

Chapter 7: Parks and Recreation

Introduction

Algona is a residential community characterized by its single-family homes, placid roadways, and “know your neighbor” atmosphere. The City has the appearance of a suburban community through its limited commercial and industrial uses, a low-density residential nature, and high value on parks and recreation opportunities. The *Parks and Recreation* element is an update to the 2015 elemental chapter incorporating 9 years of changes in approach, goals, inventory, and strategies improving the City’s parks system and increase opportunities for physical activity and social engagement. As part of the comprehensive planning process, Algona anticipates an increase in population warranting a critical evaluation of the current needs of residents and performance of amenities.

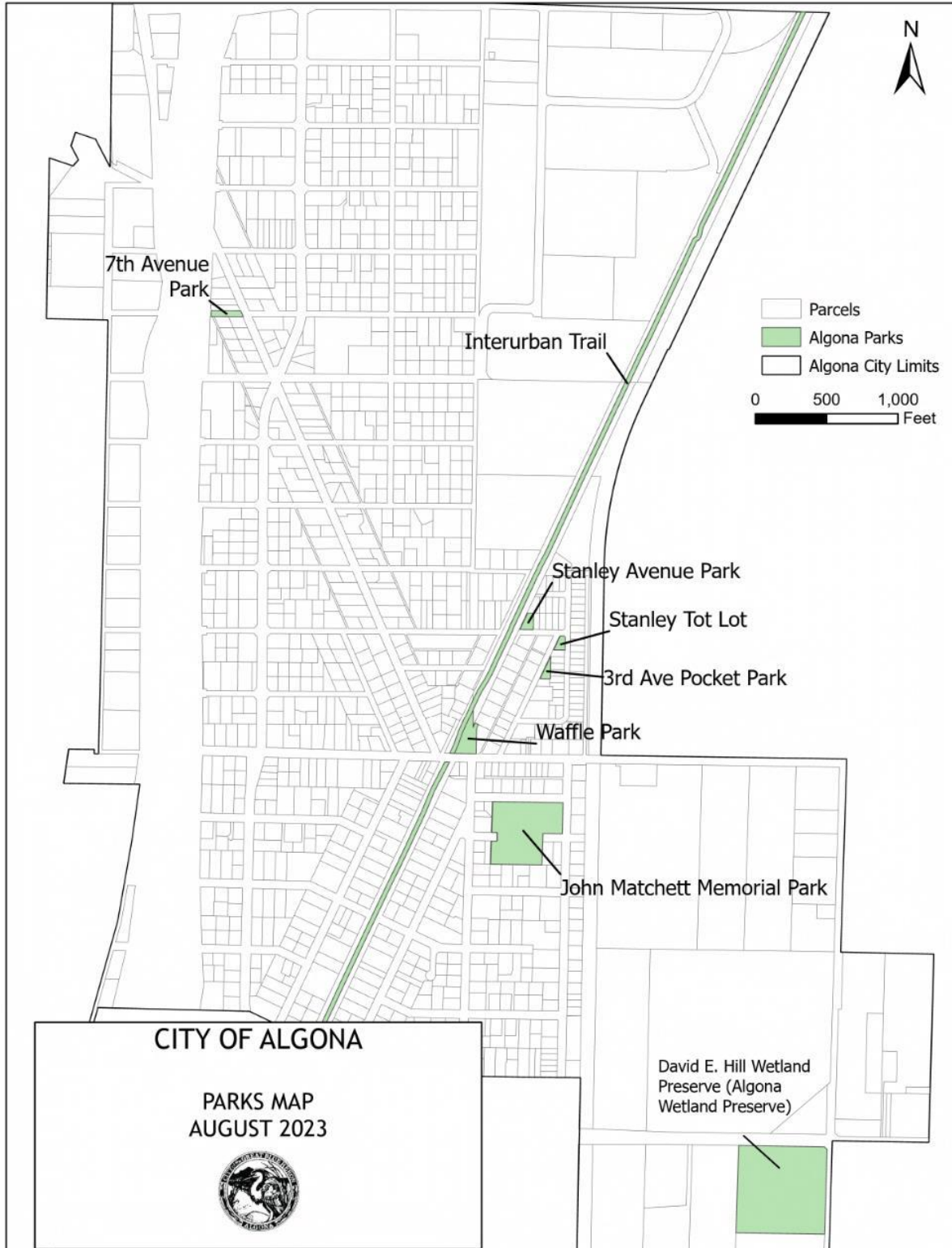
The Growth Management Act (GMA) has an option for fully planning cities to create a *Parks and Recreation* element in the *2024 Comprehensive Plan* describing the inventory, demand, and goals as it relates to public operating parks and recreation facilities. The GMA directs local governments to identify lands useful for public purposes, as well as open space corridors within urban growth areas useful for recreation and encourages planning and design policies that integrate park and recreation opportunities with new public and private development.

The City of Algona is committed to providing opportunities for outdoor activity and has opted to update and maintain the *Parks and Recreation* elemental chapter. The Washington Administrative Code ([WAC 365-196-440](#)) requires the *Parks and Recreation* element to include:

1. Evaluation of facilities and service needs;
2. Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period;
3. Demonstrates consistency with the Capital Facilities element; and
4. Evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.

