



## **Parks, Trails, Open Space**

### **Objective:**

Shape a built environment that allows communities to flourish

### **Strategy:**

Acquire and maintain regional parks, trails, and open space

### **Why is this strategy important?**

King County communities will flourish within an environment that includes recreational opportunities and open space. Recreational activities and open space complement the work King County does to increase economic opportunity and meet transportation and other infrastructure needs.

### **How is our performance?**

King County's Parks and Recreation Division manages 200 parks with ballfields, playgrounds and pools, as well as lush forests, quiet meadows, and many other Northwest ecosystems. These resources include 26,000 acres of open space that are owned and/or managed by King County and a regional trail network that supports recreation, physical activity, and transportation needs of residents and visitors. King County Parks has generated revenue or created efficiencies for the parks systems, including transferring dozens of local, in-city parks and pools, implementing or increasing user fees, and establishing corporate and community partnerships that enhance park amenities and maximize the investment of taxpayers' dollars.

King County's Regional Trails System is 300 miles of paved and unpaved greenways. In 2011, consistent with previous years, 69 percent of county residents live within 1.5 miles of the Regional Trails System. This is just below the target of 70 percent.

King County Parks Division considers 4 priorities when allocating resources towards trail projects.

- Access and proximity to population
- Closing existing gaps in the network
- Redevelopment or upgrading older existing trails
- Ensuring safe trail bridges

These efforts have helped King County Parks preserve and protect the park system for future generations of King County residents.

## Moving forward

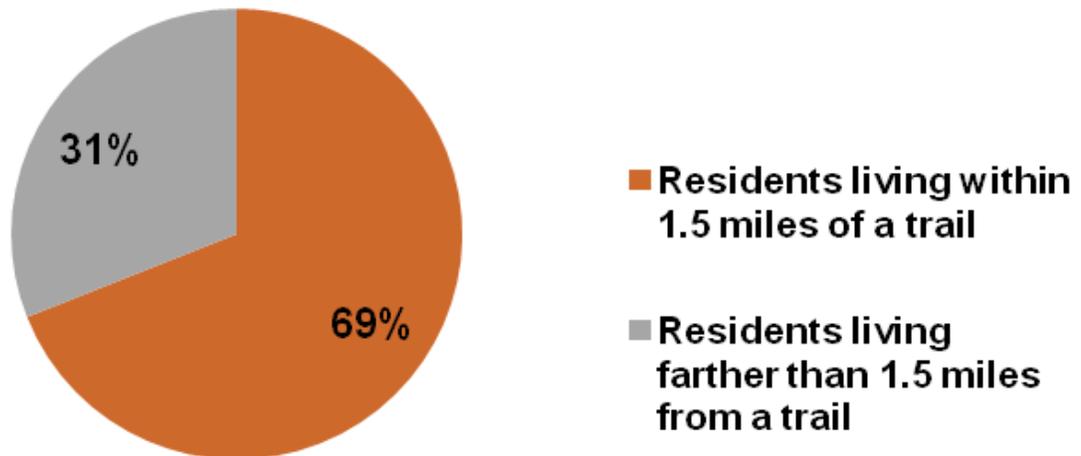
King County continues to improve the Regional Trail System by addressing system distribution, gaps, redevelopment, and bridge resiliency. Redevelopment and upgrading trail segments enhance the network by adding capacity and improving safety. Often the missing links in the system require expensive elements such as bridges over roads or waterways, or navigation around sensitive areas such as wetlands. Additionally, in urban areas, existing build-out presents substantial challenges to creating new trail corridors do to the lack of readily available land. King County Parks Division will balance resource availability with the need to address missing links.

