minor edits for content.	PR-3 Provide alternative transportation options and low impact recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities through a high-quality system of park trails and corridors in coordination with the Gig Harbor Active Transportation Plan.
		Trail and Corridor Planning

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.5.1. Create a comprehensive system of multipurpose off-road trails using the Cushman Trail as the backbone of the system. Trails should be developed to provide access to significant environmental features, public facilities, neighborhoods and businesses districts to promote physical activity and a health conscious community.	- This policy has been included here to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors. - Note that this is split with PR-3.2 below.	PR-3.1 Create a comprehensive system of shared-use off-road trails using the Cushman Trail as the backbone of the system.
[new]	This provides for a complementary policy to PR-3.1 to build the trail network, and adapts concepts from 11.3.1.	PR-3.2 Develop trails to provide access to significant environmental features, public facilities, neighborhoods, and business districts to promote physical activities and a health-conscious community.
11.3.1. Require pedestrian friendly design features (including but not limited to placement of new buildings, on-site walkways, and pedestrian scale site features) on new developments to promote active healthy lifestyles within the community.	The considerations of this policy have been provided in PR-3.2 and elsewhere, and this can be removed.	[removed]
11.3.2. Require non-residential developments to provide common areas (such as town squares, plazas, or pocket parks) proportional to size of the development and the impact on existing park infrastructure to serve the recreational needs of employees and customers. Encourage these spaces to be used as the focus of commercial and civic buildings.	This goal has been removed with its considerations included as part of the Urban Design Element and other components.	[removed]
11.5.2. Leveraging the resources of WSDOT, private developers and other agencies, construct pedestrian facilities that cross SR-16 and other highways (ex: pedestrian overpass at BB16).	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.3 Coordinate with public and private agencies to construct pedestrian crossing for SR-16 and other highways that improve trail system connections.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.5.3. Trails should be connected to nearby sidewalk facilities wherever feasible to facilitate the use of the off-street trail systems for non-motorized transportation and recreation. Where sidewalks are an integrated component of a trail system, larger sidewalks may be needed.	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.4 Connect trails to nearby sidewalk facilities where possible to improve the functionality of the off-street trail systems for non-motorized transportation and recreation.
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.5 Consider the siting of proposed trail segments as part of the development review process.
11.5.4. Work with PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Tacoma, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and other appropriate jurisdictions to link and extend Gig Harbor trails to other regional trail facilities.	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.6 Work with public and private organizations in the region to link and extend Gig Harbor trails to other regional trail facilities.
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.7 Support broader pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements to improve safety and utilization of the system.
11.5.5. Extend trails through natural area corridors like the Crescent and Donkey (North) Creek corridors, and Wollochet Drive wetlands within the City that will provide a high quality, diverse sampling of area environmental resources, in balance with habitat protection.	These considerations are included elsewhere in this Element and the Environment Element.	[removed]
[new]		Trail Development and Amenities
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.8 Develop trails consistent with the park development goals and policies that reach a wide variety of users.
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.9 Provide trailhead improvements such as interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water and other services.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.10 Where appropriate, locate trailheads to consider park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local access to the trail system and integrate supporting improvements.
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.11 Consider needs for maintenance, security, and access by appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles in park design and construction.
[new]	This policy has been added to provide more specificity regarding actions on trails / corridors.	PR-3.12 Develop and implement branded signage (e.g. trailhead, etiquette, directional, mile markers, emergency location markers, etc.) to mark trails and non-motorized routes that is consistent with broader signage and design standards in the city.
PARK DESIGN STANDARDS		
11.4: DESIGN AND DEVELOP FACILITIES THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE, SAFE, AND EASY TO MAINTAIN WHILE PROVIDING A FULL RANGE OF FACILITIES FOR ALL AGE GROUPS BOTH INSIDE THE PRESENT CITY LIMITS AND IN THE UGA. PARKS FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT SHOULD HAVE LIFE CYCLE FEATURES THAT ACCOUNT FOR LONG-TERM COSTS AND BENEFITS.	Revised for clarity/ brevity.	PR-4 Ensure that park, open space, and recreational facilities are accessible, safe, easy to maintain, cost efficient, and meet the diverse needs of the residents of the city and Urban Growth Area.
General		Planning and Design
11.4.1. Create park plans for the potential development and re-development of City park properties.	Revised to provide more specific details about planning.	PR-4.1 Maintain park master plans, management plans, and adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.4.2. Incorporate features and amenities into parks that fit the local context; contribute to environmental sustainability; and are accessible, safe, and easy to maintain for the long term.	Revised to provide more details.	PR-4.2 Consider unique features and other characteristics in the design of new parks and upgraded/renovated facilities to enhance the local sense of place, ensure quality of facilities, and minimize maintenance and operations costs.
[new]	Considerations added here to address community needs.	PR-4.3 Provide playgrounds that have a community draw and offer unique opportunities for all city residents in a multi-use, multi-generational setting.
Accessibility		Community Accessibility
11.4.6. Design park and recreation facilities to be accessible in accordance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).	Provide revisions and expand these considerations to broader barriers to access.	PR-4.4 Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels, and ages in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
[new]	Provide additional discussion of addressing barriers to park use.	PR-4.5 Eliminate accessibility barriers at existing parks and facilities and address other related actions as identified in the city ADA Transition Plan.
[new]	Provide additional discussion of addressing barriers to park use.	PR-4.6 Reduce barriers to access and expand inclusive opportunities related to other characteristics of users, such as socioeconomic background, language fluency, physical or mental health considerations, geographic location, and transportation access.
[new]	Provide additional discussion of addressing barriers to park use.	PR-4.7 Implement policies to address service gaps for historically underserved communities and provide a priority matrix to guide the allocation of resources to address known gaps.
		Engagement

