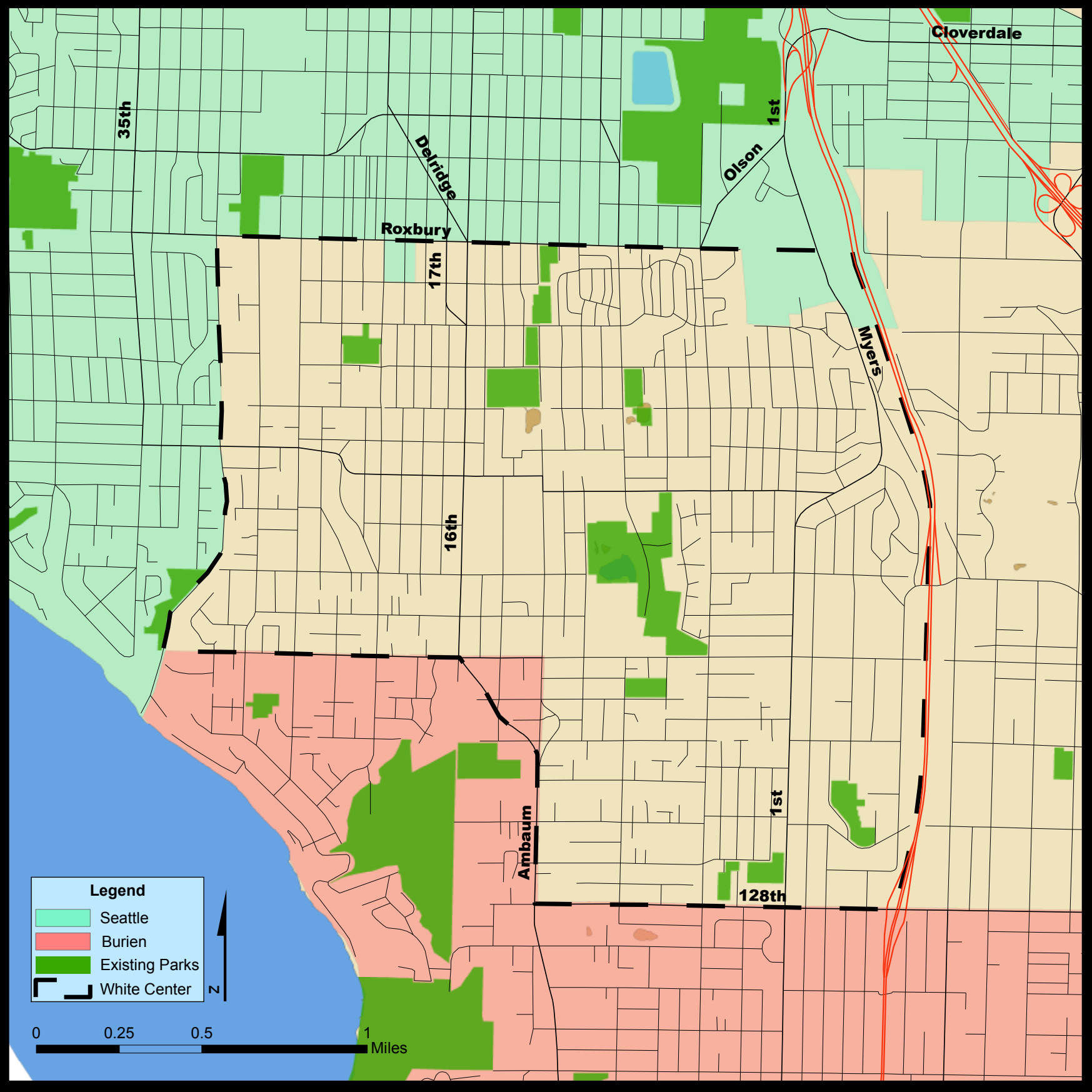


White Center Park Context



There are many benefits to looking at the context in which the parks of White Center lie. First, it is important to notice under whose jurisdiction each park lies because that can determine sources of funding and maintenance. Secondly, being conscious of the context allows one to consider possible connections. Without argument, it can be said that creating connections help bring a community together and help foster a greater sense of where one is within their environment and region. Of particular interest in this map is the proximity of the Puget Sound to White Center. Currently there is no acknowledgement of this relationship which makes White Center unique to other places in King County.

