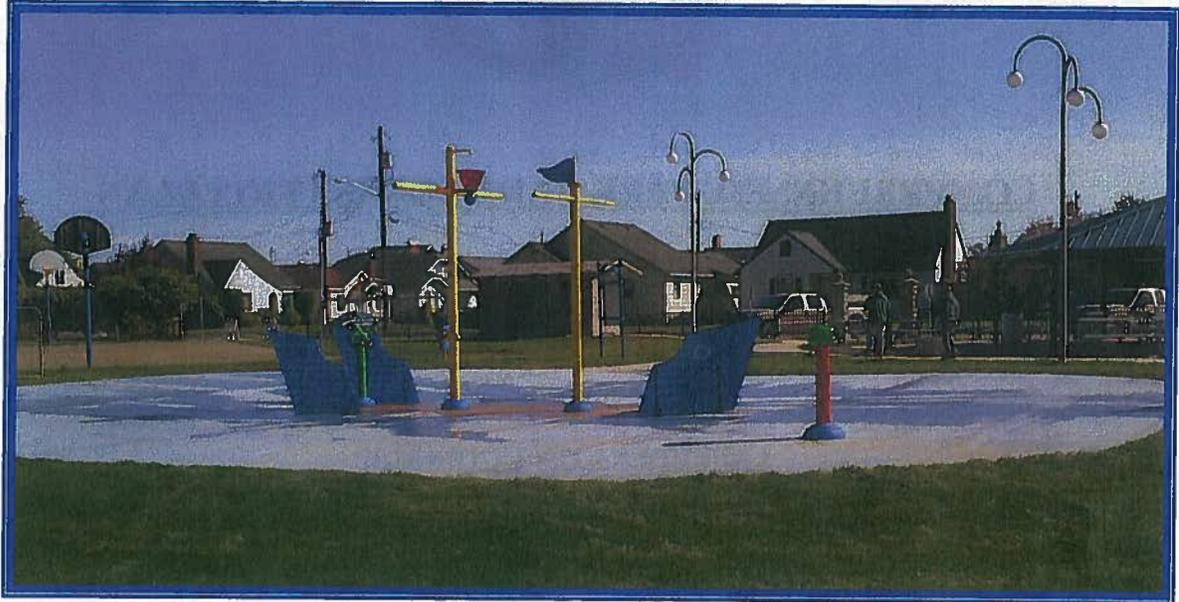


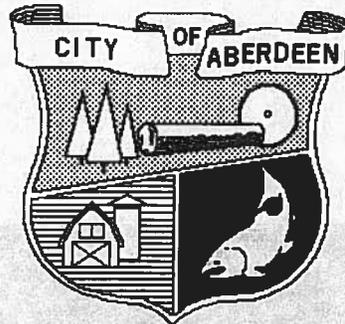
# City of Aberdeen



2011-2016

## COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

# CITY OF ABERDEEN



## COMPREHENSIVE PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

2011-2016

**Bill A. Simpson, Mayor**

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**Adopted by the Mayor and City Council on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Basic Concepts**

The desire of the American public for outdoor recreational opportunities has affected all levels of government since the 1950's. The increasing use of federal, state, and local land and facilities has resulted in additional government programs to provide quality outdoor recreational experiences. This increase in recreational pursuit is a result of a growing awareness of the quality of life benefits inherent in leisure time recreation. In response to expanded recreational needs, comprehensive long-range planning to guide governmental investment and to formulate sound programs has become a necessity.

In 1964, the State of Washington passed Initiative 215, the Marine Recreation Land Act, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 43.99, noting the importance of comprehensive recreation planning. This Act permitted the formation of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (RCO). The RCO was authorized to administer an outdoor recreation grants-in-aid program for state and local agencies of government. In 1967, the Washington State Legislature amended the Act and further authorized the RCO to prepare a comprehensive plan for the development of outdoor recreation resources in the State. That plan, the Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), serves as both a primary and formal source upon which outdoor recreation policy decisions can be based. These decisions help to optimize the funds, manpower, and resources available to the state in creating recreational benefits for all users. It furnishes a framework of goals and objectives, which are utilized by local jurisdictions in the preparation of local comprehensive park and recreation plans.

The City of Aberdeen prepared a Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan in 1972 in conformance with the SCORP framework of goals and objectives. That Plan has been successfully implemented to guide the development of the Aberdeen park system. Periodic updates of the park and recreation comprehensive plan is required in order to continue providing quality recreational opportunities for the residents of Aberdeen and meet the diverse needs presented by today's society.

#### **Plan Development**

This Park and Recreation Plan is an expression of the community's objectives, needs, and priorities for the provision of recreation space, services, and facilities. The Plan will act as a guide for public policy and private decisions regarding the scope, quality, and location of leisure opportunities to meet the needs of residents and visitors.

This Park and Recreation Plan is a comprehensive, policy-oriented document that puts forth recommendations and guidelines for public and private decisions concerning the use and preservation of open space for recreation as well as the acquisition, development, and management of public parks or facilities for recreation-oriented uses.

This document is a systematic way of anticipating, creating, preventing, or monitoring change related to the provision of public and private leisure opportunities. It reflects a continuous process of change in response to new social values, life-style patterns, technology, legislation, and availability of resources.

In the preparation of this plan, three overriding guidelines were utilized to provide for a functional Park and Recreation Plan. These guidelines create a balance in the plan to meet present recreation deficiencies and future requirements, to maintain a focus on the projected population characteristics and economic base of the community, and to remain within the City of Aberdeen's fiscal resources or anticipated federal or state assistance programs to help with the Plan's implementation.

In summary, this Comprehensive Plan is a general guide to the future development and character of the community. It focuses on the overall relationship between open space and leisure services to land use and the quality of urban life and environment. The park and recreation plan details these relationships and translates them into specific sites to acquire or develop leisure-oriented uses. It also details policies, practices, or criteria related to the design and management of these leisure spaces and services.

### **Plan Outline**

The RCO requires local communities to prepare a planning effort that analyzes their park and recreation system. If a plan exists, an update is necessary every six years to ensure that current level of service demands are reflected in the plan. In order to adequately meet the current and anticipated recreation needs of Aberdeen residents, specific elements are required to be included in the recreation plan. These elements encompass the identification of community goals and objectives towards recreation site and facility development, planning area description, an analysis of existing site and facilities, the methods used to provide public input into the development of this plan, the determination of needs through the application of acceptable federal and state standards and public input opportunities, and recommendations for the implementation of procedures in order to achieve the goals and objectives. An integral ingredient to the success and implementation of this plan is its formal adoption by the City of Aberdeen. Through the adoption of this plan, it is anticipated that the goals, objectives, and recommendations identified herein will be utilized through the implementation of, and conformance to, the City's funding mechanisms and thereby providing a sound and effective park system for the residents of Aberdeen.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Definitions**

Recreation is an activity or experience undertaken primarily for the pleasure or satisfaction derived from it. Recreation can be experienced indoors or outdoors. It encompasses a broad range of human activities ranging from rest and reflection to learning and teaching, from development of personal and social skills to meeting challenges and recovering from failures. Recreation is fun and enjoyment, and includes both mental and physical exercise, personal and interpersonal experience, and self-provided and socially observed entertainment. Although recreational preferences may vary from individual to individual, recreation represents a necessary and significant place in every person's life.

To adequately provide for the broad range of human activities, whether identified by current or anticipated demand, a framework of goals and objectives should be established. Planning is the rational process for formulating and meeting goals. The formulation of goals, therefore, is an essential task, which should be undertaken before this plan is prepared.

A goal is the end result of an objective, and an objective is the means by which one will accomplish the goal. With this in mind, the following goals were established to provide the framework for the development of the Aberdeen Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan. These goals represent the recreational philosophy of the Mayor and City Council, the Park Board and its staff, and the citizens of Aberdeen. An overall City goal was established, with three elements of the overall goal identified. The first element, or Area Element, focuses on objectives to provide adequate land for park development. The Program Element deals with the provision of recreational programs while the Facility Element pertains to the provision of recreational facilities.

#### **CITYWIDE GOAL:**

Provide the maximum wholesome, creative, and enjoyable recreation opportunities for all the citizens of Aberdeen.

#### **Area Element**

##### **Goal**

Acquire land for park purposes to meet the present and future needs of all the citizens of Aberdeen.

##### **Objectives**

- AE-1. Provide sufficient land to meet the park and recreation needs of the citizens of Aberdeen.
  
- AE-2. Assure that currently owned public land is suitable and preserved for recreational use.

- AE-3. Encourage private donation of suitable recreational land for Aberdeen.
- AE-4. Encourage easements, long-term leases, or trades for property, which is suitable or desirable for recreational use.
- AE-5. Provide public access to shorelines and provide shoreline recreation areas for the public use.
- AE-6. Ensure that areas providing high quality scenic vistas are preserved.
- AE-7. Encourage and promote open space areas adjacent and complimentary to cultural and entertainment amenities.
- AE-8. Encourage the dedication of land for open space and park purposes as part of the subdivision process in accordance with RCW Chapter 58.17.110.
- AE-9. Assure that currently owned public land is maintained in a suitable manor.

**Program Element**

***Goal***

Establish and provide recreational programs sufficient to meet the needs of all the citizens of Aberdeen.

***Objectives***

- PE-1. Provide recreational programs that will stimulate and challenge both the mental and physical capabilities of the citizens of Aberdeen.
- PE-2. Encourage, promote, and maintain a successful working relationship with the Aberdeen School District, Grays Harbor College, neighboring communities and local community groups for joint recreation programs.
- PE-3. Promote and implement year-round suitable recreation programs for all age groups.
- PE-4. Provide methods for special-interest groups to organize and operate their individual programs utilizing park and/or school facilities in harmony with the Parks and Recreation Program, the School District Programs and the Grays Harbor College Program.
- PE-5. Actively seek innovative recreational programs that stimulate and challenge the mental and physical capabilities of Aberdeen residents.

## **Facility Element**

### **Goal**

Provide recreation facilities designed to meet the needs and desires of all Aberdeen citizens, while providing a high standard of quality in design and maintenance.

### **Objectives**

- FE-1. Provide sufficient recreation facility development to meet the needs and desires of the citizens of Aberdeen.
- FE-2. Encourage citizen participation in the design and development of recreation facilities.
- FE-3. Coordinate future development efforts of the school district with park facility development.
- FE-4. Encourage, promote and schedule recreation facility development to meet or exceed the priorities set forth in the present and future capital improvement program.
- FE-5. Implement an overall plan to improve and modernize all facilities for the enjoyment, safety and welfare for all who use the facilities.
- FE-6. Actively seek state and federal funds for public park's and recreation facility development that is needed within appropriate areas of the community.
- FE-7. Encourage and promote the development of public recreation facilities adjacent to the waterfront providing recreational opportunities.
- FE-8. Encourage pedestrian/bicycle intermodal pathway's linking proposed county and existing City recreation facilities.
- FE-9. Provide ADA accessible restroom facilities at all City parks.
- FE-10. Consider the construction of an ADA accessible fishing dock at Morrison Riverfront Park.
- FE-11. Consider the construction of basketball goals in areas currently not served by goals if future park development within the City occurs.
- FE-12. Develop a boat launch facility to meet the identified need.
- FE-13. Develop the continuation of the pathway extending westward from Zelakso Park connecting to the South Aberdeen Boat Launch.
- FE-14. Develop the last segment of the East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway from the South Aberdeen Boat Launch connecting to the Bob Basich Trailway.

- FE-15. Consider joint funding opportunities for the construction of additional playground equipment at school sites.
- FE-16. Consider the construction of a large meeting and picnic area, new playground equipment, additional restrooms, parking and stormwater runoff improvements at Sam Benn Park.
- FE-17. Consider a significant expansion of public facilities at the Lake Aberdeen Recreation Area including a pedestrian trail around the lake
- FE-18. Consider the provision of playground equipment and landscaping at Alder Creek Park.
- FE-19. Consider the provision of a picnic/barbecue shelter, paved parking lot at North Aberdeen Playfield.
- FE-20. Consider building a BMX Facility.
- FE-21. Consider the addition of a "Dog Park".

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **AREA PROFILE**

#### **History**

##### **Grays Harbor County**

The original inhabitants of this area were the Chehalis or Tsihalis people. They had several villages in the area, five on the Chehalis River as well as seven on the north side and eight on the south side of the harbor. Other tribes that once lived in Grays Harbor County were the Hookium [Hoquiam], Humptulips, Wynoochee, Satsop, and Quinault tribes. Because all of these groups of people were part of the Salish linguistic group, they also shared culture, social organization, and religious systems. These Native Americans prospered from the abundant riches of the sea and land of the Pacific Coast, the same very riches that attracted the early pioneers.

The very first pioneers of European ancestry to Grays Harbor came by both sea and land. It would be questionable to say which group endured the greater hardships, for all were men and women of vision, striving to find and develop the vast potentials of a land rich in many untapped resources. It is indeed a fascinating story from the time the first Spanish sailing vessel touched briefly on the inlet of Grays Harbor in July of 1775, to the present day.

On the morning of May 7, 1792, Captain Robert Gray, sent as a representative of the Boston Fur Company, sailed his ship, the Columbia, into that bay of water which now bears his name: Grays Harbor. His log tells little of his findings, but he did give the name of Bulfinch to this region in honor of Charles Bulfinch of Boston. However, when George Vancouver came at a later date, he logged on his charts the name of Grays Harbor, in honor of his predecessor, and it has remained by that name. Sixteen years later, in 1808, Captain Gray died in Charleston, South Carolina, with the high honor of having been the first man to carry flag of the United States around the world.

Those that came by water had heard reports of the many sea otter to be found here, and as this news spread, various groups came to see for themselves and liked what they saw. Seeking otters out for their skins developed into a thriving business, and as early as 1788, the first trading took place between the Boston Fur Company and the Northwest. As time went on, small groups of people began to come from inland for brief visits by way of the Chehalis River or the Willapa Bay. This took place in the early 1880's, and there are stories told by their parents and grandparents of the almost unbelievable struggle to reach this wilderness country. Because of the density of growth and general inaccessibility of this northwest region, Grays Harbor was one of the last areas of the great Northwest to be settled. Roads were few and rough, leaving the waterways as the only manner in which to travel.

William O'Leary was the first permanent settler of Grays Harbor. O'Leary's arrival to Grays Harbor in 1824 ended the freedom of the land the Native Americans had grown

accustomed to for so many years. O'Leary settled at the mouth of a creek now known as O'Leary Creek. His understanding of the Native Americans, and perhaps a bit of luck, enabled him to create a much-needed friendship between them.

He lived in the harbor area for twenty years, skillfully raising potatoes, fishing, hunting, and trading with the Chehalis tribe. Then suddenly and quite mysteriously, he left the Harbor and went to live with the James Gleason family who had settled in the Satsop Valley. He remained with them until his death in 1901, and thus lived a total of 53 years in Grays Harbor. He was buried in the Catholic Cemetery on Hunter's Prairie near Elma. It has never been known where O'Leary came from before he first penetrated the wilderness, for he was reluctant to divulge his early life.

Though all dates are important to a growing land, there are a few outstanding in the history of Grays Harbor, and 1855 was such a year. The Native Americans talked of it as the year of the "Big Sick," for smallpox descended on both peoples and their number was tragically reduced. But a truly happy and memorial year was 1858. On December 5, to be exact, the arrival of the first sailing ship to carry cargo to Grays Harbor arrived with much needed freight. The depressed pioneers now felt that outside help was at last coming to aid them in their arduous tasks.

The settlers by now were fast learning the art of making log canoes from the Native Americans as salmon, sturgeon, berries, and wild game were in great abundance and much river travel was done in search of food. But the need of variety was felt in time and it took the vision of Paterson Luark along with a man named Mr. Fisher to see the potentials of the oyster. In 1861 they staked out the first beds, and an industry destined to grow just as the great Northwest developed.

Education for the growing number of children was becoming a pressing issue and in November of 1859, the first official schoolhouse was erected in Cosmopolis. It was a crude 16' x 18' structure, but welcomed by all. A gala opening was made on January 3, 1860. Samuel C. Jones was the first teacher at a salary of \$25.00 a month including board.

Mail to the settlers was getting through to Olympia and was delivered to the Harbor at infrequent intervals by those who might be journeying this way. The first regular mail service was put into effect west of Montesano in 1860 when William P. Wright took on the job as the first carrier, traveling by canoe and horseback between Olympia and Point Chehalis.

The first whaling plant was built at Bay City in 1911. Nearly 200 whales were taken and processed that first year, each whale averaging about sixty tons in weight. The value per whale ran close to \$2,000.00. This enterprise extended to a nine-year operation, then ceased.

Naturally, where expansive waterways are found, many ships are needed, and Thomas McDonald is credited with exploiting his skills in this field. He started building a small

schooner and named it the "Volunteer." The last of his stately masted schooners, the "Vigilant," was a five masted schooner destined to be the last of the great sailing vessels to roam the high seas. However, World War I created a big demand for boats of all types, and Grays Harbor rallied to the need with many seaworthy vessels. They are credited with contributing substantially to the defense of our country. But even as important as shipbuilding was for a time, the early 1920's brought an end to shipbuilding in the local yards. The steam-propelled type of vessel had replaced the more picturesque sailing vessel of the day.

But fast on the heels of this closing business was a bigger and more lasting one. The new boom, which grew and has endured with the times, was the epic of plywood, paper making, and pulp.

### **Aberdeen**

Aberdeen is the youngest and largest City on Grays Harbor. Its beginning is closely linked with the life of its founder, Samuel Benn. He was born in New York in 1832 and his love of the sea and high adventure created a noteworthy life. He was 17 when gold was discovered in California. He became restless hearing of this, and in March of 1856 with friend George Hubbard, left New York for San Francisco on the steamer "Northern Light." Their trip was a hazardous one, and they were forced to leave the steamer, continue by train, and then to another steamer, which finally landed them at San Francisco. For two years they mined for gold, but a huge gold discovery at Fraser River was being talked about, so they went there only to be disappointed with their findings. Puget Sound became their next destination; they bought a boat in Victoria and leisurely cruised down to Olympia, where they set out on foot for Grays Harbor.

Benn settled at the junction of the Wishkah and Chehalis Rivers, built a home, and lived here until 1875. He had the association of two fine neighbors: C.A. Damon, who had settled at Oyehut, and Mathew McGee, who had built a huge house at Lone Tree on Brown's Point. In 1875, the James Stuart and Alexander Young families came to Aberdeen and also settled on the Wishkah River. These three families were the only settlers in the Aberdeen area for nine years. The Native Americans had given the name Wishkah to this river; the name meaning "Stinking Water."

A.J. West, who had arrived on the Harbor only a short time before, built the first sawmill in 1884. Even with this activity it was a lonely place, as the settlement was comprised of only six buildings. But an air of activity livened things up considerably when Captain Weatherwax came in April 1885, as his party came for the purpose of buying a load of lumber, recorded to be the first to be shipped from Grays Harbor.

A reality at that time, and a subject of endless conversations, was the name of "Plank Island" given to the settlement of Aberdeen. Because this whole area was tideland, there was no foundation on which to build sidewalks. Planks were erected on stilt-like supports and these served as sidewalks until the land could be filled in. It is interesting to note that Eldridge Wheeler wrote in 1890: "At that time, the corner now occupied by

the Finch Building was out in the suburbs and the now 'I' and Heron Streets were solid forest."

Developments were slowly progressing, but the first celebration in Aberdeen was a gala occasion on July 4, 1886. People came all the way from Montesano, Cosmopolis, and Hoquiam by steamboat. Montesano proudly brought their brass band - the only one in the county.

But the development of the area was set back by a series of fires in 1887, 1889, and the largest of all in 1903. Fourteen blocks, which covered twenty-two acres, were destroyed. True to pioneer spirit, the citizens set about the next day to rebuild their losses. The fire also consumed the only brick building at that time, which had been built by N.G. Kaufman.

The first residence built after the plotting of the town was that of J.M. Stouton. J.C. Fairfield, Jack Waldron, and W.H. Pedlar erected the first hotel. Adolph Payette erected the much needed first store building. Judge John C. Pearson was Aberdeen's first lawyer, and Dr. Telfer gave his services to the sick. The first druggist was S.W. Pearson, and J.C. Fairfield was the first postmaster. One of the busiest men in the community was J.G. Lewis, who held the office of Police Chief.

Sam Benn was held in high esteem by all who knew him, for he contributed much to the building and steady improvements of this growing town. He gave generously of his land for city improvement before he died at the age of 103 in 1935.

Aberdeen was incorporated as a third class city on May 12, 1890, with a population of 1,400. On October 3, 1906 it grew to a second-class city, and proudly became a first class city on December 7, 1929.

As with virtually all of the Northwest, Aberdeen held its share of ready to cut timber, and the first logging team to come to Grays Harbor was two brothers from Nova Scotia, Alex and Robert Polson. Not long before the turn of the century they organized the Polson Brothers Logging Company. However, they fatigued soon afterward and had to reorganize in 1903. In recent years, the Polson Logging Company was sold to Rayonier, which in turn resulted in the Grays Harbor Paper Company.

A great deal of credit must be given to the Native Americans and the early settlers of both Aberdeen and Hoquiam. The development of both communities would not have progressed as it has if these people had not extended a helping hand to each other.

### **Location**

The City of Aberdeen is located at the east end of the Grays Harbor Estuary near the convergence of the Chehalis and Wishkah rivers. This harbor is on the Pacific coast of the State of Washington, 45 miles north from the mouth of the Columbia River and 110 miles south of the Strait of Juan de Fuca; *please refer to Map 3-1.* The City of

Aberdeen is favorably located between the two largest cities in the Pacific Northwest: Seattle is 109 miles to the northeast, and Portland 133 miles to the southeast. With a 2010 estimated population of 16,450 and a service area of 70,000, the City of Aberdeen is the Olympic Peninsula's second largest economic center. The planning area, as identified on Map 3-2, encompasses the entire corporate limits of the City; this area totals approximately 11.9 square miles.

U.S. Highways 12 and 101, State Highways 105 and 109, as well as a complete network of secondary and arterial streets provide vehicular circulation. The Grays Harbor Transportation Authority supplies the City with public transit opportunities through a variety of routes, which include linkages to all adjacent communities. The Puget Sound and Pacific Company provides rail freight service, while the Port of Grays Harbor provides a transportation link to national and international markets through the only coastal estuary in the state with an authorized deep-water navigation channel and foreign trade zone designation.

