# **CBJ** Parks Inventory

July 22, 2018





## 1. Introduction

The City and Borough (CBJ) of Juneau Parks & Recreation Department (Parks & Rec) has substantial and varied land holdings; over 6,000 acres of City land is controlled by the Department. This parkland varies from programmed parks to large, vacant parcels. Juneau is situated within the Tongass National Forest, and is surrounded by natural areas. The CBJ, United States Forest Service (USFS) and the State of Alaska manage and control natural areas and parklands in and around Juneau. The CBJ park system includes programmed parks, maintained natural areas, undeveloped lands, and conservation areas. The purpose of this document is to classify CBJ park lands, identify gaps in the CBJ park system, evaluate the condition of programmed parks, and establish priorities for future parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects.

Parks provide aesthetic, environmental, public health, and recreation benefits. They also generate economic benefits in the form of increased property values in nearby neighborhoods, and by contributing to the quality of life that keeps skilled workers in Juneau; parks also support the visitor economy as venues for various tour offerings and visitor attractions. Parks are places for the public to socialize, participate in structured and unstructured recreation, and access and experience nature. Although Juneau is surrounded by natural areas, parks make those areas accessible to all residents and offer opportunities for people of all ages and socio-economic statuses to gather and enjoy public amenities.

Juneau is a remote community within the Tongass National Forest and is surrounded by public wilderness areas. While residents enjoy the resources afforded by these vast surrounding natural areas, it is important to preserve certain urban areas for protection of habitat and of natural resources. Natural area parks with programming such as cabins, trails, campsites, and picnic areas connect all residents to nature and allow people of all ages and abilities to experience natural areas. Natural area parks also improve quality of life, giving residents a nearby venue to engage in nature-based recreation.

Trails provide access and opportunities for diverse recreational activities; fostering community involvement and an opportunity to interact with neighbors of varying backgrounds and experiences. Trails located near to one's home or place of work are accessible to all ages and incomes, and provide healthy recreation opportunities to those who cannot afford expensive equipment or gym memberships. Activities such as walking, running, cycling, and cross country skiing are all relatively inexpensive, unstructured activities, providing accessible recreation for all. Trails that connect neighborhoods enhance community life by facilitating healthy, environmentally friendly transportation. Trails also stimulate the economy by attracting visitors interested in nature based activities and by contributing to quality of life for local workers as well as increasing the value of nearby properties.

Parks are vital in ensuring the health of our environment because they play a critical role in preserving healthy ecosystems, providing clear water and clean air, and enabling conservation of natural resources. By designating conservation areas, CBJ protects wetlands, stream corridors, and other environmentally sensitive areas. Parks & Rec manages conservation areas and natural area parks for public use and environmental conservation for the benefit of the public and the resources. Parks & Rec provides signage and programming to educate and interpret the value of conservation to the public, connect children and youth to nature and the outdoors, and coordinate environmental stewardship with other public and non-profit entities.

It is CBJ's responsibility to provide a high level of service to the public. Ensuring proper maintenance of public amenities like parks contributes to public health and the local economy. The purpose of this report is to update existing classifications, classify new Juneau parklands and evaluate park distribution – answering the question, "Do we have the right parks in the right places with the right equipment?" This report also summarizes the condition of all programmed parks and assigns a 1-10 score to each. The condition score, along with survey data on level of use, then informs the priorities for future park Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs).

## 2. Parkland Classifications

Parks are grouped into two broad categories, Recreation Service Parks and Natural Area Parks. Recreation service parks are programmed for various activities and may contain built features such as playground equipment and sports fields. Natural Area Parks may include some amenities such as shelters or picnic tables, but their primary purpose is to support users' enjoyment of their natural surroundings. These two categories are further classified into park types based on size and intended use.

## **Recreation Service Parks**

Recreation Service Parks include parks developed for active recreation and programmed use and may be a single use or activity area. Examples of Recreation Service Parks of different sizes include Bonnie Brae Park (a mini-park), Capital School Park (a neighborhood park), and Savikko Park (a community park). The Juneau Community Garden or Hank Harmon Rifle Range are examples of single use facilities that would be categorized as special use areas. Community gardens and dog parks can be found in all types of recreation service parks and can also exist as stand-alone facilities. Specific descriptions of the types of Recreation Service Parks are as follows:

#### Mini-Parks

**Definition:** Specialized facilities that serve a local population or a specific user group such as very young children or senior citizens. Mini-parks are small in size (typically less than one acre) and often encompass only a single residential lot. Facilities are typically limited to a small open area, a children's playground, and a bench or picnic table. A nearby school playground, if appropriately designed and available for this type of use, can often substitute for a mini-park facility outside of school hours. Some mini-parks are not children's play areas and are designed as small neighborhood gathering spaces.

**Management Intent:** Mini-parks are intended to provide close to home opportunities to young children, senior citizens, or those who are unable to travel further for open space and unstructured activities.

**Standard:** 5-10 minutes travel time and/or a population of 1,000-2,000.

## **Development Criteria:**

- 1. Appropriate facilities include:
  - Children's playground facilities
  - Open (preferably grassy) play areas
  - Picnic tables or benches
- 2. Desirable site characteristics
  - The site should be centrally located to the area it serves and be relatively level
  - The site should be walking distance for neighborhood residents, and not require crossing of busy streets



Photo 1: Mendenhaven Park (Mini-Park)

## **CBJ Managed Mini-Parks:**

Park	Location	Size (acres)
Bishop Kenny Memorial Peace Park	Downtown	0.07
Bonnie Brae Park	North Douglas	0.2
Cathedral Park	Downtown	0.1
Chicken Yard Park	Downtown	0.2
Douglas Mini Park	Douglas	0.19
Mendenhaven Park	Mendenhall Valley	1.4
S'it'tuwan Park	Mendenhall Valley	0.3
Sigoowu Ye	Lemon Creek	0.23
Steelhead Park	Back Loop/Auke Bay	4.75
Telephone Hill Park	Downtown	0.23
West Juneau Rotary Park	Douglas	0.52

## Neighborhood Parks

**Definition:** Neighborhood parks are intended to offer experiences for all ages and are designed to provide unstructured play areas. A portion of the parcel may be intensely developed but areas for natural open space should be available. These units are day use only facilities.

**Management Intent:** Neighborhood parks are intended to serve a neighborhood and provide a variety of structured or unstructured recreational opportunities for children and adults. Facilities are primarily designed for individual and group activities, but generally do not include facilities for field sports.

**Standard:** 5-10 minutes travel time and/or a population of 3,000 - 6,000.

## **Development Criteria:**

- Construction of a neighborhood park should occur when the area it serves reaches 60% of planned development (measured either by acreage developed or population accommodated, whichever occurs first).
- 2. At least 50% of the site should be flat and usable, and provide space for both active and passive uses.
- 3. Appropriate facilities include:
  - a. Children's playground with seating available nearby
  - b. Unstructured open play area
  - c. Paved games court
  - d. Tennis courts
  - e. Picnic areas
  - f. Shelter building
  - g. Restrooms
  - h. Areas for skateboards, bicycles
  - i. Parking to support the use of the facilities
  - j. Dog parks
- 4. Desirable site characteristics
  - a. The site should be reasonably central to the neighborhood it is intended to serve
  - b. Good bicycle and pedestrian routes to the site should be available and access routes should avoid crossing major arterials
  - c. The site should be relatively visible from adjoining streets.
  - d. Access to the site should be via a local residential street. If located on a busy street, incorporate buffers and/or barriers necessary to reduce vehicular hazards and noise.



Photo 2: Capital School Park (Neighborhood Park)

## **CBJ Managed Neighborhood Parks:**

Park	Location	Size (acres)
Capital School Park	Downtown	0.89
Lena Park	Auke Bay/Out the Road	3.82
Riverside Rotary Park	Mendenhall Valley	8.5
Twin Lakes Park	Salmon Creek	69.46

## **Community Parks**

**Definition:** A community park is a larger park providing active and structured recreation activities for youth and adults. Generally a community park designed for organized activities and sports and contains playing fields, although natural areas may be included depending on the suitability of the site. Indoor recreation facilities may also be appropriate in a community park setting, supporting a wider range of recreation interests. Community parks typically serve a much larger area and offer more facilities than neighborhood parks. The recommended service radius for a park of this type is 15-20 minutes travel time.

**Management Intent:** Community parks are intended to be used for active recreation activities and are often highly developed and programmed. Facilities may be designed for sports and organized activities, but individual and family activities are also encouraged. Levels of social contact and interaction are high. Management of these areas is intensive and should comply with a management plan. Community parks are day use only.

**Standard:** 15-20 minutes travel time and/or a population of 4,000 - 10,000.

#### **Development Criteria:**

- Acquisition of community park sites should occur far in advance of actual need so that adequate land is available. Development should occur when the service area reaches about 70% developed.
- At least two-thirds of the site should be available for active recreation use.
- 3. Appropriate facilities include
  - a. Ballfields softball, baseball, soccer, etc.
  - b. Outdoor basketball, volleyball courts
  - c. Tennis courts
  - d. Open free play area
  - e. Restrooms
  - f. Picnic facilities (including shelters)
  - g. Trail/pathway systems
  - h. Indoor recreation facility
  - i. Space for special outdoor events
  - j. Children's playground (if needed to serve the neighborhood)
  - k. Areas for skateboards, bicycles
  - I. Parking sufficient to support the activities programmed on the site
- 4. Desirable site characteristics
  - a. The site should be reasonably central to the area it is intended to serve
  - b. The park should be located on an arterial or collector street with access to public transit
  - c. A landscaped setback should be used to buffer active use areas from residential areas if needed.
  - d. Environmentally sensitive areas can be a part of this type of park if the layout and management protects that area from overuse or degradations of the sensitive values.



