

Acres of Urban Parks and Open Space

OUTCOME: ENCOURAGE LIVABLE, DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

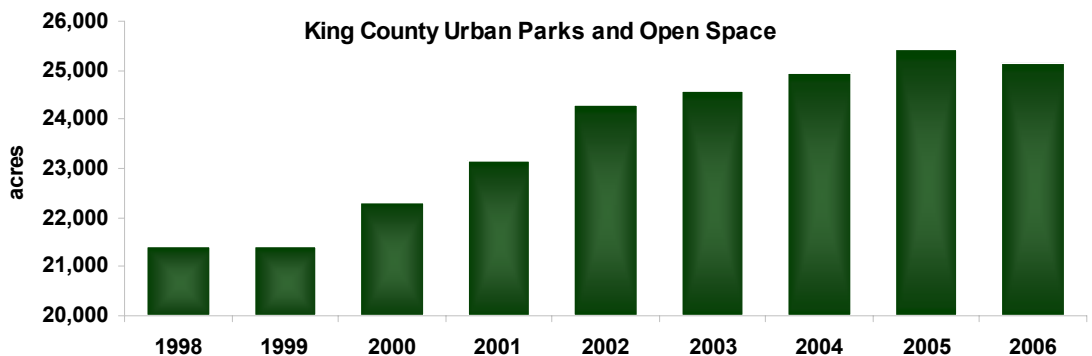
Countywide Planning Policy Rationale

“All jurisdictions shall work cooperatively to ensure parks and open spaces are provided as development and redevelopment occur.”
(*CPP, CC-11*)

In 2006, the urban area of King County contained over 25,000 acres of park and open space, with about 15 acres of park or open space for every thousand residents. As a rough guideline, the National Recreation and Park Association recommends 10 acres of park space per thousand urban residents.

While urban park and open space in King County has increased 17% since 1998, expansion has slowed over the last five years. As the urban population of King County continues to grow, demand for accessible park space will increase.

Figure 37.1



source: King County jurisdictions, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

As shown in figure 37.2, East King County contains the greatest acreage of urban parks and open space, with over 9,000 acres available to residents. Close to 80% of the subarea’s open space acreage is accounted for by parks in Bellevue, Issaquah and Redmond. Conversely, the rural cities collectively contain the smallest share of urban parks and open space. However, these cities are bounded by designated Rural Areas and in close proximity to large recreation areas.

Relative to population, the amount of park and open space also differs by subarea. As shown in figure 37.2, the East subarea has over twice the park area per resident than the Sea-Shore subarea. Although 40% of the county’s urban residents live in the Sea-Shore subarea, it includes only about a quarter of all park and open space in the urban growth area. In contrast, the East subarea with just a quarter of the urban population contains over 35% of all park space. Several large recreation areas, including Cougar Mountain Wildland Park, Squak Mountain State Park and Tiger Mountain National Recreation Area, are also within close proximity of East King County, providing residents with access to open space areas.

Figure 37.2

King County Urban Parks and Open Space by Subarea (2006)		
	Acres	Acres per Thousand Residents
Sea-Shore	6,665	9.8
East	9,037	21.5
South	7,189	12.8
Rural Cities	2,270	71.8
TOTAL KC UGA	25,162	14.9

source: King County jurisdictions, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks