

CITY OF TUKWILA COMPREHENSIVE  
LAND USE PLAN  
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE BACKGROUND REPORT

2024 GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT UPDATE  
TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## Table of Contents

- I. INTRODUCTION....
- II. INTEGRATION WITH OTHER PLANNING EFFORTS ...
- III EXISTING SYSTEM AND KEY ISSUES
- IV FUTURE NEEDS
- V APPENDIX.

## I INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The State of Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA) provides comprehensive guidance for land use, development, and public participation throughout the state, including goals specifically for parks and recreation. Listed among the State's 14 growth management goals, the goal for open space and recreation is to: "Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities."

A parks and recreation element remains officially optional in GMA comprehensive plans, since the State of Washington did not provide the funding necessary to assist communities in developing the elements at when it was listed in GMA. However, the GMA acknowledges the significance of parks, recreation, and open space and that it is important to plan for these systems.

Tukwila recognizes the importance of parks, recreation, and open space opportunities to the overall well-being of the community, and has chosen to prepare a parks, recreation, and open space element for its Comprehensive Plan. Per the GMA, a jurisdiction's parks and recreation Comprehensive Plan element shall be consistent with the City's capital facilities plan. This element shall include:

- Goals and policies to guide decisions regarding facilities;
- Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period;
- An evaluation of facilities and service needs; and
- An evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreation demand.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element Background Report supports the state-wide goal and follows related guidance found in the Puget Sound Regional Councils (PSRC) Multi-County Planning Policies, King County's Countywide Planning Policies and other elements of Tukwila's Comprehensive Plan. This Report summarizes conditions facing the existing parks, recreation and open space system. It includes a description of relevant planning policies, the City's park system and a summary of key issues identified through an analysis of the existing system and feedback from the public. Together, this information forms the basis for parks, recreation and open space planning in the Comprehensive Plan's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element.

The Background Report and Comprehensive Plan Element are largely based on community discussions that occurred during Tukwila's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan, adopted February 2014 and updated in 2020. The PROS Plan included opportunities for public engagement throughout the planning and update process. This process and its creative forms of discussion encouraged involvement from a wide cross section of the city. These activities reached specific audiences, targeted and broad, and collected ideas from both involved citizens, and those who have been outside of past planning efforts.

## II INTEGRATION WITH OTHER PLANNING EFFORTS

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element supports other related planning efforts including the State's GMA, Vision 2050, King County Countywide Planning Policies and Tukwila's Capital Facilities Element.

The Growth Management Act also requires the protection of resource lands - those lands that have "long-term commercial significance" for agriculture, fisheries, timber production and mineral extraction. Since Tukwila does not have lands used by resource-based industries, goals and policies for these types of lands are intentionally absent from this chapter. Although agricultural activity was historically practiced in the Tukwila South area, the area is being developed for urban uses, and agricultural activity has ceased.

The Growth Management Act allows the use of non-regulatory measures to protect or enhance functions and values of critical areas. These may include public education, stewardship programs, pursuing grant opportunities, joint planning with other jurisdictions and non-profit organizations, and stream and wetland restoration activities. Tukwila has been employing all of these measures and the updated Chapter contains goals and policies addressing them.

### Growth Management Act

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires parks and open space Comprehensive Plan elements to include estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period based on adopted levels of service and population growth. Tukwila's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan, is the primary background source for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) element of the Comprehensive Plan. By adopting the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) Plan, the City assesses recreation demand through an analysis of access to park sites amenities and services throughout the system. Those areas that lack access to the specified facility or feature within the desired distance are considered to have a gap in service. This analysis is based on a typical walking or biking distance to reach parks, generally a 1/4 to 1/2-mile distance or a five to ten minute travel time.

### Vision 2050 (Multi-County Planning Policies) and King County County-wide Planning Policies

Vision 2050 (Multi-County Planning Policies) articulates the growth strategy for the Puget Sound region. This direction is reflected in King County's Countywide Planning Policies which, in turn, frame how the comprehensive plans of the County, and all cities and towns within the County, will be developed and coordinated. Policies related to parks, recreation and open space are presented below and inform the overall direction of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element.

### Open Space

EN-20 Identify and preserve regionally significant open space networks in both Urban and Rural Areas through implementation of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan. Develop strategies and funding to protect lands that provide the following valuable functions:

- Ecosystem linkages and migratory corridors crossing jurisdictional boundaries;
- Physical or visual separation delineating growth boundaries or providing buffers between incompatible uses;
- Active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Wildlife habitat and migration corridors that preserve and enhance ecosystem resiliency in the face of urbanization and climate change;
- Preservation of ecologically sensitive, scenic, or cultural resources;
- Urban green space, habitats, and ecosystems;

- Forest resources; and
- Food production potential.

EN-21 Preserve and restore native vegetation and tree canopy, especially where it protects habitat and contributes to overall ecological function.

EN-22 Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents. Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.

DP-43 Create and protect systems of green infrastructure, such as urban forests, parks, green roofs, and natural drainage systems, in order to reduce climate-altering pollution and increase resilience of communities to climate change impacts. Prioritize neighborhoods with historical underinvestment in green infrastructure.

## Capital Facilities Element

A major concept of the GMA and capital facilities planning is concurrency i.e. that specific public facilities will be available when the impacts of development occur, or within ten years of development. This is achieved through standards and fees. Capital facilities for parks are reviewed, prioritized and funded through the City's regular Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process. The capital facilities policies that are addressed in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element include:

- The design of infrastructure improvements shall include conservation of resources, such as water reuse and energy-efficient electric fixtures.
- Minimizing the costs of maintaining, operating and other life cycle costs shall be used as a criterion in the design and funding of any capital facility.
- The design and construction of capital projects shall:
  - Use best practices for a crime free environment;
  - Create high quality built places;
  - Have a strong landscape component;
  - Maximize environmental and economic benefits;
  - Minimize environmental costs; and
  - Promote public health by providing opportunities for safe and convenient daily physical activity.

## III Existing System and Key Issues

Tukwila has three different types of park land as well as several new sites added to the system since the 2014 PROS Plan. In total, there are 260.7 acres of parks and open space. Appendix X provides a complete inventory of parks and recreation facilities. Figure 1 shows existing parks and open spaces, as well as existing trails. There are 10 developed local parks totaling 47.7 acres. These parks are mostly located in residential areas and range in size from 0.1 acres (Riverton Mini Park) to 10+ acres and provide places to play, gather, and/or experience nature (Table 1).

**Table 1: Local Parks**

Local Parks	Acres
57th Ave South Park	0.4
Cascade View Community Park	2.4
Crestview Park	10.9
Crystal Springs Park	11.0
Duwamish Park	2.1
Hazelnut Park	0.6
Joseph Foster Memorial/Lee Philips Park	8.9
Riverton Mini Park	0.1
Riverton Park	4.9
Tukwila Park	6.4
Total Local Parks	47.7

Special Use Parks have a single purpose such as the golf course at Foster Golf Links, or feature a unique facility or feature that is intended for the entire community, such as Codiga Park or Duwamish Hill Preserve. There are 11 Special Use Parks totaling 182.4 acres. Some sites are owned or operated by other providers such as the school districts.