The *Parks and Recreation* element plays a critical role in promoting good public health, high quality of life, and preserving sensitive lands for residents and future generations. Algona values investing in parks and recreation opportunities that meet local needs of all abilities, diverse backgrounds, and various interests that all residents can utilize. The following chapter summarizes the current conditions, future demands, and future opportunities for parks and recreation. **Figure 1** catalogues all the parks and open spaces owned by the city and each park is described further below in the *Inventory* section.

Figure 1: Parks Map



Inventory

The City of Algona develops, maintains, and operates parks within the city's boundaries. There are a total of seven parks occupying 13.24 acres across Algona's approximately 661 acres of lands, which means parks account for approximately two percent of city lands. The following is a summary of the existing parks operated by the City of Algona. A map describing the locations of these parks is located at the beginning of the *Parks and Recreation* elemental chapter.

John Matchett Memorial Park

Matchett Park is a community park covering approximately 3.75 acres at the heart of the city, adjacent to the City Hall and Police Department. The park has both passive and active opportunities for recreation, and includes the following amenities:

- Fenced Baseball/Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Tennis Court
- Playground
- Benches
- Community Garden
- Picnic Tables
- Public Restrooms

The park is also utilized as a community event space. John Matchett Memorial Park adjoins the Algona City Hall, which includes a full commercial kitchen and community space. Events like Movie Night, Algona Days, and the Pumpkin Launch use the park as a hosting space where vendors, residents, and staff members can celebrate community and camaraderie together with kid's activities, educational demonstrations, food, and music. The community garden is a recent addition to the park, developed in 2018. Residents may apply to occupy a plot in the community garden on the City's website.



Shown left: An overview of the John Matchett Memorial Park, taken via drone. The park is named after Mayor Matchett, who was the City's mayor for 13 years between 1968-1981. Photo by Betty Padgett.

David E. Hill Wetland Preserve

Built in 2023, the David E. Hill Wetland Preserve is the City's newest and largest park addition. The 8.9-acre open space park is a passive recreation opportunity with walking trails meandering through the wetland to an overlook deck and benches. Interpretive signage is available throughout the site providing residents with educational information about wetland ecology, Native American uses of local flora, and the benefit of wetlands as stormwater systems. The site is located south of the Boeing Facility and west of Washington Boulevard. The City is in the process of acquiring an adjacent property to expand the park and trails under a future addition project. See the *Capital Improvement Plan* for additional details.



Shown above is the conceptual drawing of the David E. Hill Wetland Preserve developed by Natural Systems Design. Construction of the park is ongoing and is anticipated to be open to the public in late 2024. Graphic by Natural Systems Design.

7th Avenue Park

A small neighborhood park, developed in 2005, the 7th Avenue Pocket Park is located at the west end of 7th Avenue North, adjacent to SR 167. The park has a playground, open space, barbeque, bench, and picnic table. The open space is approximately 4,770 square feet.



Shown Above: 7th Avenue Park. Photo by Betty Padgett.

Stanley Avenue Park

Stanley Avenue Park is a neighborhood park located along the northeastern portion of Stanley Avenue, north of Pullman Avenue. The park is approximately 5,770 square feet and has a swing set, a bench, and one picnic table.



Shown Above: Stanley Avenue Park. Photo by Betty Padgett.

Waffle Park

Waffle Park is a triangle-shaped pocket park of approximately 23,000 square feet and adjoins the Interurban Trail, which is operated by the county. The park provides a resting place for trail users with a picnic shelter, picnic tables, and benches. The park shares approximately 5,300 square feet of open green space with King County.



*Waffle Park sits adjacent to the Interurban Trail. The park was named after Mayor Waffle (1988-1992).
Photo by Betty Padgett.*

