2017-2022
Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

City of Aberdeen

Parks and Recreation Department

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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 are 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 currently owned public land is maintained in a suitable manner.

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 parks 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 pathways linking proposed county and existing City recreation facilities using the Active Transportation Plan as a guide

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. The City would like to develop a boat launch facility to meet the identified need, within the next 5 years.

FE-13. Develop the continuation of the pathway extending westward from Zelakso Park connecting to the South Aberdeen Boat Launch, within the next 5 years.

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 the addition of a "Dog Park", within the next 2 years.

FE-16 Consider construction of a play area adjacent to the Minor League or Little League fields at Pioneer Park, in 2018.

FE-17 Develop a waterfront park adjacent to the downtown core on the Chehalis River.

FE-18 Develop a kayak/canoe launch.

FE-19 Work with the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport on developing a boat launch in south Aberdeen that ties into the Seaport's Development plans.

FE-20 Develop an RV and Tent camp facility, beginning in 2019.

FE-21 Consider the construction of an additional indoor sports facility for practice in 2018.

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 2015 estimated population of 16,276 and a service area of 71,078, 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.

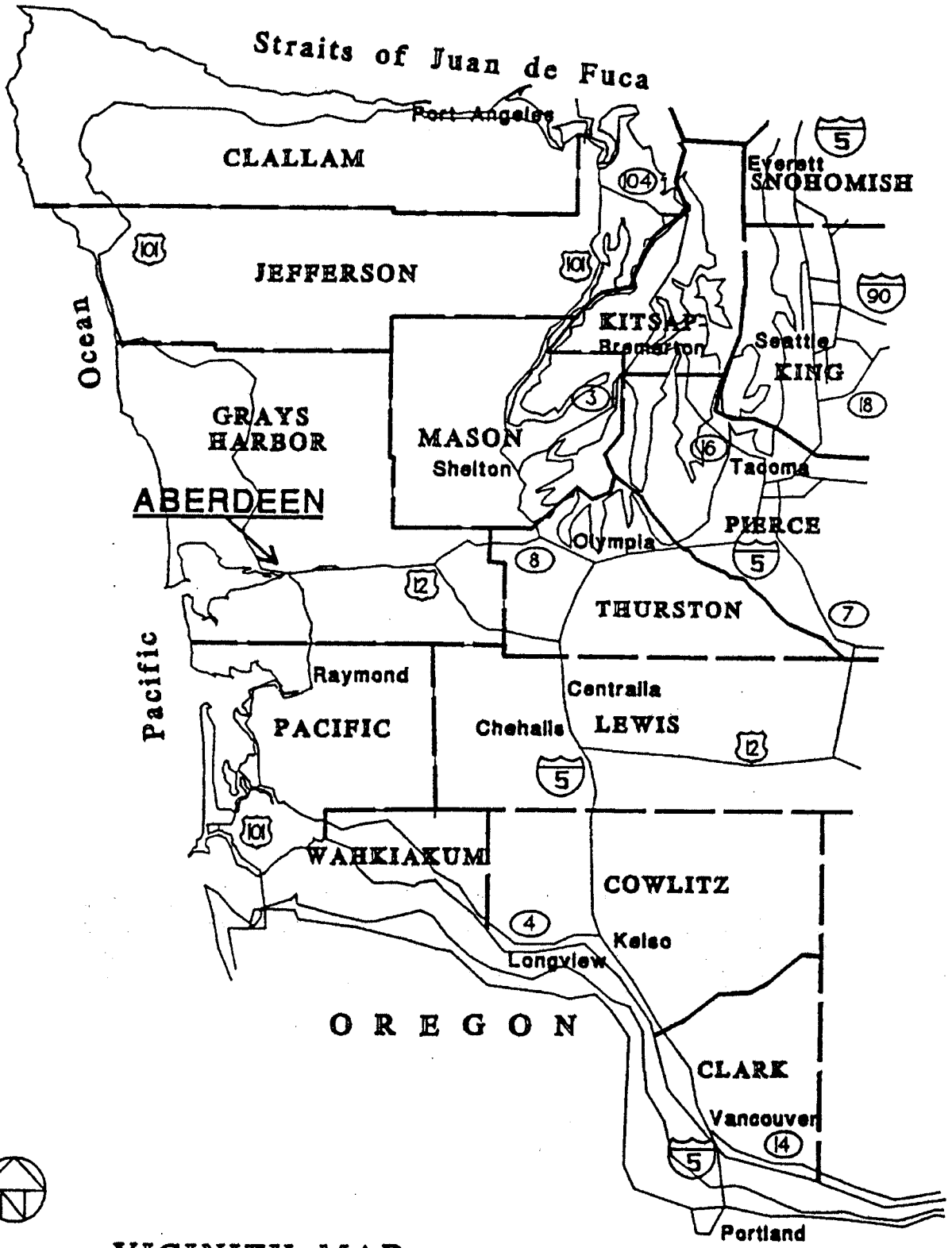
Population

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 16,588 people. The median age for residents of Aberdeen has slightly increased from 35.3 years old in 2014 to 35.4 years old in 2016.

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 55-64 age group, increased in population between 2000 and 2016. An increase in the 55-64 year age group may require additional attention toward providing recreation facilities such as walking trails, adult instructional classes, and activities for their grandchildren. The second assumption is directed toward the increase in the 25-34 year age group, which increased in population between 2000 and 2016. A continuation of this trend would likely increase utilization of biking and hiking trails, as well as organized sporting activities.

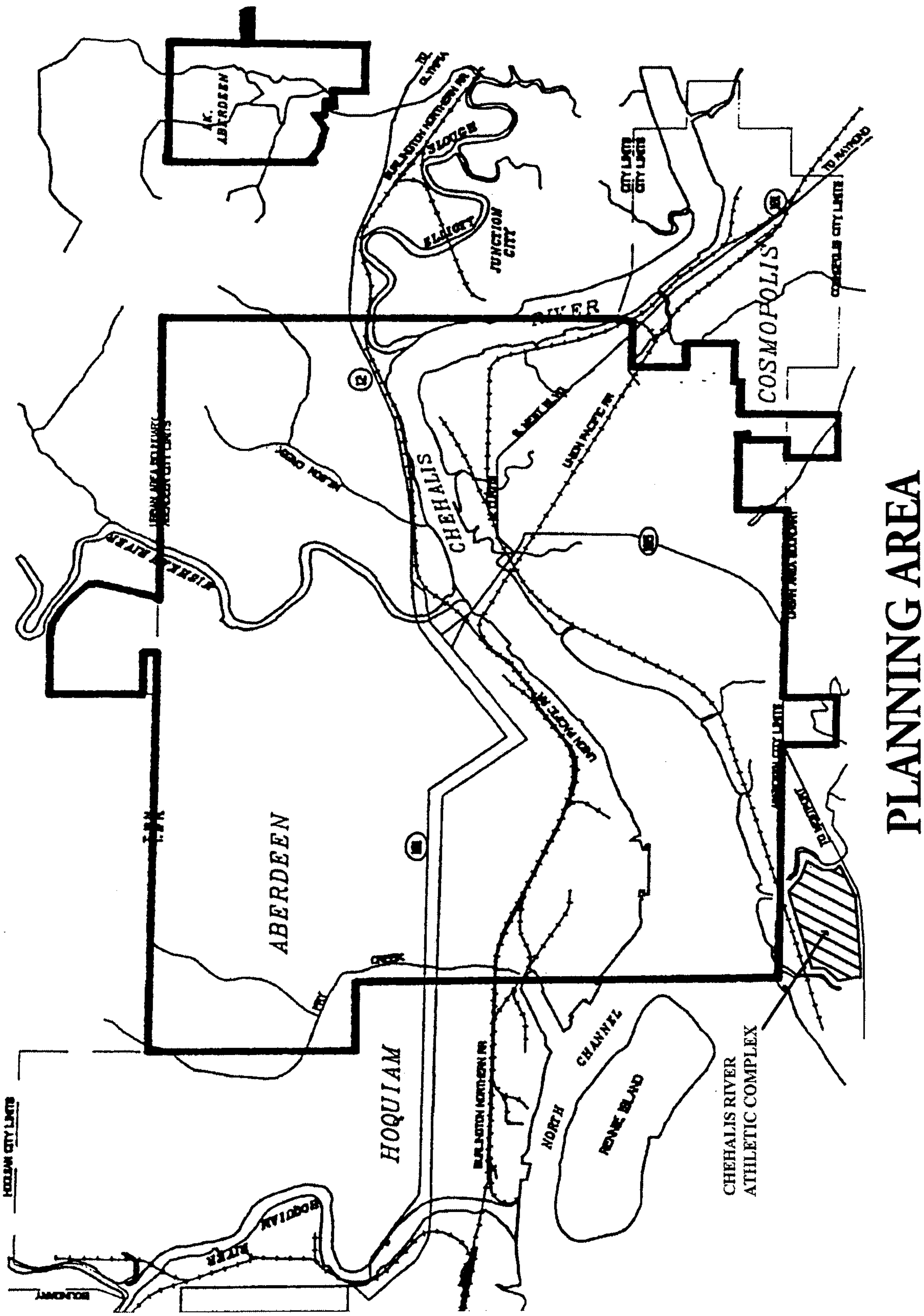
Income levels and unemployment rates are important factors when assembling needs for parks and recreation. As indicated in Table 3.3, the median household income in the City of Aberdeen in 2010 the median income was $39,872 and in 2015 the median income was $40,958. This is an increase of approximately 3% over the past 5 years. However, Aberdeen's median income is well below the state level of $63,439. 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.

MAP 3-1
CITY OF ABERDEEN VICINITY MAP



10/92 GHRPC/tt 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.

TABLE 3.2

AGE DISTRIBUTION IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN (2000 & 2016)

AGE DISTRIBUTION (2000 to 2016)						
AGE	ABERDEEN		GH COUNTY		STATE	
	2000	**2016**	**2000**	**2016**	**2000**	**2016**
0-4	1,237	1260	4,185	4,258	394,306	438,744
5-9	1,200	1108	4,599	4,138	425,909	429,202
10-14	1,206	1125	5,176	4,485	434,836	437,320
15-19	1,314	1186	5,174	4,709	427,968	434,998
20-24	1,143	1230	3,467	4,021	390,185	430,294
25-34	2,141	2305	7,584	7,824	841,130	914,634
35-44	2,313	1960	9,902	8,037	975,087	894,436
45-54	2,195	2223	9,893	10,389	845,972	975,365
55-64	1,412	2077	6,920	21,083	496,580	827,484
65+	2,300	2084	10,321	11,511	662,148	801,688
TOTAL	16,461	16,588	67,221	70,066	5,894,121	6,585,165

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2010 & 2016 Census by Sex and Age for Aberdeen; Office of Financial Management, Census Viewer, Census 2010 and 2016 population data.

3.3

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

HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2015)			
YEAR	ABERDEEN	COUNTY	STATE
2000	$30,683	$36,410	$54,888
2010	$39,872	$39,452	$59,374
2015	$40,958	$43,538	$63,439

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 2015; Office of Financial Management 2015

TABLE 3.4

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY AND WASHINGTON STATE (1989, 2000,2010 & 2015)

UMPLOYMENT LEVELS			
YEAR	ABERDEEN	COUNTY	STATE
1989	11.00%	9.40%	5.30%
2000	11.00%	8.90%	6.90%
2010	11.80%	8.60%	9.6%
2015	9.1%	7.9%	5.6%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census 2015; Washington State Employment Security.

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 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 six full-time employees in 2016. 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: Peterson Playfield (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, Peterson Playfield (West End), Morrison, 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, three 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 west 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), soccer practice fields, trails, 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, comfort stations, and a caretaker's quarters and maintenance shop. In addition, there is room for grade school football, which provides diversity for organized team activities.

Other facilities available include:Tennis courts, volleyball court, , 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: 2016

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 FILEDS	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	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
Peterson Playfield Park	N		X				X	X	X					X	3.5
Zelasko Park	O					X								X	0.5

*TYPE: UC = Upland Community
SC = Shoreland Community
N = Neighborhood
S = School
SU = Special Use
O = Open Space

** Support facilities typically include beaches, kitchen facilities, parking, lighting, backstops and restrooms.

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 *please refer to Map 4.2.* Active facilities include playground equipment, two tennis courts, grass playfields, restrooms, disc golf course and picnic tables; *please refer to* Table 4-1. Support facilities include park lighting, asphalt trail system, and a parking lot.

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.

