



# Municipality of Anchorage

Planning Department

MEMORANDUM



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**Date:** January 12, 2016  
**To:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**From:** Long-Range Planning Division staff  
**Subject:** Review of Public Hearing Draft *Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan (2040 LUP)*

The Planning Department requests the Parks and Recreation Commission's review and comment to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) regarding the September 2016 public hearing draft *Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan (2040 LUP)*. The *2040 LUP* is a high priority of the Administration and integrates public facilities and other uses into the first citywide land use plan map in more than 30 years. The Parks and Recreation Commission as well as Parks Department staff previously reviewed the February 29, 2016 community discussion draft of this plan. Parks comments were then incorporated into the September 2016 public hearing draft. PZC held a public hearing on the plan in November 2016. Four other boards and commissions including HAND, UDC, Watersheds, and Geotechnical have also reviewed and commented to PZC.

PZC is continuing its deliberations on the *2040 LUP*. Therefore, the request is for Parks and Recreation Commission to finalize its comments to PZC during its February 9 meeting, and document those in either a resolution or a letter from the Commission Chair. The Planning Department will submit the comments to PZC.

A starter draft of a Parks and Recreation Commission resolution is provided separately with this memorandum. Please consider this draft as technical support only. The Commission should add, delete, or change language so that the resolution says what it wishes to recommend regarding the *2040 LUP*.

The draft *2040 LUP* proposes changes in future land use and identifies focus areas for growth that would directly affect parks and open space needs of the city. The project also included extensive research of existing municipal parks, other open spaces, and a review of documented park deficiencies as documented in the attached informational background maps CI-6 and CI-7. Successful consideration and integration of parks as infrastructure into the policies and implementation of the *2040 Land Use Plan* will be important for its success.

**To save the Parks and Recreation Commission time in review, following is a list of ten sections in the 2040 LUP that most directly relate to parks and open space.** The Commission is not restricted to commenting on only the items listed or on strictly Parks matters. All comments will be forwarded to PZC. However, parks and open space is an important element in the *2040 LUP*, and Planning staff would be grateful for the Commission's consideration of this element.

Policy Guidance for 2040 LUP and its implementation strategies:

1. Pages 1,2, and 3: Overviews what this plan is. Page 2 reviews the guiding goals of *Anchorage 2020*, which are still in effect and remain relevant guidance today. Page 3 “Relationship to Other Plans” subsection references the Parks Plan.
2. Page 10, first column: Introduces the new Goals and Policies of the 2040 LUP, which are an addition to and will work alongside the *Anchorage 2020* goals and policies. Explains generally what are Goals, Policies, Strategies, and Actions in the 2040 LUP.
3. Page 13, third column through Page 16: Goals 5, 7, and 8 (Infrastructure, Neighborhood Compatibility, and Open Space) each have parks aspects in their discussion and Policies.

2040 LUP Land Use Descriptions that will inform rezonings and implementation strategies:

4. Page 26 first column; page 30 middle column: Explains that small parks and open spaces are incorporated into the residential Neighborhood and mixed-use/commercial Centers land use designations.
5. Pages 36 third column through page 38: Defines the “Open Spaces” land use designations, which comprise the “Park or Natural Area” and “Other Open Space” designations. Page 38 defines the “Community Facility or Institution” land use designation which includes schools.
6. Pages 45-46: Greenway-Supported Development. This urban design concept builds on the importance of orienting future infill and redevelopment in mixed-use centers to revitalized urban creeks, public spaces, and pedestrian trails that will be added to/leverage these Centers. (Page 44 first column explains that this “Growth Supporting Feature” is not a land use category but rather overlays the base land use categories.)

Implementation Strategies and Actions:

7. Page 52 middle column: Addresses acquisition of land for public use; and Page 54: Strategies #2 and #3 would affect the location and provision of open spaces.
8. Starting on Page 60: Actions Checklist presents parks related actions including efforts to encourage infill and redevelopment in Action 2-2, provide infrastructure in Actions 5-1 through 5-3, and address parklands in Actions 8-5 to 8-8.
9. Informational Map CI-6, “*Parks and Open Space*”, from Appendix A of the LUP documents the existing types of parks and open spaces as an important land use planning factor. It overlays the adopted Park Plan’s park deficiency analysis.
10. Informational Map CI-7, “*Community Natural Assets*”, from Appendix A of the LUP documents natural assets in the Bowl, building on the *Anchorage 2020* conceptual natural open space map.