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
[new]	Specific statements included for engagement.	PR-4.8 Involve residents and stakeholders in the planning and design of park and recreation facilities and program to incorporate community input and considerations, provide information, and meet public needs.
[new]	Specific statements included for engagement.	PR-4.9 Partner with representative groups of users of specialized facilities, such as sport fields, off-leash areas, disc golf course, skatepark, BMX/pump track, community gardens, etc., to plan the development and management of these facilities.
		Branding
11.4.3. Provide maps at the City's larger parks, documenting park and trail opportunities in the vicinity of the park.	Minor revisions provided.	PR-4.10 Provide comprehensive, well-designed maps to identify park and trail opportunities and provide relevant information for users.
[new]	Expanded discussions about park branding.	PR-4.11 Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity and aesthetic for all parks and facilities.
[new]	Expanded discussions about park branding.	PR-4.12 Standardize park furniture and improvements such as trash cans, tables, benches, and fencing to reduce maintenance and replacement costs and provide for a more consistent aesthetic for city facilities.
11.4.4. Develop and maintain parks consistent with local, state and federal environmental regulations.	This is an expectation that can be assumed; no policy is necessary.	[removed]
11.4.5. Provide facilities for all age groups and throughout the City and its UGA.	This is more appropriate as a goal, and has been included elsewhere.	[removed]
Maintenance		Maintenance