Photo 3: Savikko Park (Community Park)

## **CBJ Managed Community Parks:**

Park	Location	Size (acres)
Aant'iyek Park	Auke Bay/Out the Road	151.17
Adair Kennedy Memorial Park	Mendenhall Valley	6.0
Cope Park	Downtown	9.5
Dimond Park	Mendenhall Valley	57.6
Melvin Park	Mendenhall Valley	8.0
Savikko Park	Douglas	20

## Special Use Areas

## **Definition:**

Special use areas are public recreation lands being used for a specialized or single-use facility or activity that does not fit into any of the other categories. Examples of Special Use Areas in Juneau are the Community Garden, Hank Harmon Rifle Range, and Homestead Park.

**Management Intent:** Management varies between areas. Some Special Use Areas are managed independently by local non-profit organizations; others are maintained and managed by Parks & Rec. For the purposes of this inventory, tourism is considered a special use and parks primarily used by visitors and tour groups are considered special use areas.



Photo 4: Channel Wayside Park (Special Use Area)

## **CBJ Managed Special Use Areas:**

Park	Location	Size (acres)
Auke Lake Wayside	Auke Bay	4.63
Channel Wayside Park	Salmon Creek	1.27
Gunakadeit Park	Downtown	0.07
Hank Harmon Rifle Range	Mendenhall Valley/Back Loop	3.0
Homestead Park	Douglas	1.7
Jackie Renniger Park (The Pipeline)	Mendenhall Valley	4.57
Juneau Archery Range	Mendenhall Valley/Back Loop	2.5
Juneau Community Garden	Mendenhall Valley/Back Look	6.0
Marine Park	Downtown	0.7
Overstreet Park	Downtown	1.07

## **Natural Area Parks**

Natural Area Parks differ from Recreation Service Parks in their underlying purpose. Natural Area Parks are areas of natural quality designed to serve the entire community by providing open space, access to water, and opportunities for more passive and dispersed recreation activities. There are two types of Natural Area Parks, less programmed Semi-Primitive Areas and programmed and staffed Developed Natural Areas. Outer Point is an example of a semi-primitive area and the Eagle Valley Center is an example of a Developed Natural Area

A high quality park system offers a diverse set of opportunities. Preferences for these types of opportunities vary from undeveloped areas to developed areas with picnic facilities and highly maintained trails systems. Providing a range of options within this type of park designation will help to further enhance the Juneau Park System and create recreational opportunities for a variety of user types.

Natural areas retain and filter storm water, serve as buffers between incompatible land uses, lend definition to neighborhood areas, provide links between residential areas, parks, and schools, and protect wildlife and fish habitat while preserving recreation opportunities close to home.

The Juneau area has been the home of the Tlingit and Haida people for hundreds of years. While archaeological documentation indicates that the area has been inhabited for as long as 750 - 900 years, traditional sources suggest use and habitation of this area for much longer. The area contains many sacred sites and features that should be protected from interference, including intentional and unintentional destruction and culturally insensitive development.

Though the location of most of these sites remains confidential, CBJ recognizes that the unintentional destruction of significant cultural features and artifacts, which can result from a simple lack of information, would threaten the sustainability of traditional values and relationships to the land. Many publicly known sites are located in lands managed by Parks & Rec.

It remains critical to protect the sacred sites in Juneau and the surrounding area. An example of a culturally significant site to protect is Indian Point/Auke Cape. The Juneau Native Community has engaged in long term efforts to protect this sacred site from development and has nominated the site to the National Register for inclusion. Indian Point/Auke Cape has also been identified in the Auke Bay Area Plan, which recommends that the site be formally protected from development. The 1997 Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan recommended a cultural park at the site. This recommendation is not in the interest of the Juneau Native Community and this updated plan recommends the area should be preserved in its natural state. Parks & Rec should continue to work with the Juneau Native Community to identify and protect parklands that contain sacred sites.

#### Semi-Primitive Areas

**Definition:** An area left predominately in its natural state with minimal to moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of people. Activities are primarily unstructured types of recreation with high potential for interaction with the natural environment. Concentration of users may be low to moderate. These areas vary in size and are meant to serve the entire community.

**Management Intent:** Area will be managed to provide low to moderate densities with facilities sometimes provided for group activities. Facilities are primarily provided for visitor safety and

resource protection, although some may be for the convenience of the users. The primary focus of the park is its natural setting. Management will occur to a moderate extent. Recreational camping is site specific and permitted where appropriate. Vehicle camping should be regulated to designated areas.

## **Development Criteria:**

- 1. Size will be dependent upon the site itself and the features offered.
- 2. Design and manage these types of areas for a higher sense of solitude than other park types.
- 3. Improvements should be in harmony with the natural environment.
- 4. Possible facilities include:
  - a. Trails
  - b. Viewpoints
  - c. Covered picnic shelter/picnic tables
  - d. Interpretive panels
  - e. Restrooms
  - f. Campsites/fire rings
  - g. Dispersed camping where permitted
- 5. Parking and overall use should be limited to the numbers and types of visitors the area is intended to accommodate, while retaining its natural character at the intended use level.
- 6. Location criteria:
  - a. Location is most often determined by the natural features it can offer.
  - b. Environmentally sensitive areas can be appropriate if protected from overuse and impacts on sensitive values.



Photo 5: Outer Point Park (Semi-Primitive Area)

## **CBJ Managed Semi-Primitive Areas**

Park	Location	Size (acres)
Bridget Cove Natural Area Park	Out the Road	358
Brotherhood Park	Mendenhall Valley	315
False Outer Point	North Douglas	7.74
Fish Creek Park	North Douglas	56
Kingfisher Pond	Lemon Creek	2.27
Lena Point Rotary Park	Out the Road	29.24
Nancy Street Wetlands	Mendenhall Valley	6.02
Outer Point	North Douglas	240
Sunshine Cove Natural Area Park	Out the Road	36
Treadwell Mine Historic Park	Douglas	71.75

## **Developed Natural Areas**

**Definition:** A natural setting where evidence of people is obvious but blends in with the natural environment. Uses are primarily passive recreation activities, and areas for group use may be provided. Facilities are for the comfort and convenience of visitors. These areas are intended to serve the entire community. Size may vary by the parcel should be large enough to accommodate group use without compromising the character of the area.

**Management Intent:** Area will be managed to provide opportunities for groups and individuals in a predominately natural setting. Facilities are designed for use by large numbers of people. Moderate to high densities of groups and individuals are provided for in developed areas. Moderate densities are provided away from developed sites. Onsite management and regulation is necessary.

## **Development Criteria:**

- 1. Size will be dependent upon the site itself and the features offered but should be large enough to accommodate moderate to high use
- 2. Improvements should:
  - a. Accommodate large groups and individuals
  - b. Be easily accessible
  - c. Be designed to blend in with the natural environment
- 3. Possible facilities include:
  - a. Trails: high-use, multi-purpose, ADA accessible
  - b. Viewpoints
  - c. Covered picnic shelters
  - d. Interpretive center or museum
  - e. Cabins, lodges, or other accommodation
  - f. Caretaker facilities
  - g. Restrooms
  - h. Campsites/fire rings
  - i. Dispersed camping where permitted
- 4. Location criteria:
  - a. Location is most often determined by the natural features of the site.

- b. Access should be from an arterial street if traffic volumes are high or from public transit
- c. Parking facilities will be dependent upon type of activities offered. Adequate space should be reserved for full park build-out.



Photo 6: Jensen-Olson Arboretum (Developed Natural Area)

## **Developed Natural Area Parks Managed by CBJ:**

Park	Location	Size (acres)
Eagle Valley Center	Out the Road	113.65
Jensen-Olson Arboretum	Out the Road	9.1

#### Trails and Beach Accesses

Trails and are found within Recreation Service Parks, Natural Area Parks, and in other areas of the community. Trails are managed in partnership with state and federal agencies and are maintained by Trail Mix, a non-profit organization that was founded to maintain all of Juneau's trails, regardless of jurisdiction.

**Definition:** Trails are designed to provide walking, bicycling and other non-motorized recreation opportunities. They provide linkages to other areas and facilities and offer non-vehicular options for travel throughout the community. Natural trails provide options for travel to more remote areas or to the waterfront. Trails can be designed for single or multiple types of users. Bike routes with more emphasis on transportation are included in the 2009 Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

**Management Intent:** Trails should be located, designed, and maintained to produce a minimum impact on the land, and managed to provide a safe and pleasing experience for the users. A variety of trail types that include varying levels of difficulty and types of uses, summer and winter availability, accessibility and linkages, will be provided within each geographic area.

Trails should be managed to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Trail Standards. Management of trails may differ by trail type. ADA accessible trails in more programmed parks will generally be

developed to a higher level to accommodate greater numbers of users of all abilities. Trails within Recreation Service Parks will be managed to match the intent of the particular park unit in which it is located. Trails will typically be found in natural areas. Development will be in harmony with the surrounding area. If a trail is located within a Natural Area Park, it should not be developed beyond the intended development level of the park. A trail can be developed to a lesser degree than the level intended for the park where it is located.