### **Population**

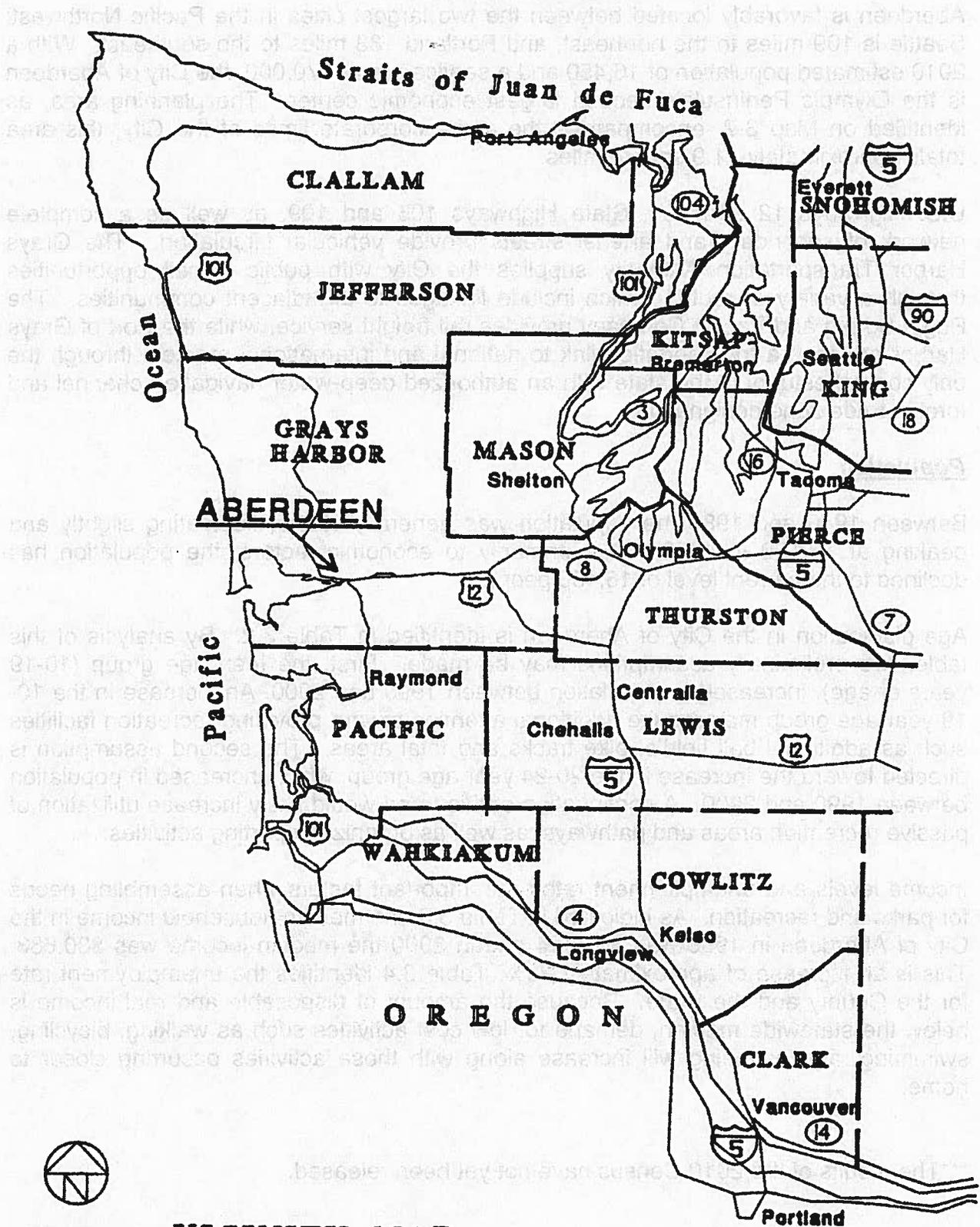
Between 1940 and 1980 the population was generally stable, fluctuating slightly and peaking at 19,100 in 1978. Due primarily to economic factors, the population has declined to the current level of 16,450 people.

Age distribution in the City of Aberdeen is identified in Table 3.2. By analysis of this table, two preliminary assumptions may be made. First, the teen age group (10-19 years of age), increased in population between 1990 and 2000. An increase in the 10-19 year age group may require additional attention toward providing recreation facilities such as additional ball field's, bike tracks and total areas. The second assumption is directed toward the increase in the 20-24 year age group, which increased in population between 1990 and 2000. A continuation of this trend would likely increase utilization of passive recreation areas and pathways, as well as organized sporting activities.

Income levels and unemployment rates are important factors when assembling needs for parks and recreation. As indicated in Table 3.3, the median household income in the City of Aberdeen in 1990 was \$21,624 and in 2000 the median income was \$30,683. This is an increase of approximately 29%. Table 3.4 identifies the unemployment rate for the County and the State. Because the amount of disposable and real income is below the statewide median, demand for low cost activities such as walking, bicycling, swimming, and canoeing will increase along with those activities occurring closer to home.

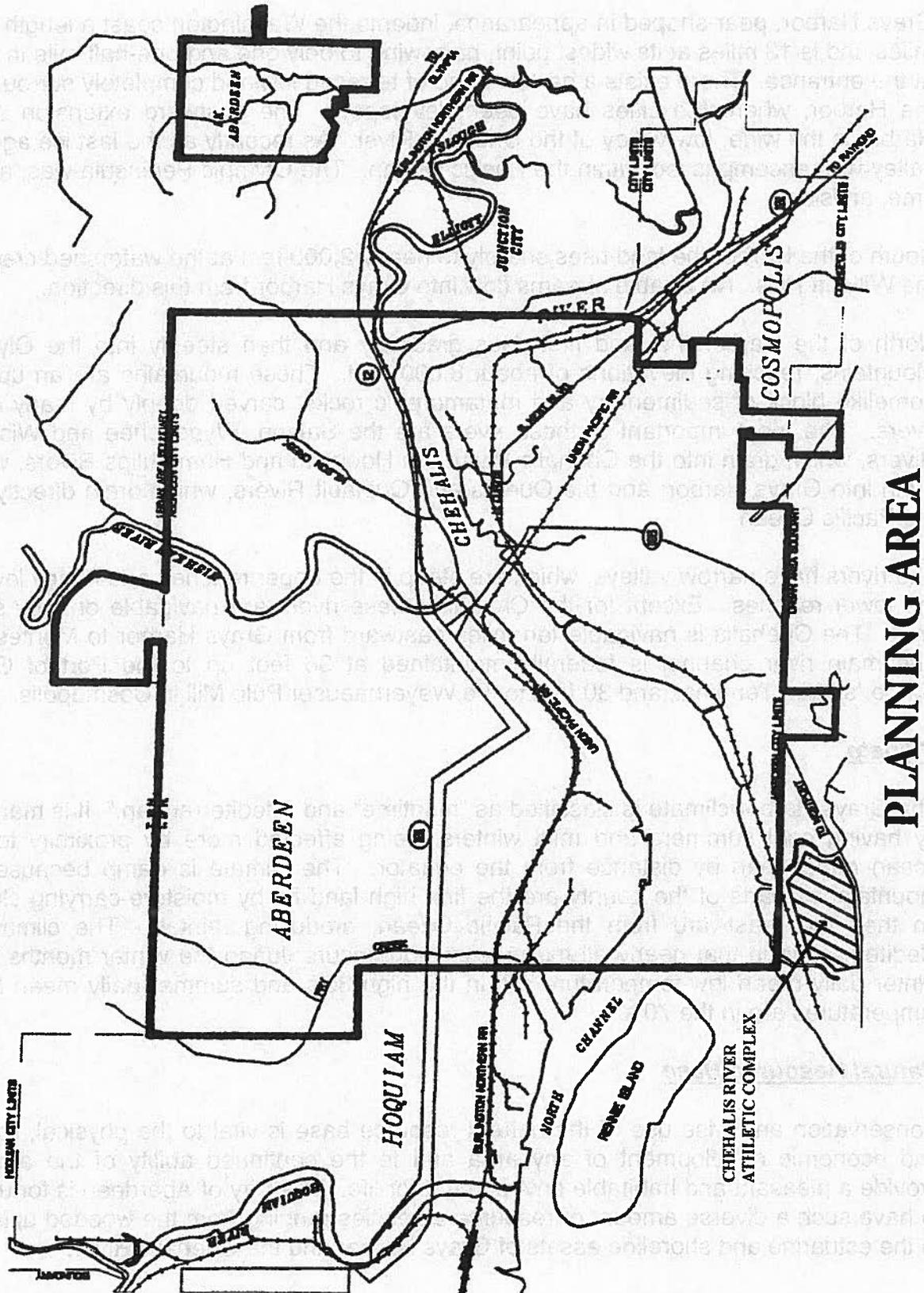
\*\*\*The results of the 2010 Census have not yet been released.

**MAP 3-1  
CITY OF ABERDEEN VICINITY MAP**



10/92 G-RPC/11 **VICINITY MAP**

**MAP 3-2  
PLANNING AREA MAP**



## **Geography**

Grays Harbor, pear-shaped in appearance, indents the Washington coast a length of 15 miles and is 13 miles at its widest point, narrowing to only one and one-half mile in width at the entrance. There exists a narrow band of terraced lowland completely surrounding the Harbor, where the cities have been developed. The eastward extension of the Harbor is the wide, low valley of the Chehalis River. As recently as the last ice age this valley was encompassed within the Pacific Ocean. The Olympic Peninsula was, at that time, an island.

South of the Harbor the land rises sharply to nearly 2,000 feet at the watershed crest of the Willapa Hills. No sizable streams flow into Grays Harbor from this direction.

North of the Harbor the land first rises gradually and then steeply into the Olympic Mountains, reaching elevations of about 8,000 feet. These mountains are an uplifted domelike block of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks, carved deeply by many small rivers. The most important of these rivers are the Satsop, Wynoochee and Wishkah Rivers, which drain into the Chehalis River; the Hoquiam and Humptulips Rivers, which drain into Grays Harbor; and the Queets and Quinault Rivers, which drain directly into the Pacific Ocean.

The rivers have narrow valleys, which are steep in the upper reaches and nearly level in the lower reaches. Except for the Chehalis, these rivers are navigable only by small craft. The Chehalis is navigable ten miles eastward from Grays Harbor to Montesano. The main river channel is federally maintained at 36 feet up to the Port of Grays Harbor's Main Terminal, and 30 feet to the Weyerhaeuser Pulp Mill in Cosmopolis.

## **Climate**

The Grays Harbor climate is classified as "maritime" and "Mediterranean." It is maritime by having cool summers and mild winters, being affected more by proximity to the ocean rather than by distance from the equator. The climate is damp because the mountainous parts of the county are the first high land hit by moisture-carrying clouds on their way eastward from the Pacific Ocean, producing rainfall. The climate is Mediterranean in that nearly all the precipitation occurs during the winter months. The winter daily mean low-temperature are in the high 30's and summer daily mean high-temperatures are in the 70's.

## **Natural Resource Base**

Conservation and wise use of the natural resource base is vital to the physical, social, and economic development of any area and to the continued ability of the area to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for life. The City of Aberdeen is fortunate to have such a diverse amount of resource amenities ranging from the wooded uplands to the estuarine and shoreline assets of Grays Harbor and the Chehalis River.

**TABLE 3.1****HISTORICAL, EXISTING AND FORECAST POPULATION LEVELS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN**

POPULATION			
YEAR	ABERDEEN	GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY	STATE
1960	18,741	54,465	2,853,214
1970	18,489	59,553	3,413,250
1980	18,739	66,314	4,132,353
1990	16,565	64,175	4,866,663
2000	16,461	67,194	5,894,121
2005	16,450	69,800	6,233,345
2010	16,450	71,600	6,648,112
2020	18,186	74,605	7,545,269

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management; Historical and Projected Population for Growth Management and Other Purposes, February 2002, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. \*\*\*The results of the 2010 Census have not yet been released.

**TABLE 3.2****AGE DISTRIBUTION IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN (1990 & 2000)**

AGE DISTRIBUTION (1990 & 2000)						
AGE	ABERDEEN		GH COUNTY		STATE	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
0-4	1,272	1,237	4,796	4,185	374,357	394,306
5-9	1,269	1,200	5,064	4,599	370,640	425,909
10-14	1,126	1,206	4,872	5,176	336,801	434,836
15-19	1,083	1,314	4,237	5,174	323,849	427,968
20-24	1,102	1,143	3,530	3,467	352,530	390,185
25-34	2,554	2,141	9,312	7,584	855,519	841,130
35-44	2,421	2,313	9,583	9,902	800,915	975,087
45-54	1,542	2,195	6,698	9,893	499,706	845,972
55-64	1,400	1,412	5,936	6,920	380,971	496,580
65+	2,796	2,300	10,147	10,321	571,404	662,148
TOTAL	16,565	16,461	64,175	67,221	4,866,692	5,894,121

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census by Sex and Age for Aberdeen; Office of Financial Management, Intercensal Postcensal Estimates of County and State Population by Age and Sex 1980-2003. \*\*\*The results of the 2010 Census have not yet been released.

**3.3**

**INCOME LEVEL BY HOUSEHOLD IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN (1999)**

HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2000)			
INCOME	ABERDEEN	COUNTY	STATE
< \$10,000	994	3,260	171,863
10,000-14,999	638	2,389	124,848
15,000-24,999	1,091	4,128	265,131
25,000-34,999	923	3,916	284,630
35,000-49,999	1,072	4,921	269,449
50,000-74,999	1,129	4,883	486,392
75,000-99,999	329	1,951	264,498
100,000-149,999	230	984	188,513
> \$150,000	141	375	96,952
TOTAL	6,547	26,807	2,272,261
MEDIAN	\$30,683	\$34,160	\$45,776

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census 2000 \*\*\*The results of the 2010 Census have not yet been released.

**TABLE 3.4**

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY AND WASHINGTON STATE (1979, 1989, 2000 & 2010)**

EMPLOYMENT LEVELS			
YEAR	ABERDEEN	COUNTY	STATE
1979	11.20%	10.70%	7.90%
1989	11.00%	9.40%	5.30%
2000	11.00%	8.90%	6.90%
2010	11.80%	8.60%	



The natural resource base plays an important role during the consideration of park and recreation facility expansion and development. Coordination between the acquisition of additional parkland and the preservation of critical resource features should be accomplished. The incorporation of areas with soils containing development limitations, wetlands, frequently flooded areas, areas of steep topography, and other geologically sensitive areas such as high quality woodlands and fish or wildlife conservation areas all provide extremely suitable opportunities for park and recreation development.

A brief description of all pertinent elements of the natural resource base for the City of Aberdeen follows:

**Soils:** The nature of soils in the City of Aberdeen has been determined primarily by the interaction over time of the parent glacial deposits covering the City with topography, climate, plants, and animals. Soil characteristics resulting from the interaction of soil-forming factors and processes are an important consideration in park and recreation planning. Failure to take the capabilities and limitations of soils into consideration during the planning stage of any recreation development proposal may not only increase the cost of facility development and maintenance and affect the quality of the recreational experience, but may also result in serious and costly health, safety, and water pollution problems.

The soil profile existing in the City consists primarily of four types. Central Aberdeen consists of Udorthents series soil, which is a moderately well drained soil encompassing slopes ranging from 0-2 percent from sea level to 30 feet. South Aberdeen is mostly Ocosta series soil, which is a poorly drained soil, deposited in the quiet water of coastal bays. The slope ranges from 0-2 percent from sea level to 20 feet. Elochman and Zenker series soils characterize North Aberdeen and the hills. Both soil types are well-drained soils and are predominant on the back slopes of uplands. Slope ranges for the Elochman soils are 8-30 percent, and 30-65 percent for the Zenker soils.

**Wetlands:** Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal conditions, do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands serve a variety of functions including water purification, flood and storm water retention areas, natural shoreline stabilization, groundwater recharge, and the provision of fish and wildlife habitat areas. Incorporation of wetlands into park and recreation areas provide for passive recreational opportunities including hiking and nature trail development, educational and scientific study, bird and wildlife watching, and aesthetic enhancement.

**Flood lands:** Frequently flooded areas are lands within the floodplain subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. Aberdeen is subjected to flooding as a result of the interaction between the heavy flows of both the Chehalis and Wishkah Rivers, oceanic tides, excessive rainfall, and periodic storms. Flood land areas are generally not well suited to urban development not only because of the flood

hazard, but also because of high water tables and presence of soils poorly suited to urban use. These flood land areas, however, generally contain such important elements of the natural resource base as high value woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat and, therefore, constitute prime locations for park and open space areas for ballfields and playfields.

**Steep Slopes:** Steep slopes generally are slopes of greater than 15 percent. The majority of steep slopes are in the North Aberdeen area. The tops of these slopes provide excellent opportunities for scenic vistas of the city, rivers, and harbor. The protection of these scenic vistas not only provides aesthetic quality to the neighborhood but also serves to reduce the erosion and landslide hazard inherent in slopes greater than 15 percent. The enhancement and maintenance of hillside vegetation will increase stabilization of these slopes.

**Woodlands:** Woodlands in the City of Aberdeen have both economic and ecological value and, under good management, can serve a variety of uses providing multiple benefits. The quality of life within an area is greatly influenced by the overall condition of the environment, as measured by clean air, clean water, scenic beauty, and ecological diversity. Woodlands can and should be maintained for their total values: scenic, wildlife, educational, recreational, watershed protection, as well as for their forest products.

**Fish and Wildlife:** High quality fish and wildlife areas are managed for maintaining species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution. Cooperative and coordinated planning efforts within the City, as well as with adjacent jurisdictions should be undertaken to ensure that encroaching development is buffered from these sensitive areas. Park sites provide adequate protection to such sensitive areas and also provide for sport fishing, viewing and educational opportunities.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITY INVENTORY**

#### **Aberdeen Park and Recreation History**

The City of Aberdeen Park Board was established with a membership of three Commissioners by under the provisions of the City Charter of August 19, 1908. A 1972 amendment to the Charter increased the number of Park Commissioners to five. These Park Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Park Board members, serving three-year terms, have the responsibility to administer the City's Park and Recreation program.

The City has provided numerous recreational programs since the establishment of the Park Board. In 1947, the City held a special levy election to vote on a youth recreation center. The levy passed and a youth facility was built. It has since become a private health club and is known as the Grays Harbor YMCA. Private clubs and organizations provided the few recreational activities for the citizens of Aberdeen until the Park Board hired its first Summer Recreation Director in 1962. The summer playground program was the extent of the City's recreation program until the hiring of a full-time Recreation Director in 1970. Also in 1970, the City of Aberdeen entered into a joint Recreation facilities agreement with the School District. This agreement not only eliminates a duplication of new facilities but also serves to maintain the communication link between the two primary providers of recreation opportunities in the City, and efficiently presents the citizens of Aberdeen with year-round recreational programs.

In 1973, the entire Parks and Recreation Program was placed under the authority of the Parks and Recreation Director and the first full-time Park and Recreation Department was established. Over the years, staffing levels and personnel have changed greatly, ranging from a staff of five in 1970 to a high of seven in 1977, to the present five full-time employees in 2011. The City has risen to the challenge of change and has adapted its programs and personnel to meet the needs and concerns of its citizens.

Since 1970, the City has built the following parks and trail systems: West End, North Aberdeen, Pioneer, Herbig, Morrison, Garley, Robert Gray, the East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway, the Chehalis River Walkway, the Bob Basich Trailway and the Bishop Athletic Complex. Sam Benn, Stewart, Garley, West End, Finch, Franklin and North Aberdeen Parks have been remodeled. Some of them, several times.

Although maintenance of the park system continues to be a high priority of the Department, recreational activities continue to grow as leisure time and social needs increase. The department provides or works with other groups to provide over 50 organized recreational programs along with a part-time staff of over 100, who work as recreation leaders, supervisors, umpires, scorekeepers, instructors, and seasonal maintenance crews.

### **Existing Site Categories**

The existing supply of park and recreation sites and facilities provides the basis of the park and recreation plan for the City. An inventory of such sites and facilities assesses their location, quantity, and quality, and also provides the basis for comparing the existing supply against the present and probable future demand for recreation sites and facilities. Definitive knowledge of existing park and recreation sites and facilities also permits comparison with park and recreation goals, objectives, and standards thereby enabling judgments as to the adequacy of the present system.

Specific park categories have been identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The City of Aberdeen has adopted SCORP and the associated guidelines within that plan. In addition to the SCORP guidelines for park categories, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has identified various standards relating to per capita requirements and maximum service radius for the park sites within these categories. These minimum standards have been used as a point of departure to identify the level of service standards, which reflect the local demand of the residents in the City of Aberdeen; *please refer to Chapter six for a discussion of the applicable standards used in this plan.*

**Community Parks:** Community parks are defined as recreation areas capable of supplying a broad range of active and passive activities. Community parks typically contain both natural settings and developed play areas. Facilities provided at community parks include: swimming pool or beach, field and court games, picnicking, nature study, and trail/pathways. These park sites are able to accommodate non-conforming uses simultaneously. For the purposes of this Park and Recreation Plan, community parks have been divided into two types of sites: Upland parks and shoreland parks.

**Upland Parks:** The minimum level of service standard for an upland park is 5.0 acres per 1,000 population. The minimum desired acreage for an upland community park is 10 acres, with a maximum of about 100 acres. These parks serve multi-neighborhoods and efficiently provide an urban service radius between one-half and three miles.

**Shoreland Parks:** These are parks whose primary attributes are water-based. Such parks may be adjacent to freshwater or tidally influenced estuary areas offering recreation, wildlife, or aesthetic values. Activities at shoreland parks may include shore fishing, boat launching, shoreline pathways, swimming, and general visual and physical access to water. The NRPA minimum level of service standard for a shoreland park is 150 linear feet of public access per 1000 population. A minimum acreage requirement does not apply to shoreland parks due to the decreasing availability of shoreline resources and the high costs involved in acquisition of these areas.

**Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks are defined as recreation areas providing primarily active recreation opportunities for a neighborhood-wide population. Facilities may include: softball diamonds, playfields, playground equipment, tennis courts, basketball goals, and other intensive use facilities. Passive recreation opportunities

may also be provided if a natural setting exists. Such opportunities should incorporate natural areas when feasible, and provide picnic tables and benches in the context of the natural environment. Due to size limitations in urban areas, nonconforming uses should be carefully planned to avoid conflicts. Urban service radius for neighborhood parks typically range from one-quarter to one-half mile with a minimum desired acreage of two acres and the maximum acreage being approximately ten acres. The primary users of the neighborhood park are children and young adults. These parks should be evenly distributed throughout the City to provide safe accessibility by bicyclists.

**School Sites:** A cooperative agreement is in place between the Aberdeen School District, Grays Harbor College, and the Park and Recreation Department. School sites and facilities located at the college will be included in this plan. The intensive recreational facilities typically provided at school sites also serve to fulfill a recreation need in the City. Since the facilities typically provided at school sites are intensive in nature, and similar to those provided at neighborhood parks, the primary users would be children and young adults. Access to these recreational facilities will be primarily by foot or by bicycle. The urban service radius for school facilities should also be one-quarter to one-half mile.

**Special Use Sites:** Special use recreation sites are defined as sites, which provide facilities for unique recreational activities. Such activities include spectator and participant-oriented uses and typically serve the entire City. There are no specific size requirements but the site should be large enough to accommodate support facilities for the activity such as parking, concession buildings, and restrooms.

**Urban Pathways:** Urban pathways provide opportunities within an urban setting for walking and bicycling. Where possible, they provide links to other recreational areas, scenic vistas, historic points of interest, and often provide public access to a waterfront. These pathways are typically designated as a portion of a statewide or local trail system. Trail systems service the entire community.