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.4.7. Design and develop facilities that are of low maintenance and high capacity design to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs while providing for adequate facilities, amenities and attractive landscaping.	Revisions for clarity / brevity.	PR-4.13 Design and develop facilities to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation costs, while providing for adequate and aesthetically appealing facilities and amenities.
11.4.8. Where appropriate, use low maintenance materials, settings or other value engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements, and retain natural conditions and experiences.	- Revisions for clarity / brevity. - Separation of the considerations of natural conditions into the following policy.	PR-4.14 Incorporate sustainable, low impact design practices into the development of new facilities and rehabilitation of existing facilities.
[new]	Policy added to include considerations of native vegetation from 11.4.8.	PR-4.15 Consider native vegetation for landscaping in parks to conserve native wildlife habitat and limit maintenance requirements.
Security and Safety		Security and Safety
11.4.9. Implement design and development standards that will improve park facility safety and implement security features for park users, department personnel, and the public-at-large.	Considerations integrated under PR-4.14.	PR-4.16 Maintain parks, trails and open spaces to protect public property, preserve the value of these facilities, and ensure their intended functions, uses, safety, and security over their entire life cycle.
11.4.10. Continue to develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that will provide proper training and awareness for department personnel.	Considerations integrated under PR-4.14.	[removed]
11.4.11. Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that will protect user groups, department personnel, and the general public-at-large.	Considerations integrated under PR-4.14.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.4.12. Where appropriate, use adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, park police patrols, and other innovative programs that will increase safety and security awareness and visibility on-Motorized Access	Revised for readability / brevity.	PR-4.17 Implement adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, police patrols, and other programs to increase safety, security, awareness and visibility.
IDENTIFY URBAN GROWTH PRESERVES		
11.2: COORDINATE WITH OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES, AND WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS TO PRESERVE LAND AND RESOURCES NECESSARY TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, CONVENIENT PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES BEFORE THE MOST SUITABLE SITES ARE LOST TO DEVELOPMENT.	Edited for readability / brevity.	PR-5 Provide for long-term banking of potential sites for park and recreation facilities in coordination with other public and private agencies, private landowners, and other organizations.
11.2.3. Prior to annexation of urban growth areas review park, recreation, and open space needs to determine potential impacts to adopted levels of service. Such impacts shall be considered when determining the impacts of a potential annexation.	Edited for readability / brevity.	PR-5.1 Review needs for parks, recreation and open space prior to the approval of an annexation to determine potential impacts to adopted levels of service.
11.2.2. Identify lands needed to meet long-term demand for parks, recreation and open space in developing areas such as the wooded, undeveloped, and sensitive lands.	Edited for readability / brevity.	PR-5.2 Identify and reserve lands to meet long-term demands for parks, recreation, and open space, especially in developing areas and potential sites with healthy tree canopies, minimal development, or critical areas.
SPECIAL PURPOSE FACILITIES		
11.7: ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY FACILITIES THAT MEET THE INTERESTS OF ALL SEGMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY.	This has been removed, as the city has little policy impact on these facilities. Provisions for partnering with other organizations is included elsewhere.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.7.1. Where appropriate and economically feasible (self-supporting), encourage other organizations to develop and operate specialized and special interest recreational or cultural facilities like theater, golf and water parks for these interests in the general population.	This has been removed, as the city has little policy impact on these facilities. Provisions for partnering with other organizations is included elsewhere.	[removed]
11.7.2. Where appropriate, facilitate and encourage joint planning and operating programs with other public and private agencies to determine need and provide for special activities like golf, performing arts, water parks, and camping on an area wide basis.	This has been removed, as the city has little policy impact on these facilities. Provisions for partnering with other organizations is included elsewhere.	[removed]
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS		
11.8: COORDINATE WITH AND ENCOURAGE THE EFFORTS OF OTHER AGENCIES AND NON-PROFIT RECREATIONAL PROVIDERS TO ASSURE THAT THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE GIG HARBOR RESIDENTS ARE MET.	Minor revisions for clarity/brevity.	PR-6 Coordinate with other agencies and non-profit recreational providers to help meet the recreational needs of local residents.
11.6.5. Facilitate the continued development by the Peninsula School District and other organizations, of special meeting, assembly, eating, health, cultural, and other community facilities that provide general support to school age populations and the community-at-large at elementary, middle, and high schools within the City, urban growth area and the greater peninsula.	Edited for clarity/brevity.	PR-6.1 Leverage city resources by maintaining partnerships with public and private agencies such as school districts to deliver recreation services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
11.6.6. Look for opportunities to partner with PenMet and other organization to provide indoor recreational facilities for all ages (including play structures and both organized and individual sports facilities).	Edited for clarity/brevity.	PR-6.2 Look for opportunities to partner with other organizations to provide support for indoor recreational facilities.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.8.2. Endorse the efforts of local non-profit organizations to provide soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, and other instruction and participatory programs for all age, skill level, and income groups in the community.	Edited for clarity/brevity.	PR-6.3 Endorse the efforts of local non-profit providers such as organized sports leagues to plan for projects to expand facilities for athletic fields, and provide city support as needed.
11.2.1. Continue coordination with PenMet Parks and other agencies on meeting park, recreation, and open space needs through the City and urban growth area to assure that needs are met, and services are not duplicated.	Edited for readability / brevity.	PR-6.4 Coordinate with Pierce County, PenMet Parks and the Peninsula School District about the planning, acquisition, design and operation of parks and recreational facilities in the UGA and unincorporated service area.
11.8.1. Facilitate and encourage other organizations to provide arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care, meeting facilities, daycare, latch key, and other program activities for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in the community.	This is addressed in the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.8.3. Assist historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits; and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs that document and develop awareness of Gig Harbor's heritage.	This is addressed in the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.6.4. Encourage, leverage the development, or develop, where appropriate, a select number of facilities that provide a quality playing environment, possibly in conjunction with PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, and other public or private agencies. Such facilities should be developed to meet the requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests where possible.	This is covered in more detail in other policies and can be removed.	[removed]
HISTORIC RESOURCES		
11.9: DEVELOP A HIGH QUALITY, DIVERSIFIED PARK SYSTEM THAT PRESERVES SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY AREAS AND FEATURES.	Edited for clarity / brevity.	PR-7 Support and protect historical resources through planning and management of the park and open space system.
11.9.1. Identify, preserve, and enhance Gig Harbor's multicultural heritage, human history of the City and its neighborhoods, traditions, and cultural features including historic sites, buildings, artworks, objects, views, and monuments.	This policy is integrated with 11.9.2 in PR-7.1 to provide a focus on the parks system.	PR-7.1 Identify, enhance and incorporate Gig Harbor's heritage, indigenous history and cultural features into the park system to preserve these interests and provide a holistic social experience.
11.9.2. Identify and incorporate significant historic and cultural lands, sites, artifacts, and facilities into the park system to preserve these interests and to provide a balanced social experience.	This policy is integrated with 11.9.1 in PR-7.1 to provide a focus on the parks system.	[removed]
11.9.3. Register City owned parks, structures and open space properties that are eligible for the Gig Harbor Register of Historic Places and utilize the City's Certified Local Government (CLG) board to determine appropriate preservation methods and traditional uses.	Edited for clarity/brevity.	PR-7.2 Identify parks, structures and spaces eligible for designation as historic places to ensure they are preserved for the future and planned for long-term preservation and maintenance by the city.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
[new]	Provide a specific linkage between recreational programs and historical resources.	PR-7.3 Assist historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits to the community and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs to promote awareness of Gig Harbor's heritage.
11.9.4. Encourage the Harbor History Museum, Gig Harbor BoatShop, Gig Harbor Fishermen's Civic Club and others to make cultural programs and activities more accessible to the public.	Minor edits.	PR-7.4 Encourage the Harbor History Museum, Gig Harbor BoatShop, Gig Harbor Fisherman's Civic Club and other organizations to provide cultural programs and activities for the public.
11.9.5. Encourage the owners of historic sites and structures to provide increased public access.	Minor edits.	PR-7.5 Encourage the owners of historic sites and structures to provide full or limited public access.
11.9.6. Consider adopting incentives for properties listed on the City's Historic Register to encourage maintenance and retention of structures as properties are re-developed, including adaptive re-use provisions.	This should be considered in other elements, as the PROS Element is not intended for historical resource protection.	[removed]
11.10: CELEBRATE THE CREATIVE SPIRIT OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ENCOURAGE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS THAT REFLECT THE COMMUNITY'S VISION AND CULTURE.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.1. Identify public visual, written and performing art opportunities that highlight the cultural and historical connections within our community through local history, environmental systems, cultural traditions, and visual symbols.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.10.2. Enhance the reputation of Gig Harbor as a livable and creative community by encouraging artists of all types to display and perform their work and supporting opportunities for creative expression.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.3. Use public art to create visible landmarks and artistic points of reference to reinforce Gig Harbor's identity, unique culture and character.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.4. Acquire works of art through a variety of methods including commissioned works, temporary works, direct purchases, and community projects.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.5. In cooperation with area artists and cultural organizations, utilize the city's website as a clearinghouse for arts information and resource sharing.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.6. Encourage the development of spaces where visual and performing arts can be enjoyed by all. This includes visual and performing arts centers, street fairs, and market places that include performance and display spaces. (Resolution No. 861.)	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
11.10.7. Encourage and support work by local artists and support visual, written and performing arts programs and partnerships that reflect our community's vision and culture.	These considerations have been integrated into the Arts and Culture Element.	[removed]
FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND COORDINATION		

