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Section 1. Guiding Principles

The following Guiding Principles were developed based upon the existing park, recreation and natural systems found throughout Kenmore and the surrounding communities; the results of planning sessions with the city of Kenmore Planning Commission Subcommittee, Planning Commission and City Council; outreach surveys of teens, registered voters and the general public; workshops and surveys of recreation facility providers and users; and public open house meetings.

The Guiding Principles also build upon the Goals, Objectives, and Policies already established for Parks, Recreation & Open Space in the Kenmore Comprehensive Plan (March 2001) as described in *Section 3 – Goals, Objectives & Policies* of this document.

Through these Guiding Principles, the elements presented in this plan defines Kenmore as a unique city, reinforcing its sense of place and establishes an overall character for parks, recreation and natural systems. They also support the following vision statements from the Comprehensive Plan to create a city that:

- preserves the character of its single family residential neighborhoods;
- actively protects natural and environmentally sensitive areas, significant open space and trees;
- offers an attractive, vital, pedestrian oriented city center with commercial, civic, cultural and park spaces;
- is united by safe and effective system of . . . sidewalks and trails, linking significant regional and local destinations;
- with a network of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational facilities providing for passive and active recreation, and waterfront access; and
- is a good partner with citizens and governments throughout the region.

Natural Systems.

1. The natural systems become the central element in the development of the Kenmore Parks & Recreation Master Plan which all parks, recreation and other community facilities should connect into, both visually and physically, and should be preserved and enhanced to provide multiple benefits to the environment and the community wherever possible.
2. Natural systems include, but are not limited to: wildlife habitat and corridors, shorelines, sensitive areas (wetlands, steep slopes, floodplain, etc.), woodlands, ravines, stream corridors, and streetscapes. These natural systems create a network of open space throughout Kenmore and connect the community to its natural surrounding.
3. The Sammamish River becomes the central "spine" within the overall natural system. As the streams and other systems feed into the Sammamish River, they connect the community to the river's "spine", reinforcing the critical link between Kenmore and Lake Washington.
4. Public access, such as: trails and viewpoints should be provided within and/or adjacent to natural systems to enhance the public's experience of Kenmore's natural resources while creating a balance between the need for public access and the protection of the natural systems.

Neighborhood Parks.

1. Neighborhood parks should reinforce the importance of the natural systems in their design, character and function. They should primarily include passive and informal activities, such as: trails, picnic areas, viewpoints/overlooks, playgrounds, multipurpose athletic courts, and open space that can serve as a balance, or transition, between the natural systems and recreational uses. They should integrate, support and/or restore the natural systems within which they are developed. Sustainable practices should be used in developing neighborhood parks whenever possible.

2. Neighborhood parks should serve both the greater Kenmore community and the immediate surrounding neighborhoods. There should be an even distribution of neighborhood parks throughout the city of Kenmore, where opportunity and feasibility allow.

Recreation Facilities.

1. Recreation facilities should be linked to the natural systems, as well as, public and civic facilities, local neighborhoods, schools, commercial and retail centers by a high quality network of safe trails and corridors for a variety of users.
2. Outdoor and indoor active recreation facilities, such as: baseball, softball, football, soccer, aquatics, physical conditioning, and gymnasiums should primarily be provided at existing facilities. These facilities should be upgraded, where opportunity and feasibility allow, to meet the highest quality practice and competitive playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests on a year-round basis. Sustainable practices should be used in developing recreation facilities whenever possible.
3. A new civic/community center should accommodate a variety of community activities, such as: teen and senior activities, large multi-purpose room for special events with kitchen/banquet facilities, classrooms (meetings, lectures, self-help classes, dance instruction, etc.), library, and other facilities. It should be located within or adjacent to the general downtown area of Kenmore and provide for all age groups on a year-round basis.

Recreation Programs.