**Urban Malls and Squares:** Urban malls and squares are small passive areas designed primarily to improve and maintain urban environmental quality. They provide rest and relaxation areas for persons within the business zoning districts and provide aesthetic improvements to adjacent, highly urbanized areas. Intensive recreation facilities are not provided at these sites; however, landscaping, benches, tables, etc. are typically developed. Additionally, areas offering protection from the elements through screening, plantings, and covered areas should be provided.

Five Community parks exist that encompass a total of 273 acres. Of these Community parks, four parks and about 157 acres are categorized as Upland parks while two additional parks comprising about 116 acres are considered Shoreland parks. It should be noted that the City of Aberdeen Water Department owns the 105 acres encompassed within the Lake Aberdeen Recreation Area; the area will be included in this plan due to the recreation attributes of the Lake Aberdeen area and the

maintenance agreement between the Water Department and the Park and Recreation Department.

There are seven Neighborhood parks within the City totaling approximately twelve acres and nine School District and College sites providing recreational opportunities. There are also four Special Use sites totaling 16 acres. Also present are approximately 7 miles of Urban Pathways and seven areas classified as urban malls and squares.

### **Existing Facility Inventory**

The planning area, as identified on Map 4-1, has been divided into four quadrants to provide adequate detail in identifying City recreation sites. Quadrant 1, Map 4-2, is located in the northwest portion of the City and is bounded by U.S. Highway 101 on the south, the Wishkah River on the east, and the corporate limits on the north and west. Quadrant 2, Map 4-3, is located in the northeast portion of the city and is bounded by U.S. Highway 101 on the south, the Wishkah River on the west, and the corporate limits on the north and east; Lake Aberdeen is also included in quadrant 2. Quadrant 3, Map 4-4, is located in the southwest portion of the City and is bounded by U.S. Highway 101 on the north, State Highway 105 on the east, and the corporate limits to the south and west. Quadrant 4, Map 4-5, is located in the southeastern portion of the City and is bounded by U.S. Highway 101 on the north, State Highway 105 on the west, and the corporate limits to the south and east.

### **Upland Community Parks:**

**Bishop Athletic Complex:** This 45-acre Athletic Complex is located 1.2 miles east of Aberdeen on Highway 105. The City acquired this property and has completed the development of the multi-use facility. The Bishop Athletic Complex includes baseball and softball fields to compliment the existing ballfields at Pioneer Park, four full-sized soccer fields (two with lights), and open space for picnicking and playground activity along Newskah Creek.

**Pioneer Park:** This 28-acre community park is located in the southern portion of Aberdeen; *please refer to* Map 4-5. This park represents the foundation for the league baseball and softball programs in the City. As shown in Table 4-1, facilities at this park include seven ballfields capable of accommodating the following: Aberdeen High School Baseball and Softball, Babe Ruth, Slowpitch Softball, Minor, Tee-Ball, Little League and Youth Fast Pitch Softball activities. Support facilities at Pioneer Park include: Asphalt parking for 520 vehicles and an associated service road, concession stands, indoor batting cage facility, bleachers, clubhouses with showers, comfort stations, and a caretaker's quarters and maintenance shop. In addition, there is room for grade school football and modified soccer fields, which provide diversity for organized, team activities.

Other facilities available include: Playground equipment, tennis courts, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, basketball court, covered shelter, picnic tables and landscaping throughout the complex. All facilities are connected by an asphalt trail system.

**TABLE 4-1**

**RECREATION SITES AND FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN: 2010**

EXISTING FACILITIES AND AREA															
NAME	TYPE	BASEBALL DIAMOND	BASKETBALL GOAL	BOAT LAUNCH	PATHWAY/TRAIL	PICNIC AREA	PLAYFIELD	PLAYGROUND	SOFTBALL DIAMOND	SWIMMING BEACH	SWIMMING POOL	SOCCER FIELDS	TENNIS COURT	SUPPORT FACILITIES**	AREA
A.J. West School	S		X					X							1.5
Bob Basich Trailway	SU				X									X	17.5
Alder Creek	N		X			X								X	0.25
Bishop Athletic Complex	UC	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X		X	45
Chehalis River Walkway	SU				X										3
East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway	SC				X									X	3.1
Finch Playfield	N		X			X	X	X	X		X			X	2
Franklin Field	N	X					X		X			X		X	2
Garley Park	N					X	X	X	X						2
Grays Harbor College	S	X	X						X						3
Herbig Heights	N					X		X						X	0.2
Hood	O													X	0.25
Lake Aberdeen	SC		X	X		X	X	X		X				X	105
McDermoth School	S		X					X							1.9
McKinley	O						X								0.25
Miller Junior High	S		X				X							X	18.65
Morrison Riverfront Park	SC				X	X		X						X	11.5
North Aberdeen Park	N		X				X	X	X					X	2
Pioneer Park	UC	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X	X	24
Robert Gray School	S		X				X	X							4.8
St. Mary's	S		X					X							2
Sam Benn Park	UC		X			X	X	X					X	X	14
Sam Benn Gym	SU		X				X						X		2
Shannon Slough	O														
Skyview Park	N														
South Aberdeen Boat Launch	SU			X		X								X	0.5
Steven's School	S		X				X	X							3.9
Stewart's Memorial Park	UC				X	X	X	X						X	74
Street Trees	O													X	N/A
Totem Pole Park	O													X	0.3
West End Park	N		X				X	X	X					X	3.5
Zelasko Park	O					X								X	0.5

\*TYPE: UC = Upland Community SC = Shoreland Community  
 \*\* Support facilities typically include beaches, kitchen facilities, parking, lighting, backstops and restrooms.

N = Neighborhood

S = School

SU = Special Use

O = Open Space

**Sam Benn Park:** The natural setting at this park provides visitors with a quality recreational experience. This popular 14-acre park allows for restive leisure-time opportunities utilizing a rose garden and small creek, which meanders through the park; *please refer to* Map 4-2. Active facilities include playground equipment, two lighted tennis courts, grass playfields, restrooms, disk golf course and picnic tables; *please refer to* Table 4-1. Support facilities include park lighting, asphalt trail system, and a maintenance shed.

**Stewart Memorial Park:** This 74-acre wooded park is located in north Aberdeen and provides the most popular picnic facilities in the City; *please refer to* Map 4-2. Stewart Creek traverses the park and adds to the aesthetic quality of the facility. As identified in Table 4-1, a rustic kitchen facility, playground equipment, grassy playfield, and a one-mile long hiking trail provide for passive recreational experience.

### **Shoreland Community Parks:**

**Lake Aberdeen Recreation Area:** This City owned property provides 5 acres for water-based activities on the shore of 100-acre Lake Aberdeen; *please refer to* Map 4- 3. The park is encompassed within approximately 640 acres of woodland providing a near-primitive atmosphere. Facilities include about 100 linear feet of beach equipped with swimming docks, boat launching; *please refer to* Table 4-1. Related facilities include: picnic areas, playground and parking.

Due to the adjacent woodlands, this park has unlimited potential for additional development which may include nature/interpretive trails, bike trails, and camping.

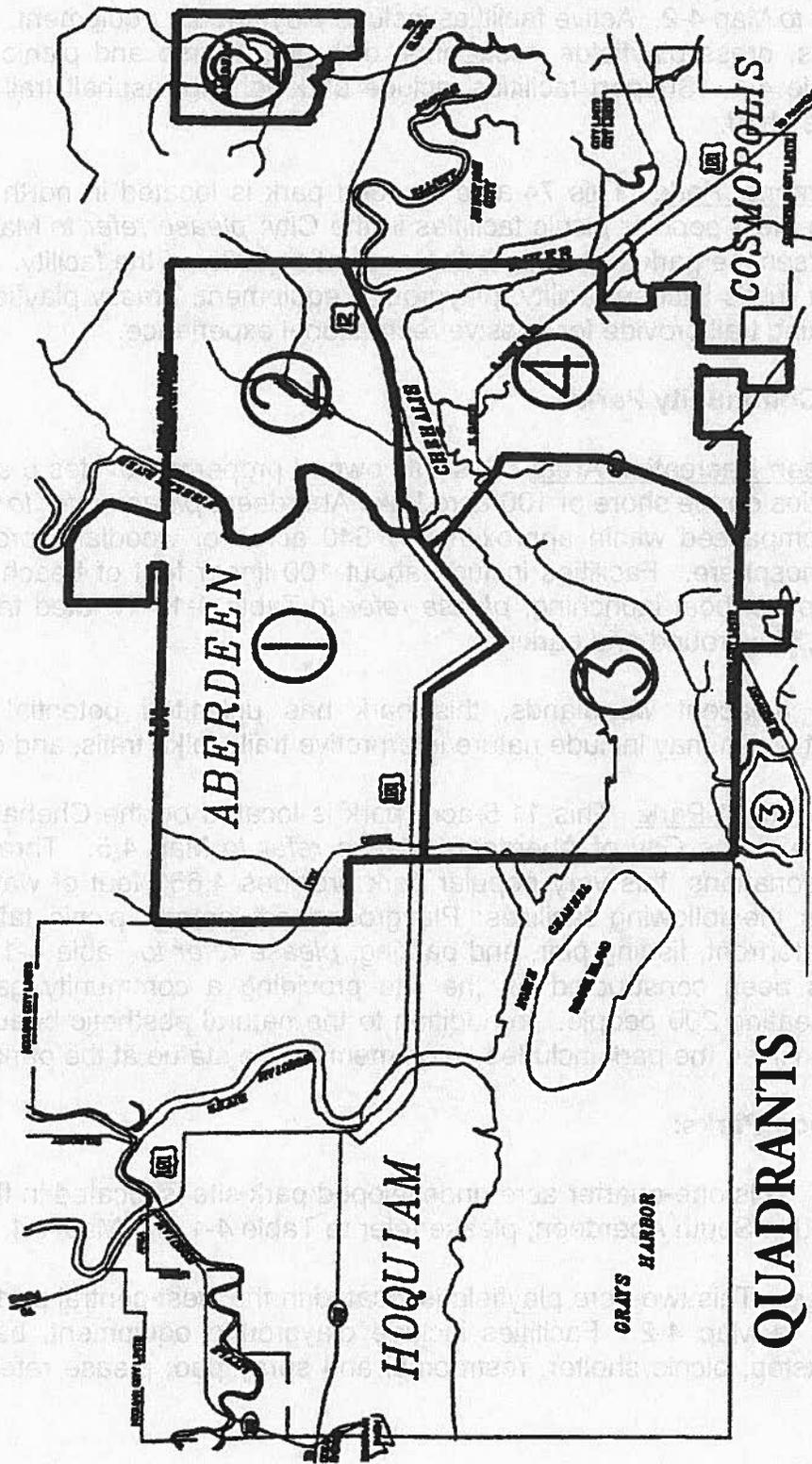
**Morrison Riverfront Park:** This 11.5-acre park is located on the Chehalis River at the east entrance to the City of Aberdeen; *please refer to* Map 4-5. Through numerous grants and donations, this very popular park provides 4,650 feet of waterfront access and includes the following facilities: Playground equipment, picnic tables, pathways along the waterfront, fishing pier, and parking; *please refer to* Table 4-1. A Log Cabin Pavilion has been constructed on the site providing a community gathering facility capable of seating 200 people. In addition to the natural aesthetic beauty provided by the Chehalis River, the park includes a commemorative statue at the park entrance.

### **Neighborhood Parks:**

**Alder Creek:** This one-quarter acre undeveloped park site is located in the Alder Creek neighborhood in South Aberdeen; *please refer to* Table 4-1 and Map 4-4.

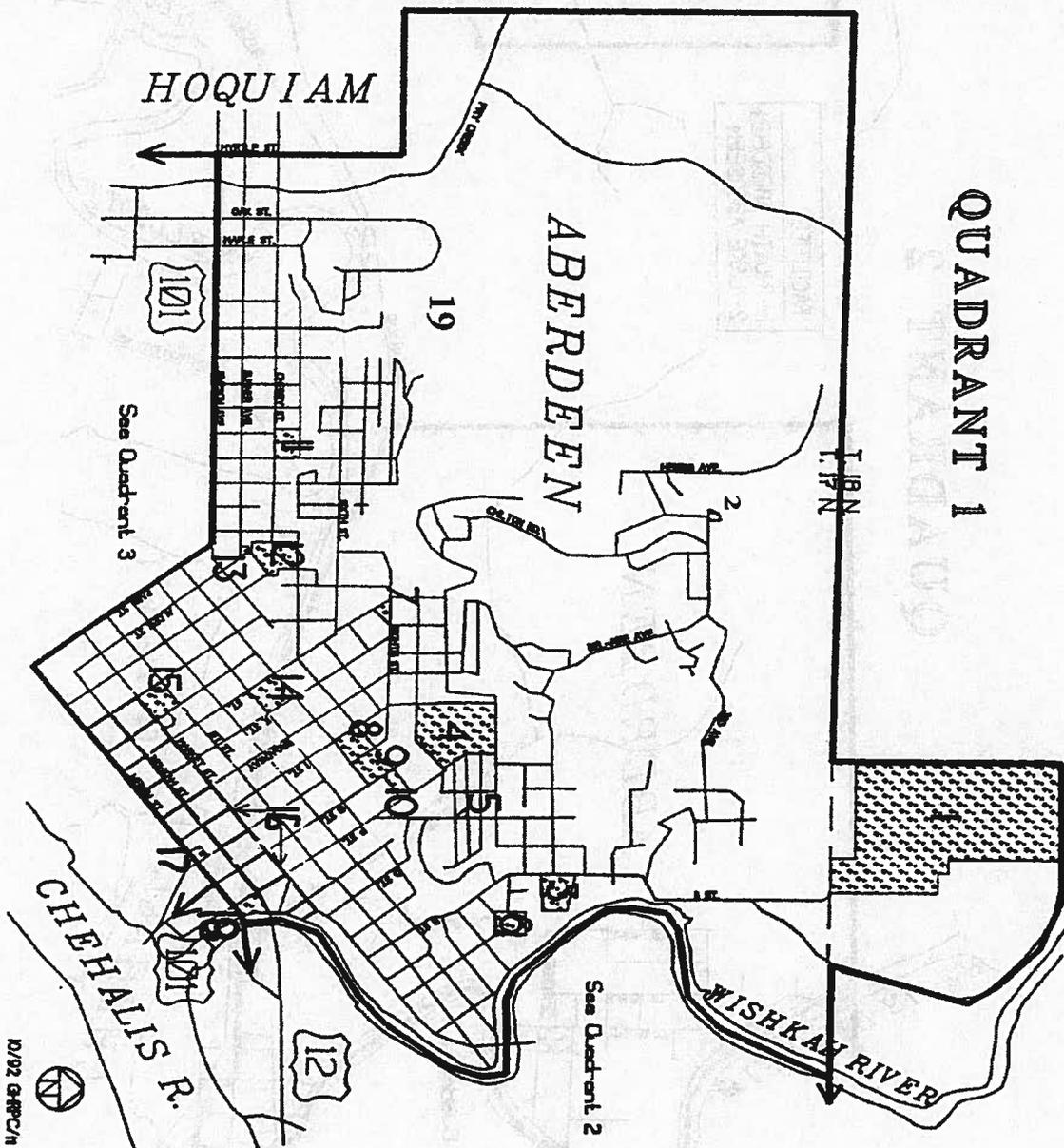
**Finch Playfield:** This two-acre playfield is located in the west-central portion of the City; *please refer to* Map 4-2. Facilities include playground equipment, basketball court, softball backstop, picnic shelter, restrooms, and spray pad; *please refer to* Table 4-1.

**MAP 4-1  
PLANNING AREA QUADRANTS**

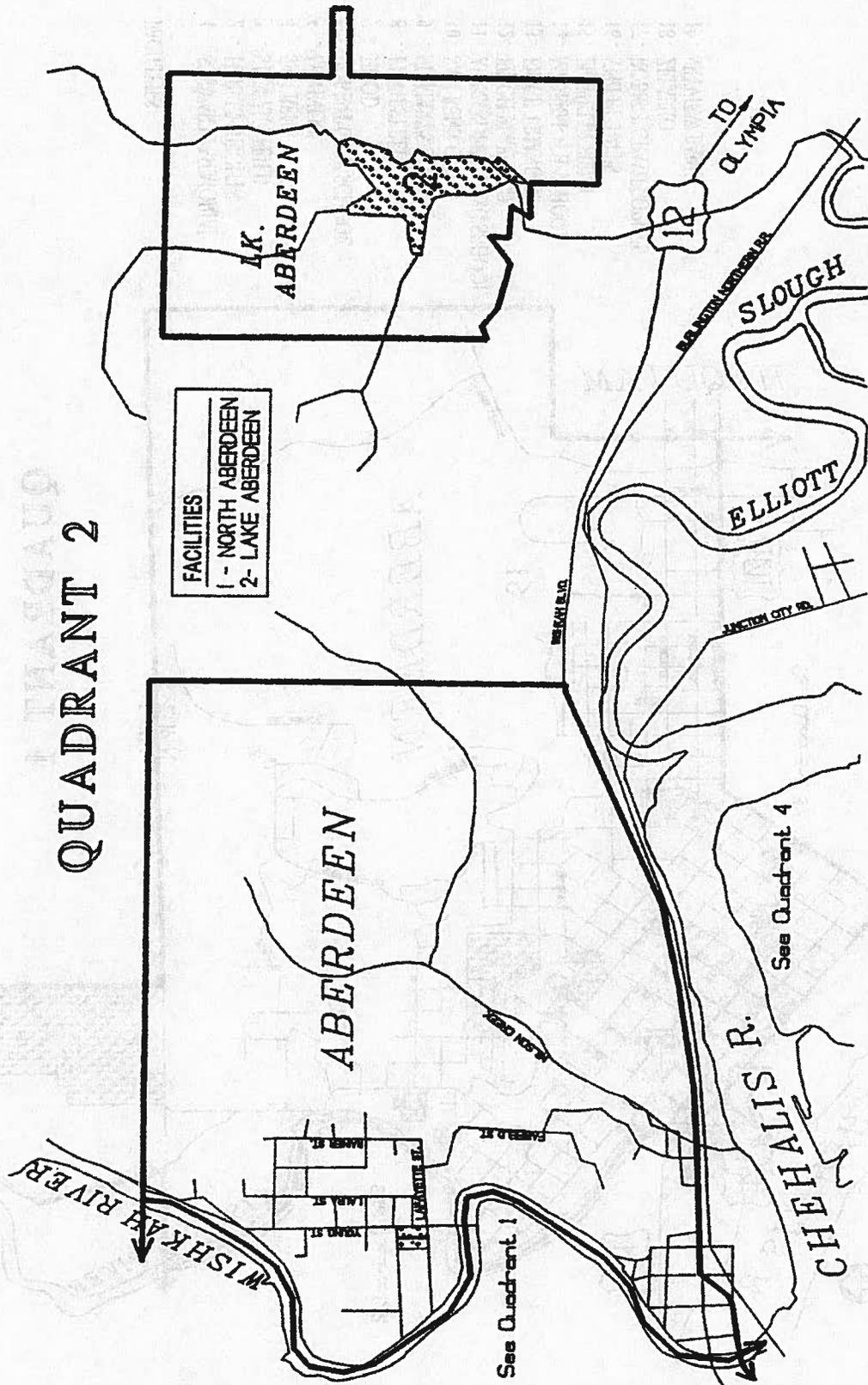


**MAP 4-2  
PARK SITES IN THE NORTHWEST QUADRANT**

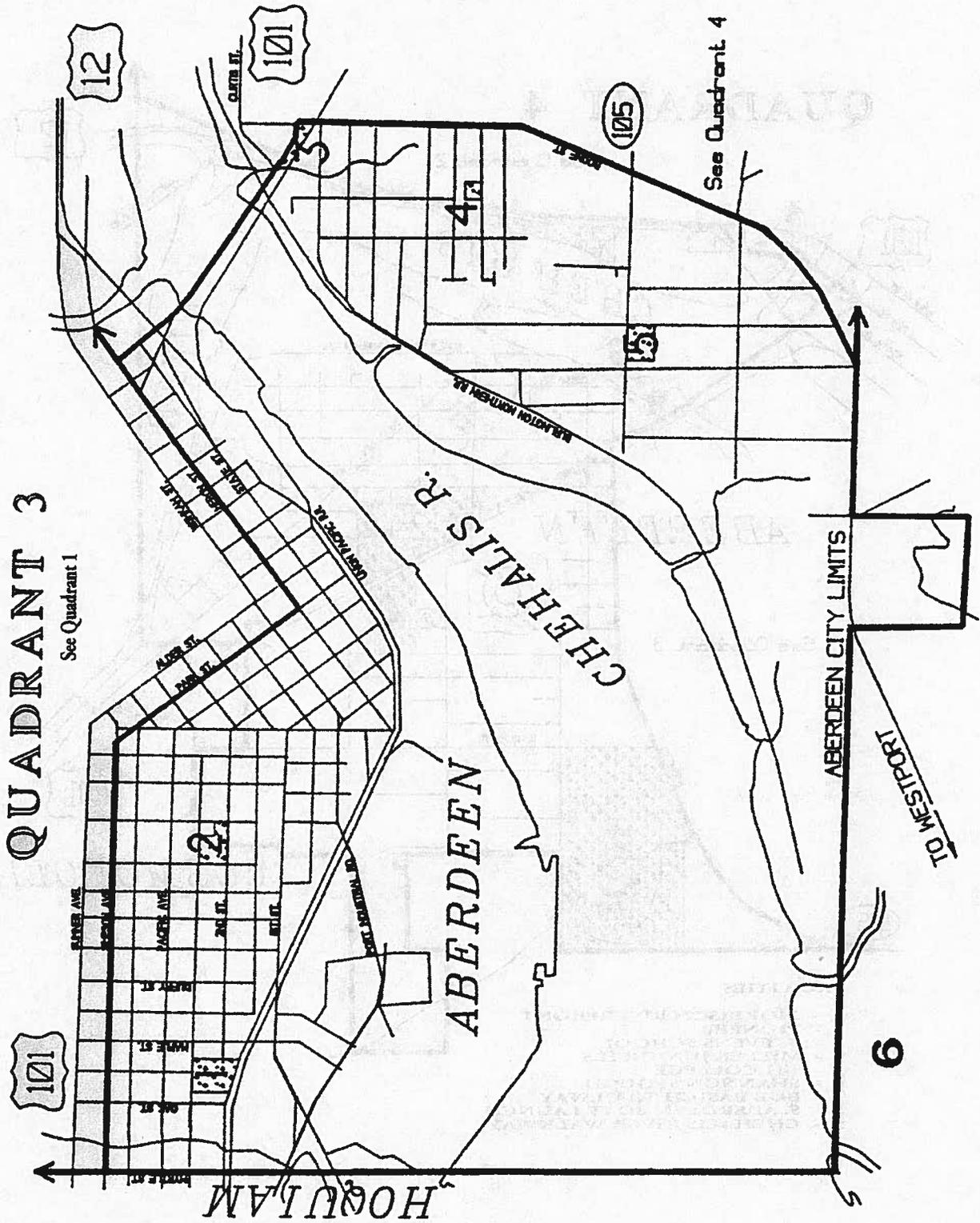
- FACILITIES**
- 1 - STEWARTS MEMORIAL
  - 2 - HERBIG HEIGHTS
  - 3 - STEWART FIELD
  - 4 - SAM BENN
  - 5 - MCKINLEY
  - 6 - ROBERT GRAY SCHOOL
  - 7 - HOOD
  - 8 - FIFTH STREET GYM
  - 9 - ST. MARY'S SCHOOL
  - 10 - SAM BENN GYM
  - 11 - ALEXANDER YOUNG SCHOOL
  - 12 - FINCH PLAYFIELD
  - 13 - FINCH TRIANGLE
  - 14 - McDERMOTH SCHOOL
  - 15 - FRANKLIN FIELD
  - 16 - STREET TREES
  - 17 - ROBERT GRAY/PEOPLE'S
  - 18 - ZEILASKO
  - 19 - SKYVIEW PARK