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.11: CREATE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT METHODS OF ACQUIRING, DEVELOPING, OPERATING AND MAINTAINING FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS THAT ACCURATELY DISTRIBUTE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT.	Minor edits.	PR-8 Acquire, develop, operate, and maintain facilities and programs to be cost efficient and to equitably distribute costs and benefits to the public.
[add]	Added to summarize intent of Goal 11.12 and provide basis for administrative resources.	PR-8.1 Provide the financial and staff resources necessary to maintain the high quality of the city's park and recreation system.
Finance		
11.11.1. Investigate available methods for the financing of facility development, maintenance, and operation in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase facility services.	Provide additional examples as needed.	PR-8.2 Support methods to finance facility development, maintenance, and operations which can supplement city budget allocations while reducing costs, improving flexibility, and better meeting user needs.
[new]	Expand on potential alternative funding opportunities.	PR-8.3 Pursue traditional and alternative funding sources for parks, facilities, and programs, which may include private donations, partnerships, sponsorships, state and federal grant sources, dedicated local taxes and local bonds or levies.
	Expand on potential alternative funding opportunities.	PR-8.4 Apply for recreational system grants, potentially with partner agencies as appropriate.
11.11.2. Consider joint ventures with other public and private agencies such as PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, regional, state, federal, and other public and private agencies including for-profit concessionaires, where feasible and desirable.	Minor edits.	PR-8.5 Consider joint ventures for projects and programming with other public agencies such as PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, regional, state, and federal agencies, local tribes, and private agencies including for-profit concessionaires.
Public and Private Resource Coordination		