**Table 2: Special Use Parks**

Special Use Parks	Acres
Bicentennial Park	1.3
Codiga Park	6.7
Duwamish Gardens	2.2
Duwamish Hill Preserve	8.7
Fort Dent Park (Starfire Sports Complex)	51.3
Foster Golf Links	63.3
Ikawa Park (Japanese Garden)	0.2
Macadam Winter Garden & Wetlands	9.9
Tukwila Community Center	12.7
Tukwila Pond Park	24.8
Tukwila Pool	1.3
Total Special Use Parks	182.4

Tukwila has several small undeveloped parcels, and open space sites of various sizes totaling 30.6 acres that are intended for natural green space preservation, habitat restoration or protection, or similar purpose. For sites that are publicly accessible, open spaces typically allow for nature-based activities and low impact uses such as walking/hiking and wildlife watching. The City is also responsible for maintaining the grounds of four fire station properties totaling approximately six acres.

**Table 3: Open Space**

Open Space	Acres
Black River Lot	0.3
Christensen Road Property/Riverview Plaza Riverfront	3.0
Interurban Hill Lot	1.7
Lookout Park	0.2
North Wind's Weir	2.6
P-17 Pond	3.6
Siccardi Parcel	0.9
Southgate Park	10.9
TIB Parcel	0.9
Tukwila Hill	1.8
Tukwila Parkway	1.0
Wilcox Drive/Pamela Drive Open Space	0.7
Total Open Space	30.6

The City currently partners with several neighboring jurisdictions, as well as public and private agencies locally and throughout the region to provide recreation opportunities for Tukwila residents. Trails, schools and recreation sites owned by other providers are part of the system and add to the number of resources available to Tukwila residents, businesses and visitors. Some features such as the Interurban Trail are a regional resource and require collaboration with King County and neighboring jurisdictions. These partnerships are critical to meeting the goals and policies of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element.

## Key Issues

Several issues will impact Tukwila's park, recreation and open space system over the twenty year planning horizon.

### Diverse Community with Changing Needs.

Tukwila's population is constantly changing as families and individuals, including refugees and immigrants from all over the world, enter the United States, begin their new lives in Tukwila, and join existing residents. Almost 40% of the population is foreign born and nearly half (49 percent) of residents speak a language other than English, compared to 27 percent county-wide. Asian and Pacific Islander languages and Spanish are of the top language groups. The dynamic nature of the population brings constantly evolving interests and needs which impact the way parks are used and the types of programs that are desired. Generally speaking, research has shown that cultural and ethnic groups use public spaces differently and experience unique barriers to accessing parks and programs. Many, especially members of the city's diverse language groups, feel that the City should play a larger role in providing services in different languages and that meet varied cultural needs. The language barrier has limited some residents in using parks and programs, or from knowing what resources are available.

Table 1: Top Statewide Recreation Activities by Race/Ethnicity

white	Hispanics	Asians	African Americans
1. Walking – Park or trail setting	1. Walking – Park or trail setting	1. Walking – Park or trail setting	1. Walking – Park or trail setting
2. Visiting rivers or streams	2. Playing	2. Attending an outdoor concert or event	2. Relaxing, reading, hanging out
3. Visiting a beach or tide pools	3. Attending an outdoor concert or event	3. Visiting a beach or tide pools	3. Attending an outdoor concert or event
4. Attending an outdoor concert or event	4. Relaxing, reading, hanging out	4. Day hiking	4. Visiting zoos, gardens, or arboretums
5. Gather or collect things in nature setting	5. Visiting rivers or streams	5. Visiting zoos, gardens, or arboretums	5. Picnicking, BBQ, or cookout

Source: State of Washington 2017 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report, Eastern Washington University (July 2017)

### Population Growth

Tukwila's population has grown slowly in the past with an average annual growth rate of 0.9% between years 2000 and 2011. This was similar to the county-wide average but only about one-third the rate of growth in the nearby jurisdictions of Renton, Kent and Burien. However, over the past six years there has been a surge in multi-family construction with nearly 1,350 units constructed and more underway. Per King County's adopted Growth Targets, Tukwila and its proposed annexation area shall plan for and accommodate 6,500 net new housing units between 2019 and 2044. In addition to the overall need for housing units jurisdictions must plan for the countywide need for housing affordable to households with low-, very low-, and extremely low-incomes, including those with special needs, at a level that calibrates with the jurisdiction's identified



affordability gap for those households.

#### Lack of Access to Local Parks and Recreation Areas.

The City of Tukwila is committed to providing nearby park and recreation opportunities to the entire community. In coordination with the City's 10-Minute Walk Campaign, the park access analysis provides an assessment of the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) – a partner of the 10-Minute Walk Campaign – provided an assessment of Tukwila's existing parks through its ParkServe program. The ParkServe program evaluates access to parks and provides optimal suggested locations for new parks using a variety of factors. According to the assessment, Tukwila has a higher percentage of residents that live within a 10-minute walk of a park when compared to the national average.

Yet there are several areas outside of a convenient walking distance to an existing park.

- The area along Southcenter Boulevard, between 42nd Avenue and 51st Avenue has a high to very high need for a park (Number 1 in Figure 2);
- The area south of Crystal Springs Park between 51st Avenue and 54th Avenue has a high to very high need for a park (Number 2 in Figure 2); and
- To the north end of the city east of I-5 has a moderate need for a park (Number 3 in Figure 2).

Using the ParkServe results as a starting point, the PROS Plan evaluated Tukwila's park system using a network analysis approach to identify areas where residents live outside of a ¼-to ½-mile distance (10-minute walk) to a developed city park. The network approach determines walkability based on the street network, accounting for significant barriers in walking routes. The analysis did not include open space sites and included both residential and non-residential land uses.

Socio-economic and demographic criteria were added to the analysis to better understand convenient access to parks through an equity lens. These include:

- Overall ¼- 1/2 -mile distance to a developed park (Map 1: Park Access);
- Park access and areas with a higher percentage of households with a lower median income than the county median income average (Map 2 of Appendix C: Low Median Income);
- Park access and areas with a higher percentage of households with children (Map 3 of Appendix C: Households with Children); and
- Park access and areas with a higher percentage of a nonwhite population (Map 4 of Appendix C: Nonwhite Population).

Based on results of the access analysis, the three ParkServe suggested locations generally align with park gap areas.

