3.8 Public Services

This chapter describes the existing status of public services provided by City of Seattle and the Seattle Public Schools and evaluates the impacts of household and job growth on service providers under the EIS alternatives. Public services considered in this section include: police, fire and emergency medical, parks and recreation and public schools.

This analysis evaluates services on a citywide cumulative basis and, where appropriate, according to geographic areas within the city. For each of the services, the smaller geographic areas are defined as follows:

- Police—Seattle Police Department precincts
- Fire and Emergency Medical—Seattle Fire Department Battalions
- Parks and Recreation—EIS analysis sectors, as defined in Chapter 2
- Public Schools—EIS analysis sectors, as defined in Chapter 2

3.8.1 Affected Environment

Police Services

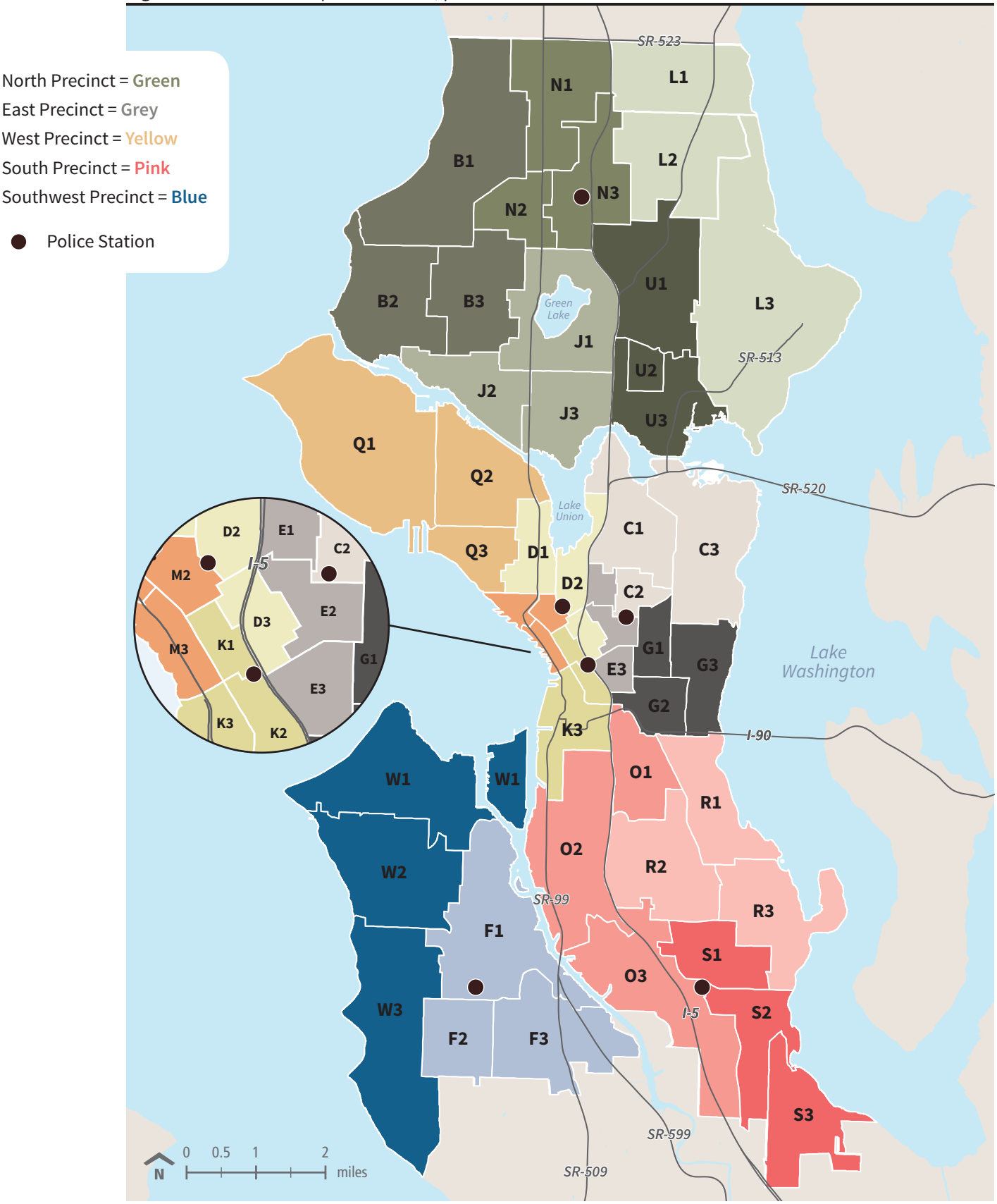
EXISTING INVENTORY OF POLICE FACILITIES AND DEPARTMENT STAFF

The Department employs approximately 1,820 staff, including 1,319 officers and 26 police recruits. Personnel are divided among five precincts: north, west, east, south and southwest. Each precinct is further divided into sectors and beats which are dependent on the geographic area of each precinct. Each precinct has a police station that provides the following services:

- Patrol Officers and 9-1-1 Responders
- Bike Patrol
- Anti-Crime Team
- Liaison Attorney (on-site)
- Burglary/Theft Detectives
- Community Police Teams
- Crime Prevention

Figure 3.8–1 shows the police station locations, sector and beat boundaries. Figure 3.8–2 summarizes the urban villages served by each precinct and identifies policing priorities, population and land area served by each precinct. Three of the five police stations are located in the Downtown Urban Center. The remaining stations are located outside urban villages.

Figure 3.8–1 Seattle police stations, precincts and beats



Source: City of Seattle Police Department, 2014.

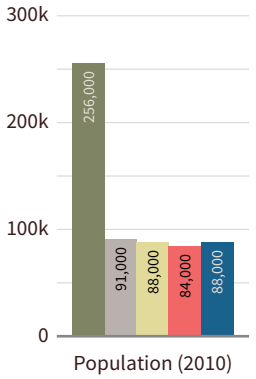
Figure 3.8–2 Seattle police priorities, urban centers & villages, population and land area, by precinct

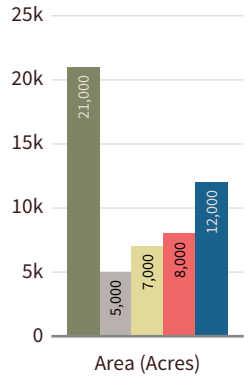
Seattle Police Precincts

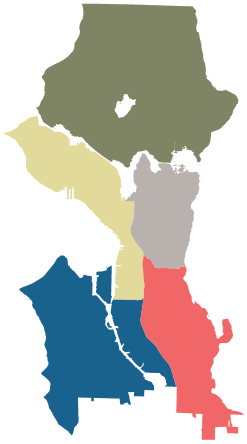
Geography & Demographics

Priorities

Urban Centers & Villages







North Precinct

Priorities

- Extended foot, bicycle & car patrol presence in the University District business core
- Two-officer emphasis patrols in the Aurora corridor, Ballard-Fremont & Lake City-Northgate business districts
- Emphasis on Friday & Saturday nights on Greek Row in the spring

Urban Villages (13): *University District; Northgate; Ballard; Bitter Lake; Fremont; Lake City; Aurora-Licton Springs; Crown Hill; Green Lake; Greenwood-Phinney Ridge; Roosevelt; Wallingford; Ballard-Interbay-Northend**

East Precinct

Priorities

- Proactive patrol in the areas of 20th & Madison, Yesler/Jackson, Colman neighborhood & Pike/Pine/ Broadway nightclub area
- Undercover operations to address drive-by shooting incidents in the Central Area
- Patrols to address public inebriation & narcotics activity in parks

Urban Villages (4): *First/Capitol Hill; 23rd & Union-Jackson; Eastlake; Madison-Miller*

West Precinct

Priorities

- Focus patrols in Downtown to address early morning drinking
- Counter-drug enforcement in Pike/Pine Corridor
- Proactively abate safety threats around nightclubs in Belltown & Pioneer Square

Urban Villages (6): *Downtown; South Lake Union; Uptown; Upper Queen Anne; Ballard-Interbay-Northend*; Greater Duwamish***

South Precinct

Priorities

- Special emphasis patrols along the Rainier corridor
- Focus on youth & gang-related activities
- Georgetown weekend emphasis to address early morning property crimes

Urban Villages (5): *Mount Baker; Columbia City; North Beacon Hill; Othello; Rainier Beach*

Southwest Precinct

Priorities

- Narcotics interdiction efforts along Delridge outside of the "Weed & Seed" area
- South Park weekend emphasis to address early morning property crimes

Urban Villages (6): *West Seattle Junction; Admiral; Morgan Junction; South Park; Westwood-Highland Park; Greater Duwamish***

Note: Urban village boundaries do not align exactly with police precinct boundaries. When an urban village boundary overlaps multiple precincts, the neighborhood or urban center or village is included in the precinct where there is greatest overlap. The only two exceptions are Ballard-Interbay-Northend and Greater Duwamish.