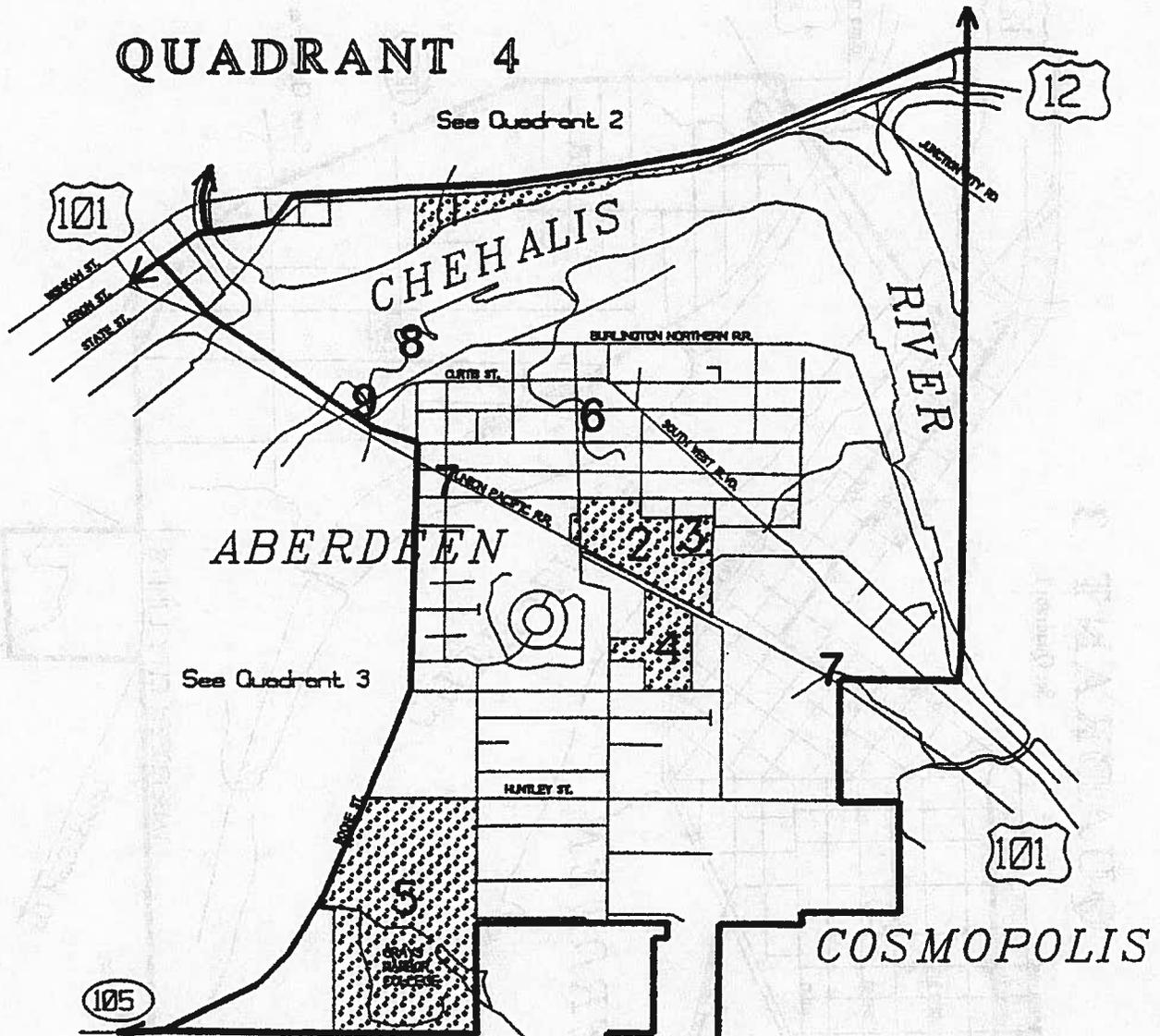
**MAP 4-3  
PARK SITES IN THE NORTHEAST QUADRANT**



**MAP 4-4  
PARK SITES IN THE SOUTHWEST QUADRANT**



**MAP 4-5  
PARK SITES IN THE SOUTHEAST QUADRANT**



- FACILITIES**
- 1 - MORRISON RIVERFRONT
  - 2 - PIONEER
  - 3 - STEVENS SCHOOL
  - 4 - MILLER JUNIOR H.S.
  - 5 - GH COLLEGE
  - 6 - SHANNON SLOUGH
  - 7 - BOB BASICH TRAILWAY
  - 8 - S. ABERDEEN BOAT LAUNCH
  - 9 - CHEHALIS RIVER WALKWAY

**Franklin Field:** Franklin Field is a two-acre, multi-purpose playfield located near downtown Aberdeen; please refer to Map 4-2. This park accommodates organized team activities. There are two youth baseball backstops, basketball court and restrooms; please refer to Table 4-1.

**Garley Park:** This two-acre park is located in South Aberdeen and provides a youth baseball backstop, playfield, picnic area, basketball court and playground equipment; please refer to Table 4-1 and Map 4-4.

**Herbig Heights:** This Park encompasses less than one-quarter acre and is located in the Bel-Aire neighborhood in north Aberdeen. Landscaping and location add to the aesthetic value of this park, which provides opportunities for picnicking; please refer to Table 4-1 and Map 4-2.

**North Aberdeen Park:** This Park is the only neighborhood facility serving the northeastern portion of the City, and is located east of the Wishkah River and north of the Chehalis River; please refer to Map 4-3. As indicated in Table 4-1, North Aberdeen Park provides playground equipment, basketball court, multi-purpose ballfields, and landscaping.

**West End Park:** This three and one-half acre park is located on the west side of Aberdeen; please refer to Map 4-4. Facilities at the West End Playfield include: Basketball Court, playground equipment, playfield area, softball diamond with backstop, practice soccer area with goals, parking, and landscaping; please refer to Table 4-1.

#### **School Sites:**

**A.J. West:** This elementary school is one and one-half acres and is located in west Aberdeen. It has an asphalt play area, basketball goals, and playground equipment; please refer to Table 4-1 and Map 4-4.

**Central Park:** Central Park Elementary School encompasses approximately five acres and includes playground equipment, basketball goals, softball diamond, and a large playfield suitable for soccer or football; please refer to Table 4-1. While this school is in the unincorporated area of Central Park, it is within the Aberdeen School District jurisdiction and is included in this plan.

**McDermoth:** This elementary school is one and one-half acres and is located in the downtown portion of Aberdeen. Facilities include an asphalt play area, basketball goals, and playground equipment; please refer to Table 4-1 and Map 4-2.

**Miller Junior High:** Miller Junior High School encompasses approximately 20 acres near Pioneer Park on the City's southeast side; please refer to Map 4-5. Facilities at this school include basketball goals and a regulation size football field with bleachers capable of seating 500 persons. A 400-yard rubberized track circles the football field and is bordered by a 5-acre open playfield.

**Robert Gray:** Robert Gray Elementary School is located near downtown on nearly five acres. Facilities include playground equipment, basketball goals, and a grassy playfield; please refer to Table 4-1 and Map 4-2.

**St. Mary's:** St. Mary's school includes playground equipment and an asphalt play area with basketball and other court games available; please refer to Table 4-1 and Map 4-2.

**Stevens:** This elementary school is located adjacent to Pioneer Park in south Aberdeen. This facility includes a large asphalt play area with basketball, playfield, two small gymnasiums, and playground equipment for developmentally and physically disabled children; please refer to Table 4-1 and Map 4-5.

### **College Site:**

**Grays Harbor College:** Grays Harbor College is located in southeastern Aberdeen. It contains a baseball diamond, a multi-purpose ballfields, and a small gymnasium. Beautifully situated in upland woods, Grays Harbor College recently built the Bishop Center for the Performing Arts designed for cultural activities; please refer to Table 4-1 and Map 4-1.

### **Special Use:**

**Sam Benn Gymnasium:** This gym is attached to the Aberdeen High School near downtown and includes four tennis courts, 1 ½ acres of open playfield and 2 indoor basketball courts with seating for 2,000 people; please refer to Table 4-1 and Map 4-2.

### **Urban Pathways:**

Morrison Riverfront Park provides approximately 1.6 linear miles of asphalt pathway along the Chehalis River suitable for pedestrian or bicycle use. Stewart Memorial Park provides approximately .8 linear miles of timbered pathway suitable for pedestrian use. In total, the East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway and the Bob Basich Trailway result in a total of 6.2 linear miles of urban pathway in the City of Aberdeen. The Chehalis River Walkway spans 3.1 miles from the southern base of the Chehalis River Bridge to the Bishop Athletic Complex.

### **Open Space Areas:**

**Hood:** This one-tenth acre of open space is north of downtown and provides neighborhood residents with a pleasant wooded environment; *please refer to Map 4-2.*

**McKinley:** McKinley Park is a one-tenth acre area located north of downtown and provides a grass play area for nearby residents; *please refer to Map 4-2.*

**Skyview Park:** This one-acre of undeveloped open space is located in the north section of Aberdeen and was created through the residential subdivision process; *please refer to Map 4-2.*

**Shannon Slough:** The approximately 1.5-acre site, located in the southeast portion of the City north of Pioneer Park, is bounded by Cushing Street to the south, Marion Street to the north, and developed private properties to the west and east; *please refer to Map 4-5.* This natural open space was created with the objective of increasing water quality and habitat within the slough and its surrounding areas, providing educational opportunities, and promoting public awareness of the value and function of slough-side habitat.

**Street Trees:** Downtown Aberdeen contains a two-square block area with extensive landscaping on the median edge. Restricted traffic flow and diagonal parking permit a pleasurable experience for the downtown shopper. In addition, street tree planting, flower planters, and refuse receptacles have been developed in a 14-square block portion of the central business district

**Totem Pole:** The 0.3-acre Totem Pole Park is located on the south side of the Chehalis River Bridge. Landscaping provides an aesthetically pleasing entrance to south Aberdeen while also serving as a place for relaxation and reflection; *please refer to Map 4-4.*

**Zelasko:** Zelasko Park is located on the Wishkah River and offers visitors and residents a positive initial impression of downtown Aberdeen; *please refer to Map 4-2.* Exceptional landscaping and two woodcarvings provide a very pleasant area for rest and relaxation. This park also serves as the western terminus of the East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway and the northernmost terminus of the Bob Basich Trailway and Chehalis River Walkway.

### **Municipal, County, State and Federal Recreation Areas**

Sites and facilities located in the adjacent Cities of Hoquiam and Cosmopolis have also been reviewed in order to provide an accurate assessment of the needs for additional acreage and facilities within Aberdeen. The level of service is not identified as being deficient in circumstances where facilities, located in adjacent Cities, provide service to an underserved area of Aberdeen. Aberdeen, for example, is located within the ten-mile service radius of Cosmopolis' 18-hole Highland Golf Course.

Federal, State, and County recreation areas, as well as private facilities open to the public, also fulfill a need for a large variety of recreational activities. While none of the following areas are located within the City of Aberdeen, they provide the regional resource-oriented recreational activities and experiences not readily available in the City.

### **Private Recreation Areas, Open to the public:**

**Friend's Landing:** This 152-acre site, owned by Trout Unlimited, is located about eight miles east of Aberdeen. Located directly on the Chehalis River, facilities include a boat ramp, fishing piers, picnic shelters, two covered fishing shacks, a nature trail, restrooms, and campground, all designed to be ADA accessible.

**Grays Harbor Country Club:** The Grays Harbor Country Club offers a nine-hole golf course and is located in the unincorporated community of Central Park.

**Highland Golf Course:** This 18-hole Golf Course is located in the City of Cosmopolis.

**Oaksridge Golf Course:** This 18-hole golf course is located about 18 miles east of Aberdeen in the City of Elma.

**Ocean Shores Golf Course:** This 18-hole golf course is located about 20 miles west of Aberdeen in the City of Ocean Shores.

**Promised Land Park:** This six-acre park, on land owned by the ITT Rayonier Corporation, is located about 25 miles north of Aberdeen and offers picnic areas and fishing access on the Humptulips River.

**Swinging Bridge Park:** This 15 acre site, owned by the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, has been developed for camping, picnicking, swimming, and fishing on the Satsop River and is located about 15 miles east of Aberdeen.

### **Municipal Recreation Areas:**

**Lion's Club Park (Cosmopolis):** Public facilities at this park include a baseball diamond, basketball goal, playground, and playfield.

**Olympic Stadium (Hoquiam):** Olympic stadium is a nine-acre athletic complex. The major facility on this site is the stadium, which has a seating capacity of 8,000 people. Its present use is primarily for high school interscholastic athletics, Babe Ruth and American Legion summer baseball programs.

### **County Recreation Areas:**

**Grays Harbor County Off-Road Vehicle Park:** This 180-acre facility is located about 30 miles east of Aberdeen and provides four-wheel and other off-road vehicle racing.

**Vance Creek Park:** Located approximately 20 miles east of Aberdeen on the Chehalis River, this 79-acre park provides a boat launch, fishing, picnicking, playground equipment, restrooms, and swimming.

### **State Recreation Areas:**

**Grayland Beach:** Located about five miles south of Westport, this park provides beach access, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and camping.

**Griffiths-Priday:** This Park is located at the mouth of the Copalis River, approximately 25 miles northwest of Aberdeen, and offers beach access and picnicking.

**Lake Sylvia:** Lake Sylvia is located about ten miles east of Aberdeen in the City of Montesano. Fishing, hiking, row boating, swimming, camping and a boat launch are provided at this park.

**Ocean City:** Ocean City State Park is located about 20 miles west of Aberdeen. This park provides opportunities for beach access, fishing, horseback riding, picnicking, swimming, and camping.

**Pacific Beach:** This state park is located about ten miles north of Copalis Beach and provides beach access, fishing, horseback riding, picnicking, and camping.

**Schafer:** Schafer State Park is located about 25 miles northeast of Aberdeen, within Mason County. Fishing, hiking, picnicking, camping, and swimming are all provided at this park.

**Twin Harbors:** Twin Harbors State Park is located about five miles south of Westport and provides beach access, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and camping.

**Westhaven:** This state park is located north of Westport near the south jetty entrance to Grays Harbor. Beach access, fishing, picnicking, and surfing are provided at this park.

**Westport Light:** Westport Light State Park is located about 20 miles southwest of Aberdeen near the City of Westport. Activities include beach access, boat launch, fishing, horseback riding, picnicking, and camping. This park also includes a functioning lighthouse facility built as a navigational aide for Point Chehalis located at the south entrance to Grays Harbor.

### **Federal Recreation Areas:**

**Olympic National Forest:** The forest, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, is located about 50 miles northwest of Aberdeen. The multi-use management objective of the U.S. Forest Service allows for agricultural, forestry, mineral extraction, and recreational uses. Natural areas have been protected offering an extensive variety of recreational opportunities including boating, canoeing, fishing, hiking, backpacking, lodging, picnicking, sailing, swimming, and camping.

**Olympic National Park:** Olympic National Park, administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior Park Service, is located about 50 miles northwest of Aberdeen. The park encompasses and preserves, in a natural environment, one of the highest quality examples of an Old Growth Rain Forest in the world. The park also contains the majority of the Olympic Mountain Range, featuring Mount Olympus at an elevation of 7,965 feet, as well as 57 miles of coastline. Recreational opportunities are designed to be compatible with the natural environment and include backpacking, beach access, boating, canoeing, fishing, hiking, lodging, mountain climbing, picnicking, scenic vistas, and camping.

**Ocean City State Park:** Ocean City State Park is located about 20 miles west of Aberdeen. This park provides opportunities for beach access, fishing, horseback riding, picnicking, swimming, and camping.

**Pacific Beach:** This state park is located about ten miles north of Copalis Beach and provides beach access, fishing, horseback riding, picnicking, and camping.

**Port Gardner State Park:** Port Gardner State Park is located about 25 miles northwest of Aberdeen, within Cannon Beach. Fishing, hiking, picnicking, camping, and swimming are all provided at this park.

**Twin Harbors:** Twin Harbors State Park is located about five miles south of Westport and provides beach access, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and camping.

**Westhaven:** This state park is located north of Westport near the south jetty entrance to Gray Harbor. Beach access, fishing, picnicking, and sailing are provided at this park.

**Westport Light State Park:** Westport Light State Park is located about 20 miles southeast of Aberdeen near the city of Westport. Activities include beach access, boat launch, fishing, horseback riding, picnicking, and camping. This park also includes a functioning lighthouse facility and a navigational site for Point Barrow located at the south entrance to Gray Harbor.

**Federal Recreation Areas:**

**Olympic National Forest:** The forest, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, is located about 60 miles northwest of Aberdeen. The multiple management objective of the U.S. Forest Service allows for agricultural, forestry, mineral extraction, and recreational uses. Recreational areas have been protected offering an extensive variety of recreational opportunities including hunting, canoeing, fishing, hiking, backpacking, riding, picnicking, sailing, swimming, and camping.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **SHORELINE PUBLIC ACCESS**

#### **Background**

Public access to water, whether it be oceans, lakes, or rivers is not a new concept. An ancient principle, entitled the "Public Trust Doctrine", provided for retention of an ownership interest by the ruling entity of the waters within their jurisdiction. This doctrine has been inherently embodied by the original thirteen states and subsequently adopted subsequently by every state that entered the Union.

The doctrine helps to prevent both the private sector and the state from impairing public trust interests in coastal lands and waters. Under the public trust doctrine, the state has always retained an ownership interest in these resources. The potential exists for an additional method of protecting the public interest in coastal lands and waters.

Three state statutes have a direct effect on public trust lands and waters. The Aquatic Lands Act, administered by the Department of Natural Resources, governs state management of its own aquatic lands; the Seashore Conservation Act mandates state policy governing Washington's Pacific beaches not held by tribes or previously sold into private hands; and the Shoreline Management Act, which governs land use policies and practices for shoreline areas. For the purposes of this plan and the nature of Aberdeen's shorelines, the Shoreline Management Act is more applicable in the consideration of public shoreline access issues.

As an outgrowth of the federal "**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969**" and the environmental issues surrounding this Act, the voters of Washington validated an initiative petition which created shoreline legislation. This initiative was titled the "Shoreline Protection Act," and was passed into law June 1, 1971 as the "Shoreline Management Act of 1971," RCW Chapter 90.58. The Act's objectives are to protect and restore the valuable natural resources that shorelines represent and to plan for all "reasonable and appropriate uses" that are dependent upon waterfront location or which will offer the opportunities for the public to enjoy the state's shorelines. The Act states, in part, that "*...The public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines of the state shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible...*". The Act is administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology and requires all counties and cities prepare and adopt local shoreline master programs. These master programs are approved by Ecology and are used to guide uses and activities along the state's shorelines. They also promote a cooperative effort between the Department of Ecology and the local government agencies to maintain and improve shoreline features.

In addition to the Shoreline Management Act, Washington became the first state to have a federally approved coastal zone management program. The state's coastal zone program, approved in 1976, provides technical assistance, education, and project grants to improve public access. Under federal Coastal Zone Management Act

authority, the state became eligible for federal funds which have averaged approximately \$1.5 to \$2 million per year. These funds are administered by the Washington Department of Ecology's Coastal Zone Management Program and are beneficial to the local jurisdictions, including the City of Aberdeen, which have marine shorelines. The projects funded under this program are small, simple facilities that provide basic public access to previously inaccessible shorelines. These development and acquisition projects are generally not major parks; some emphasis is also placed on the redevelopment of degraded or under-utilized urban waterfronts.

The State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (RCO) is one of Washington's leading advocates for outdoor recreation. Since 1964, the RCO has directed financial and technical assistance for over 2,100 open space, natural area, and outdoor recreation projects statewide. As noted earlier in this plan, the RCO prepared the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which identifies two major constraints in public access acquisition. The first constraint is the availability of funds and, second, the decreasing amount of shoreline properties available for purchase. The strategies implemented by the RCO to respond to these constraints include giving priority to projects which maintain or enhance water access, assign priority status to water access projects, support the re-authorization and strengthening of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and prepare a shoreline access report that highlights program successes and develops a public information and education program which addresses shoreline access.

In addition to the above programs, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources administers the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA). Grants from this program are used to improve or acquire public access sites or facilities, and for recreation and interpretive projects that are water dependent. The objectives of this program are:

1. Provide new opportunities for the public to access the water.
2. Encourage public access projects, which provide immediately useable public access opportunities.
3. Distribute public access benefits throughout the state while concentrating on areas with the largest population and greatest needs.
4. Provide high quality access opportunities that meet public needs, are appropriate to the sites, and convenient to their service areas.
5. Increase the public's awareness of state-owned aquatic lands as a finite natural resource and irreplaceable public heritage.
6. Encourage supplementing ALEA funds with other local, state, and federal funds.

It is clear from legislation passed in Washington State that public use of, and access to, shorelines is a high priority and warrants shoreline preservation and enhancement.

This shoreline public access element of the park and recreation plan focuses on shoreline attributes within the City. Specific components of this element have been

identified which are important in the preparation of a sound and workable shoreline access element. These components include:

1. Existing and planned local projects
2. Public access goals
3. Relation of access and recreational uses to land uses and development patterns
4. Identification of special opportunities resulting from unusual or especially desirable natural shoreline features
5. Relation to recreational sites and facilities
6. Safety and design criteria
7. Standards for private development and the consideration of adjacent residents
8. Public/private implementation strategy

### **Local Analysis**

Understanding the importance placed on providing public access from the federal and state levels of government, the City of Aberdeen has prepared and adopted plans which stress the necessity of maintaining control of development activities along the shoreline. In July of 1974, the City adopted Ordinance No. 5181. This ordinance created shoreline management regulations intended to implement the findings and recommendations of the State shoreline master program. Section 16.20.090, which addresses public access, maintains that:

“Provision of public access to appropriate waters is a goal of this Master Program, and, while the acquisition, development, and maintenance of public access facilities is the duty of government, any development which would have the effect of substantially increasing the demand for public access to a particular body of water shall have the responsibility of providing government with appropriated areas of land to allow government to discharge its duties. Should the Administrator find that a particular form of development or a particular proposal would substantially increase the demand, such finding shall be substantiated with appropriate data and recorded in the office of the Administrator.