## Technical Notes

Data provided by King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

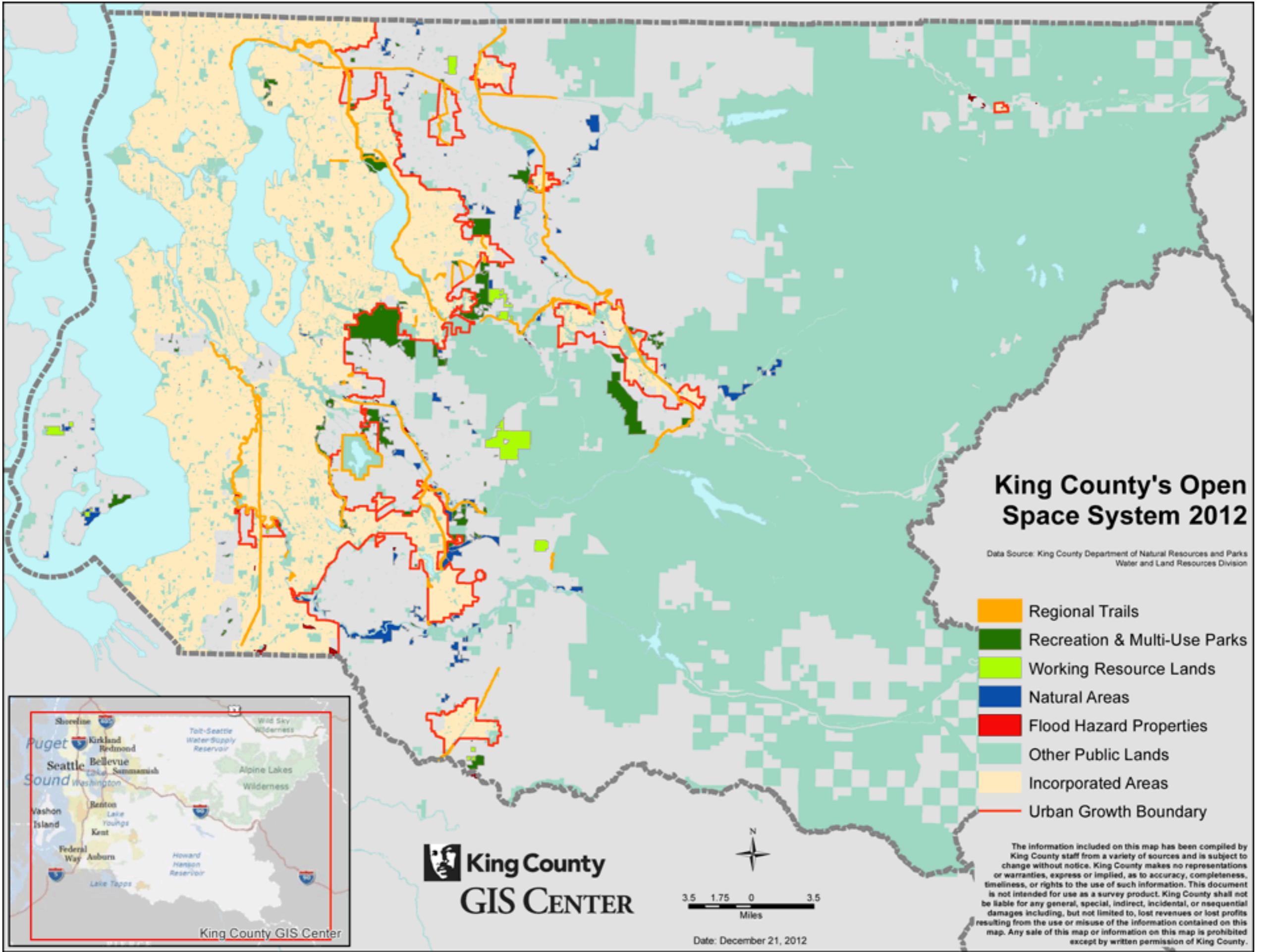
## Charts and Maps

### 2012 Regional Trail Access



**Target: 70%**

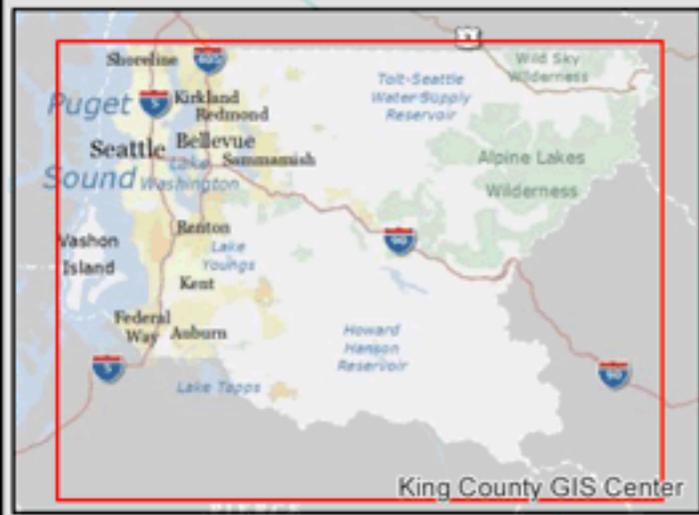
Data from King County Department of Natural Resources



## King County's Open Space System 2012

Data Source: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Water and Land Resources Division

- Regional Trails
- Recreation & Multi-Use Parks
- Working Resource Lands
- Natural Areas
- Flood Hazard Properties
- Other Public Lands
- Incorporated Areas
- Urban Growth Boundary



 **King County**  
**GIS CENTER**



Date: December 21, 2012

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