

PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Growth Management Act Requirements

The Washington Growth Management Act identifies a parks and recreation element as optional. As an optional element, there are no requirements prescribed in the law to be included in the Plan. However, one of the relevant goals of the Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) follows:

“Open space and recreation: Encourage the retention of open space, development of recreational opportunities, conserve wildlife habitat and increase access to natural resource lands.”

As this Element was developed, the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Plan, the Countywide Planning policies, and the requirements of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) were reviewed and considered to ensure that Brier’s Plan is consistent with those documents. This starting point of this document is the 1989 Comprehensive Park, Trail & Open Space Plan, which has been updated and expanded, and the City of Brier 1994 Comprehensive Plan.

2. Purpose of the Parks and Recreation Element

The Parks and Recreation Element gives a snapshot of the current state of the parks and open space system in Brier and identifies a plan to address the existing and future parks and recreation needs and demands. The Plan will serve as a guide and provide policy direction for the development of a parks and recreation system over the next 15-20 years.

It is also anticipated that the Parks and Recreation Element, as part of the overall Comprehensive Plan, will enable the City to be eligible for and successfully compete for county, state, and federal grants.

3. Planning Area

The City of Brier is a residential community located in south Snohomish County. The total land area is approximately 2.13 square miles. The estimated 1998 population for Brier is 6,295 persons and it is projected to grow by another 905 persons to reach a population of 7,200 by 2012.

The “City Planning or Sphere of Interest Area”(UGA) for Brier is located to the east and north of the City. The land area is slightly larger than the City boundaries, and includes approximately 2.72 square miles. At this time there are no population estimates for the Planning Area because it will be studied at a later date.

Brier’s natural environment is characterized by two major creek systems: Scriber/Swamp Creek corridor located on the east and north sides of Brier, and the Lyon Creek corridor, located along Brier’s west side. Other small creeks and springs are a part of Brier’s landscape. There is one lake, Abbey View Pond, located in the southwest

part of the City, which is used as an irrigation reservoir by the adjacent cemetery. There also are areas of wooded slopes, ravines, wet forest land, and wetlands throughout Brier. Wildlife habitats are supported by these natural resources.

Brier's parks system consists of 23.5 acres of active parks and recreation areas and 37.4 acres of passive open space. These resources are described in greater detail in the following section. In addition to the City-owned resources, there are two school properties which also offer additional parks and recreation opportunities. They are an important component of the overall parks and recreation facilities available to City residents.

Brier's parks and recreation facilities are used primarily by City residents, except for the horse arena in Brier Park for which anecdotal evidence suggests that it is also used by equestrians from outside Brier. In general, the overall demand for non-resident usage of Brier's parks and open space is estimated to be 25% or less.

II. EXISTING CONDITIONS

1. Parks and Open Space

There are two primary types of parks within Brier: Active Parks and Passive Open Space. Active parks include both neighborhood and community parks. Neighborhood parks in Brier are small parks, from 1-10 acres, and located close to neighborhoods, for which they are intended to serve. The service area for this type of park is ½ mile. Community parks in Brier are larger parks, at least 10 acres in size. These centrally located parks offer multiple activities to appeal to a variety of age groups. This type of park's service area is 1 mile or more. Open space does not have a particular service area, but is generally associated with environmental features which need to be preserved. These parks are usually not developed, but are meant to be used in their natural state.

Most of Brier's land area is served by either a community park or a neighborhood park, or both. A small portion of the northwest and southwest corners of the City are not served by City parks, although Abbey View Pond is located in the southwest corner and may serve as an unofficial recreation area for nonmotorized trails. There also are two schools located in the western part of Brier which provide additional recreation opportunities within the City.

2. Facilities Within Brier

Brier's parks and recreation, and open space facilities and trails are summarized in Table 1 and Table 2, and followed by more detailed descriptions for each facility. In 1998, the City has three active parks (Brier Park, Brierwood Park, and Bobcat Park) and two passive/open space areas (Golde Creek Greenbelt and Scriber Creek Greenbelt). Brier Park is a large and diverse community park while the other two parks, Brierwood Park and Bobcat Park are smaller-scale neighborhood parks. In addition, Brier Terrace Middle School and Brier Elementary School have recreation and open space facilities onsite. Because the school facilities are controlled and operated by the School District and not always available for general public use, they have not been included in the

calculation for park and open space land within Brier, but they are shown separately the table.

TABLE 1
Brier Park And Open Space Facilities
(Acres)

PARK FACILITY	ACTIVE-NEIGHBORHOOD	ACTIVE-COMMUNITY	OPEN SPACE
Active			
Brier Park		12.8	
Brierwood Park	9.5		
Bobcat Park	1.2		
Open Space			
Golde Cr. Greenbelt			16.3
Scriber Cr. Greenbelt			8.7
City Light Woods			5.0
Locust Creek Park			4.7
Miscellaneous Open Sp.			7.7
TOTAL ACREAGE	10.7 acres	12.8 acres	42.4 acres
Trails/Connections			
Developed		1.24	
Undeveloped		3.04	
Schools			
Brier Elementary		10.3	
Brier Terrace Middle		22.7	

Source: City of Brier, Edmonds School District, 12/98

TABLE 2
Trails and Connections

Developed Trails/Connections	Miles	Undeveloped Trails/Connections	Miles
Brier Park Trails	.44	City Light Park Trails	.25
Brierwood Park Trails	.02	Brier Road Poplar Way (east side)	2.35
Brier Elem. Access (232nd to School)	.02	Middle School Access (3210 Russet, south to school)	.08
Brier Elem. Access (228 th to School)	.23	Zuger Trail (end of Hickory Way, north to Vine	.11
Briergate (39 th W., north to 228 th)	.06	28 th Ave. W. (vacated, south to Allview Way)	.25
Brierwood Foot Bridges/Trails			
Elm Drive to 214 th Pl. SW	.06		
Oak Way to 20 th Pl. W	.06		
Castle Crest #1 (Closed Trail to H.S.)	.03		
Castle Crest #2 (37 th Pl. W., w. to H.S.)	.03		
Emergency Access (219 th SW , south to 38 th)	.01		
Emergency Access (34 th Ave. W., south to 34 th)	.02		
Middle School Access (32 nd Ave. W., north to school)	.03		
Middle School Access (34 th Pl. W., east to school	.03		
Timbervale Stair Trail (Russet to 35 th)	.03		
220 th Pl. Stairs to Mountlake Terrace	.02		
20 Russet Rd. to 32 nd Pl. W. (370')	.10		
34 th Ave. W. to Russet Rd. (270')	.05		
TOTAL MILES-Developed	1.24	TOTAL MILES-Undeveloped	3.04

a. Active Parks

There are three active parks in Brier. Brier Park, consisting of 12.8 acres, is the centerpiece of the City's park system. It serves as a community park and it is physically located in the geographic center of Brier, just east of City Hall. It includes 3 fields for baseball and soccer, tennis courts, playground equipment, horse arena, and picnicking areas, among other facilities. The wide variety of activities appeal to people of all ages.