1. Projects of which public access dedications are required may satisfy the requirements in any way seen to be appropriate, and harmonious with the project itself.
2. All methods of satisfying public access requirements shall involve the dedication of lands, whether strips along the shoreline, access road right-of-way, or other useable dedications. Developers are not required by these regulations to improve the dedicated parcels of land other than the survey of such parcels, which is a necessary part of any dedication of lands to the public. However,

this shall not preclude local government from requiring improvements on dedicated parcels as a condition for development.

3. The administrator may exempt certain projects from the public access requirement on the basis of size of the projects, or if the government already owns a sufficient amount of appropriate land to meet the public access needs.
4. For all projects, the Administrator shall examine the possibility of requiring public access dedications and shall make record of his findings in each case.
5. It is intended that the public access dedications of the project be commensurate with:
  - a. The size of the project
  - b. The shoreline frontage of the project
  - c. The characteristics and limitations of the body of water involved.
  - d. The expected demand resulting from the project.
  - e. The existing access facilities.
  - f. The design of the project.
  - g. The type of access to be given, whether actual, scenic, boat, swimming, or other type.

Since each project will have differing characteristics, no attempt will be made in these regulations to standardize public access requirements in terms of amounts of land or dimensions, however, the Administrator shall see that each of the above matters relative to public access is considered in the project proposal.”

The ordinance also includes regulations protecting scenic views and vistas. These regulations require review of all substantial development permits for any detrimental effects upon scenic views and allows the City to place conditions of approval on the permit to minimize the effects.

In addition to the local Shoreline Master Program, a multi-jurisdictional planning effort was begun in September 1976. This effort, documented in the Grays Harbor Estuary Management Plan, identified and coordinated the variety of local, state, and federal regulations and policies affecting the Chehalis River and the Grays Harbor Estuary. The plan provides the local administrator policy guidelines for both protection and development of the areas economic and natural resources. Adopted by the City of Aberdeen by Ordinance No. 5857 on December 2, 1987, this plan also addresses the public access issue and recommends specific goals and policies. The public access goal included in this plan is:

“Ensuring the public’s right and opportunities for visual and physical access to the shoreline and resources of the harbor is an important part of the State’s Shoreline Management Program and the Grays Harbor Estuary Management Program. Protection of private property rights and sensitive natural resources and maintaining public safety are equally valued by each program.” To achieve these goals, the following policies were identified:

1. Public access in Natural and Conservancy Natural areas will be discouraged unless facilities are specifically provided to accommodate public use of the area or unless the public use does not impact the resources of the area.
2. Opportunities for public viewing of all industrial waterfront areas are strongly encouraged, but in a manner where neither public safety nor industrial operations are jeopardized.
3. Public agencies are encouraged to provide specific facilities for viewing harbor resources and for achieving direct physical access to the water area. Such facilities must be located and designed to minimize impact on resources.
4. In all cases, planned public access, either as a part of a private project approved through a local Substantial Development Permit or as a public project initiated by a public agency, must be consistent with the Management Objectives, Allowable Activities, and Conditions of the Management unit within which the project is located.
5. Planned public access should be located where it will not cause unnecessary disruption to adjacent private property.

With regulatory authority in place through the Shoreline Master Program and policy guidelines established in the Grays Harbor Estuary Management Plan, the City has the ability to monitor and develop public shoreline access.

The City of Aberdeen has also addressed the public access issue in subsequent reports. Through the development of the sailing vessel, *Lady Washington*, attention was focused in the East Aberdeen waterfront district. It was recognized that a valuable community asset was associated with this area. In July 1989, at the Mayor’s request, the East Aberdeen Development Task Force was formed to prepare a series of policy recommendations regarding development potential for the waterfront district. Specific goals identified in that plan pertaining to public access include:

Goal I-4 “The harbor provides unique vistas that should be preserved and emphasized.”

**Goal II-2** "There should be maximum utilization of the waterfront, especially to enhance vistas and promote a variety of activities for all ages."

Among the objectives, public access would be provided through the development of a pedestrian walkway linking Morrison Riverfront Park to the downtown area, incorporating shops and restaurants facing the water. A pedestrian bridge crossing the Wishkah River will allow continuation of the walkway to South 'F' Street. Development of a public dock, leased moorage, and launch ramp are also recommended to enhance the public access to the waterfront.

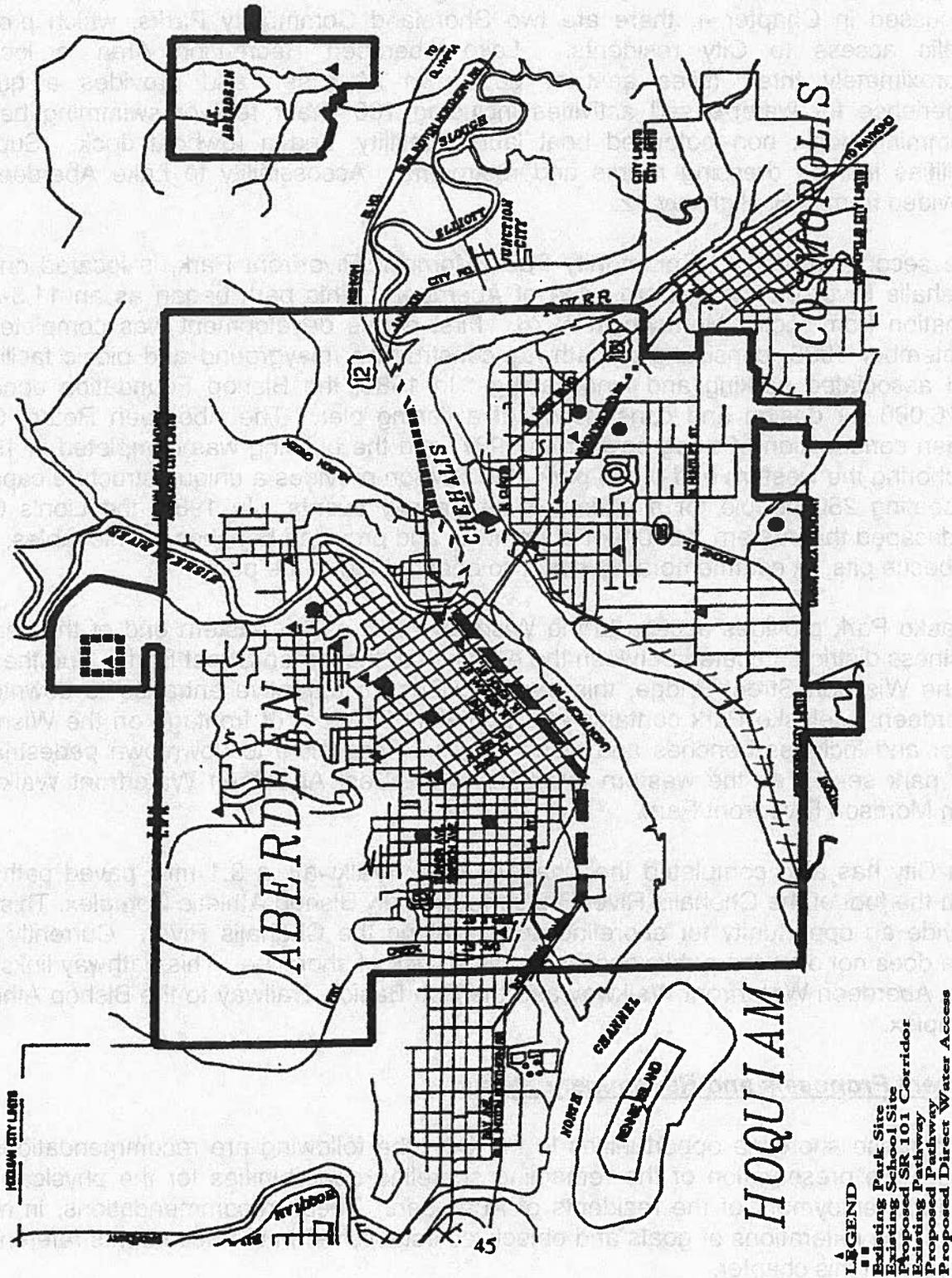
The importance of providing public access has also carried through in the City's zoning code update, which was completed in 1992. As part of the Waterfront Development of that zoning district ordinance, specific purposes and uses were identified to direct the development of the waterfront. These directives provide for management of the Grays Harbor estuary for multiple use purposes, encouragement of appropriate blighted waterfront areas, increase appropriate public and private use of the waterfront, and protection of important waterfront areas and resources.

To provide direction to local decision makers, specific policies were developed to achieve the goals and are summarized below:

1. New developments fronting the water should provide appropriate levels of public access.
2. Both linear and point accesses shall be provided as a condition of any discretionary land use approval granted for the property where an access is identified or where an access may be deemed appropriate by a combination of private and public funding.
3. These accesses should be found to be in the public interest and are necessary to continue the public use of the shorelines.
4. The identified accesses should be provided when a development proposal:
  - a. generates increased demand for waterfront access, or
  - b. reduces public access to the waterfront.
5. Priority public access facilities may be constructed with public funding or a combination of public and private funding.

The recommendations for public access development included in this plan are in conformance with the waterfront development zoning district purpose and use directives identified in the City's zoning code.

**MAP 4-5  
EXISTING AND PROPOSED LINEAR PATHWAYS AND WATERFRONT ACCESS IN  
THE CITY OF ABERDEEN**



### **Existing Access Opportunities**

To accurately assess the anticipated needs of the City of Aberdeen with regard to public shoreline access, an inventory of the existing opportunities has been completed. As discussed in Chapter 4, there are two Shoreland Community Parks, which provide public access to City residents. Lake Aberdeen Recreation Area is located approximately three miles east of downtown Aberdeen and provides a quality experience for water-based activities including 100 linear feet of swimming beach, swimming dock, non-motorized boat launch facility, and a rowboat dock. Support facilities include dressing rooms and restrooms. Accessibility to Lake Aberdeen is provided from U.S. Highway 12.

The second Shoreland Community Park, Morrison Riverfront Park, is located on the Chehalis River on the eastern edge of Aberdeen. This park began as an 11.5-acre donation from Victor Morrison in 1976. First phase development was completed in September 1985, consisting of pathway construction, playground and picnic facilities, and associated parking and landscaping. In 1986, the Bishop Foundation donated \$116,000 for design and construction of a fishing pier. The Aberdeen Rotary Club began construction of a log pavilion in 1987, and the building was completed in 1993. Anchoring the western end of the park, this pavilion provides a unique structure capable of seating 250 people for a variety of community events. In 1988, the Lion's Club landscaped the eastern 1,200 feet of pathway and provided benches, picnic tables, and barbecue pits. A commemorative has also been added to the park.

Zelasko Park provides access to the Wishkah River at the eastern end of the central business district. Located between the entrance of the Heron Street Bridge and the exit of the Wishkah Street Bridge, this park provides an attractive entrance to downtown Aberdeen. Zelasko Park contains approximately 350 feet of frontage on the Wishkah River and includes benches and picnic tables. Accessible to downtown pedestrians, this park serves as the western terminus of the East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway from Morrison Riverfront Park.

The City has also completed the Chehalis River Walkway, a 3.1 mile paved pathway from the foot of the Chehalis River Bridge to the new Bishop Athletic Complex. This will provide an opportunity for shoreline access along the Chehalis River. Currently this area does not offer the public access to this stretch of shoreline. This pathway links the East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway and the Bob Basich Trailway to the Bishop Athletic Complex.

### **Current Proposals and Recommendations**

To increase shoreline opportunities in the City, the following are recommendations to ensure the preservation of the remaining shoreline opportunities for the physical and aesthetic enjoyment of the residents of Aberdeen. These recommendations, in most cases, are reiterations of goals and objectives established in the documents referenced to earlier in this chapter.

**Morrison Riverfront Park:**

The City should continue to actively pursue funding sources to fund the construction of a floating fishing dock. This will allow the elderly and persons with mobility issues the opportunity to fish from the banks of the Chehalis River.

**East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway:**

The City should continue to actively pursue funding sources, such as the Washington State Department of Ecology's Coastal Zone Management program, to fund the remaining segment of the East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway. The remaining portion of the East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway is located at the South Aberdeen Boat Launch and runs to the foot of the Chehalis River Bridge. This segment is approximately 1/8 of a mile in length.

An eastward extension of the East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway ending at Junction City Road has been completed. This extension includes the construction of a 188 linear foot pedestrian bridge that crosses a drainage inlet. The pathway is located between the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad Line and Sargent Boulevard.

**South Aberdeen Boat Launch/Grays Harbor Historical Seaport:**

A discussion of public access to the shoreline should include an analysis of the direct public access opportunities in the City. Existing launching facilities to the water in Aberdeen are limited. Public boat launching facilities are located at Lake Aberdeen and on the south shore of the Chehalis River northeast of the Chehalis Bridge. Other boat launching facilities located outside of the City include a launching facility on the North Channel area of Grays Harbor just west of the mouth of the Chehalis River. This public launch is in the City of Hoquiam and is located on the Port of Grays Harbor property. Another launching opportunity exists on the south shore of the Chehalis River; this facility is in the City of Cosmopolis and is located on Weyerhaeuser Company property. A fishing access launch maintained by the State of Washington is located approximately four miles up the Wishkah River. None of these launch facilities are highly developed; they are difficult to locate, and all are lacking adequate support facilities.

Through an assessment of potential launch facilities located along the proposed riverfront pathway, it was determined that a potential boat launch development exists at the current facility located on the south shore of the Chehalis River. This site is located in an undeveloped street right-of-way, which served as access to the A.J. West Bridge, which connected the north and south shores of the Chehalis River. This bridge was demolished and replaced at a different location by the Chehalis River Bridge. The right-of-way is owned by the City of Aberdeen and has been used as an unimproved and unmaintained boat launch site for many years. An existing concrete ramp lies adjacent to the old bridge pier structures, which visually dominate the waters edge at the north end of the site. A small-scale commercial boatyard, moorage, and marine repair facility is located directly to the east, and an estuarine marsh and mudflat lies between the City-owned property and the south landing of the Chehalis River Bridge. A riprap filled

dike borders the site on the west, offering some flood protection adjacent to the marsh. The City owns additional property contiguous to the site including property partially occupied by the South Aberdeen Fire Station and a small parcel bordering U.S. Highway 101.

The proposed boat launch site will make use of existing City-owned resources and capitalize on existing and proposed flood control construction to establish a functional and attractive contribution to public access. The last segment of the East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway will expanded waterfront pathway concept by extending the pathway corridor through the "F" Street development, across the Chehalis River Bridge, and utilizing the South Aberdeen Boat Launch to link neighborhoods and recreation resources in South Aberdeen.

The boat launch site is narrow allowing space for a 24-foot wide roadway width and an angle parking area for up to 26 vehicle/trailer units; *please refer to Exhibit 5-10*. Regraded access and parking areas will establish a flood-free parking area at all but the highest tide levels. Vehicle circulation design will accommodate on-site turnaround for boat pick up. Access will be maintained from the site to the adjacent boat storage and repair business.

Landscaping will incorporate the use of native shrubs and trees. Formal street tree plantings will define the edge of the boat launch site, backed by native conifers. Flood control project improvements combined with development of the boat launch and adjoining public parcels, will provide an opportunity to greatly enhance the appearance of this south entrance to the Aberdeen central business district.

The City of Aberdeen has entered into an agreement with the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport to develop a Master Plan for the South Aberdeen Boat Launch which could be expanded to include the development of a Seaport Landing Maritime Heritage Center on the property (the old Weyco Mill site or Pakonen Boat repair shop property) adjacent to the South Aberdeen Boat Launch.

#### **Lake Aberdeen:**

The Lake Aberdeen Recreation Area is a component of the City of Aberdeen municipal industrial water system. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains the site.

Expansion of this recreation area would be desirable to fully utilize its natural attributes, provided that it does not encumber the functions of the industrial water system. Through expansion, this area could provide such activities as tent camping and a nature/interpretive trail around the lake. Existing geographic and manmade concerns will have to be addressed prior to further development of this area. The existing access road is at the bottom of a ridge with slopes ranging from 25 to 40 percent and extends about one-quarter mile north to the entrance of a law enforcement gun range. A stream enters the lake at this point, which includes a small wetland. The northern half of the shoreline is less steep with slopes generally between 10 and 20 percent. A large

palustrine wetland associated with the Van Winkle Creek inlet is located at the extreme northern end of the lake. West of the existing beach and picnic area is the State of Washington Department of Wildlife Aberdeen Lake Steelhead Hatchery.

Long-range plans for Lake Aberdeen should include development of the east shore of the lake to include camping facilities. Approximately 25 acres located on the northeastern shoreline would be suitable for a maximum of 75 campsites including support facilities such as restrooms with showers, refuse receptacles, and water. This site would not be suitable for large recreational vehicle use due to the limitations of the access road, overall size constraints, and underlying industrial water system concerns. A self-guided nature/interpretive trail extending from the Van Winkle Creek wetland south along the shoreline would provide users with educational opportunities for both upland and lowland ecological systems. This trail would link the campground with the swimming beach and avoid pedestrian and vehicle conflicts on the access road. In addition, users could benefit by visiting the fish hatchery. The entire trail would be about one-half mile long and provide an ideal educational resource for local school groups. For the purposes of this plan, the proposed campground and trail development are not anticipated to be a high priority. Detailed site analysis and design are required when demand increases the need for this phase of development.

Improvements at Lake Aberdeen which were addressed during 2010 included the expansion of the swimming beach. The beach was extended to accommodate additional summer activity. The existing parking area and basketball goals were replaced with grass and additional picnic tables. New playground equipment has been added to the park adjacent to the parking area.

#### **Grays Harbor Historical Seaport:**

The City should continue to work with the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport to design public access to the water.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **NEEDS ANALYSIS**

#### **Processes**

The primary purpose of this park and recreation plan is the preparation of a sound and workable plan to guide the staged acquisition and development of lands and facilities needed to satisfy the recreation demands of Aberdeen residents. Determination of the quantity and type of recreation sites and facilities needed to satisfy existing and anticipated future recreation demands clearly is an important step in the realization of this plan's goals and objectives.

Determining existing and probable future recreation needs has required the identification of levels of service standards which are to be maintained in order to provide a sufficient quantity of recreation sites and facilities at a level of quality attainable through the available funding sources. Level of service is an estimate of the quantity and efficiency of the park sites and facilities located in the City of Aberdeen and is directly related to the physical and/or operational characteristics of the park site or facility. The level of service standards used in this plan, as noted in Chapter 4, have initially been established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and, in some cases, have been altered to properly reflect the City of Aberdeen. Two basic types of level of service standards are used in this plan - per capita standards and accessibility standards. The application of per capita standards, expressed as the number of acres in a specific park category or the number of specific type facilities per thousand population, determines whether the overall number of park sites and facilities is sufficient to satisfy the recreation demands of the resident population. The application of accessibility standards, expressed as maximum service areas around recreation sites and facilities, determines whether the existing recreation sites and facilities are spatially distributed convenient to the resident population of a specific area in the City. It should be noted that, in some situations, per capita standards for recreation sites and facilities may be met, but a need may still exist for additional park acreage and facilities because of the inaccessibility of existing recreation areas.

The primary service area population for this plan is the 16,450 citizens of Aberdeen, as noted in Chapter 3. The entire service area for the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department, however, expands beyond the City limits and includes all of Grays Harbor County and parts of northern Pacific County.

The 2009-10 Parks and Recreation Department assessment survey was distributed only within the City corporate limits, and it is reflective of this primary service area's qualitative and quantitative assessment of programs offered, overall facility maintenance, and the Department's direction.

The NRPA guidelines, published in 1995, allow jurisdictions the autonomy to create their own level-of-service standards based on assessed need. The City has, therefore,

determined that the 1985 NRPA level-of-service standards are reflective of the primary service area need and are appropriate for use as guidelines for this 201-2016 Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

While the level of service standards identify a physical deficiency or adequacy of recreation site and facility need, an analysis of the existing facilities has been made to identify necessary upgrading. Through the monitoring of daily maintenance, specific facilities in need of repair have become apparent. The identification of such needs have been included in this plan as input from Park and Recreation Department personnel.

In addition to the application of level of service standards to determine need, and the departmental determination of sites and facilities in need of repair, two methods of public input were also utilized to generate community perceived need. The first method was the distribution of a survey. A total of 6,000 surveys were distributed by insertion to the City Water Utility Bills. In addition, surveys were available at the Aberdeen City Hall. The second method to receive public input involved two public hearings. One was held in conjunction with the City of Aberdeen Planning Commission, the other was held at a City of Aberdeen Council meeting.

The identification of preliminary site and facility needs resulted in the formulation of recommendations. These recommendations also integrated both private development proposals and proposed public facility improvements. The recommendations included in this plan have, where appropriate, been prepared in conformance with the proposed action. It should also be noted that the recommendations, even though they are coordinated with the applicable development and improvement plans, are based upon identified community needs. This assures the stability of this plan and allows the recommendations to stand on their own merits in the event that individual development proposals or proposed facility improvements fail.

### **Level of Service Standards**

#### **Per Capita Requirements:**

To insure that the goals and objectives of the Area and Facility Elements as defined in Chapter 2 are met, an analysis of the existing and future site and facility needs has been performed. Table 6-1 identifies the per capita acreage standards recommended for the identified park categories and facilities within the City of Aberdeen. As shown in Table 6-1, the per capita acreage needs identified in 2010 are the same as what is anticipated in 2016.

The identified needs include approximately 30 additional acres acquired for neighborhood park purposes; an additional three linear miles of urban pathway; an additional 1.7 acres of land classified as Urban Malls or Squares. Facility needs include: one boat launch, additions to the pathway/trail system and an additional 67 linear feet for a swimming beach.

It should be noted that while the fixed application of these standards identifies a need for an acquisition of 30 additional acres for neighborhood parkland, the community park acreage and school acreage might be applied to this need. The recreational activities typically provided at neighborhood parks are also provided at the community parks and at various school sites in the City, thus eliminating the requirement for additional neighborhood park acreage.

### **Accessibility Requirements:**

Through the accessibility analysis, specific service radii have been given to recreation sites and facilities. Identifying areas within the City physically served by a certain park category or facility will determine the spatial distribution and, consequently, the areas not being served by specific sites and recreation facilities. The findings of this accessibility analysis are intended to serve as a guide in the selection of locations and facilities, which would assist in fulfilling the recreational needs. In this analysis, physical boundaries such as major highways and rivers are utilized to accurately identify the hazards and impediments to accessing sites and facilities. The physical features in the City of Aberdeen, which influence the accessibility to certain recreation facilities, include the Chehalis and Wishkah Rivers, the existing one-way couplets of SR 101 and the proposed SR 101 corridor. The existing SR 101 one-way couplets have been identified as physical barriers only in the analysis of recreation facilities more likely utilized by young children -- playgrounds and playfields. It was determined that children in older age groups capable of safely crossing this corridor would utilize other recreational facilities. Table 6-2 identifies the service radius for park categories and facilities.