* Ballard-Interbay-Northend lies primarily in the West Precinct but includes a significant area north of the ship canal in the North Precinct.

** Greater Duwamish lies almost evenly in the West and Southwest Precincts. A relatively small portion of the center is also within the South Precinct.

Source: City of Seattle Police Department, 2014.

In addition to police stations located throughout the city, the Seattle Police Department (SPD) also has facilities for their headquarters, administration offices, warehouse storage and horse stalls, kennels and mobile mini-precincts (soon to be replaced with new vehicles to allow more frequent deployment; Socci 2014a).

CRIME RATES AND SERVICE CALLS

Violent Crime

Includes homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Property Crime

Includes burglary, larceny and vehicle theft.

In Seattle, the 2012 reported crime rate per 100,000 inhabitants was 616 offenses for violent crime and 5,030 offenses for property crime.

The Seattle Police Department issued a report in 2012 (SPD 2012) evaluating major crimes in a 25-year period, from 1988–2012. Key findings include:

- The number of major crimes reported has shown a steady downward trend, with an overall drop of 52 percent.
- Reported violent crimes have also shown a downward trend, with an overall drop of 45 percent. The downward trend was most pronounced in the 1990, followed by a more gradual decline since then.
- Reported property crimes have shown a continuous downward trend, with an overall drop of 53 percent.
- Reported property crime outnumbers reported violent crime by 8 or 9 to 1.

Figure 3.8–3 shows city-wide reported property and violent crime over the past ten years, from 2004–2013. The trend for reported violent crime has continued to decrease in 2013 while property crime reports increased slightly from 2012 to 2013. By comparison, from 2006–2013 the population of Seattle increased by approximately 6 percent, indicating that there is not a direct relationship between population growth and crime rates.

Dispatched Calls

Includes officers dispatched in response to a 9-1-1 call

On-views

Includes events logged by officers during routine patrols

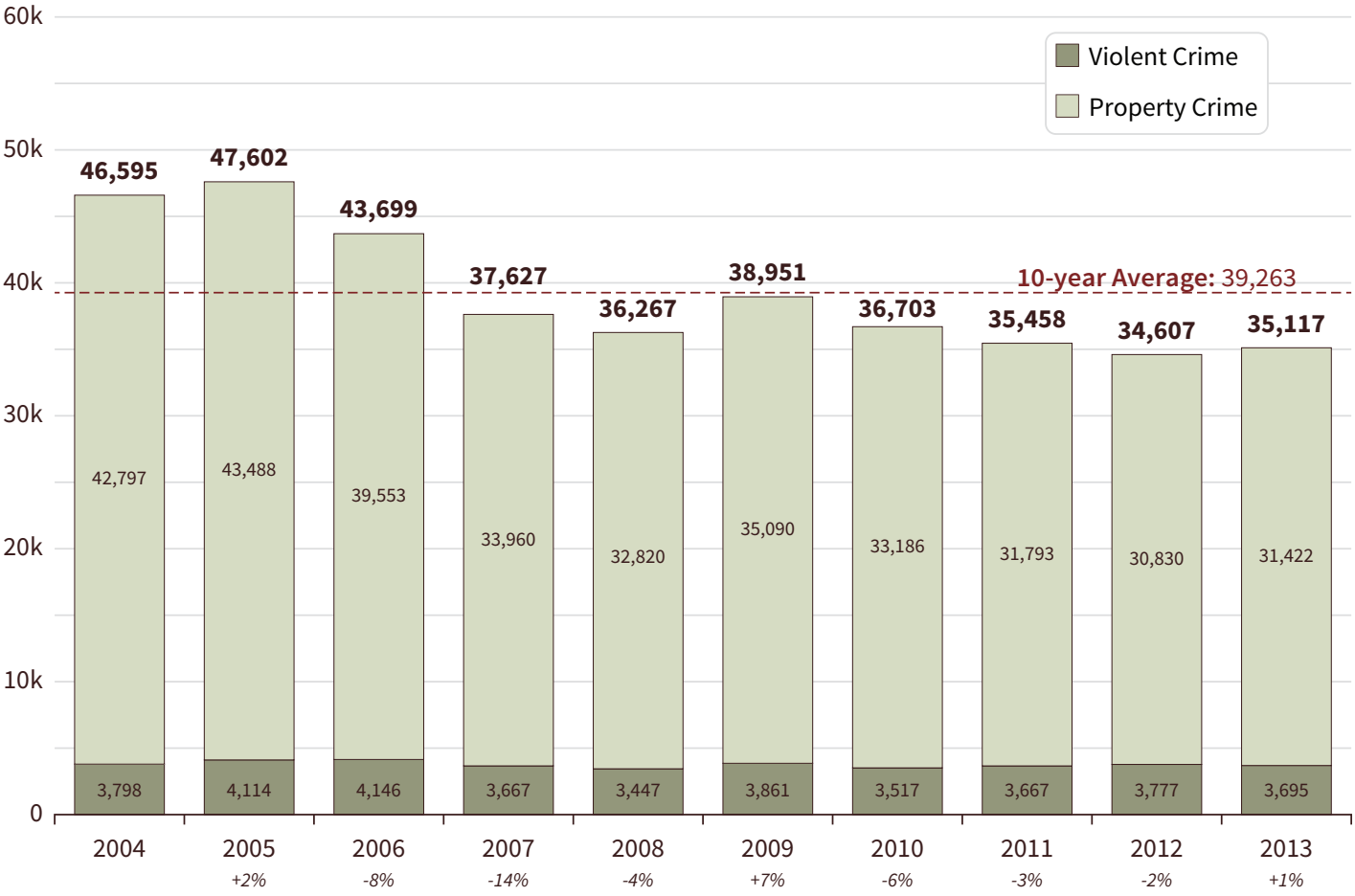
Figure 3.8–4 provides the total number of dispatched calls and on-views in the city from 2004 to 2013. Although the type of calls for service has varied slightly from year to year, the overall number of service calls has decreased by 8 percent since 2004. There was a decline in total volumes from 2005 through 2011, but an upward trend in volumes in 2012 and 2013. Similar to crime rates, there does not appear to be a direct relationship between population growth and service calls.

Figure 3.8–5 displays service calls by precinct from 2010 to 2013. The North and West Precincts have the highest number of service calls in the city.

SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIME

The Seattle Police Department has established an average emergency response time target of seven minutes (SPD 2007). The department currently meets this goal, although performance is uneven geographically, by time of day and by day of week. Figure 3.8–6 provides the average response time by police precinct. The response time goal has been consistently

Figure 3.8–3 Major crimes reported citywide over the last decade (2004–13)



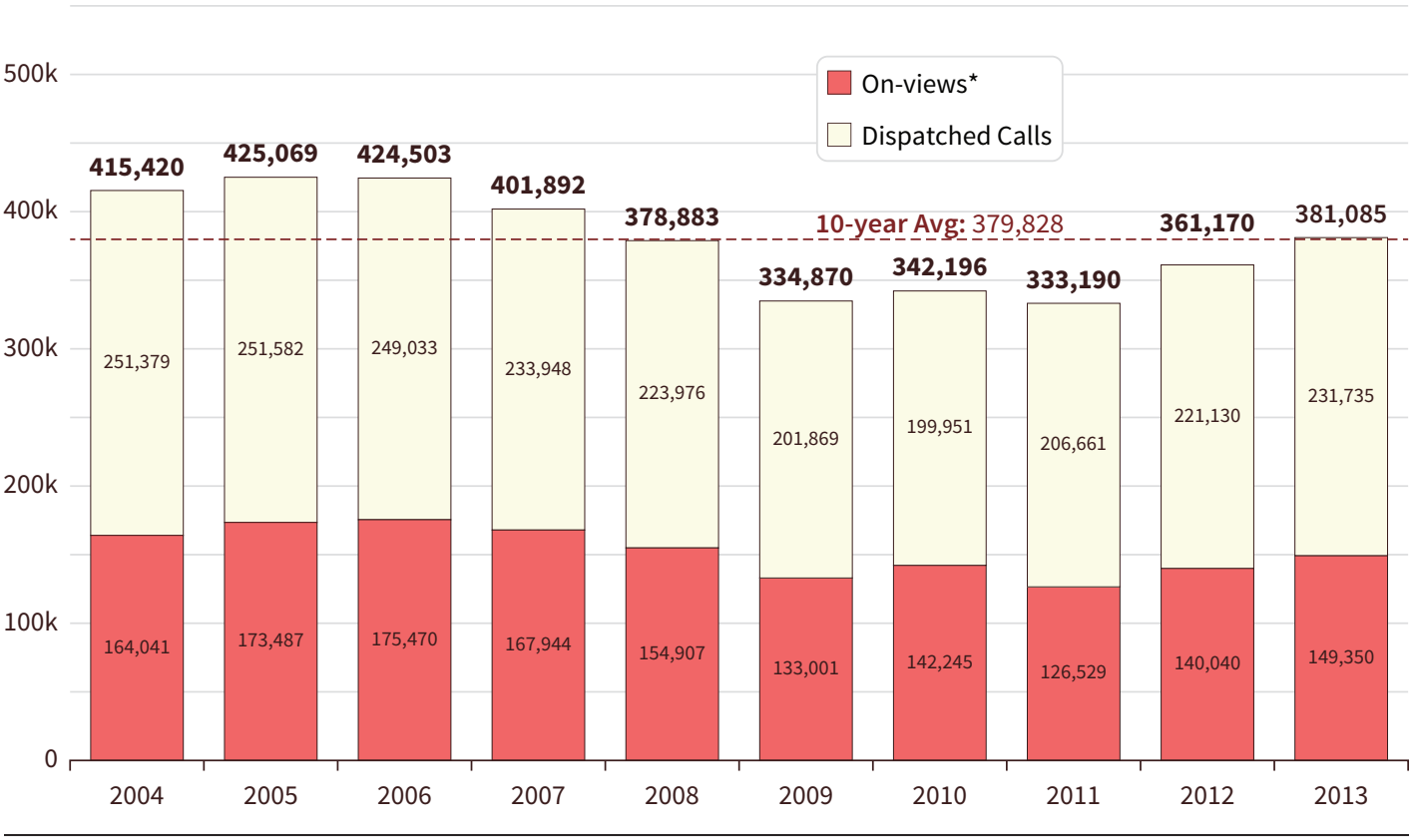
Source: City of Seattle Police Department, 2014.

