

2026 Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Planning Commission Draft

Draft Published August 31, 2026; Public Comment Period: August 31, 2026 – September 15, 2026; Planning Commission Hearing: September 15, 2026

Comment Summary

This summary content includes contributions generated with the assistance of AI tools.

Comp Plan – PROS Element and Capital Facilities Plan

- **Heritage park identity:** Support for retaining “heritage” in the names of the six Heritage Parks and recognition of their importance to the County’s park system.
- **Conservation and environmental stewardship:** Support for strengthening policies related to environmental assessment and natural resource management, with requests for greater emphasis on habitat protection, ecological connectivity, biodiversity, and restoration.
- **Park classification and funding priorities:** Concern that shifting from a “Heritage Park” classification to broader classifications could diminish the emphasis on cultural heritage and conservation, particularly where capital projects appear focused on active recreation and trails rather than restoration and broader park uses.
- **Park land and recreation priorities:** Requests for careful consideration of park land acquisition/divestiture, greater transparency regarding County park properties, and recognition of walking and other lower-impact recreational uses alongside active recreation.

Silverdale Center Plan

- **Connected parks, open space, and mobility:** Support for incorporating parks, open space, non-motorized trails, green infrastructure, sustainable design, complete streets, and coordinated networks into the Silverdale Regional Center.
- **Pedestrian connections:** Suggestion to consider overhead pedestrian crossings, including a connection across Bucklin Hill Road, to better connect shopping areas, trails, and shoreline paths.

Comments Attached

Comment #1

Comments for the Planning Commission Public Hearing September 15, 2026.

I'm Beverly Parsons from Hansville. I have comments on the revisions to Chapter 7 of the Comp Plan, the revisions to the Capital Facilities Plan, and the revised Silverdale Regional Center Subarea Plan.

Revisions to Chapter 7 of Comp Plan: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element

In the 2025 PROS plan (approved in July 2025) the park classifications were changed from having heritage parks as a classification to putting these parks within nature and regional classifications. I was very concerned at the time that we were losing our focus on heritage parks which are very important to many of us. Now as I look at the changes in the Chapter 7 and the Capital Facilities Plan, I see that we are retaining the names of heritage parks and their importance to our county. This is excellent. For example, the revised Chapter 7 (p. 5) says:

~~Nearly three-quarters~~ “About 66% of all park and open space acreage lies within ~~six heritage parks, nature and regional classifications, which includes six heritage parks,~~ that have become the cornerstone of Kitsap County’s Park system.” Indeed, the heritage parks are the cornerstone of the Kitsap County Park system.

I also appreciate the new Parks Strategy 1.e. which now reads: “incorporate environmental assessments as a foundational step in park planning and development” (p. 8) and Parks Strategy 5.d which now reads: “Develop individual natural resource management plans for all park landscapes managed for conservation and preservation.” (p. 13). Previously Parks Strategy 1.e. only referred to PGFHP and Strategy 5.d. only referred to forest management plans for regional and heritage parks.

Revisions to 2024 Capital Facilities Plan

Regarding the Capital Facilities Plan, as I understand this, the Parks Department is changing the park classification system to better align LOS (level of service) calculations with more commonly used park categories which helps when seeking state (and possibly other) funding.

I am pleased that throughout the Capital Facilities Plan amendments for section 4.4 (Parks and Recreation) (pp. 84-97) the six heritage parks still have “heritage park” in their name. These park names have not been changed even through the broader categories in the CFP use the new classification system. It is very important that these names are retained. I hope that the public will be engaged in helping to enrich the understanding and importance of heritage parks.

Revised Chapter 13: Silverdale Regional Center Subarea Plan

I am pleased to see that throughout the revised Silverdale Regional Center Subarea many opportunities are being encouraged for parks, open space, and non-motorized trails, green infrastructure, sustainable design elements, complete-street approaches, and coordinated networks.

Thank you.

Beverly Parsons

Comment #2

From: [Alexander Wisniewski](#)
To: [Susan Whittington](#)
Cc: [Kitsap Commissioners](#); [Heather Cleveland](#)
Subject: RE: Comment for PROS plan by Sept 15 meeting
Date: Monday, September 14, 2026 9:14:57 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Ms. Whittington,

Thanks for connecting with us regarding your concern with changing the names of the County's six Heritage parks. I can assure you, the names have not changed.

The change that happened in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) plan was a change to park **classification** names, not the names of the parks themselves. In the PROS plan, which was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in mid-2025, an update to the County's park classification system changed so that our park structure matched traditional park types that are used across the parks and recreation industry. This better aligns our park system for comparisons and data analysis with other park systems. It does not change the name of the park, a park's intent or purpose, or it's character. Heritage parks are still alive and well at Kitsap County.

Thanks,
Alex



KitsapCounty

Alex Wisniewski

Parks Director

360.337.5355 | awisniewski@kitsap.gov

Parks

614 Division Street MS-1, Port Orchard, WA 98366

From: Susan Whittington <sdianewhittington@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2026 10:22 PM
To: kitsapcounty@public.govdelivery.com
Cc: Kitsap Commissioners <KitsapCommissioners@kitsap.gov>
Subject: Comment for PROS plan by Sept 15 meeting

You don't often get email from sdianewhittington@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello to Alex Wisniewski, Irene Weber, Carmen Smith, and Chuck Cuzzetto, I am sending this to you folks since I have met you all and have a face to your names. Whoever received this email, please forward to the people listed above.

I have tried to follow the ongoing discussion in the past year about renaming the Heritage parks, as Regional parks or natural resource areas, I think I've seen both mentioned in the PROS plan.

I totally disagree with this concept!

They are called Heritage parks to keep the cultural and environmental heritage within them!