Map 6-1 identifies the general location of all existing park and school sites in the City of Aberdeen. As indicated in Table 6-2, all residents of the City should reside within three miles of a community park. Map 6-2 demonstrates that the entire City is adequately served by a community park.

The service radius applied to neighborhood parks is one-half mile. In this analysis, community parks were utilized because the recreational opportunities offered at a community park fulfill the neighborhood park requirements. The service radius applied to the community parks has been reduced to one-half mile, which more adequately reflects the nature of neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks are focused primarily at providing active recreation opportunities such as softball, playgrounds, and basketball, while community parks offer these facilities in addition to offering passive recreation areas. The primary users of the active recreation opportunities are the non-motorized young age groups limiting the travel distance for these activities.

Map 6-3 indicates those areas in the City of Aberdeen not served by a neighborhood park. Those areas include the northwest portion of the City, a small strip along the western bank of the Wishkah River, a large area in the northeast portion, an area south of the proposed SR 101 corridor, an area in the southwest portion, a small area adjacent to the southern bank of the Chehalis River in east central Aberdeen, and an

area in the southeast corner of the City. The areas located south of the proposed SR 101 corridor and in east central Aberdeen are currently in industrial use with limited residential development existing or anticipated in these areas, which reduces the need for recreational opportunities. Small areas in the west central and southeast portions of the City are currently within the service radius of parks outside Aberdeen. Olympic Stadium in Hoquiam and Lions Park in Cosmopolis supply recreational opportunities to those small areas.

As mentioned earlier in this plan, the Aberdeen School District, Grays Harbor College, and the Park and Recreation Department have a functional cooperative agreement. Since the majority of recreational facilities provided at school sites are the same provided at neighborhood parks, Map 6-4 includes a one-half mile service radius around school sites. In addition Sam Benn Gym is on this map. While these special use sites provide a specialized recreation opportunity, they also provide other facilities typically found in neighborhood parks and school sites. As shown on Map 6-4, those areas not served by a neighborhood park or school recreation facilities include the northwest and northeast portions of the City, south of the proposed SR 101 industrial corridor, the east central Aberdeen south of the Chehalis River used for industrial activities, and small areas in the southwestern and southeastern portions of the City.

As indicated in Table 6-2, the service radius for baseball diamonds is two miles. The entire resident population is within the radius of a baseball diamond. The only geographic portion of the City not served is Lake Aberdeen; *please refer to* Map 6-5.

As indicated in Table 6-2, the service radius for basketball goals is one-half mile. As shown on Map 6-6, those areas not served by a basketball goal include the northwest and northeast portions of the City, south of the proposed SR 101 industrial corridor and south-central Aberdeen. A small area in southeastern Aberdeen is within the service area of basketball goals located in Lions Park in Cosmopolis.

As indicated in Table 6-2, the service radius for a playfield is one-half mile. As shown on Map 6-8, the northwestern portion of the City, an area in the northeast portion of the City, the industrial area south of the proposed SR 101 corridor, and several isolated areas in the southeastern portion of the City are not served by a playfield.

As indicated in Table 6-2, the service area for a playground is one-half mile. As shown on Map 6-9, the northwest and northeast portions of the City, a playground does not serve the area south of the proposed SR 101 industrial corridor, and small isolated areas in the southeastern portion of the City.

As indicated in Table 6-2, the service radius for a softball diamond is one mile. As shown on Map 6-10, a softball diamond does not serve areas in the north, northwest, and northeast portion of the City as well as the Lake Aberdeen area and a small industrial area in the southwest portion of the City.

As indicated in Table 6-2, the service radius for a swimming pool is five miles. As shown on Map 6-11, the only geographical area not served by a swimming pool is the Lake Aberdeen area.

As indicated in Table 6-2, the service radius for a tennis court is one mile. As shown on Map 6-12, a small area in the northwest portion of the City, the entire northeast quadrant, an area in the west-central portion of the City extending south of the proposed SR 101 industrial corridor, an area in the south-central portion of the City, and the Lake Aberdeen area are all unserved by a tennis court. Tennis courts located at Olympic Stadium in Hoquiam serve the large area in the western portion of the City.

### **Recreational Survey**

A recreational survey was assembled for the purpose of determining the public's perception on the needs and shortcomings of recreational opportunities in the City of Aberdeen. As the sample survey in Appendix A indicates, respondents were asked to give their opinions about Aberdeen parks, recreation, school information, public shoreline access and general user background information. Of the approximately 6,000 surveys distributed, 374 were returned. Detailed results of the survey are presented in Appendix B.

Similar to 2003 survey results the 2009-10 survey showed that bicycling, hiking, swimming, camping, fishing, playgrounds and picnicking are the highest rated participatory activities. The survey reveals that 70% (up from 51%) of the respondents feel that the Aberdeen Park System provides adequate facilities in their neighborhood. The survey also indicates that 63% (up from 47%) of respondents feel the maintenance of the park system is of a quality level.

Bicycle and hiking trails, at 36% (down from 45%), and waterfront parks, at 39% (down from 48%), were the major facilities desired to be added to the existing park system. Restroom enhancements overwhelmingly represented the desired park improvements of respondents. Neighborhood and Citywide recreation programs were rated "good" or "excellent" by over 52% of respondents.

78% of respondents feel that public access to the City's shoreline is important to residents and visitors. However, only 38% of those who responded, said that they would vote for additional taxes to pay for a project like a boat launch.

### **Public Informational Meetings**

Two public informational meetings were held for the purpose of receiving additional public input. The first of these meetings was held on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2010, at the Planning Commission meeting and the next meeting was held on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2010, at the City Council meeting. Public input at those meetings affirmed the goals and objectives of the City of Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department and suggested the following ideas for future park development:

1. Developing additional waterfront trails linking to other trails already developed in the City of Aberdeen as well as trails along and to the waterfront.

EXISTING AND PLANNED OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS FOR THE CITY

2. Investigations into the possibility of developing waterfront parks off of the downtown corridor.
3. Development of a kayak launch was also discussed.

**TABLE 6-1**

**EXISTING AND PLANNED PER CAPITA ACREAGE NEED FOR PARK SITE AND FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN**

Park of Facility Type	Minimum Level of Service Standards	Existing 2004				Plan Year 2009			
		Population (x.1000)	Area/Facility Required	Area/Facility Provided	Area/Facility Need	Population (x 1000)	Area/Facility Required	Area/Facility Need	Area/Facility Need
Community/Upland	5.0 AC	16.46	83.2 AC	202 AC	0	16.87	202 AC	0	
Community/Shoreland	150 L.F.	16.46	2,494 L.F.	4,150 L.F.	0	16.87	2,514 L.F.	0	
Neighborhood	250 AC	16.46	41.6 AC	12 AC	29.6 AC	16.87	41.9 AC	0	
School	2.00 AC	16.46	33/3 AC	43 AC	0	16.87	33.5 AC	0	
Special Use	N/A*	16.46	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.87	N/A	N/A	
Urban Pathways	0.16 L.M.	16.46	2.66 L.M.	2.8 L.M.	3.1 L.M.	16.87	5.9 L.M.	3.0 L.M.	
Open Space	0.25 AC	16.46	4.2 AC	2.5 AC	1.7 AC	16.87	4.2 AC	1.7 AC	
Baseball Diamond (90')	1/5,000	16.46	4	2	0	16.87	3	1	
Baseball Diamond (60')	1/5,000	16.46	4	5	0	16.87	6	1	
Basketball Goal	1/1,500	16.46	12	25	0	16.87	12	0	
Boat Launch	1/7,500	16.46	3	2	1	16.87	1	2	
Pathway/Trail	1/Area	N/A	1	2	1	N/A	3	1	
Picnic Area	1/2,000	16.46	9	10	0	16.87	9	0	
Playfield	1/2,000	16.46	9	16	0	16.87	9	0	
Playground	1/2,000	16.46	9	15	0	16.87	9	0	
Softball Diamond	1/5,000	16.46	4	7	0	16.87	4	0	
Swimming Beach	10 L.F./1,000	16.46	168 L.F.	100 L.F.	68 L.F.	16.87	168 L.F.	68 L.F.	
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	16.46	1	1	0	16.87	1	0	
Soccer Fields		16.46	6.5 AC	6.5 AC	0	16.87	6.5 AC	0	
Tennis Courts	1/3,000	16.46	6	9	0	16.87	9	0	
BMX Facility		16.46	.50 AC	0	.50 AC	16.87	.50 AC	.50 AC	
Skateboard Park		16.46	1	1	0	16.87	1	0	

\* No special size limitation for special use sites are listed due to the uniqueness of recreation activities provided. The recreational facilities provided at special use sites are typically citywide in scope.

**TABLE 6-2**

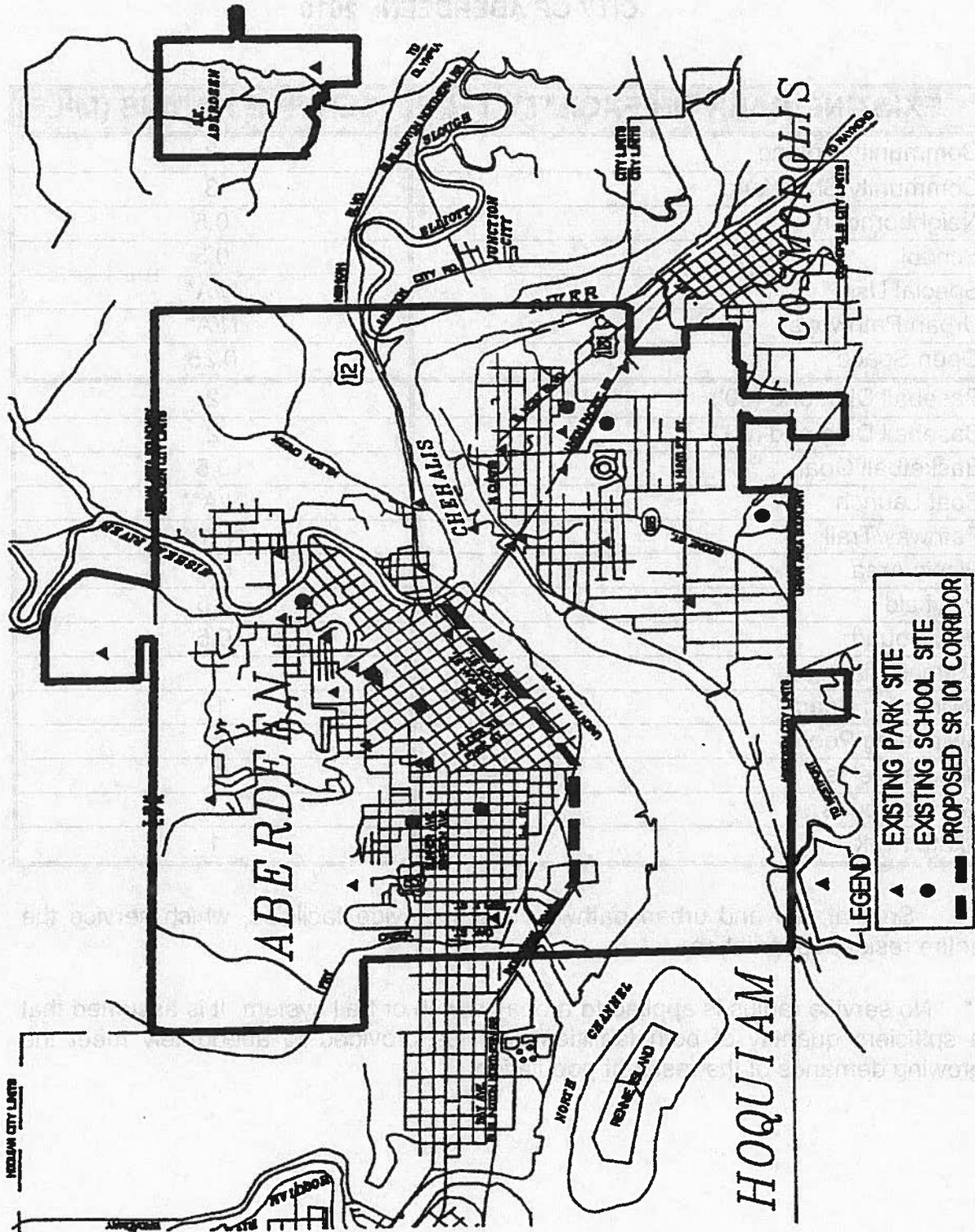
**SERVICE RADIUS FOR PARK AND FACILITY TYPES IN THE  
CITY OF ABERDEEN: 2010**

<b>EXISTING PARK OR FACILITY TYPE</b>	<b>SERVICE RADIUS (MILE)</b>
Community/Upland	3
Community/Shoreland	3
Neighborhood	0.5
School	0.5
Special Use	N/A*
Urban Pathways	N/A*
Open Space	0.25
Baseball Diamond (90')	2
Baseball Diamond (60')	2
Basketball Goal	0.5
Boat Launch	N/A**
Pathway/Trail	N/A**
Picnic Area	0.5
Playfield	0.5
Playground	0.5
Softball Diamond	1
Swimming Beach	10
Swimming Pool	5
Soccer Fields	3
Tennis Courts	1
Skate Park	1

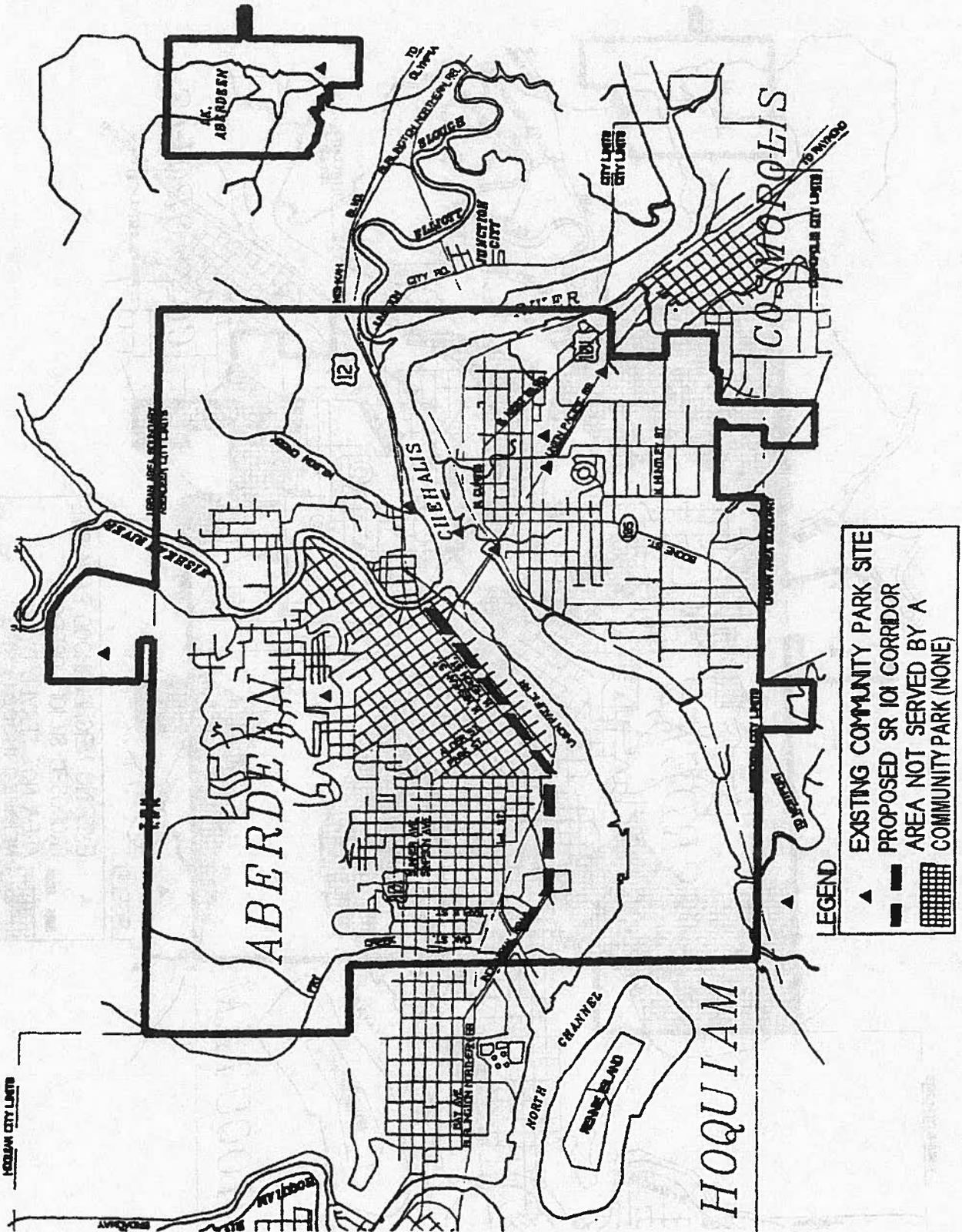
\* Special use and urban pathway areas provide facilities, which service the entire resident population.

\*\* No service radius is applied to a boat launch or trail system. It is assumed that a sufficient quantity of both facilities shall be provided to adequately meet the growing demands of the resident population.

**MAP 6-1  
EXISTING PARK AND SCHOOL SITED IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN: 2010**



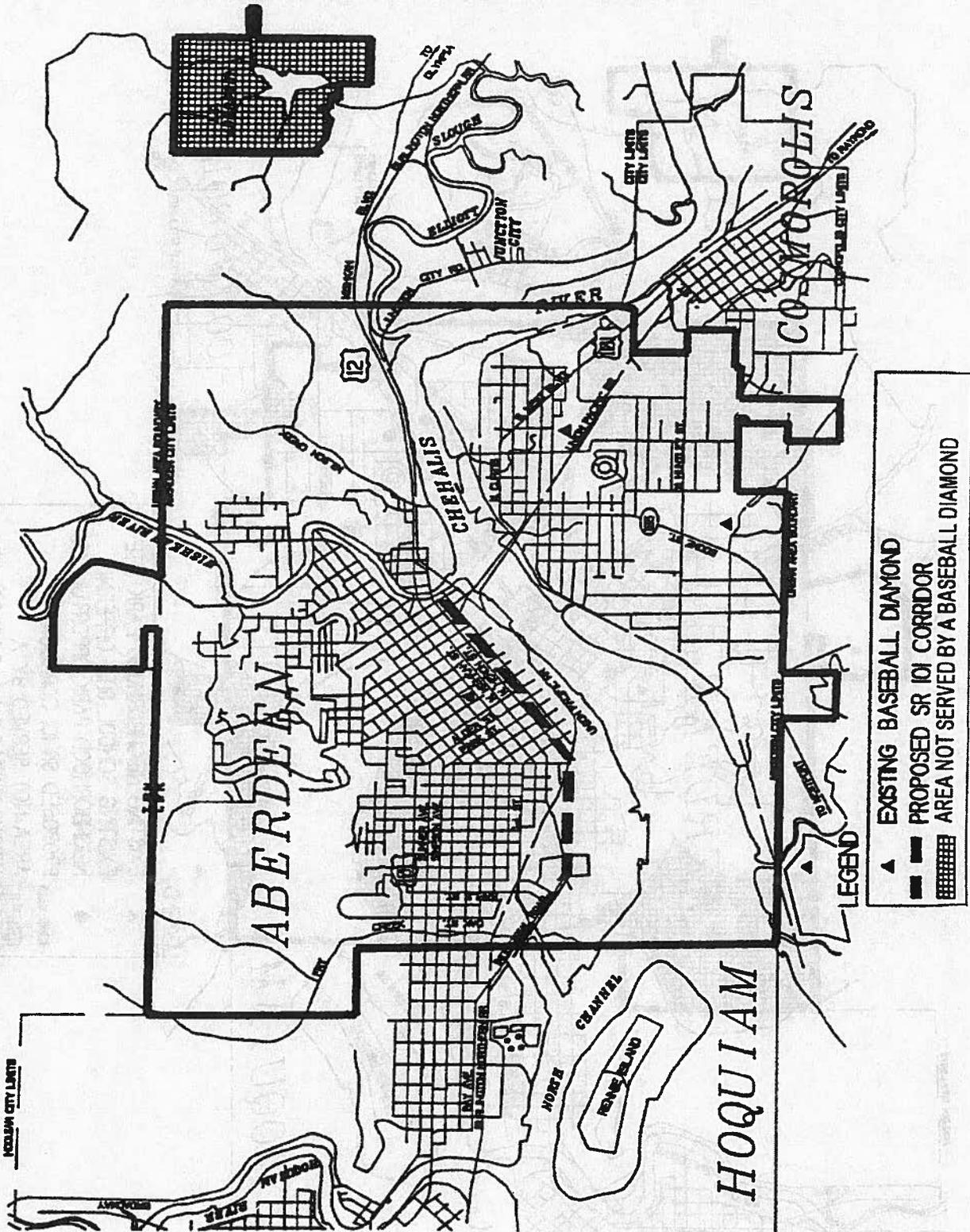
**MAP 6-2**  
**AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A COMMUNITY PARK**







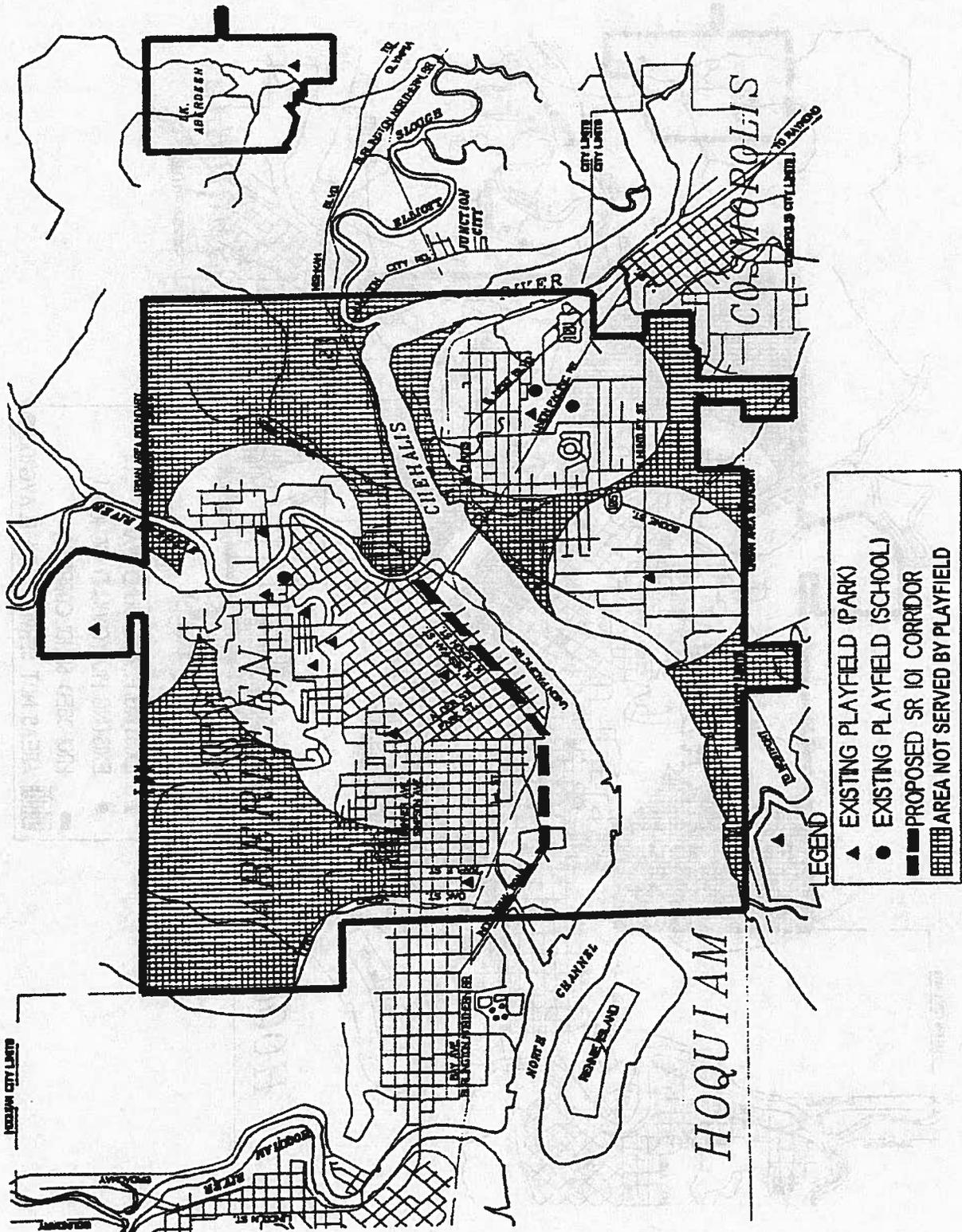
**MAP 6-5**  
**AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A BASEBALL DIAMOND**