met over the past five years only in the east and west precincts. The north and southwest precincts have the largest geographic area to cover and have congested arterials which may be a cause of the longer response times.

EXISTING AND PROPOSED STAFFING AND FACILITY CHANGES

In response to a 2008–2012 Neighborhood Policing Staffing Plan, the Department was authorized to hire 20 or 21 new officers each year in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Budget challenges resulting from the economic downturn derailed the hiring plan in 2010, which was put on hold in 2011. Consequently, the Department's number of sworn staff began to decline from the peak staffing level reached in mid-2010. Hiring for attrition resumed in 2012, and SPD is currently trying to achieve the Neighborhood Policing Staffing Plan staffing targets (Socci 2014a).

Figure 3.8–4 Calls for service citywide over the last decade (2004–13)

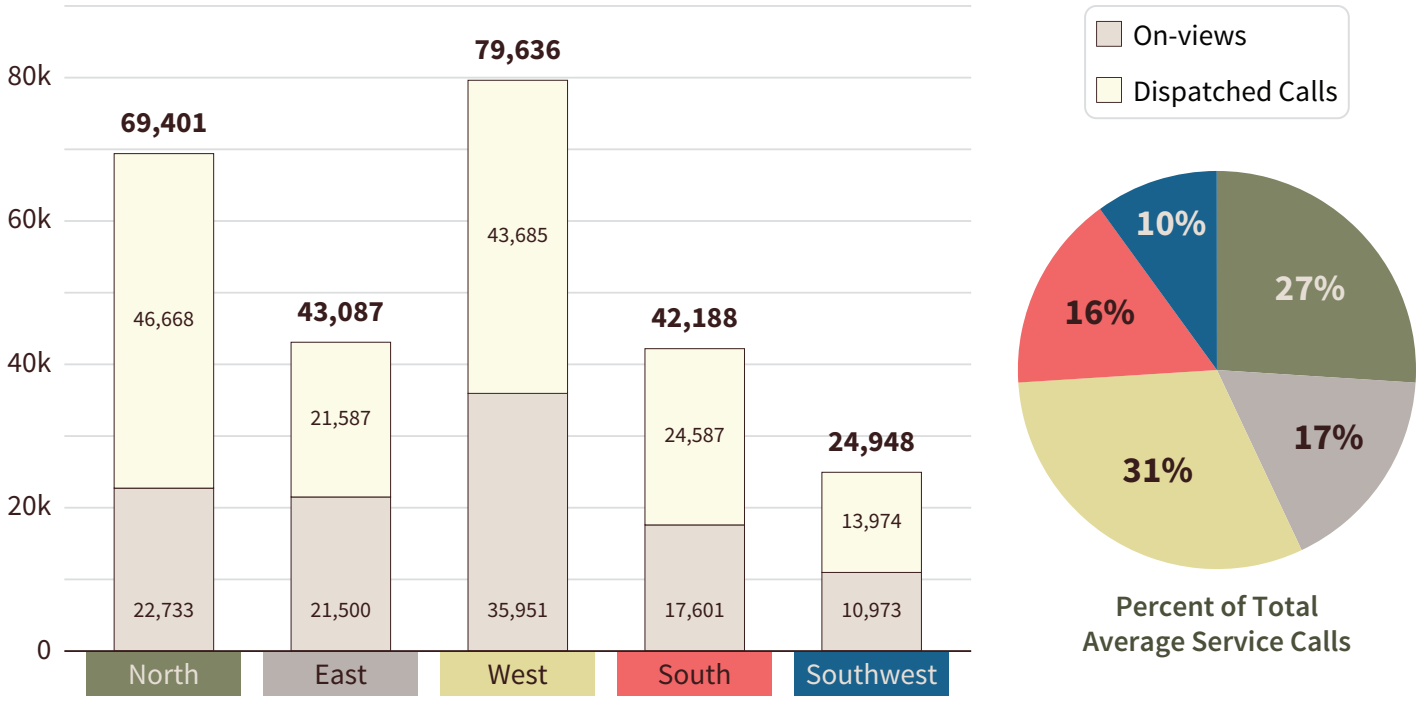


* Events that officers log during routine patrols.

Source: Socci, 2014a.

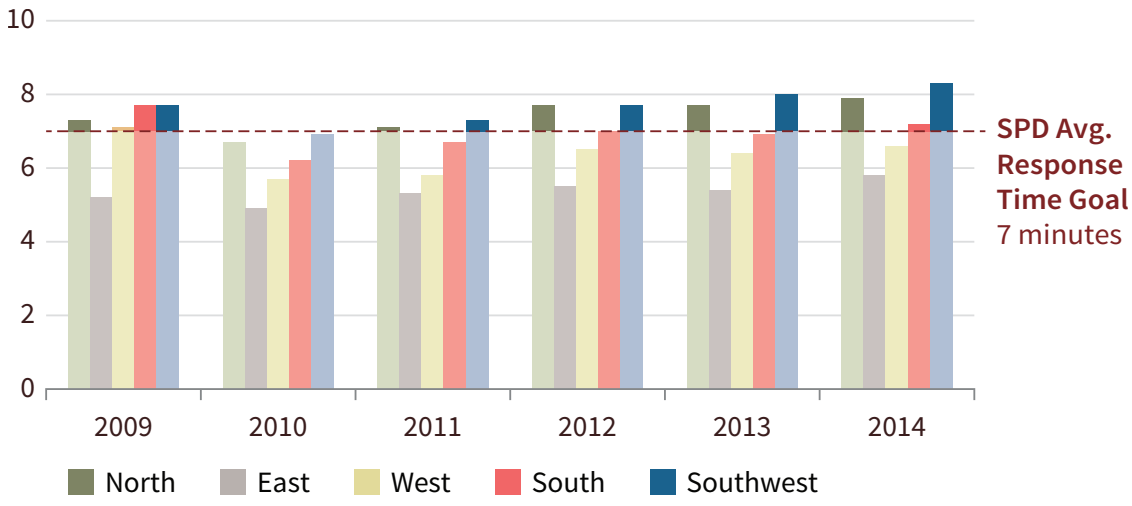
SPD will be replacing the North Precinct police station with a larger facility at a different site to address capacity issues. The North Precinct was designed to accommodate 154 SPD staff and currently houses 254 staff, with some overflow staff currently accommodated in a nearby office. The new station will be located at Aurora Avenue N and N 130th Street and will have the capability to house the current staff as well as the anticipated future levels of staffing for the North Precinct through approximately 2038 (Seattle FAS 2015a). The East, West and South Precincts' station facilities are currently at capacity and the Southwest Precinct is slightly below capacity (118 staff at a facility designed for 131 staff). The South Precinct requires seismic upgrades and renovations to accommodate any growth in staff, training and parking needs and bring the facility up to current essential facility standards (Socci 2014b).

Figure 3.8–5 Service calls by precinct (4-year average 2010–13)



Source: Socci, 2014a.

Figure 3.8–6 Emergency response time (in minutes) by precinct 2009–14



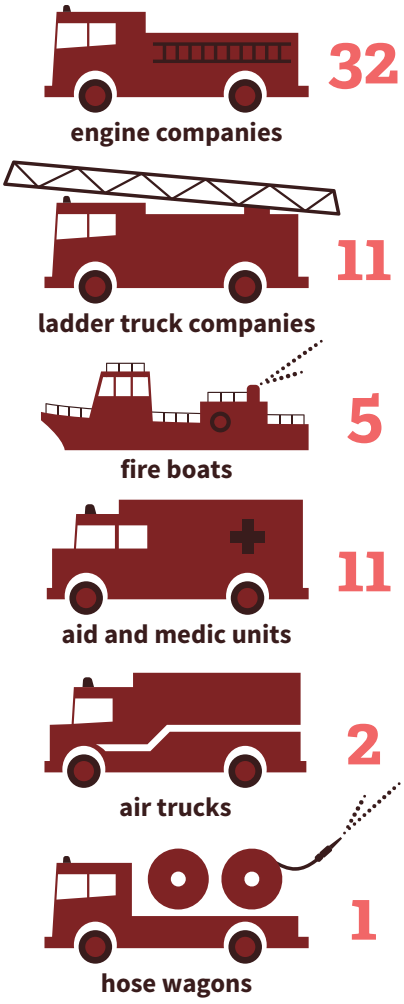
Source: Socci, 2014a.

Fire and Emergency Medical Services

INVENTORY OF EXISTING FIRE FACILITIES AND DEPARTMENT STAFF

The Seattle Fire Department provides fire and rescue response, fire prevention and public education, fire investigation and emergency medical services (EMS) throughout the city. Emergency medical services include basic life support (BLS) and advanced life support (ALS). The Seattle Fire Department also has specially trained technical teams that provide technical and heavy rescue, dive rescue, tunnel rescue, marine fire/EMS response and hazardous materials response.

As shown in Figure 3.8–7, Seattle's 33 fire stations are organized by battalion and station service areas to provide a full range of fire protection, prevention and emergency medical services citywide. Twenty-one fire stations are located within urban villages. While all stations (except Fire Station 14) are equipped with at least one fire engine, other equipment varies by facility. Additional facilities include the Medic One Headquarters at the Harborview Medical Center, the Joint Training Facility, fire department headquarters, and the new building housing the Fire Alarm Center, Emergency Operations Center and Fire Station 10.



Seattle Fire Department staff includes the following:

- 995 uniformed personnel
- 207 on-duty
- 38 department chiefs
- 905 firefighter/emergency medical technicians
- 70 firefighter/paramedics
- 86 non-uniformed civilian personnel

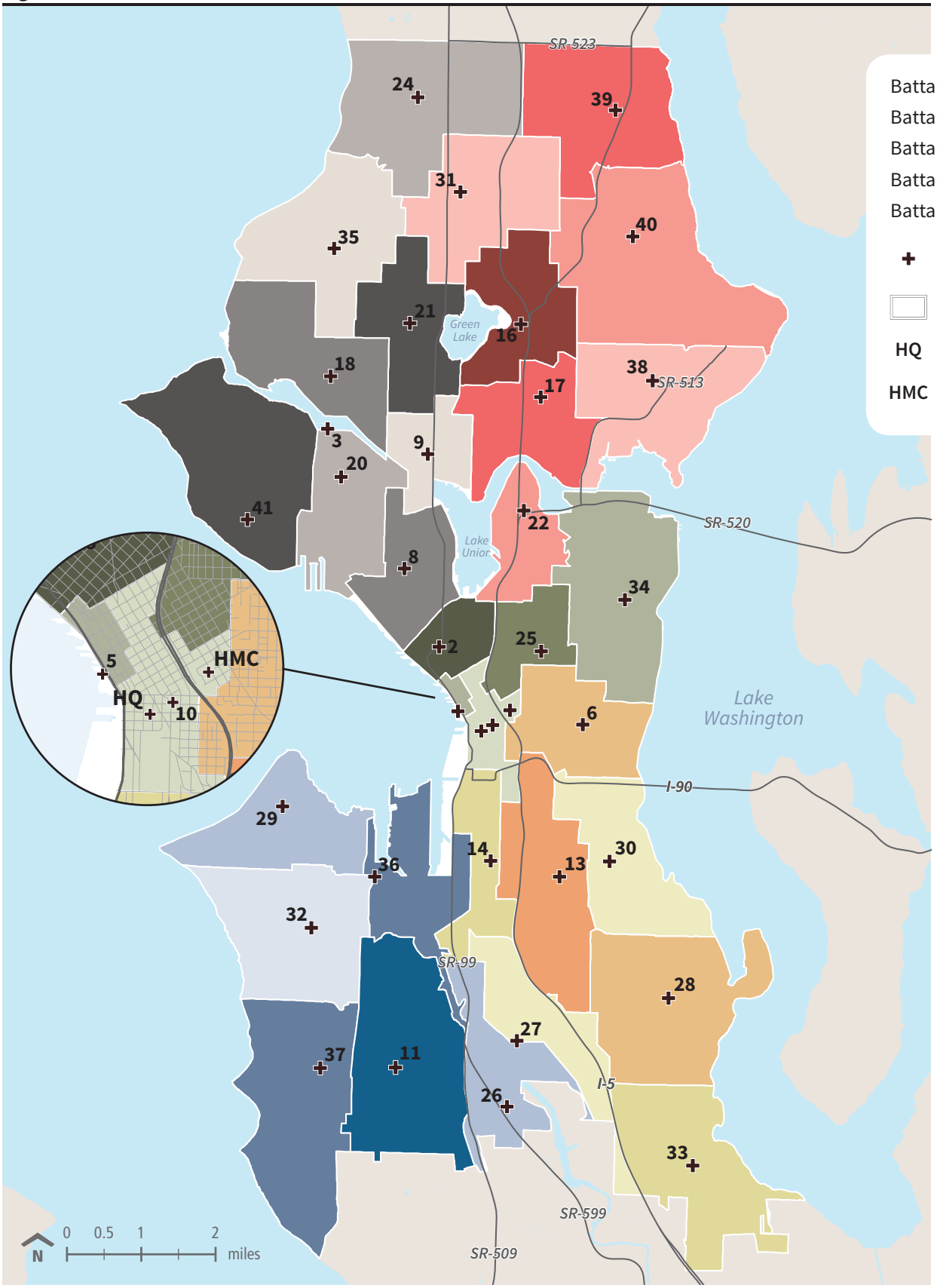
As shown at left, the Fire Department has 32 engine companies (including one on-duty fire boat), 11 ladder truck companies, 5 fire boats, 4 aid units, 7 medic units (advanced life support), 2 air trucks and 1 hose wagons, along with other specialized units for heavy rescue, hazardous materials and marine fire-fighting.

In addition to emergency medical services provided by the Seattle Fire Department, several private companies also provide EMS throughout the city.

Beginning in 2004, Seattle's entire fire and emergency response system has been undergoing improvements and upgrades funded by the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy. As of the end of year 2014, 26 neighborhood fire stations have been upgraded, renovated or replaced, with 8 more levy-funded stations still underway. Upgrades to Station 5 on the downtown waterfront are occurring in coordination with the Elliott Bay Seawall Project under separate funding.

Figure 3.8–8 identifies planned or completed station upgrades under the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy, existing equipment, geographic area and populations served by battalion.

Figure 3.8–7 Seattle fire battalions and stations



Source: City of Seattle Fire Department, 2014.

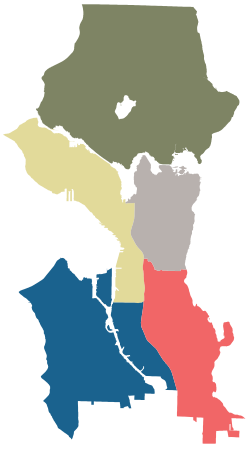
Figure 3.8–8 Seattle fire station upgrades, urban centers & villages, geographic area and populations served, by battalion

Seattle Fire Battalions

Geography & Demographics

Urban Centers & Villages

Equipment



Battalion 2 (4 stations)

- Seismic retrofits & upgrades completed for 3 stations
- 1 new station was constructed in 2008

Urban Villages (4): *Downtown; First/ Capitol Hill*; South Lake Union; Madison-Miller*

Equipment: *4 engine companies; 3 ladder units (+1 reserve); 1 battalion chief unit (+1 reserve); 1 medic unit (+1 reserve); 4 aid units; 1 fireboat engine; 1 primary hazardous materials unit (+1 reserve); 1 mobile ventilation unit; 1 hose wagon*

Battalion 4 (9 stations)

- 4 new stations are planned or already constructed
- Seismic upgrades & remodels planned for all other stations & Station 3

Urban Villages (9): *Uptown; Ballard; Bitter Lake; Fremont; Crown Hill; Greenwood-Phinney Ridge; Upper Queen Anne; Wallingford**; Ballard-Interbay-Northend*