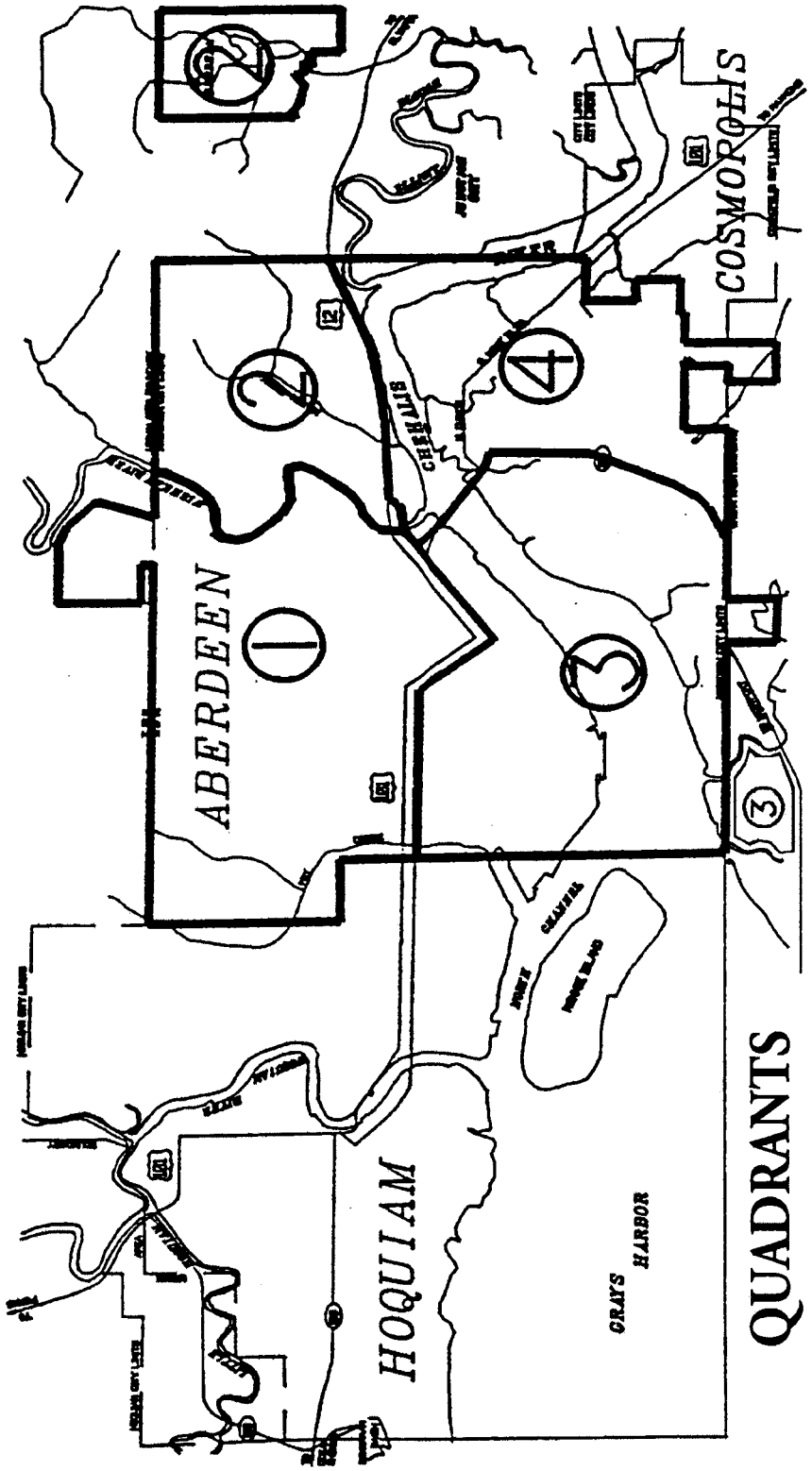
Morrison Riverfront Park: This 11.5-acre park is located on the Chehalis River at the east entrance to the City of Aberdeen; *please refer to* Map 4-5. Through numerous grants and donations, this very popular park provides 4,650 feet of waterfront access and includes the following facilities: Playground 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.

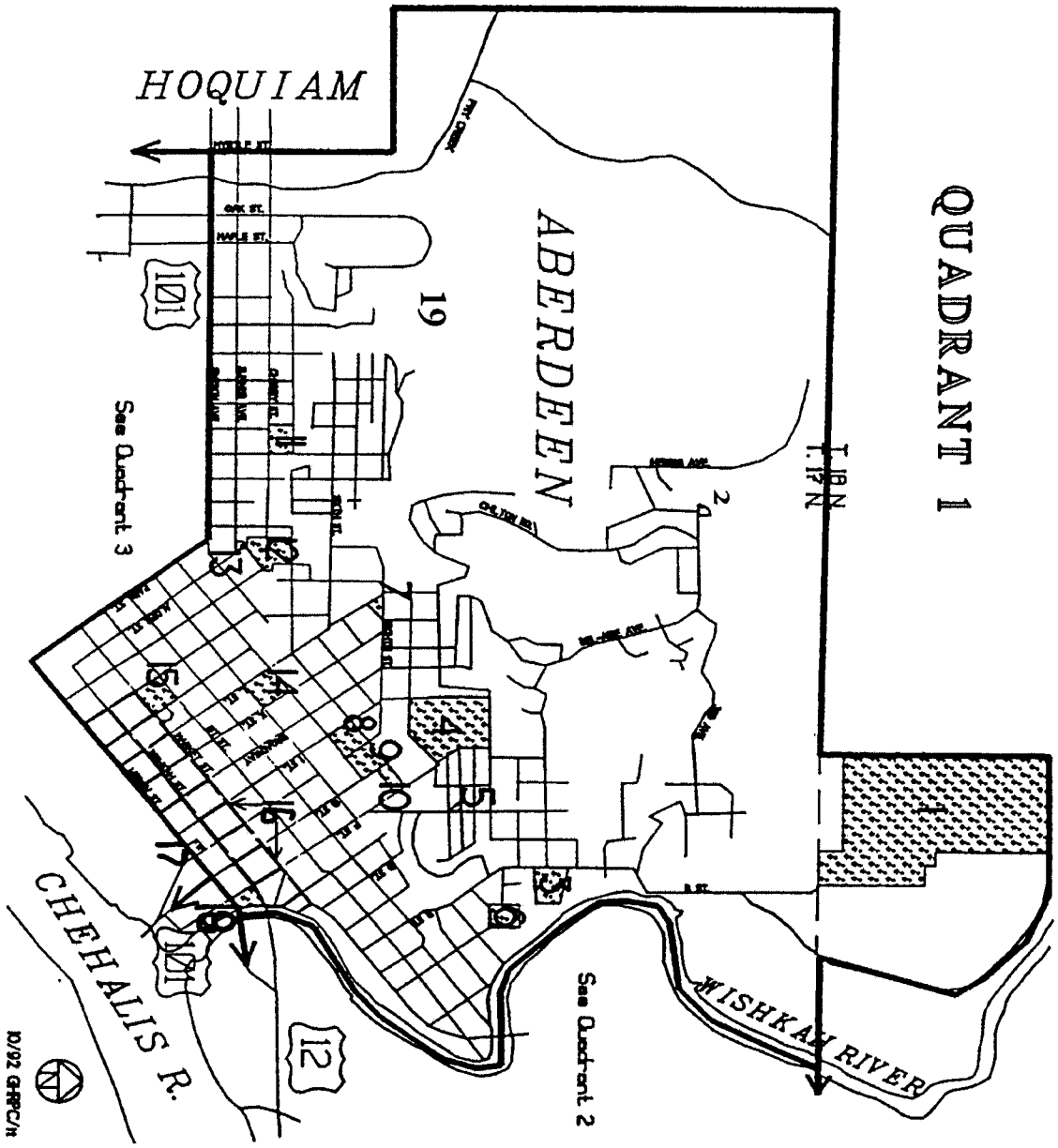
Finch Playfield: This two-acre playfield is located in the west-central portion of the City; please refer to Map 4-2. Facilities include playground equipment, basketball court, softball backstop, picnic shelter, restrooms, and spray pad; please refer to Table 4-1.