There are historical collaborations with our local government that the word Heritage connects to. Changing them to regional parks creates a feeling of a generic state park, one with no connection to the history or culture of Kitsap County. I know many others who are very involved in keeping Kitsap connected to its indigenous history feel this way too. And calling the parks natural resource areas means nothing. That is a watered down term used in textbooks for 5th graders.

Please consider when discussing this at Sept 15 meeting and put my voice out there as a concerned citizen of Kitsap. Keep our Heritage Parks called Heritage Parks!

Thank you,

Susan Whittington

Poulsbo, WA

Comment #3

From: [Clara Jewell](#)
To: [Heather Cleveland](#); [Jim Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Planning Commission 9/15 meeting written comment
Date: Monday, September 14, 2026 3:58:35 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Good afternoon,

Please see the below public comment for the Comp Plan Amendment project.

Thank you,



KitsapCounty

Clara Jewell

Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Planning Commission

360.337.5777 | cjewell@kitsap.gov

Community Development

619 Division Street MS-36, Port Orchard, WA 98366

NOTICE OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE: All incoming and outgoing email messages are public records subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW.

From: Robin Salthouse <historyarchives@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 1:45 PM
To: Clara Jewell <CJewell@kitsap.gov>
Subject: Planning Commission 9/15 meeting written comment

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Ms. Jewell,

I am submitting the following comment to be provided to the Planning Commission and presenting staff members.

Thank you,
Robin Salthouse
Kingston, WA

As a resident of Kingston, I am grateful for the heritage parks close to my home. These forests provide my family (several visit from out of state), and a large group I walk with to enjoy the serenity and wonders of nature. I am happy to see these parks will maintain “heritage in their name, however I have commented during previous opportunities that the park’s habitats, and ecological connectivity be protected and

restored in several areas. Eliminating the “heritage park” classification and putting the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park (PGFHP) into a "regional park” classification does not give me confidence that environmental restoration and improvements will be a priority for this and possibly other parks.

These concerns are further brought to my attention in the Comp Plan Amendment where Exhibit 4-56, *Parks 6-Year Capital Projects* (p. 79) describes “Trail improvements (Mountain Bike Ride Park & Ranger Corridor) and no mention of restoration especially in areas of recent timber harvesting in the park. Exhibit 4-57 *Parks 20- Year Capital Projects* (p.83) also talk about supporting active park users by funding additional areas for bike parking. The focus on active recreation and the several hundreds of thousands of dollars that has been spent to support a narrow group of users raises a red flag on who these parks favor. These monies do very little to nothing to support walkers and equestrian park use nor does this funding protect the very living inhabitants that make it special and attract a wide variety of users who contribute to the local economy.

Our heritage parks desperately need protection to help maintain and improve biodiversity which in turn will support Kitsap County’s Comp Plan climate goals as well as support the ecological connectivity between County and other organizations’ open spaces. The Parks Department sections in these amendments must recognize a large number of residents have commented to protect and fund the natural areas in these parks and not prioritize use to one type of active recreation.

Respectfully,
Robin Salthouse
Klimgton, WA

Comment #4

From: [Alexander Wisniewski](#)
To: [Heather Cleveland](#)
Cc: [Clara Jewell](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment on the PROS Update
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 12:17:11 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Heather,

Please see comment below.

Thanks,
Alex



KitsapCounty

Alex Wisniewski

Parks Director

360.337.5355 | awisniewski@kitsap.gov

Parks

614 Division Street MS-1, Port Orchard, WA 98366

From: Carol Price <carol9price@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 11:25 AM
To: Clara Jewell <CJewell@kitsap.gov>
Cc: Alexander Wisniewski <AWisniewski@kitsap.gov>
Subject: Public Comment on the PROS Update

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Commissioners,

I am requesting that this comment be entered into the public record.

My name is Carol Price and I have lived in Kitsap County for almost 32 years. While I am an active member of Kitsap Environmental Coalition, I speak on my own behalf here, as a long time resident.

The Mission and Vision statements of KC Parks as stated on their website and in the PROS Update provides a very human-centric conception of our public parks. In these spaces we have named as parks, the vital processes of life are carried out by nature. Plants take up CO2 and water, return oxygen to the atmosphere, produce sugars and carbon, and sequester water. Put simply, plants and the creatures that live in our parks help form a web of life. Reading KC Parks Vision, it appears that recreation is more highly valued than nature itself. Changing the Vision statement by putting conservation and preservation as priority over recreation makes perfect sense as the human caused climate emergency revs up all around us.

The Parks Strategies-- 1a, 3a, 3b-- having to do with *careful* acquisition and divestiture of public park lands sound like park lands are to be commodified. Despite the word "carefully" (1a), I for one, do not trust

KC Parks to make decisions regarding the sale of park land to fill in budgetary holes. I would note that KC Parks has park land that the general public is unaware of--these properties need to be listed on their website, and made public.

Trails have been a contentious issue for years now. I urge the Commissioners to consider that walking is arguably the best form of activity for human health. Walking is the most popular activity in Kitsap parks. Trails do not need to be 6 feet wide and swept for us to go for a walk. North Kitsap Heritage Park provides an example of a well maintained park with quality walking trails.

Carol Price,

Member of KEC and KEC Presents, KC Accessible Communities Advisory Committee, and Poulsbo For All; WA Sea Grant Crab Team volunteer

Comment #5

Status	Date Submitted	Name	Comment	File Attachments
Submitted	9/15/2026 8:10 AM	Kathy Cloninger	Consider over head walkways between the mall and other shopping centers. Overhead walkway crossing Bucklin hill road between trails and shoreline paths to create a more unified area. Future	