3rd Ave Pocket Park

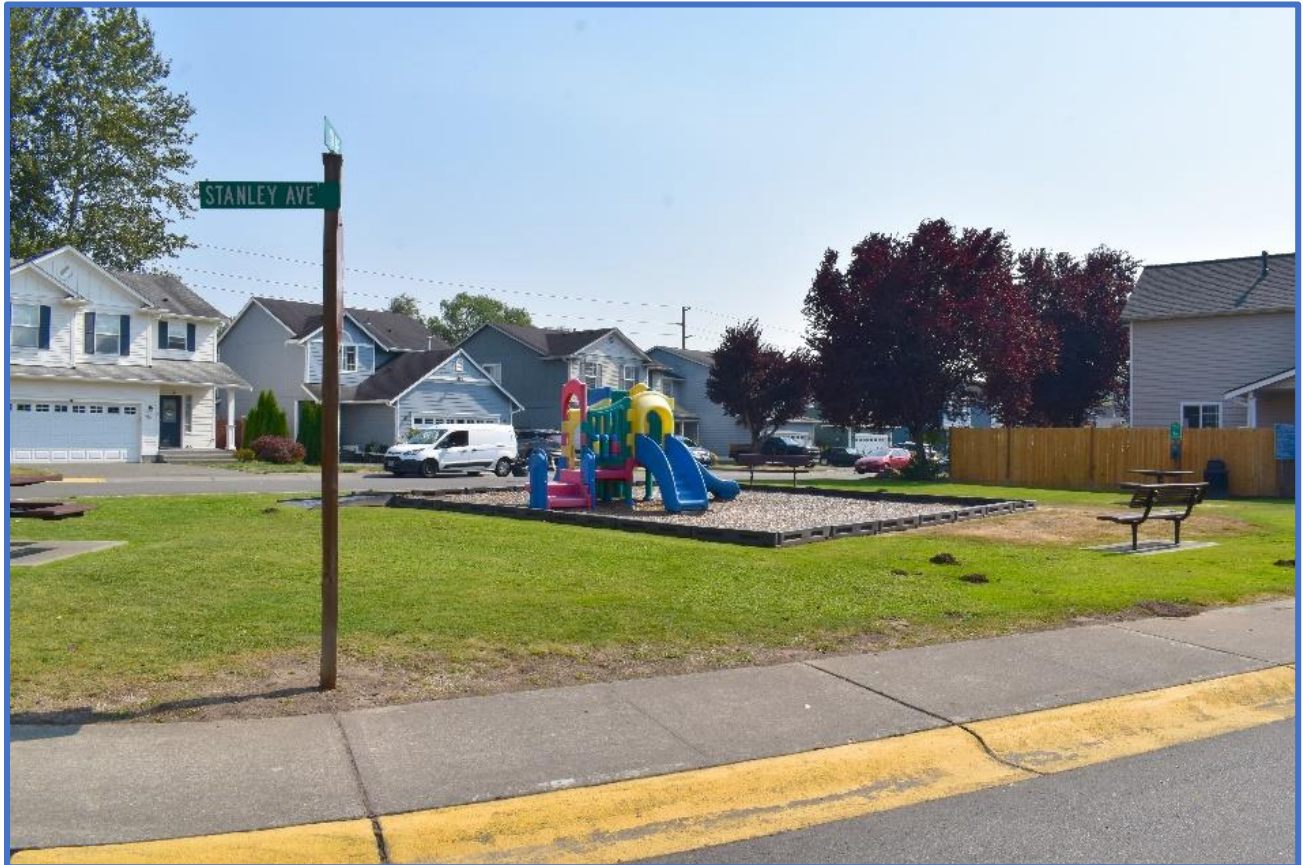
A small park on Third Avenue North is also adjacent to the Interurban Trail and operates as a pocket park. There is a shelter, barbecue facility, picnic tables, and benches. The park serves as a resting spot for Interurban Trail users and provides a grassy open space for residents to use. The park is approximately 7,800 square feet, however due to its shared boundary with the trail there is an open space of approximately 4,200 square feet.



Shown Above: 3rd Avenue Pocket Park. Photo by Betty Padgett.

Stanley Tot Lot

Located at the intersection of Stanley Avenue and Iron Avenue, the Stanley Tot Park has two picnic tables, a bench, and a playground oriented toward young children four and under. The park is considered a pocket park meant to serve residents in the immediate vicinity of the property.



Shown Above: Stanley Tot Lot. Photo by Betty Padgett.

Interurban Trail

The Interurban Trail, also known as the Electric Avenue Interurban Trail, is not part of City-owned property but is owned and maintained by Puget Sound Power and Light Company. The trail is part of the larger Interurban Trail system connecting several cities in south King County together. The paved trail cuts through contiguous Algona (east of SR 167) and provides opportunities for walking, biking, or other non-motorized activities like skating and skateboarding. While this amenity is not provided by the City of Algona, the City does consider this key trail in its level of service analysis.



*A resident and their dog enjoying a walk on the Interurban Trail during a quiet summer evening.
Photo by Cyrus Oswald.*

Current Conditions

Algona's Public Works Department maintains and operates the city's parks network while the *Community Connector* coordinates city events, community newsletters and communication, and youth activities. There is no Parks Department, Parks Division, or recreation program operated by the City. There are limited opportunities to annex new lands into the city's limits and the demand for land that supports housing, new jobs, and municipal services leave a limited number of lands suitable for park development.

With a target of 4,660 residents by 2044, Algona will remain a small-town community likely without a Parks Department or recreation program. A Parks Division may be sustained with one to two full or part time staff members as Algona grows larger in 2044 and beyond. The division would focus on park projects, maintenance coordination, grant administration, and developing partnerships. A fiscal analysis is a necessary first step toward developing a Parks Division or hiring parks staff. Partnerships and grants will equally be a critical step toward expanding opportunities to engage with the outdoors as discussed in *Interagency Coordination*.

Local Needs and Demand

A key component to understanding local needs is identifying the community's vision for future parks and amenities. Residents participated in a variety of methods during public engagement, as described in the *Introduction* chapter. Parks were consistently highly prioritized by the community, receiving the most funding during the Funding Bucket activity.

Community Feedback

A community survey for the *2024 Comprehensive Plan* was distributed by mail, social media, and community events to the City's residents beginning on July 1, 2023 and was requested to be returned no later than February 20, 2024. Of the XXXX residents, XX surveys were completed and returned with a response rate of X%. Responses were tracked and are described in *Appendix J: Public Engagement Summary*. The survey identified the following needs relating to parks: **TO BE PROVIDED AFTER SURVEY CLOSES**. **Figure 2** captures the frequent requests for amenities and park needs in a word cloud, with larger words reflecting a greater number of responses.

Figure 2: Parks Needs Word Cloud

TO BE PROVIDED AFTER SURVEY CLOSES.

