



Focus Groups

A series of focus group discussions were conducted with eight groups of Mountlake Terrace's community members over December 5 & 6, 2007. The discussions were facilitated by members of the consultant team from MIG, Inc. The purpose of these discussions was to present members of the community with opportunities to share their ideas and concerns for the future of parks, recreation and open space in Mountlake Terrace. Participant groups included:

- Premera Blue Cross Employees
- Local Public Agency Representatives
- Local Business Community Members
- Organized Youth and Adult Sports
- Open Space and Conservation Interests
- Recreation Program Participants
- Parks and Recreation Maintenance Employees
- Senior Recreation Participants
- Mountlake Terrace Recreation Pavilion Staff

A similar agenda was used with each group. This agenda included introductions and a brief overview of the planning process with the greater portion of time spent on open discussion of current conditions, and future needs and possibilities. This document summarizes the key elements of these discussion sessions. Summaries of individual groups are also available.

Key Roles for Parks and Recreation in Mountlake Terrace

Groups were asked to describe the key role of Mountlake Terrace Parks and Recreation in the community. Though there were numerous answers to this question, common themes did emerge.

- Provide amenities to attract and retain residents and visiting tourists.
- Provide recreation opportunities for local residents.
- Support downtown redevelopment efforts through connectivity and beautification of the community.
- Provide equal access to all user groups.
- Preserve and care for natural open spaces in the urban setting.

Further discussion revealed strengths as well as issues and opportunities for improvement of the current parks and recreation system. Common themes and ideas in each of these areas are summarized in the following lists.

Key Strengths

- Dedicated parks and recreation staff provide excellent customer service and maintain facilities in good working order,
- An inclusive process is being pursued during planning,
- Programming is available to nearly every user group,
- The Recreation Pavilion provides a wide variety of programs, facilities and services,
- Established successful inter-local agreements, and
- Strong fiscal management at the City

Key Issues

- There are limited opportunities for land acquisition/ new development of parks.
- A lack of connectivity between parks, the town center area and other established residential areas. I-5 and 99 are physical and conceptual barriers to cross-town transportation.
- Despite excellent care by the maintenance staff, most facilities and amenities are outdated and in need of repairs or upgrade.
- The new town center plan sets a new standard for the quality of new development/ services/ facilities – this new standard should also be applied to other City services such as parks.
- Parking is very limited at parks and other destinations.
- There is significant interest in creation of public / common gathering spaces for social and recreational uses.
- There is concern over the increase in staff and maintenance that future facility expansions will require.
- Teens are viewed as the most underserved (and difficult to serve) recreation user group.
- As the population ages, and baby-boomers retire, recreation needs and desires will change.
- There are varying levels of support, interest and concern around the idea of a skateboarding facility.

Ideas & Opportunities

- Renovation and increases in amenities at existing parks are favored over expensive acquisition of new park land.
- People already come from the surrounding areas to use MLT facilities, increasing leisure amenities could help capture some of their consumer dollars.
- MLT is demographically well positioned, with a relatively younger population, for supporting increased recreation and leisure amenities.
- Partnerships between local businesses and city could help provide labor and funding for improvements
- Partnerships with local agencies can increase efficient uses of funds, avoid competition and duplication of services.
- Volunteers and service groups could become community partners to maintain existing and potential facilities.

- The Inter-Urban Trail is an element that can help focus the cooperation and efforts of several interested user groups.
- Conservation of existing open space is important to the community.
- Recreation users of all ages participate in programming offered by the city.
- Some user groups are underserved, and efforts should be made to engage these groups in the planning process and to address their recreation needs. The following groups were identified specifically but may not include all underserved populations.
 - Active seniors
 - Stay at home parents / primary care givers
 - Teens (10-18 yrs)
 - ESL citizens
- Improvements to sport fields would have a significant impact on a large number of regular users and could save the City time and expense in the future.
- A strategic plan and schedule for repairs and improvements could help create priorities and use funding and staff time more efficiently.
- As the community begins to outgrow the current recreation pavilion, future possibilities for a new building or site can be explored, as well as future uses for the current facility.



Premera Blue Cross Focus Group

A focus group discussion was conducted with employees of Premera Blue Cross' on their corporate campus in Mountlake Terrace (MLT) on December 5, 2007. The discussion was facilitated by members of the consultant team from MIG, Inc. The purpose of the discussion was to present community members with interests in natural areas with an opportunity to share their ideas and concerns for the future of parks, recreation and open space planning in the community. The agenda included introductions, a brief overview of the planning process, and a discussion of current conditions, and future needs and possibilities. This document summarizes the key elements of that discussion session.

Attendees

Martin Spani	Facilities / Business Cont
Chad Stefonowicz	Facilities / Business Cont
Teresita Heiser	Communications
Jim Streitenberger	HR
Laura Pierron	HR/ Benefits
Dana Dans	HR
Heather Marshall	Legal / Corporate Giving
Don Sarcetti	Director – MLT Parks & Recreation
Ryan Mottau	MIG, Inc.
Rainbow Colder	MIG, Inc.

Visions for Mountlake Terrace (MLT) – (20 year timeline)

- Connectivity between parks, facilities and neighboring communities
- Enhancement of the inter-urban trail
- Promoting health and wellness in the community
- Access / Connectivity between campus and local parks and recreation amenities
- Continuation of land stewardship
- Meeting the needs of the expanding senior population
- Expanded collaboration between neighboring communities

Strengths

- Very good website
- Well run programs, responsive staff
- Easy to get information about what is going on at Recreation Pavilion

Issues

- Unimproved stretch of interurban trail limits commuter options for their 2000+ employees

- Crosswalks entering campus are poorly placed
 - 208th
 - Park and ride
- Paths into campus are unsafe / not bike or pedestrian friendly
 - Lack of bike routes
 - Trail/ Tunnel (inter-urban) is poorly lit, feels unsafe
- Field E4 is a great field but could use lights
- Field E5 – in poor condition
- There is a need for fitness/ outdoor facilities around the campus.
- Parks and recreation facilities are
- Breaching the I-5 divide

Ideas/ Opportunities

- Improve the Inter-urban trail
 - Expand facilities along the inter-urban trail
 - Par-course fitness stations along the trail
 - Connect to other parks and recreation destinations
 - Use signage and lighting to make trail more inviting and accessible to employees and residents
- Make the inter-urban trail a gateway into the campus
- Pursue partnerships with local businesses and neighboring agencies
 - Lynnwood
 - Shoreline
 - Edmonds
 - Brier
- Promote wellness, walking and healthy lifestyles with parks and recreation as a centerpiece
- Build on the success of the website by increasing interaction and information available
- Parks and recreation are an attraction for employees and their families because of proximity to work
- Ballinger Lake – popular destination for all ages
 - Explore possibility of using the current golf course site for public park and waterfront access



Public Agency Focus Group

A focus group discussion was conducted with directors and members of local agencies and municipalities in the Mountlake Terrace area on December 5, 2007 in meeting facilities at the Mountlake Terrace Recreation Pavilion. The discussion was facilitated by members of the consultant team from MIG, Inc. The purpose of the discussion was to identify common efforts and themes in parks and recreation planning in the region and to explore possible avenues for cooperation for the future of parks, recreation and open space planning in the community. The agenda included introductions, a brief overview of Mountlake Terrace's Parks Recreation and Open Space Update planning process, and a discussion of current conditions, and future needs and possibilities. This document summarizes the key elements of that discussion session.

Attendees

Mary Freitas
Ceci White
Lynn Sordel
Tammy Dunn
Bob Colinas
Brian McIntosh
Jeff Betz
Don Sarcletti
Ryan Mottau
Rainbow Colder

Group / Affiliation

Terrace Park School
Terrace Park School PTA
Director - Lynnwood PRCA
Snohomish County Tourism Board
Mayor - City of Brier
Director - City of Edmonds Parks & Recreation
Program Coordinator - MLT
Director – MLT Parks & Recreation
MIG, Inc.
MIG, Inc.

Key Concerns for Parks and Recreation in Mountlake Terrace (MLT)

This group of leaders from several area agencies focused the discussion on areas that may provide opportunities to cooperate and minimize duplication of spending or efforts. The following lists display the highlights of the issues, as well as ideas and opportunities discussed.

Issues

- Available land is limited
- Connectivity of trails between neighboring communities is fragmented
 - Hwy99 is biggest E-W barrier
 - Pedestrian facilities are limited
 - Funding for improvements may be available through healthy communities initiatives
- Inter-Urban Trail (I-UT) is underutilized

- When complete it (I-UT) can be a non-motorized transportation asset for all connected communities
- Development of unimproved section of Inter-Urban Trail (Edmonds section) will begin in winter 2009
- Field facilities for entire area can barely accommodate current user levels, as populations grow, cooperation and scheduling will become more important
- Athletics is a regional issue, actions of one City affect others directly
- Communities need to cooperate and build on each other's strengths

Ideas & Opportunities

- Maintain a “big picture” outlook for planning and cooperation.
- Consider the school district as geographic area for joint services. This may be more useful than the County.
- Planning efforts should address current needs *and* future projections
- Model future collaborations on the current and past successes of joint projects
 - E.g. Remodeling school playground w/ matching grant from the district.
- Meadowdale School site as a model sport venue partnership for local communities.
- Future development should be planned to compliment not compete.
- Emphasize cooperation with nearby communities
- Explore local Arts and Culture Programming
- Open space for festivals and events is needed
- Protect and utilize natural open spaces
 - These areas can be a huge draw for both locals and tourists
- Consider a joint effort between the Cities of Brier and Mountlake Terrace for a senior center in the future
- Explore alternate public recreation uses for the land around Ballinger Lake
 - Valuable lakefront property underutilized
 - Very limited public waterfront access
 - Boat launch area is always over crowded in warm season



Business Community Focus Group

A focus group discussion was conducted with members of Mountlake Terrace's business community on December 5, 2007 at the Mountlake Terrace Recreation Pavilion. The discussion was facilitated by members of the consultant team from MIG, Inc. The purpose of the discussion was to present members of the business community with an opportunity to share their ideas and concerns for the future of parks, recreation and open space planning in the community. The agenda included introductions, a brief overview of the planning process, and a discussion of current conditions, and future needs and possibilities. This document summarizes the key elements of that discussion session.

Attendees

Bill Niedermeyer	V.P. Business Association / Owner – Distinctive Countertops
Tyrone Hardy	Hardy Golf, LLC. – Ballinger Lake Golf Course
Carol Hardy	Hardy Golf, LLC. – Ballinger Lake Golf Course
Don Sarcletti	Director – MLT Parks & Recreation
Ryan Mottau	MIG, Inc.
Rainbow Colder	MIG, Inc.

Key Roles for P&R in Mountlake Terrace (MLT)

- Provide amenities to attract and retain local and visiting commercial dollars.
- Provide recreation outlets for local residents.
- Support downtown redevelopment efforts

Issues

- Downtown business area is in need of beautification to be more appealing/welcoming.
- Limited land for acquisition/ development.
- There is significant vacant retail space already (before new buildings are considered).
- Lack of connectivity between parks and between town center area and the established residential areas
- Image of new town center plan sets a new standard for new development/ services/ facilities – concern over maintaining a consistent level of service as development occurs.
- Availability of parking limited at parks and other destinations.
- Difficult water management at the golf course limits utilization of the land there.
- A covered (indoor?) gathering space is needed for community functions, business association meetings, corporate picnics, etc.

- There is concern over the increase in staff and maintenance that future facility expansions will require.
- Fees and taxes often used to fund programming may hit small businesses too hard/ discourage new businesses from moving to MLT.
- Visibility, accessibility is important for businesses – street trees can be problematic.
- Interest and caution surrounding the idea of creating a skate park facility.

Ideas / Opportunities

- People already come from the surrounding areas to use MLT facilities, increasing leisure amenities could help capture some of their consumer dollars.
- Increase amenities at existing parks over acquisition of new park land.
- MLT is demographically well positioned for supporting increased recreation and leisure amenities.
- A golf driving range would complement the municipal 9-hole golf course and draw people from neighboring communities. Connecting park system to planned town center area could keep some consumers and \$ in town.
- Support independent/ small business owners, they are the majority in MLT.
- Create an outdoor temporary ice rink at a park or other key recreation destination for casual users. Could bring the City revenue and utilize an under used area during winter months.
- Partnerships between local businesses and city could help provide for beautification efforts.



Organized Sports Focus Group

A focus group discussion was conducted with members of organized sports groups in Mountlake Terrace on December 5, 2007 in meeting facilities at the Mountlake Terrace Recreation Pavilion. The discussion was facilitated by members of the consultant team from MIG, Inc. The purpose of the discussion was to present community members from sports organizations with an opportunity to share their ideas and concerns for the future of parks, recreation and open space planning in the community. The agenda included introductions, a brief overview of the planning process, and a discussion of current conditions, and future needs and possibilities. This document summarizes the key elements of that discussion session.

Attendees

Cathy Jackson	NW Nationals Soccer
Lowell Shields	Disc Golf Association
Mark Schnell	TBSC Soccer
Don Sarcletti	Director – MLT Parks & Recreation
Ryan Mottau	MIG, Inc.
Rainbow Colder	MIG, Inc.

Key Concerns for Mountlake Terrace (MLT) Parks, Recreation & Open Space

High demand for regulation legal sport fields increases as population grows and ages. Old facilities are in need of repair and replacement, making some of them unusable to some groups. User conflicts at facilities limit the recreation opportunities for several user groups

Issues

- Sport seasons are extending, overlapping and increasing competition for field time
- Field surfaces are affected by weather
- High demand for field time means no rest for natural surface fields, damage to field surfaces
- Limited opportunities for land acquisition for new fields
- Community events held on fields damage surfaces, require more maintenance and time to rest

SOCCER

- Sport fields at Evergreen are deteriorating beyond the ability of maintenance staff to repair
- Restroom facilities at multiple facilities are temporary or in need of maintenance

- Recent changes in ownership of private sport fields have further limited available space for field sport practices and competitions
- Field E1 (dirt field) is unlit undesirable/ unacceptable to Premier level soccer organization (despite size)
- E6 with track
- Track is in poor condition
- Unlit

DISC GOLF

- Recent changes in parks facilities have reduced number of playable holes
- New performance space takes one hole
- Dog area will take 2 holes
- Some negative environmental impacts
- User conflicts
- Hikers are at risk on blind corners
- Underage
- Vagrant/ homeless sometimes camp in more secluded natural areas

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

- Only one adult regulation field
- Sharing field with soccer or football practice damages outfield area

Ideas/ Opportunities

- Maximize playable time on existing facilities
 - Explore centralizing scheduling for all fields to minimize gaps and
 - Light E6 for night use to maximize capacity of fields
 - Replace play surface at E1 (large dirt field) with turf, and install lighting for year round play
 - Explore Inter-local school district agreements to improve maintenance standards on shared fields
- Build on the strengths of the staff and current organization in MLT parks and Recreation
 - Program coordinator is appreciated for scheduling flexibility and accommodation
 - Maintenance crew is appreciated for excellent care of aging fields and facilities.



Outdoor Interests Focus Group

A focus group discussion was conducted with members of outdoor interest groups in Mountlake Terrace on December 5, 2007 in meeting facilities at the Mountlake Terrace Recreation Pavilion. The purpose of the discussion was to present community members with interests in natural areas with an opportunity to share their ideas and concerns for the future of parks, recreation and open space planning in the community. The agenda included introductions, a brief overview of the planning process, and a discussion of current conditions, and future needs and possibilities. This document summarizes the key elements of that discussion session.

Attendees

- Jim Ito MLT D.O.G., President
- David Lentz Conservation / Rare plant collector
- Jeff Crandall Garden Club Member
- Robin Leshner Citizen / Botanist
- Don Sarcletti Director – MLT Parks & Recreation
- Ryan Mottau MIG, Inc.
- Rainbow Colder MIG, Inc.

Key Concerns of Outdoor Interest Groups

This group of discussion participants represented some of the conservation and preservation interests present in the community. Open space use and planning was the primary area of focus for the discussion. Some common concerns raised by the group include:

- Increasing value of natural open space in urban setting
- Beautification of public space
- Balancing needs of nature w/ needs of people
- Keen interest in the public process of open space planning

Strengths

- Long contiguous stretch of protected riparian land
- Veteran's Park
- Interested citizens, volunteers
- Local Service Clubs & organizations

Issues

- Connectivity
 - Poor condition and placement of trails in some parks and natural areas encourage damaging behavior, discourage positive uses
- Old growth trees are disappearing from urban landscape
 - Limited lifespan cycle of trees – Alder stands are dying out soon
- Limited opportunities to preserve land for the future of parks and recreation
- Parks and Recreation staff have limited knowledge of tree and plant care specifics
- Key areas of the city need beautification
- User conflicts present problems for open space classification
 - Recreational uses of current natural areas are incurring damages sensitive areas
 -
- Invasive species threaten diversity / stability of native plants in established natural areas
- Poor communication between developers, homeowners, contractors on tree installation/ removal/ selection of trees
- Facilities at specific locations are in disrepair / missing
 - Jack Long Park water tower
 - Sidewalks and trails to park - not parent/ child friendly
 - Play equipment has been removed
- Distance between neighborhood parks is too far to encourage use

Ideas / Opportunities

- Tap volunteers to do open space care
 - Invasive plant species removal
 - Beautification, plantings, cleanup
- Partner with local businesses and organizations
 - Adopt-a-Park / Forest / trail programs?
- Create a “Friends of” association to raise awareness, funding and support
- Explore partnership with City of Brier for preservation / use of Abby View
- Plan for acquisition of open spaces before opportunity disappears.
- Veteran’s Park
 - 10 acres of natural area
 - Trail could be re-designed for better use & lower environmental impact
- Prime location by park and ride
 - Possible site of trail connecting park and ride with other trails
- Find new ways to maintain ecological value of current land assets
 - Bird habitats
 - Old second growth forests
 - Riparian corridor



Recreation Program Participants Focus Group

A focus group discussion was conducted with participants of Mountlake Terrace's recreation programs on December 6, 2007 in meeting facilities at the Mountlake Terrace Recreation Pavilion. The discussion was facilitated by members of the consultant team from MIG, Inc. The purpose of the discussion was to present recreation participants and seniors with an opportunity to share their ideas and concerns for the future of parks, recreation and open space planning in the community. This combination of user groups occurred due to scheduling constraints, but revealed distinct perspectives and good dialogue among participants. The agenda included introductions, a brief overview of the planning process, and a discussion of current conditions, and future needs and possibilities. This document summarizes the key elements of that discussion session.

Attendees

Program / Affiliation

Cathy & Dave McKee	Preschool swim parents, recreation participants
Mike Mooney	Senior Swim Programs
Carol Lytle	Senior
Robert Lytle	Senior / Former Pres. – Mountlake Terrace Youth Athletics Association (MTLYAA)
Kaarina Merkacent	Parent, Recreation Pavilion Participant
Bob McFarlane	Senior Volleyball
Don Cobb	Senior Swim Programs
Julie Codd	Recreation Pavilion Operations Manager
Jeff Betz	City of MLT Athletics Program Coordinator
Don Sarcletti	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ryan Mottau	MIG, Inc.
Rainbow Colder	MIG, Inc.

Key Roles for Parks & Recreation in Mountlake Terrace (MLT)

- Provide all users with age-, ability-, interest- appropriate recreation opportunities.
- Guide existing groups in need of facilities & organizational help

Issues

- Senior swim classes are over crowded
- Stay at home dads (and parents in general) are underserved
- Teens are the most underserved age group
- Changing and locker facilities at the Pavilion are inadequate
- Increases in fees for programming seriously affect people on fixed incomes
- Recreation Pavilion needs casual gathering space to encourage community interaction / retain customers from outside MLT

- More variety of adult recreation activities is desired
- Competition w/ private gyms/ recreation facilities is focused on hours of operation and member fees.
- Surrounding communities use the facilities, too. Difficult to predict future user numbers.
- Connections – park to park, park to facility, park to community, and facility to community are fragmented, sometimes unsafe, not bike, pedestrian, or child friendly.

Ideas / Opportunities

- Expand senior recreation opportunities
 - Bocce ball
 - horseshoes
 - Senior hikes
 - Social dances
- Develop teen programs / facilities
- Form teen advisory board to identify needs / interests
- Increase senior aquatic programs
- Develop parent/ child programming for stay at home parents
 - Joint classes
 - Tandem schedules
- Create family changing facilities
 - Serves families with all kinds of dependents
- Cover and light some of the existing outdoor facilities to increase service capacity
- Explore partnerships with businesses and community organizations for funding/ staffing/ maintenance needs at some facilities
 - church groups
 - Garden Club
 - Local businesses
 - Health Insurance / Fitness programming cooperation
- Work with neighboring communities to avoid duplication/ competition and maximize service to area residents
- Explore interest in drop-in activities facilities
- Teen programming
 - Ping-pong
 - Internet services
 - Café / restaurant
 - Gathering space
 - pick-up games
- Preserve Natural areas through new uses
 - Veteran's Park
 - “Native Forest”
 - Possible resource for learning opportunities / environmental education
 - Explore funding for Native Forest preservation