MAP 4-1
PLANNING AREA QUADRANTS

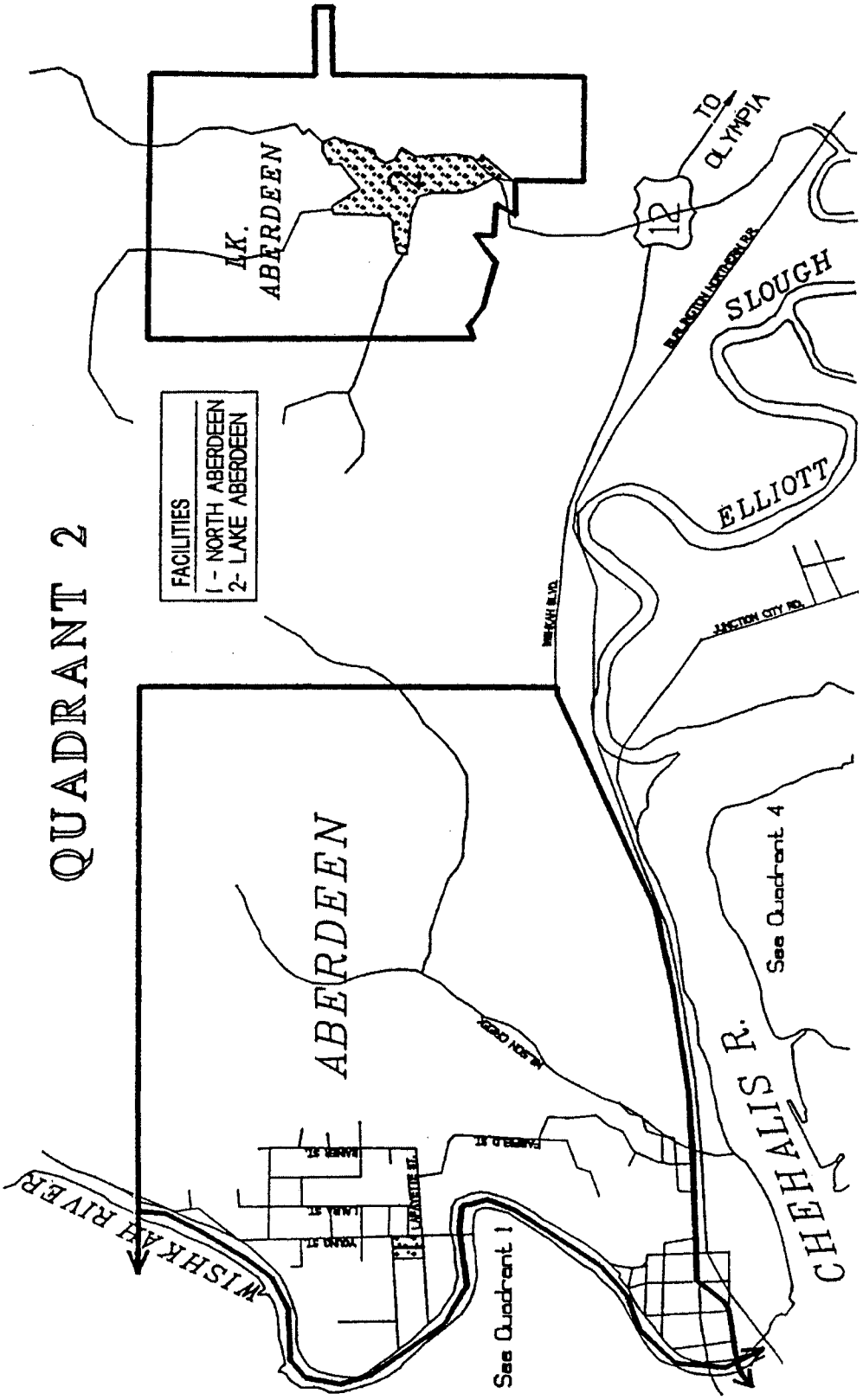


MAP 4-2
PARK SITES IN THE NORTHWEST QUADRANT

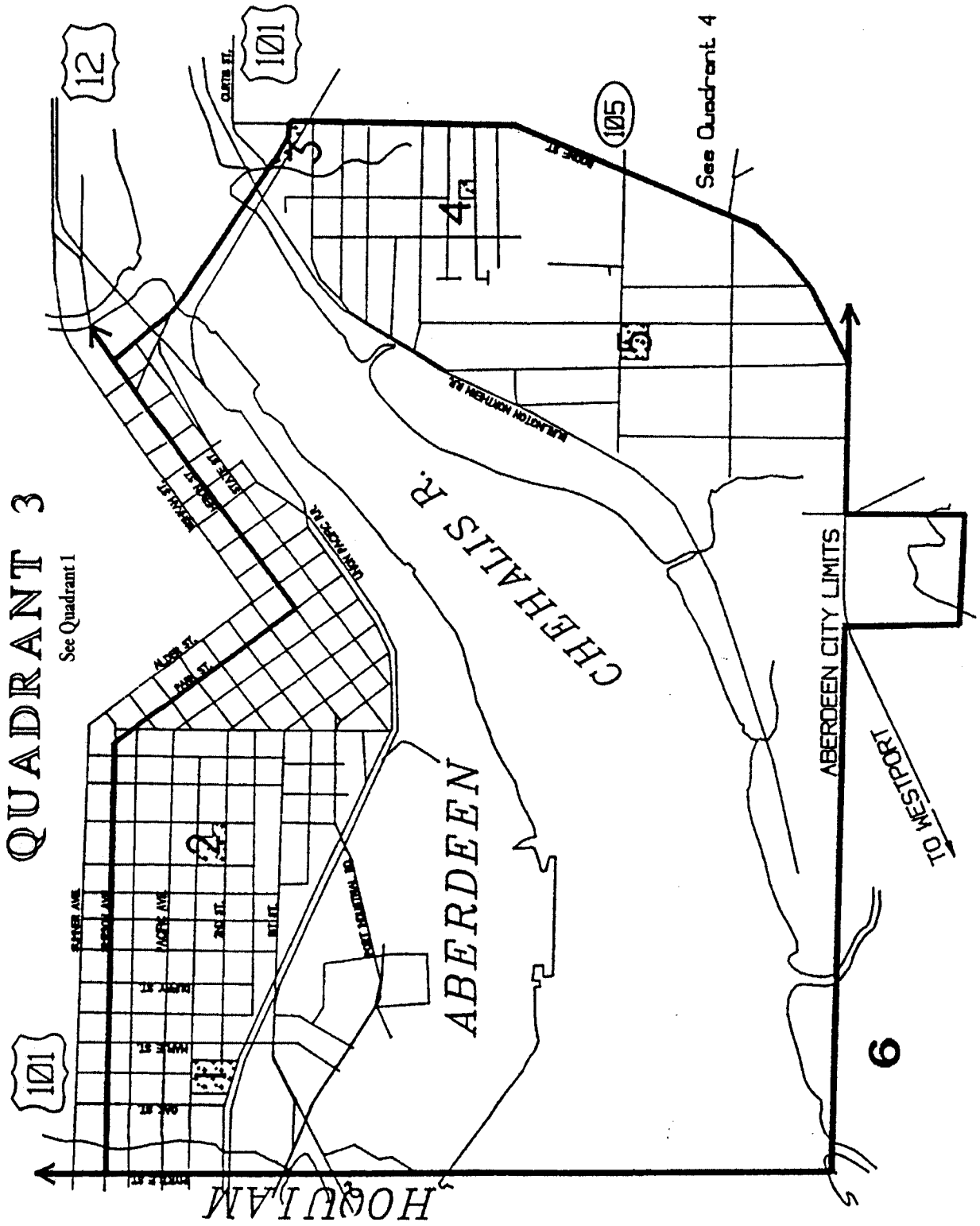
1. STEWARTS MEMORIAL	13. FINCH PLAYFIELD
3. STEWART FIELD	14. FINCH TRIANGLE
4. SAM BENN	15. MCDERMOTH SCHOOL
5. MCKINLEY	16. FRANKLIN FIELD
6. ROBERT GRAY SCHOOL	17. STREET TREES
7. HOOD	18. ZELASKO
9. ST MARY'S SCHOOL	19. SKYVIEW PARK
10. SAM BENN GYM	



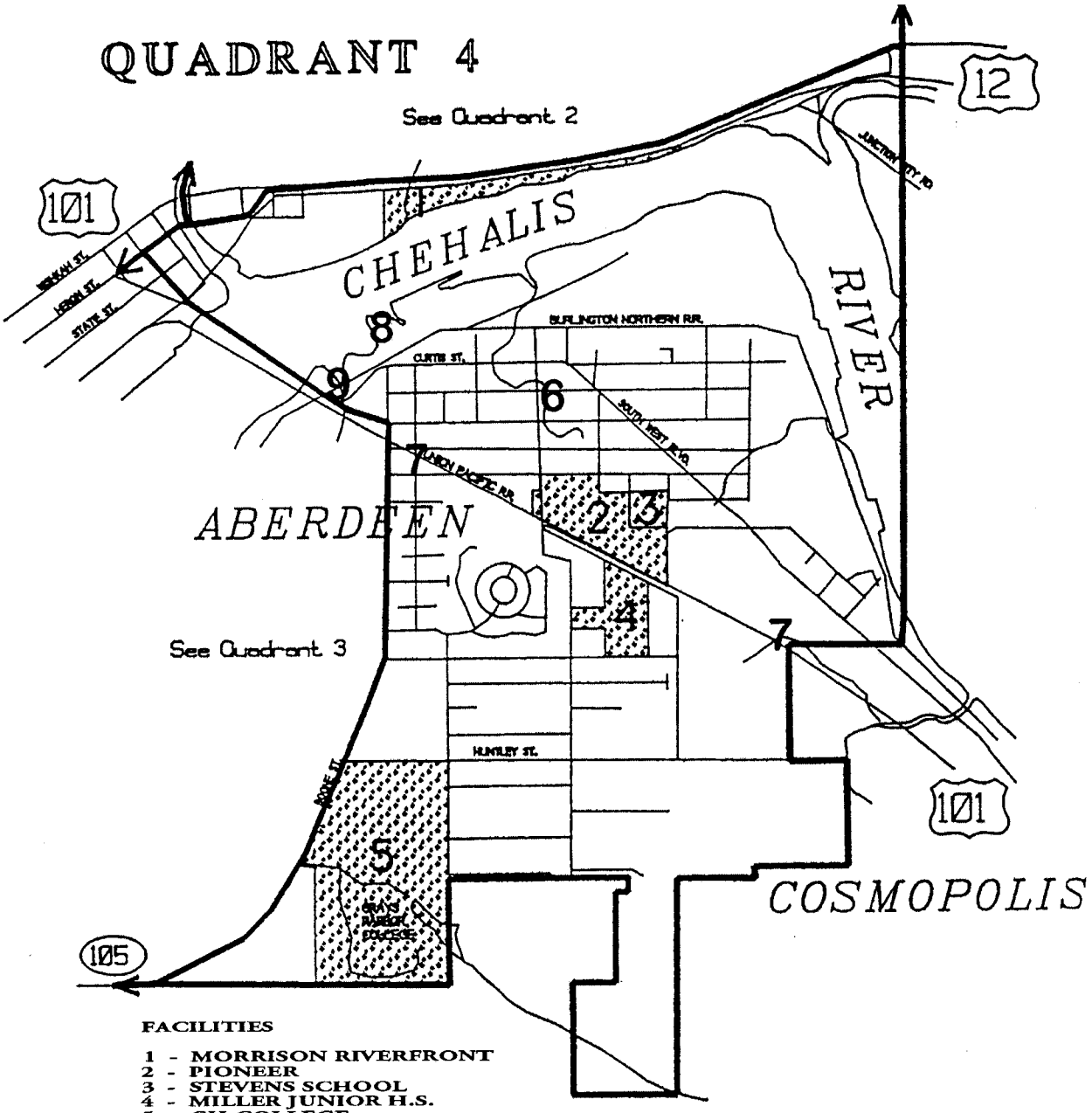
MAP 4-3
PARK SITES IN THE NORTHEAST QUADRANT



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; 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.

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.

Peterson Playfield: 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, picnic shelter, 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; p*lease 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, hanging flower baskets, 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 the Port of Grays Harbor, 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:

Straddleine 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.

CHAPTER 5

SHORELINE PUBLIC ACCESS

Background

REQUIREMENTS OF THE SHORELINE MANAGEMENT ACT

The State Legislature passed Washington's Shoreline Management Act (SMA) (Chapter 90.58 Revised Code of Washington [RCW]) in 1971 and citizens of the state approved the SMA through referendum in 1972 "...to prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines." The SMA requires that the city of Aberdeen plan for the use of shorelines of the state within its municipal boundaries. The SMA and Chapter 173-26 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) established broad policies that give preference to shoreline uses that:

- Encourage water-dependent uses: "...uses shall be preferred which are consistent with control of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment, or are unique to or dependent upon use of the states' shorelines..."
- Protect shoreline natural resources: including "...the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and their aquatic life..."
- Promote public access: "...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 consistent with the overall best interest of the state and people generally." The SMA recognizes that "...shorelines are among the most valuable and fragile..." of the state's resources.

The city recognizes and protects private property rights in shoreline jurisdiction, while aiming to preserve the quality of these unique resources for all state residents. The primary purpose of the SMA is to manage and protect the state's shoreline resources by planning for reasonable and appropriate uses. In order to protect the public interest in preserving these shorelines, the SMA establishes a coordinated planning program between the city and the state to address development and uses occurring in the state's shorelines. Under the SMA, Shoreline Master Program (SMP) was created and implemented based on a cooperative program of shoreline management between the city and the state. With citizen contributions collected through the city's shoreline planning process, the city developed this SMP and it will implement and administer it through shoreline permits and reviews.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) provided funding for the update and reviews and approves the city's SMP and certain local shoreline permit decisions.

CITY OF ABERDEEN SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

AUTHORITY

The Shoreline Management Act of 1971, Chapter 90.58 RCW, is the authority for the enactment and administration of the SMP. The Community Development Director or an individual designated by the Director shall be the administrator of the SMP.

PURPOSE AND INTENT

The four purposes of the SMP are to: A. Carry out the responsibilities imposed on the city by the SMA; B. Promote the public health, safety, and general welfare, by providing a guide and regulation for the future development of the shoreline resources of the city; C. Further, by adoption, the policies of the SMA and the goals of the SMP; and D. Comply with the state SMP guidelines (Chapter 173-26 WAC); including a particular focus on regulations and mitigation standards to ensure that development under the SMP will not cause a net loss of ecological functions.

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The cities of Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, and Hoquiam obtained grant number G1400451 from Ecology in 2013 to conduct a comprehensive SMP update. The cities worked collaboratively through the SMP update process. The first step in the update process involved an inventory of the cities' shoreline jurisdiction. Numerous rivers, streams, and lake and their associated wetlands, floodways and floodplains comprise the cities' shoreline jurisdiction. Combined, there are 7,467 acres and 85 miles of shoreline associated with stream, lake and marine waterbodies meeting the definition of shorelines of the state within the cities. There are 1,868 acres and 39 miles of shoreline in Aberdeen. The Public Participation Plan guided public interaction throughout the development of the SMP. A Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) reviewed SMP documents, particularly proposed shoreline environment designations, policies, regulations and provided feedback in a series of public meetings. The Shoreline Inventory and Characterization described existing biological and physical conditions for the 16 shoreline reaches covering the cities. These reaches were analyzed and characterized to create a baseline from which future development actions in shoreline jurisdiction will be measured. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed and commented on the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization. The public discussed the findings of the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization and proposed shoreline environment designations at a community meeting. Shoreline environment designations were assigned for shoreline jurisdiction in the cities. Then goals, policies and regulations for each shoreline environment designation and for all activities subject to the SMA were developed to maintain the baseline condition. The CAC and the public reviewed these documents. In the Cumulative Impacts Analysis and the No Net Loss Report, the cities analyzed whether the updated SMP, implemented over time, yields no net loss of ecological functions when considering reasonably foreseeable development in shoreline jurisdiction relative to the baseline established by the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization. The cities developed the Restoration Plan to address voluntary, non-regulatory actions the cities would take to improve the shoreline jurisdiction above

the baseline condition. Ideally, the SMP, in combination with other city and regional efforts, will ultimately produce a net improvement in ecological functions of the shoreline.

APPLICABILITY

A. The SMP shall not apply retroactively to existing, legally established structures, uses, and developments in place at the time of Ecology adoption of the SMP.

B. All proposed uses, activities, and development occurring within shoreline jurisdiction must conform to the SMA and the SMP whether or not a permit or other form of authorization is required, except when specifically exempted by statute.

C. In addition to the requirements of the SMA, permit review, implementation, and enforcement procedures affecting private property must be conducted in a manner consistent with all relevant constitutional and other legal limitations on the regulation of private property.

D. Federal agencies are subject to this SMP and Chapter 90.58 RCW, as provided by the Coastal Zone Management Act (Title 16 United States Code §1451 et seq.) and WAC 173-27-060(1). E. As recognized by RCW 90.58.350, the provisions of the SMP do not affect treaty rights of affected tribes.

Extent of Shoreline Jurisdiction

The SMA defines the extent of the geographic area in the city subject to the SMP, referred to in the SMP as the city's shoreline jurisdiction. According to RCW 90.58.030, the SMP applies to the following shorelines of the state within the city:

A. The area between the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and the western boundary of the state from Cape Disappointment on the south to Cape Flattery on the north, including harbors, bays, estuaries and inlets.
B. Segments of streams or rivers where the mean annual flow is more than 20 cubic feet per second.
C. Lakes and reservoirs 20 acres and greater in area.
D. Shorelands adjacent to these waterbodies. These include:
    1. Lands extending landward for 200 feet in all directions as measured on a horizontal plane from the OHWM;
    2. Adopted Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward 200 feet from such adopted FEMA floodways; and
    3. All wetlands and river deltas associated with the streams, lakes and tidal waters subject to the SMA.

The following waterbodies are subject to the city's SMP: Grays Harbor, the Chehalis River, Lake Aberdeen, the Wishkah River, Wedekind Creek, the Wynoochee River, Charley Creek, tidal portions of Fry Creek and Newskah Creek.

The city, as recommended by the CAC and approved by the City Council, did not choose to include additional areas in shoreline jurisdiction during the SMP planning process. These additional areas included the following:

- The area beyond the minimum shorelands along stream corridors as defined in the SMA.
- The "...land necessary for buffers for critical areas as defined in Chapter 36.70A RCW that occur within shorelines of the state."

The extent of shoreline jurisdiction in the city is depicted on the official shoreline maps included in SMP Appendix 1: Shoreline Environment Designation Maps. The maps only approximately represent the lateral extent of shoreline jurisdiction. The actual lateral extent of shoreline jurisdiction shall be determined on a case-by-case basis established by the location of the OHWM, the floodway, which is defined as the adopted FEMA floodways, adopted floodplains and the presence of associated wetlands. In circumstances where shoreline jurisdiction does not include an entire parcel, only that portion of the parcel and any use, activity or development on that portion of the parcel within shoreline jurisdiction is subject to the SMP.

