

**Table 1. Comparative Analysis of Land Use Element Parks and Open Space Policies and PROS Plan Goals.**

Policy #	Current Comprehensive Plan Goal	2022 PROS Plan Reference <sup>1,2</sup>
20.1	More specific policy direction for parks and open space shall be identified in the Parks and Recreation Plan and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Plan. These plans shall be updated periodically to reflect changing needs in the community.	N/A – Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Plan adopted by reference elsewhere.
20.2	Acquisition, maintenance and access to public areas, preserved as natural open spaces or developed for recreational purposes, will continue to be an essential element for maintaining the community's character.	<p><b>Goal 1:</b> Provide a high quality, welcoming, and inclusive parks and recreation system that meets community needs now and in the future.</p> <p><b>Goal 2:</b> Provide the Mercer Island community with safe, well-maintained parks and recreation facilities.</p> <p><b>Goal 3:</b> Provide a high quality, diversified open space system that preserves and enhances urban forests, critical habitat, and other environmental resources. Incorporate sustainability practices into operations, maintenance, and planning.</p> <p><b>Goal 4:</b> Develop and promote an interconnected community through safe, accessible, and attractive trails and pathways easily accessed by a variety of trail users.</p> <p><b>Goal 5:</b> Provide a variety of recreation programs, services, and facilities that promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities.</p> <p><b>Goal 8:</b> Provide leadership and sufficient resources to maintain and operate a welcoming, efficient, safe, and sustainable parks and recreation system.</p>
20.3	View preservation actions should be balanced with the efforts to preserve the community's natural vegetation and tree cover.	Moved to Land Use Element Policy 19.7

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20.4	Future land use decisions should encourage the retention of private club recreational facilities as important community assets.	Moved to Land Use Element Policy 15.4
20.5	Provide recreation and leisure time programs and facilities that afford equal opportunities for use by all Mercer Island residents while considering the needs of non-Mercer Island residents.	<p><b>Goal 5:</b> Provide a variety of recreation programs, services, and facilities that promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities.</p> <p><b>Objective 5.2:</b> Enhance the diversity of recreation programs offered, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a wide range of users and adhere to the guidelines established in the Recreation Reset Strategy.</p> <p><b>Objective 5.5:</b> Identify and address recreation and service accessibility barriers (socio-economic, language, physical, mental health, geographic, transportation). Seek to reduce access barriers and expand inclusive opportunities. Implement diversity, equity and inclusion policies and a priority matrix to guide the allocation of resources to address known service gaps over time.</p> <p><b>Objective 1.6:</b> Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels, and ages as appropriate and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design. Seek opportunities to eliminate barriers at existing facilities and address goals identified in the Citywide ADA Transition Plan.</p>
20.6	Provide a system of attractive, safe, and functional parks, and park facilities.	<b>Goal 2:</b> Provide the Mercer Island community with safe, well-maintained parks and recreation facilities.

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20.7	Preserve natural and developed open space environments and trails for the benefit of all existing and future generations.	<p><b>Goal 3:</b> Provide a high quality, diversified open space system that preserves and enhances urban forests, critical habitat, and other environmental resources. Incorporate sustainability practices into operations, maintenance, and planning.</p> <p><b>Goal 4:</b> Develop and promote an interconnected community through safe, accessible, and attractive trails and pathways easily accessed by a variety of trail users.</p>
20.8	Provide a broad representation of public art through cooperation with the Mercer Island Arts Council.	<p><b>Goal 6:</b> Facilitate and promote comprehensive and engaging arts and culture experiences.</p> <p>Also see all objectives under Goal 6 in the PROS Plan.</p>
20.9	Funding for existing facilities should be a top priority and should be provided at a level necessary to sustain and enhance parks, trails and open space consistent with the PROS Plan, and the Capital Facilities Element.	<p><b>Goal 7:</b> Encourage and support community engagement and pursue collaborative partnerships to strengthen and grow parks and recreation programs and services.</p> <p><b>Goal 8:</b> Provide leadership and sufficient resources to maintain and operate a welcoming, efficient, safe, and sustainable parks and recreation system.</p> <p><b>Objective 1.8:</b> Pursue and implement strategies to maximize use of existing park and recreation assets.</p> <p><b>Objective 8.2:</b> Pursue sufficient financial resources to ensure a vibrant and well-maintained parks and recreation system.</p>

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20.10	Promptly investigate open space acquisition opportunities as they become available.	<p><b>Objective 1.9:</b> Prepare a Land Acquisition Strategy to prioritize property acquisition to meet the future parks, trails, open space, and facility needs of the Mercer Island community.</p> <p><b>Objective 1.11:</b> Partner with public, private, and non-profit organizations and donors to acquire land for park and recreation needs.</p> <p><b>Objective 1.12:</b> When evaluating the vacation of any right-of-way, consider its appropriateness for use as public park or open space.</p> <p><b>Objective 2.4:</b> Estimate the maintenance costs and staffing levels associated with land acquisition, development, or renovation of facilities, parks, open space, or trails, and ensure adequate ongoing funding is available prior to action.</p>
20.11	When considering the purchase of land to add to community open space, prioritize the purchase and preservation of wetlands and stream headwaters.	<p><b>Objective 3.8:</b> Encourage conservation opportunities to buffer and enhance the built environment. Pursue low-cost and non-purchase options to preserve open space and park land, including the use of conservation easements and development covenants. Promote and encourage private property owners to enroll in the King County Current Use taxation programs, emphasizing properties contiguous to existing open space.</p>

Policy #	Current Comprehensive Plan Goal	2022 PROS Plan Reference <sup>1,2</sup>
20.12	Pursue state and federal grant funding for parks and open space improvements.	<p><b>Goal 8:</b> Provide leadership and sufficient resources to maintain and operate a welcoming, efficient, safe, and sustainable parks and recreation system.</p> <p><b>Objective 8.2:</b> Pursue sufficient financial resources to ensure a vibrant and well-maintained parks and recreation system.</p> <p><b>Objective 8.3:</b> Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities.</p>
20.13	Support the conservation of private property on Mercer Island through the use of conservation tools and programs including, but not limited to, the King County Public Benefit Rating System and Transfer of Development Right programs.	Moved to Land Use Element Policy 19.10

Notes:

1. This review of the PROS Plan for comparison is not exhaustive. There may be additional objectives in the PROS Plan that address topics in existing Comprehensive Plan policies.
2. Where PROS Plan goals address Land Use Element policies, staff recommend striking the Land Use Element policy because the PROS Plan is more specific. Policies that cover a topic not addressed by PROS Plan goals are proposed to be relocated within the Land Use Element as noted.