Beach accesses are trails maintained by CBJ that provide public access to shoreline areas. Beach accesses should be maintained to be passable, trail type and difficulty should be evaluated on a case by case basis and assigned a trail type based on the USFS Trail Standards.

## **Development Criteria:**

- 1. Whenever possible, recreation trails should be separated from a street or roadway.
- Preferably, trails should be looped and interconnected to provide a variety of trail lengths and destinations. A connected trail system should link various parts of the community, schools, and park sites. Connections to public transit stops where possible is also desirable.
- 3. Developers should be encouraged to provide pathways through proposed development, where such improvements would provide needed linkages between trail routes and access to public destinations and transit stops.
- 4. Trails should be located and designed to provide a diversity of challenges. Accessibility should be enhanced whenever appropriate.
- 5. Trail alignments should take into account soil conditions, steep slopes, surface drainage, and other physical limitations that could increase construction costs, maintenance costs, or both.
- 6. Centralized and effective staging areas should be provided for trail access. This would include adequate parking, orientation, information, and other facilities at trailheads.
- Trails should be managed in partnership with other agencies and works should be conducted by project, not by land ownership (i.e. if a trail runs across multiple jurisdictions, needed works should not stop at a property boundary).
- 8. Trails should be evaluated and managed to the USFS Trail Standards.

## **Development Criteria within Recreation Service Parks or Neighborhoods:**

- 1. Paved trails should be planned, sized, and designed so as not to exceed the level of intended use of the park area.
- 2. Trail construction should adhere to U.S. Forest Service *Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives* (2016).



Photo 7: Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail

## Trails Managed in whole or in part by CBJ:

Trail	Location	Length
Airport Dike Trail	Mendenhall Valley	1.0
Anne Coleman Beach Access	Auke Bay	0.1
Auke Lake Trail	Out the Road	1.2
Auke Nu Drive Beach Access	Out the Road	0.1
Blackerby Ridge	Salmon Creek	2.8
Blueberry Trail	Auke Bay	0.6
Bluff Trail	Bluff Trail	0.6
Boy Scout Beach	Out the Road	2.4
Breadline Bluff	Out the Road	1.5
Christopher Trail	Downtown	TBM*
Dan Bishop Aquatic Education	Auke Bay	0.5
Dzantik'Heeni Loop	Lemon Creek	0.6
Eagle Harbor Trail	Out the Road	TBM
False Outer Point	North Douglas	0.5
Favorite Channel Beach Access	Out the Road	0.1
Fish Creek Access North Side	North Douglas	0.5
Fish Creek Access South Side	North Douglas	0.5
Fish Creek Trail	North Douglas	2.3
Fivemile Creek Beach Access	North Douglas	0.1
Gastineau Meadows	Douglas	0.8
Glory Hole Overlook	Douglas	0.4
Heintzleman Ridge	Mendenhall Valley	2.6
Horse Tram	Out the Road	1.2

Jordan Creek Aquatic Education Trail	Mendenhall Valley	0.1
Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei	Mendenhall Valley	2.8
Kayak Beach Trail	Out the Road	TBM
Kingfisher Pond Nature Loop	Lemon Creek	TBM
Lemon Creek	Lemon Creek	5.0
Lena Point	Out the Road	TBM
Mendenhall Peninsula	Mendenhall Valley/Auke Bay	1.3
Mendenhall River Horse Trail	Mendenhall Valley	2.1
Mendenhall Wetlands Access	Mendenhall Valley	0.1
Mine Camp Ruins	Downtown	0.2
Minnie Field Home Beach Access	Out the Road	0.1
Montana Creek	Mendenhall Valley/Back Loop	9.8
Mt. Jumbo	Douglas	2.8
Nine Mile Beach Access	North Douglas	0.1
Nine Mile Creek Beach Access	North Douglas	0.1
North Bridget Cove Beach Access	Out the Road	0.1
North Tee Harbor	Out the Road	0.4
Outer Point	North Douglas	1.2
Pearl Harbor Beach Access	Out the Road	0.1
Perched Rock		0.1
Perseverance	Downtown	3.1
Pt. Caroline (Arboretum)	Out the Road	0.2
Rainforest Trail	North Douglas	1.1
Red Mill	Downtown	1.0
Salt Chuck access	Out the Road	2.0
Smuggler's Cove Beach Access	Out the Road	0.1
South Bridget Cove	Out the Road	0.1
South Tee Harbor	Out the Road	TBM
Sunshine Cove	Out the Road	TBM
Switzer/Marriott Aquatic Education	Lemon Creek	1.7
(includes DZ access trail)		
The Flume	Downtown	1.0
Thunder Mountain	Lemon Creek	TBM
Treadwell Ditch/ Douglas	Douglas	14
Treadwell Ditch/ Blueberry Hills	Douglas	0.3
Treadwell Ditch/ Bonnie Brae	North Douglas	1.7
Treadwell Historic Mine Site	Douglas	2.9
Under Thunder	Mendenhall Valley	1.9

<sup>\*</sup>To be measured

## **Conservation Areas**

**Definition:** A natural area with recognized environmental qualities of high value, set aside for the protection and management of the natural environment with recreation as a secondary objective. These may be islands, shorelines, stream corridors, greenbelts, or high value wetlands.

**Management Intent:** Area will not be managed beyond occasional monitoring for resource damage and potential impacts. At such time as a recreation use becomes more prevalent, a

parcel should be moved into an appropriate category for management. The 1986 West Mendenhall Valley Greenbelt Plan describes the purpose and function of greenbelts and open space as follows:

- Preservation of natural areas encompassing a diversity of productive, sensitive or attractive natural habitat and phenomena, which can be accessed and enjoyed by all citizens.
- 2. Protection of highly scenic river, stream, and lakeside corridors within a dramatic mountain landscape which are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike
- 3. Provision of a major recreation resource offering a variety of activities including active use such as hiking, walking, bicycling, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and fishing; and passive pursuits such as birding and simple enjoyment of scenery.
- 4. Encompassing lands which in many instances are ill suited to urban development by virtue of topography, wetlands, flooding, and ongoing erosion.
- 5. Formation of significant open spaces which allow intervening development, both present and future, the benefit of proximal beauty, quietness, and a natural setting.
- 6. Continuation of access to the scenic lands and waters encompassed in the greenbelt to all citizens, regardless of economic status.
- 7. Allowance for alternative means for non-vehicular travel which in many instances offer safer, more scenic and more direct routes than the use of roads and highways offer such users.
- 8. Demonstration that past development practices in Juneau which ignored or locked up such scenic and productive lands and waters can be reversed, and actions taken which demonstrate the community's far reaching vision for its future good.
- 9. Provision of an integrated system with linkages rather than isolated notes, unconnected trails or activity centers.

**CBJ Managed Conservation Areas\*:** 

Park	Location	Size
Amalga Harbor - Salt Lake	Out the Road	
Amalga Harbor Island	Out the Road	
Amalga Meadows Park	Out the Road	
Auke Bay Island	Auke Bay	
Bridget Creek Greenbelt	Out the Road	
Cowee Creek Greenbelt	Out the Road	
Davies Creek Greenbelt	Out the Road	
Eagle Creek Greenbelt	Out the Road	
Eagle Harbor Shoreline	Out the Road	
Eagle River Shoreline	Out the Road	
East Auke Lake Shoreline	Auke Bay	
Eleven-Mile Creek	North Douglas	
Falls Creek Greenbelt	North Douglas	
Favorite Channel Shoreline	Out the Road	
Fish Creek Greenbelt	North Douglas	
Gastineau Ch. Shoreline (S. of Douglas)	Douglas	
Gastineau Ch. Shoreline (Tip of Douglas)	Douglas	
Grant Creek Greenbelt	North Douglas	
Hendrickson Creek	North Douglas	
Hilda Creek Greenbelt	Douglas	
Indian Cove Island	Auke Bay	

Indian Point Shoreline	Auke Bay
Johnson Creek Greenbelt	North Douglas
Lawson Creek Greenbelt	Douglas
Lemon Creek Trail Corridor	Douglas
Lena Cove Shoreline Access	Out the Road
Loop Road Pond	Out the Road
Mab Island	Out the Road
Middle Creek Greenbelt	Douglas
Montana Creek Greenbelt	Mendenhall Valley
Montana Creek Recreation Area	Mendenhall Valley
Neilson Creek Greenbelt	North Douglas
Paris Creek Greenbelt	Douglas
Peterson Creek Greenbelt	Out the Road
Point Hilda	Douglas
Point Stephens Shoreline	Out the Road
Point Stephens Shoreline Access	Out the Road
Shaman Island	North Douglas
Shrine Creek Greenbelt	Out the Road
Smuggler's Cove Shoreline	Auke Bay
Spaulding Trail Trailhead & Corridor	Auke Bay
Spuhn Island	Auke Bay
Switzer Creek Greenbelt	Lemon Creek

<sup>\*</sup>List may be incomplete; all conservation areas controlled by CBJ may not be labelled.

#### Vacant/Other Lands

Vacant/other sites are lands that are controlled by Parks & Recreation and classified as Natural Area Parks, but which do not fit the criteria for semi-primitive areas, developed natural areas, or conservation areas. If such sites are within the urban service boundary; contain buildable lands; and do not have a clear public recreation use (i.e. a trail), these sites may be candidates for future reclassification or disposal.