Brierwood Park is a 9.5 acre neighborhood park located in the Brierwood residential area in northeast Brier. Its setting adjacent to the Scriber Creek and Golde Creek greenbelts allows this park to function as a dual purpose park, with both active and passive recreation facilities. There is a play structure, open lawns, paved trails, picnic tables, and benches within the park.

Bobcat Park is located in the southwest quadrant of the City. This neighborhood park contains 1.2 acres and has facilities for both active and passive recreation activities. There is a full court basketball court, play equipment, a general purpose grass playing field, picnic tables, and benches.

b. Passive/Natural Open Space

There are four major open space areas in Brier: Golde Creek Greenbelt, Scriber Creek Greenbelt, City Light Woods, and Locust Creek Park. They are not developed and are an excellent natural resource for the City, providing undeveloped land areas, wildlife habitat, and stream/wetland areas. Public access is permitted in all four areas. In addition to these areas, there are open spaces located throughout the City which are primarily owned by or dedicated to the City.

Golde Creek Greenbelt consists of 16.3 acres and is located directly north of Brierwood Park and adjacent to the Scriber Creek Greenbelt in the northeasterly part of Brier. This large undeveloped area was obtained through land dedication of a development in unincorporated Snohomish County. This land is intended to be used for passive open space to preserve a waterway and associated wetlands. There are no formal facilities, but there are informal trails that are not cleared or maintained.

Scriber Creek Greenbelt is located along Scriber Creek which bisects the northeastern corner of Brier. The Greenbelt consists of 8.7 acres and runs approximately 2,000 feet downstream from Brierwood Park. There are no formal facilities, however, its proximity to Brierwood Park makes it fairly accessible. This Greenbelt was obtained through land dedication as part of the Brierwood subdivision development.

City Light Woods is located adjacent to the power line corridor and 236th St. S.W. in the southwest quadrant of Brier. The City does not own the 5 acre parcel, but it has a use agreement with Seattle City Light. The parcel is wooded and contains a moderately old stand of native growth trees surrounded by a residential setting. The parcel was reserved as a substation site but has never developed for such a use.

Locust Creek Park

In 1998 the City received a grant from Snohomish County to acquire a 4.73 acre parcel of land for passive open space. The parcel is located at 2218 Vine Road and its major amenity is that Locust Creek runs through it. The land was acquired by the City in early 1999.

Miscellaneous Open Space is located throughout the City. The total acreage is 7.4 acres. Examples of these areas are in subdivisions (Briergate, Timbervale, and Dundee) and the new scenic overlook in the 1.5 acre proposed County detention area in the southeast corner of the City (228th St. S.W. and Locust Way).

c. Trails/Connections

There are approximately 1.24 miles of developed trails located throughout Brier. Most of these multi-purpose trails are paved or surfaced with gravel for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and horses. They include trails in parks, in subdivisions, and connections between subdivisions and to schools. Undeveloped trails, which are dirt or grass, total 3.04 miles. The longest undeveloped trail is located on the east side of Brier Road, extending the entire length totaling 2.35 miles. These trails and connections are also located in parks, in subdivisions, and adjacent to schools and public facilities. A list of trails and connections within Brier are shown on Table 2.

d. Schools

Brier Terrace Middle School is located west of Brier Road and south of Russett Road in the northwest quadrant of Brier. The school is operated by the Edmonds School District. Facilities are made available through the District, with school functions having priority over general public use. The total site is 22.7 acres. There is one football field, 1 baseball field and 1 softball field. Soccer is played in outfield areas of the ballfields. There is also a gymnasium at the school. Parking is located on site.

Brier Elementary School is located on 232nd St. S.W., west of 35th Ave. W., in the southwest part of Brier. This 10 acre facility is also operated by the Edmonds School District and the same conditions noted above exist here. There is one baseball diamond and another field with a baseball backstop for smaller kids, a soccer field, three basketball courts, and a gymnasium on the site. Because it is an elementary school, there are different types of play equipment (e.g., tetherball, rings) and climbing structures. Parking is located on the site.

Table 3 identifies the facilities at the parks, open space, and schools in Brier.

3. Facilities in the City Planning or Sphere of Interest Area

There are three facilities in the City Planning or Sphere of Interest Area: Hazelwood Elementary, Logan Park, and Forsgren Park.

Hazelwood Elementary

This 10.3 acre school site is operated by the Edmonds School District and is located at 204th St. S.W. and Poplar Way. It has a gym, soccer field, grassfield with a baseball backstop, blacktop area with basketball hoop, and a play structure.

Logan Park

Logan Park is a County park located at 1411 Logan Road in Bothell, near Larch Way and Locust Way. The site is used as a baseball facility.

Forsgren Park

This County park is located at 23709 Carter Road in Bothell. This park's primary facilities are soccer fields.

INSERT MAP OF PARK LOCATIONS - FIGURE 1

**TABLE 3
Park, Open Space, and School Facilities**

PARK NAME	Tennis Courts	Sports Fields	Play Structure/Equin	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Basketball Court	Gymnasium	Horse Arena	Walkways/Trails	Open Lawns/Areas	Benches	Restrooms	Parking
Active Parks													
Brier Park	2	3	✓	✓	✓	.5		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Brierwood Park			✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bobcat Park		1	✓		✓	1					✓		✓
Passive/Natural Open Space													
Golde Cr. Greenbelt									✓	✓			
Scriber Cr. Greenbelt									✓	✓			
City Light Woods									✓				✓
Locust Creek Park (Undeveloped)													
Miscellaneous O.S.													
Schools													
Brier Terrace Middle		3					✓					✓	✓
Brier Elementary		3	✓			3	✓					✓	✓

Source: City of Brier, Edmonds School District, 1998

4. Other Parks and Recreation Facilities in Close Proximity to Brier

Bicentennial Park (Mountlake Terrace)

This 5 acre park is located at 4105 222nd St. SW. It has natural areas. Covered shelters and picnic areas, and playground equipment.