The actual location of the OHWM, floodway, floodplain and wetland boundaries shall be determined at the time a development is proposed.

Shorelines of Statewide Significance

A. Adoption of Policy

In implementing the objectives for shorelines of statewide significance, the city based its decisions in preparing the SMP on the following policies in order of priority, with one being the highest and seven being the lowest.

1. Recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest.
2. Preserve the natural character of shoreline jurisdiction.
3. Support actions that result in long-term benefits over short-term benefits.
4. Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline.
5. Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shoreline.
6. Increase recreational opportunities for the public in shoreline jurisdiction.
7. Provide for any other element as defined in RCW 90.58.100 deemed appropriate or necessary.

Uses that are not consistent with these policies should not be permitted on shorelines of statewide significance.

B. Designation of Shorelines of Statewide Significance

Specific waterbodies are classified as shorelines of statewide significance in RCW 90.58.030(2)(f):

1. Lakes, whether natural, artificial, or a combination thereof, with a surface acreage of 1,000 acres or more measured at the OHWM;
2. Natural rivers or segments thereof downstream of a point where the mean annual flow is measured at 1,000 cubic feet per second or more; and
3. The area between the OHWM and the western boundary of the state from Cape Disappointment on the south to Cape Flattery on the north, including harbors, bays, estuaries and inlets.

In the city, the Grays Harbor Estuary, the Chehalis River, the Wynoochee River and their associated shorelands are defined as shorelines of statewide significance. These shorelines are considered resources for all people of the state, thus preference is given to uses that favor long-range goals and support the overall public interest.

C. Policies for Shorelines of Statewide Significance

The statewide interest should be recognized and protected over the local interest in shorelines of statewide significance. To ensure that statewide interests are protected over local interests, the city shall review all development proposals within shorelines of statewide significance for consistency with RCW 90.58.030 and the following policies:

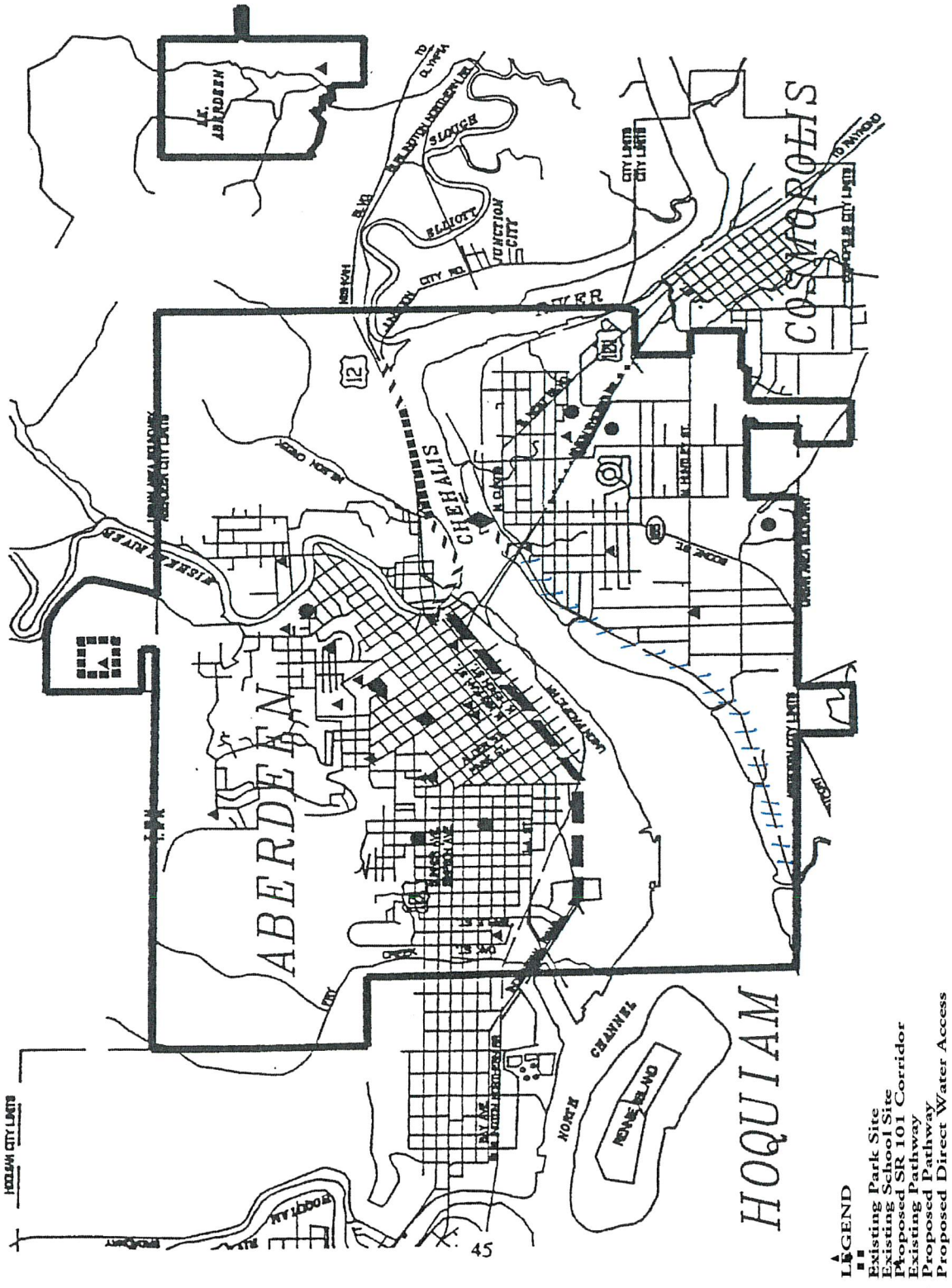
1. Encourage redevelopment of shorelines where it restores or enhances shoreline ecological functions and processes impaired by prior development activities.
2. The city should consult with Ecology, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, the Quinault Indian Tribe and other resources agencies for development proposals that could affect anadromous fisheries.
3. Where commercial timber cutting takes place pursuant to SMP Section 5.09 and RCW 90.58.150, reforestation should take place as soon as feasible.
4. Activities that use shoreline resources on a sustained yield or non-consuming basis and that are compatible with other appropriate uses should be given priority over uses not meeting these criteria.
5. The range of options for shoreline use should be preserved to the maximum possible extent for succeeding generations. Development that consumes valuable, scarce or irreplaceable natural resources should not be permitted if alternative sites are available.
6. Potential short-term economic gains or convenience should be measured against potential long term and/or costly impairment of natural features.
7. Protection or enhancement of aesthetic values should be actively promoted in design review of new or expanding development.
8. Resources and ecological systems of shorelines of statewide significance and those limited shorelines containing unique, scarce, and/or sensitive resources should be protected to the maximum extent feasible.
9. Erosion and sedimentation from development sites should be controlled to minimize adverse impacts on ecosystem processes. If site conditions preclude effective erosion and sediment control, excavations, land clearing or other activities likely to result in significant erosion should be severely limited.
10. Public access development in extremely sensitive areas should be restricted or prohibited. All forms of recreation or access development should be

designed to protect the resource base upon which such uses in general depend.

11. Public and private developments should be encouraged to provide trails, viewpoints, water access points and shoreline related recreation opportunities whenever feasible. Such development is recognized as a high priority use.
12. Development not requiring a waterside or shoreline location should be located inland so that lawful public enjoyment of shorelines is enhanced.

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 1994. 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 provides 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.

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. 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: SEAPORT LANDING BRIEFING STATEMENT

Vision

The redevelopment of Seaport Landing will create a vibrant, mixed-use, working waterfront that will embrace and reflect the rich history and character of Grays Harbor. Seaport Landing will serve as the homeport for the Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain tall ships. The development will include dynamic education opportunities, tourism attractions, public waterfront access site and maritime-related businesses.

Location: 500 North Custer Avenue, Grays Harbor County, City of Aberdeen Washington
Size: 23.4 upland acres, 14.5 acres of state-owned tidelands
Legislative District: 19
Congressional District: 6

Partners

Organization	Role
Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority, a public development authority established by the City of Aberdeen	Project lead, property owner
City of Aberdeen	Operates adjacent public boat launch. Land use regulatory authority. Utility and infrastructure provider.
Coastal Community Action Program	Investor in the project
Quinault Indian Nation	Providing consultation and guidance. Potential financial contributor
Grays Harbor College	Partner in education programs
Washington State Department of Natural Resources	Manager of aquatic lands
Washington State Department of Ecology	Funder and regulatory authority for addressing environmental concerns

Background

Aberdeen's south waterfront on the Chehalis River was once home to a thriving mill complex and active commercial boatyard. The closure of both of these businesses in the last ten years left approximately 30 acres of property and 2,000 feet of waterfront vacant. The idea of creating a maritime heritage center has been discussed in the community since the 1980's when the City established the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority (GHHSA). The public development authority has built and operates the Lady Washington tall ship (the official tall ship of Washington) and the Hawaiian Chieftain, but has not been able to complete the vision of a homeport for the ships. Closure of the waterfront businesses created an opportunity for re-use of those properties to finally create that homeport.

The City of Aberdeen is home to approximately 17,000 residents, but the number of people swells during summer months. Over six million people per year drive through Aberdeen on their way to the Washington Coast. The City has struggled with one of the highest and most persistent unemployment rates in the State (over 11%). The Seaport Landing project is an opportunity to create an interpretive center, tourism attraction, and employment center that improves educational outcomes for children, provides workforce training and employment for adults, and increases spending in the local community.

Project Elements

The master plan for Seaport Landing includes the following major project elements:

- Interpretive Center— Interactive learning center designed for school age children and families to learn about the maritime history and ecology of Grays Harbor
- Hotel and Restaurant— Riverfront accommodations for tourists and dining for visitors and locals
- Waterfront Trail and Park— Multi-purpose trail with activity nodes and interpretive elements that integrates habitat enhancement along the shoreline
- Moorage Improvements for Tall Ships— Construction of a floating dock adjacent to an existing fixed pier to improve accessibility to the tall ships during the range of tides
- Spar Shop— Renovation of existing industrial building to support unique woodworking shop operated by GHHSA capable for producing ship masts and custom wood products, providing both an economic and educational opportunity

- Environmental Remediation— Targeted actions to address impacts resulting from over 100 years of industrial use of the property.
- Education – In 2017 the Seaport was awarded a multi-year education grant for an onboard Sea School program. This program will be expanded to include classrooms and curriculum at Seaport Landing over the next five years.

Public Participation and Input

The Seaport received an integrated planning grant through the Department of Ecology in 2014 that was the basis for developing this plan. The Authority held multiple public open houses throughout the process and completed surveys. In addition twice a year, the Seaport holds open houses for the public to weigh in on updates to the existing plans and new components of the plan. The Seaport also works with the City on any other public involvement requirements, such the rezoning process.

Funding Requests

The Seaport Authority is working with its project partners on a phased plan for redevelopment of site. They are developing a funding strategy that includes federal and state grants, private foundation grants, and individual donations. Major capital improvements include:

Capital Project	Funding Sources	Timing	Amount
Building Demolition—removal of poor condition industrial buildings to make space for the hotel project	State Capital Budget Request/Tourism Grant City of Aberdeen/Hotel Development Partner	2018-2019	$750,000
Interim Interpretive Center—adaptive re-use of existing building including education space and Spar Shop	Private foundations Individual donors	2018	$150,000
Environmental Cleanup—remediation of legacy contamination	Department of Ecology Remedial Action Grant	2018-2019	$5,000,000
Public Trails and Open Space	Recreation and Conservation Office Grants	2018-2019	$500,000
Moorage Improvements for Tall Ships	Recreation and Conservation Office Grants, Individual donors, Private Foundations	2018-2019	$2,000,000

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 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 2017-2022 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 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, 327 were returned. Detailed results of the survey are presented in Appendix B.

Similar to 2010 survey results the 2017 survey showed that bicycling, hiking, trail walking, fishing, playgrounds and picnicking are the highest rated participatory activities. The survey reveals that 72% (up from 70%) of the respondents feel that the Aberdeen Park System provides adequate facilities in their neighborhood. The survey also indicates that 61% of respondents feel the maintenance of the park system is of a quality level.

Waterfront Parks, at 51%, and trails, at 41% 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 33% of respondents, with No Opinion/Neutral rating at 31%

73% of respondents feel that public access to the City's shoreline is important to residents and visitors. However, only 43% of those who responded, said that they would vote for additional taxes to pay for a project like a boat launch.

Public Informational Meetings

Three public informational meetings were held for the purpose of receiving additional public input. The first of these meetings was held on March 14, 2018, at the City Council meeting and the next meeting was held on March 21, 2018, at the City Council meeting. The third meeting was held on April 19, 2018 at the GH Historical Seaport Board Meeting. There was very little public input at the three public meetings. Only one citizen spoke at the March 14th meeting.