Statewide Trends

While local residential needs were gathered through the engagement process, Algona also evaluates new opportunities for recreation through trends seen at the state level. The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) tracks current trends in preferred active and passive recreation in the *State Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP)*. The plan was recently updated in 2023 ranking the popularity of activities residents valued. The top twelve activity trends statewide are described in **Figure 3**. Residents across Washington State most often participated in walking or day hiking, nature viewing, and leisurely activities like hanging out, scenic driving, or enjoying a picnic outdoors.

Figure 3: Statewide Recreation Trends (2023)¹

Activity	Activity Category	Percent of Population	Number of Responses
Walking or using Mobility Device on Roads or Sidewalks	Trail and Road Based Activity	91%	5,390
Walking or Day Hiking or Using Mobility Device on Trails	Trail and Road Based Activity	90%	5,331
Wildlife and Nature Viewing	Nature and Culture Based Activity	85%	4,812
Scenic Driving (Sightseeing)	Nature and Culture Based Activity	85%	4,767
Hanging Out	Leisure Activities in Parks	70%	3,679
Picnic, Barbecue, or Cookout	Leisure Activities in Parks	68%	3,639
Community Garden or Farmers' Market	Leisure Activities in Parks	66%	3,556
Visiting Outdoor Cultural or Historical Facility, includes Attending Cultural Events	Nature and Culture Based Activity	62%	3,413
Swimming in Natural Settings	Water Based Activity	61%	3,374
Paddle Sports (Rafting, Canoes, Kayaks, Stand-up, Rowing)	Water Based Activity	52%	2,910
Outdoor Concert or Special Event	Leisure Activities in Parks	49%	2,602
Gathering or Collecting Anything in Nature	Nature and Culture Based Activity	49%	2,635

¹ Washington RCO, State Recreation and Conservation Plan (2023)

Level of Service

Level of Service (LOS) is a measurable standard utilized in understanding the quality and quantity of parks and recreation spaces necessary to meet a community’s local needs. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) do not have universally recommended level of service standards for parks or recreation programs. Parks are difficult to measure – they are places experienced and felt as users but often not measured. Park amenities are often determined by available budgets, community interests, and location of available undeveloped, suitable lands. Instead, the NRPA and RCO recommend jurisdictions craft their own LOS standards that cater to the unique qualities of their communities. This creative approach to LOS standards grants localities flexibility to design standards that fit into their existing character and development pattern that residents and city staff alike can identify with and support.



A warm summer evening at the Community Garden at John Matchett Memorial Park. Residents are able to reserve a plot in the community garden and often grow perennials, fruit, and vegetables. Photo by Betty Padgett.

LOS Standards

Algona strives to acquire, develop, and maintain high-quality parks within close proximity to residents. Historically, Algona has not administered parks LOS standards due to the limited population it serves and its proximity to neighboring communities that administer a Parks Department or recreation program (City of Auburn, City of Pacific, and King County).

Much like the Puget Sound region, Algona has grown over time. Populations have steadily and consistently increased since 2000 and Algona is serving a greater population now than it did 24 years ago. Changing community conditions are pushing Algona to consider how to support equity in parks and recreation opportunities for residents. Local initiative for park availability and equitable development triggers the need to begin administering LOS standards to evaluate where the City should invest new park development to better meet all community needs.

One standard the City has evaluated in past iterations of the comprehensive plan is service areas. A service area indicates how many people are served within an appropriate distance to a certain park type. Appropriate distances are determined by what is seen as a walkable distance to a park, based on the size and amenities of the park. Service areas are an ideal starting place for park LOS metrics as they evaluate the availability of a park against how accessible the park is to residents who are likely walking to the amenity. **Figure 4** describes the City’s parks service area LOS metric.

Service area metrics are driven by accessibility – how far are residents likely walking to visit a park or use equipment and facilities? Typically, residents will walk approximately 15 minutes, or a quarter mile, comfortably to visit a place. Residents are more likely to drive if the distance to a location exceeds a quarter mile. Algona’s parks have limited parking facilities – only John Matchett Memorial Park and Waffle Park have their own designated parking lots. Other parks rely upon on-street parking to accommodate residents who are outside the service area or are more likely to drive than walk to the park.

Figure 4: Algona Parks Level of Service

Level of Service Standard	Performance Metric				
	E	D	C	B	A
Pocket Park - 50% of the population within 0.15 mile	<30%	30-49%	49-63%	64-84%	>85%
Neighborhood Park -- 75% of the population within 1/4 mile					
Community Park -- 90% of the population within 1/2 mile					
Trails -- 90% of population within 1/2 mile of a trail					

Park Classifications

There are four park types that exist within Algona as described in **Figure 5**. Park classifications determine how the LOS metrics are applied to the City’s parks and ultimately what the current needs are to enhance the demand for parks now and over the next 20 years. Park classifications are noted in the *Inventory* subsection and are categorized below.

