

PARKS & RECREATION

STATUS QUO – STAYING UNINCORPORATED

King County Parks & Recreation provides regional parks and trails for the enjoyment of all county residents and maintains local parks in unincorporated King County. In the North Highline, King County maintains local parks and athletic fields, while also operating the White Center teen program and the Evergreen Pool. It is assumed that incorporation or annexation would include assuming ownership and maintenance of existing North Highline parks.

King County Parks has embraced extraordinary change and innovation over the past few years. A major funding crisis in 2002 presented King County Parks the opportunity to refocus with and emphasis on things they do best. King County Parks continues to be the key provider of regional parks, natural lands and trails—specializing in finding strategic partners who will work with the county to increase community and park amenities without increasing ongoing operation costs. King County policies call for Parks to divest local parks and reduce its direct recreational programming countywide to only aquatics and limited youth programs. New investments in local programming are possible only through innovative partnerships like the recently approved Lakewood Family Center, which is a partnership with the Technology Access Foundation to build and operate a new community center in Lakewood Park for 30 years. For more information see: www.metrokc.gov/parks

KING COUNTY LOCAL PARKS IN NORTH HIGHLINE

- Arbor Lake Park
- Evergreen Athletic Fields
- Hamm Creek
- Hazel Valley Park
- Hilltop Park
- Lakewood Park
- North Shorewood Park
- Puget Sound Park
- Southern Heights Park
- White Center Bog
- White Center Heights Park
- White Center Field House and Park
- Salmon Creek Park

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Cities generally program parks and recreation services at higher levels than the county.
- Ask about service levels to: Kids, Adults, Seniors, Special Needs Population
- Ask about open space such as trails versus ball fields and playgrounds.
- What parks and recreation services would be located specifically in North Highline neighborhoods versus through other city facilities?
- Are the parks and recreation programs funded through general taxes or from a voter approved levy that would be subject to future votes?
- Is there a scholarship policy for fees for recreation programs for low income, etc.?