Context

The Context Map shows the relation of all parks and the White Center Study Area to the Puget Sound and street network. Both the study area and parks are overlaid with Seattle and Burien municipal boundaries. The remaining space in the White Center Study Area is within unincorporated King County.

Parks & Trails

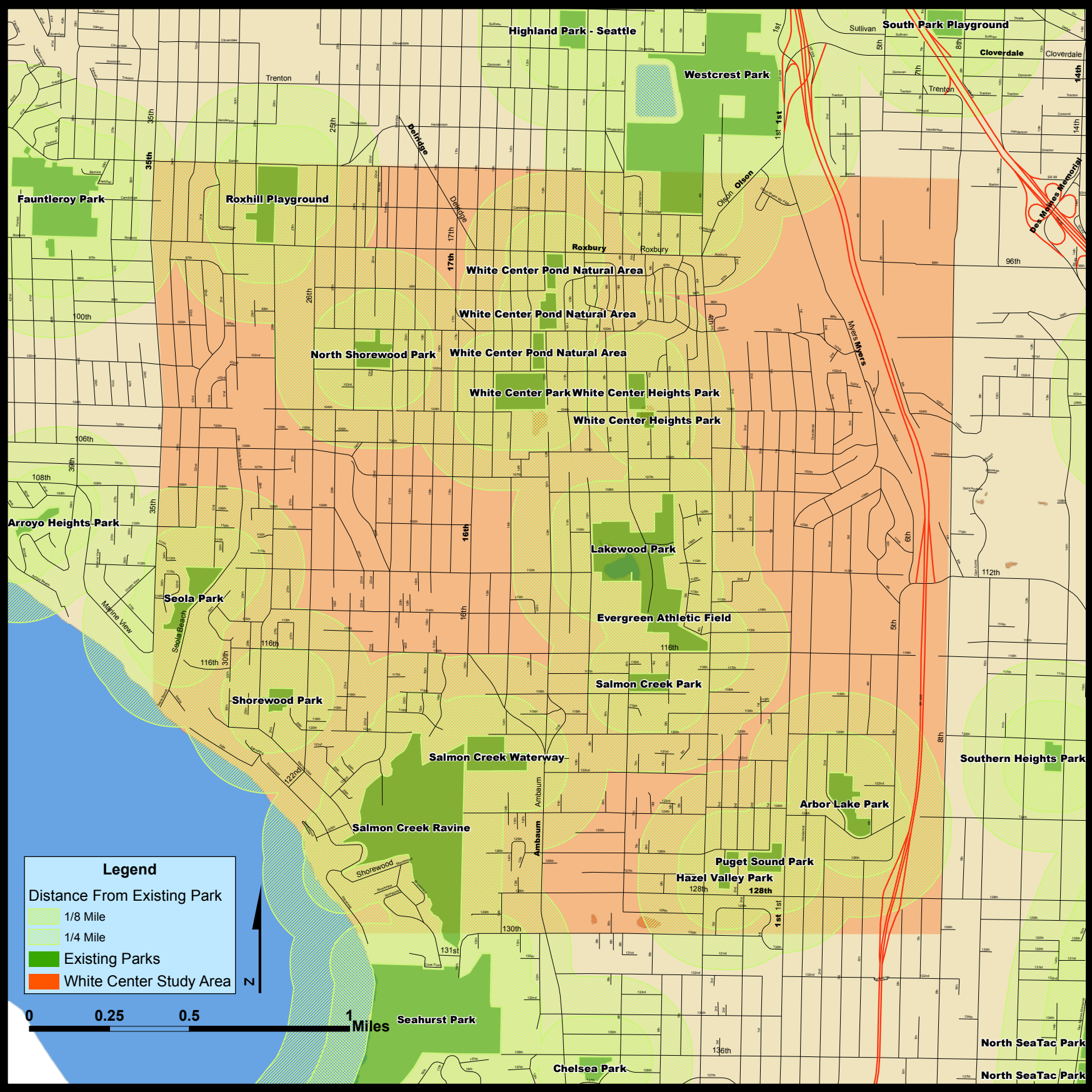
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White Center Park Gap Analysis



Park Gap

The Park Gap Map shows the areas within the White Center study area that are under-served in parks and open green space. Rings with distances of 1/8 and 1/4 mile emanate from the existing parks and create areas of void which are called the “gaps.”