Figure 5: Park Classifications²

Park Type	Definition	Designation
Pocket Park	A small, pedestrian oriented park of one-half acres or less that provides green space in more developed areas. Pocket parks typically include landscaping, seating, art, smaller play features, and community identification features such as interpretive signage or historic markers.	Waffle Park
		Stanley Avenue Park
		3 rd Avenue Pocket Park
		Stanley Tot Lot
Neighborhood Park	A pedestrian oriented park that is typically one acre or less and is intended to serve adjacent residential units. Parks typically provides playground area and open space. Neighborhood parks can provide a single sports court.	7 th Avenue Park
Community Park	A large park ranging from one to five acres in size. Park provides active recreation facilities and includes features such as parking lots, sports fields/courts, and natural areas.	John Matchett Memorial Park
		David E. Hill Wetland Preserve
Trail	Trails are identified as a network or pathway for the exclusive use of pedestrians, cyclists, or other non-motorized forms of transportation. The intent of trails is to both provide recreational and transportation uses. Ideally, trails create a well connected city and supplement sidewalks and bike lanes. Trails can include features such as parking areas, paved or unpaved paths, picnic tables or benches, and informational markers.	Interurban Trail

² References to park classification are made using National Parks and Recreation Association, Park, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines (1996).

LOS Analysis

On average, 1,625 residents live within the service area of a City park³ and the City overall has an average park performance of LOS D (49%). Algona's parks serve most of the community in one way or another – most residents are within the service area of the Interurban Trail and one of the community parks. Parks LOS performance is described in **Figure 6** and **Figure 7**. There is a noticeable discrepancy in who has access to pocket and neighborhood parks. Algona, as a whole, has an adequate number of parks; however they are not distributed equitably resulting in a lack of park access in certain areas of the City. In particular, the north half of Algona (north of 10th Avenue, east of Celery Avenue) and along the western side of SR 167 have the lowest access to City operated parks as shown in **Figure 9**.

The Interurban Trail effectively serves the community within it's assigned service area. Only about 11% of the population is located outside a walkable distance (one half mile) from the corridor. It is the overall highest performing park facility within the City with a LOS A despite not being owned, maintained, or operated by the city.

Algona's greatest performing park is John Matchett Memorial Park which serves the most residents. This park performs better than all of the City's other parks because it is a community park with more amenities, it has a centralized location near residential units, and has a larger service area than other park classes. The park individually serves approximately 2,140 residents. John Matchett Memorial Park has an LOS C (64.56%).

The David E. Hill Wetland Preserve also serves a great need for park access in the southeast area. The Preserve has a lower LOS since it serves a limited number of Algona residents due to its location adjacent to a commercial corridor (Ellingson Road) and its remote location. When the Preserve is combined with John Matchett Memorial Park, Algona's community parks overall have a LOS B and serve about 74% of the overall population.



Algona's youth enjoying a hula hoop competition coordinated by Gary Klein, the Community Connector, at Algona Days 2022. Photo by Tanner Machala.

³ As of 2023, the estimated population is 3,315 people and the estimated housing units are 1,061. There are approximately 3.12 residents per housing unit assumed in service area calculations.

Algona only has one neighborhood park, 7th Ave Park, and effectively meets immediate park and recreation needs in the northern half of the City. This park alone serves nearly a fifth of residents by service area. One neighborhood park on its own cannot meet the citywide service area metric of 75% of residents within a quarter mile of a neighborhood park. An additional park is needed in the northern half of contiguous Algona to improve the LOS grade. There is an over-concentration of pocket parks in one area of the city, along Stanley Avenue, and a lack of pocket park opportunities throughout the city. The clustering of the pocket parks results in a lower LOS since they are serving the same households in their respective service areas. A greater distribution of pocket parks in the future will increase the city's performance in small, informal park opportunities. Pocket parks only serve about 41% of the population.

Figure 6: Park LOS Analysis by Park

Park	Classification	Service Area	Est. Population within Service Area ⁴	% of Population in Service Area
Stanley Tot Lot	Pocket Park	50% of the population within 0.15 mile	321	9.7%
3 rd Avenue Pocket Park	Pocket Park	50% of the population within 0.15 mile	409	12.33%
Waffle Park	Pocket Park	50% of the population within 0.15 mile	552	16.65%
Stanley Avenue Park	Pocket Park	50% of the population within 0.15 mile	399	12.04%
7 th Avenue Park	Neighborhood Park	75% of the population within 1/4 mile	643	19.38%
Algona Wetland Preserve	Community Park	Community Park -- 90% of the population within 1/2 mile	468	14.11%
John Matchett Memorial Park	Community Park	Community Park -- 90% of the population within 1/2 mile	2140	64.56%
Interurban Trail	Trail	90% of population within 1/2 mile of a trail	2976	89.78%

⁴ Service areas are estimated based on the number of residential units within each park's service area and the average number of residents per household. Parks may overlap with one another.

Figure 7: Park LOS Analysis by Class

Classification	Service Area	Est. Population within Service Area ⁵	% of Population in Service Area	Park Classification LOS
Pocket Park	50% of the population within 0.15 mile	680	41%	D
Neighborhood Park	75% of the population within 1/4 mile	643	25%	E
Community Park	Community Park -- 90% of the population within 1/2 mile	2200	73.7%	B
Trail	90% of population within 1/2 mile of a trail	2976	99%	A
Average No. of People in Service Area:			1,625	
Average LOS:			D	

Consistency with Capital Facilities

The State requires the *Parks and Recreation* element to describe how it is consistent with the *Capital Facilities* element under [WAC 365-196-440](#). Parks are considered to be a capital facility or an asset (property owned and maintained) by the City. Parks are described as assets within the *Capital Facilities and Utilities* element, however their LOS performance is described within this *Parks and Recreation* element. There are a number of proposed parks projects the City is currently considering, including:

- 1. David E. Hill Wetland Preserve – Acquisition and Expansion:** The City is in the process of acquiring additional lands west of the current site. There are plans to expand the trail westerly and create an loop trail throughout the site connecting to a small parking lot along Ellingson Road.
- 2. Algona Village Trail Acquisition and Development:** A trail is proposed to be developed along the wooded, steep slopes off the West Valley Highway South, adjacent to the old site of the South King County Transfer Station connecting to a proposed mixed-use project in the southwest corner of Algona.
- 3. New Park – Acquisition and Development:** The City is evaluating opportunities to acquire new public lands in the Algona, north of 8th Avenue North. The city is aiming to develop a neighborhood or community park in this area to effectively have all residents be served by a community park within the service area standards described in *Level of Service Standards* subsection above.

⁵ Service areas are estimated based on the number of residential units within each park's service area and the average number of residents per household. Parks may overlap with one another

The city will continue to acquire parcels for new within its neighborhoods as opportunities become available. Details on the above proposed projects as well as other parks projects and capital projects are detailed in *Appendix D: Capital Improvement Plan*.

Park Impact Fees

Algona currently collects a Parks Impact Fee as described in Algona Municipal Code [Chapter 2.50](#). As of 2024, the City collects \$1,000 per new residential unit developed. The impact fee program was established in 2004 and updated in 2017 as a result of a consistent community interest in improving park accessibility and anticipated influx of new residential development spurred by code updates expanding permitted forms of housing.

The City will evaluate the need to incrementally increase park impact fees as it corresponds with inflation costs for materials, permitting, construction, and property values. Updating fee schedules for impact fees is a quasi-judicial process requiring rate studies and a fiscal analysis. City Council must vote to adopt changes to the fee schedule. Generally, impact fees do not recover the full cost of developing new facilities since the fee must be directly related to a specific development project and their proportional impacts.

In Washington, impact fees are authorized for those jurisdictions planning under the Growth Management Act and creating a comprehensive plan, as part of “voluntary agreements” under [RCW 82.02.020](#) to mitigate for impacts of new development.



A basketball lies on the court at John Matchett Memorial Park. Photo by Caitlin Hepworth.

Interagency Opportunities

Additionally, the State requires the *Parks and Recreation* element to describe opportunities to work collaboratively with other agencies to expand park and recreation opportunities under [WAC 365-196-440](#). As noted previously, it is critical for the City to work with grant opportunities and develop partnerships to meet local park needs. Algona is a relatively small community; it is the ninth smallest⁶ in geographic size and eighth smallest⁷ in population in King County. Due to Algona’s limited size and population, creative approaches to getting the community outside to enjoy recreation are absolutely necessary to maintain level of service while expanding opportunity.

Grants

Public grants are an option to supplement the City’s budget for parks development, acquisition, design, and construction. The City of Algona has successfully obtained parks grants in the past to fund acquisition, design, and development projects. While the grant process is competitive and provides limited financial assistance, it historically has been instrumental in providing complete funding for projects in smaller communities like Algona where there is a more limited residential and commercial tax base.

Grants are not intended to be relied upon for nominal funding for each project the City pursues. However, grants reduce the burden of a project’s overall cost on local taxpayers and annual budgets. **Figure 8** lists grants the City is eligible to pursue in future parks related capital improvement projects.

Figure 8: Park and Recreation Grant Opportunities

<i>King County Grants</i>	<i>Description</i>
Parks Capital and Open Space Grant	This grant can fund a broad range of parks projects, including land acquisition, park planning, and development of passive and active parks and trails.
Healthy Communities and Park Fund	This grant funds projects and programs that provide new, increased, or enhanced access to recreation, parks, and open space in underserved communities, including investing in capacity-building for community groups.

⁶ Algona is 1.29 square miles in geographic size. Smallest cities by geographic area in King County (in order): Beaux Arts Village, Skykomish, Wilderness Rim, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Clyde Hill, Baring, and Carnation

⁷ Algona’s population is 28th out of 35 jurisdictions in King County. Smallest city populations in King County (in order): Skykomish, Beaux Arts Village, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Carnation, Medina, and Clyde Hill.

Youth and Amateur Sports	This grant funds programs and capital projects that increase youth access to physical activity.
Conservation Futures	This grant funds the purchasing or preservation of open space lands to be used for passive, low-impact recreation.
Water Works	The Water Works program funds park projects that improve water quality in the service area of the County’s regional wastewater system, including creek and wetland restoration projects.
Washington State Grants	Description
RCO – Planning for Recreation Access	Grants are used to support planning, community engagement, and collaboration between local governments, community-based organizations, and residents to define outdoor recreation needs, prioritize investments to address those needs, and prepare on-the-ground projects for RCO and other funding opportunities.
RCO – Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities	<p>Eligible community outdoor athletic facilities should attract and accommodate practice, training, or competition using a participant’s physical skills or capabilities. Such athletic activities should be the primary focus of the facility rather than leisure activities. Specific policies for eligible elements, costs and activities are in development; however, examples of typical projects that likely could be funded through this program include the following outdoor facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc. • Fields for baseball, softball, cricket, etc. • Tracks and courses • Skateparks, BMX, and mountain bike parks • Paddling facilities, rock climbing • Ice and roller hockey • Swimming pools • Acquisition of land for such facilities
RCO – Parks Maintenance Grant	The Washington State Legislature provided one-time funding in the operating budget to help local parks departments maintain their working facilities to meet the needs of their residents. This program will focus on helping communities in need address maintenance backlogs for key local parks facilities and capital improvements. Accessed through a simple application process, grants can be used for general maintenance of things such as trails, restrooms, picnic sites, playgrounds, signs, and kiosks.