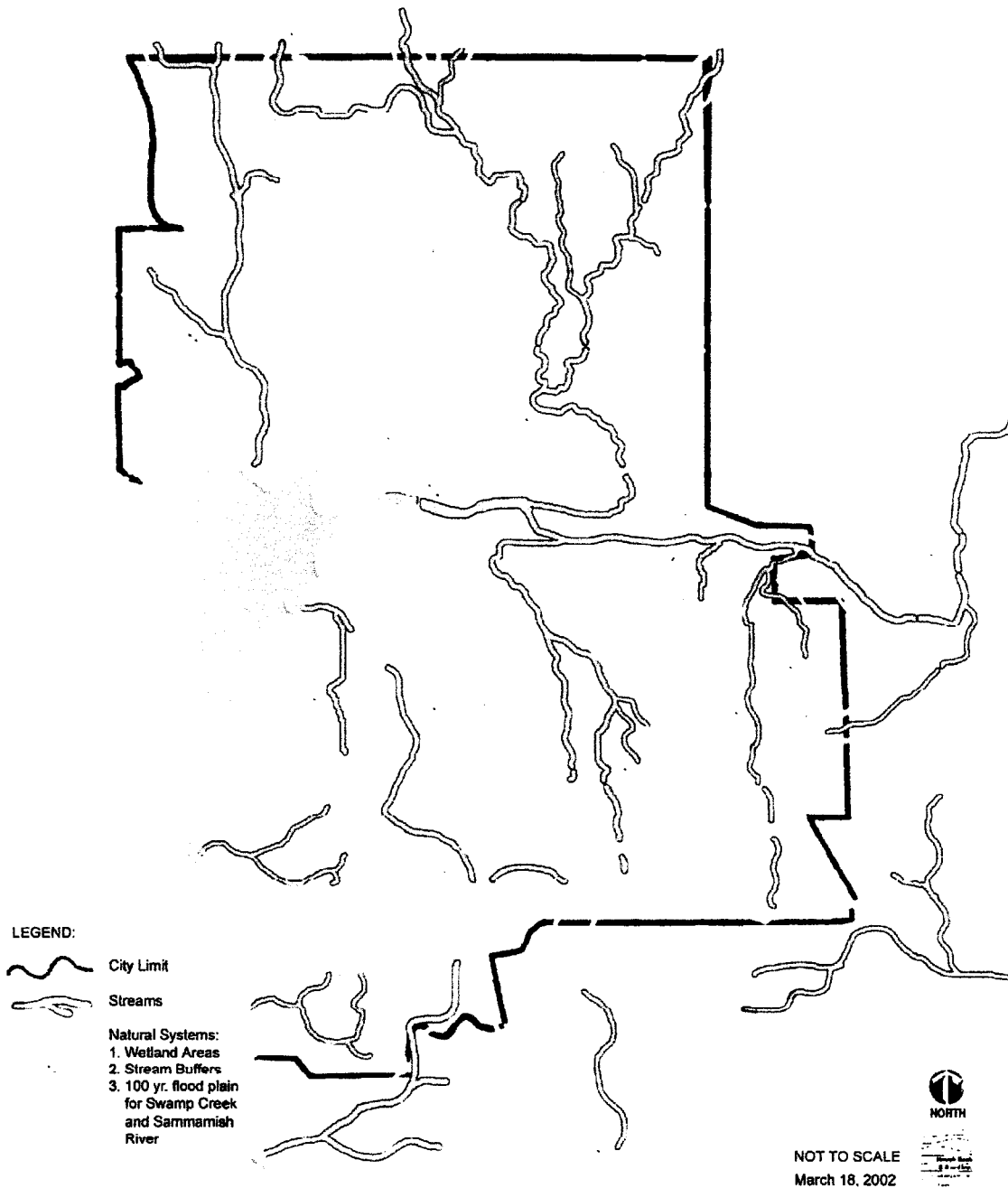
1. A convenient, organized and easily accessible system outlining recreation programs available to Kenmore residents should be provided for all age groups, physical/mental capability and income groups within the community.

Financial Resources.

1. The city of Kenmore should concentrate its resources in providing LOCAL FACILITIES, such as: neighborhood parks, streetscapes, community/civic centers, and local trails.
2. The city of Kenmore should partner with other private, public and non-profit agencies and organizations to provide SUB-REGIONAL and REGIONAL FACILITIES, such as athletic fields and tournament facilities (soccer, baseball, softball), performing arts centers, historic/cultural centers, regional trails/connections, pools, golf courses, convention and theater facilities, public marinas/moorage facilities, and other specialized facilities at a level consistent with providing a local benefit.
3. The city of Kenmore should maximize the use of existing facilities, such as existing parks, schools and other community facilities to satisfy the need for parks and recreation activities within Kenmore.
4. The city of Kenmore should partner with other public and private agencies, organizations and groups within Kenmore and its surrounding communities to organize, support and/or provide recreation programs for Kenmore residents.