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The spaces that are not within a 1/4 mile of one of White Center’s parks is an area under-served, with respect to open green space and parks. What can be interpreted from this analysis is that there are two areas in White Center which are under-served. The first area is located in the central west portion of White center. The second area lies on the eastern border of the White Center study area.

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## Demographics

The graphs and maps for the Demographics page are meant to help with assigning new programming for each of White Center's Parks. Different age groups tend to participate in recreational activities of different intensity and different size footprint. (e.g. passive recreation often requires a bench, whereas active recreation can require a sizeable sports field.)

## Parks & Trails

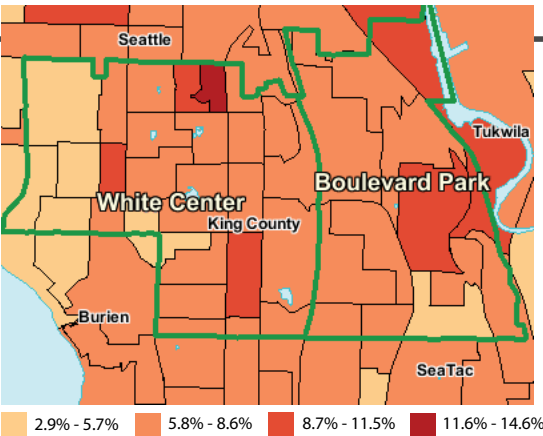
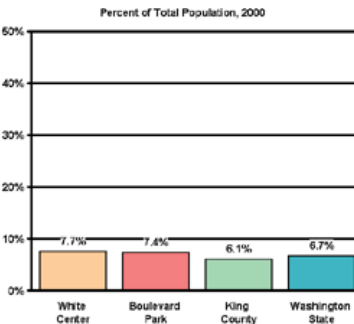
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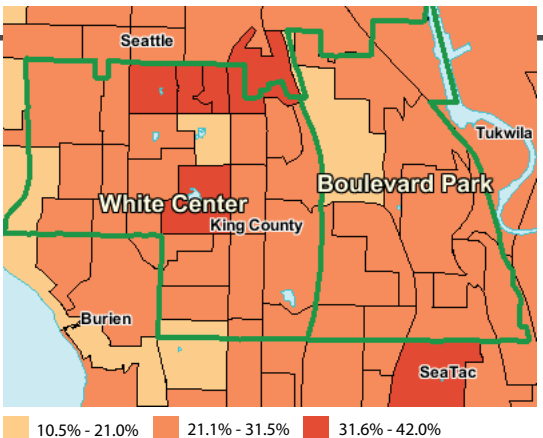
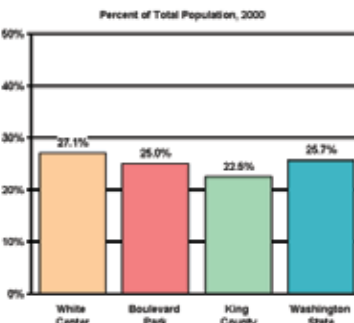
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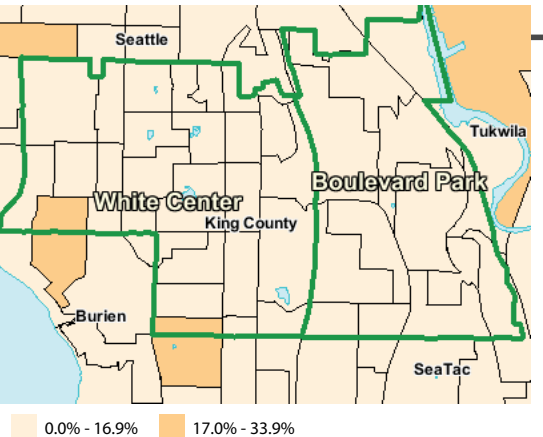
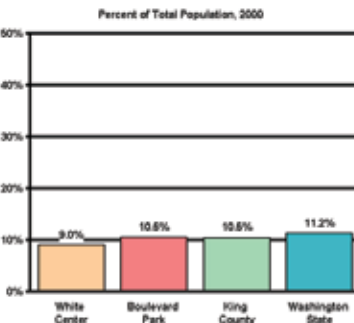
### Population Under 5 Years