#### Higher poverty level

Affordability is a major issue in the region which impacts quality of life and the ability to live (or stay) in the city. Based on recent estimates, 60 percent of households pay 30 percent or more of their household income on gross rent (considered by the US Census Bureau as housing-cost burden). This is 16 percent higher than King County's share of 44 percent. Tukwila residents—with a median household income of \$71,688 (US Census Quick Facts Tukwila WA)—earn significantly less than the King County average of \$110,586. Notably, 12.4% of families are below the poverty level. The high poverty level indicates there may be a potential need in Tukwila for the parks and recreation system and programs to play a role in providing "safety



net” services. Low income families may have limited transportation choices. Therefore, the City will need to consider carefully how families in need will gain access to these services, not only through pricing policies but also in choosing locations where the services are provided.

#### Poor Health Status

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of parks and recreation is potential to improve health. The Tukwila area (SeaTac and Tukwila) is less active than the county and state average. According to a recent county health profile, residents in the SeaTac/Tukwila area ranked at the top of the list for areas within King County that aren't exercising. The same data source reported that SeaTac/Tukwila also ranks second in the King County area for highest percentage of residents with essential hypertension. A lack of physical activity and poor diet are among the primary factors associated with this condition. These numbers have increased since the previous data in 2012.

#### Constrained spaces.

Many of the city's developed parks are small and built out. The open spaces are environmentally constrained and there is little land available for expanded or additional parks in or near residential neighborhoods. Some sites, such as Riverton Park and Crestview Park, have the potential to accommodate additional recreation facilities and activities, but many others do not.

#### Condition of open spaces.

Tukwila's open space lands are a patchwork of small and disconnected spaces found predominantly along the Green/Duwamish River. Collectively, all of these sites hold value for surface water mitigation and water quality, wildlife habitat and scenic and recreation-based benefits and there is a need to manage these spaces as an integrated system

#### Lack of spaces for social gathering.

Many residents come from cultures that especially value and desire open and welcoming places to gather in small or large groups for socializing and celebrating. There are currently limited areas that can accommodate large public gatherings within Tukwila's park system

#### Unaffordable and inconvenient recreational opportunities.

Residents feel strongly that recreation services and programs should be more affordable. Many also feel that programs and classes should be more flexible and available at different times and formats. Many of Tukwila's parks, as well as the Tukwila Community Center, are located on the east side of the Green River, or east of 1-5. Due to the poor connectivity, these parks are somewhat inaccessible for residents on the west side of the city.

This section will be updated based on the PROS Plan

## IV Future Needs

The City's Strategic Plan projects a future population of nearly 36,000 by 2044 King County's Growth Targets require that Tukwila provide the zoned capacity for 6,500 new households by 2044. The City is directing much of this future growth to Tukwila South, as well as redevelopment efforts in the Southcenter/Tukwila Urban Center area. However, matching the needs of this future population will be challenging due to limited opportunities to add additional acres to the park system.

## Approach

Tukwila's approach to meeting future needs is to intensify underdeveloped lands and maximize the potential of existing resources, while partnering with local and regional providers to offset demand. Some existing parks have additional capacity for new recreational facilities, or can be improved to increase use. Based on this approach, the City addresses recreation demand for the planning period through an analysis of park and recreation area access for existing and planned land uses throughout the system. Areas that lack convenient access to these places now and into the next ten years are considered to have a gap in service. The City identifies "convenient access" as the typical walking or biking distance most people are willing to travel to reach a park. This is generally a 1/4- to 1/2-mile distance.

In addition to having access to local parks and schools and recreational programming, residents desire the following five close-to-home recreational activities: 1) walking and biking; 2) social gathering; 3) organized sports; 4) unstructured play; and 5) river access. Management and protection of open space is another need identified in this Report and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element. The analysis used GIS and the City's street system and trail network data to simulate the path of travel for pedestrians and bicyclists. It takes into account physical barriers to access, including incomplete or disconnected street networks and the Green/Duwamish River, as well as lack of park access points to give a more realistic assessment of the park system that is based on the way people actually get to parks.

The following discussion provides an overview of needs and recreation demand over the planning period. Identified gap areas indicate the general location where demand for parks and recreation activities are greatest. Figures illustrate the general geographic location of the gap areas graphically, as well as the summary of the future system concept.

### Nearby Access to Local Parks and Schools

Parks in general provide benefits to residents and visitors and contribute to overall quality of life, positively impact property values and make Tukwila more attractive for business. However, local parks and schools provide a wider range of recreation opportunities than special use parks and open spaces give, offering more comprehensive park benefits for residents.

Five locations in the city are greater than a 1/4- to 1/2-mile service area distance to local parks and schools. These locations indicate where improved access is needed over the next ten years. (Figure 2)

- P2: Rail lines and the hillside cut off this location in the Ryan Hill neighborhood from the rest of Tukwila. The gap is close to Seattle's Kubota Garden Park—however, there are no public school sites nearby.
- P5: There are no local parks near this location in the Foster neighborhood, but Foster High School and Showalter Middle School are in close proximity and provide sports fields, courts and playgrounds. Tukwila Pool is also nearby but does not offer the types of amenities available at local parks.
- P7: Crystal Springs Park is a local park close to this McMicken location, but there is no public access to its western parcel from the west side. There are also no public schools in close proximity.
- P8: This Tukwila Hill location has a higher than average density of housing but lacks convenient access to any local parks or schools. Tukwila Park is the closest local park, but it is not within the desired 1/4- to 1/2-mile distance. The multi-purpose fields and playground at Tukwila Elementary School are nearby, but they lack direct access from this location.
- P10: Tukwila South has potential to accommodate a range of different land uses, including residential development. There are currently no parks or schools to serve this area.

## Recreational Programming

The Tukwila Community Center provides the majority of public recreation programming and support services in the city. Along with City-sponsored programs, neighboring communities, public schools, private providers and non-profits expand the number of park and recreation related benefits available to Tukwila residents.

There is a need for expanded recreation programming and services in several locations using a combination of mobile programming with classes and activities held at City-owned and school-owned locations. Environmental education, community gardening and skill-building programs can all occur within parks. In particular, the City should focus attention on the following seven focus areas. (Figure 3)

- PG1: Continue to offer programming at the Tukwila Community Center.
- PG2: Consider adding programming at Cascade View Elementary School.
- PG3: Consider partnering with Tukwila's Metropolitan Park District (MPD) to add non-aquatic programs at Tukwila Pool, and partner with schools to provide programming at school-owned property during non-school hours.
- PG4: Partner with Thorndyke Elementary School to consider adding programming during non-school hours.
- PG5: Consider offering mobile programming in nearby parks to meet the needs of this area.
- PG6: Partner with Tukwila Elementary School to consider adding programming during non-school hours.
- PG7: Demand for programming and public services in the Southcenter/Tukwila Urban Center area will continue to increase in the future as new residential growth occurs. Consider traditional place-based offerings, such as programming at a park or building, as well as alternative options such as mobile programming, to meet the needs of this area.

