

VI. Operations and Maintenance Plan

Operations and maintenance in Olympia's parks are done by the Park Services Division based in Priest Point Park. No maintenance or service facilities within the Grass Lake Refuge are proposed. Such facilities are prohibited within areas funded by Urban Wildlife Habitat grants from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). The master plan's acquisition plan recognizes that additional property could be acquired to provide maintenance and other support facilities if deemed desirable in the future.

Developing and managing Grass Lake Refuge as proposed will increase operation and maintenance costs. Due to the existing undeveloped conditions and level of use, daily maintenance is not needed. That will change with master plan implementation.

Providing safe and accessible trails will require a high level of maintenance due to the heavily forested site which drops lots of forest litter on the trails and can block wheelchairs and trip people. The long rainy season challenges maintaining positive drainage and even surfaces on trails. Much of the uplands experiences surface drainage due to high seasonal water tables and heavy rains. Boardwalks are necessary to cross wetlands. Climatic factors require regular carpentry and maintenance to provide safety and longevity of capital investments. Immediate repair of vandalism is important because studies indicate that evident vandalism attracts more vandalism.

Park Services divides operation and maintenance activities by specialities, level of expertise required and other factors that reduce labor costs and increase efficiency. An example is one person is responsible for restroom and refuse maintenance. He/she travels from park to park to pick up garbage. Seasonal trail staff is hired during the spring to fall season for trail maintenance. This includes general and light maintenance such as limb and debris removal, add rock/bark where needed, etc. Full-time employees include specialists in carpentry, plumbing, electrical and horticulture. Increasing facilities and visitation will also place additional demands on administrative staff for planning, scheduling, budgeting and other management activities.

If the need arised to lock parking lot gates and the restroom, sunrise and nighttime personal will be required. The only Olympia park with locking gates is Priest Point. The park closure and opening is done by a private security company. This same arrangement may be utilized at Grass Lake.

The Grass Lake Refuge will require the following maintenance.

Daily or Routine Maintenance

- Clean Restroom
- Refuse Removal
- Trail Maintenance

Surface Cleaning and Repairs
Drainage Repairs
Boardwalk and Pedestrian Bridge Repairs
Pruning Encroaching Vegetation
Repair Vandalism
Remove unauthorized structures and campsites

Annual or On Demand Maintenance

Building Maintenance
Plumbing and Electrical Repairs
Sign Maintenance
Bike Rack Repairs
Service Trail Counters
Close and Restore Non-System Trails
Remove Non-Native Plants
Plant and Maintain Restoration and Enhancement Sites
Mow Meadows
Hazard Tree Removal
Storm Clean Up