Horizon View (Lake Forest Park)

This park is located at N.E. 201st Pl. and 47th Ave. N.E. and it is approximately 2.5 acres in size. It has an open field, half court basketball, 1 tennis court, youth play area ad playground.

Interurban Trail

This multi-use trail runs north-south in Lynnwood and connects to the north to Everett and to the south with Mountlake Terrace's 1.5 mile part of the Interurban Trail which is under construction.

Larry Egbert Park (Mountlake Terrace)

This 1 acre neighborhood park is located at 228th St. S.W. and 39th Ave. W. This park is immediately contiguous to Brier's west city limits. The facilities include playground equipment, picnic areas, and barbeque pits.

Logan Park (County)

This park is located at 1411 Logan Road in Bothell. Its use is for baseball.

Mountlake Terrace Recreation Pavilion

The Pavilion is located in Mountlake Terrace adjacent to Terrace Creek Park at 5303 228th St. S.W. The facilities include a swimming pool, racquetball courts (6), classrooms, and community meeting rooms.

North Creek Sportsfields

This 14 acre resource is located off North Creek Parkway in the Quadrant Business Park in Bothell. The site has a multi-purpose 4 field complex for either soccer or softball. It is also the trailhead for the North Creek Trail, which runs north into Snohomish County.

Terrace Ridge Park (Mountlake Terrace)

This park is located at 4600 242nd St. S.W. and it consists of 6 acres. It has playground equipment and picnic areas.

King County

King County and Seattle to the south have additional regional recreation opportunities, including the Burke-Gilman Trail which can be accessed through at Lake Washington via Lake Forest Park, the zoo, the aquarium, the Seattle Center, the Kingdom, and Green Lake.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public Meetings

There were multiple public meetings and a written survey that were undertaken for the previous efforts. To gather new information, a parks and recreation survey was sent out to 1,824 households in Brier in December, 1998, as part of the City's quarterly newsletter. In addition, the Parks Board discussed the new Element at five of its regular meetings held in the fall of 1998 through spring of 1999. Comments were also gathered from an individual meeting with a member of the public who could not attend the public hearing and the comments were transmitted to the Parks Board.

The Parks Board held a public meeting for this draft Element on March 10, 1999. There were approximately 10 persons, in addition to the Parks Board (6 members in attendance) and the City Council member liaison who attended the public meeting. The comments from that meeting included citing the need for multi-purpose trails that are inter-connected with other trails within subdivisions and to other trails throughout the City. A trail on Old Poplar Way and Hickory Way that would connect to Brier Park would be an important link for the trails system. Additional horse trails were identified as a need in Brier. Greenbelts which are accessible to neighborhoods are also important to acquire, especially as development occurs. Teen and older youth activities, such as a skate park (for both skateboards and inline skating) was suggested as a positive means to keeping kids busy and meeting their recreation needs as well. Finally, creating a map of the parks, open space, and trails in Brier was suggested so that the parks are more accessible to all residents.

Copies of the draft Parks and Recreation Element were available at the public library and at City Hall. Written comments were invited, however, no written correspondence was received by the Parks Board.

Additional public hearings on the Comprehensive Plan update will be held by the Planning Commission and the City Council.

2. 1998 Community Survey Results

The Parks and Recreation survey was inserted in the City of Brier's December, 1998 newsletter which is distributed to 1,824 households in Brier. The City received 112 responses for the survey, which translates to a response rate of 7%. While this survey is not considered a scientific survey, it is one way to gather data that reflect the current interests and opinions of the Brier community about the parks system. These data will be used as part of an overall public participation program to help gauge what is important to the community and to determine the future plan for the parks system in the City.

The park most frequently visited in 1998 was Brier Park with 50% of the respondents visiting it at least once. Brierwood was the second most visited park by 21% of those surveyed, followed by Bobcat Park (15%), Scriber Creek Greenbelt (7%), and Golde Creek Greenbelt (2%). A total of 6% of the respondents had not visited a park in Brier in the past 12 months.

The overall quality of the parks was rated as “good” by nearly two thirds (62%) of the survey participants, which is a positive endorsement of the efforts to date to create an excellent parks system. The rating of “fair” was given by 32%, “excellent” by 4%, and “poor” by 2% of the participants.

Most of the survey respondents had children in the 0-5 age group (27%), with the remaining ages groups fairly well distributed. The respondents with children in the 12-15 age group was 21% followed closely by the 9-12 age group (20%). The 15-18 age group comprised 17% of the respondents and the 5-9 age group totaled 16%.

According to the survey, the top ten most important (rated numbers 1 and 2 on the survey) existing facilities and programs in Brier are:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Park maintenance | 83% |
| 2. Preservation of trees, open space, sensitive areas | 79% |
| 3. Neighborhood parks | 77% |
| 4. Greenbelts | 77% |
| 5. Wildlife preservation | 70% |
| 6. Community parks | 68% |
| 7. Playground equipment | 66% |
| 8. Walking/jogging trails | 66% |
| 9. Brierfest | 62% |
| 10. Picnic/group facilities | 57% |
| 10. Concerts | 57% |

The survey also identified the most important (rated numbers 1 and 2 on the survey) future facilities and they are ranked as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Preserve natural or sensitive areas | 68% |
| 2. Tree planting program | 67% |
| 3. Expand/redevelop parks | 66% |
| 4. Walking, jogging, biking trails system | 65% |
| 5. Salmon/stream restoration program | 53% |
| 6. Develop a community center | 52% |
| 7. Additional neighborhood parks | 38% |
| 8. Additional picnic facilities | 37% |
| 9. Additional community parks | 36% |
| 10. Additional sports fields | 32% |
| 10. Additional playgrounds | 32% |
| 12. Additional sports courts | 25% |
| 13. Additional community events | 24% |
| 14. Additional horse trails | 21% |

In both the existing and future facilities questions, preservation of natural areas and open space ranked in the top two most important facilities. Greenbelts, wildlife preservation, tree planting programs and salmon/stream restoration were also in the top five. There appears to be significant interest in preserving and enhancing Brier’s natural environment. On the active recreation side, neighborhood parks were rated highly for existing facilities, while expanding and redeveloping existing parks and creating a walking, jogging, and biking trails system rated high in the future needs category. This

could mean that the development of multi-purpose trails that also link parks and open space areas will be important in Brier's future parks and recreation system.