## Walking and Biking

Walking and biking are among the most popular and desired activities in Tukwila. Tukwila's Green River Trail is the City's primary trail system, providing a north/south connection along the Green/Duwamish River. The Interurban Trail provides access to neighboring cities. Several railways and rail branches have potential for future use as trails. However, busy streets, the Green/Duwamish River, and steep slopes create safety barriers to pedestrians and cyclists in reaching parks. In addition, there are few east/west cross city connections.

There are ten areas where convenient and safe walking and biking access is needed over the planning period. (Figure 4) These broad locations are greater than 1/4- to 1/2-mile from the Green River Trail. They also highlight connections-- identified in the Tukwila's Walk and Roll Plan and supported by public demand-- that could greatly improve access for walking and biking connectivity.

- WB1: Connect the Tukwila Community Center from the south and west through a modification to the Allentown Bridge, or new pedestrian/bicycle bridge.
- WB2: Cross Tukwila International Boulevard to access Southgate Park.
- WB3: Cross South 144" Street and connect north/south to improve access to Cascade View Community Park.
- WB4: Connect opposite sides of State Highway 518.
- WB5: Cross 1-5 and connect east/west.
- WB6: Cross 1-5 near the Southcenter Mall
- WB7: Connect the Southcenter Mall and Southcenter Transit Center with the Green River, Interurban, and Lake to Sound trails. This linkage will connect with the Sounder Commuter Rail Station and the City of Renton via a pedestrian walkway and bridge over the Green River.

### Social Gathering

Opportunities and places that allow for socializing and gathering strengthen the social fabric. Many residents feel that these activities are central to a sense of community and overall feeling of well-being. Tukwila's diverse cultural groups also desire both formal and informal settings to meet, celebrate and socialize. Places and programs that offer youth sports are some of the most needed types of offerings. Five areas have a greater need for nearby places for social gathering or to hold community events. A combination of picnic areas and shelters, plazas and other supporting amenities should be added to these areas to meet this identified need. (Figure 5)

- SG1: Add picnic areas and/or an open lawn when developing Ryan Hill Park.
- SG2: Partner with Cascade View Elementary School to provide space for public gathering during non school hours.
- SG3: Create a small "parklet" or seating area along public street frontage.
- SG4: Improve access to Tukwila Elementary School to accommodate this type of activity.
- SG5: Improve access to the picnic tables and shelter at Tukwila Pond Park as called for in planned improvements to the site.

### Organized Sports

Most parks do not offer the variety of organized sports facilities, such as sport fields and ball courts, required to meet the needs of nearby residents. Residents desire open and available soccer fields, with a decrease in interest for fee-based leagues. Services and programs for children and places to play nearby are especially needed in Tukwila. Residents—particularly area youth—seek affordable places to play.

There is unmet demand for sports such as indoor/outdoor soccer and basketball throughout Tukwila. With limited space to add new facilities, the City should continue to partner with organizations such as school districts and Starfire Sports for providing access to sports facilities and programs. Special attention should be placed on two focus areas that currently have the least amount of access to organized sports.

(Figure 6)

- OS1: Partner with Rainier View Elementary School to allow public use of school facilities during non school hours.
- OS2: Improve access to Tukwila Elementary School, and partner with the district for use of school facilities during non- school hours. Programming at Starfire Sports would also be convenient to this location.

### Play

There is unmet demand for unstructured play throughout the city. The City should create more places for safe, unstructured play through new features and partnerships in areas that lack convenient access.

(Figure 7)

- U1: Add a nature play area with development of Ryan Hill Park.
- U2: Partner with McMicken Heights Elementary School for use of school facilities during non school hours.
- U3: Improve access to Crystal Springs Park and add a nature play feature to this park.
- U4: Improve access to Tukwila Elementary School to allow for use of school facilities during non-school hours.

### River Access

Tukwila residents have a strong connection with the Green/Duwamish River and desire expanded opportunities to access and enjoy the river. In some ways, Tukwila is defined by the Green/Duwamish River which runs the entire length of the city. Many of the City's parks and historic sites are located on or adjacent to this waterway. The Southcenter Subarea Plan calls for increased access and connectivity to the river. It calls out a bridge to connect with the Sounder Station and future park near this location on the east bank of the river.

Over the planning period, the following general locations will need greater connectivity to the river.

(Figure 8)

- R1: Work with willing property owners to identify opportunities to connect to the river in this general location west of Starfire Sports/Fort Dent Park.
- R2: Implement planned trail within this general area east of SR 99 to increase connectivity to the river.

### Open Space

The State of Washington requires that all cities planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) identify "open space corridors" useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of critical areas (or, as defined in Tukwila, sensitive areas). The word "corridors" tends to imply a passageway, whereas

Tukwila recognizes that movement through the entire open space corridor is not necessary. The City, therefore, chooses to identify an “open space network” that consists of public and privately owned lands.

A network of open space is a concept that comes from the State's Growth Management Act, and was developed through the Tukwila Tomorrow process that developed the 1995 Comprehensive Plan. The presence of a high quality natural system — interconnected and accessible for recreation, where appropriate — is part of the overall quality of life goal for the City of Tukwila and is a county-wide goal for all urban areas within Puget Sound.

Based on these requirements and in alignment with community priorities, an interconnected open space network is needed in Tukwila. The City should identify properties that would increase greenway and/or habitat and park land connectivity through inventory of desirable properties and through conversations with willing property owners and/or partnering with other land managers.

Of the most defining features of this network is the Green/Duwamish River. In keeping with the goals of the open space network, a separate corridor management plan is needed to enhance and protect the Green/Duwamish River Corridor. The plan should provide direction for integrating trails, street and river crossings and riverfront parks along the corridor, as well as a prototype design for public and private spaces along the river. Locations and recommendations specified in the Shoreline Master Program should be included in development of this vision.<sup>1</sup>

### Future Concept

A summary graphic shows the Parks, Recreation and Open Space system concept map, and incorporates the preceding discussion of future needs. (Figure 9)

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<sup>1</sup> Identification of lands as part of the open space network does not restrict the use of the land to public recreation. Identification means that these lands have value to the network. Private use would preserve that value whether it's a sensitive area (critical area as defined by the State) has an identified public access function, or has a significant vegetative/topographic function. In addition, land identified within the network shall have high priority for future public purchase of lands for recreation/open space.