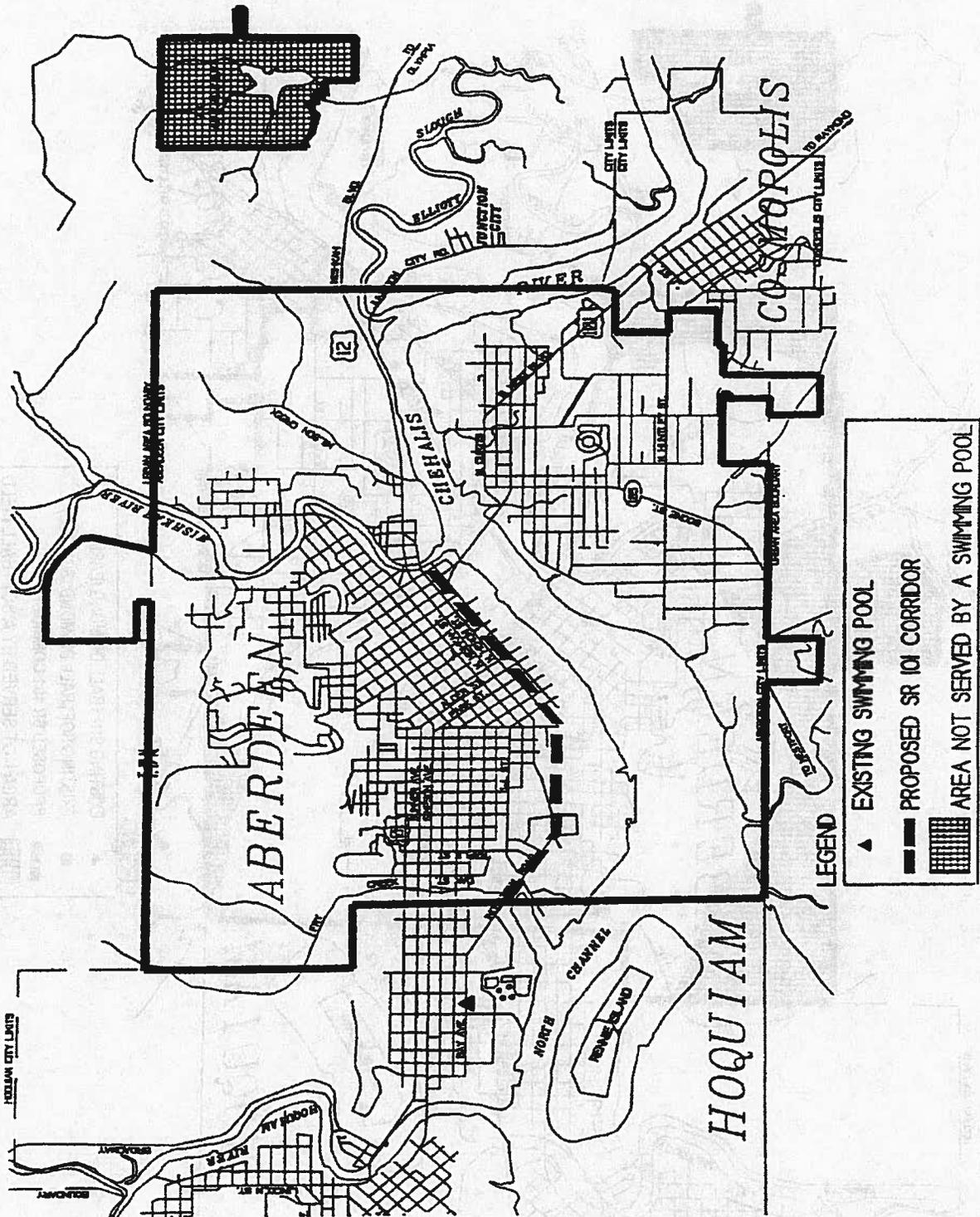
**MAP 6-8**  
**AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A PLAYFIELD**



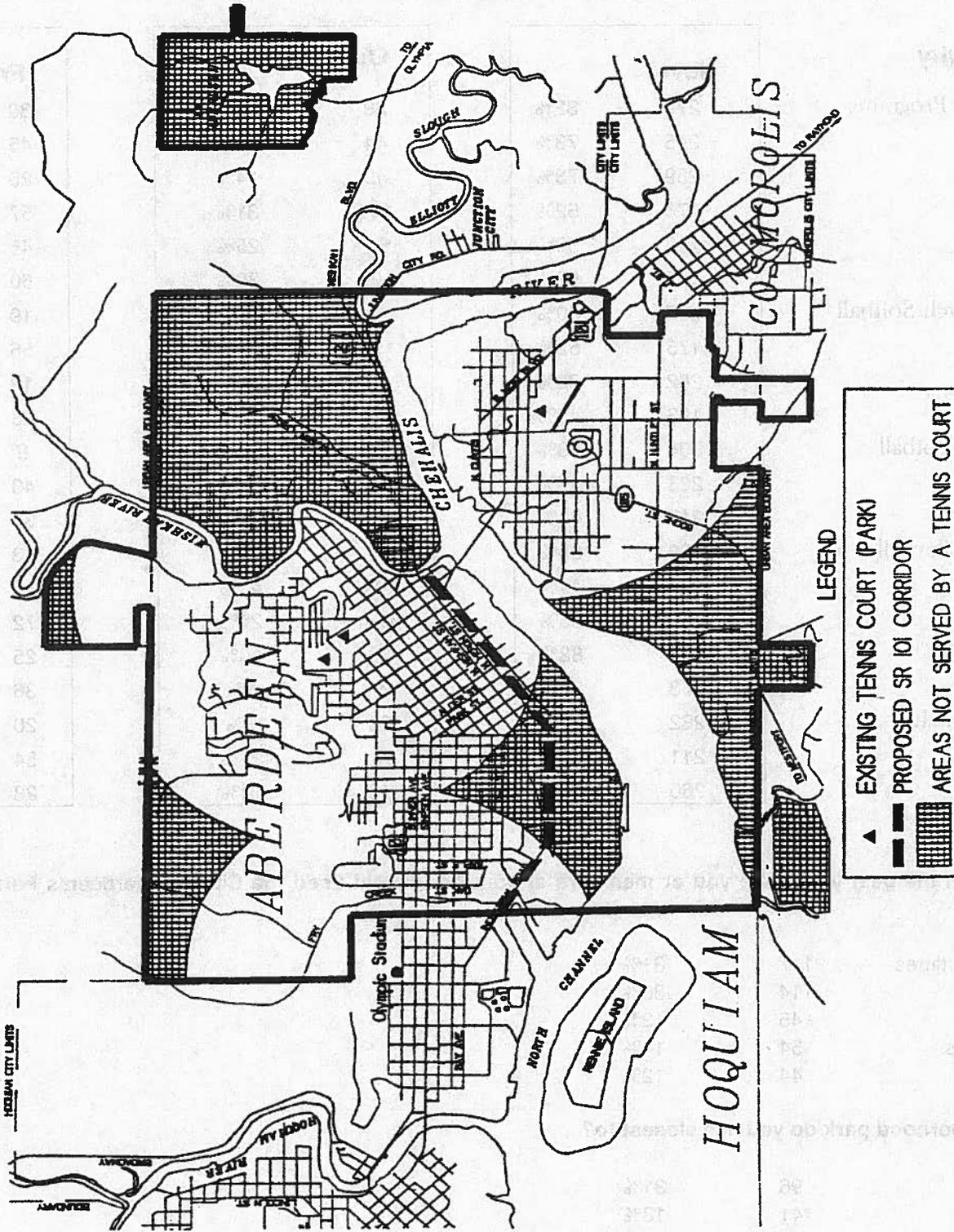




**MAP 6-11**  
**AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A SWIMMING POOL**



**MAP 6-12**  
**AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A TENNIS COURT**



### 2009-10 Public Survey

Please rank the following activities (on a scale of 1 to 3) that you or members of your household participate in (Never = 0 times per month; Occassionally = 1-2 times per month; Frequently = 3 or more times per month):

Activity	Never		Occasionally		Frequently	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Afterschool Programs	276	82%	29	9%	30	9%
Baseball	245	73%	44	13%	45	13%
Basketball	259	78%	45	14%	26	8%
Bicycling	176	52%	105	31%	57	17%
Boating	208	62%	84	25%	45	13%
Camping	177	53%	100	30%	60	18%
Girl's Fastpitch/Softball	297	90%	14	4%	19	6%
Fishing	175	52%	108	32%	56	17%
Disk Golf	262	80%	48	15%	19	6%
Hiking	153	45%	124	36%	65	19%
Adult Flag Football	304	93%	15	5%	8	2%
Jogging	223	67%	69	21%	43	13%
Nature Study	217	63%	92	27%	33	10%
Outdoor Volleyball	292	88%	27	8%	13	4%
Picnicking	153	44%	143	41%	49	14%
Playground	190	55%	83	24%	72	21%
Skateboarding	273	82%	33	10%	25	8%
Soccer	268	81%	27	8%	36	11%
Adult Slowpitch	282	85%	28	8%	20	6%
Swimming	211	63%	72	21%	54	16%
Tennis	260	77%	48	14%	28	8%

**How often in the past year have you or members of your household used the City of Aberdeen's Park system?**

more than 20 times	117	31%
1 to 5 times	114	30%
5 to 10 times	45	12%
10 to 20 times	54	14%
No response	44	12%

**What neighborhood park do you live closest to?**

Sam Benn	96	31%
Pioneer	41	13%
Stewarts	46	15%
Finch	51	17%

Morrison	14	5%
North End	21	7%
West End	30	10%
Garley	9	3%

**Do you feel the City of Aberdeen's Park system provides adequate park facilities in your neighborhood?**

YES	=	262	70%
NO	=	55	15%
No Response	=	57	15%

**What type of park facilities would you like to see developed in the future?**

Trails (Bike, Hiking)	49	36%
Waterfront Parks	54	39%
Recreation Center	13	9%
Court Games	4	3%
RV Park	9	7%
BMX Bike Park	1	1%
Other	7	5%
No Response	237	

OTHER: Dog Park, Boat Launch, Performance Ampitheater, Indoor Rec Facility, Additional Skate Park, Additional Play Equipment, Public Rifle Range, Public Pool, Kayak Launch, Mountain Bike Trail, Better Senior Center, Public Running Track, ATV Park

**What type of improvements would you recommend for the existing City of Aberdeen Park system?**

Restrooms	40	33%
Covered Picnic Area	20	17%
Playground Equip.	18	15%
Doggie Pots	18	15%
Picnic Tables	11	9%
Parking	1	1%
Other	13	11%
No Response	253	

OTHER: Add more trails attached to current parks, surveillance system, covered recreation area, more things for handicapped citizens, additional play equipment for smaller children

**Do you feel the daily maintenance of the Aberdeen Park system is of a quality level?**

YES	=	235	63%
NO	=	66	18%

No Response	=	73	20%
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**If you are a property owner, would you support an additional property tax or a re-allocation of the city funds to provide additional maintenance?**

YES	=	176	47%
NO	=	135	36%
No Response	=	63	17%

**If you are a property owner, would you support an additional property tax or a re-allocation of the city funds to provide city-wide afterschool programs?**

YES	=	138	37%
NO	=	171	46%
No Response	=	65	17%

**During the past Six years, has anyone in your family participated in a City of Aberdeen adult recreational program?**

YES	=	67	18%
NO	=	267	71%
No Response	=	40	11%

**If you responded yes, how would you rate the City of Aberdeen's present adult recreational programs?**

Neutral or No Opinion		33	32%
Good		48	47%
Fair		8	8%
Excellent		12	12%
Poor		2	2%

**During the past Six years, has anyone in your family participated in a City of Aberdeen youth recreational program?**

YES	=	83	22%
NO	=	242	65%
No Response	=	49	13%

**If you responded yes, how would you rate the City of Aberdeen's present adult recreational programs?**

Neutral or No Opinion		28	25%
Good		47	42%
Fair		11	10%
Excellent		23	21%
Poor		3	3%

**If the City of Aberdeen held program classes (photography, cooking, etc.) or field trips would you consider enrolling?**

YES	=	201	54%
NO	=	97	26%

No Response = 76 20%

**Do you think the City of Aberdeen should offer teen classes (babysitting, getting a job, etc.)??**

YES = 202 54%  
 NO = 93 25%  
 No Response = 79 21%

**Is public shoreline in the City of Aberdeen adequate?**

YES = 133 36%  
 NO = 144 39%  
 No Response = 97 26%

**Is there adequate shoreline access for the elderly, handicapped and physically disabled?**

YES = 130 35%  
 NO = 103 28%  
 No Response = 141 38%

**Do you feel that public access to the City's shoreline is important to RESIDENTS?**

YES = 290 78%  
 NO = 33 9%  
 No Response = 51 14%

**Do you feel that public access to the City's shoreline is important to VISITORS?**

YES = 295 79%  
 NO = 21 6%  
 No Response = 58 16%

**Have you used any public access to the City's shoreline in the past year?**

YES = 226 60%  
 NO = 84 22%  
 No Response = 64 17%

**If you are a property owner, would you support an additional property tax to provide a large recreational project such as a boat launch facility?**

YES = 143 38%  
 NO = 167 45%  
 No Response = 64 17%

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **Framework**

The degree to which the recommendations of this plan are implemented between 2011 and 2016 will be the true determination of its effectiveness. The recommendations identified in this plan will therefore be formulated based on the findings of the various methods used to determine needs. These recommendations will also maintain the overriding guidelines that provide a balance between the following needs:

- Present recreation deficiencies and future requirements
- Population and economic characteristics
- City of Aberdeen fiscal resources

Moreover, the recommendations found herein will be an expression of the goals and objectives identified in Chapter 2 and, most importantly, provide the residents of Aberdeen with quality recreation sites, programs, and facilities throughout the life of the plan.

This chapter will identify proposed recommendations, based on a variety of methods, to determine park and recreation needs in the City of Aberdeen. The recommendations for acquisition and facility development have been divided into the three elements of the overall citywide goal, and will be followed by recommendations for existing sites and facilities. Potential sources of funding required to assist in this plan's implementation will also be examined. The chapter will conclude with a Capital Improvement Program that prioritizes the recommendations and establishes cost estimates for each project.

#### **Area Element Recommendations**

The goal of the area element is to acquire land for park purposes in order to meet the present and future needs of all citizens in the City of Aberdeen. Because there are areas within the City that are not served by neighborhood park facilities, an opportunity may arise for the acquisition of land suitable for a neighborhood park even though additional acreage for such purposes is not a high priority at this time. Additionally, new residential growth patterns in the undeveloped northwest portion of the City may prompt an analysis of parcels that may be either purchased by the City before land costs increase or created through the land subdivision process.

Any proposed parkland should encompass valuable natural resources whenever possible. Areas of unique flora and fauna, steep topography, and high quality wetlands or woodlands all provide excellent park locations. These natural resource features not only make parklands more attractive, but also are also least desired by developers and therefore less costly to acquire. It is recommended that an additional 1.7 acres of urban

mall and squares be added within the City of Aberdeen. These open space areas are designed to improve the urban environmental quality in or near the central business district and along the state routes. These areas do not require any specific size or shape and only demand support facilities such as benches, refuse receptacles, and low-maintenance landscaping. Parcels dedicated for use as an urban mall or square should be acquired when the opportunity and financial resources permit. Small parcels of land at that location near the central business district could be acquired through easements or dedications and would provide visual access to the Wishkah and Chehalis Rivers; *please refer to AE-9.*

### **Program Element Recommendations**

The overall goal of the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department is to establish and provide recreational programs sufficient to meet the needs of all the citizens of Aberdeen. The existing recreational programs offered to Aberdeen residents are designed to include all age groups and encompass a wide variety of activities. The 2010 City of Aberdeen Parks and Recreation survey reveals that 52% of respondents rated the City's adult and youth recreation programs as either "good" or "excellent". That is an improvement over the 2003 survey of 43%.

The City of Aberdeen should continue to seek innovative recreational programs that stimulate and challenge the mental and physical capabilities of Aberdeen residents. The continued coordination with the Aberdeen School District and local community groups for joint recreation programs is a priority in order to avoid duplication of programs; *please refer to PE-5.*

### **Facility Element Recommendations**

To satisfy the facility element goal, the Parks and Recreation Department should continue to provide quality recreation facilities that meet the needs and desires of all Aberdeen citizens. The objective is to provide sufficient facilities in order to accommodate the anticipated usage while maintaining the existing facilities for the enjoyment, safety, and welfare of all who use them.

To adequately examine specific facility needs, the various recreation facilities will be discussed separately.

*Baseball Diamonds;* No additional baseball diamonds were required by applying the per capita level of service standards nor were there a demand identified by residents in the survey. Nevertheless, those areas within the City that are not served by a baseball diamonds should be provided goals in the event of park development in those areas; *please refer to FE-10.*

*Basketball Goals;* No additional basketball goals were required by applying the per capita level of service standards nor were there a demand identified by residents in the survey. Nevertheless, those areas within the City that are not served by a basketball goal should be provided goals in the event of park development in those areas; *please*

refer to **FE-11**. Please note that when driving by a neighborhood park those areas with outdoor basketball hoops were the most active.

**Boat Launch;** A demand exists to provide public access to the shorelines in the City of Aberdeen. 39% of survey respondents would like to see additional waterfront parks developed in the future, and 78% feel public access to the City's shorelines is important to residents and visitors. Additionally, fishing ranked in the top four of respondent recreational activities.

It is recommended that a boat launch facility be developed in the City to meet the identified need; *please refer to FE-13*. The greatest potential for boat launch development exists at the current facility located on the south shore of the Chehalis River described in Chapter 5. The site is currently owned by the City and has been used as an unimproved and unmaintained boat launch for many years. Further site considerations are included in the Chapter 5 discussion.

**Pathway/Trail;** As previously noted, waterfront access is a very important element of the park and recreation opportunities available in the City of Aberdeen. Waterfront development for passive recreational activities such as walking, fishing, picnicking, and scenic views, as well as the desire to utilize the Aberdeen waterfront areas for the benefit of residents and visitors, were all significantly represented in the survey. Future pathway/trail development was listed by 36% of survey respondents. The public demand coupled with the extensive attention attributed to the shorelines in the City provide a sound basis for the continued development of the pathway segments discussed in Chapter 5.

The City should develop the continuation of the East Aberdeen Waterfront Walkway, extending westward from the South Aberdeen Boat Launch connecting to the Bob Basich Trailway; *please refer to FE-15*.

**Picnic Areas;** Applying the per capita level of service standards required no additional picnic facilities. However, additional picnic facilities were desired by 28% of survey respondents and will be included in the proposed Aberdeen Landing, South Shore Boat Launch

**Playfields;** No additional playfields were required by applying the per capita level of service standards nor was there a demand for additional playfields identified by survey respondents. In general, playfields can accommodate soccer or football and should be located adjacent to school facilities whenever possible.

**Playgrounds;** Applying the per capita level of service standards required no additional playgrounds. However, survey respondents listed playground equipment improvements as the most important priority at school sites. The City should, therefore, consider the following policies: The City should consider joint funding opportunities for the construction of additional playground equipment at school sites; *please refer to FE-17*.

**Soccer Fields;** No additional soccer fields were required by applying the per capita level of service standards nor were there a demand identified by residents in the survey.

Nevertheless, those areas within the City that are not served by a soccer fields should be provided goals in the event of park development in those areas.

**BMX Facility;** The City should consider funding opportunities for the construction of a BMX Facility; *please refer to FE-30.*

**Softball Diamonds;** No additional softball diamonds were required by applying the per capita level of service standards nor were there a demand identified by residents in the survey. Nevertheless, those areas within the City that are not served by a softball diamonds should be provided goals in the event of park development in those areas; **FE-12.**

**Tennis Courts;** No additional tennis courts were required when applying the per capita level of service standards, and only the northeast and a small area of the northwest portions of the City are unserved by an existing tennis court. No need was identified for tennis courts in the recreational survey and therefore no new tennis courts will be required during the timeframe of this plan.

**Dog Park;** The City should look into the possibility of building a dog park.

### **Existing Site and Facility Recommendations**

In addition to recommendations for new acquisition and facility development, existing park sites and the facilities within those parks require upgrading. These recommendations are also a product of the need identified through the various methods of analysis as well as input from the Aberdeen Park Board and Parks and Recreation Department staff. The recommended facility development included in this section typically will be associated with support facilities such as restrooms and lighting; in some cases, the recommended facilities will satisfy the individual park site and/or City-wide need.

### **Upland Community Parks**

**Pioneer Park:** Recommended Improvements for Pioneer Park include tennis court lights, replacement of the Little League Restroom, replacement of the field lighting at the Minor League baseball and two softball fields, general site lighting and additional fencing and landscaping; *please refer to FE-20.*

**Sam Benn Park:** Recommended improvements for Sam Benn Park include the remodeling of the playground, the construction of a picnic area, sidewalks, grass and lawn revitalization, construction of a sitting or reflection area, parking and stormwater runoff improvements; *please refer to FE-21.*

## **Shoreland Community Parks**

**Lake Aberdeen Recreation Area:** As discussed in Chapter 5, significant expansion of this site would utilize the natural attributes of the area. Improvements include the development of a 75-unit campground near the northeastern shoreline complete with the following support facilities: restrooms, and the development of an interpretive trail along the eastern shoreline starting at the existing swimming beach and terminating at the Van Winkle Creek wetland area. Additional segments could be added to the trail to provide a loop around the entire lake given high utilization of the trail and local support; *please refer to FE-23.*

**Morrison Riverfront Park:** Development of a floating fishing dock will greatly enhance the ability of elderly and physically impaired citizens to fish along the bank of the Chehalis River.