1. Request to include the proposed Replica Ship at Zelasko Park.

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
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	2/50 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
BoatLaunch	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: 2016

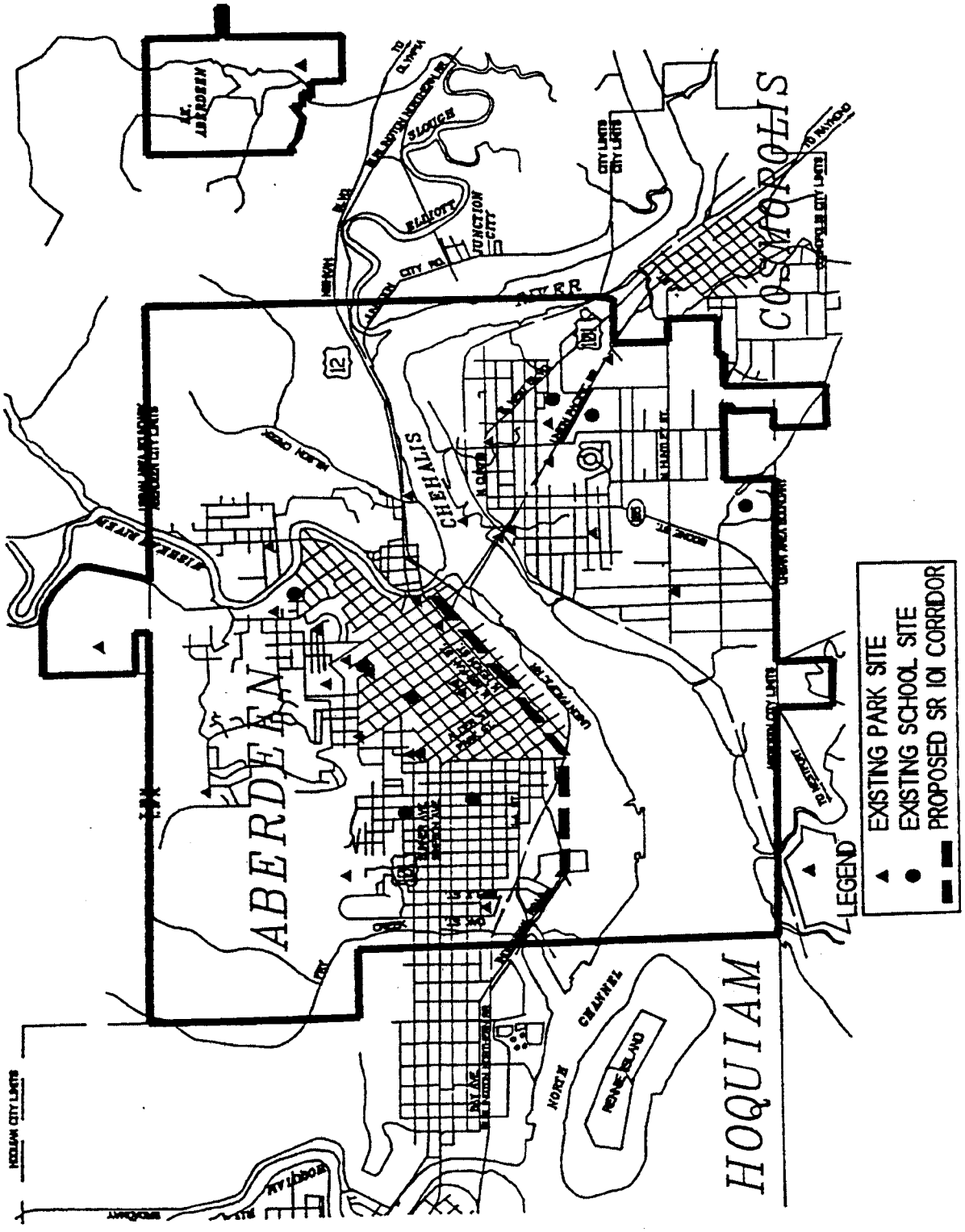
EXISTING PARK OR FACILITY TYPE	SERVICE RADIUS (MILE)
Community/Upland	3
Community/Shoreland	3
Neighborhood	0.5
School	0.5
Special Use	N/A*
Urban Pathways	N/A*
Open Space	0.25
Baseball Diamond (90')	2
Baseball Diamond (60')	2
Basketball Goal	0.5
Boat Launch	N/A**
Pathway/Trail	N/A**
Picnic Area	0.5
Playfield	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.

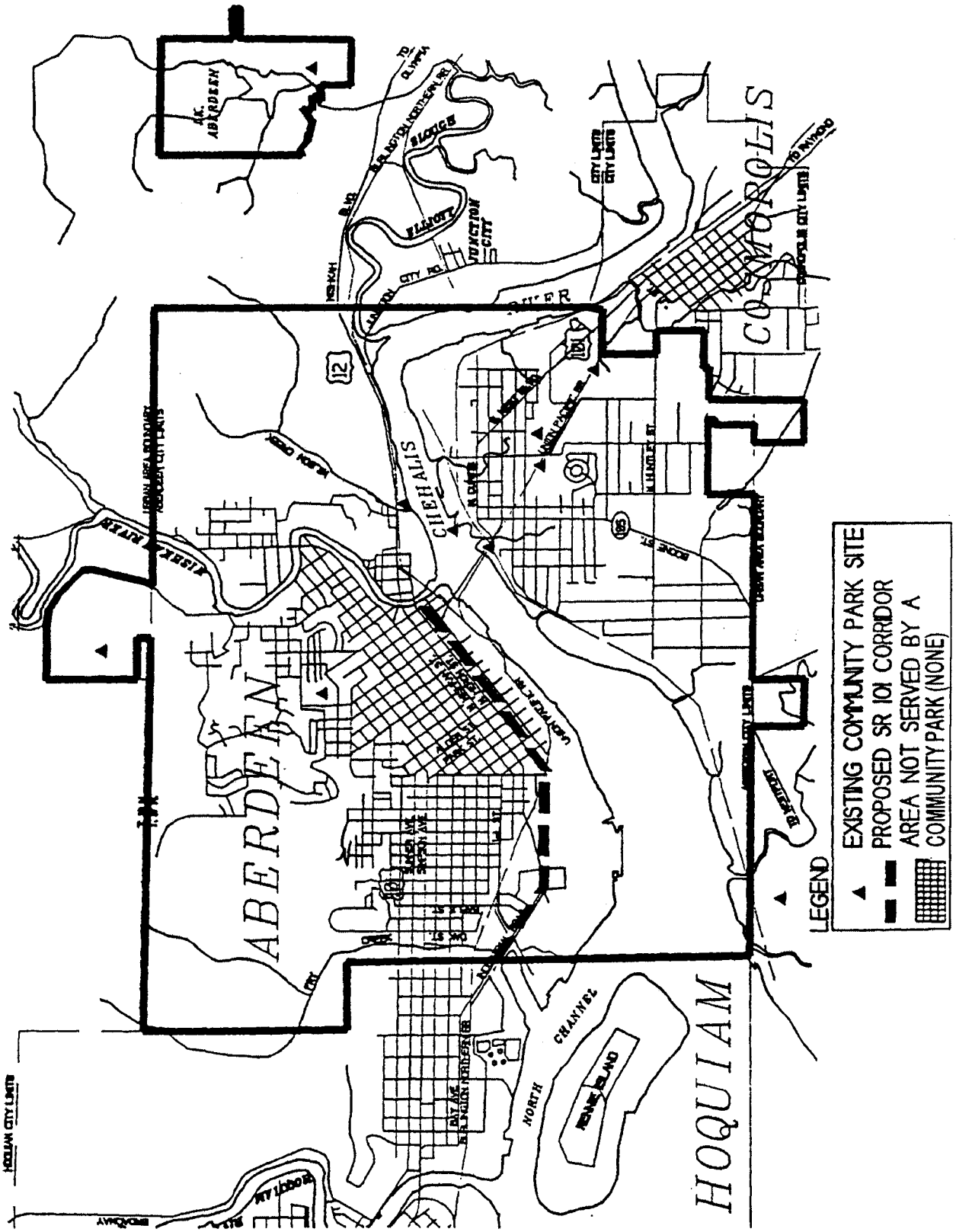
MAP 6-1

EXISTING PARK AND SCHOOL SITED IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN: 2010



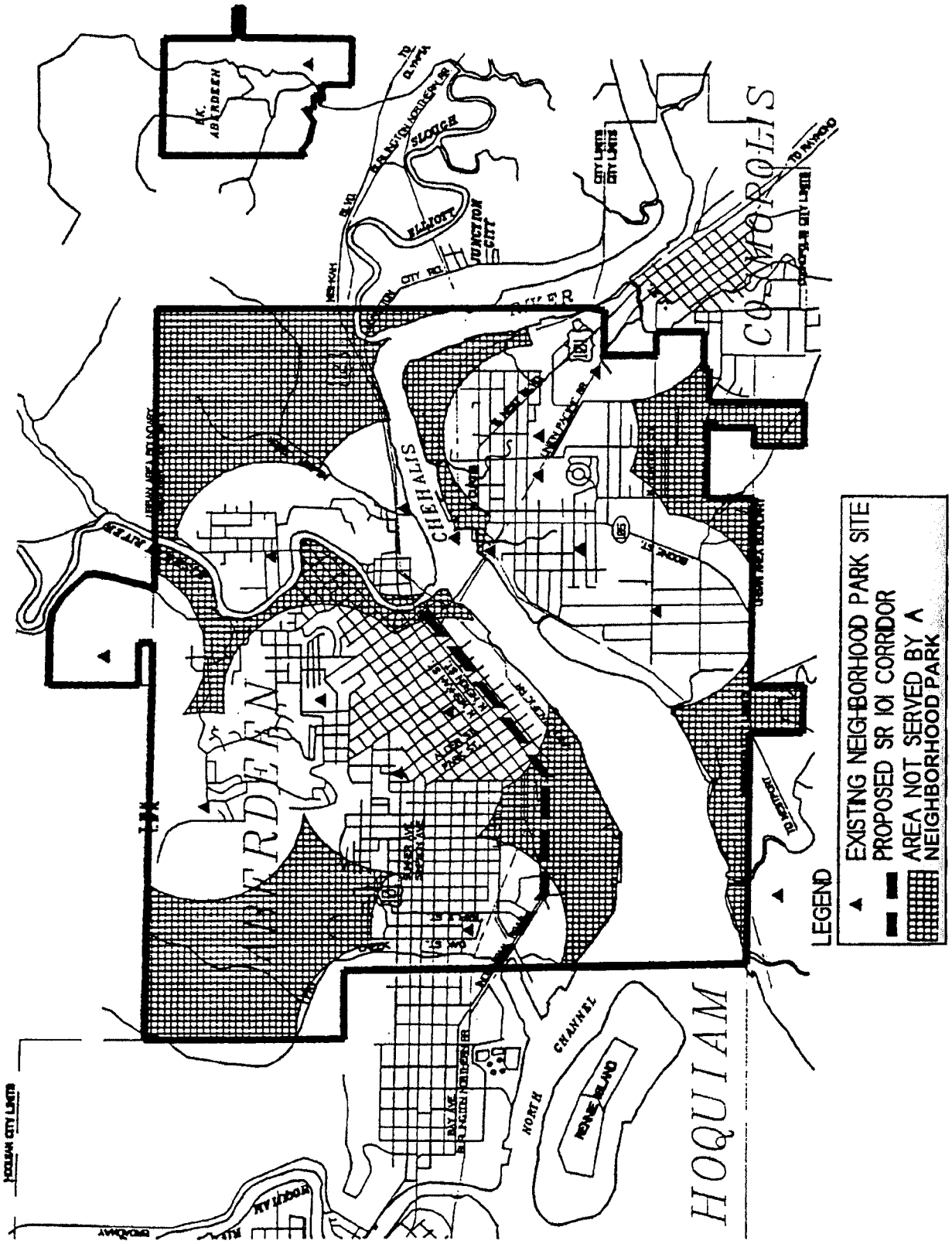
MAP 6-2

AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A COMMUNITY PARK



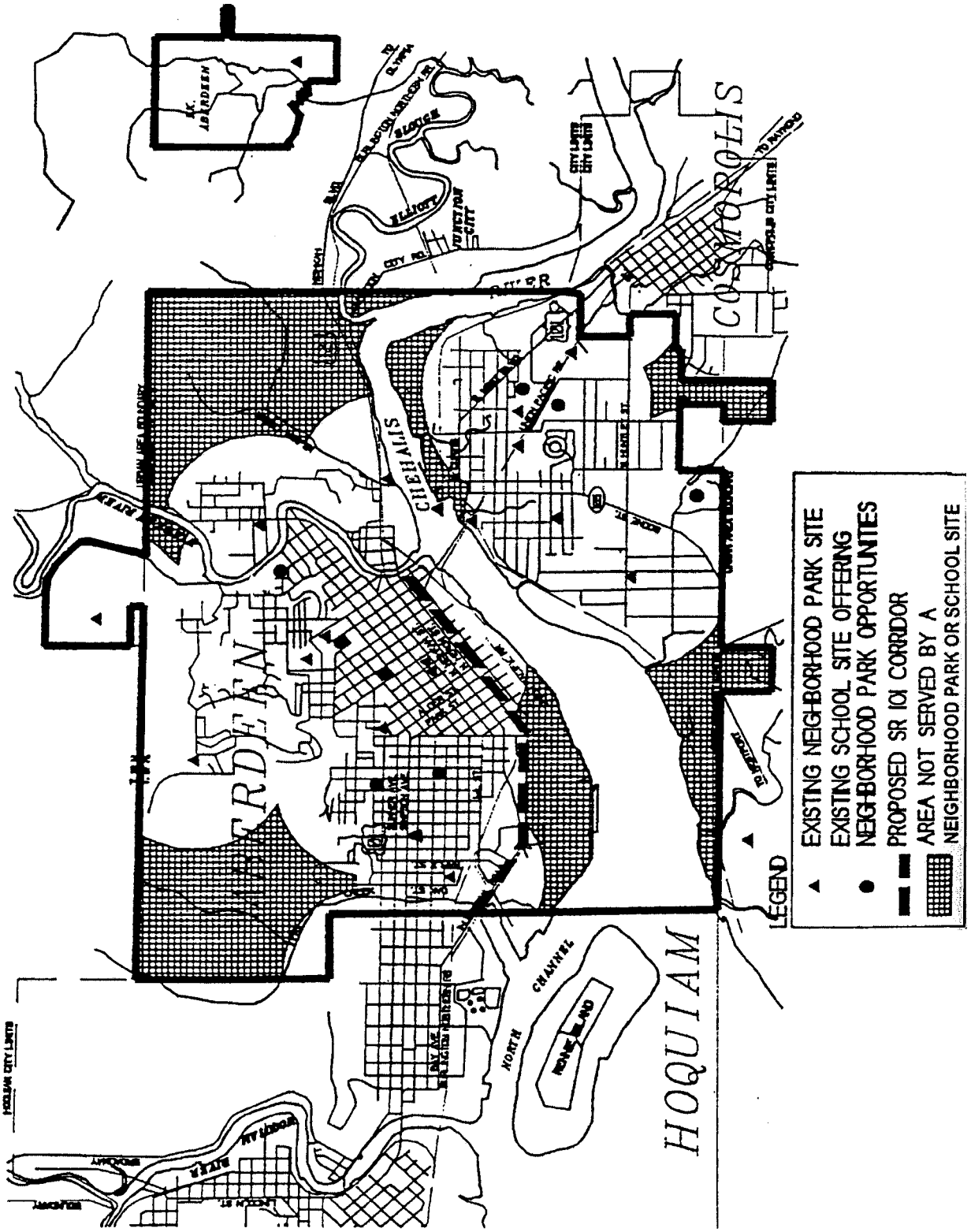
MAP 6-3

AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVIED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



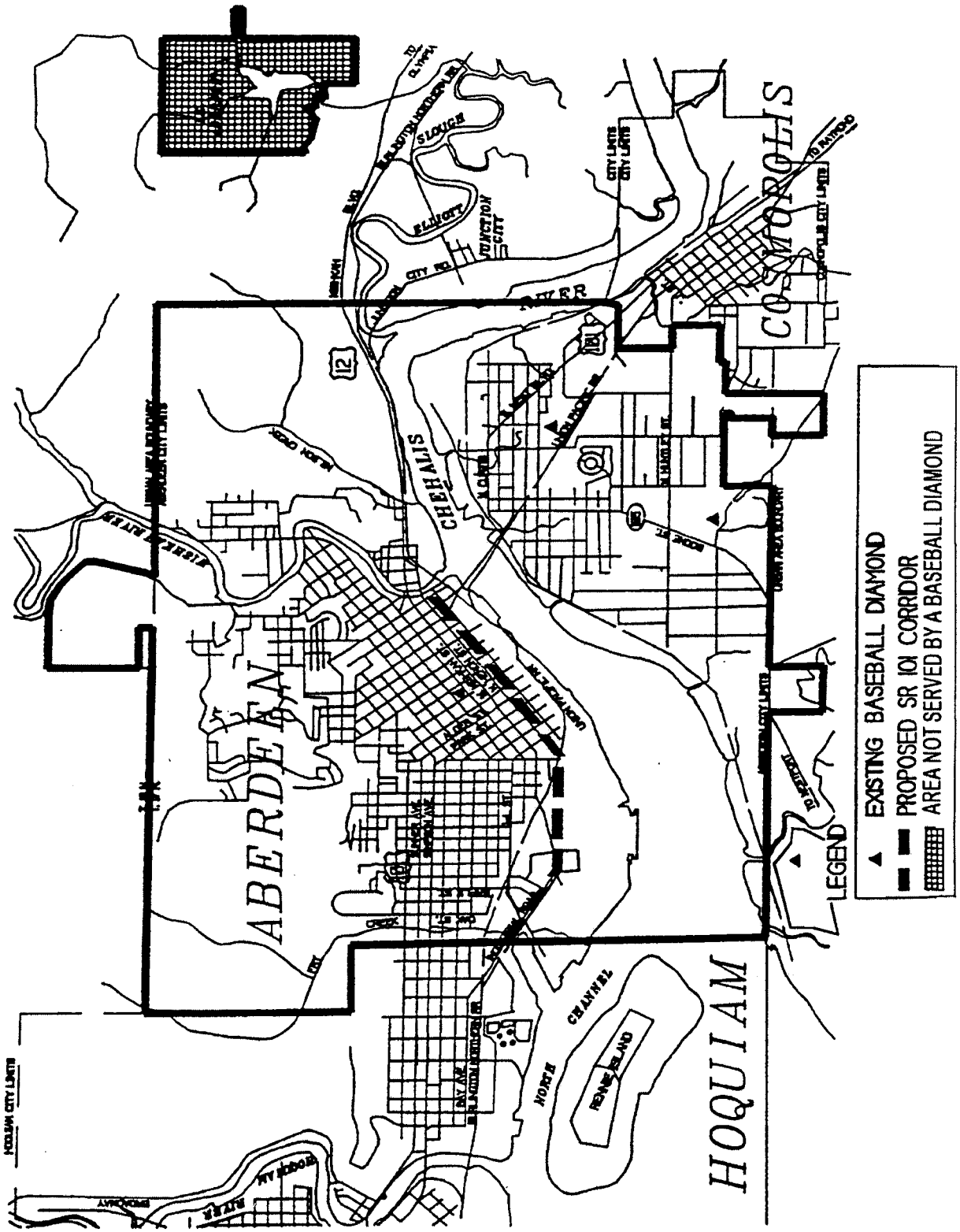
MAP 6-4

AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK OR SCHOOL RECREATION FACILITIES