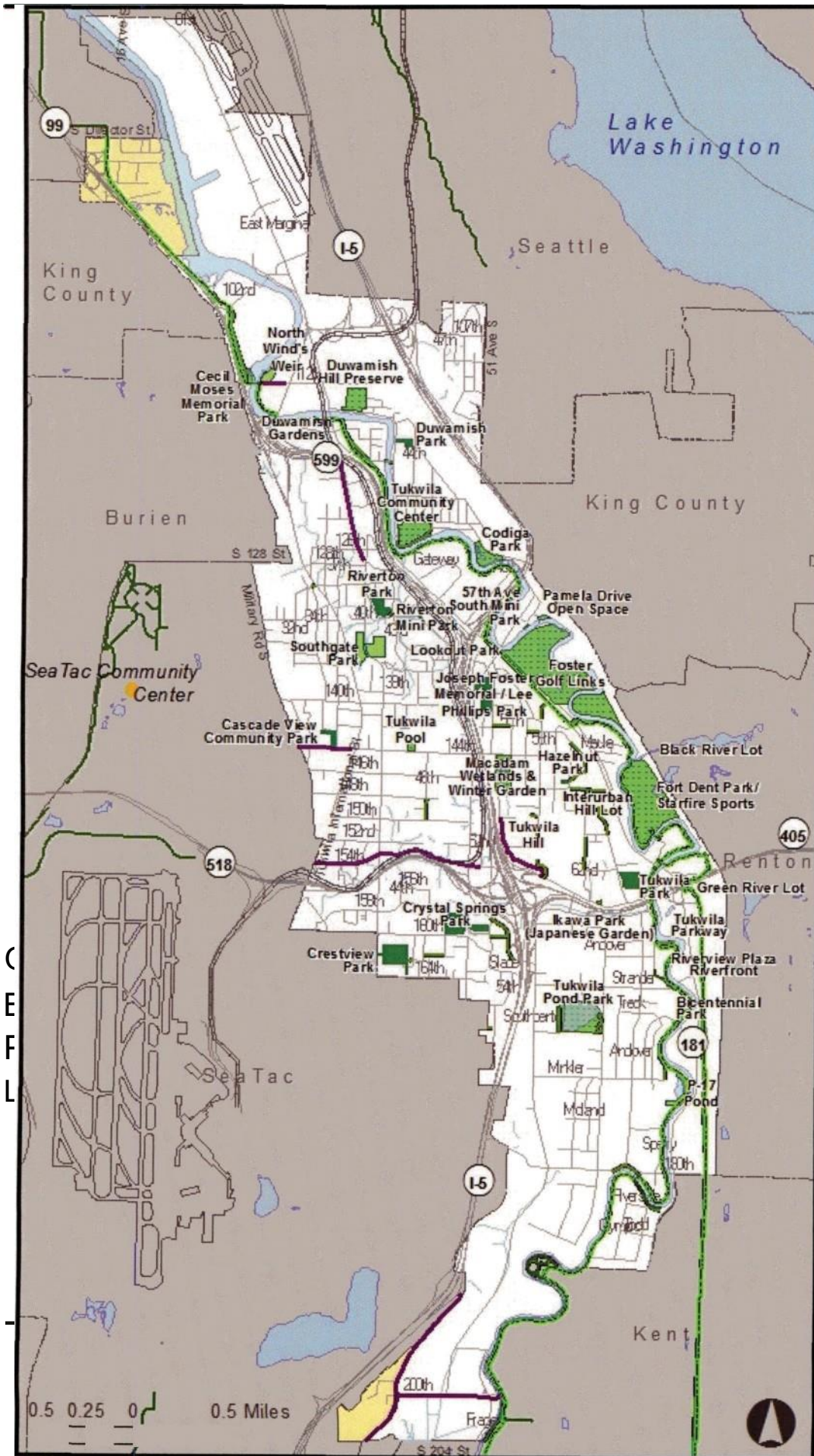


## V APPENDIX

[The following maps will be updated]