## **Vacant/Other Areas Meeting Reclassification Criteria:**

Fish Creek – Vacant lands between semi-primitive park area and Bayview neighborhood
Mendenhall Peninsula – Residential lots on Fritz Cove and Engineer's Cutoff roads
Mendenhall Peninsula – Vacant lands at tip of peninsula
Tee Harbor – Outer edges of north and south peninsulas

## Parks Not Managed by CBJ

Alaska State Parks and the USFS also manage parklands in the Juneau area. Both also operate rentable cabins across the local landscape. Much of the USFS activity is concentrated around the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, which includes a visitor's center, multiple trail networks, and a campground which doubles as a cross country ski facility in the winter. USFS cabins are scattered throughout the borough. The USFS also operates an additional campground and picnic sites at Auke Rec and Lena Beach. Alaska State Parks operates a day use area and cabins at Eagle Beach, and more remote cabin facilities at Point Bridget State Park. Smaller sites include Ernest Gruening State Park and Wickersham State Historic Site.

Alaska State Parks		
Park	Location	Size (acres)
Point Bridget State Park	Out the Road	TBM
Eagle Beach Recreation Area	Out the Road	25
Ernest Gruening State Historical Park	Out the Road	TBM
Wickersham State Historic	Downtown	0.22
Site		
USFS Park and Recreation Sites		
Park	Location	Size (acres)
Mendenhall Glacier	Mendenhall Valley	5815
Recreation Area	·	
Auke Rec Picnic Site	Auke Bay	TBM
Auk Village Campground	Auke Bay	TBM
Lena Beach Picnic Site	Out the Road	29

## 3. Park Evaluation and Descriptions

During the summer of 2017, CBJ Parks & Rec and Engineering staff conducted site visits of all Recreation Service Parks, Developed Natural Areas, and Semi-Primitive Areas. Parks were evaluated for general appearance and function, condition of equipment and features, and repairs or improvements needed. Individual park elements were assigned a 1-10 (low to high) condition score, and these scores were combined to assign a condition percentage and letter grade for the entire park, see Section 5 for more detail. This evaluation and ranking of the condition of CBJ parks will help inform priorities for future parks CIP projects. Programmed CBJ parks are described below by type.

## **Recreation Service Parks**

## Mini-parks

## **Bishop Kenny Memorial Peace Park**

• Location: Downtown, 134 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

Size: 0.07 acresCondition Score: 8.6

• Amenities: Picnic tables with chess boards, benches

• Description: Small urban pocket park located at the corner of Seward and Second Streets, consisting of paving stones, tables and benches. Park in good repair and is primarily used as a lunch location for people working in the office buildings nearby. The park was named for Bishop Michael Kenny who served from 1979 – 1995.

## **Bonnie Brae Park**

Location: North Douglas, 1103 Wee Burn Street

Size: 0.2 acresCondition Score: 7.6

• Amenities: Playground, picnic table

 Description: Neighborhood mini park located in the Bonnie Brae subdivision with play structures and gravel surfacing. Potential upgrades include ADA accessible surfacing and play structures aimed at small children.



Photo 8: Bonnie Brae Park

## **Cathedral Park**

• Location: Downtown, 340 5<sup>th</sup> St.

Size: 0.1 acresCondition Score: 6

Amenities: Picnic tables, benches

 Description: Downtown park located at the corner of Fifth and Gold Streets with benches and picnic tables. A slide and other play structures were removed, but the supports remain. The purpose of this park needs to be re-evaluated and future renovations should include removal of remnants of play structures.

#### **Chicken Yard Park**

• Location: Downtown, 635 6<sup>th</sup> St.

Size: 0.2 acres

Condition Score: 4.2

Amenities: Playground, community garden, basketball hoop, bench, tables and chairs.

Description: This mini park serves the Starr Hill community and consists of a basketball hoop, small play structure, belt swings and a community garden. Equipment is 30 years old and has reached the end of its useful life. The lower retaining wall is in poor condition and may become a safety hazard. A driveway to a home runs through the park, creating liability concerns. The park needs to be redesigned and rebuilt to address this issue and to include new equipment that meets safety standards.

## **Douglas Mini Park**

Location: Douglas, 7294<sup>th</sup> St.

Size: 0.19 acresCondition Score: 7.5Amenities: Fruiting forest

 Description: This small open area park was underused and converted into a "food forest" in 2016. The park features strawberries, raspberries, currants, herbs, rhubarb, salmonberries, serviceberries, gooseberries and garlic. Community members are welcome to plant annual vegetables and are encouraged to responsibly harvest the fruit.



Photo 9: Douglas Mini Park

#### **Mendenhaven Park**

Location: Mendenhall Valley, 4218 Mendenhall Boulevard

Size: 1.4 acres

Condition Score: 6.4

• Amenities: Playground, picnic table, open grassy area, gravel parking area

Description: Located along Duck Creek off of Mendenhall Boulevard, this mini park serves local neighborhoods and offers a large open grassy area, picnic table and playground. Playground equipment includes, belt swings, tot swings, and a play structure with slides and rubber fall surfacing. The parking lot needs improvement and the access trail has drainage issues and would benefit from resurfacing. A grill near the picnic tables would be an easy enhancement.

## Sigoowu Ye

• Location: Lemon Creek, 5921 Pine Street

Size: 0.3 acresCondition Score: 7

• Amenities: Semi-enclosed playground, picnic tables

Description: Small fenced park with play equipment, picnic tables, and bike racks. The
park is in good condition and the fence was recently repaired.



Photo 10: Sigoowu Ye Park

#### S'It'Tuwan Park

Location: Mendenhall Valley, 4500 Kanat'a Street

Size: 0.23 acresCondition Score: 6.9

Amenities: Playground, basketball court, lighting

• Description: S'It'Tuwan, which means "beside the glacier" in Tlingit, is a mini park which serves the local neighborhood. The park offers a small basketball court, benches and a playground featuring a slide, climber, teeter totter and rubber surfacing. The park was constructed by a developer and the layout is not ideal but no major repairs are needed.

#### Steelhead Park

Location: Mendenhall Valley, 4878 Steelhead Street

Size: 4.75 acresCondition Score: 4.5

• Amenities: Small playground, undeveloped forest

 Description: Located at the end of Steelhead Street, this mini-park features sand surfacing, a swing set, climbing structure a slide and on street parking. This park was constructed by the developer of the surrounding neighborhood and the equipment is not adequately planned and not ADA accessible.

## **Telephone Hill Park**

• Location: Downtown, 124 Dixon Street

Size: 0.23 acresCondition Score: 7.6

Amenities: Benches, cedar pergola

 Description: This park sits on the hill above the Downtown Transit Center and offers views of Gastineau Channel. The park features benches and a cedar pergola. The park attracts illicit behavior and is difficult to enforce and keep clean. The ramp from the bus loop is greater than 8% for ADA accessible.

## **West Juneau Rotary Park**

Location: Douglas, 2681 David Street

Size: 0.52 acresCondition Score: 8.2

• Amenities: Playground, benches, picnic tables, grills, paved parking lot.

 Description: West Juneau Rotary Park is a mini park serving the surrounding neighborhood and featuring a playground and grill area. The park is well laid out and the equipment is in good condition.

## Neighborhood Parks

## **Capital School Park**

Location: Downtown, 521 Seward Street

Size: 0.89 acresCondition Score: 4.4

- Amenities: Playground, tot lot, basketball court, picnic tables, Empty Chair Memorial, drinking fountain, seasonal portable restroom, paved parking
- Description: Capital School Park features picnic tables, open space, a gaga ball pit, a
  half-court basketball and a playground with a separate tot lot. Play equipment consists
  of belt swings, tot swings, a play structure and rubber fall surfacing. This park is also
  home to a public art piece called the "Empty Chair Project" which honors Juneau's
  Japanese community, many of whom were forcibly removed and incarcerated in
  internment camps during World War II. This heavily used park is in need of major
  improvements. The retaining wall behind the play structures is in disrepair and the play
  structures are not ADA accessible.

#### Lena Park

Location: Auke Bay, 15950 Glacier Highway

Size: 3.82 acresCondition Score: 5.5

Amenities: 1 softball field, 1 tee-ball field, fenced dog run, paved parking lot

 Description: Located out the road past the Auke Recreational Area, Lena Point Rotary Park has fields that can serve youth tee ball and softball games and practices. The park is not currently used as a ballfield and the community has requested that additional fencing, trash cans and bags be installed to convert the fields into a fully fenced dog park.

## **Riverside Rotary Park**

Location: Mendenhall Valley, 3300 Riverside Drive

Size: 8.5 acresCondition Score: 5.8

 Amenities: Playground, pond, duck feeding area, public rental shelter, 911 memorial, paved pathway, seasonal portable restrooms, paved parking lot

Description:

This neighborhood park features a rental pavilion, a small playground featuring pea gravel surfacing, tot and belt swings, a play structure and a .35 mile paved trail that loops around a duck pond. Riverside Rotary Park is also home to Juneau's 911 memorial. A park master plan is currently underway, and the playground equipment will be replaced summer 2018.