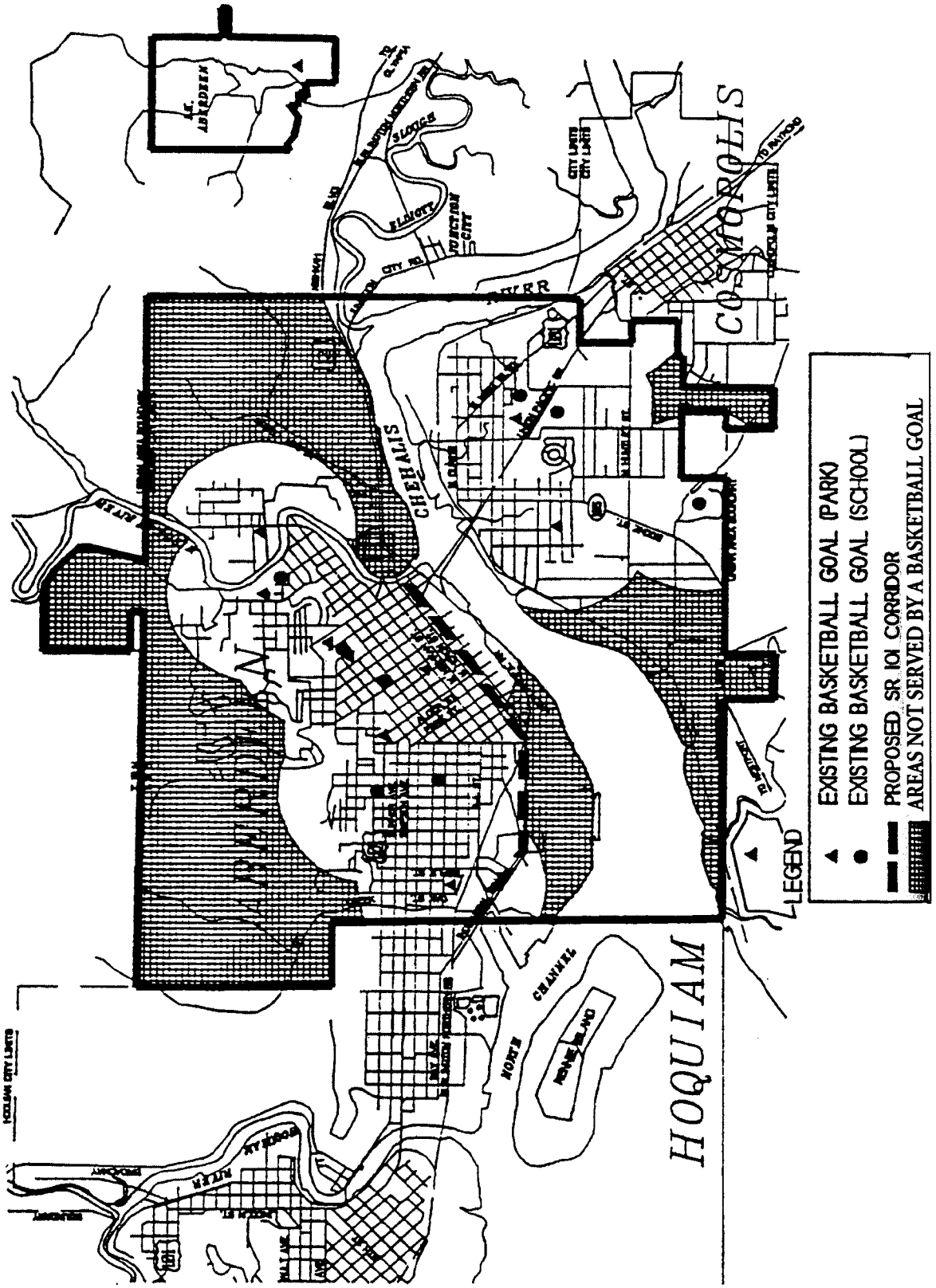
MAP 6-5

AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A BASEBALL DIAMOND



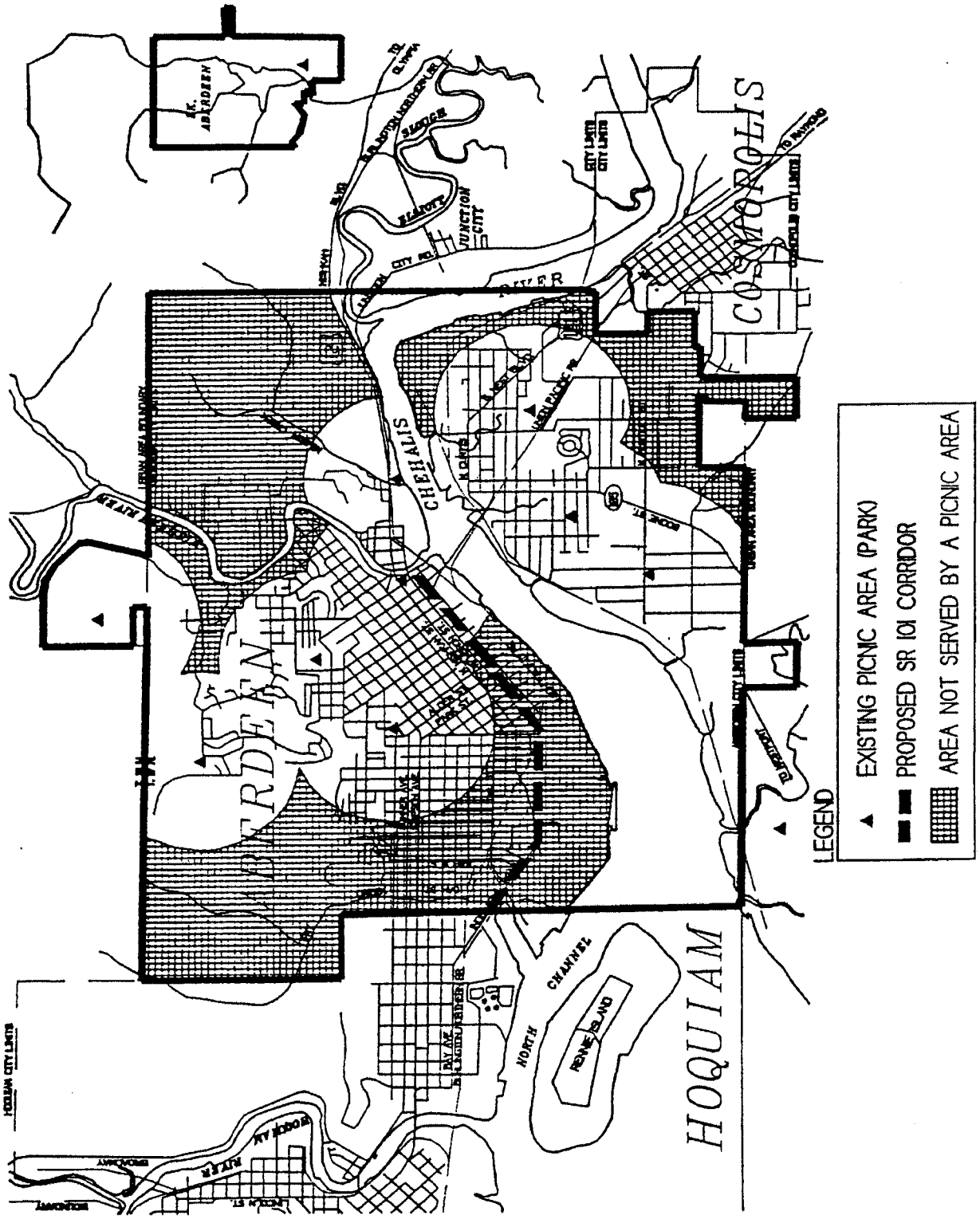
MAP 6-6

AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A BASKETBALL GOAL



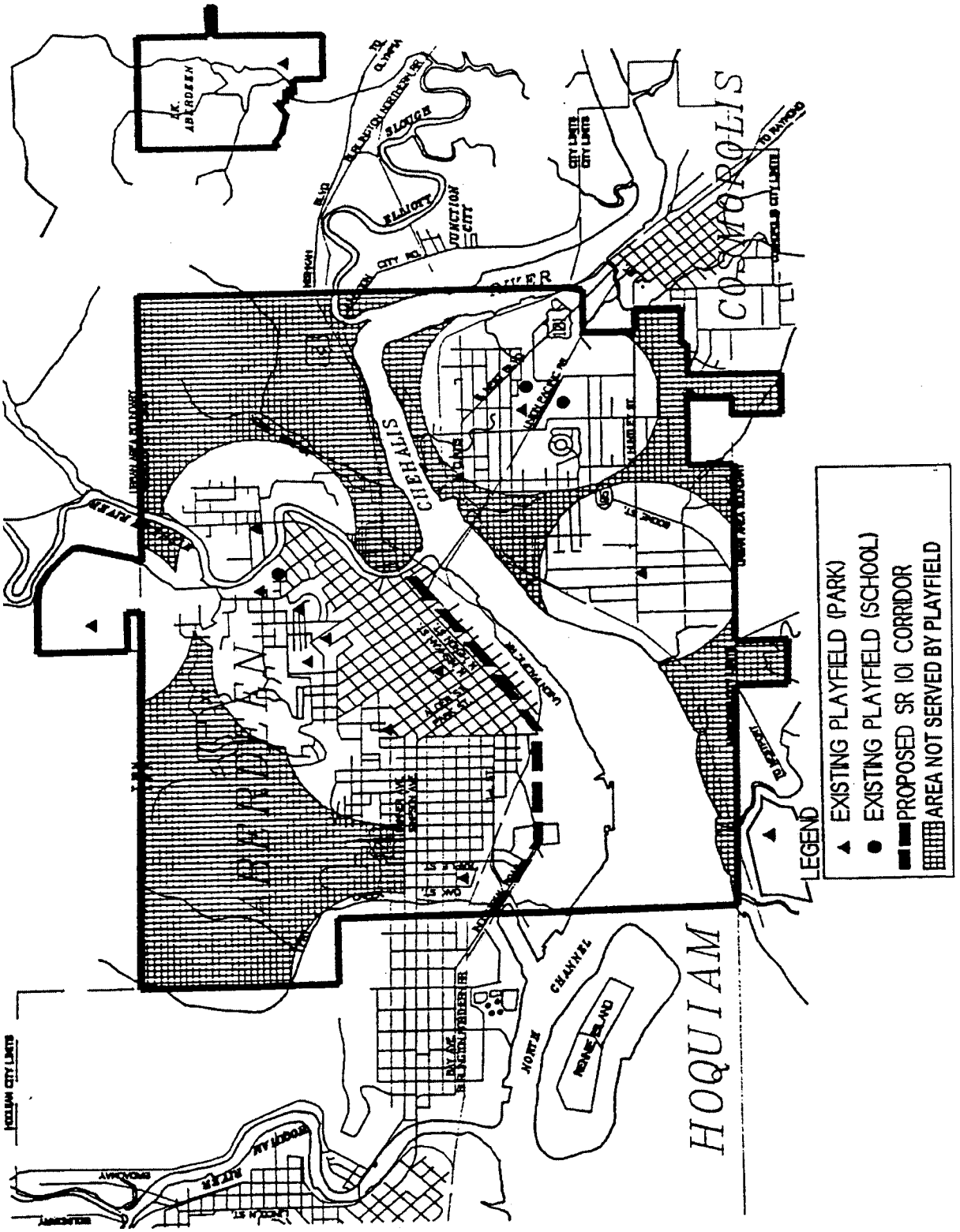
MAP 6-7

AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A PICNIC AREA



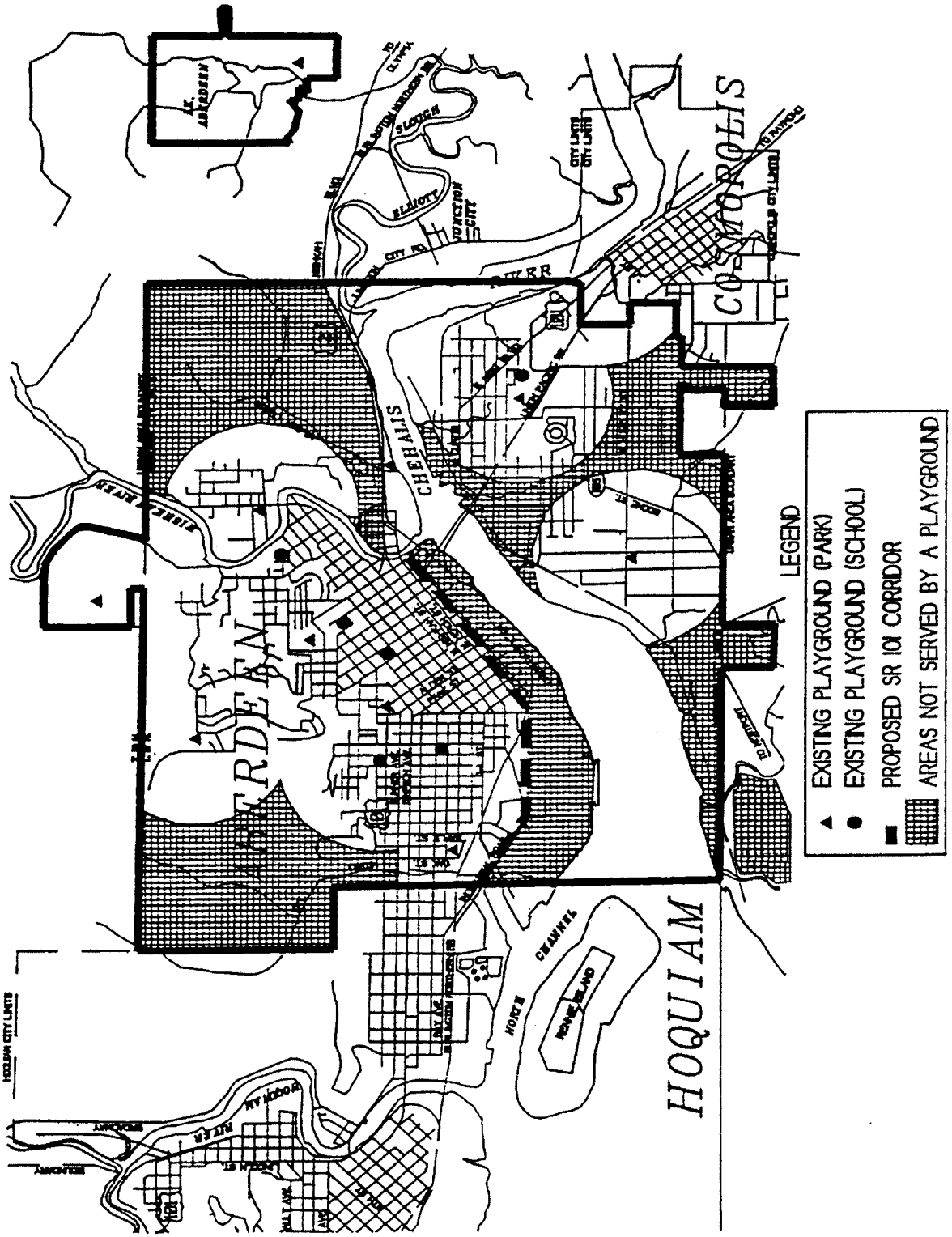
MAP 6-8

AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A PLAYFIELD

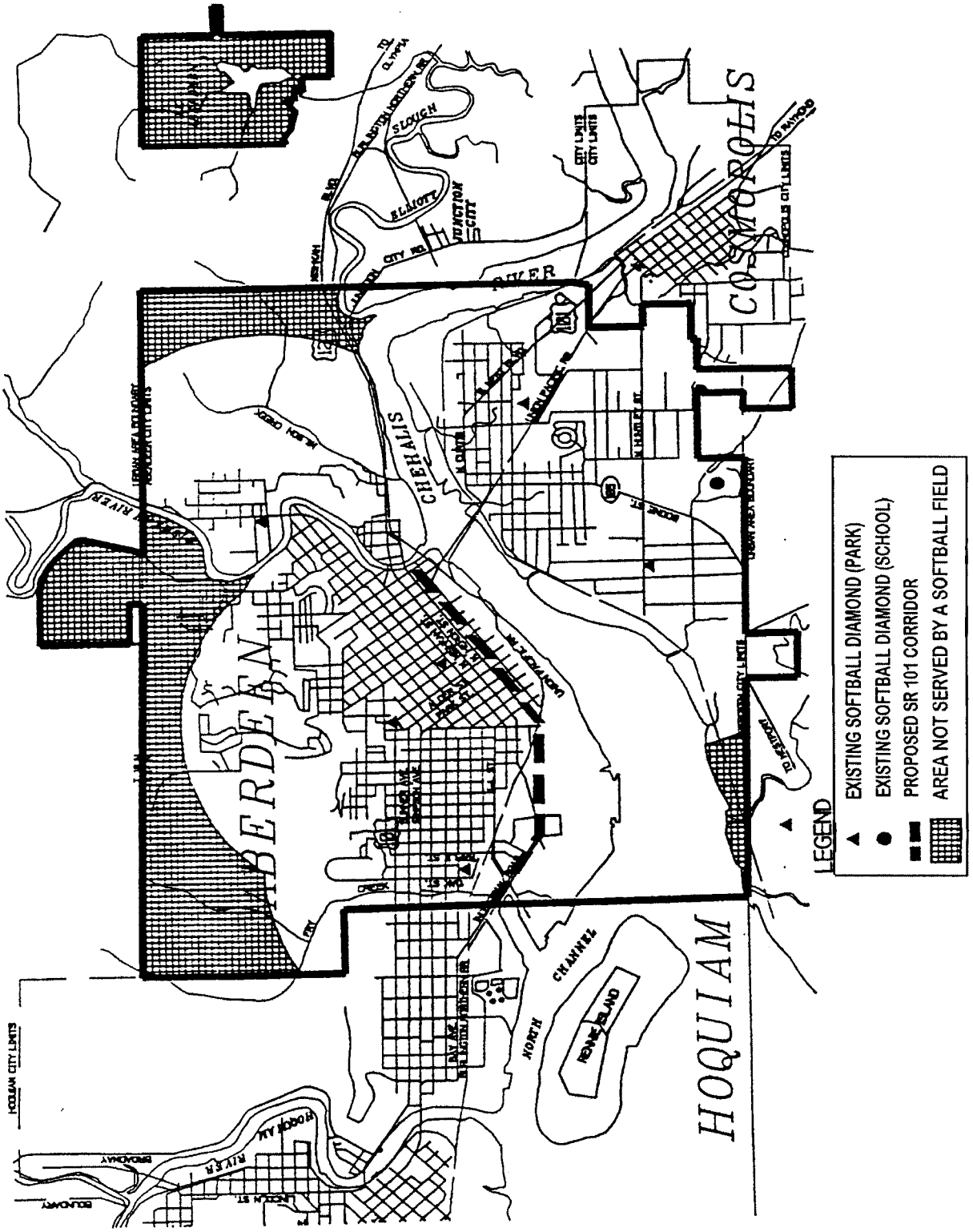


MAP 6-9

AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A PLAYGROUND

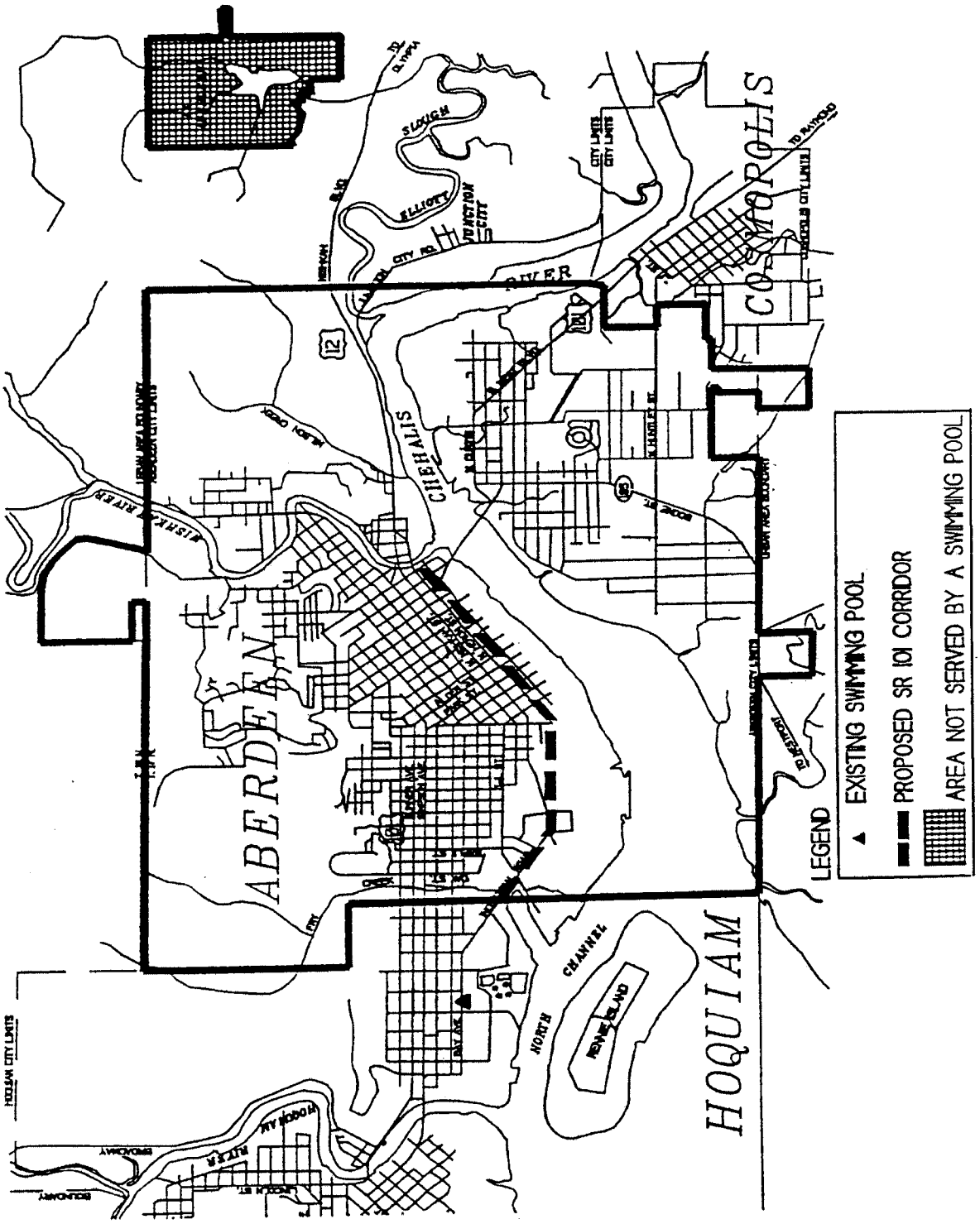


MAP 6-10
AREAS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN NOT SERVED BY A SOFTBALL DIAMOND



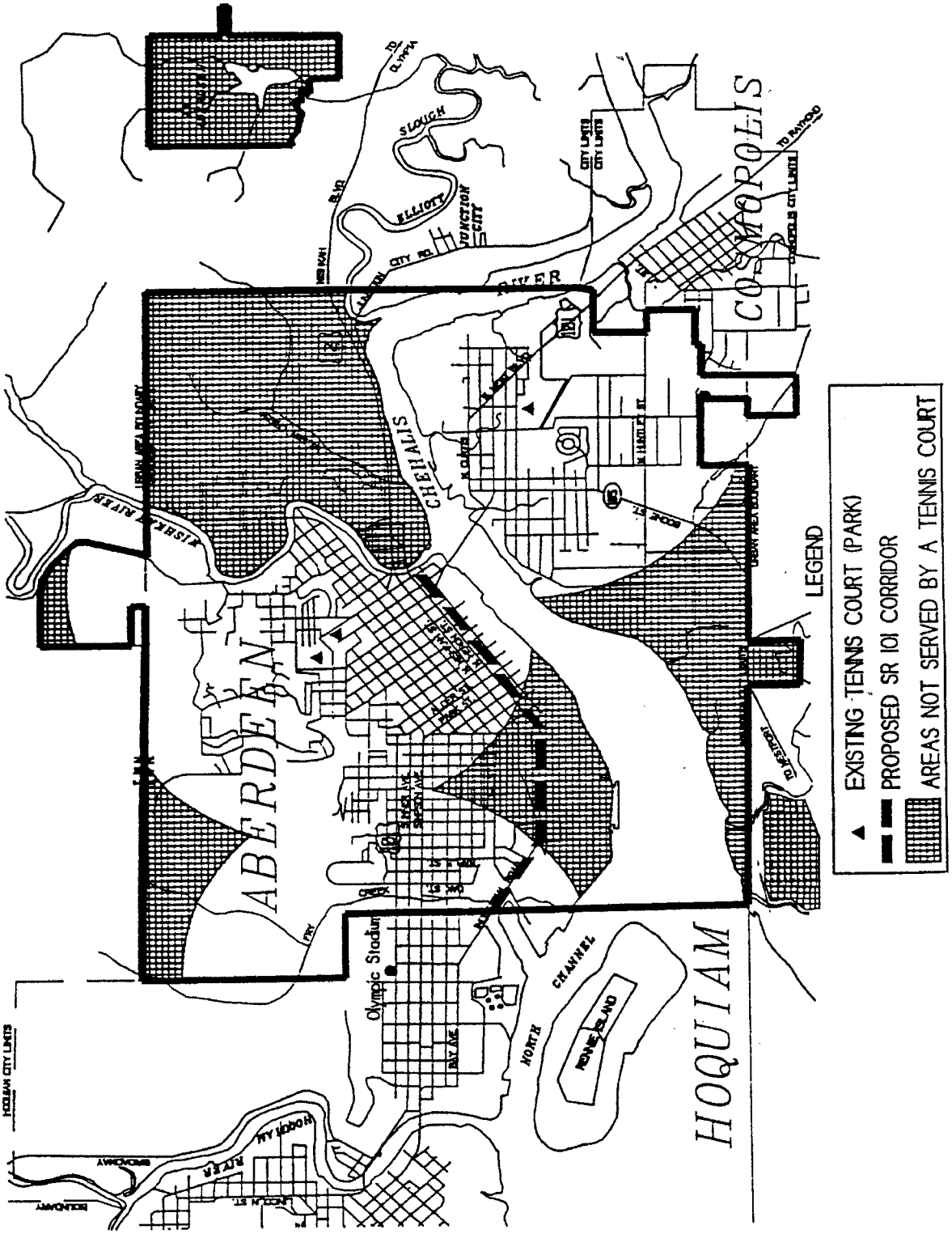
MAP 6-11

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



2017 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): Please circle the correct ranking.

Activity	Never		Occasionally		Frequently	
Afterschool Programs	225	69%	18	6%	20	6%
Baseball	211	65%	15	5%	35	11%
Basketball	209	64%	31	9%	19	6%
Bicycling	157	48%	79	24%	34	10%
Boating	174	53%	67	20%	24	7%
Camping	158	48%	77	24%	27	8%
Disc Golf	226	69%	21	6%	6	2%
Girl's Fastpitch/Softball	233	71%	7	2%	17	5%
Fishing	157	48%	69	21%	42	13%
Hiking	114	35%	98	30%	62	19%
Jogging	195	60%	43	13%	28	9%
Nature Study	154	47%	76	23%	36	11%
Picnicking	136	42%	104	32%	33	10%
Playground	149	46%	66	20%	59	18%
Skateboarding	244	75%	10	3%	4	1%
Slowpitch (Adult)	240	73%	9	3%	8	2%
Soccer	225	69%	25	8%	12	4%
Swimming	181	55%	50	15%	33	10%
Tennis	230	70%	25	8%	5	2%
Trail Walking	104	32%	88	27%	88	27%
Volleyball	241	74%	11	3%	6	2%

How often in the past year have you or members of your household used the City of Aberdeen's Park system? Please mark with an "X".

Never	88	27%
1 to 5 times	68	21%
5 to 10 times	41	13%
10 to 20 times	34	10%
more than 20 times	88	27%

What neighborhood park do you live closest to? Please mark with an "X".

Sam Benn	126	Peterson Playfield (West End)	22
Pioneer	44	Garley	6
Stewarts	61	Morrison	15
Finch	64	North End	23

Do you feel the City of Aberdeen's Park system provides adequate park facilities in your neighborhood? Please circle one.

YES =	234	72%	NO =	56	17%

What type of park facilities would you like to see developed in the future? Check all that apply.

Trails (Bike, Hiking)	159	49%	RV Park	50	15%
Waterfront Parks	166	51%	BMX Bike Park	24	7%
Recreation Center	66	20%	Boat Launch	88	27%
Dog Park	106	32%			

What type of improvements would you recommend for the existing City of Aberdeen Park system? Please check all that apply.

Restrooms	169	52%	Picnic Tables	96	29%
Covered Picnic Area	130	40%	Parking	41	13%
Playground Equip.	50	15%	ADA Accessibility	37	11%
Lighting	110	34%	Park Fitness	67	20%

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

YES =	201	61%	NO =	74	23%

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 =	157	48%	NO =	142	43%

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

YES =	30	9%	NO =	282	86%

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

Neutral or No Opinion	19
Poor	5
Fair	16
Good	15
Excellent	1

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

YES = 50 15% NO = 272 83%

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

Neutral or No Opinion	20
Poor	3
Fair	19
Good	19
Excellent	7

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

YES = 181 NO = 116

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

YES = 210 NO = 75

Is public shoreline access in the City of Aberdeen adequate?

YES = 98 NO = 178

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

YES = 84 NO = 169

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

YES = 268 74% NO = 32

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

YES = 261 72% NO = 31

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

YES = 186 NO = 125

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 or RV Park?

YES = 128 NO = 166

CHAPTER 7

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Framework

The degree to which the recommendations of this plan are implemented between 2017 and 2022 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 malls 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 2017 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 neighborhood parks 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. 51% of survey respondents would like to see additional waterfront parks developed in the future, and 73% feel public access to the City's shorelines is important to residents and visitors.