No Child Left Inside	<p>The Washington State Legislature created the No Child Left Inside grant program to provide under-served youth with quality opportunities to experience the natural world.</p> <p>Grants are available for outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural, or other natural resource-based education and recreation programs serving youth. Funding focuses on serving youth with the greatest needs and helping them improve their overall academic performance, self-esteem, personal responsibility, community involvement, personal health, and understanding of nature.</p>
Youth Athletic Facilities	<p>The Youth Athletic Facilities program provides grants to buy land and develop or renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as ball fields, courts, swimming pools, mountain bike tracks, and skate parks that serve youth through the age of 18.</p> <p>While the program focuses on youth, RCO strongly encourages grant recipients to design facilities to serve all ages and multiple activities.</p> <p>An athletic facility is an outdoor facility used for playing sports or participating in competitive athletics and excludes playgrounds, tot lots, vacant lots, open or undeveloped fields, and level open space used for non-athletic play.</p>

Partnerships

Partnerships are another pathway to supporting growing demands for parks and recreational activities in Algona, and can include land donations, funding, interlocal agreements, and park stewardship. Partnerships can happen between public, private, and non-profit agencies to help meet community needs publicly or privately. Mutual goals shared between agencies drive the need to develop partnerships.

Algona does not currently have any parks partnerships, however there is interest in beginning to partner with other agencies, community groups, and non-profits to increase public access to recreation and garner environmental stewardship. Partnerships in particular are beneficial in granting opportunities to participate in recreation programs. The City of Auburn has an established recreation program that the City of Algona could develop an interlocal agreement to help fund and participate in. Other cities in King County have similar agreements – in particular the City of Clyde Hill has an interlocal agreement with the City of Bellevue to be eligible for participation in Bellevue’s recreational programming.

Partnerships can advance completion of various park projects and opportunities and also reduce the demand for funding from local taxpayers. For example, Algona could consider a partnership with its jurisdictional neighbors (City of Auburn or City of Pacific) to help meet mutual needs for parks or recreation in mutually underserved areas.



The YMCA held a booth at 2022 Algona Days presenting different opportunities for youth and adults to get active in nearby YMCA facilities in Auburn or Kent. Photo by Tanner Machala.

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

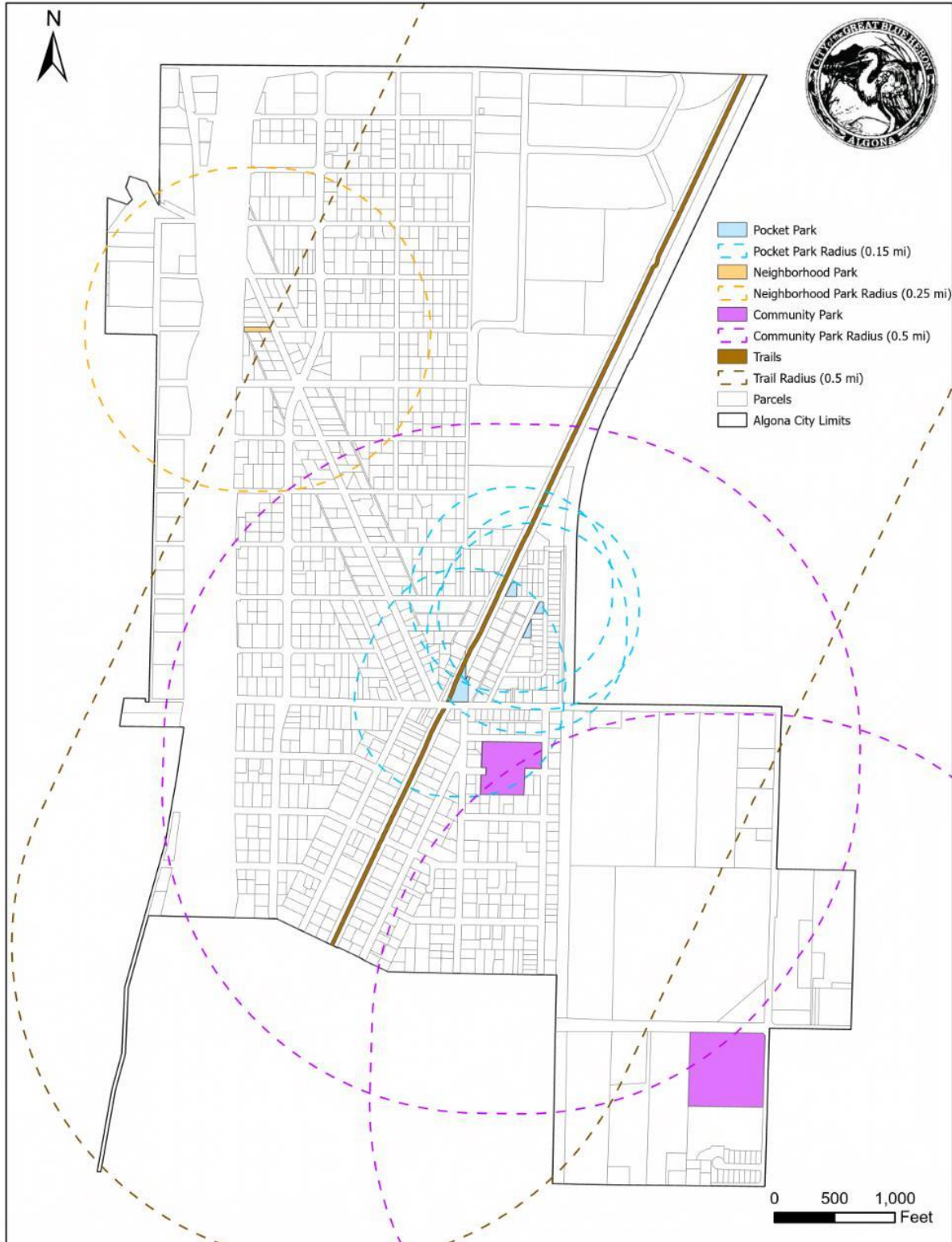
The Washington RCO offers a number of grant programs annually to assist local jurisdictions in planning for parks and recreation to meet local and future demands. While some grants are eligible for any jurisdiction to apply for, there are a number of grants that are exclusively developed and eligible for cities that develop a *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan)*. A PROS Plan would need to be reviewed and certified by the RCO to allow Algona to have additional grant opportunities. Certification is conducted by RCO every even numbered year and expires after six (6) years. A PROS Plan requires the following elements to be considered a complete report:

1. Goals and Policies
2. Inventory
3. Public Engagement
4. Needs and Demand Analysis
5. Capital Improvement Plan
6. Adoption



Civic events like Algona Days bring the community together sparking a love for the outdoors, community, and recreation while championing community pride and identity. Photo by Tanner Machala.

Figure 9: Parks Service Area Map



Goals and Policies

Goal PR-1 Uniting Park and City Identity

Maintain and enhance a parks system that meets the needs and desires of Algona Residents.

Policies:

PR-1.2 Emphasize physical activity in the review and approval of public or private recreational facilities proposed in site plans or park designs.

PR-1.2 Promote revision of standards for public street development that include aesthetic enhancement, distinctive street signage, lighting, and/or furnishings, enhanced pedestrian walkways, and street tree plantings. Ensure coordination of changes with Public Works standards.

PR-1.3 Features, signs, and design should be compatible with the capability of the site to sustain the anticipated recreational uses.

PR 1.4: Incorporate placemaking or educational signage at parks to communicate historical context and explain park naming practices.

PR-1.5: Prioritize investment in parks to serve historically underserved neighborhoods.

Goal PR-2 Enhancing User Experience

Maintain and improve the Parks and Recreational opportunities within the City of Algona to the benefit of its citizens.

Policies:

PR-2.1 Work with new development and other agencies to fund park maintenance, development, and acquisition.

PR-2.2 Encourage low-maintenance park facilities options with consideration to minimize long-term maintenance, operation, and renovation /replacement costs.

PR-2.3 Seek to increase federal, State, regional, and local grants for Park & Recreational facilities.

PR-2.4 Explore concession “enterprises” at Matchett Park from April 1 to September 1, to provide services to the public in exchange for rental fees. These fees are to be designated to the Park Facilities fund for park upkeep and improvement.

PR-2.5: Develop and maintain the Algona Wetland Preserve to provide additional recreational opportunities for community members.

Goal PR-3 Expanding Our Trails

Maintain a trail system that joins the existing public/ private trail system with future trail systems both inside and outside the city limits.

Policies:

PR-3.1 Facilitate the creation of a trail system corridor where new development can link the existing trail system.

PR-3.2 Facilitate public education and awareness of Electric Avenue (P.S. P&L. Co. R.O.W.) Bike Trail as a length in a “Heron Bike Tour Route”.

NEW (From email correspondence): PR-3.3: Work with PSE and King County to maintain and improve the Interurban Trail by maintaining the trail surface and adding trailside amenities.

Goal PR-4 Considering Natural Lands

Enhance the natural environment through the preservation of natural vegetation and the addition of landscaping throughout the city.

Policies:

PR-4.1 Use open space, greenbelts, and natural vegetation to reduce noise and visual pollution and encourage natural buffering between land uses and separate incompatible land uses from residential areas.

PR-1.1 Parks, Bike/Pedestrian Corridors, and Open Space areas shall emphasize and protect the environmental qualities and natural amenities within and along their boundaries.

PR 1.3 Include natural areas such as wetlands, streams, and wildlife habitats into the park design and identified with interpretive signage to foster understanding of the natural environment.

Goal PR-5 Improving Park Accessibility

New and existing parks should be safe and convenient.

Policies:

PR-5.1 Park and recreation facilities, park designs, facilities, and fixtures should be encouraged to incorporate measures that reduce the exposure of users to unsafe conditions.

PR-5.2 Park facilities shall meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by incorporating designated spaces for barrier-free parking, curb cuts, hard surface trails, low gradient ramps and inclines, recreational equipment, plumbing fixtures, and any other improvements required by the ADA that ensure that parks are accessible to all persons.