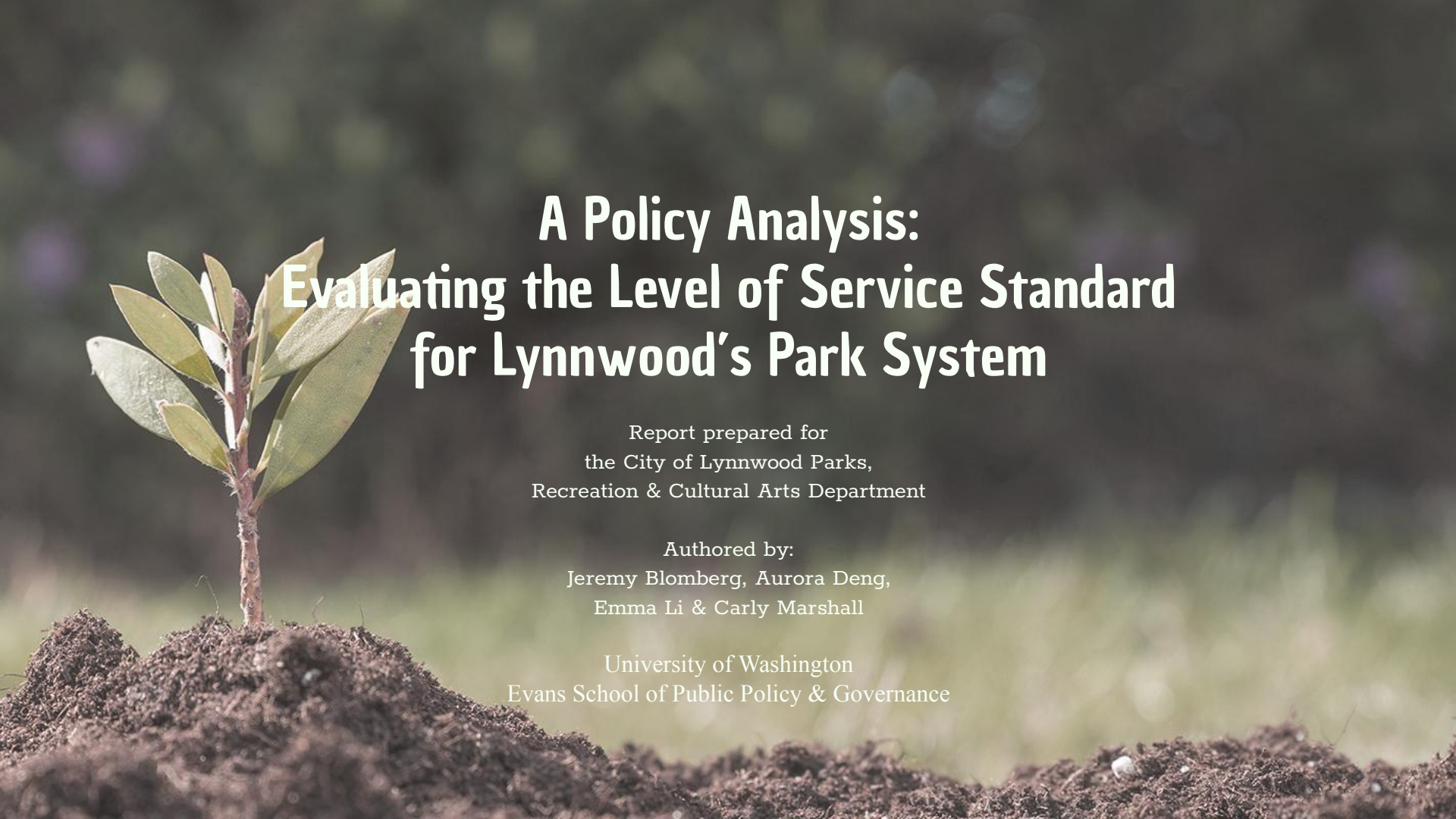

A Policy Analysis: Evaluating the Level of Service Standard for Lynnwood's Park System

Report prepared for
the City of Lynnwood Parks,
Recreation & Cultural Arts Department

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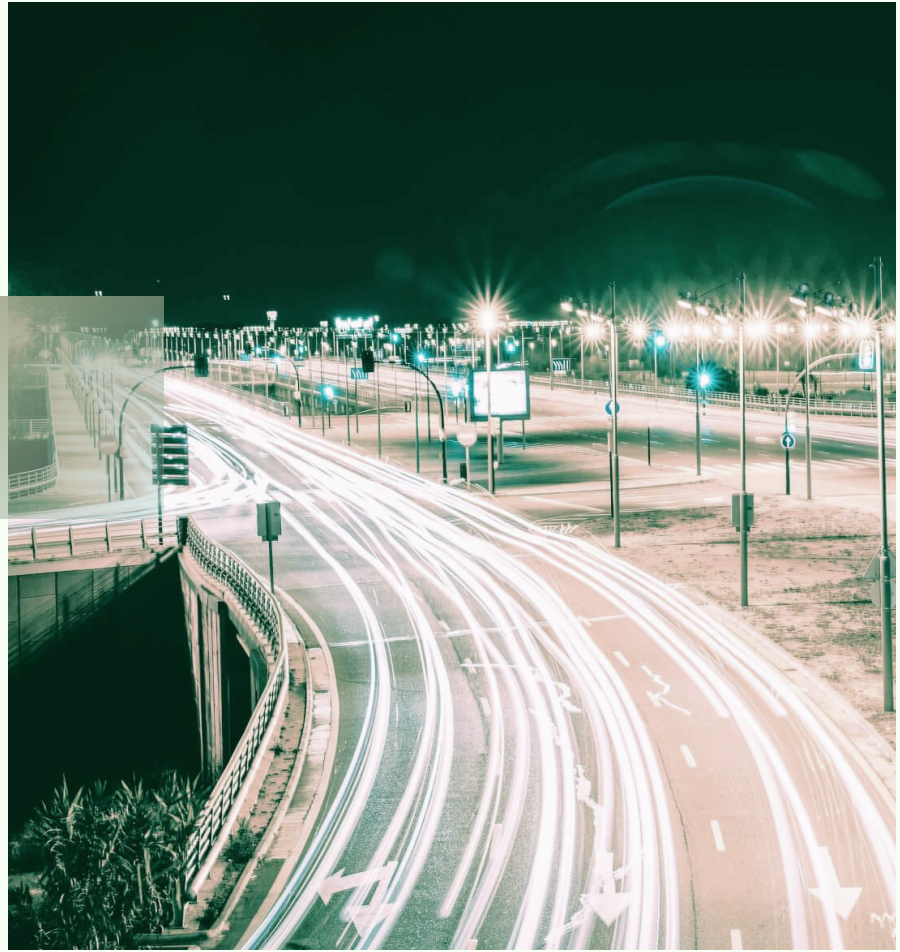
- Our Research questions
- Policy options
- Criteria
- Evaluation

Recommendation

We recommend that the City of Lynnwood adopt the **half-mile walk** to a park or trail LOS into its future comprehensive parks planning, and prepare to use **capital value per person** as its long-term LOS approach.

01

INTRODUCTION



City of Lynnwood

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department

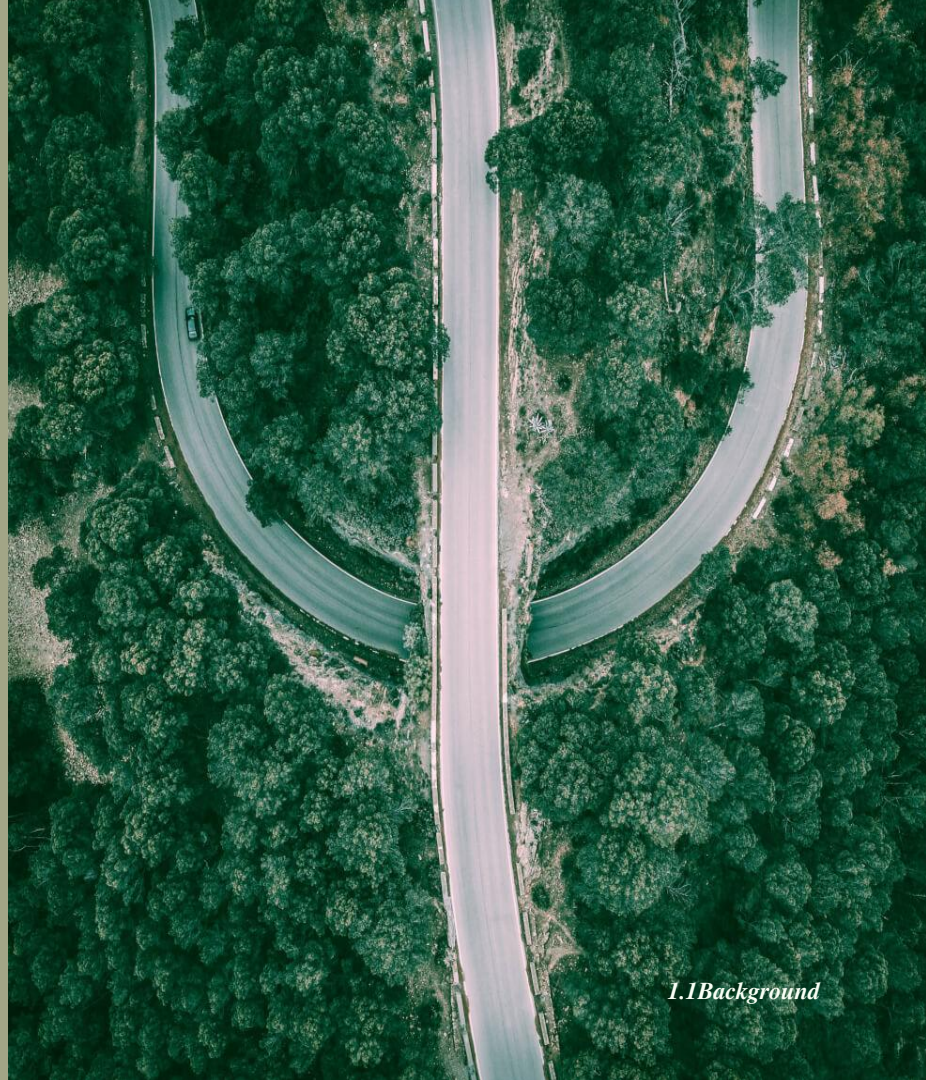
"create a healthy community through people, parks, programs and partnerships"

Parks, Arts, Recreations, and Conservation (PARC) Plan

The PRCA Department evaluates its park system using Level of Service (LOS) standards. The status quo LOS methodology is park acreage/1,000 residents.

The main goals of the PARC Plan:

1. To foster a healthy, active community
2. To create great parks & spaces
3. To ensure sound management
4. To prepare for the future
5. To encourage connectedness



Research Questions

What is the prevailing standard methodology of Lynnwood's LOS policy, and are there current and future needs that should be addressed?

Based on the research of current best practices, which metrics should be integrated into the LOS standards to more accurately represent the values and needs of the Lynnwood community?

02

DIAGNOSIS ET RESEARCH

Literature Review

Park Access

- **Proximity:** *% of residents living within ½ mile walk of a park*
- **Barriers:** *investment in removing walking network barriers*

Park Quality

- **Condition:** *measure of deferred maintenance and ADA compliance issues*
- **Variety:** *mix and location of park amenities*

Park Availability: *measure of park capacity, use, and demand*

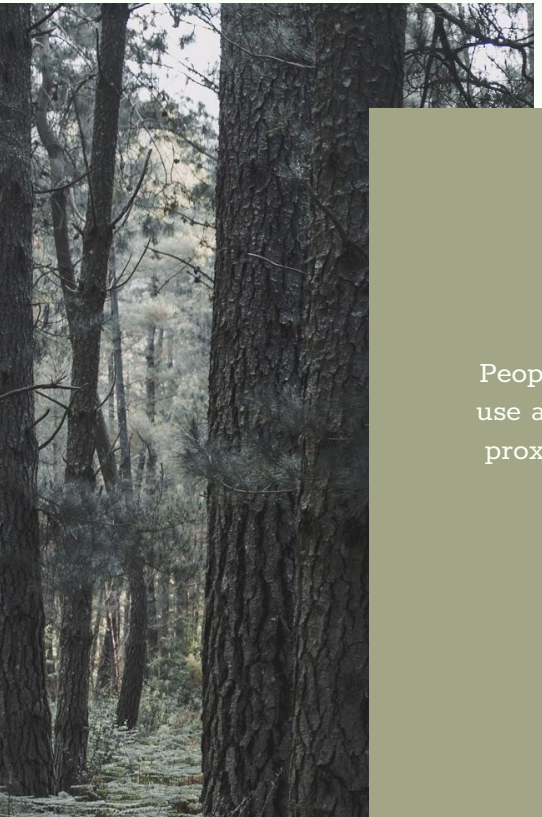
Trail Connectivity: *total linear miles, trail ratio to population, and overall connectedness*

Capital Value Per Person: *ratio of a city's total value of parks and recreation inventory compared to their equivalent population*

Criteria for Developing LOS for Parks

Case Example

Park Access

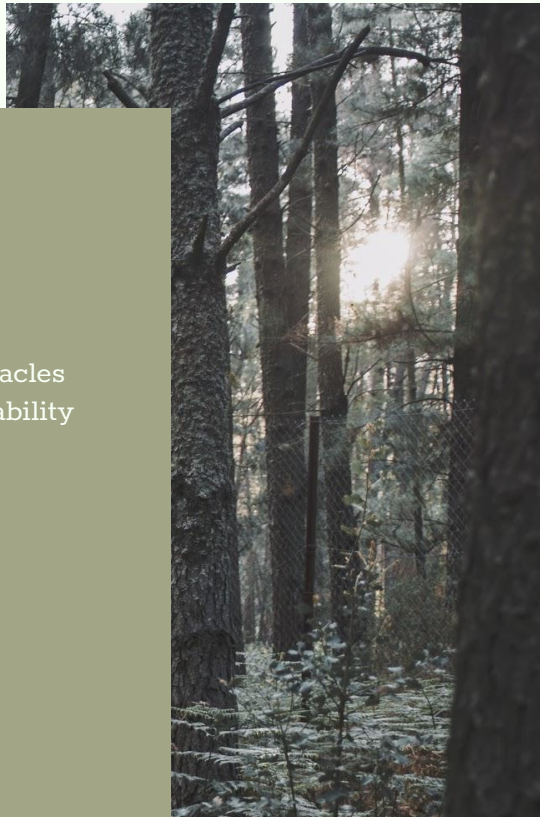


Proximity

People are more likely to use a park if it is in close proximity to where they live.

Barriers

There are many obstacles that can limits one's ability to get to a park.



Park Quality

Condition

Deferred maintenance and ADA compliance issues usually lead problems impacting people's visiting experience in parks.

Variety

Park amenities can increase park usage, provide health benefits to the community, and promote satisfaction between different ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

Park Availability

- Capacity, usage, & demand
- Expensive & costly to measure, not commonly used
- LOS option → criterion

Trail Connectivity

Total linear miles of trails

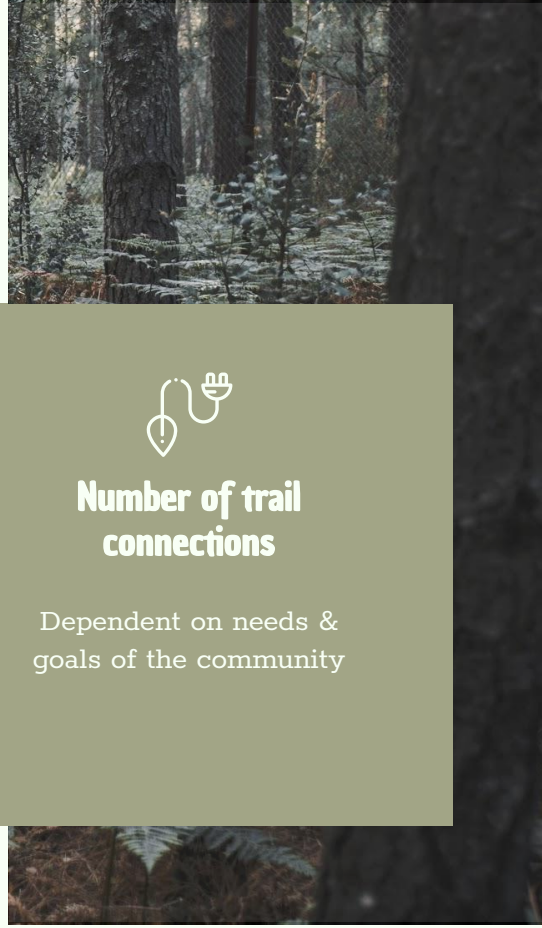
National average: 11 miles
West coast avg: 16 miles

Total linear miles per thousand residents

Current standard:
0.25 miles per 1,000 population

Number of trail connections

Dependent on needs & goals of the community



Capital Value Per Person

1. LOS Parks Capital Value per Person

Value of Parks and Recreation Inventory ÷ Equivalent Population = Capital Value per Person

2. Value Need for Growth

Capital Value per Person × City's Population Growth = Value Needed for Growth

3. Investment Needed

Existing Value of Parks Inventory + Value Needed for Growth = Value Needed for Next Year

4. Investment to be Paid by Growth to Maintain LOS

Value Needed for Growth - City Revenue Investment = Investment Needed to Maintain LOS

Criteria for Developing LOS for Parks

What are the specific needs of the residents? Do measurements align?

Is the data logical, clear, easy to collect, and available?

Does the LOS represent economic, health, social and environmental benefits?

Do they provide a comprehensive and representative assessment of the parks system?

03

RESEARCH METHODS

I. Literature Review
II. Current Park System
III. Policy Analysis
IV. Final Scorecard

Research Methods

3.1 Introduction

Policy Options

1st

Status Quo
(Park Acreage per Resident)

2nd

Park Access
(Number of Residents living
within ½ Mile Walk to Park)

3rd

Capital Value Per Person

4th

Trail Connectivity
(Trail Presence)

Evaluative Criteria

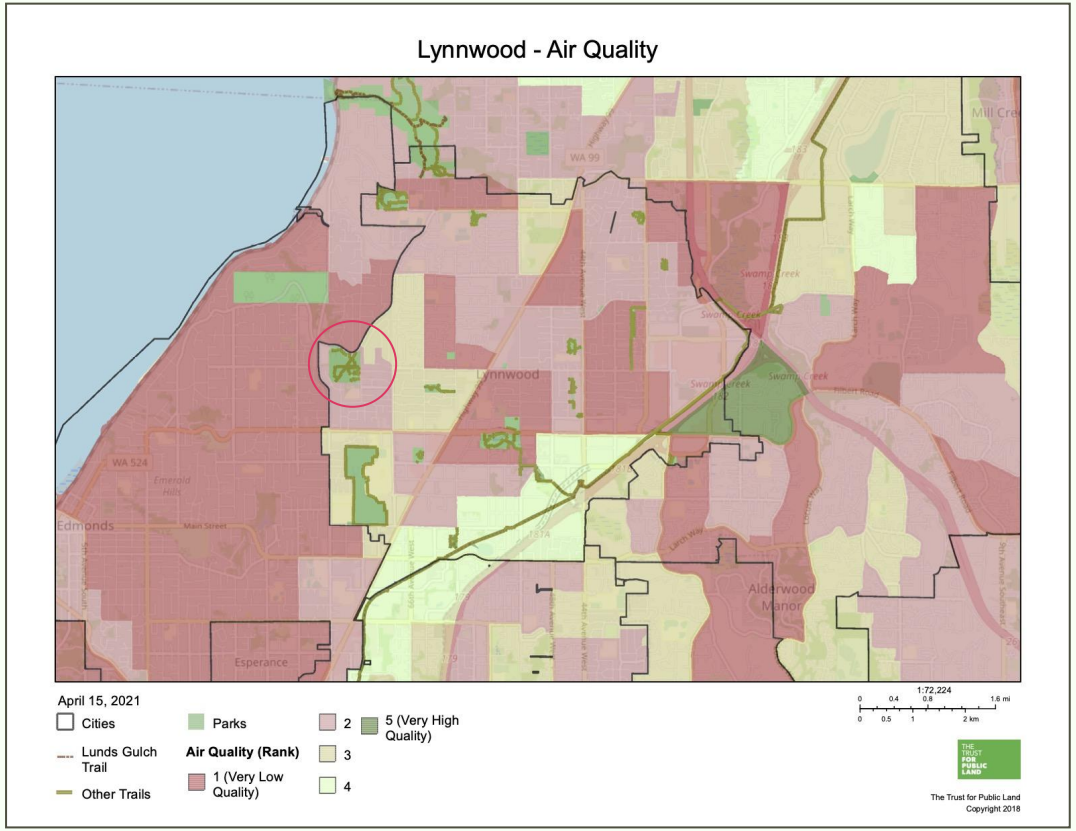
The ideal LOS will:

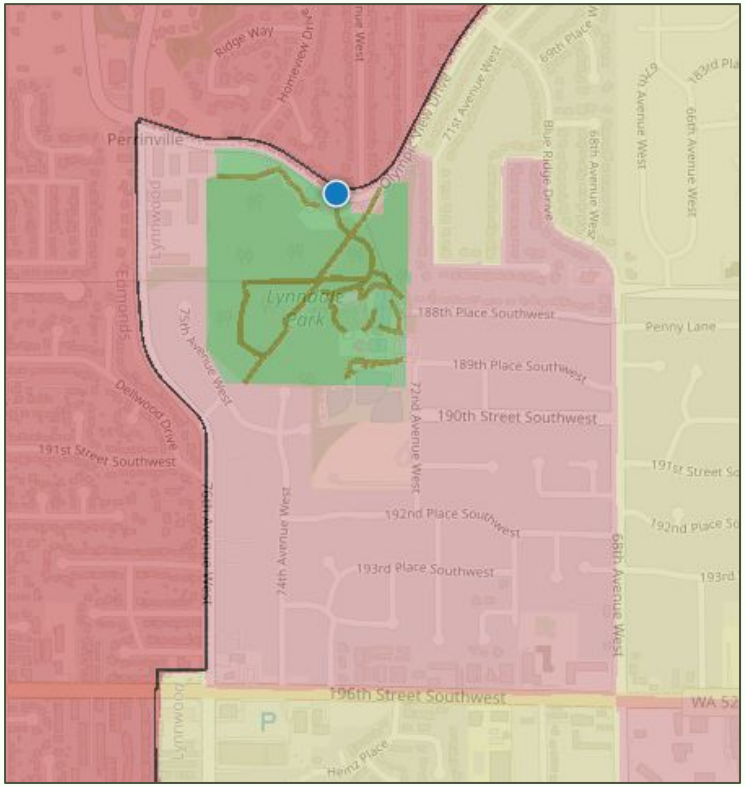
1. Increase Social **Health Equity** within the Community
2. Increase **Economic Equity** within the Community
3. Increase **Environmental Equity** within the Community
4. Increase Ability to **Meet Demand for Future Growth**

Increase Ease of Model Replicability → internal survey

Criterion	Data used to represent criterion
Health	• Obesity % • CDC Social Vulnerability Index
Socio-economic	• Low income rate • Percentage of people of color
Environment	• Urban heat island effect • Air quality
Demand / Growth	• Parks usage from UWT

Sourcing the Data





3.3 Sourcing the Data

Policy Analysis - Big Picture

Goal of policy analysis: are there any correlations between each LOS and the criteria?

What that tells us: could the LOS represent the needs of the city and help identify gaps in equity and service?

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Results ET Analysis

Current Lynnwood Park System

City-level summary for overall park system in Lynnwood, based on proposed LOS measurements

Park Acreage per Resident

2016 this overall LOS in Lynnwood is:
3.5 acres per 1000

Park Access (1/2 Mile Walk to a Park)

According to The Trust for Public Land project, **79.4%** of Lynnwood's population is within a 10-minute walk of a park or trail.

Capital Value per Person

In 2018, this LOS for Lynnwood is:
$3,783

Trail Connectivity

Overall, the City of Lynnwood has **14 miles of trails**, which is approximately **0.37 miles of trail / 1000 residents**.

Policy Analysis

Data

	Criterion						Other Variables from link: https://parkserve.tpl.org/mapping/index.html?CityID=5340840#reportTop		
Variables	Average bike usage from 2018-2020	Park Usage Data	CDC - Social Vulnerability Index	GIS - CDC Obesity %	GIS - Enviro data: Air Quality	GIS - Enviro data: Urban Heat	Low income	Middle income	High income
NOTES		The sum of average ped usage and average bike usage	I coded them as 4 highest, 3 = 3rd quartile, 2 = second, and 1 = 1st. Higher is more vulnerable, see doc.	Higher = negative / We coded them as 0,1,2,3,4 for 0-7, 7-9, 9-11, 11-14, 14-33	Higher # = better quality	Higher = worse / we coded them as 0,1,2 for zero, moderate, high	Income variables --- could be used for representing the Social Situation of Lynnwood in future regression analysis		
Lynndale Park	5942	174237	4	9-11	2	zero	372	435	677

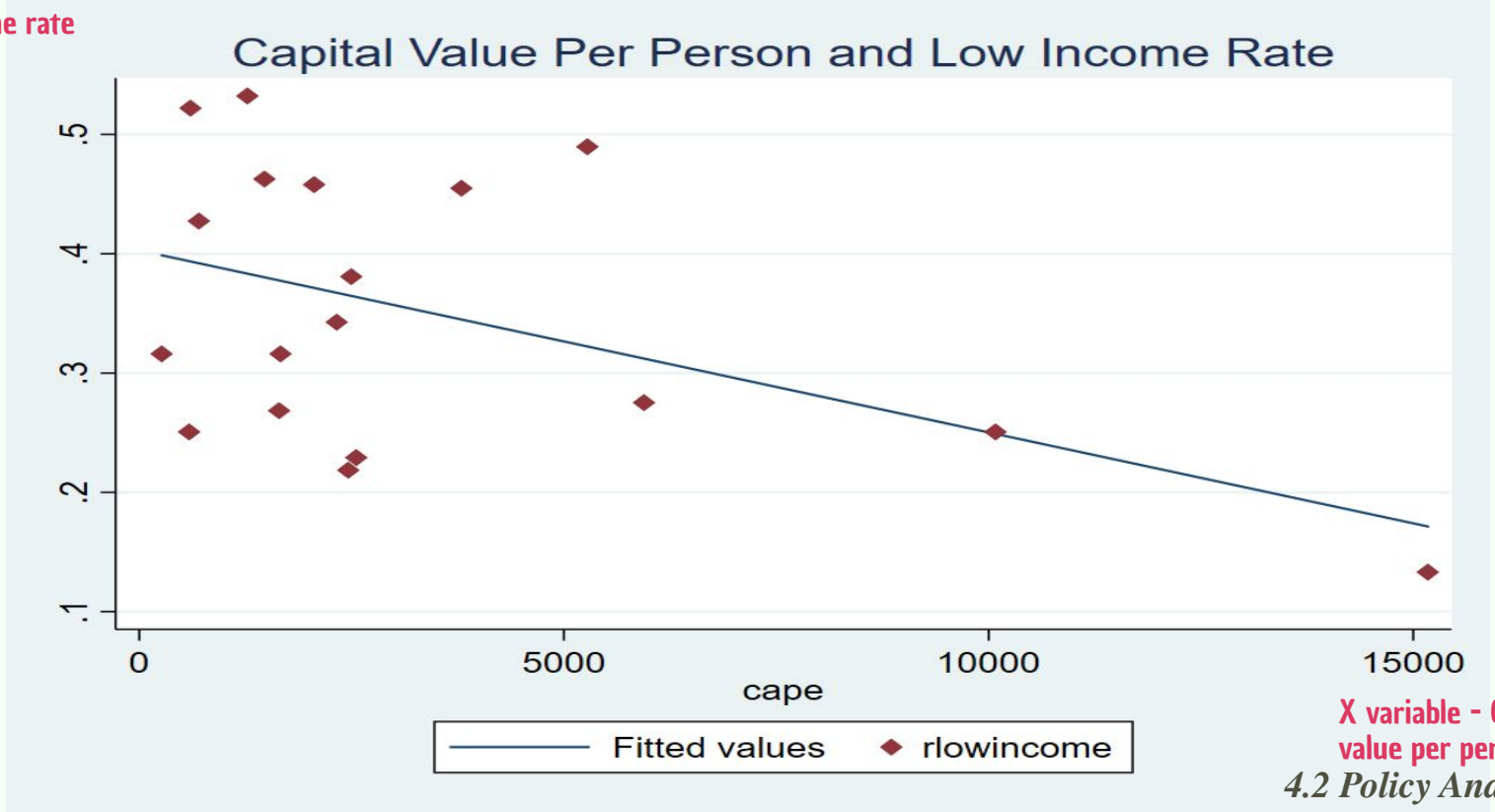
Policy Analysis

Data

	Policy options					
Variables	10 minute walk	minute walk---GIS	acreage	trails	capital value_aurora	capital value_emma
NOTES		This is also 10 minute walk data, from the GIS website: https://parkserve.tpl.org/mappi		Park with trail coded as 1, without coded as 0	Based on *Natural Capital Accounts for Public Green Space in London*, for details see the word document and *Park: Capital Value* table in this spreadsheet.	Based on the *Park Impact Fee Ordinance* of Lynnwood. Calculating as adding all facilities in each park together.
Lynndale Park	3,903	3904	40.57	1	$39,570,554.56	39356306.85

Policy Analysis

Y variable - Low income rate



X variable - Capital value per person

Policy Analysis

- ***LOW:*** no correlation and no statistical significance
- ***MEDIUM:*** weak statistically significant correlation with the criterion
- ***HIGH:*** strong statistically significant correlation with the criterion

Criteria LOS Policy Option	Increase Social Health Equity	Increase Economic Equity	Increase Environmental Equity	Increase Ability to Meet Demand for Future Growth
1. Status Quo (Park Acreage)	LOW	MEDIUM	LOW-MEDIUM	HIGH
2. Park Access (1/2 Mile Walk)	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW	LOW
3. Capital Value Per Person	MEDIUM	HIGH	LOW-MEDIUM	HIGH
4. Trail Connectivity (Trail Presence)	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	LOW

Final Scorecard

Example scorecard for community parks:

Community Parks	Park Access		Capital Value Per Person		*Total* Score
	Value (# residents within 1/2 mile)	Score	Value	Score	
Lynndale Park	3,904	1	$10,081.02	1	2
Meadowdale Playfields	1,650	-1	$15,170.00	1	0
Scriber Lake Park	4,025	1	$5,275.50	-1	0
Wilcox Park	2,251	-1	$3,793.37	-1	-2

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Recommendation ɛ Implementation

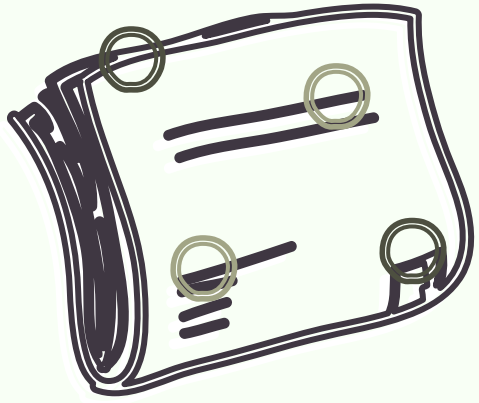
Policy Option Trade-Offs

Status Quo

- Strong connection: city's future population growth.
- Slight correlation: environmental benefits, economic equity.
- Unable to represent: social health equity.

Capital Value Per Person

- Appropriately represent most of our criteria.
- Strong correlation: community's economic, and growth data.
- Slight correlation: environmental and health equity.



Park Access

- Relatively ineffective measure.
- Slight correlation: social vulnerability index.
- Unable to represent: community's economic, environmental, and growth data.

Trail Connectivity

- Relatively weak in representing the criteria.
- Slight correlation: environmental measures.
- Unable to represent: community's economic, health, and growth data.

Conclusion & Overall Recommendation

A two-tiered approach:

1. In the short-term, we recommend using the number of residents served within a half-mile walk to a park or trail LOS.

2. In the long-term, Lynnwood should transition to a capital value per person LOS.

Conclusion & Overall Recommendation

Additional consideration for Trails:

Lynnwood has approximately 0.37 miles of trail / 1,000 residents, which is higher than the current national standard of 0.25.

Proposed new trails LOS benchmark: between 0.3 and 0.4 miles / 1,000 residents.

Limitation & Future Work

Limitation	Future Work
Literature review	Improve local participation and engagement in the process of establishing LOS
Statistical analysis	Add individual-level data instead of only using park-level data
Project scope	Help the city to prioritize future budget planning
Assessment of potential annexation in urban growth area	Analyze more on annexed areas
Force majeure impact	Study on risk analysis, corresponding prevention and solutions to better respond the public emergencies

Acknowledgements

Thank you...

- *Our client, Deputy Director Sarah Olson*
- *The UW Tacoma research team*
- *Our capstone advisor Steve Kosack and our Evans peers*

Our team worked across multiple time zones and through a pandemic, and we are proud of our contribution in evaluating Lynnwood's parks level of service standard.

Thank You !

Any Question?