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 49% 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 40% 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.

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.

Dog Park; The City should consider funding opportunities for the construction of a Dog Park; *please refer to* **FE-16**.

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.

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, field turf, and additional playground equipment.

Sam Benn Park: This park went under a major remodel in 2015 and 2016 that included: new parking area; ADA accessible pathways to the tennis courts; viewing plaza; benches; replacement of sidewalks; and removal of overgrown trees.

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.
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.

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

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, ensure the proposals will become reality and assist in the preservation of a high level of recreational opportunities for future generations.

CITY OF ABERDEEN

COMPREHENSIVE PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

2017-2022

APPPENDICES

APPENDIX B
Public Notice and Correspondence

City of
Aberdeen

Parks and Recreation Department
200 East Market Street • Aberdeen, WA 98520-5242
Phone (360) 537-3229 • email • sbarnum@aberdeenwa.gov
Fax (360) 537-3350 • TDD (360) 533-6668

CITY OF ABERDEEN PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, February 28, 2018
7:15 p.m.
City Council Chambers

This is a public hearing to take input on the 2017-2022 Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Report.

City of
Aberdeen

Parks and Recreation Department
200 East Market Street • Aberdeen, WA 98520-5242
Phone (360) 537-3229 • email • sbarnum@aberdeenwa.gov
Fax (360) 537-3350 • TDD (360) 533-6668

CITY OF ABERDEEN PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, March 14, 2018
7:15 p.m.
City Council Chambers

This is the second public hearing to take input on the 2017-2022 Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Report.

Notice of Special Meeting of Board of Directors

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority on Tuesday, April 10th, 2018 at 6 pm, at the offices of the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority, Seaport Landing, 500 North Custer Street, Aberdeen, WA 98520 for the purposes detailed below:

1. Call to meeting to order
2. Approval of minutes – February 27, 2018
3. Approval of financials
4. Public comment session for City of Aberdeen Comprehensive Parks Plan
5. Staff reports and updates
6. Review Seaport Landing timeline
7. Presentation by staff on offer to donate the vessel Royaliste
8. Discussion and consideration of offer by Board of Directors
9. Action by Board of Directors on proposed vessel donation
10. Public Comment

Dated at Aberdeen, WA on April 3, 2018.

Brandi Bednarik

Brandi Bednarik, Executive Director
at direction of Board President Dave Douglass

cc: Board of Directors
Art Blauvelt, Legal Counsel
The Daily World Via Telefax 360-533-6039 (not for paid publication)
The Vidette Via Telefax 360-249-5636 (not for paid publication)
KXRO/KDUX Radio Via Telefax 360-532-0935 (not for paid publication)
KBKW/KJET Radio Via Telefax 360-532-1456 (not for paid publication)
City of Aberdeen, Parks Department Director
Posted on Seaport Facebook page
Posted on Seaport website
Post copy near Board's regular meeting room

APPENDIX B
BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX C
Resolution on Adoption by City Council

APPENDIX D
Self Certification Form

City
of
Aberdeen

RESOLUTION No. 2018 - 08

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2017-2022 PARKS AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

WHEREAS, the City of Aberdeen Comprehensive Parks and Recreation 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 visitor through the year 2022.

WHEREAS, the Plan has resulted from public review and comment at meetings held on February 28 (City Council), March 14 (City Council) and April 10th (GH Historical Seaport); with Washington Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCO) 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 2017-2022 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Report be adopted.

PASSED and **APPROVED** on May 9, 2018.

Erik Larson, Mayor

ATTESTED:

Finance Director

Corporation Counsel for Finance Director