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
11.11.3. Cooperate with PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, and other public and private agencies to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and represent resident area interests through joint planning and development efforts.	This should be consolidated under PR-9.5.	[removed]
[add]	Added to provide guidance for financing special events.	PR-8.6 Use sponsorships to offset costs of special events and seasonal activities.
Cost/Benefit Assessment		
	Coordinate impact fee considerations.	PR-8.7 Regularly review and update Park Impact Fee rates and methodologies to support the expansion of the parks system to meet growth in demand.
11.11.4. Define existing and proposed land and facility levels-of-service (ELOS/PLOS) that differentiate requirements due to: population growth impacts versus improved facility standards; neighborhood versus community nexus of benefit; city versus the combination of city, county, school, and other provider agency efforts; in order to effectively plan and program park and recreation needs within the existing city and urban growth area boundaries.	Provide enabling language for park LOS standards.	PR-8.8 Periodically monitor and review level of service (LOS) metrics and revise park and recreational capital project priorities.
11.11.5. Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining park and recreational facilities in manners that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private user interests - including the application of growth impact fees where new developments impact existing level-of-service (ELOS) standards.	This is considered elsewhere through more succinct policy language.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
[add]	Additional policy to provide administrative focus on naming.	PR-8.9 Define naming conventions and conversions to include an on-going evaluation of the names of city parks and public recreational facilities.
[add]	Additional administrative policy to address administrative focus on naming/classification.	PR-8.10 Regularly update GIS data to ensure park, open space, trail, and recreational facility information such as names, classifications, acreages, and ownership are correctly identified.
OPERATIONAL AND STAFF CONSIDERATIONS		
11.12: DEVELOP, TRAIN, AND SUPPORT A PROFESSIONAL PARKS STAFF THAT EFFECTIVELY SERVES THE COMMUNITY IN THE REALIZATION OF THE ABOVE LISTED GOALS AND POLICIES.	This is more of an operational strategy and not a policy or goal. As such, this goal and the associated policies have been removed.	[removed]
11.12.1. Continue to train a diverse, well-trained work force that is motivated to achieve department and citywide goals.		[removed]
11.12.2. Encourage teamwork through communications, creativity, positive image, risk taking, sharing of resources, and cooperation toward common goals.		[removed]
11.12.3. Where appropriate, provide staff with education, training, and modern equipment and supplies to increase personal productivity, efficiency, and pride.		[removed]

14 Arts and Culture

14.1 Introduction

The arts and cultural activities are **valuable tools** for accomplishing larger community goals, including economic vitality, quality education, and community design. Investment in the arts is an investment in making Gig Harbor a better place to live, work, and visit.

This Arts & Culture Element identifies ways in which the city's goals and aspirations can be realized through inclusion of arts and culture ~~among other considerations~~ in comprehensive planning. The vision for the city's arts and cultural future is expressed here, identifying relationships with other city policies, and presenting specific policies and strategies the city may pursue to realize desired outcomes.

This element also recognizes the essential **nature of arts and cultural activities as ways to express, honor, and educate residents about the past, from the community's early formation to narratives rooted in native culture and pre-history.**

14.2 Using this Element

The City of Gig Harbor hopes to explore the expansive potential of local arts and **culture, addressing the community's needs for artistic involvement and expression and recognizing how powerful the arts can be in achieving multiple community aspirations.** This element serves multiple roles and audiences, seeking to:

- Clarify city policy related to arts and culture;
- Guide decision-making and future investments by other city departments, the Gig Harbor Arts Commission, and other local groups and organizations;
- Identify complementary policies and community initiatives, including land use, community design, transportation, economic development, parks and recreation, and capital facilities.

While the topic of arts and culture can include many different aspects of local culture, this Plan Element is focused on several key topics:

- **Creativity + Economic Vitality:** Acknowledge the **important dynamic** between creative enterprises and economic vitality **by** recognizing how the arts contribute to the overall economic health and vibrancy of the community.
- **Public Art + Community Design:** Sponsor **functional anchors** for pride of place that are unique to Gig Harbor and ensure that public art and thoughtful design both reflect and enhance community identity.
- **Education + Engagement:** Support various ways to engage residents in lifelong learning opportunities in arts and culture. This should be directed towards fostering a community that values ongoing education and active participation in cultural and artistic activities.

- **Spaces + Places:** Recognize the need for space and facilities to foster cultural activities, with a focus on creating and maintaining environments where culture can thrive.
- **Culture + Heritage:** Understand the past to guide plans for the future and ensure that cultural heritage can be preserved and incorporated into future community development.

14.3 History

Arts and cultural activities have long played an important role in establishing Gig Harbor's visual identity and pride of place. In 1999, the idea for a memorial celebrating Gig Harbor's maritime history spurred the formation of a group that championed the installation of such a feature and later became the city's first Gig Harbor Arts Commission (GHAC) in 2001. Since then, the GHAC has helped lead and support a wide range of arts and cultural activities, including art fairs, festivals, concerts, theatrical and dance performances, workshops, and lectures – all helping draw tourists to Gig Harbor and boosting local revenues. In addition, the GHAC has led the commission of numerous artworks in the city, including several important installations in City Hall and sculptures at the Bogue Viewing Platform, Maritime Pier, and in Ancich Park.

Gig Harbor incorporated arts-related policy in its 2012 comprehensive plan's parks and recreation element. In February 2018, the City Council approved a work plan including the goal to create a separate and distinct arts and culture element for the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan. By this, the city set a course to more effectively coordinate its resources with arts and cultural activities, boosting the city's unique position in the region and helping realize many of the community's long-term goals.

The 2018 work plan also led to the creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), which reviewed numerous other regional and state arts and culture plans, reports, and economic studies. Among benefits seen in their research findings, the CAC noted numerous outcomes applicable to Gig Harbor and its goals, including:

- Arts, culture, and creativity contribute to the physical, mental, social, and economic well-being of communities;
- Arts and culture nurture creative thought and expression and encourage an exchange of ideas among residents;
- The arts provide tools for accomplishing larger community goals, such as economic vitality, quality education, and community planning and design;
- The arts help strengthen the cultural fabric of communities and enrich the lives and spirits of residents;
- Arts and cultural activities contribute to local prosperity by providing employment, attracting out of town visitors, and boosting sales tax revenues;
- Arts and cultural programs can enhance the image of a community, thereby attracting new businesses and workers;

The CAC, with the help of the city's Tourism & Marketing Department, also created a widely distributed and successful survey regarding arts and culture values in Gig Harbor. Findings from this questionnaire – reflecting responses from 915 community members – show strong support for the idea that arts and culture are essential in creating a healthy, vibrant, and prosperous city.

These and other findings show that Gig Harbor residents understand and support the value of arts and culture as a means of strengthening the community and fostering economic growth.

14.4 The Gig Harbor Arts Commission

The Gig Harbor Arts Commission (GHAC) plays a vital role in local culture by supporting and promoting the arts and arts organizations. The commission, whose authority is established by GHMC 2.49.030, oversees the acquisition and placement of public art, fosters arts and cultural programs for the enrichment of residents and visitors, encourages an environment for the success of working artists, and strengthens new and existing arts organizations. The Arts Commission supports the following statements:

- The arts provide tools for accomplishing larger community goals, such as economic vitality, quality education, and community planning and design.
- Arts and culture are essential to the continued growth and development of our community's economy, education, and quality of life. Support of the arts is an investment in making our community a better place to live.
- The arts help strengthen our cultural fabric and enrich the lives and spirits of our residents.
- Arts and cultural programs are a powerful economic development tool in their ability to enhance Gig Harbor's image and thereby entice new businesses to locate here.
- The arts can be a source of civic pride and Gig Harbor is a place where residents and visitors alike can be engaged and inspired.

14.5 Goals and Policies

- **AC-1 Create an environment for artistic and cultural activities to flourish to benefit local quality of life.**
 - AC-1.1 Provide leadership in arts and culture by advocating for the development of arts and cultural activities that benefit residents.
 - AC-1.2 Collaborate with the city's Direct Marketing Organization and Pierce County Tourism to enhance local artistic, historic, and cultural tourism.
 - AC-1.3 Establish a city arts fund to provide grants for artists, writers, performers, and nonprofit organizations offering creative and cultural experiences in the community.
 - AC-1.4 Monitor needs and trends in community arts and culture to keep policies and programs relevant and up to date.