Some specific ideas for other programs in Brier were conveyed in the survey responses (question #3.t.). Safety awareness campaigns, a kite flying contest, a program to honor veterans, tree planting, stream restoration, salmon planting, art workshops, and arts and crafts festival were among those ideas generated.

The survey asked for ideas on other facilities and programs not currently provided in Brier that the respondents would like to see (question #4). There were many responses that ranged from maintaining and improving existing facilities to acquiring more parks and open space to ideas for financing these improvements. A complete list is located in Appendix A in the survey results summary.

The survey also asked for additional comments (question #8). As in question #4, many of the responses were to focus on maintaining and improving existing parks and open space areas. Funding ideas, such as development mitigation requirements, bond issues, and use of volunteers were also suggested. There also were responses that the park system is fine the way it is and no improvements are needed.

A general question was asked about support for a bond issue to develop parks and open space in Brier and 61% of the respondents would support a bond issue. 22% would not support one, while 14% had no opinion. A small portion (4%) noted that their support or not depended on what improvements would be funded by the bond issue

The survey and the results summary are included as Appendix A.

IV. PARK AND RECREATION DEMAND AND NEEDS

1. Defining Demand and Need

Parks, recreation, and open space demands and needs can be defined in a number of ways. Designing a park and open space that adequately meets current and future needs requires looking at the age group breakdown of the community, what level of service is desired for both land and facilities, parks and recreation trends in the State of Washington, and, most importantly, community input. These considerations, among many, help to define what the community wants and needs, and shapes the plan for the future.

2. Population Age Group Projection

Historically, Brier has been a City consisting of young families, as shown in Table 4. Approximately three quarters of the population has been clustered in the 0-44 year age group. That trend is likely to continue over the years, as the projections indicate. By 2020, the largest age group will be youth (0-19), comprising 44% of the total population. The next largest group will be the 20-44, young adults, with 40% of the population. As in the past, it is projected that the 45-64 and 65+ age groups will consist of 11% and 5% of the population, respectively.

The importance of this projection is to hone in on the best types of programs to meet the population needs. Much attention should be focused on youth and young adult needs. Ballfields, playgrounds, active parks, and open spaces where families can gather and play will be especially important. Other opportunities for recreation for older age groups must also be considered as well.

**TABLE 4
Age Group Breakdown
(By Percentage)**

Age Group	1970	1980	1990	2000 (projection)	2020 (projection)
0-19	.50	.36	.34	.48	.44
20-44	.32	.44	.44	.34	.40
45-64	.12	.16	.16	.13	.11
65+	.05	.05	.04	.05	.05

Source: U.S. Census, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990; Projections, K.Conner, 1999

3. State Assessment of Needs

The State has used tools such as surveys, focus groups, and participation by park and recreation professionals to solicit public input on outdoor recreation needs. The findings of this outreach are important as a guide for Brier as another piece of data to be considered as the parks and recreation plan is developed.

The State of Washington Outdoor Recreation and Habitat Assessment and Policy Plan, 1995-2001 (IAC, November 1995) identified walking, running/jogging, visiting zoos and fairs, bicycling, and mountain bicycling as the top five currently popular activities. The Plan also identified the top five activities expected to grow between 1995 and 2001 as walking, bicycling, participating in field sports, golfing, and camping.

Demand for recreation facilities within fifteen minutes of a residence was shown in the Washington Outdoor: Assessment and Policy Plan, 1990-1995 (IAC, April 1990). The percentage of survey respondents using the facilities listed follows: park (55%); playground (39%); beach, river, lake (38%); ballfields (37%); pool (21%); nature trail (20%); and bike path (16%). The projected growth rate between 1987 and 2000 of certain activities was identified in this Plan. Walking in neighborhood parks is projected to grow 44% by 2000. Picnicking may grow by 40%. Bicycling and jogging/running are projected to grow by 35% respectively, followed by soccer at 32%.

4. Level of Service - Parks and Open Space

The level of service standards were determined by evaluating factors including potential future users, the 1998 survey results, national NRPA and neighboring communities' levels of service standards, state parks and recreation trends, public input, and the availability of land in the City. The levels of service are a guide and should be monitored regularly in order to make necessary adjustments.

The proposed level of service for parks and passive open space in Brier is 12.5 acres per 1,000 population. Of the 12.5 acres, 5.5 acres per 1,000 population is slated for active parks and 7 acres per 1,000 population is slated for passive open space. At this level of service, there is a current need of 12.8 acres in parkland (11.1 in active parks and 1.7 acres in passive open space). By the year 2012, the demand for the projected 7,200 population in Brier, the needs are 5.0 acres for active parks and 6.3 acres for passive open space. The total acreage needed for parks and open space in 2012 is 11.3 acres. Table 5 shows the level of service demand and needs for active parks and open space.

It is important to note that the City is responsible for the acquisition and development of the parks and open space to meet the “current” needs of 12.8 acres. These needs can be funded by the City or through grants or donations. The “future” needs, based on the population projection of 7,200, total 11.3 acres. These future needs can be funded by the City or as parkland dedication by developers for development.

**TABLE 5
LEVEL OF SERVICE DEMAND AND NEEDS
(Total Acres)**

PARKS	TOTAL ACRES	1998 LOS DEMAND	1998 CURRENT NEEDS	2012 LOS DEMAND	2012 FUTURE NEEDS
Active (5.5 ac./1,000)	23.5	34.6	11.1	39.6	5.0
Nat. Open Space (7 ac./1,000)	42.4	44.1	1.7	50.4	6.3
TOTAL	65.9	78.7	12.8	90	11.3

Key:

- 1998 Population Estimate for Brier is 6,295
- 2012 Population Projection for Brier is 7,200

5. Level of Service – Facilities

As with the levels of service for parks and open space, the facilities standards were developed using the same factors such as other’s standards and community input. It is more difficult to establish levels of service for specific facilities, since many of these facilities are also available within the region and there may not be the absolute demand for them within the City limits. Therefore, the 1998 current levels of service in Brier for facilities was determined to be adequate and were then applied to the future projected population (Table 6).

TABLE 6
Future Level of Service Standards
Facilities/1,000 Population
(At 1998 Brier Levels of Service)

FACILITIES	1998 FACILITIES/ LOS	2012 LOS DEMAND	2012 FUTURE NEEDS
Tennis Cts	2	2.2	.2
Basketball Cts	1.5	1.7	.2
Ball Fields	3	3.5	.5
Soccer	1	1.2	.2
Trails (miles)	1.24	3.6	2.36

Key:

- 1998 Population Estimate for Brier is 6,295
- 2012 Population Projection for Brier is 7,200

6. Analysis of Needs and Demands

The recommended level of service standards is 5.5 acres per 1,000 population for active parks and 7 acres per 1,000 population for passive open space. At that level of service, the current parks and open space deficit is 11.1 acres for active parks and 1.7 acres for passive open space. By 2012, the projected future population demands indicate that an additional 5.0 acres of active parkland and 6.3 acres of passive open space will be needed. The analysis of these factors follows below.

Age of potential facility users is a factor when determining the future needs in Brier. Since 44% of the population is projected to be in the 0-19 age group and 40% will be in the 20-44 age group by 2020, most of the park and recreation opportunities should be targeted to these age groups. It is still, however, important to provide facilities for a broad range of users.

The 1998 survey indicated that the public is interested in preserving natural and sensitive areas, open space, greenbelts, and trees. Land acquisition and development for open space is a priority. The survey results also indicated that existing neighborhood and community (active) parks should be expanded and redeveloped. This could mean, for example, that playground equipment should be upgraded, ballfields improved, or trails developed. The development of a multi-use trail system throughout the City would appeal to nearly all ages for walking, jogging/running, bicycling, and equestrian use. One of the benefits of such a system is that it could also connect subdivisions and neighborhoods to existing parks and open space sites, making them even more accessible to the public, and increasing their usage. Park maintenance was also identified as an important community value. Protecting and enhancing existing City capital investments is very important, especially when considering if more resources should be added. On the program side of the parks and recreation system, Brier currently does not offer classes or indoor programs. The development of a community center may also be an important addition to the City's facilities that could become the "heart" of the City where community members can gather for classes and different functions.

At the public meeting held on March 10, 1999 there was strong support expressed for the development of multi-purpose trails that connect subdivisions and neighborhoods to one another and also that connect to other trails as well as to parks and open space. Acquiring greenbelts for open space was also identified as an important need. Activities for older youth/teens was identified as a gap in the current system. It was also suggested that open space, especially areas with amenities such as trees and water, can provide special places for older youths to explore.

Land availability is also an important factor in the demand and needs assessment. The largest tracts of undeveloped land in Brier are located in the Old Poplar Way area, in the northeast section. There are several other vacant parcels scattered throughout the City. Another potential source of parkland is land that could be redeveloped. This could include parcels with dilapidated buildings or “underdeveloped” parcels on larger lots with potential to be short platted to create additional parcels.

In summary, there is a need for both active and passive open space parks. Of those, the greatest need is for active parks. The acquisition and development of multi-use trails is also a demonstrated need in the community. The parks and open space trail will continue to be improved as connections and links between the various resources are made. Improvements of current facilities will also preserve and enhance the City’s existing parks and open space resources. At this time, the majority of the future users are projected to be in the age groups of age 44 and below. This translates into the expressed need for neighborhood parks and multi use trails for walking, biking, horseback riding and other uses. The development of a new ballfield may also be warranted by the year 2012. Finally, since Brier is a community with a semi-rural character, with a lot of trees and open areas, the future needs include planting new trees and landscaping in public areas (including along streets) and preservation of greenbelts and natural vegetation.

7. Future Parks and Recreation Priorities

After analyzing the needs and demands for facilities in Brier and soliciting public input, the following are the City’s priorities for the future parks and recreation system in the City.

- a) **Acquire a minimum of 8 acres of passive open space to meet the level of service standards.** This open space should be accessible to the public and could be located within new subdivisions or on scattered sites throughout the City. Environmentally sensitive areas should be preserved and enhanced, for example, by implementing a salmon/stream restoration project. Greenbelts are an important component of the open space needs in the City, especially as Brier is developed and there is a continued loss of undeveloped land.
- b) **Establish a city-wide tree planting program.** Develop and adopt a list of appropriate street trees and develop a specific tree program for major streets in Brier, including Brier Road, 228th St. S.W., and 236th St. S.W. to retain a sense of the City’s character. The public should also be encouraged to plant trees on their own property.

- c) **Expand and redevelop existing parks.** Create detailed park development plans including expansion, park facilities improvements, uniform signage, and annual maintenance requirements. Preservation and enhancement of existing parks resources is a good investment for a City and one of the benefits is that more people will take use them.
- d) **Continue to develop a multi-use trail system.** Continue the implementation of the current multi-use trails plan in the Comprehensive Plan. A total of 3.6 lineal miles of off-road trails will be needed by 2012, based on the projected population of 7,200. Develop trail standards (e.g., construction specifications, materials, signage, maintenance) for trail uniformity and continuity. A map of trails, parks, and open space, also could be developed for the public.
- e) **Acquire 16.1 acres of land for active parks, especially smaller neighborhood parks.** Active parkland acquisition is another important feature of the Brier parks and open space system. Potential sites, especially in northwest Brier and in new developments should be identified. Consider the need for older youth/teen facilities such as a skate park.
- f) **Develop a park maintenance action plan.** In addition to regular maintenance by the City, consider the creation of an “Adopt a Park” program for community groups or businesses for a variety of projects.
- g) **Undertake a community center feasibility study.** This study would help to identify the community interest in such a center and to determine the economic feasibility.
- h) **Continue existing community events such as Brierfest, and consider additional ones.** These types of events help to create and sustain a sense of community and can help people get to know their fellow Brier citizens.

8. Potential Future Parks and Open Space Areas

The following are possible sites for future parks and/or open space in and near Brier. They are not prioritized and specific parcels are not identified, but rather provide a guide for possible acquisitions.

a. Areas Within Brier

Abbey View Pond Property (approximately 40 acres)

This property contains a scenic 10 acre pond, wetlands, and wooded areas. It also supports a natural habitat for wildlife. The pond is used for irrigation water supply for the cemetery located to the south of the property. The property has been used unofficially for walking and equestrian activities. Due to its biological diversity, this property is an important piece of resource-based open space land within Brier. Future uses would be primarily passive open space and a multi-use trail.

West Side Greenbelt (acreage undetermined)

This is a major system of open space consisting of wooded slopes, ravines, and wet forest land extending from Brier Elementary northeast to Brier Terrace Middle School, which is visible on aerial photographs. While most of this land is privately owned as single family backyards, there are some public acquisition options around 228th and south of Russett Road (northwest of the middle school). Its future use would be as undeveloped open space.

Poplar Ravine System (acreage undetermined)

This system of wooded slopes and ravines extends from the east side of Poplar Way southeast to join with Swamp Creek at Locust Way (near Barker Rd.). Its future use would be as undeveloped open space.

North Brier (acreage undetermined)

This area is likely to see most of the new development within Brier in the next 5-10 years. There will be a need for small neighborhood and pocket parks.

Southeast Brier (acreage undetermined)

This area does not contain any parks or open space. There may be opportunities for neighborhood or pocket parks, trails connections, and a possible community park, such as a ballfield, in this section of Brier.

Citywide (acreage undetermined)

There are potential opportunities throughout Brier for the creation of small pocket parks on lots that may be ready for redevelopment.

b. Areas Outside Brier

Locust Valley (acreage undetermined)

This area includes several created ponds and wooded slope and extends from Locust Way at the King County line, north to Castle Way. Its future use would be as undeveloped open space.

East Side Greenbelt (acreage undetermined)

This steeply sloping wooded bluff is the valley wall located on the east side of the Swamp Creek valley, and crossed by one east-west road, 228th St. S.W.

INSERT MAP: POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE (FIGURE 2)

INSERT MAP: MULTI-USE TRAILS (FIGURE 3)

V. GOALS AND POLICIES

GOAL PR 1.0: Develop an outstanding parks and open space system in Brier to meet the needs of the community.

- Policy PR 1.1: Preserve a wide variety of lands for park, open space, and greenbelt purposes including but not limited to:
- a. Natural areas and natural features with scenic or recreational value;
 - b. Land that may provide public access to water bodies, natural areas and parks;
 - c. use boundaries and City boundaries;
 - d. Lands that visually or physically connect natural areas or provide important linkages for recreation and wildlife habitat, and;
 - e. Environmentally sensitive areas, including severe landslide hazard areas, steep slopes, floodways of 100-year floodplains, wetlands, stream corridors, and habitat for established, threatened, endangered or highly sensitive wildlife species.
- Policy PR 1.2: Preserve a wide variety of lands for park, open space, and greenbelt purposes including but not limited to:
- Policy PR 1.3: Locate recreational facilities where they are easily accessible to the residential population.
- Policy PR 1.4: Strive to achieve the adopted level of service standards for capital facilities planning purposes. The following level of service standards shall be used as guidelines to evaluate the adequacy of public facilities:
- Active Parks – 5.5 acres/1,000 Population
Passive Open Space – 7 acres/1,000 Population
- Policy PR 1.5: Seek funding from multiple sources for parks and open space acquisition and development.
- Policy PR 1.6: Establish an annual parks maintenance program which includes tasks for both City staff and volunteers.
- Policy PR 1.7: Prepare a feasibility study for a community center. The study could focus on the community's interest in such a facility and examine economic feasibility.
- Policy PR 1.8: Continue to sponsor community events such as Brierfest, concerts in the park, and the holiday tree lighting.

Policy PR 1.9: Develop more specific design standards for multi-use trails and on-street bicycle paths or ways.

Goal PR 2.0: Provide active park and recreation facilities accessible to all residents.

Policy PR 2.1: Acquire and/or develop high quality active parks and recreation facilities that are cost-effective and require minimal maintenance.

Policy PR 2.2: Acquire land for active neighborhood parks located within one half mile of surrounding neighborhoods.

Policy PR 2.3: Provide park facilities that are handicapped accessible.

Policy PR 2.4: Preserve the horse arena use in its present location or adjacent, contiguous site and encourage new and additional areas for equestrian uses.

Policy PR 2.5: Prepare a master plan for each park in the City to identify future facilities and their location and potential improvements and acquisition needs.

Policy PR 2.6: Develop facilities and activities that appeal to older youth/teens, such as a skate park.

GOAL PR 3.0: Preserve open space for public access and to provide a balance of land uses within Brier.

Policy PR 3.1: Preserve land for open space which provides multiple benefits, including passive recreation opportunities, scenic amenities, and fish or wildlife habitat.

Policy PR 3.2: Allow some limited flexibility in zoning and design requirements when developers offer to set aside a portion of their property in a planned unit development for open space or greenbelt, along with other mitigating improvements.

Policy PR 3.3: Designate waterways and adjacent lands and wetlands as open space which cannot be built upon or impacted in such a way as to degrade the natural area.

Policy PR 3.4: Provide for passive recreational facilities, for example, trails through open space, natural reserves, open space, and picnic grounds.

Policy PR 3.5: Protect and enhance existing natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas.

GOAL PR 4.0: Acquire and develop a City-wide, integrated multiple use trail system that is functional, safe and convenient.

Policy PR 4.1: Develop a network of open space corridors, multi-use trails and paths throughout the City. This network should provide links between developments and subdivisions and also provide links to parks, open spaces, and other trails in Brier and in adjacent communities.

Policy PR 4.2: Provide for the safe and convenient integration of bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian and motorized multi-use networks.

Policy PR 4.3: Encourage the development of pedestrian rights-of-way and well lighted trails which can provide safe passage between neighborhoods, schools, commercial and recreational areas.

Policy PR 4.4: Upgrade existing horse and pedestrian trails and obtain new easements for extending trails. Unpaved, off-street horse trails are preferable to on-street ones.