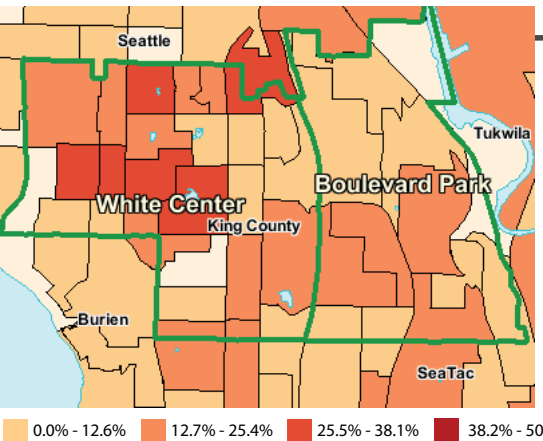
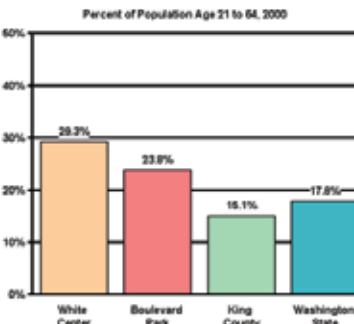
### Population Under 18 Years



### Population 65 Years and Older



### Population With a Disability



#### Racial Makeup

White	-	54.96%
African American	-	6.41%
Native America	-	2.01%
Asian	-	21.09%
Pacific Islander	-	2.60%
Hispanic/Latino	-	11.98%
Other Races	-	6.89%

Total Population	-	20,975
Total Households	-	7,542
Median Age	-	33
Avg. Houshold	-	2.78
Avg. Family	-	3.29
Male to Female	-	Equal Ratio

Housing Surrounding White Center Parks



Surrounding Land Use

The Surrounding Land Use Map is meant to highlight possible resources available in improving or adding to White Center parks. This map also looks at the specific type of housing and thus the most likely users of each park.

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The majority of housing surrounding White Center Parks is Single Family housing. However, as the map shows there are many areas of multi-family housing near several parks. The parks most likely to have the greatest amount of daily use are those near the greatest amount of people; and they should be dealt with to accommodate such use.

In that same vein, the vacant lots, when compared with the location of gaps in the Park Gap Map, reveal ideal locations for new parks. Other uses can be applied to vacant lots to facilitate the greater connection between parks and their ultimate use. For example, there is a lacking presence of trails and a network of such.



White Center Parks

Parks	Acreage	Parking Lot	Access From Public Road	Picnic Area	BBQ Area	Baseball Field	Volleyball Court	Open Play Field	Community Center	Restrooms	Soccer Field	Play Equipment Area	Tennis Court	Multi-Purpose Court	Other
<b>Arbor Lake Park</b> S 124th St and 4th Ave S Seattle WA 98168	8.54	—	✓					✓ (1)							Bridge
<b>Evergreen Athletic Field</b> 606 SW 116th St Seattle WA 98168	15.77	—	✓	✓ (1)		✓ (3)					✓ (1)				Local Trail
<b>Hazel Valley Park</b> 2nd Ave SW and 126th St Seattle WA 98146	2.86	—	✓					✓ (1)				✓ (1)			
<b>Lakewood Park</b> SW 108th St and 10th Ave SW Seattle WA 98146	29.49	✓ (2)	✓	✓ (3)	✓ (3)			✓ (3)				✓ (2)	✓ (2)		Disc Golf Course
<b>North Shorewood Park</b> SW 102nd St and 24th Ave SW Seattle WA 98146	6.26	—	✓	✓ (3)								✓ (1)		✓ (1)	Dog Park
<b>Puget Sound Park</b> 1st Ave S and 126th St SW Seattle WA 98146	5	✓	✓	✓ (3)				✓ (1)				✓ (1)		✓ (1)	Running Track
<b>Salmon Creek Park</b> SW 118th and 8th Ave SW Burien WA 98146	4.58	—	✓	✓ (2)				✓ (2)							
<b>White Center Heights Park</b> SW 102nd St and 7th Ave SW Seattle WA 98146	5.57	—	✓	✓ (3)											
<b>White Center Park</b> 1321 SW 102nd St Seattle WA 98146	11.55	✓	✓	✓ (3)	✓ (1)	✓ (3)	✓ (1)	✓ (3)	✓ (1)	✓ (1)		✓ (1)	✓ (4)	✓ (1)	Handball Court
<b>White Center Pond Natural Area</b> 102nd Street SW and 12th Avenue SW Burien WA 98146	9.43	—	✓												

Parks Programming Matrix

This is a matrix for the parks of White Center which contains information such as the park size and amenities. The matrix allows one to identify what areas are lacking in the current parks.

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## Park Precedents

### Prospect Park Brooklyn, NY



Prospect Park is a very successful park. It is popular because it is very well programmed and offers numerous activities that are all well integrated throughout the space. The park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. Before the 1980s the park was not as popular as it is today. It was commonly viewed as an unsafe and unsavory place. The Prospect Park Alliance turned the park around with community outreach efforts, which increased the park's use by 600%. Some of the amenities at the park include woodlands, ponds, picnic areas, play fields, and the main feature of the park, the Long Meadow, which is a large undulating lawn which integrates both passive and active uses.

### Cal Anderson Park Seattle, WA



Cal Anderson is a recently redesigned park in Capitol Hill. The park was redesigned in 2006 after it received funding from the Pro Parks Levy. The park includes the Bobby Morris Play field and the Lincoln Reservoir. Cal Anderson consists of 7.37 acres and includes a fountain, texture pool, promenade paths, landscaping, a shelter house, children's play area, a wading pool and a lighted play field. The design has given the park new life. It has been programmed to allow for a large variety of activities and is open and welcoming. There is easy access to the park, parking, and is clearly visible from the surrounding streets.

### Bryant Park New York, NY



Bryant Park is an oasis surrounded by high rise buildings in New York. It is a very popular place for New Yorkers to spend their lunch break. The park offers different amenities which include a large open lawn that is reserved for passive activities and is turned into a giant movie theater on occasions. There also are a plentiful amount of moveable chairs, which give users the flexibility to sit where it is most comfortable. The park was once a dark and under utilized space because there was not a large entrance into the park and it was hard to look into. The park was redesigned with a large entrance with food/beverage kiosks and opened up for easy visual access in and out of the park.

### High Park Children's Garden Toronto, Canada



High Park Children's Garden in Toronto is an example of a park that successfully turned a small 3/4 acre asphalt parking lot into a space where children can now enjoy. The site is filled with raised colorful planter boxes in the shape of "ABC." The paths are wide enough to allow for wheelchair users to pass through. The planters are used to plant annual vegetables, flowers, and herbs. Adjacent to the site is a hill featuring a native restoration project. Other amenities on the site include a picnic shelter, washroom, rain barrels, and a large open space. The park is easily accessible by foot and local transit. What makes this space so successful it the careful attention that has been paid to programming the site.

## Park Precedents

The precedents shown on this page are of successful parks which once had similar problems to the parks in White Center. They are good examples to learn from and to inspire ideas.

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### North Shorewood Park



This park is located on the west side of White Center. Locating the park without a map is rather difficult as it can only be visually and physically accessed from the western side. There are two prominent entrances into the park, one a paved pathway and the second a grass opening in the fence. There is on-street parking due to the fact that many of the surrounding lots are vacant. There is a pedestrian strip on the eastern side of the street, however it is not an elevated pathway.



### White Center Pond Natural Area



This park is located off of Roxbury, a main roadway into White Center. It can be located extremely and has a major bus route which passes on the northern side. There is on-street parking on the western side of the park. This park is lacking significant program elements, but this may be necessary as it is a natural area. The park divides Greenbridge from White Center but allows for possible pedestrian linkage corridors.