► **AC-2 Maintain and enhance the city's public art program to create visible landmarks and cultural points of reference that reinforce local identities, cultures, and character.**

- AC-2.1 Advocate for creative public spaces such as display areas, performance spaces, and other public venues to serve residents and visitors.
- AC-2.2 Create a cohesive wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy and incorporate unique city landmarks into this system.
- AC-2.3 Explore expanding the Public Art Fund to acquire and manage public art such as commissioned works, temporary installations, direct purchases, and community projects.
- AC-2.4 Encourage the integration of high-quality public art into new development projects.
- AC-2.5 Provide oversight and support for community resources dedicated to arts and culture.
- AC-2.6 Develop selection criteria for public art that addresses the physical context and provides opportunities for local artists to participate.

► **AC-3 Foster a learning-oriented arts and cultural environment that meets the needs of residents and visitors.**

- AC-3.1 Support quality arts education and life-long learning to integrate the arts into the community.
- AC-3.2 Foster partnerships between the city, the business community, and arts and culture organizations to support arts and cultural programming.
- AC-3.3 Explore opportunities for public engagement with artists, conservators, and historic preservationists to allow the community to observe and learn from their work.

► **AC-4 Encourage adequate, affordable, and appropriate spaces for artistic and cultural activities for all.**

- AC-4.1 Identify short- and long-term arts and cultural facility needs and priorities to address these needs.
- AC-4.2 Encourage new venues for different cultural and artistic activities, such as visual and performing arts centers, marketplaces, performance and exhibition spaces, and maker spaces.
- AC-4.3 Advocate for current and future arts-related businesses and support facilities such as open studio spaces and live-work housing.

► **AC-5 Identify, preserve, and advance cultural heritage and history.**

- AC-5.1 Preserve and reuse historic and cultural sites in partnership with local entities devoted to preservation.
- AC-5.2 Encourage historical interpretation to be integrated with adaptive reuse of historical and cultural sites.

AC-5.3 Promote tourism through geographical, cultural, and historic themes that complement other strategies.

AC-5.4 Support cultural interpretation and learning through art.

Policy Audit Document

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
Creative + Economic Vitality. Acknowledging the important dynamic between creative enterprise and economic vitality.	This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.1 Enhance the quality of life in Gig Harbor by creating an environment in which artistic and cultural activities flourish.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1 Create an environment for artistic and cultural activities to flourish to benefit local quality of life.
14.1.1. Provide arts and cultural leadership for the city as advocates to the Mayor and Council for the development of arts and cultural activities for the benefit of its citizens.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1.1 Provide leadership in arts and culture by advocating for the development of arts and cultural activities that benefit residents.
14.1.2. Collaborate with the Gig Harbor Tourism and Marketing Department and Pierce County Tourism to increase artistic, historic, and cultural tourism in Gig Harbor.	- Edited for length/simplicity. - Change the “Tourism and Marketing Department” to the “Direct Marketing Organization” to reflect structure.	AC-1.2 Collaborate with the city’s Direct Marketing Organization and Pierce County Tourism to enhance local artistic, historic, and cultural tourism.
14.1.3. Strengthen the operational capacity of the arts, heritage, and cultural community through the development of a city arts fund to support grants for artists/writers/performers and non-profit organizations that offer creative and cultural experiences.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1.3 Establish a city arts fund to provide grants for artists, writers, performers, and nonprofit organizations offering creative and cultural experiences in the community.
14.1.4. Keep current with community arts and culture needs and trends, shaping actions to be adaptive and relevant to changing conditions.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-1.4 Monitor needs and trends in community arts and culture to keep policies and programs relevant and up to date.
Public Arts + Community Design. Sponsoring functional anchors for pride of place that are unique to the community.	This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
14.2 Strengthen and expand Gig Harbor's public art program to create visible landmarks and cultural points of reference to reinforce the harbor's identity, culture and character.	▪ Note that this has been rephrased slightly to consider that Gig Harbor may include multiple cultures and backgrounds.	AC-2 Maintain and enhance the city's public art program to create visible landmarks and cultural points of reference that reinforce local identities, cultures, and character.
14.2.1 Advocate for the development of creative public spaces; create a cohesive wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy, including the identification of unique city landmarks.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity. ▪ Note that this should be split as it appears that two policies are joined together.	AC-2.1 Advocate for creative public spaces such as display areas, performance spaces, and other public venues to serve residents and visitors.
[new]	▪ This adapts the wayfinding/signage details from the original 14.2.1.	AC-2.2 Create a cohesive wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy and incorporate unique city landmarks into this system.
14.2.2 Consider expansion of the Public Art Fund to acquire and manage works of public art through commissioned works, temporary works, direct purchases, and community projects;	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-2.3 Explore expanding the Public Art Fund to acquire and manage public art such as commissioned works, temporary installations, direct purchases, and community projects.
14.2.3 Advocate for the inclusion of quality public art in new construction projects.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-2.4 Encourage the integration of high-quality public art into new development projects.
14.2.4 Manage the community' resources dedicated to arts and culture and provide tools to guide grant programs for the arts, protocols for accepting donated art, a framework for arts commissions, locational criteria for public art, and other needs as they may arise in Gig Harbor's evolving arts environment.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity. ▪ Note that the mention of "locational criteria" should be split off and discussed in a separate policy. See below.	AC-2.5 Provide oversight and support for community resources dedicated to arts and culture.
[new]	▪ This addresses locational criteria and other considerations for prioritizing public art.	AC-2.6 Develop selection criteria for public art that addresses the physical context and provides opportunities for local artists to participate.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
Education + Engagement. Supporting ways to engage citizens in lifelong arts- and culture-related learning opportunities.	▪ This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.3 Foster a unique, plentiful and learning-oriented arts and cultural environment.	▪ Edited for simplicity.	AC-3 Foster a learning-oriented arts and cultural environment that meets the needs of residents and visitors.
14.3.1 Demonstrate a commitment to quality arts education and life-long learning by advocating for comprehensive inclusion of the arts throughout our community.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-3.1 Support quality arts education and life-long learning to integrate the arts into the community.
14.3.2 Foster partnerships between the city, the business community and arts and culture organizations to create and produce education and engagement opportunities for Gig Harbor citizens through the sponsorship of arts and cultural programming.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-3.2 Foster partnerships between the city, the business community, and arts and culture organizations to support arts and cultural programming.
14.3.3 Explore opportunities for the public to watch artists, conservators, and historic preservationists at work and to observe the creative process as well as participate in hands-on learning experiences.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-3.3 Explore opportunities for public engagement with artists, conservators, and historic preservationists to allow the community to observe and learn from their work.
Spaces + Places. Recognizing the need for space and facilities to foster culture activities.	▪ This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.4 Encourage the development of adequate, affordable and appropriate spaces for artistic and cultural activities for all.	▪ Minor edit to remove “development”, as existing spaces may also need to be considered.	AC-4 Encourage adequate, affordable, and appropriate spaces for artistic and cultural activities for all.
14.4.1 Respond to the growing need for artistic and cultural facilities; identify short- and long-term facility needs and priorities.	▪ Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-4.1 Identify short- and long-term arts and cultural facility needs and priorities to address these needs.