Policy PR 4.5: Construct pathways and trails in City rights-of-way and on trail easements obtained on private property in order to establish a system throughout the City.

Policy PR 4.6: Connect Brier's trail system in key locations with other trail systems, where possible.

GOAL PR 5.0: Preserve natural vegetation and promote the addition of landscaping throughout the City to enhance the natural environment.

Policy PR 5.1: Develop a City wide landscape plan to provide a basis for:

- a. Further inventories of existing vegetation.
- b. Open space planning and acquisition proposals.
- c. Development of noise and visual buffers.
- d. Evaluating the impacts of any new development on the natural elements environmental systems.

Policy PR 5.2: Use open space, greenbelts and natural vegetation to reduce noise and visual pollution and encourage natural buffering between land uses and to separate incompatible land uses from residential areas.

Policy PR 5.3: Preserve major areas of open space in adjacent developments as unified and integrated open space to enhance the visual effect of the open space.

Policy PR 5.4: Promote the adoption of standards for public street development that include aesthetic enhancement, distinctive street signage, lighting, and/or furnishings, enhanced pedestrian walkways, and street tree plantings.

Goal PR 6.0: Work cooperatively with the State, Snohomish County, Edmonds School District, and private entities on issues including park planning, acquisition, development, and operations.

Policy PR 6.1: Promote the provision and development of park and recreation facilities through public and private funding, including impact fees, and through partnerships with other agencies.

Policy PR 6.2: Require all new developments to contribute their fair share to parks, street improvements, signalization, and sidewalks for project mitigation. The parks contributions could include land dedication or fees in lieu of land.

Policy PR 6.3: Require all development projects along trail routes to provide easements to the City for incorporation of the trail into the City's trail system. These trails could include easements on private property and utility easements for off-road trails.

Policy PR 6.4: Preserve areas designated as parks and open space through incentives, trades, purchase of land, easements, or transfer of development rights.

Policy PR 6.5: Participate in region-wide parks and recreation planning activities and consider joint projects, where appropriate.

APPENDIX A

PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY SUMMARY

INSERT Parks and Recreation Survey Summary

**BRIER PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS
COMMENTS SUMMARY
DECEMBER, 1998**

The following are the written responses to the open-ended survey questions 3t., 4, and 8. The comments are not in any particular order.

3.t. Other Programs?

- Safety awareness campaigns
- Kite flying contest
- Program to honor veterans
- Tree planting, stream restoration, salmon planting, art workshops
- Art in the park
- Arts and crafts festival

4. What other specific facilities or programs not currently provided in Brier would you like to see provided?

- Ballparks and soccer fields are overcrowded. Need more fields.
- Extensive facilities for organized sports.
- Off leash fenced area for dog exercise.
- Better organization of parade. Improve Brierfest, better vendors and crafts and arts.
- None
- I would rather see any available funds spent on such things as sidewalks and road repair. Parks are a luxury not a necessity.
- Don't attend [programs] but nice you offer.
- Enhancement of native plantings especially in Brierwood.
- Community club, children and senior programs.
- Swings on top of berms in Brierwood Park. Picnic table in Brierwood Park.
- Transportation modifications specifically a 4-way stop is needed at the intersection of Brier Road and Vine Road. And the turn lane from Vine onto Oak Way needs road buttons.
- A schedule of what/when and where or which park is having what, i.e., when are the Bobcats scheduled to play and which park is for people who don't have kids and would enjoy seeing a game.
- Community meetings.
- A community center for athletics and family activities.
- None.
- More sidewalks. Thank you for the sidewalks on 34th!
- Covered areas for picnics and family outings, areas for flying kites.
- More picnic tables. More bike trails.
- None.
- More benches to sit.

4. What other specific facilities or programs not currently provided in Brier would you like to see provided? (continued)

- We would like to see baseball fields for league play as well as year round use. It's desperately needed!! Basketball hoop in the parking lot at Brierwood Park. And a HUGE "Thank You" for the new playground equipment at Brierwood Park!!
- Need off-road walking trails to enjoy freedom from autos. (continued)
- We need a community center building for meetings. Need a water outlet at the horse arena and less utility
- Develop walking, biking, and horse trails between parks.
- Nothing
- 9 hole golf course, par 30, and driving range.
- Swimming pool.
- Wildlife corridors, more effective preservation of greenbelts, open space, and wetlands.
- Gardens/greenhouse facility, arts, plays (outside arena).
- More community parks.
- Senior activities.
- Dogs on leashes allowed in the parks and a fine if they don't clean up after them. More paved walking paths. I enjoy the car show at Brierfest. It adds a lot.
- Never participate in these [programs] but nice to have them.
- Would like to see a couple more covered picnic areas.
- Better drainage of existing parks.
- Lets improve on what we have.
- Petting zoo.
- Put the electric and telephone wires underground. Put up more street lights.
- Bike trails.
- We would like to see the Horse Arena better maintained. The drainage system is substandard. The fences need mending and paint. How about a covered arena-structures, etc...encroaching on public trails. Need parkways along key streets and street landscaping. Lets save character f Old Poplar Way: minimize traffic and paving, save trees. Historical preservation that is supported by law and officials. Need strong support and know-how from Council and Mayor for parks action.
- Haven't attended others [other program besides Brierfest] but think they are a good idea if they are currently well attended.
- Benches at Brier Park along the edges of the play equipment.
- Pool/exercise
- Brierwood should be updated or left alone. Bare dirt and construction tape is ugly, the space is unusable.
- More sidewalks and or walking paths.
- Surely people would be willing to pay a nominal fee for a state of the art arena for training purposes.
- More bike paths (all the way around the city). More picnicking facilities.
- Opportunity to reserve baseball diamonds in summer for private events/games.
- A community center.
- More walking trails lighted more hours.
- Nice they [programs] are available.

4. What other specific facilities or programs not currently provided in Brier would you like to see provided? (continued)

- Community horse barn? More space set aside for parkland- no development on Old Poplar Way to preserve semi-rural nature of Brier and keep areas for wildlife. Our magnificent pileated woodpeckers need space and old trees. They are extinct in Bellevue area. Lets preserve them here!

