

PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

2011 Level of Service Assessment Executive Summary

BACKGROUND

In December 2009, the Langley City Council adopted the Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Element as part of the Langley Comprehensive Plan. The POST Element stipulated level of service standards necessary to meet the community's basic needs and expectations for parks, open space and trails.

In November 2011, the Parks and Open Space Commission completed the first annual Level of Service Assessment based on the level of service standards in the POST Element. The 2011 assessment provides an initial benchmark for how the existing parks, open space and trails system meets the level of service standards. The assessment includes the executive summary and the 2011 Annual LOS Assessment.

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

1. Change in Acreage & Miles

- There were no additions or losses to the parks, open space and trails system.

2011	PARKS	OPEN SPACE	TRAILS	TREELINES
Additions	0	0	0	NA
Permanently Protected	0	0	0	0
Loss	0	0	0	0
CHANGE IN POST SYSTEM	0	0	0	0

2. Enhancements

- There were several enhancements made to parks.

2011		PARKS	OS	TRAILS	SOURCE
Cascade Walkway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree trimming • Repositioning of educational signs 	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City staff
Generation Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New swing and protective wood chips 	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Langley Community Club volunteers • City RSMA grant for chips
Various Right of Ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 primroses planted • 5000 daffodil and tulip bulbs planted 	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Langley Garden Project volunteers

3. Parks LOS Standards

- Safe access and diverse amenities standards is met in 100% of parks.
- Fulfillment of need and walking access standards are met at 73% and 85% of parks.
- Signage/welcoming entrance standard is met at 50% of parks

	Percent of Parks				
	25%	50%	75%	100%	%
Safe pedestrian access					100%
Fulfill a recreational or leisure need					73%
Clearly welcome public use through signage/entrance					50%

	Percent of Residents/Businesses				
	25%	50%	75%	100%	%
Access to park/natural area within 5 min/.25 mile walking radius					85%

	viewpoints	beach access	passive use features	structured activities
Diverse amenities in park system	YES	YES	YES	YES

4. Open Space LOS Standards

- Farmland and riparian habitat standard have not been met.

	forest	wetlands	bluffs	farmland	riparian
Diverse open space habitat	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO

5. Trails LOS Standards

- Trail connections exist for less than 25% of the 13 proposed trail connections.

	Percent of Potential Trail Connections				
	25%	50%	75%	100%	%
Trail connection exists					15%
A portion of trail connection exists					23%
Public Trail or Trail Easement					0%

6. Public Trails LOS Standards

- The existing public trail has no signage and is not connected to other public trails.

	Entrance Marked	Width/Surface	Interconnected
The Highlands Trail	NO	YES	NO

7. Maintenance LOS Standards

- **Written procedures and sustainable practices mostly meet standard.**
- **Facilities and integrated management system have significant gaps in meeting standard.**

	0%	Significant Gaps	Mostly Meets LOS	100%
Procedures written & implemented				
Sustainable practices				
Facilities in clean & working order				
Integrated management system for invasive and exotic plants				

2011 ASSESSMENT LOS GOALS

The following goals are recommended based on the 2011 Level of Service Assessment:

Parks LOS Goals

1. Integrate park improvements to the Cascade Walkway during the stormwater and street improvements scheduled for 2012.
2. Design and build a donation box sculpture at the Boy & Dog Park in collaboration with the South Whidbey High School Advanced Metals class.
3. Identify other potential projects from the updated 2011 Parks Wish List.
4. Add an informational sign to explain the purpose of the whale bell at Hladkey Park.
5. Add two viewpoint benches to right of ways on Park Street and on Camano Avenue.
6. Develop a parks system signage plan.
7. Develop a parks walking map for residents and visitors.

Open Space LOS Goals

1. Mapping of wetlands.
2. Tree ordinance finalized.
3. Budget allocation for Third Street entrance plum tree pruning (protect treeline).
4. Addition of riparian habitat through pursuing Noble Creek Trail Project (2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Plan).

Trails LOS Goals

1. Pursue trail projects listed in the 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Plan:
 - a. Noble Creek Trail Project
 - b. Middle Langley Trail
 - c. Waterfront Boardwalk

Maintenance LOS Goals

1. Implement 100% of maintenance procedures (dependent on funding).
2. Hire seasonal employees annually designated to maintain POST.
3. Educate citizen on managing noxious weeds, including making printed materials available to citizens.
4. Eradicate all noxious weeds as required by RCW 17.10.
5. Future projects designed/constructed to be sustainable.
6. Increase usage of native species.
7. Increase awareness among City staff and citizens of sustainable practices.

SUBMITTED BY: **Parks & Open Space Commission**

Members: Nancy Rowan, Chair; Cathy Waymire-Rooks; Gail Fleming;
John Lawson; Tucker Stevens

Staff Lead: Challis Stringer, Director of Public Works