# PROS Existing System Map

Figure 1



## Legend

Existing Trails



Special Use Park Roads

Roads

River / Streams

kg Annexation

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 Miles





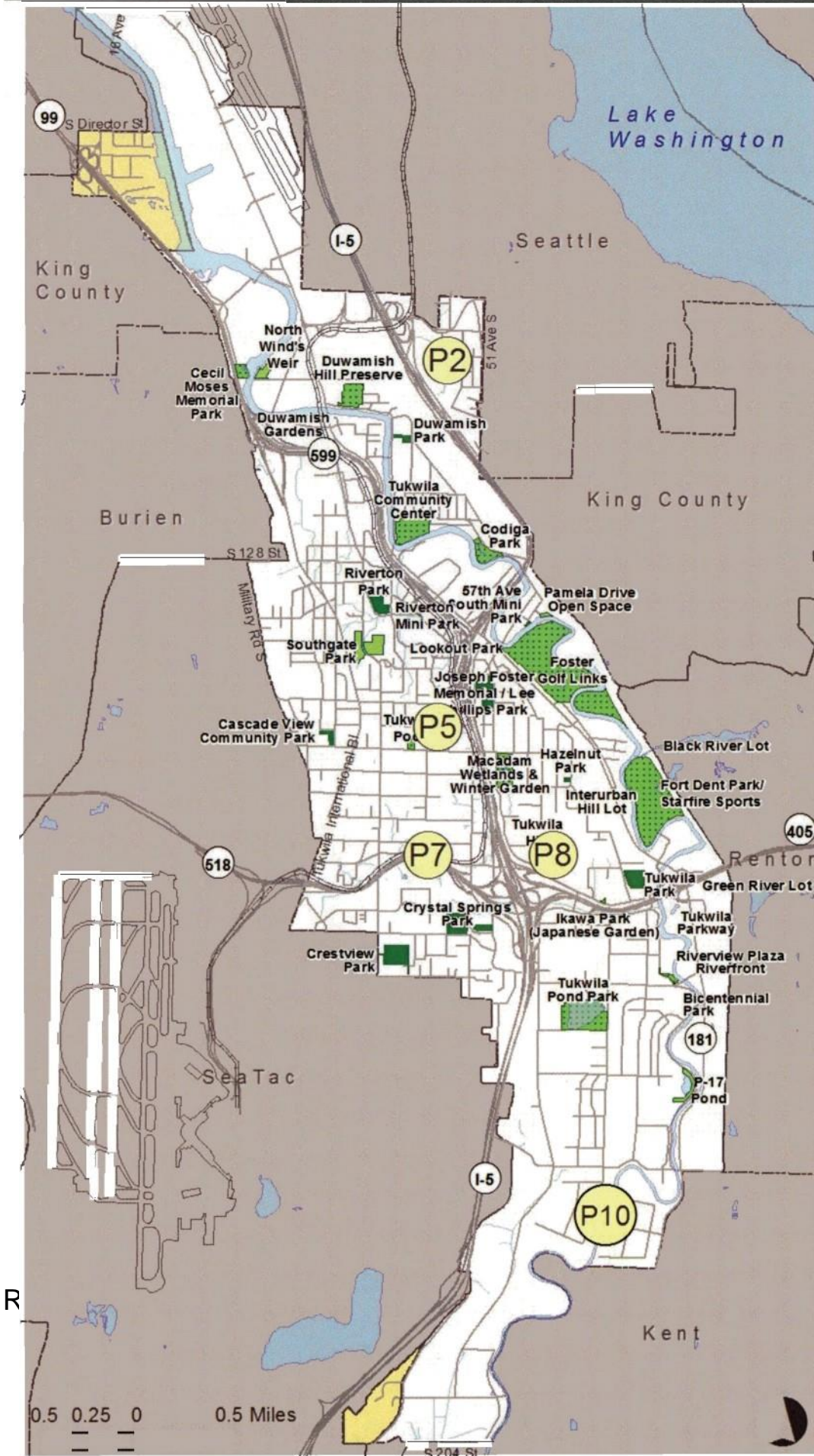


Figure 2

Legend

Parks

Local Park

Open Space

Special Use Park

Roads

Roads

Scale: 1 inch = 0.5 miles



Prog

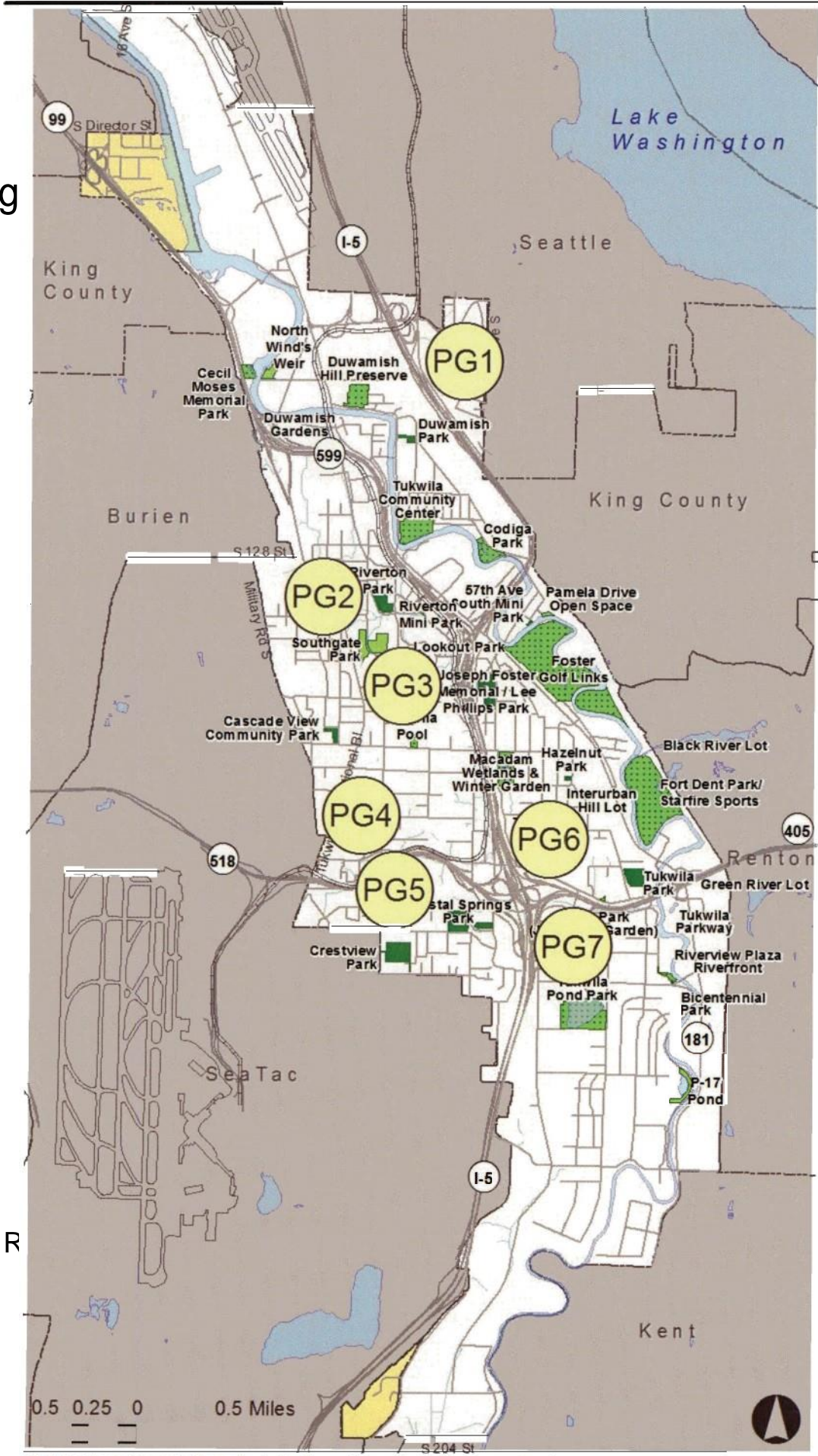


Figure 3

Legend

- Parks
  - Local Park
  - Open Space
  - Special Use Park
- Roads
- River / Streams
- Annexation

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 Miles



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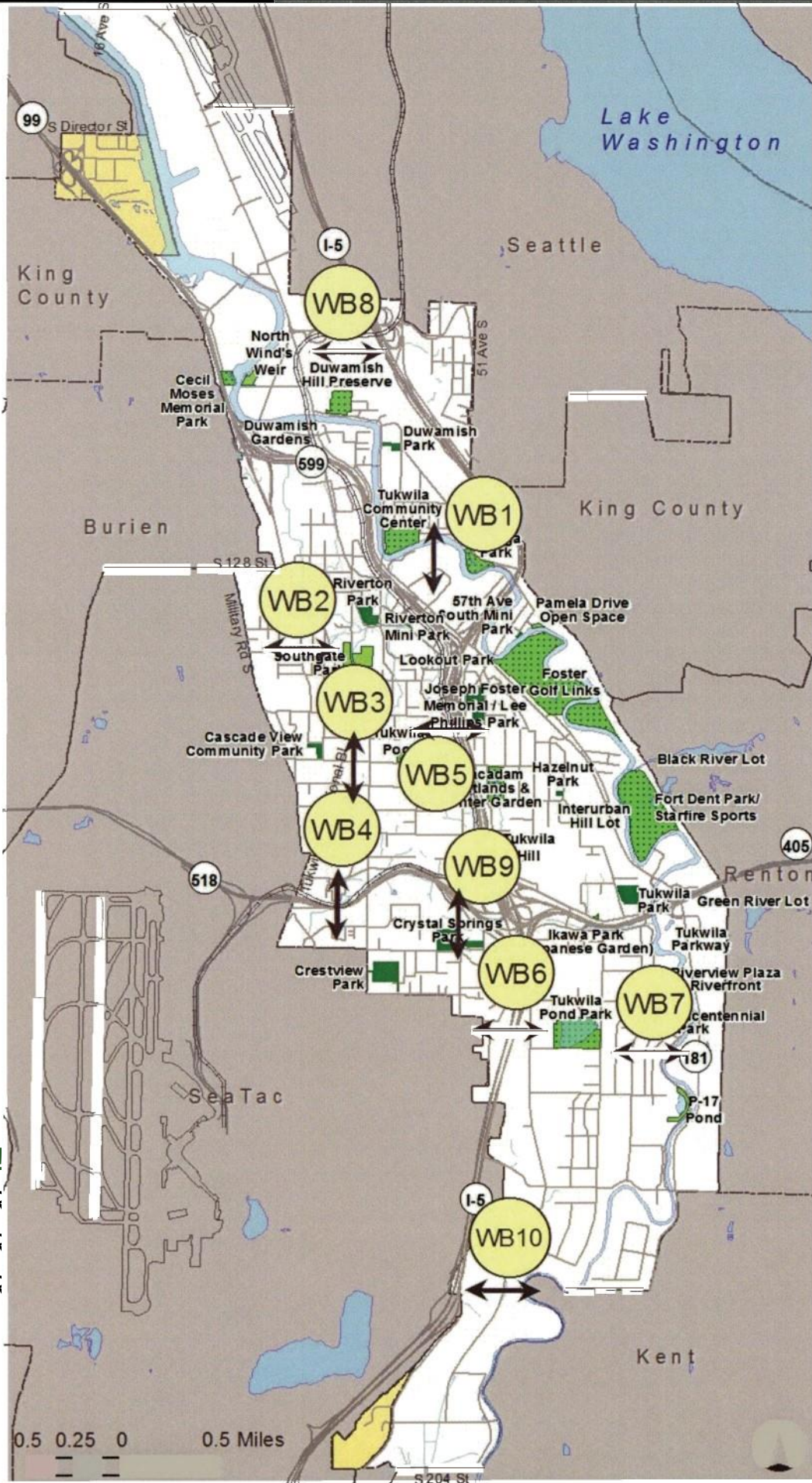


Figure 4

Legend

Parks

Local Park

[ ] Open Space

Special Use Park

North



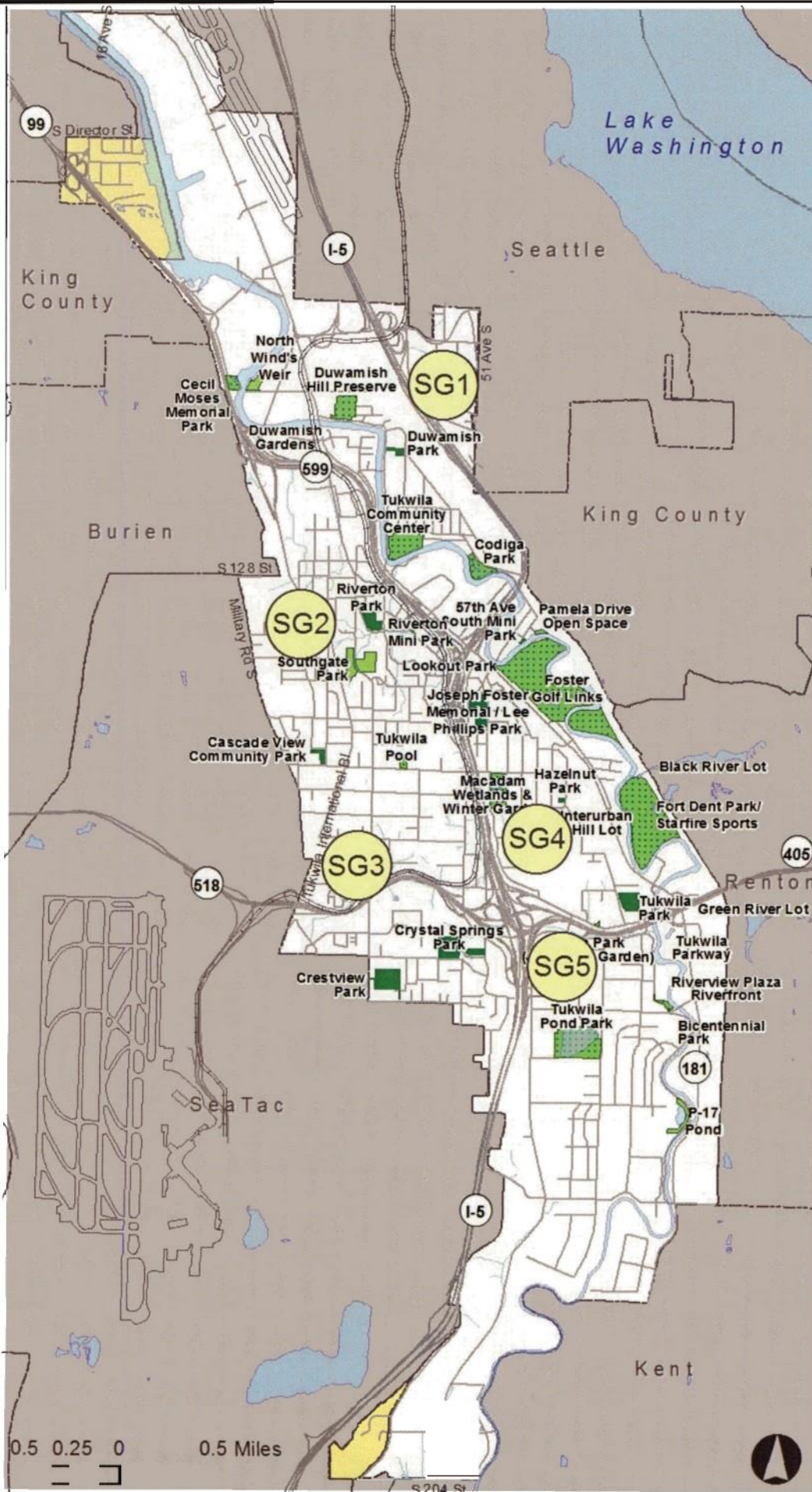


Figure 5

### Legend

#### Parks

Local Park

Open Space

Special Use Park

#### Roads

Roads

River / Streams

Annexation

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 Miles

1" = 400'