Equipment: *8 engine companies (+2 reserves); 2 ladder units (+1 reserve); 1 battalion chief unit (+1 reserve); 1 medic unit (+1 reserve); 1 multiple casualty unit; 1 compressed air equipment & truck; 1 hose wagon*

Battalion 5 (7 stations)

- Reconstruction of 3 stations completed
- Seismic upgrades & remodels planned for 4 other stations

Urban Villages (8): *First/Capitol Hill*; Mount Baker; 23rd & Union-Jackson; Columbia City; North Beacon Hill; Othello; Rainier Beach; Greater Duwamish****

Equipment: *6 engine companies (+2 reserves); 3 ladder units; 1 battalion chief unit (+1 reserve); 2 aid units; 1 technical rescue team; 1 urban search & rescue equipment cache; 1 metro-politan medical response system cache; 1 mobile decontamination unit*

Battalion 6 (7 stations)

- Reconstruction of 3 stations completed
- Seismic upgrades & remodels completed for the remaining stations

Urban Villages (8): *University District; Northgate; Lake City; Aurora-Licton Springs; Eastlake; Green Lake; Roosevelt; Wallingford***

Equipment: *7 engine companies (+3 reserves); 2 ladder units; 1 battalion chief unit (+1 reserve); 1 medic unit (+1 reserve); 1 reserve aid unit; 1 incident command unit*

Battalion 7 (7 stations)

- 2 new stations are planned or already constructed
- Seismic upgrades & remodels planned for remaining stations

Urban Villages (6): *West Seattle Junction; Admiral; Morgan Junction; South Park; Westwood-Highland Park; Greater Duwamish****

Equipment: *7 engine companies (+2 reserves); 1 ladder units (+1 reserve); 1 battalion chief unit (+1 reserve); 1 medic unit (+1 reserve); 1 fireboat engine; 1 tunnel rescue unit; 1 marine specialty unit; 1 mobile compressed air unit*

Note: Urban village boundaries do not align exactly with fire battalion boundaries. When a boundary overlaps multiple battalions, the urban village is included in the battalion where there is greatest overlap. The only three exceptions are First/Capitol Hill, Wallingford and Greater Duwamish.

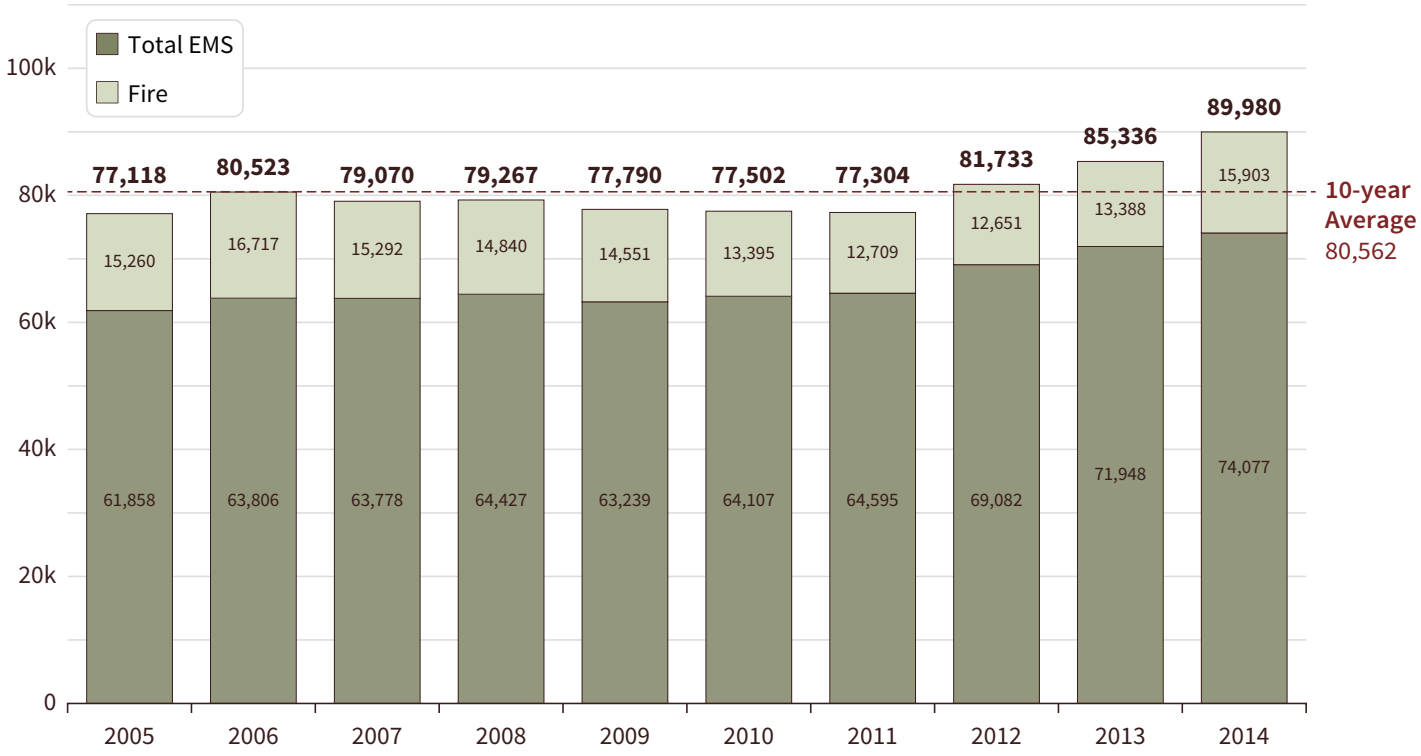
* First/Capitol Hill lies primarily in the 2nd Battalion, but includes a significant area in the 5th Battalion.

** Wallingford lies almost evenly in the 4th and 6th Battalions.

*** Greater Duwamish lies almost evenly in the 5th and 7th Battalions.

Source: City of Seattle Fire Department, 2014.

Figure 3.8–9 Seattle Fire Department incidents over the last decade (2003–12)*



Source: City of Seattle Fire Department, 2014.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSES

Historical incident response data for the Seattle Fire Department over the last ten years are shown in Figure 3.8–9. Eighty-percent (80 percent) of all incidents were for emergency medical services. While EMS incidents have shown a steady increase over time, fire incidents have decreased. Fire incidents include structure fires, vehicle fires, non-structure fires and fire alarm responses. Structure fires have increased in the past two years counter to national trends. EMS incidents are exceeding forecasts—the department has seen its largest recorded increases in activity over the past three years (Roberts 2014a).

SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIME

Consistent with National Fire Protection Association Standard guidelines, the Seattle Fire Department regularly monitors and documents response times. The department has also established response standards specifying the minimum criteria for effectively and efficiently delivering fire suppression and emergency medical services. On average, fire stations meet EMS response standards 86 percent of the time and fire response standards 89 percent of the time (see Table 3.8–1).

Use of the public right of ways is critical to the Seattle Fire Department meeting their response goals; many factors contribute to impacts on response time including increased population and employment, development activity, land use modifications and changed transportation condi-

Table 3.8–1 Citywide emergency response times in 2012

Service Type	Response Goal (measured from en route to on scene)	Percentage of Time Response Time Goal Met
Basic Life Support	4 minutes, 90% of the time	84%
Advanced Life Support	8 minutes, 90% of the time	87%
Fire incident	8 minutes, 90% of the	89%

Source: City of Seattle Fire Department, 2014.

tions. In support of meeting the city's overall safety goals, including reducing traffic collisions, the design of roadways continues to evolve to include narrower lane widths, a decrease in the number of travel lanes, a more extensive bicycle network, and an increase in the number of traffic calming devices such as curb bulbs, speed cushions and traffic circles that may contribute to increases in Seattle Fire Department's emergency response time. The addition of new fire stations will need to be considered to mitigate these impacts while still advancing the City's transportation goals so that response times can be maintained or improved.

EXISTING AND PROJECTED EMS INCREASES

Citywide growth in population, employment, residential development and commercial activity strongly correlate with an increase in medical emergencies, along with the relative absence or presence of hospitals, clinics, adult care facilities, parks and open space, institutions and industry.

Other factors that produce variability in the number of medical emergencies include changes in income and age of population. Additionally, response times will be impacted due to traffic congestion and construction in key areas of the city.

Existing facilities and equipment conditions that the Seattle Fire Department and City facilities planning staff have discussed as possibly warranting adjustments to ensure sufficient service provision into the future include (Roberts 2014a):

Fire Station 2 in the South Lake Union Urban Center experiences very high run volumes (incident responses) compared to other stations, exceeding an ideal workload of greater than 3,000 runs per engine company. To serve existing and projected population and employment growth in South Lake Union and Denny Regrade, the Seattle Fire Department anticipates planning for a new fire station, equipment and resources in this area.

Fire Station 31 is in the Broadview–Bitter Lake–Haller Lake districts, which includes portions of the Bitter Lake, Aurora-Licton Springs, Crown Hill and Greenwood-Phinney Ridge urban villages, as well as area outside of the urban villages. This area has the second busiest engine company in the city. Additional fire resources may be necessary to address current and projected growth in this area, and the Seattle Fire Department also anticipates planning for a new fire station subject to future funding.

The Seattle Fire Department used an EMS Demand Forecast model developed with the assistance of the University of Alberta to project demand for emergency medical services.

The forecast showed an increase in EMS in the following neighborhoods (Roberts 2014a):

- Denny Regrade (Uptown Urban Center)
- South Lake Union (South Lake Union Urban Center)
- Broadview–Bitter Lake–Haller Lake (multiple urban villages and surrounding areas)
- Alki/Admiral (multiple urban villages and surrounding areas)
- Rainier Valley (multiple urban villages and surrounding areas)

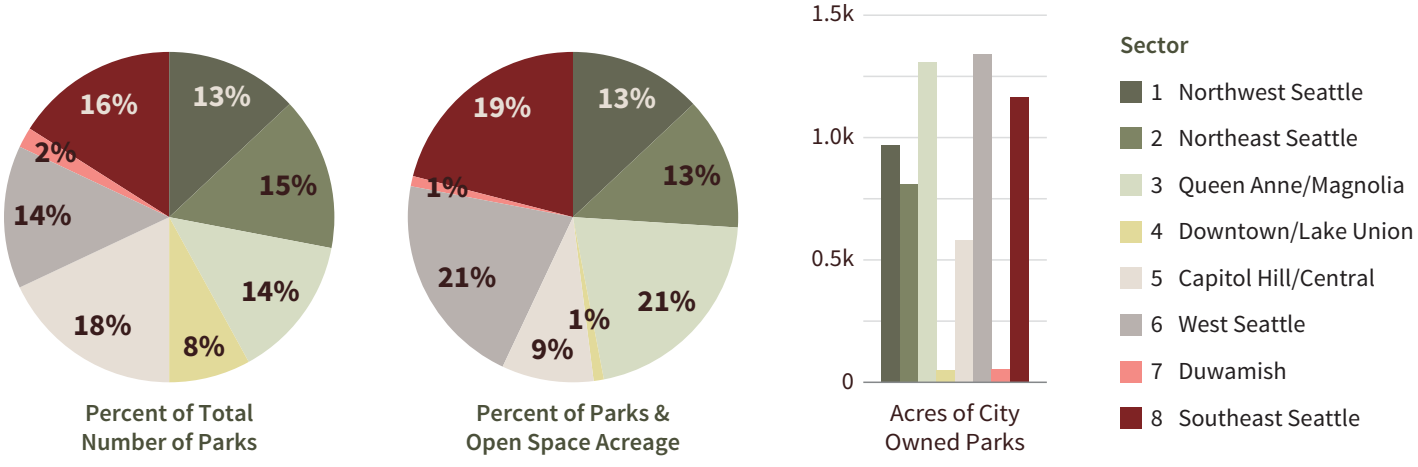
Parks and Recreation

INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

Seattle Parks and Recreation operates approximately 6,200 acres of parks, open space areas and facilities. This includes more than approximately 465 parks and open space areas, facilities and unique features including developed parks, a conservatory, athletic fields, teen life centers, education centers, cultural arts center, community centers, tennis courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, small craft centers, boat ramps, swimming beaches, fishing piers, outdoor camp, golf courses, p-patch gardens, shorelines, green belts and natural areas as shown in Figure 3.8–11 (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2011b). Non-city-owned parks and open space areas in the city include the Ballard Locks, Montlake Cut, Port of Seattle and King County parks, Seattle Center and open spaces at public and private schools, colleges and universities (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2011a).

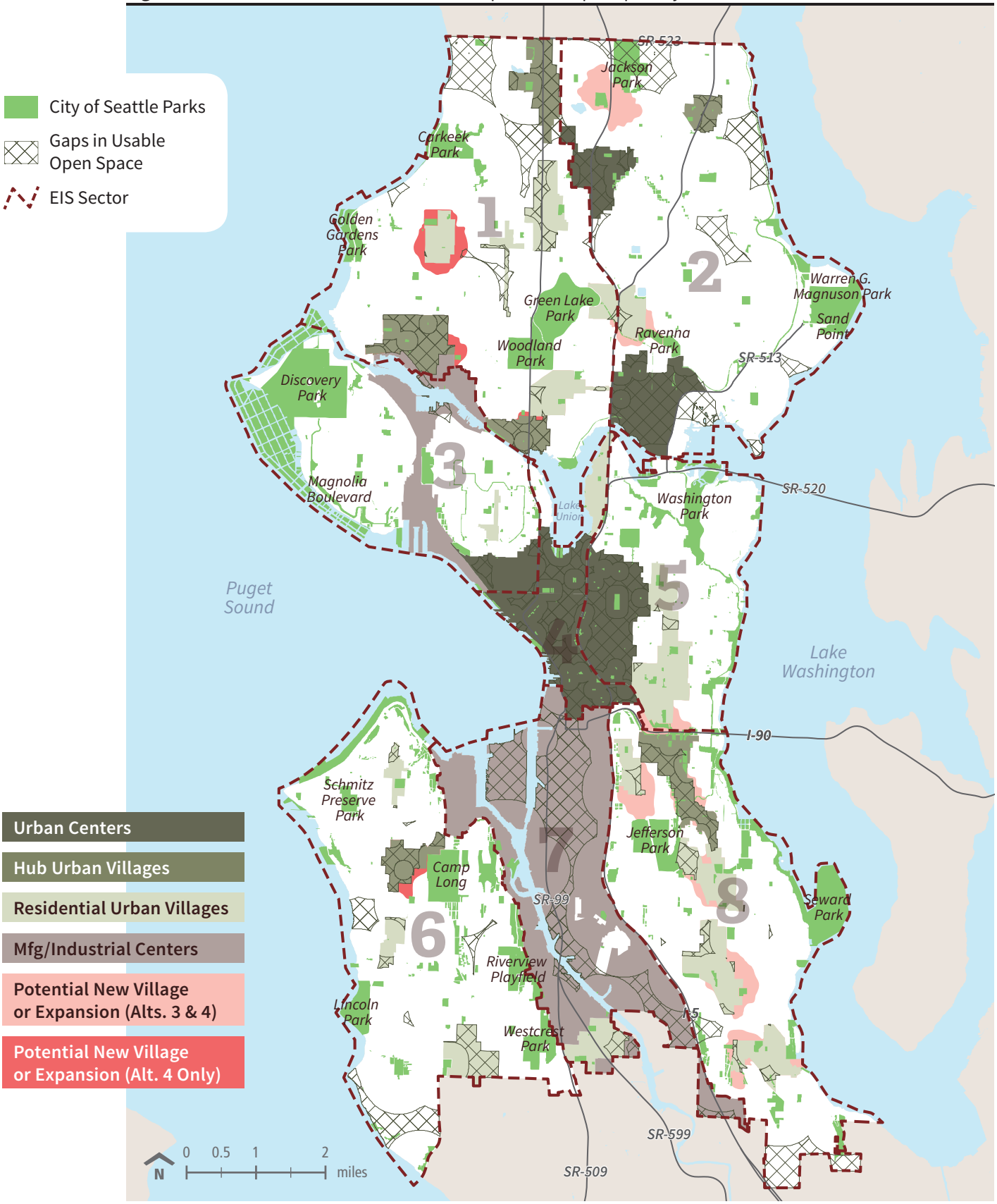
Figure 3.8–10 displays the distribution of City-owned park space by EIS analysis sector. Notable facts include: Downtown/Lake Union and Duwamish (sectors 4 and 7) contain only 2 percent of the City-owned open space park system. Queen Anne/Magnolia and West Seattle (sectors 3 and 6) have the highest amount of park acreage.

Figure 3.8–10 Park inventory by EIS analysis sector



Source: City of Seattle Parks and Recreation, 2010.

Figure 3.8–11 Seattle Parks and Recreation parks and open space system



Source: City of Seattle.

Table 3.8–2 Parks and open space goals

	Area	Population, Household and Job-based Goals	Distribution Goals
Breathing Room Open Space			
Dedicated open spaces (parks, greenspaces, trails and boulevards) but not including tidelands and shorelands (submerged park lands).	citywide	• 1 acre per 100 residents (⅓ acre per 100 residents acceptable)	• citywide
Usable Open Space			
Relatively level and open, easily accessible, primarily green open space available for drop-in use (can be part of a larger citywide park space).	outside urban villages	• ¼ to ½ acre within ¼ to ½ mile of every resident	• ¼ to ½ mile of every resident
	in primarily single-family residential areas	• ½ acre of usable open space within ½ to 1 mile of households	• ½ mile of Seattle households in primarily single-family areas (within 1 mile is acceptable)
Urban Village Open Space			
Publicly owned or dedicated open space that is easily accessible and intended to serve the immediate urban village. This encompasses various types of open space for passive enjoyment as well as activity and includes green areas and hard surfaced urban plazas, street parks and pocket parks. Dedicated open spaces should be at least 10,000 square feet in size.	in urban centers	• 1 acre per 1,000 households • 1 acre per 10,000 jobs in each urban center, or in the four contiguous urban centers comprising the center city, considered as a whole • 1 Village Commons park that is at least one acre in size where existing and target households total 2,500 or more	• all locations in the village within ⅛-mile of Village Open Space
	in residential urban village	• 1 acre per 1,000 households • 1 Village Commons park, at least 1 acre in size where overall residential density is 10 households/gross acre or more	• All locations in the village within ⅛–¼-mile for moderate and high density areas (varies based on open space size) of Village Open Space • ¼ mile for low density areas
	in hub urban village	• 1 acre per 1,000 households • 1 Village Commons park, at least 1 acre in size	• All locations in the village within 1/8 mile of Village Open Space

Source: City of Seattle, 2005 and Seattle Parks and Recreation, 2011a .

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION GOALS

The City of Seattle has not adopted level of service standards relative to parks and open space. However, the Seattle Comprehensive Plan (City of Seattle 2005) and City of Seattle Parks and Recreation Plan (2011b) identify types of open space and goals for their provision based on population, households, jobs and geographic distribution as shown in Table 3.8–2. The type of open space that can count towards each goal is defined along with acceptable goals that fall below the desirable goal.

GAPS IN SEATTLE'S OPEN SPACE NETWORK

To evaluate whether goals for distribution of open space and facilities (summarized in Table 3.8–2) were being met, Seattle Parks and Recreation measured existing park acreage against desired goals and identified where gaps exist in Seattle's open space network (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2011a). Twenty-one of the urban villages do not have gaps

in relation to the open space distribution goals. However, in eleven of the City's 32 urban villages, over half of the urban village area is outside the distance established by the distribution goals shown in Table 3.8–2. These include the following:

- ***Urban Centers:*** Downtown, First/Capitol Hill and Northgate
- ***Hub Urban Villages:*** Ballard, Bitter Lake, Fremont, Mount Baker and West Seattle Junction
- ***Residential Urban Villages:*** Greenwood-Phinney Ridge, Morgan Junction and Westwood-Highland Park

Of the 32 urban villages, 28 meet the goals for open space per household, and 30 of 32 urban villages meet their "village commons" goal. However, 11 of 32 urban villages do not meet one or more Village Open Space goals and/or may fall short in the distribution of open space. Table 3.8–3 identifies the urban villages that do not meet Village Open Space goals, organized by EIS analysis sector. Urban villages not meeting the distribution goal are concentrated in Northwest Seattle and West Seattle, respectively (sectors 1 and 6). Three out of six urban centers do not meet the distribution goal or have urban centers that do not meet the distribution goal. Two urban centers (Downtown and First/Capitol Hill) also do not meet the minimum 1 acre per 1,000 households goal and 1 acre per 10,000 jobs goal.

The largest open space gaps in single family areas are in Northwest Seattle (Sector 1; Whittier neighborhood), Northeast Seattle (Sector 2; Wedgewood neighborhood), West Seattle (Sector 6; Beach Drive Area northwest of the Morgan Junction Residential Urban Village and

Table 3.8–3 Significant open space gaps by EIS analysis sector

EIS Analysis Sector*	Open Space Gap in Over Half of Urban Center or Urban Village	Per Household Goal Not Met	Village Commons Goal Not Met	Per Job Goal Not Met
NW Seattle (1)	Ballard, Bitter Lake, Fremont and Greenwood-Phinney Ridge	Greenwood-Phinney Ridge	Greenwood-Phinney Ridge	Not applicable
NE Seattle (2)	Northgate	All urban centers and urban villages meet goal	All urban centers and urban villages meet goal	All urban centers and urban villages meet goal
Queen Anne/ Magnolia (3)	None	All urban centers and urban villages meet goal	All urban centers and urban villages meet goal	Not applicable
Downtown/ Lake Union (4)	Downtown	Downtown	All urban centers and urban villages meet goal	Downtown
Capitol Hill/ Central (5)	First/Capitol Hill	First/Capitol Hill	All urban centers and urban villages meet goal	First/Capitol Hill
West Seattle (6)	Morgan Junction, Westwood-Highland Park and West Seattle Junction	Morgan Junction	Morgan Junction	Not applicable
Duwamish (7)	None	Urban village meet goal	Not applicable	Not applicable
SE Seattle (8)	Mount Baker	Urban villages meet goal	Urban villages meet goal	Not applicable

Source: City of Seattle Parks and Recreation, 2011a .

in large lot areas at the very southwest edge of the city) and Southeast Seattle (Sector 8; large lot areas at the very southeast edge of the city).

The open space gaps (among other needs like park renovation) were used as the basis for developing parks and green spaces levies. The 2001 Pro Parks Levy funded projects at more than 110 sites all over the city, implementing park and open space priorities from neighborhood plans, acquiring green spaces, improving athletic fields, adding pedestrian and bike trails, supporting Woodland Park Zoo programs and maintenance, enhancing park maintenance and expanding recreation programs for youth and seniors. Citizens in every neighborhood in the city have benefited from these projects. In addition, the City added 47.1 acres to its park system. The four major categories for funding were:

- **Development**—neighborhood parks; playfields and facilities; trails and boulevards
- **Acquisition**—neighborhood park space; greenbelts and natural areas
- **Acquisition and Development Opportunity Fund**—new acquisition and development projects identified by neighborhood and community groups
- **Programming, Maintenance and Environmental Stewardship**—recreational programming for youth and seniors; operational support for Woodland Park Zoo; maintenance of new parks and green spaces, and enhanced maintenance of existing properties; and environmental stewardship programming.

The 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy was approved by voters and provided $146 million in funds to pay for improvements to neighborhood parks and playgrounds, cultural facilities, playfields, neighborhood parks, and trails; acquisition and community-initiated projects; restoration of forests and streams; development of community gardens; preservation of shoreline street ends; and acquisition of parks in urban villages and green spaces. Since the start of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy, Seattle Parks and Recreation has acquired about 23 acres of park land and received an additional 49 acres in transfer from other City departments. Most recently, three acres of neighborhood park space was acquired in Capitol Hill, University District, Fremont, Lake City, Mount Baker, West Seattle Junction, Greenwood-Phinney Ridge, Morgan Junction and the International District (Seattle Parks and Recreation 2014). In 2014, Seattle voters approved Proposition 1 creating the Seattle Park District, a metropolitan park district that has the same boundaries as the City of Seattle. Seattle City Council members serve on the Park District's Governing Board. Property taxes collected by the Seattle Park District will provide funding for City parks and recreation including maintaining parklands and facilities, operating community centers and recreation programs, and developing new neighborhood parks on previously acquired sites.

Park space is proposed as part of Seattle's central waterfront project. This would help to address the current household-based gaps in the Downtown Urban Center.

Public Schools

INVENTORY OF EXISTING SCHOOL FACILITIES

Seattle Public Schools Vision and Mission

The Seattle Public Schools (SPS) has established the following vision and mission statements:

Vision

Every student achieving, everyone accountable.

Mission

Enabling all students to achieve to their potential through quality instructional programs and a shared commitment to continuous improvement.

SPS also established seven core beliefs including one that focuses on equitable access: "Every student in Seattle Public Schools should have equitable access to quality programs."

Seattle Public Schools, 2014a

The Seattle Public Schools (SPS) provides kindergarten through 12th grade public education to children in all of Seattle. It is the largest district in the state operating 96 schools with a current enrollment of 51,000 students (SPS 2014). SPS provides educational programs in 60 elementary schools (kindergarten through 5th grade), 10 kindergarten through 8th grade schools, 11 middle schools (6th through 8th grades), 15 high schools (9th through 12th grades) and 23 alternative programs and schools. SPS also has 9 closed or vacant schools that could potentially be reactivated. Including administration buildings and additional sites, SPS owns 119 buildings and sites as shown in Figure 3.8–12.

Figure 3.8–13 describes the number and type of public schools operated by Seattle Public Schools and is organized by EIS analysis sector.

In addition to the public schools, there are private schools in Seattle that provide educational programs for kindergarten through 12th grade. There are 82 private schools located throughout the city, of which 33 (40 percent) are located in urban centers/villages.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS

Seattle Public Schools establish attendance areas throughout the city to assign students to schools. In 2009, a new assignment method was developed. Implementation has since been phased, with the final transition plan implemented during the 2013–2014 school year. Elementary, middle and high school students are assigned to a designated attendance area school based on residency, unless participating in special programs offered only at certain schools. Elementary school attendance areas are combined to create middle school attendance areas. This creates a geographically-based feeder pattern as students move from elementary to middle school. High schools have their own geographic attendance areas that do not necessarily correspond to middle school attendance areas (SPS 2009; SPS 2013b).