Photo 11: Riverside Rotary Park

## **Twin Lakes Park**

Location: Salmon Creek,

Size: 69.46 acresCondition Score: 7.5

- Amenities: Enclosed playground, public restroom, 2 public rental shelters, picnic pavilion, picnic tables, public fishing dock, lake with swim area, paved pathway, open grassy area, paved parking lot
- Description:

Twin Lakes Park features lake access for fishing and non-motorized water activities, a cabin and shelter for rental, restrooms, a paved path, and an open grassy area. The site is the former and future home of Project Playground, a large community built playground that was destroyed in a fire in April 2017 and is scheduled to be rebuilt in 2018.

## **Community Parks**

## Aant'iyek Park

• Location: Auke Bay, 15700 Glacier Highway

Size: 151.17 acresCondition Score: 6

 Amenities: 2 baseball fields, 18 hole disc golf course, community garden space, gravel parking lot

• Description: Aant'iyeik Park was built in 2001 when the State built the Auke Bypass. Originally named "Bypass Park" it was later changed, through an assembly resolution, to Aant'iyeik (literally "Spirit of the Land") out of respect for a native village located nearby. The majority of park use is from dog walkers and disc golfers. The park also has 1 baseball field with a 275' fence line and 1 softball/baseball field with a 170' fence line. The park is underused as a ball field, but the disc golf course, maintained by the user group, remains popular. Park Maintenance is experimenting with grass seed mixes on the field surface. The community garden has not been established.

## **Adair Kennedy Memorial Park**

Location: Mendenhall Valley

Size: 6.0 acres

Condition Score: 4.9

 Amenities: Synthetic turf football/soccer field, baseball field, running track, 2 grandstands, public restroom, concession stand, climbing wall, 2 basketball courts, 2 tennis courts, drinking fountain, picnic tables, trails, paved parking lot

• Description: Adair Kennedy Memorial Park, located next to Floyd Dryden Middle School, was constructed in 1980. The park is in need of updating and there is strong support from field user groups for tournament size, artificial turf baseball and softball fields. The use of space is not effective for a park with such a high volume of users. A park master planning effort was completed in 2016, with the objectives of improving pedestrian flow, park feel, parking and fields. The track needs to be removed or replaced, though the track is not used or maintained by Parks & Rec and jurisdiction for replacement would likely fall to Juneau School District.

## Cope Park

Location: Downtown, 1001 Calhoun Avenue

Size: 9.5 acresCondition Score: 8.4

 Amenities: 2 tennis courts, basketball court, bocce court, swing sets, climbing structure, 1 disc golf hole, ball field/fenced in dog park, public restrooms, hiking trails, paved parking lot

 Description: Located along the banks of Gold Creek in Downtown Juneau, Cope Park is a large community park that features 2 tennis courts, a basketball court, a ball field which doubles as a fenced dog park, picnic tables, grills, hiking trails and public restrooms. The play area includes tot swings, belt swings, a climbing structure and a combination of tile and rubber mulch play surfacing. The park was recently improved, but could use additional finishing in the form of parking, hardscapes, and curb and gutter works.

## **Dimond Park**

Location: Mendenhall Valley, 2961 Riverside Drive

Size: 57.6 acresCondition Score: 6.1

 Amenities: Trail access, 4 softball fields, 1 seasonal soccer field, concessions, restrooms, parking lot

Description: Primarily used for adult softball, Dimond Park has 4 dirt softball fields. Field
4 is converted into a soccer field during soccer season. This park also has a
restroom/concession facility. Dimond Park Aquatic Center, Mendnhall Valley Public
Library, Dimond Park Field House, and Thunder Mountain High School are located in the
park. The Juneau School District maintains a turf field and track near the high school.
The park is functional but could be more inviting with aesthetic upgrades including
paving stones and landscaping.

#### **Melvin Park**

Location: Mendenhall Valley, 4020 Riverside Drive

Size: 8.0 AcresCondition Score: 7.1

 Amenities: Playground, picnic tables, 1 lighted baseball field, 1 lighted softball field, 1 small ball field, grandstands, public restrooms, concession stand, paved parking lot

Description: Melvin Park is a large community park in the Mendenhall Valley featuring a
high school baseball field, a softball field for Major, Junior and high school play and a
small softball field for farm and minor league play. The playground features tot swings,
belt swings a large play structure and rubber fall surfacing. The park also has a
restroom/concession facility and picnic tables. The parking lot needs resurfacing, but the
rest of the park is in good condition.



Photo 12: Melvin Park

## Savikko Park

Location: Douglas, 105 Savikko Road

Size: 20 acres

Condition Score: 5.9

- Amenities: Playground, 2 public rental shelters, drinking fountains, benches, picnic tables, grills, 1 public rental stage/pavilion, 3 ball fields, 1 seasonal soccer field, 2 beach volleyball courts, public restrooms, trails, beach access, paved parking lots, indoor ice rink, Gold Rush fairgrounds
- Description: Savikko is a large community park with ball fields, a play area, shleters, restrooms, and a beach. The Treadwell Ice Arena is located in Savikko, as are the grounds for the annual Gold Rush Days event. The park needs improvements to enhance user experience. The ballfield area and pedestrian entrances could be more welcoming with improved fencing and paved pathways. The restrooms near the arena are in poor condition need to be removed or replaced.

## CBJ Managed Special Use Areas

#### **Gunakadeit Park**

Location: Downtown,Size: 0.07 acresCondition Score: NAAmenities: None

• Description: Gunakadeit Park was previously a small public space with benches and landscaping. The park infrastructure was destroyed when a fire leveled an adjoining building and the park has remained a vacant lot since.

#### **Homestead Park**

Location: Douglas, 2088 Douglas Highway

Size: 1.7 acresCondition Score: 4.9

Amenities: Viewing platform, benches, interpretive material, paved parking lot

Description: Homestead Park consists of a viewing platform and benches. It offers views
of downtown Juneau and is primarily used by commercial tour groups. The platform
access is not ADA accessible and there are issues with debris from illicit activities taking
place under the platform; this has not yet impacted commercial use, but the situation is
difficult to enforce and should be monitored.

#### Marine Park

Location: Downtown, 144 Egan Drive

Size: 0.7 acresCondition Score: 7.8

• Amenities: Public rental pavilion, benches, electrical outlets

 Description: Located at the downtown waterfront, Marine Park consists of a rental pavilion. The park is part of a larger complex with Docks & Harbors and the City Manager's Office also controlling portions of the site. Small improvements to drainage from the roof of the pavilion are needed.

#### Auke Lake

• Location: Auke Bay, 11500 Glacier Highway

Size: 4.63 acresCondition Score: 9

Amenities: Boat launch, lake interpretive signage, trails picnic area, paved parking lot

• Description: The Auke Lake Wayside provides access to the only fresh water lake on the Juneau road system where motorized use is allowed. Parks and Rec sets and maintains buoys and enforces lake rules and regulations. The park also includes the Auke Lake Trail which includes a floating boardwalk and a series of unique interpretive signs designed for children. There are issues with safety and enforcement of motorized use of the lake, as well as prohibited dumping and bilge discharge. The parking lot and trail were recently improved, but the full Auke Lake Master Plan has not been completed. Future plans include a shelter, restrooms, and a swim platform.

#### **Overstreet Park**

Location: DowntownSize: 1.1 acresCondition Score: 9.3

• Description: "Whale Park" includes Tahku, a life size humpback whale fountain; restroom; picnic shelter; benches and tables; paved walkways; and educational signage.

## **Channel Wayside Park**

• Location: Salmon Creek, 3131 Channel Drive

Size: 1.27 acresCondition Score: 7.6

 Amenities: Public restroom, public rental pavilion, grills, kayak launch ramp, paved parking lot

 Description: Channel Wayside is a unique park along the banks of Gastineau Channel that is mainly used for fishing. The kayak ramp is in disrepair and either needs to be removed or paved.

## **Jackie Renninger Park (The Pipeline)**

Location: Mendenhall Valley, 2400 Mendenhall Loop Road

Size: 4.57 acresCondition Score: 6.4

Amenities: Indoor skate park, public restroom, paved parking lot

 Description: The Pipeline is a community built skateboard and inline skate park that is open year round. Restrooms at the facility are also open year round. The skate park needs a new roof and users have requested improvements including increased outdoor hardscape surfaces, seating, and a grill. The park parcel is 4.57 acres and can accommodate additional amenities or uses. Construction of additional features would warrant reclassification as a Neighborhood Park.



Photo 13: Jackie Renniger Park

## Third-Party Managed Special Use Areas

## Hank Harmon Rifle Range

- Location: Mendenhall Valley, 5669 Montana Creek Road
- Size: 3.0 acres
- Description: The Hank Harmon Rifle Range is free to use and open to the public. It is on CBJ property but is run by the Hank Harmon Rifle Range, Inc., a non-profit organization established in the 1970s. The range, which features a 100 yard handgun and rim-fire rifle range as well as a 445 yard range for high power rifles, is unsupervised but there is a caretaker who lives on the property.

## **Juneau Archery Range**

- Location: Mendenhall Valley
- Size: 2.5 acres
- Description: The archery range is free to use, with a trail system and shooting stations at different locations along the trail. A portion of the range is in disrepair and not currently in use.

## **Juneau Community Garden**

- Location: Mendenhall Valley
- Size: 6.0 acres
- Description: The community garden consists of planter beds for public rental. There are 168 plots and 29 small beds for climbing plants. The site is operated by the Juneau Community Garden Association.

## **Natural Area Parks**

#### Semi-Primitive Areas

## **Bridget Cove Natural Area Park**

Location: Out the Road

Size: 358 acres

 Description: parcel not correctly mapped, beach access and access to Bridget Cove State Park.