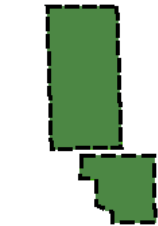
### White Center Park



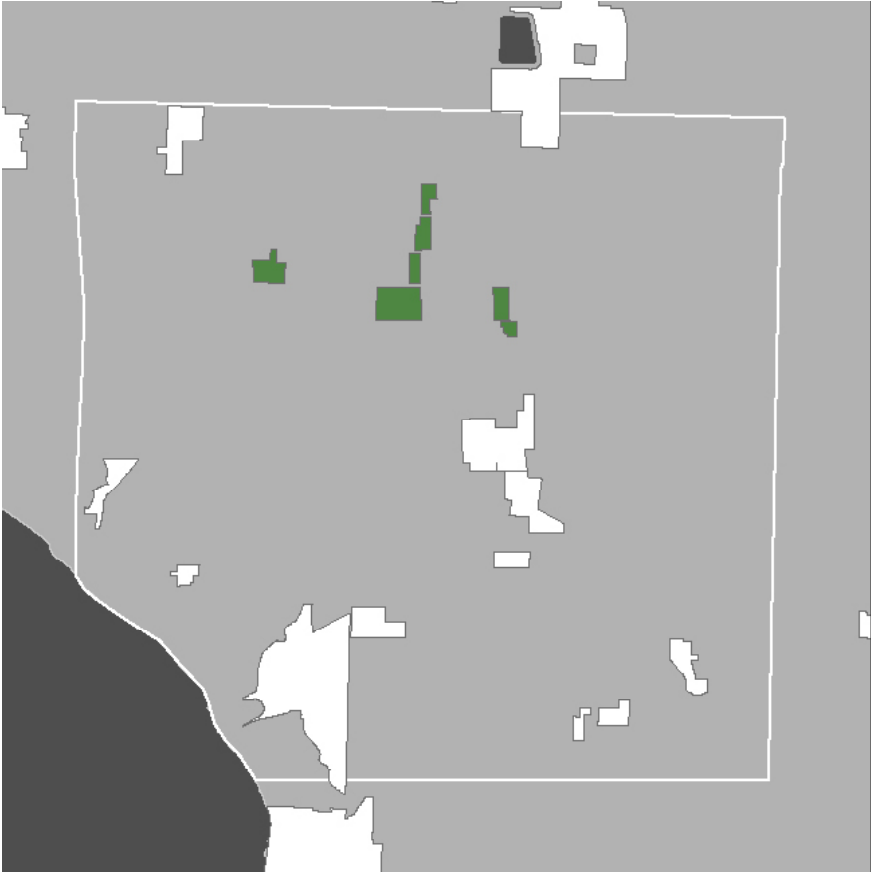
This park is located at the south terminus of the White Center Pond Natural area. This park has a clear identifiable signage and entrance and also offers off-street parking. A major bus route runs along the western edge of the park.



### White Center Heights Park



In relationship to the heart of White Center the park contains a buffer strip limiting successful access into the space. On-street parking is located around the perimeter of the park however entrances are lacking. Secondary entrances move through openings in vegetation but surfaces are not suitable for all users. Signage is evident but old and weathered. The space is large and open lacking significant programmed elements.



### Park Access

The individual park outlines contain hashed lines representing accessibility into the space. Visual access, physical access, parking, and pedestrian accessibility were all taken into consideration.

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### Salmon Creek Park



The main entrances to this park are not clearly labeled and feel as though they are private roadways. This makes it an intimidating space for pedestrian travelers. The parking lot is a un-maintained gravel pathway bordered by a grass berm. The gravel entrance into the park space is not suitable for all users The park lacks any identifiable signage. It is surrounded on all sides by a fence-line making the space difficult to access both physically and visually.



### Lakewood Park



This park contains clearly identifiable signage and entrances. The park contains excessive amounts of off-street parking. Its close proximity to a school makes it a heavily used active recreational site by younger users.