Senior Recreation Participants & Maintenance Personnel Focus Group

A focus group discussion was conducted with senior participants of Mountlake Terrace's recreation programs and the parks maintenance crew personnel for Mountlake Terrace on December 6, 2007 in meeting facilities at the Mountlake Terrace Recreation Pavilion. The discussion was facilitated by members of the consultant team from MIG, Inc. The purpose of the discussion was to present senior recreation participants and maintenance crew personnel with an opportunity to share their ideas and concerns for the future of parks, recreation and open space planning in the community. This combination of user groups occurred due to scheduling constraints, but revealed commonly themed interests and good dialogue among participants. The agenda included introductions, a brief overview of the planning process, and a discussion of current conditions, and future needs and possibilities. This document summarizes the key elements of that discussion session.

Attendees

Program / Affiliation

Ken	Supervisor, Parks & Rec Maintenance
Kevin	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Ali	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Casey	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Mary	Senior Volleyball Participant
Jean	Senior Volleyball Participant
Bob	Senior Volleyball Participant
Rick	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Andrew	Youth Baseball; Parks & Rec Maintenance
Don Sarcletti	Director – MLT Parks & Recreation
Ryan Mottau	MIG, Inc.
Rainbow Colder	MIG, Inc.

Key Concerns for Parks & Rec. in Mountlake Terrace (MLT)

- This discussion was opened by asking each person to share his or her most immediate interest or concern for Parks and Recreation in MLT.
- Renovate all existing park infrastructure according to a coherent and strategic plan to avoid wasting resources or falling behind in level of service.
- Maintain / improve the facilities already in operation – keep it simple.
- The condition of Field E 1, limited parking at all facilities.
- The condition of existing facilities, storage / work facilities for maintenance equipment and crew, possibility of a skate park.
- Grateful for a place to place senior volleyball, interested in increase in active senior programming

- Interest in a facility that does not share space or have scheduling conflicts with school district
- Explore the possibility of a skate park to engage teens and to provide a point of visual interest to other recreation users.
- Turf field options to build capacity on existing fields.
- Ballinger Play Field – remodel / rethink based on demand.

Underserved Groups / Interests

- Teens (10-18yrs) are hardest to engage, most underserved
- Skateboarders have no facility in town, neighboring area facilities are at capacity.
- Active programming for seniors is limited, interest is there.
- Extremely limited facilities for adult baseball and softball – most fields are undersized

Strengths

- Wide range of programming
- Successful partnerships with local agencies
 - Shared use agreements with school district
- Customer Service for recreation programming is excellent
- Facilities are well maintained by limited staff
- Parks and Recreation web site is useful and informative

Issues

- Land acquisition for new facilities is limited by built out town geography
- Aging facilities are expensive to maintain
 - Diminishing returns
- Population continues to grow
- New Shoreline YMCA facility may pose competition issues
- Weather-safe facilities are limited.
- Restroom facilities at multiple locations are temporary/ inadequate/ in need of repair or renovation
- Maintenance staff has no dedicated facilities for work or equipment storage.
 - equipment is vulnerable to weather/ theft/ vandalism
- Any improvements to fields (desired) will result in higher attendance & require more maintenance.
- Current staff is working at capacity – expansion will require an increase in personnel
- As participation increases, parking is becoming an issue

Ideas / Opportunities

- Create new programs for teens (10-18 yrs)
 - Work with youth to determine best areas of service
- Ballinger ball fields are undersized for adult play, but provide youth play opportunities
- “All-weather” multi-use field (sand/dirt) is undesirable for practice or play & therefore under-utilized
- Only one regulation-legal field for high-school play
 - May be missing an opportunity to develop competitive programming because of lack of facilities
- Many current ‘fixes’ for facilities are not strategically planned
 - Inefficient use of resources, temporary solutions
- Sport Fields (Evergreen 1-6) all need maintenance or upgrades to continue to meet demand
- Field and court improvements could expand capacity of current facilities
- Improve walking facilities at track and along trails
 - Level / resurface paths
 - Provide benches
- Consider restructuring fee schedules to reflect amenities at each facility
 - Turf v. dirt
 - Lighted v. unlit fields
 - Size / condition of facilities
- Plan for changing recreation needs as the local (and national) population ages and goes into retirement
 - More active retirees
 - More leisure time
 - More \$ for leisure activities