Previous Plan Content	Rationale for Change	Recommended Content
14.4.2 Encourage the development of venues suitable for cultural and artistic activities including visual and performing arts centers, marketplaces, performance and exhibition spaces and maker spaces.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-4.2 Encourage new venues for different cultural and artistic activities, such as visual and performing arts centers, marketplaces, performance and exhibition spaces, and maker spaces.
14.4.3 Advocate for current and future arts-related businesses, open studio spaces and live-work housing.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-4.3 Advocate for current and future arts-related businesses and support facilities such as open studio spaces and live-work housing.
Culture + Heritage. Understanding the past to guide plans for the future.	This should be removed for style/document flow. Note that this is placed in the front-end material for the section.	[removed]
14.5 Identify, preserve, and advance the city's cultural heritage and history.	No change.	AC-5 Identify, preserve, and advance cultural heritage and history.
14.5.1 Advocate for the preservation, interpretation, and adaptive reuse of historic and cultural sites in partnership with local entities devoted to preservation.	- Edited for length/simplicity. - Note that the mention of "interpretation" may be better referenced as an additional policy. See below.	AC-5.1 Preserve and reuse historic and cultural sites in partnership with local entities devoted to preservation.
[new]	This includes a specific mention of interpretation to be included with preservation and adaptive reuse.	AC-5.2 Encourage historical interpretation to be integrated with adaptive reuse of historical and cultural sites.
14.5.2 Recognize the value of heritage and cultural arts to promote tourism for Gig Harbor using geographic and historic themes that complement other types of visitation and travel experiences.	Edited for length/simplicity.	AC-5.3 Promote tourism through geographical, cultural, and historic themes that complement other strategies.
14.5.3 Support projects that use the arts as a vehicle for understanding and celebrating other cultures and Gig Harbor heritage.	- Edited for length/simplicity. - Note that this has been rephrased slightly to consider that Gig Harbor may include multiple cultures and backgrounds.	AC-5.4 Support cultural interpretation and learning through art.