### Puget Sound Park



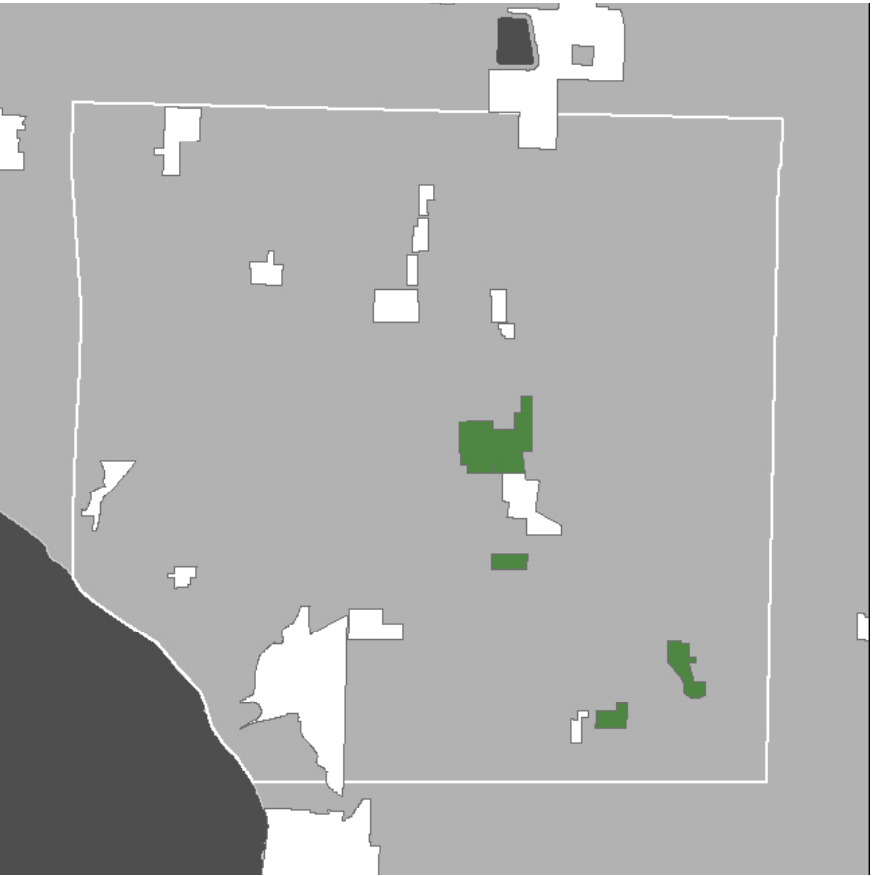
This park contains a parking lot however its location is difficult to locate from main arterial roadways (occidental rd). A pedestrian bridge crosses over occidental linking the park with the east side of the road. The park has clear visual access from nearly sides however, physical access is limited by fence-lines surrounding the park cutting it off from the adjacent roadways and stores.



### Arbor Lake Park



Rural streets that surround the park do not connect one another making access difficult. No parking signs surround the park making the already limited on-street parking difficult.



### Park Access

The individual park outlines contain hashed lines representing accessibility into the space. Visual access, physical access, parking, and pedestrian accessibility were all taken into consideration.

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Summary Points

Park Programming

- 1.) Parks were inadequately programed.
- 2.) Programming did not reflect the current uses of many of the parks.

Park Gap Analysis

- 1.) Two areas of significant size lacking in parks and trails.
- 2.) When compared with the demographics, concerning dense areas of people with disabilities, one of the gaps correlates perfectly.

Accessibility

- 1.) Almost all parks were highly inaccessible by automotive transportation.
- 2.) Almost all parks were difficult to access by foot because there were very few sidewalks, limited visual access, and little public exposure to pedestrian pathways.
- 3.) It was near impossible to locate public parks without the use of an aerial map. There were no signs indicating the presence of a park with the exception of the signs that labelled the name of the park on site.

Context

- 1.) A lack of regional connection and acknowledgement.
- 2.) A lack of connection to the local surroundings (e.g. the puget sound, and other parks).
- 3.) A possible level of complexity in locating a source of municipal funding for the development of parks and trails.
- 4.) There were no recorded trail aside from the one that borders the 509 freeway.

Recommendations

Focus future endeavours on developing a connective network between parks. (e.g. series of signs with aerial maps locating the position of White Center parks at each park.)

Before creating new parks to close the gaps between existing parks, focus funds on improving physical and visual pedestrian and vehicular access to existing parks.

Also focus on renovating the look of all parks so that there is a common language for park elements (e.g. lighting, paving, etc.). This can help with associative connectivity and foster a stronger sense of identity for White Center.

Main Ideas

From all the information analyzed, with respect to parks and trails, these are the underlying big ideas.

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