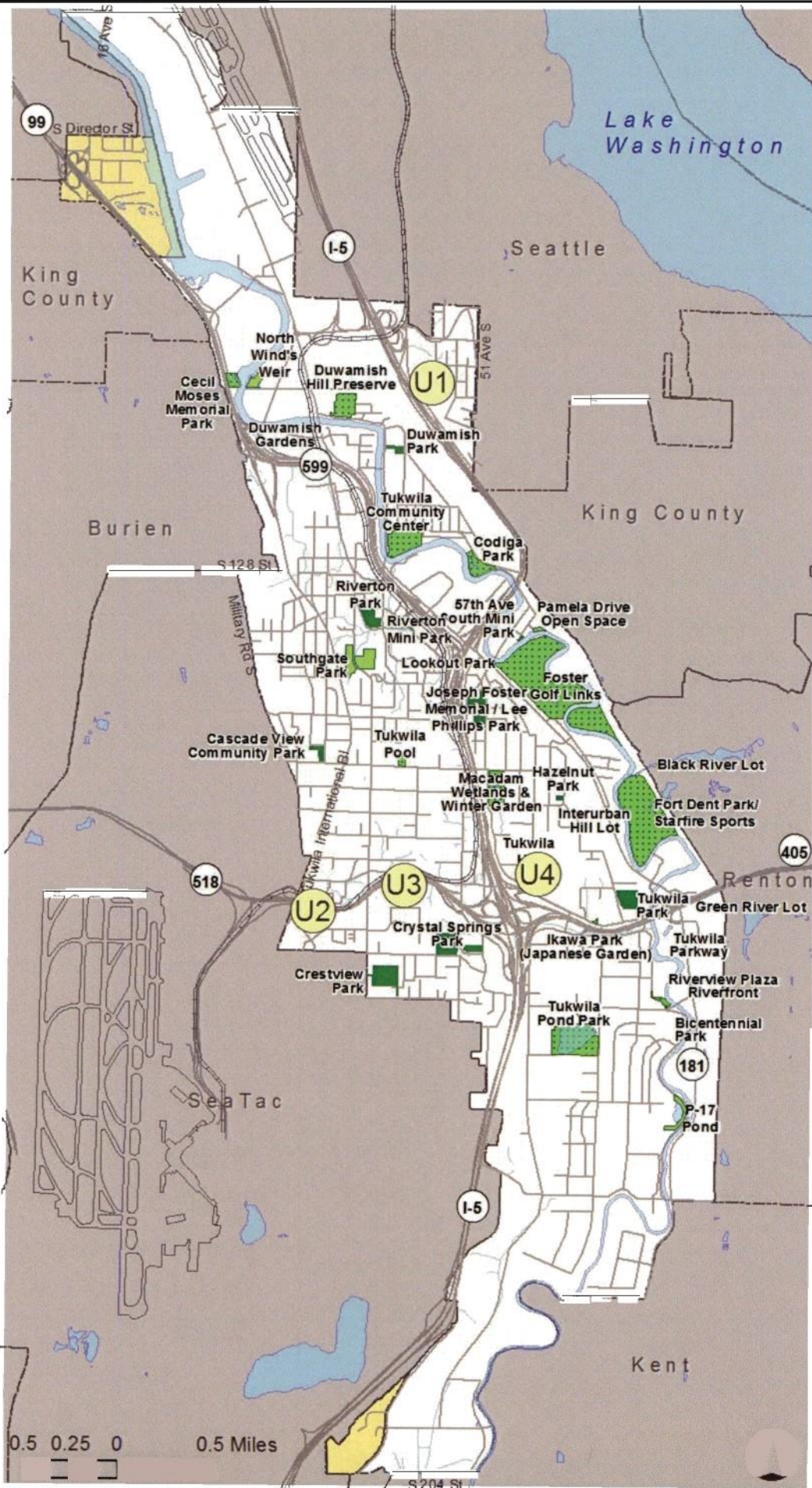






# Unstructured Play Focus Areas

Figure 7

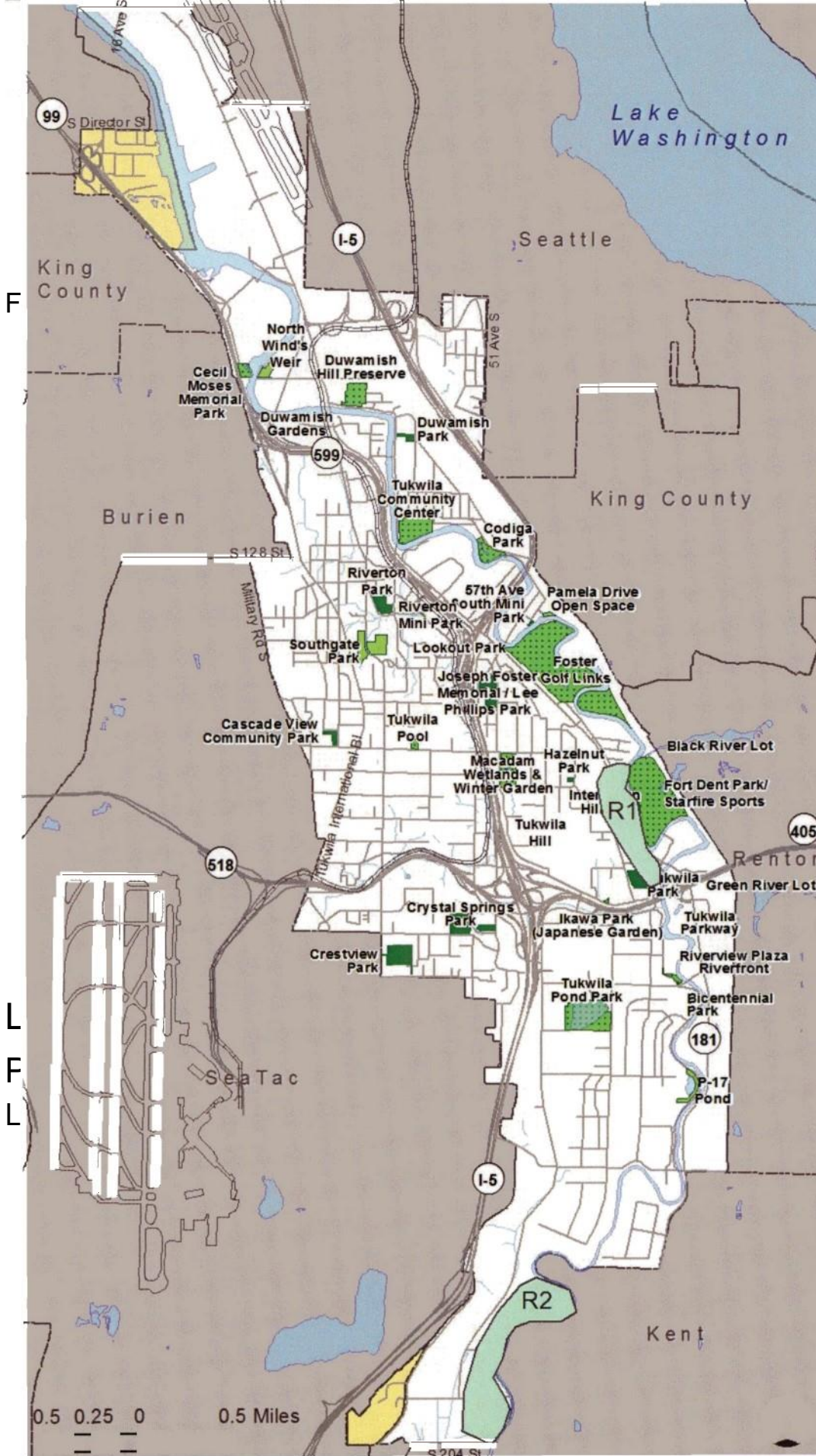


## Legend

- Parks
- Roads
- River / Streams
- Annexation

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 Miles





# Access Focus Areas

- Special Use Park
- Roads
- River / Streams
- Annexation

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 Miles

North Arrow





# Concept Map