### **Brotherhood Park**

Location: Mendenhall Valley

• Size: 315 acres

 Description: Brotherhood Park mainly serves as a trail corridor for the Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei trail, which connects Dimond Park and Back Loop Road. The paved parking lot offers views of Mendenhall Glacier and the park includes fishing access, and interpretive signage. The paved trail needs to be resurfaced and there are perennial erosion issues on a specific section of the trail, where the tread runs along the bank of the Mendenhall River. The trail has currently been re-routed in this section and the detour is currently unpaved.

## **False Outer Point**

Location: North Douglas

Size: 7.74 acres

 Description: False Outer Point consists of a paved parking lot, portable toilet, fire rings, and a rocky beach with views of Mendenhall Glacier. The park is used primarily for fishing and picnicking. The user experience could be improved with permanent restroom facilities.

#### Fish Creek Park

Location: North Douglas

Size: 56 acres

 Description: Fish Creek Park includes a dirt parking lot, trails, beach access, interpretive signage, and a bridge for fishing access. There is a portable toilet near the most popular fishing area and plans for an ADA accessible fishing platform.



Photo 14: Fish Creek Park

## **Kingfisher Pond**

Location: Lemon Creek

• Size: 2.27 acres

Description: Kingfisher Pond consists of a wetland area with a trail, viewing platform and interpretive signage. Designed to be an area for students at nearby Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School to learn about wetland ecosystems, the park is rarely used. The trail system has been damaged by beaver activity and there is no parking area. Kingfisher Pond is maintained by Parks & Rec but sits on Juneau Police Department land. Land ownership and parking issues will need to be reconciled if the park is to see increased use or maintenance.

## **Nancy Street Wetlands**

Location: Mendenhall Valley

• Size: 6.02 acres

 Description: With trails, interpretive signage, a viewing platform, and benches, Nancy Street Wetlands provides access for birdwatching and nature viewing in a densely populated Mendenhall Valley residential area. Though the parking area is unpaved and the trail head unmarked, the rest of the park is in good condition, with the exception of the deck, which will need to be fixed or replaced in coming years.

#### **Outer Point**

Location: North Douglas

• Size: 240 acres

 Description: Outer Point consists of a trail system, beach access, interpretive signage, fire rings, and a picnic table with a grill. The trail to the beach is technically ADA accessible, though there are reports that it is difficult to navigate with a wheelchair. Future accessibility improvements would make the trail more manageable for people with disabilities.

#### **Sunshine Cove Natural Area Park**

Location: Out the Road

Size: Unknown

• Description: Sunshine Cove is near the end of the road and is a popular park for camping, fishing and picnicking. Amenities include a portable toilet and fire rings. There is no parking area, and the beach is accessed from the road by a trail.

## **Treadwell Mine Historic Park**

Location: Douglas

• Size: 71.75 acres

• Description: Ruins from the Treadwell Mine can be found throughout the woods above Sandy Beach and Treadwell Mine Historic Park includes trails and interpretive signage to provide historical context. The Treadwell Historic Improvement Society continues to develop the historic and interpretive features and has recently restored the pump house on the beach and the former office building, with plans to turn the latter into a museum. The conversion of the office building would prompt reclassification of Treadwell Mine Historic Park from a semi-primitive area to a Developed Natural Area.

#### **Lena Point Rotary Park**

Location: Out the Road

• Size: 30 acres

• Description: Lena Point Rotary Park consists of a trail from Lena Loop Road to a beach. The site is named for the Juneau Rotary Club, which had plans to develop the area with shelters and other amenities, but these plans never came to fruition.

## **Developed Natural Areas**

## **Eagle Valley Center**

Location: Out the RoadSize: 113.65 acres

• Description: Eagle Valley Center is includes a lodge with accommodation for 12, a meadow that hosts camping for large groups and weddings, a trail system with access to two beaches, a ropes course, and a care takers shack that is currently unoccupied and in need of improvement. The lodge hosts meetings, parties and weddings and the downstairs area has dormitory and kitchen facilities and is rented seasonally by local organizations to house staff or volunteers. There is currently a proposal for small scale agriculture at the site and the area is used by several local organizations for educational programs. Southeast Alaska Independent Living operates the ropes course through an agreement with CBJ. Planned improvements include access road repairs, tent platforms, cabins or yurts and interpretive or educational installations.

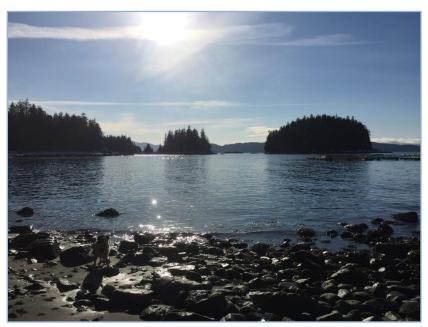


Photo 15: Kayak Beach, Eagle Valley Center

#### Jensen-Olson Arboretum

Location: Out the Road

• Size: 9.1 acres

Description: The Jensen Olson Arboretum was gifted to CBJ by Caroline Jensen, a long-time resident and master gardener. The Arboretum houses the American Public Gardens Association's Plan Collections Network's nationally accredited collection for primroses. The arboretum hosts educational and other events and is open to the public year round. There is a manager/caretaker living onsite and the arboretum employs 2 additional staff during the summer season.

## 4. Land Use and Park Distribution

Parklands controlled by CBJ include the park types listed herein. Park development and acquisition in Juneau has historically been an organic process, with new parks constructed and acquired as lands are developed, or high value natural areas identified for preservation and enjoyment of nature. This process seeks to determine whether Juneau has the right parks in the right places with the right equipment, evaluating gaps in the park system by applying the standards detailed in section 2 to the landscape. Recognizing that Juneau is a geographically linear community and recreation service parks should be in locations central to neighborhoods. Map 1 shows parks by type and neighborhood.

This section also considers parkland acquisition and disposal. Lands are classified as parks because they hold high conservation or recreation value. Lands with the potential for public recreation or requiring environmental protection may be considered for acquisition by the CBJ Lands & Resources Department as they become available. Land holdings that meet criteria for disposal and are not considered valuable as parks may be considered for divestment. All recreation service parks, special use areas, developed natural areas, semi-primitive areas, and conservation areas are considered valuable parkland and are not candidates for disposal.

## **Parkland Acquisition**

CBJ may continue to acquire private property or property owned by other government entities consistent with the *CBJ Comprehensive Plan*, a specific Area Plan, or any other CBJ planning document that identifies acquisition of park lands. Reasons for acquiring park land may include:

- Right-of-way alignment to CBJ property suitable for parkland development
- Preservation of a trail corridor
- Public access
- Demonstrated need for new park
- Consolidation of land ownership
- Enhancement or protection of adjacent Parks & Rec property
- Habitat preservation & restoration
- Bequests or donated land

Partial rights might be acquired when fee simple ownership by the CBJ is not necessary to accomplish the public goal. Partial rights may include: easements, leases, or other agreements. The CBJ will acquire property by means of cash purchase, donation, exchange, or eminent domain. The need for additional parkland is justified by a new development, high value conservation area, or other rationale. Parkland should be acquired when and where it is in the best interest of CBJ to obtain lands for future parks.

## **Parkland Disposal**

## Disposal of parkland in the public interest

Lands managed by Parks & Rec that do not fall into any of the parkland categories outlined in this document are classified as vacant/other. These lands may be developable, in the case of large tracts of undeveloped land, defined as lands containing multiple residential lots or those that can reasonably be subdivided into multiple lots; or desirable to adjoining land owners, in the case of smaller parcels that abut private property. CBJ has identified lands that hold no conservation value and are unlikely to be developed as future programmed parks; it may be financially advantageous to CBJ to divest of these lands if an interested party submits a

proposal to acquire them. The future value of public parkland needs to be considered in parkland disposal decisions. Proceeds from lands sold by CBJ automatically go into the Lands Fund, unless appropriated by the Assembly for another use. Proceeds of parkland sales should be used to support ongoing maintenance of parks and recreation assets, subject to Assembly appropriation of those funds.

Parkland may be developable if it falls within the urban service boundary, has reasonable access, does not contain steep slopes or environmentally sensitive areas, is not being actively used for public recreation, and does not otherwise fulfill the goals established by this plan. These lands may be classified as vacant or other.

In addition to the land disposal process laid out in the CBJ Land Management Plan, an additional level of public involvement will be required to dispose of parklands. These steps should be followed regardless of whether the CBJ acts as the developer of the land or the large tract is sold as an un-subdivided parcel, directly to a developer. Methods for disposal will follow those set forth in the CBJ Land Management Plan (CBJ§53.09.200). The process will be managed by CBJ Lands & Resources; Parks & Rec will manage the public consultation. Italicized steps are excerpted from the Land Management Plan.

## Park Disposal Process Delineation of Disposal Site

As a first step, staff will delineate areas within the larger tract of land which appear most suitable for residential or other development. This stage may include an environmental evaluation. A consulting firm may be hired to assist in determining the feasibility of development and identification of potentially developable sites within a larger tract. At this time wetlands delineation and jurisdictional determination of that tract should be completed in order to develop a mitigation plan for any wetlands that will need to be filled as part of the development. The onus to commission environmental studies is borne by the developer and will only be funded by CBJ if the City is acting as the developer.

#### Agency Review

State and federal agencies as well as CBJ departments will be asked to review and comment on the proposed disposals. Issues to be addressed at this stage include: access, on-site sewer approvals where needed, water rights, wetlands delineations and preservation, archaeological resources, fish and wildlife concerns, etc. The location and boundaries of the proposed disposal sites might be adjusted at this stage in response to specific agency concerns.

#### Preliminary Title Report

The purpose of the preliminary title report is to ensure there are no title problems that would create obstacles to the disposal of the property. This should be accomplished before any major expenditure on project development.

#### Sketch Plat

This preliminary topographic work should be of sufficient detail to establish road alignment and approximate subdivision layout. The level of topographic mapping detail needs to be defined by CBJ staff and a consultant hired to accomplish this work. A sketch plat will be prepared of the entire site to be reviewed by the Planning Commission. Taking in to account comments of the Planning Commission, approval for preliminary plat layout will be provided by CBJ staff.

### Reservation of Public Use Lands

Based on a review of topographic mapping, wetlands delineation, and proposed sketch plat, areas to be reserved in CBJ ownership for greenbelts, open spaces, trails, schools, utilities, and other public uses will be precisely defined. These public-use reservations will be accomplished before the developable land is offered for sale.

#### Market Assessment

Sales of large tracts of property are long term investments. There is generally a significant lag in time between purchase of a large tract and the point when it has been developed to a level where individual lot sales are possible. An assessment of long term market conditions will be done to evaluate the feasibility and desirability of the proposed land disposal. The assessment will be a combination of examining the availability of vacant private lots, pricing, location and types of property, as well as subdivision permitting activity. The goal will be to not unreasonably compete with the private sector. A previously completed market assessment or housing action plan can substitute for a new market assessment.

# **Public Workshop**

At this stage CBJ staff will conduct a public workshop(s) to allow the public to offer comments about the subdivision. Particularly important here will be the opportunity to identify preferred methods of disposal, comment on subdivision design, suitability of areas reserved for public use, and identify ways to mitigate impacts to adjacent neighborhoods.

# Development Plan

At this point the Assembly will decide whether to retain the property for subdivision by the CBJ, offer the property for sale or to solicit proposals for a public/private partnership. If the property is sold, the purchaser will be responsible for platting, design, and construction. If a public/private partnership is created, the CBJ and the developer will jointly undertake the platting and development of the property.

## Preliminary Plat

The preliminary plat will show more detailed information about that portion of the land to be immediately subdivided.

#### Construction Design

Final construction plans based on the preliminary plat layout will be approved by the CBJ Engineer. Developers have two options; they may either construct all of the required improvements after the plans have been approved or provide a bond that guarantees all construction will be completed. Bonding will allow the final plat to be recorded and lots sold without all construction completed. In instances when the CBJ is the developer, this step might entail an appropriation of funds to demonstrate intent to complete the work, in lieu of bonding. Other options for construction design are possible and will need to be reviewed and approved on an individual basis.

### **Second Public Workshop**

At this stage CBJ staff will conduct an additional public workshop to allow the public to offer comments on the construction design and inform the final decision regarding the disposal of parkland. This stage is additional to the process set forth in the CBJ Land Management Plan.

# Final Plat Approval

- The final plat will show the surveyed boundaries of all lots. This may include all proposed lots in the preliminary plat, or only a phase of the proposed development. The developer will obtain final plat approval after meeting the following conditions:
- Planning Commission Approval.
- Preliminary Plat: All conditions set out in the preliminary plat are completed.
- Construction: All construction is completed or completion is guaranteed by a posted bond.
- Survey: All monuments are set and shown on the plat.

After these actions have been completed the plat can be recorded. At that time the CBJ or developer can sell or develop the lot(s).

Larger vacant/other parcels identified in the parks inventory (Map 1) include Fish Creek, vacant lands between semi-primitive park area and Bayview neighborhood; Mendenhall Peninsula, residential lots on Fritz Cove and Engineer's Cutoff roads; Mendenhall Peninsula, vacant lands at tip of peninsula; and Tee Harbor, outer edges of north and south peninsulas. These lands are identified in Map 1.

## **Disposal of Individual Parcels**

Lot line adjustments and requests for sale of individual parcels will be subject to the following process:

- Proposal reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), which will select one of the following public review options:
  - Conduct a public workshop to allow the public to offer comments about the proposed sale. Comments will be compiled and forwarded to PRAC, or
  - Parks & Rec may notify neighbors via fliers or mail-outs and provide a contact and deadline for comments about the proposed sale.
- PRAC will review public feedback and make a recommendation to the CBJ Assembly in support or opposition of the sale.
- The Assembly will determine the method for disposal based on the criteria and options set forth in the CBJ Land Management Plan and the land sale will follow the process of a CBJ parcel not classified as parkland.

## **Park Distribution**

Map 1 shows parkland distribution. Distribution by neighborhood is broken down as follows, for instance there are two mini parks per 3,777 residents in West Juneau and Douglas, thus there is one mini-park for every 1,889 residents:

# **CBJ Park Type Distribution by Population**

Park Type	Standard (park per population)	West Juneau/ Douglas	North Douglas	Downtown	Lemon Creek / Salmon Creek	Mendenhall Valley	Auke Bay/ Back Loop	Out the Road
Mini Park	1,000 -2,000	1,889	1,685	821	2,374	6,321 (4,214?)	3,581	0
Neighborhood Park	3,000 – 6,000	3,777	0	3,284	4,748	6,321	0	1,331
Community Park	4,000 – 10,000	3,777	0	3.284	0	4,214	0	1,331
Field	3000	1,888	0	1,642	4,748	1,580	0	333

## West Juneau/Douglas

West Juneau Rotary Park is a mini park that serves the West Juneau area, while Savikko Park is a community park that serves south Douglas. Savikko Park is a destination for residents throughout the area for beach access, a trail system, a playground, picnic shelters, ballfields, and the Treadwell Ice Arena. Savikko Park is also the location for special events like Gold Rush Days and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Douglas Mini-Park is a community garden space that contains a fruiting forest and several planter boxes. The Douglas neighborhood is adequately served by these parks and the variety of recreational amenities nearby. Gastineau School playground is also available for use outside of school hours.

## **North Douglas**

North Douglas is geographically linear and home to several natural area parks. While the mini park at Bonnie Brae is appropriately located in one of only two subdivisions in the area, residents have requested additional programming elsewhere, including a picnic shelter, ADA Accessible fishing platform, and more developed trail network at Fish Creek Park. The neighborhood is adequately served for play facilities at its current population.

### **Downtown**

The downtown neighborhood includes School District managed field space, four mini-parks, a neighborhood park, and a community park. Cope Park has a ballfield that is suitable for tee ball, but is primarily used as a dog park. While Chicken Yard and Capital School parks are in need of major upgrades, the downtown area is well served with park amenities.



Photo 16: Cope Park

### Lemon Creek/Salmon Creek

Lemon Creek has one mini park and School District managed fields and covered play area. While Twin Lakes Park is near to the densely populated area of Lemon Creek, access is on a busy industrial road and walking or biking is not feasible for children and families. The Lemon Creek area is also comparatively distant from recreational facilities and amenities downtown and in the Mendenhall Valley, rendering it difficult for residents, particularly youth, to travel to these facilities. More recreation service and natural area park space in Lemon Creek are desirable. The Lemon Creek Area Plan recommends a linear park and bike trail that separates pedestrians and cyclists from Glacier Highway.

### Mendenhall Valley

Mendenhall Valley is Juneau's largest population center and contains most of the community park space in the borough. Fields are located at Dimond, Adair Kennedy and Melvin parks and while there are few mini-parks for the population, the disparity is mitigated by neighborhood and community parks with play equipment. There are also three elementary schools in the Mendenhall Valley, two of which have playing fields and all have playgrounds that can be used when school is not in session.

#### Auke Bay/Back Loop

The Auke Bay/Back Loop area contains one mini park, which is located in a development that is not central to the neighborhood's population. There is an elementary school in the area, but with the construction of the Pederson Hill development, it will be important to add more recreation service parkland in the area.

#### **Out the Road**

The area out the road is sparsely populated and residential distribution is linear. While the area does not contain play equipment, there is not a feasible central location for a mini park. Lena Park is primarily used as a dog park and Ant'iyeik Park includes a disc golf course and a rarely

used ballfield. There are vast City and State managed natural area parks out the road that see heavy use from residents throughout the borough. Due to the distribution and character of the area, it is adequately served.

### **Park Needs**

During public consultation for the CBJ Parks & Rec Master Plan in fall of 2016, residents identified the following needs:

**Tot Lots**: Most playgrounds within the CBJ Parks system do not include tot lots (areas and/or equipment designed for very young children). There are currently tot lots at Twin Lakes and Capital School Park.

**Cross Country Running Facilities:** Cross Country running groups and teams currently use the Treadwell Historic District for racing and training. This area is popular with dog walkers and families, and other community members and it may be appropriate to find another park area for cross country events where there is less public impact and interaction.

**More fenced off-leash dog areas:** Parks & Rec conducted a follow up survey in the summer of 2017 asking for more specific information on dog parks. The major outcomes were strong support for conversion of Lena Park into a fenced off-leash dog area and the need for a fenced off-leash dog park somewhere in the Mendenhall Valley. The Lena Point dog park project can be undertaken by Park Maintenance, but locating another dog park in the Mendenhall Valley requires an additional planning process. There is an option for a dog park in a later phase of the Adair Kennedy Park Master Plan, but other locations should be assessed.