## **Neighborhood Parks**

**Alder Creek:** It is recommended that playground equipment and landscaping be added to this park; *please refer to FE-24.*

**Highlands:** Recommendations include the construction of a neighborhood playfield in the newest development, the Aberdeen Highlands. The developer has agreed to discuss this once additional areas are developed.

## **Capital Improvement Program**

The Aberdeen Park Board and City Council establish a Capital Improvement Program on a year-by-year basis; *please refer to Table 7-1.*

## **Potential Funding Sources**

A wide variety of funding sources are available to implement the recommendations listed in this plan. Those sources include:

**Grants** Federal and State governments offer grants to assist in the acquisition and development of recreation land and facilities. Grants have been instrumental in park acquisition and development; however, these grants typically require partial or full matching funds from the City. Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles and other transportation enhancement projects are eligible for federal highway funds.

**Donations** Land may be donated to the City for park and recreation purposes by individual citizens and private corporations.

**General  
Obligation  
Bonds**

General obligation bonds are notes of credit approved by the voters. The voters agree to levy themselves an increase in property tax to pay the principal and interest of the bond. This type of bond provides for a large variety of park acquisition and facility development projects.

**User Fees**

User fees are levied on participating individuals and groups when utilizing certain facilities. User fees provide an additional method of compensation for the cost of facilities and reduces the burden on the general fund for operation and maintenance costs.

**Dedications**

Dedications involve transfers of property to the City for specific use as defined by the property owners. Some cities require subdivision developers to dedicate acreage for recreational and open space purposes.

**General  
Fund**

The City's general fund is utilized to implement the projects listed in the Department's Capital Improvement Program. As noted earlier, it is hoped that other sources of funding are in place to reduce the allocation from the general fund.

**TABLE 7-1  
Capital Improvement Program**

<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) FORM</b> (Parks, Recreation, Habitat Facilities)										
Agency/Department		City of Aberdeen, Parks			Date of Adoption		May 12th, 2011			
Address		200 East Market			Resolution Number					
City, Zip Code		Aberdeen, WA 98520			Completed By		Karl Harris			
Phone (660)		537-3229			County		Grays Harbor			
Title		Parks and Recreation Director								
(1) Priority	(2) Project Name	(3) Fund Source	(4) Acquisition Development Renovation Restoration	(5) Facility Type	(6) Estimated Project Implementation Cost Per Year					
1	Sam Benn Remodel	L, D, M, U	D	NPK	\$130,000					
2	Fishing Dock, Kayak	L, D, M, U	D	F, B	\$75,000					
3	Dog Park	L, D	D	OS	\$10,000					
4	Highlands	L, D, M, U	D	NPK			\$200,000			
5	Chehalis River Trail Bridge	L, D, M, U	D	TP, TB				\$40,000		
6	Lake Ab Trail	L, D, M, U	D	TP					\$500,000	

## **Summary**

This plan has analyzed the park and recreation opportunities and needs in the City of Aberdeen. The recommendations in this plan attempt to satisfy expressed citizen need while providing a balance of quality recreation areas, programs, and facilities.

Through the variety of available funding sources, the implementation of this plan is possible. Community support from local associations, business interests, and the public, the proposals will become reality and assist in the preservation of a high level of recreational opportunities for future generations.

This plan has analyzed the park and recreation opportunities and needs in the City of Aberdeen. The recommendations in this plan attempt to satisfy expressed citizen needs while providing a balance of quality recreation areas, programs, and facilities.

Through the variety of available funding sources, the implementation of this plan is possible. Community support from local associations, business interests, and the private sector will become reality and assist in the preservation of a high level of recreational opportunities for future generations.

**CITY OF ABERDEEN**

**COMPREHENSIVE PAKR AND RECREATION PLAN**

**2011-2016**

**APPENDICES**

CITY OF ABERDEEN  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

## APPENDIX B

### Public Notice and Correspondence



P.O. Box 269  
315 S. Michigan St  
Aberdeen, WA  
98520

# Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned being first duly sworn oath deposed and says: The he/she is the Principal Clerk of the Daily World, which is a legal newspaper printed and published in the City of Aberdeen Grays Harbor County, Washington: of general circulation in said City, County and State that the

City of Aberdeen  
AD# 64974

State of Washington  
County of Grays Harbor  
Account Number 14757

of which the attached is a printed Copy, was published in said newspaper on the

<u>15</u>	day of <u>February</u>	<u>2009</u>
_____	day of _____	2009
_____	day of _____	2009
_____	day of _____	2009
_____	day of _____	2009
_____	day of _____	2009
_____	day of _____	2009
_____	day of _____	2009
_____	day of _____	2009

**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**  
THE ABERDEEN PLANNING COMMISSION WILL BE HOLDING A PUBLIC MEETING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF ABERDEEN CITY HALL. THIS WILL BE A PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS VARIOUS LAND USE ISSUES. PLEASE CONTACT NISA SCOTT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT 360-537-3238 OR SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, 700 EAST MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN, WASHINGTON, 98520-2242. PLEASE ADVISE PRIOR TO THE HEARING DATE IF ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED TO ACCOMMODATE A DISABILITY. BRIAN LITTLE, CHAIR, PLANNING COMMISSION, CITY OF ABERDEEN.

said newspaper was generally circulated during all said time, and has been published than six months prior to the dates of the publication of this legal document, and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in supplied form.

amount of fee charged for this publication is: \$ 48.40  
PO Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Clerk: Nancy M. Barnett

subscribed and sworn to me this 16 day of Feb., 2009

Nancy M. Barnett  
Notary Public for the State of Washington Grays Harbor County Washington

NANCY M. BARNETT  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
My Commission Expires Oct. 09, 2010





**CITY OF ABERDEEN  
PLANNING COMMISSION**  
Thursday, February 18, 2010 7:00 p.m.  
Aberdeen City Hall

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of minutes from January.
4. New Business
  - A. Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Update
    - Staff presentation
    - Comments from the audience
    - Commission Questions
    - Commission Vote
    - Close
5. Old Business
  - A. Short Course on Local Planning
  - B. Recreational Vehicle Park Draft Ordinance
    - Staff presentation
    - Comments from the audience
    - Commission Questions
    - Commission Vote
    - Close
6. Visitor's not part of the agenda
7. Good of the Order
8. Adjournment





## PLANNING COMMISSION

*February 18, 2010*

### MINUTES

Chairperson Brian Little called the meeting of the Aberdeen Planning Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the third floor of Aberdeen City Hall. The following members were present: Brian Little, Krister Lile, Ben Bouch, John Martinsen, Bill Privatsky, Bev Lufkin and Mike Schmidt. Also present: Staff, Lisa Scott and Karl Harris City Council Members, Jerry Mills and Kathi Hoder and visitor's Sally McCarthy & Mike Dickerson. A sign up sheet of visitors is attached to the minutes

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from January. Bill Privatsky made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Bev Lufkin. The motion was approved with all in favor.

The second item on the agenda was new business.

- Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Update. Karl Harris presented the staff report regarding the six-year update of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. There was discussion from the board regarding reconnecting to the waterfront, kayak launch, more riverfront trails, etc. The Commission also wanted to do a better job of working with the Parks Board so that we can also include the Parks and Recreation Plan into our long range plan (Comprehensive Land Use Plan). Brian made a motion with a second by John to support the plan and move forward to the City Council.

The third item on the agenda was old business.

- Short Course on Local Planning. Brief discussion on setting up a training session for the Planning Commission on a Short Course on Local Planning.
- Recreations Vehicle Park Draft Ordinance. Discussion with commission on the draft ordinance. Put on hold and gather further information from city department.

The fourth item on the agenda was Visitor's Not Part of the Agenda. No one spoke.

The final item on the agenda was the Good of the Order. The Commission wants to work on developing roles of the Planning Commission in regards to the revitalization effort (Our Aberdeen). Meeting adjourned.





Print Page

## Survey shows shoreline concerns

By **Steven Friederich** - The Daily World

Thursday, March 11, 2010 2:11 PM PST

A recent survey asking Aberdeen residents how the city should improve its park system found that the majority of respondents want improved access to the city's shoreline.

"The overall gist is that the people of Aberdeen, the citizens of Aberdeen, like their shorelines," Aberdeen Parks Director Karl Harris told the City Council Wednesday night. "They use their shorelines. And they want to continue to have developed shorelines."

The Parks Department sent thousands of surveys out with the city's water bill last fall. They got back about 400 of them, which is actually better than the 250 or so they got back six years ago.

Harris said the city is updating its parks plan to reflect what people want. The survey will help guide the direction of that parks plan, which could help the city gain more grants to improve its parks system.

About a third of respondents felt the city's public shoreline was adequate, with another third thinking it needs improvement and the rest choosing not to answer the question.

An overwhelming 77 percent of respondents felt that public access to the shoreline is important and slightly more at 78.8 percent felt it was even more important to visitors.

At least 60 percent of respondents said they'd accessed the shoreline in the past year.

Asked if they'd be willing to pay an additional property tax to provide a large recreational project such as a boat launch facility, only 38 percent said "yes."

"They are a little bit toward the negative as far as whether or not they want to pay for it," Harris said. "That's why it's important for us to have grants to do this."

Asked about other recreational opportunities, the majority said they wanted more waterfront parks, more trails for biking and hiking and a recreation center.

Individually, residents had a chance to write in what they would like to see brought to Aberdeen. Answers were varied — from an air rifle range, canoe and kayak ramps, dog parks, a better skateboard park and a golf range. One person even suggested a "chinchilla race park."

Asked what could use improvement at current parks, residents replied that the restrooms, covered picnic area, playground equipment and dispensers for bags to clean up after dogs topped the list. One person suggested adding a day of "Music in the Park."

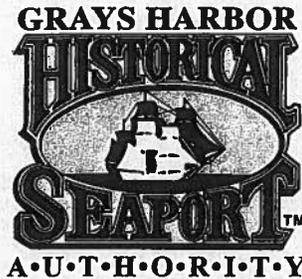
Harris said he'll take the ideas and present a parks improvement plan in the coming months.

**Steven Friederich**, a Daily World writer, can be reached at (360) 537-3927 or by e-mail at [sfriederich@thedailyworld.com](mailto:sfriederich@thedailyworld.com)

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March 4, 2010

Karl Harris  
Parks & Recreation Director  
City of Aberdeen  
200 E. Market St.  
Aberdeen, WA 98520

Dear Mr. Harris;

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me regarding our Seaport Landing project. As I shared with you, the Historical Seaport is committed to the vision of creating a first class waterfront facility that will serve the citizens of Aberdeen, as well the many visitors to our community.

A recent opportunity to expand our project area is causing us to rethink our site layout and footprint, but not the essential public elements of our design. Seaport Landing will include a first class boat launch, public moorage as well as small marina facility with full waterfront access to the public.

Although we are not yet able to put forward a completed design, we ask that you incorporate our Seaport Landing project in South Aberdeen by reference in the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. As we have completed our design process we will bring our plan forward for formal adoption and incorporation into the City Comprehensive Parks and Recreation plan.

Again, thank you for making the time to discuss our project with you and I look forward to bringing a formal plan forward as soon as we have the details finalized.

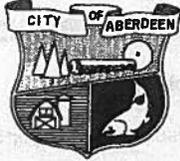
On behalf of the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority Board of Directors.

Capt. Les Bolton  
Executive Director  
Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority

Cc: Mayor Bill Simpson  
Lisa Scott, City Planner

P.O. Box 2019 • Aberdeen, Washington 98520  
360-532-8611 • Fax 360-533-9384  
Website: [www.ladywashington.org](http://www.ladywashington.org) • Email: [ghhsa@techline.com](mailto:ghhsa@techline.com)

City of  
Aberdeen



Community Development Department  
200 East Market Street • Aberdeen, WA 98520-5242  
PHONE (360) 537-3238 • EMAIL [lscott@aberdeeninfor.com](mailto:lscott@aberdeeninfor.com)  
FAX (360) 537-3350 • TDD (360) 533-6668

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE CITY OF ABERDEEN WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FOLLOWING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010 AT APPROXIMATELY 7:15 P.M. ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF ABERDEEN CITY HALL.

- THE SIX YEAR UPDATE OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND TO GIVE COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THE ABOVE PLAN. PLEASE CONTACT KARL HARRIS AT (360) 537-3229 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, 200 EAST MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN WASHINGTON 98520-5242. PLEASE ADVISE US PRIOR TO THE HEARING DATE IF ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED TO ACCOMMODATE A DISABILITY.

**WILLIAM SIMPSON, MAYOR**  
**CITY OF ABERDEEN**



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# CITY OF ABERDEEN

March 10, 2010

The City Council met this date in regular session with Mayor Simpson in the Chair.

Roll call: Alstrom, Cook, Erak, Fritts, Gordon, Hoder, Mills, Paling, Phelps, Schave, Shortt and Smith.

Motion by Smith, Paling to add Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Parks Plan and 2 Proclamations to the agenda. Carried.

Motion by Smith, Mills to correct minutes of the previous meeting by striking Jerry Mills from the Lodging Tax Committee and adding Tim Alstrom. Carried.

Motion by Schave, Phelps recommending approval and payment of accounts payable in the total amount of \$442,479.67 and payroll in the total amount of \$1,352,642.33 check numbers 22084 – 22316 and wire numbers 730 & 731. Roll Call: 10 yeas, Alstrom, Hoder abstained. Carried.

Motion by Alstrom, Fritts to cancel the council meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Carried.

Report from Public Works and the Water Department recommending that the Public Works Director be authorized to sign the Addendum to the Janitorial Services Contract with Kim's Clean & Shine for janitorial services. Motion to adopt. Hoder, Cook. Carried.

Resolution 2010-03 authorizing the execution and recording of a restrictive covenant implementing the compensatory mitigation required by the special conditions of Army Corps of Engineers Permit 1999-4-00787 for the Bishop Athletic Complex. Motion to adopt. Hoder, Shortt. Carried.

Third reading of Bill No. 10-03 relating to Historic Preservation and adding a new Chapter 17.50 to the AMC. Motion by Hoder, Schave to place the bill in final passage. Roll call: all yeas. Carried. This will be Ordinance No. 6496.

Second reading and date of public hearing of Bill No. 10-04 relating to domestic water system regulations and amending Chapter 13.56 of the AMC. Public hearing opened. Hoder, Shortt. Hearing held; no public comment. Public hearing closed. Hoder, Shortt. Motion by Hoder, Shortt to pass to third reading. Carried.

First reading of Bill No. 10-05 relating to the vacation of the sixty feet of the Scammel St. ROW between Blocks 9 and 10, Evans and Lewis Addition to the City of Aberdeen. Passed to second reading. Hoder, Shortt. Carried.

Motion by Hoder, Gordon to accept the Mayor's recommendation to Council requesting that City owned street lights be turned back on. Roll call: 11 yeas, 1 nay, Alstrom. Carried.

Motion by Fritts, Mills to open the Public Hearing for the 2010 – 2016 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan. Public hearing opened. Lisa Scott reviewed the process which includes the Planning Commission involvement & Karl Harris updated plan changes. There was no public comment. Hearing closed; Alstrom, Fritts. Carried.

Proclamations read by Mayor Simpson urging all individuals to observe April 2010 as Sexual Assault Awareness in Action Month and Records and Information Management Month. It was also noted that March 8-13<sup>th</sup> is Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

## **APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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**APPENDIX C**  
**Resolution on Adoption by City Council**

City  
of  
Aberdeen

**COPY**

**RESOLUTION No. 2011 - 01**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2011-2016 COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN.**

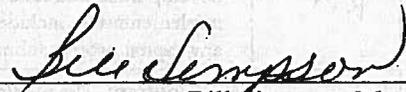
**WHEREAS**, the City of Aberdeen Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan (the Plan) is an expression of the community's goals and objectives for the provision of recreation space, services and facilities;

**WHEREAS**, the Plan will act as a guide for public policy regarding the scope, quality and location of recreational opportunities to meet the needs of both residents and visitors for the next six years;

**WHEREAS**, the Plan was developed from public comments and meetings with the Recreation and Conservation Office and has been reviewed and approved by the City of Aberdeen Parks Board; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

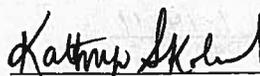
**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN:** That the attached Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan for the period of 2011-2016 is hereby adopted by the city of Aberdeen.

**PASSED and APPROVED** on January 12, 2011.



Bill Simpson, Mayor

ATTESTED:

  
Kathryn Skolrood, Finance Director

# APPENDIX D

## Self Certification Form

10

RCFB MANUAL 2: PLANNING POLICIES — JANUARY 29, 2008  
SECTION 3 — APPENDIX

Planning Process SELF CERTIFICATION FORM		
Use this form to certify that the need for your project(s) has been determined through an appropriate planning process. Attach the completed form to the subject plan(s) and provide to RCO.		
Name and adoption date of documents submitted in fulfillment of this requirement:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ City of Aberdeen</li> <li>▸ 2011-2016 Comprehensive Parks &amp; Recreation Plan</li> <li>▸ January 12, 2011</li> </ul>		
Check/Initial Each to Certify Completion	Plan Element Certification	Document & Page Number Location of Information
KH	1. <b>Goals, objectives:</b> The attached plan supports our project with broad statements of intent (goals) and measures that describe when these intents will be attained (objectives).	1-6
KH	2. <b>Inventory:</b> The plan includes a description of the service area's facilities, lands, programs, and their condition. (THIS MAY BE DONE IN A QUANTITATIVE FORMAT, OR IN A QUALITATIVE/NARRATIVE FORMAT.)	20-36
KH	3. <b>Public involvement:</b> The planning process gave the public ample opportunity to be involved in plan development and adoption.	48-71
KH	4. <b>Demand and need analysis:</b> In the plan(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ An analysis defines priorities, as appropriate, for acquisition, development, preservation, enhancement, management, etc., and explains why these actions are needed.</li> <li>▸ The process used in developing the analysis assessed community desires for parks, recreation, open space, and/or habitat, as appropriate, in a manner appropriate for the service area (personal observation, informal talks, formal survey(s), workshops, etc.).</li> </ul>	48-71 73-79
KH	5. <b>Capital Improvement Program:</b> The plan(s) includes a capital improvement/facility program that lists land acquisition, development, and renovation projects by year of anticipated implementation; include funding source. The program includes any capital project submitted to RCFB for funding.	78
KH	6. <b>Adoption:</b> The plan(s) and process has received formal governing body approval. (THAT IS, CITY/COUNTY DEPARTMENT HEAD, DISTRICT RANGER, REGIONAL MANAGER/SUPERVISOR, ETC., AS APPROPRIATE. ATTACH RESOLUTION, LETTER, OR OTHER ADOPTION INSTRUMENT.)	91

I certify that this information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge,

Karl Harris Parks + Recreation Dir. 1-14-11

Name Title Date

**RESOLUTION No. 2009 - 15**

**A RESOLUTION RELATING TO PHASE TWO OF THE FINCH PLAYFIELD SPRAY PARK AND AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) PROGRAM PROJECT TO THE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO) AS PROVIDED IN THE LWCF ACT OF 1965, AS AMENDED.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan has been amended to include the "Finch Playfield Spray Park" project;

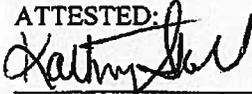
**WHEREAS**, under the provisions of LWCF, federal funding assistance is requested to aid in financing the cost of facility development for the "Finch Playfield Spray Park";

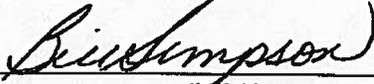
**WHEREAS**, the City of Aberdeen finds it in the best public interest to complete the facility development described in the application to the RCO; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN:**

1. The Mayor is authorized to make formal application to the Recreation and Conservation Office for funding assistance;
2. Any fund assistance received shall be used for implementation of the "Finch Playfield Spray Park";
3. The city certifies that its share of project funding is committed and will be derived from dedicated parks capital funds and community donations;
4. The city acknowledges that it is responsible for supporting all non-cash commitments to this project should they not materialize;
5. The city is aware that the grant, if approved, will be paid on a reimbursement basis. This means the city may only request payment after eligible and allowable costs have already been paid and remitted to the city's vendors;
6. The city acknowledges that any property acquired or facility developed with financial aid from the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) must be placed in use for the funded purpose and be retained in such use in perpetuity unless otherwise provided and agreed to by the city, RCFB, and the National Park Service;
7. This resolution is part of the formal application to the RCO;
8. The city provided appropriate opportunity for public comment on this application; and
9. The city acknowledges that LWCF grants are federal funds and, as such, the city must comply with all applicable federal laws.

**PASSED and APPROVED** on June 24, 2009, during regular session of the Aberdeen City Council held on said date in Aberdeen, Washington.

ATTESTED:  
  
Kathryn Skolrood, Finance Director

  
Bill Simpson, Mayor

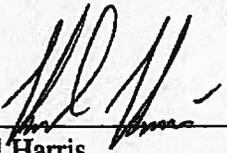


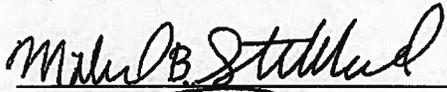
**ABERDEEN PARKS BOARD  
REPORT TO MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL**

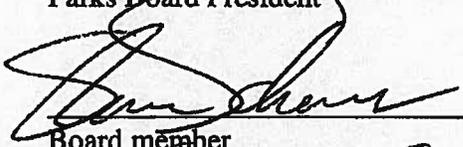
**TO:** Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Aberdeen Parks Board and the Parks & Recreation Director  
**RE:**

*Reports and Recommends as Follows:* The City of Aberdeen is eligible to apply to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program as a Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) project to help fund phase two of the Finch Playfield Spray Park project. Phase two of this project consists of a "serpent" style sitting bench with water spray coming out of the serpent's mouth, shade and wind protectors, and other miscellaneous amenities.

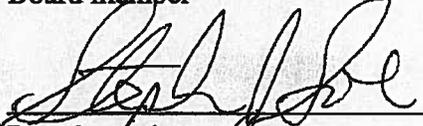
It is recommended that the Mayor and City Council pass a resolution authorizing the Parks and Recreation Director to apply for this assistance.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karl Harris  
Parks & Recreation Director

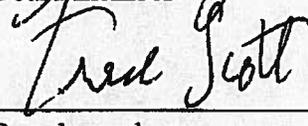
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike B. Stoddard  
Parks Board President

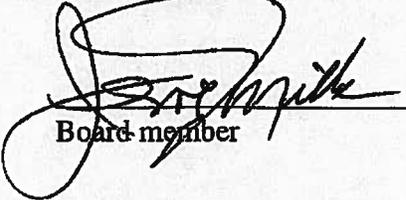
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Shaw  
Board member

Reported JUN 24, 2009

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen J. De  
Board member

Adopted JUN 24, 2009

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Scott  
Board member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph  
Board member