Recreation Pavilion Staff Focus Group

A focus group discussion was conducted with the staff of the Recreation Pavilion located at 5303 228th Street Southwest in Mountlake Terrace on December 6, 2007 in meeting facilities at the Pavilion. The discussion was facilitated by members of the consultant team from MIG, Inc. The purpose of the discussion was to present the Pavilion staff with an opportunity to share their ideas and concerns for the future of parks, recreation and open space planning in the community. The conversation focused on the facilities at the Pavilion. The agenda included introductions, a brief overview of the planning process, and a discussion of current conditions, future needs and possibilities. This document summarizes the key elements of that discussion.

Attendees Program / Affiliation

Julie Codd	Supervisor of Operations, Recreation Pavilion
Renee Norton	Recreation Coordinator
Travis Vail	Recreation Programmer
Trevor Carroll	Recreation Programmer
Jeff Betz	Supervisor of Programming, Recreation
Darlene Cook	Recreation Programmer
Lori Johnson	Recreation Coordinator
Rose Ploey	Recreation Programmer
Marissa Grahn	Recreation Coordinator
Don Sarcletti	Director – MLT Parks and Recreation
Ryan Mottau	MIG, Inc.
Rainbow Colder	MIG, Inc.

Key Concerns for Parks & Recreation in Mountlake Terrace (MLT)

- Connectivity between Inter-Urban Trail and local parks (for all facilities)
- Aging facilities
- Pavilion maintenance falling behind
 - Need staff and storage space
- Limited program and storage space at Pavilion, uses are outgrowing facilities.
- Outdated / limited facilities.
 - Heating / cooling/ water systems strained and outdated

Strengths

- Dedicated staff
- Well established customer base
 - MLT Residents

- Members of surrounding communities.

Issues

- Storage and administrative space is limited.
- Facilities limit the type/ frequency of
- Teens are underserved
- Access to the Pavilion is limited by transportation issues.
 - Auto traffic flow around building is slow and potentially unsafe.
 - No safe way to cross I-5, 99 near Pavilion.
 - Sidewalks to/ around Pavilion are narrow, not continuous
 - Bike access is dangerous/ limited
- Outdoor play facilities are severely limited during poor weather
- ESL customers are underserved.
- ADA access to facilities is limited.
- Foot traffic inside of Pavilion is congested, inconvenient.
- Lobby area is insufficient for the current variety of uses
 - Reception
 - Retail
 - Communal Space
 - Entryway drop-off & pick-up area
 - Hub of paths through facility
- Target customer is changing as population grows / ages
 - Baby boomers
 - In-migration of young families

Ideas / Opportunities

- Whole family services
 - Family changing areas
 - Expanded restroom facilities
 - Childcare services Create Inter-generational programming
 - Parent-child combined or tandem scheduled classes
- Expand schedule for senior programs
 - Therapeutic swim classes are especially popular
- Explore new programming options
 - Aquatics (expansion of programming would require facilities improvement)
 - Larger facilities
 - Dedicated lap lanes
 - Larger leisure pool area
 - More adult aquatics programming
 - X-treme sports
 - Skateboarding (off-site location?)
 - Rock climbing (indoor? Covered outdoor?)
 - Social opportunities for teens
 - Drop-in facilities
 - Café

- Internet access
- Outdoor programming
 - Cover / light the Sonics court to extend capacity
 - Create a covered play area for inclement weather
 - Establish common areas and green spaces
 - Open play areas
 - Picnic / family areas near Pavilion
 - Indoor common areas for scheduled or impromptu gatherings
- Create a rotating major maintenance schedule
 - Avoid back-logs of maintenance work
 - Prioritize facility needs
- Increase hot water supply
- Create kitchen facilities
 - For staff?
 - Commercial – for events, classes, camps