**Off-road vehicles (ORVs):** Locating an area for ORV use in Juneau has long been a challenge. Parks & Rec continues to work with the ORV community to attempt to identify a suitable site for this use and facilitate development of viable opportunities for ORV recreation.

**Bike skills park:** Residents requested a bike skills park for all ages and abilities, preferably located near existing trail networks. The Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance and independent local riders have proposed several locations for skills parks. Parks & Rec supports a park funded in partnership with the user group and continues to work with the local mountain bike community to find an appropriate location.

**Artificial turf:** Field use groups have requested additional tournament size artificial turf fields. Tournament size artificial turf baseball and softball fields are included in the Adair Kennedy Park Master Plan. As funding is available, Parks & Rec will continue to work with local field user groups to increase the amount of artificial turf fields in Juneau, recognizing that adding turf to all actively used fields is currently cost prohibitive.

**ADA Accessibility:** Accessibility should be considered and where possible, enhanced, as CBJ replaces park and playground equipment. CBJ continues to work to improve and enhance accessibility in parks and on trails.

**Signage:** A system-wide signage strategy should be developed and new signage installed. Include Alaska Native cultural history and significance where appropriate.

**Community Gardens:** As the need for community garden space increases, Parks & Rec should support interested residents to add or increase community garden space in parks.

## **Funding**

Park improvements are traditionally funded by Capital Improvement Project allocations. Maintenance is funded by the Parks & Rec operating budget. This budget is not adjusted as new parklands are added and existing equipment ages. The purpose of prioritizing park projects in this document is to ensure that limited resources are appropriately targeted. For example, play structures need to be replaced periodically and are not permanent. The impact of aging infrastructure and the need for replacing outdated equipment should help drive budget decisions as well as decisions regarding adding additional park infrastructure.

The role of a future parks foundation or similar instrument would be to help fund park maintenance and to raise funds for capital projects that have not been funded by the Assembly through sales tax or capital improvement allocations.

# 5. Park Capital Improvement Priorities

## **Park Condition Rankings**

The table below ranks parks by condition based on the park evaluations conducted by CBJ Parks & Rec and Engineering staff in the summer of 2017. The priority rankings are based on greatest community needs as funding becomes available. Based on these scores, the level of public use, determined by the phone and online CBJ Parks and Recreation Survey conducted by McDowell Group in fall of 2016; and overall safety of each park, the following lists prioritize Capital Improvement Project (CIP) priorities and smaller, lower budget project priorities to be completed by CBJ Park Maintenance or as a small contract. Table 1 below lists the condition rankings of parks. Parks were evaluated for physical condition and functionality. Tables 2 and 3 prioritize park projects. Prioritization was based on the condition rankings and park use data from a public survey conducted by McDowell Group on behalf of CBJ in September 2016. Public comments from the survey and a series of public meetings in October 2016 were also taken into account. Capital Improvement Projects (Table 2) are large in scale and require budget approval by the Assembly with funds from the Capital Improvement Program. Park Maintenance projects are smaller in scale and can be funded out of the Park Maintenance operating budget.



Photo 17: Bishop Kenny Memorial Peace Park

Table 1: Park Condition Rankings

Park	Park Type	General Appearance & Function	Vehicle & Pedestrian Surface Condition	Active Recreation Conditon & Function	Play Area Safety & Equipment	Structures Condition & Function	Playing Fields	Final Score	Recommended Improvements	Notes
Bridge Park / Seawalk	Special Use Area	9	9	na	na	10	na	9.3	None	New park, good condition
Auke Lake	Special Use Area	8	10	na	na	na	na	9	CIP Needed	The parking lot and trail were recently improved. The full Auke Lake Master Plan was not fully completed, should include restrooms, a shelter, and a swim platform at build out.
Bishop Kenny Memorial Peace Park	Mini Park	8.8	9	na	na	8	na	8.6	None	Concrete and paving stone pocket park, good condition for what it is
Cope Park	Community Park	7.1	6.8	9.3	10	10	7	8.4	CIP Needed	Recently improved, needs additional finishing in form of parking, hardscapes, curb & gutter works
West Juneau Rotary Park	Mini Park	7.6	8.2	na	8	9	na	8.2	None	Great park in good condition
Marine Park	Special Use Area	6.3	9.3	na	na	na	na	7.8	Parks Maintenance	Shelter and hardscapes, material and fixtures good, roof drainage could be improved
Telephone Hill Park	Mini Park	5.5	8.5	na	na	9	na	7.6	Parks Maintenance	Attractive park, difficult to enforce and keep clean
Channel Wayside Park	Special Use Area	7.5	7.3	na	na	8	na	7.6	CIP Needed	Kayak ramp needs to be paved or removed

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Twin Lakes Park	Neighborhood Park	7.5	8	6	9	7	na	7.5	None	New playground and paving in parking lot, shelter and bike path in acceptable condition.  Converted to "food forest" in 2016.
Douglas Mini Park	Mini Park	7.5	na	na	na	na	na	7.5	None	Functions as community garden and educational facility.
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Melvin Park	Community Park	7	6.2	na	8.7	7.8	6	7.1	CIP Needed	Park in good condition. Parking lot needs repair
Sigoowu Ye	Mini Park	7.3	9	na	5.7	6	na	7	Parks Maintenance	Good condition, needs brushing, limbing and other small repairs
Riverside Rotary Park	Neighborhood Park	7	4	na	10	7.8	6	7.0	CIP Needed	New playground, overall in good condition but needs pavement repairs and other small works.
Bonnie Brae Park	Mini Park	7.6	6.8	na	5.3	8	na	6.9	CIP Needed	Needs ADA accessible surfacing, could use more for small children
S'it'tuwan Park	Mini Park	5.7	4.8	9	na	8	na	6.9	None	Developer constructed park, layout not ideal, but no major works needed
Mendenhaven Park	Mini Park	5.6	5.4	na	8.7	6	na	6.4	Parks Maintenance	Parking lot needs improvement, adding grill to picnic area would enhance park
Jackie Renninger Park (Pipeline)	Neighborhood Park	7.3	6.4	7.7	na	4	na	6.4	Contractor	Skate park needs new roof

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Dimond Park	Community Park	5	5	na		na		7.4	7	6.1	CIP Needed	Park is functional but could be more inviting with aesthetic upgrades
Cathedral Park	Mini Park	5.5	4.5	na		na		8	na	6	Parks Maintenance	Re-evaluate purpose of park
Aant'iyek Park	Community Park	6.4	5.2		6.3	na		6	7	6	Parks Maintenance	Continue experimenting with grass field, continue to support disc golf user group
Savikko Park	Community Park	6.9	5		6		5	6.8	5.7	5.9	CIP Needed	Functional, but needs improvements to enhance user experience. Close or replace restrooms by arena.
Lena Park	Neighborhood Park	4.8	5.6	na		na		7.7	4	5.5	Parks Maintenance	Convert to dog park
Homestead Park	Special Use Area	5.6	3	na		na		6	na	4.9	CIP Needed	Heavy commercial use, should be made ADA accessible
Adair Kennedy Memorial Park	Community Park	4	7		2		4	4.8	7.5	4.9	CIP Needed	This space could be used more effectively. This is a highly used space that needs better pedestrian flow/ park feel/ parking.
Steelhead Park	Mini Park	6.1	4.5	na			3	na	na	4.5	None	Contractor built park, unplanned design, but equipment in good shape. Not ADA accessible.

Capital School Park	Neighborhood Park	6.4	5.8	3.7	2.3	4	na	4.4	CIP Needed	Retaining wall rotting away, play structures not accessible. Heavily used park and badly needs improvement
Chicken Yard Park	Mini Park	4.7	4.8	5	1.7	5	na	4.2	CIP Needed	Park needs to be re- done, retaining wall falling apart

Table 2: Prioritized Capital Improvement Projects

Park	Works Needed	Priority
	Replace retaining wall, replace play equipment,	
	install restrooms, ADA accessibility	
Capital School Park	improvements	High
	Remove or replace retaining wall, reconfigure	
	park to eliminate conflict with residential	
Chicken Yard Park	driveway, replace play equipment	High
	Improve pedestrian flow, park feel, and parking.	
Adair Kennedy Memorial Park	Improve ballfields and add turf	High
	Repair or replace pavement on path, replace	
Riverside Rotary Park	play equipment	High
Melvin Park	Parking lot improvements	High
	Install paving stones and landscaping between	
Dimond Park	fields	Medium
	Improve pedestrian flow and park access,	
Savikko Park	replace restrooms near arena	Medium
	Replace platform stairs with ADA accessible	
Homestead Park	ramp	Low
	Improve surfacing, install equipment targeted at	
Bonnie Brae park	small children	Low
	Re-evaluate purpose of park and reconfigure to	
Cathedral Park	eliminate supports for removed play equipment	Low
	Repair or replace kayak launch, add ADA	1—4 · ·
Channel Wayside Park	accessible fishing platform	Low
	Finish parking, hardscapes, curb and gutter	
Cope Park	works	Low

Table 3: Prioritized Park Maintenance Projects

Park	Works Needed	Priority
	Install fencing and trash cans to convert to	dog
Lena Park	park	High
	Continue to experiment with grass on playing	ing
Aant'iyek Park	field	High
Mendenhaven Park	Improve access trail	Medium