

ORDINANCE NO. 1610

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LYNDEN CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING THE 2020  
CITY OF LYNDEN PARK AND TRAIL MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden is required to plan under the provisions of RCW 36.70A, commonly referred to as the Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act requires Lynden to regularly (8 years) take legislative action to review and if needed, revise its comprehensive plan and its mandatory elements, such as a Park and Trail Master Plan, to comply with the requirements in Chapter 36.70A RCW; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden Park and Trail Master Plan, which was last updated in 2014, is considered an element of the City's overall Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, due to significant population growth, increasing housing densities, and the City securing considerable park land properties for future park development, the Council Park Committee determined that it was an appropriate time to update the City's Park and Trail Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden has encouraged early and continuous public participation in the update of the Park and Trail Master Plan by the development and promotion of an online public survey, by collecting feedback and input from the City's elected representatives and the City's citizen park advisory groups; and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2020, the City of Lynden held a Public Hearing with the City Planning Commission, after which the Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed 2020 update to the Lynden City Council with the following recommendations:

1. That the City consider additional methods to increase public involvement and volunteer stewardship of the City's park development, maintenance, and fundraising needs.
2. That the City develop all 40 acres of the Benson Park property as park land.
3. That the City prioritize the protection and maintenance of existing trail in the City. Specifically, in relation to the management of the shoreline areas of Fishtrap Creek where it threatens the safety or condition of existing parks and trails.
4. Parks and trails are even a higher priority as residential lots are smaller with less outdoor play space; and

WHEREAS, notice of the proposed updates to Lynden's Park and Trail Master Plan was provided to state agencies as required under RCW 36.70A.106 on October 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden issued a SEPA determination of non-significance on the adoption of the City of Lynden Park and Trail Master Plan under WAC 197-11; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden held a public hearing on the proposed Plan on December 21, 2020, at its regularly scheduled Council meeting; and

Based on the foregoing proceeds and record thereof, the City Council hereby enters the following findings:

1. The City of Lynden is desirous of securing for its residents an attractive living environment and high quality of life; and
2. Public parks, trails, and recreation facilities, playgrounds and open spaces enhance the quality of life in the community and are necessary to preserve the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and
3. The City, according to the 2019 population, has 9.2 acres of park land / 1,000 residents which exceeds its established community standard of 7 acres / 1,000 residents for park land acreage within the City limits; and
4. As the City continues to increase residential density in accordance with the Growth Management Act, the provision of adequate parks, trails, and open space and the appropriate public access to these park lands and facilities, is essential to maintaining the community's quality of life as described within the City's Vision Statement; and
5. Inadequate planning for the procurement of, the development of, and the financing of sufficient public parks, recreation facilities and open spaces would have a significant adverse effect upon the environment within the City and on the health, safety, and general welfare of its residents; and
6. The Park and Trail Master Plan discusses park and trail development needs, existing park improvement needs, and on-going maintenance needs in order to continue to maintain high quality parks, trails, and recreational opportunities for its residents; and
7. The Park and Trail Master Plan establishes financing methods, including the City's General Fund, Park Impact Fees, User Fees, Grants, Bonds, and private volunteers and donations, in order to meet the Park Capital Improvement plans listed in Chapter 4 of the Park and Trail Master Plan; and

8. The Goals and Policies established in the Park and Trail Master Plan, which include the ongoing evaluation of the park system, the provision of high-quality park amenities, the adequate financing of the park system, and increasing public engagement with and management of the park system are necessary for providing a high quality of life for residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYNDEN, WASHINGTON, HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The 2020 update to the City of Lynden Park and Trail Master Plan dated December 21, 2020 is hereby adopted by the City of Lynden.

Section 2 – Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Council hereby declares that it would have passed this code and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases has been declared invalid or unconstitutional, then the original ordinance or ordinances shall be in full force and effect.

Section 3 – Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the City Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise as provided by law, five days after the date of its publication.

PASSED by the City Council this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2020

Signed and approved by the Mayor this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2020

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Attorney