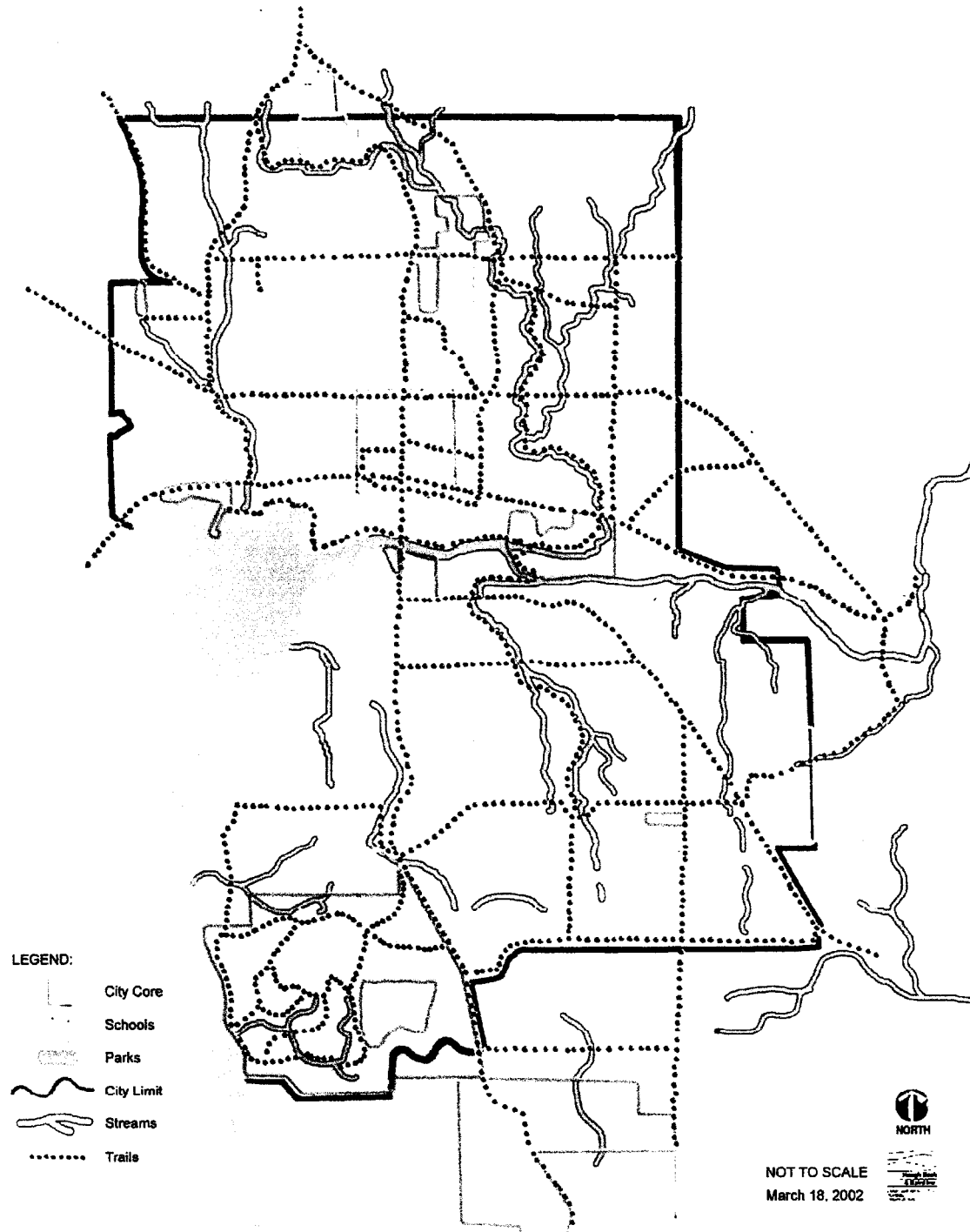
Implementation.

1. Kenmore should strategically acquire, preserve and protect its current land base now, as it becomes available, to support the vision outlined in this plan. This can include land to be set aside for natural systems, open space, parks, trails and/or other types of recreation facilities. Development of the land base should occur incrementally to meet current demand and avoid over-extending operations and maintenance allowances for parks, recreation and natural system facilities.
2. Kenmore should implement a high level of maintenance standards for all parks, recreation and natural system facilities in order to establish an overall credibility for future facility development and created added safety and security within existing facilities. Policing and enforcement of park regulations should be included in the overall maintenance and operations standards for the city.
3. Kenmore should look at a variety of options and funding sources, taking full advantage of both traditional and new, creative approaches to financing parks, recreation and natural system facilities for every aspect of the park and recreation process.
4. Kenmore should work to assure parks, recreation and natural systems are provided for all ages, abilities and user groups. The city should facilitate partnerships and agreements to establish services for these facilities, providing a strategic role, as opposed to a comprehensive role to managing, developing or programming parks, recreation and natural systems in the city. They should take a primary role in planning all park, recreation and natural system facilities to meet the future demand as the city continues to grow, and they should continue to look to partnerships for assistance in acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining current and future park, recreation and natural system facilities.



Overall Concept:

The natural systems become the central element in the overall Parks & Recreation Master Plan which all parks, recreation, and community facilities should connect into. The Sammamish River serves as the main spine in this natural system, connecting the City of Kenmore to Lake Washington.



Overall Concept:

Neighborhood parks, recreation facilities, and community facilities are linked to the natural systems through a network of trails for a variety of users; creating a transition between the natural systems and recreational users.