8. Do you have any comments about the future parks and recreation system in Brier?

- I would support with my tax dollars the expansion and maintenance of parks and the preservation of wetlands as a way to limit growth.
- They are fine the way they are.
- Who needs it?
- Let groups adopt parks to help defer cost of operation
- Depending upon amount of assessment [for bond issues]. Don't go overboard. Maintain current parks most important.
- Resurface the tennis courts. Add benches too, next to courts.
- Need to upgrade all existing fields/parks before you build new ones.
- We need an indoor facility-less emphasis on sports-more on classes and activities, plus places to play and enjoy the outdoors.
- We were distressed to hear that thousands of \$ were spent to provide electricity to picnic shelter at Brier Park. Surely the \$ could be better spent on maintenance.
- We support natural green areas as long as it does not involve infringing on others rights. However, we see the huge amount of development infringing on many of the items mentioned in [question] #3. Large volumes of traffic (speeding) affects our biking, jogging, and horse trails.
- Some kids decimated most of the trees in Brierwood Park 2 years ago and we have never replaced them.
- Would like to see better maintenance – e.g., mowing, weeds. Addition of trees to Brierwood Park.
- Maybe picnic shelters-look for baseball field.
- The areas give our children and grandchildren a safe place to play. Each of us – all of us should commit and ensure our children do have a safe and supervised areas in which to play. We can all help by being alert.
- Any chance for an off leash dog area?
- Lets plant fruit trees.
- Athletic fields beyond school facilities need to be developed.
- No more wholesale destruction of habitat such as happened at Brier Park (228th).
- We desperately need a safe walking route throughout Brier.
- The Park board is doing a great job.
- Neighborhood parks should be a mandatory requirement of any large scale residential developer, i.e., Murphy.
- Please complete sidewalks along Old Poplar Way, 214th and Vine Road. We walk and bike a lot.
- Go for it!
- Wished that dogs were allowed in parks.

8. Do you have any comments about the future parks and recreation system in Brier?

- I would like resources to be used to maintain present parks and sport fields/or improve such as night lights on courts and playfields to expand their playing time.
- We need to add more parks while there is still land left.
- Brier Park has great potential – but the lack of funding is definitely starting to show. The facility is getting out of date and is under utilized. There is a huge amount of space between the tennis courts and the ball field that is completely non-utilized. What about putting in a sprinkler park for the kids (like what’s at Forest Park in Everett or “Dragon” Park in Lynnwood?)
- Continue to improve
- [Support bond issues]: Yes to expand and improve existing parks; no to creating additional parks.
- Preserve it, and expand it as much as possible.
- I would need to know more information on areas needs. Doesn’t a contractor often set aside an area for a park in a new development?
- New development should contribute community park space and trails, including construction and plantings. Park mitigation is better done that way than by mitigation fees. Should be part of subdivision ordinance; make standard design percentages (for example, developer dedicates 20% of site for usable open space).
- [Support bond issue] if it would go to our priorities. Place high priority on protection and enhancement of Brier horse community and safe trails. Brier needs spatial continuity and connectivity that could be done by greenbelts of wildlife habitats with nature trails within. Save the unique horse element and especially the public arena.
- Crestview Hills never got their park from the developer. Make a park way link on 28th Ave. to Brier Park. NW Brier needs a large greenbelt park to connect the hodgepodge developments. Another idea: redesign the “Countryside” subdivision detention area with the extra public property to make a country image useful park there. It’s a gateway to Brier yet it looks like a mess now. Create a design standard for open rail fencing of ponds. Eliminate the ugly steel posts. Make water detention very shallow ponds, open like the Comp. Plan says to put in the subdivision ordinance.
- We should be looking for ways to reduce taxes or allocate the funds for other priorities.
- Keep the ones we have in continued great shape.
- It’s nice to see the Park and Recreation Board making our community a more enjoyable place to live. Keep up the great work.
- The kids love the parks. I want to sit on something and still see the kids (not the ground). Kids want to climb-we want climbing structures. More. More. More. Thanks for asking-Make a park across from by house! [22004 Brier Road]
- Boy Scouts could help on tree planting program. Need additional picnic tables. Would a hoop be put up in the parking of Brierwood Park?
- Too many already.
- Brier has too many parks now. Many are rarely used.
- Keep the parks clean and operable as well as clean and open restroom facilities (especially Brierwood Park).
- Maintain and improve existing parks.

8. Do you have any comments about the future parks and recreation system in Brier?

- I would love to see a wetland, natural park with trails in the property (5 acres) next door [to 2260 Vine Road].
- We need more baseball and basketball courts for adults.
- Wish the wetlands on south side of 226th and 28th would be taken care of better.
- The ideas are feasible. With great leadership these proposals can come to fruition, but we also need to maintain areas existing.
- Lets make our current parks better and add more playfields.
- They seem fine as they are.
- Need more soccer fields for Brier-Terrace's soccer league.
- Maintain existing parks more before new parks are established.
- I think that if we put money into what we have we could improve our existing parks greatly-then look at expansion.
- The tennis courts at Brier Park were improperly maintain summer '98. We use them on a regular basis spring, summer, and fall and the tar patch work is unacceptable to the average, let alone better players. They were much better before.
- Better maintenance – pick up debris (branches, etc...), mowing grass, cut back blackberry/bramble bushes. Remove debris in streams.
- Improve the existing parks before any other project is taken on.
- Appreciate public spaces now provided, parking, and level access for special needs persons.
- I like the idea of 6)L) above - community center.
- We need to balance the park and rec. system and facilities with the number of people in Brier to make a pleasant living environment. (We realize that our answers may not provide a lot of information since we don't use many of the available park systems. This is a good effort on your part to try to get community input. We trust that you will continue to search for input before basing too strong of weight on only this survey, unless, of course, you get a super response from Brier's population. Thank you.)
- Since the City Council automatically raised property taxes 6% I think the parks are perfectly fine as is.
- Maintenance of existing facilities should be top priority. When developing new facilities, maintenance capability should be increased to meet new demand.
- Create a walking, jogging, and biking trails system] and not just ditches in front of people's homes!
- Stream wetlands #1 priority.
- Parks should be developed to satisfy the largest number of people, not small special interest groups.
- They seem fine as they are now.
- Open space for frisbee, volley ball, etc...Parks have baseball areas, but not enough open space. Need more. No dog signs and enforcement.