SPS provides yellow bus, door-to-door, Metro and cab service to students attending Seattle Public Schools consistent with the following transportation service standards (Seattle Public Schools 2014b):

- **Elementary and K-8** SPS-arranged transportation is provided to students that live outside designated walk boundaries (one mile from the school) and within the attendance area.
- **Middle School** SPS-arranged transportation is provided to students that live more than 2 miles from their assigned school and within their attendance area.
- **High School** ORCA cards are provided to students that live more than 2 miles from their assigned school.

Safe Routes to School

A national movement to make it easier and safer for students to walk and bike to school to increase physical activity and decrease traffic and pollution.

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) created school walking maps that show preferred routes for walking to school safely as part of their Safe Routes to School program

Figure 3.8–12 Seattle school district facilities

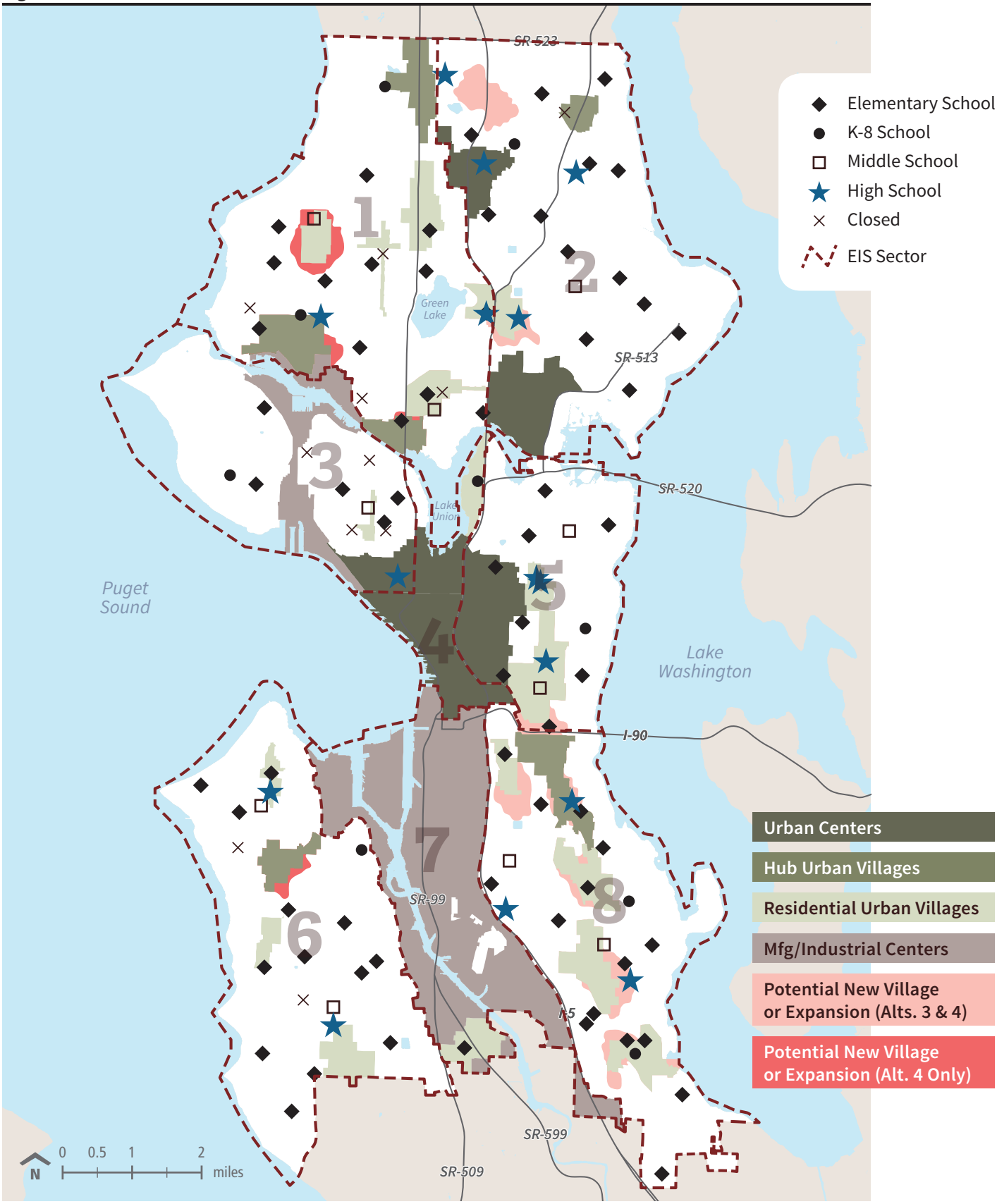
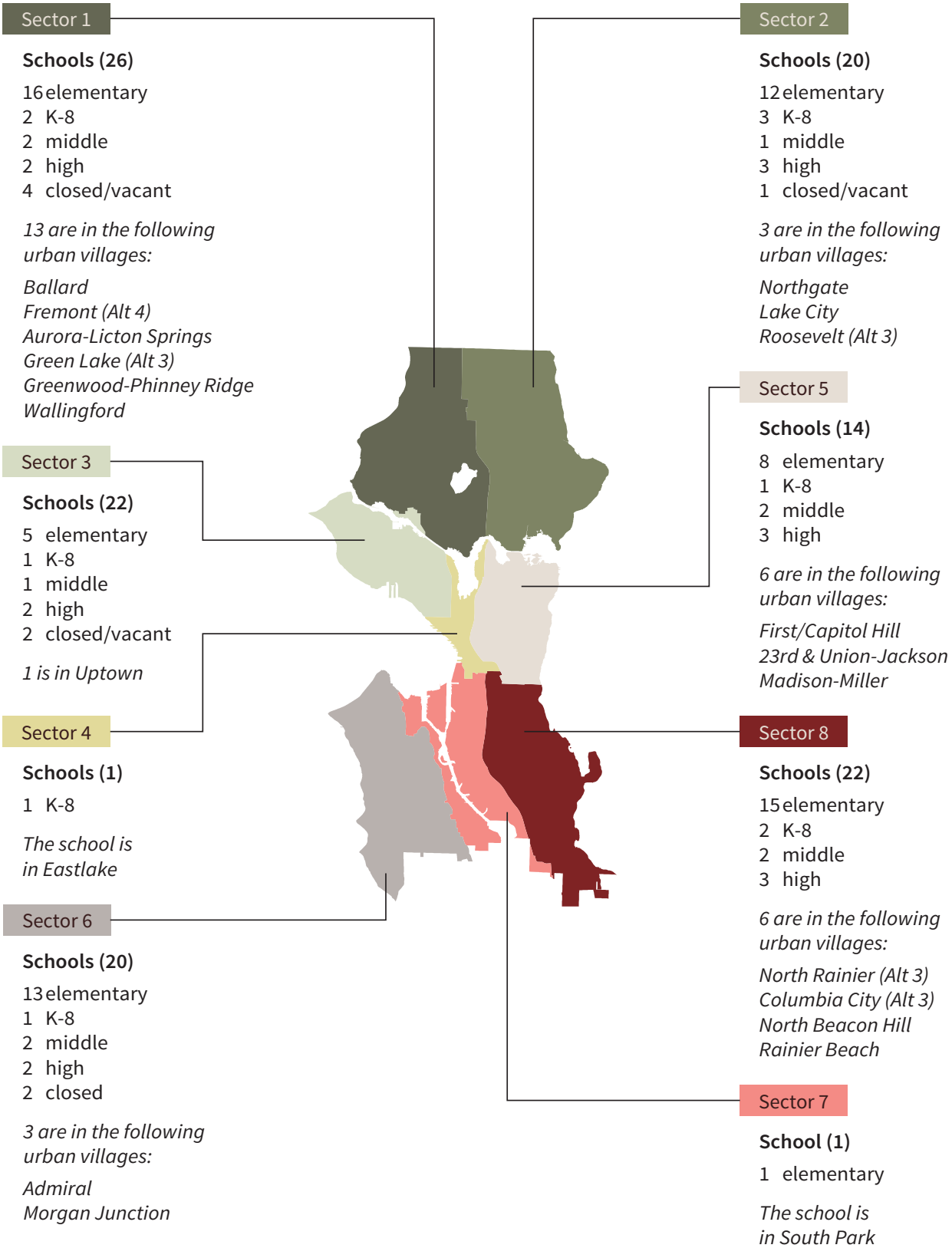


Figure 3.8–13 Seattle public schools, by EIS analysis sector



(SDOT 2014d). The SDOT walking maps identify traffic signals, crosswalks, multi-use paths and public facilities. For neighborhoods that do not have adequate sidewalk infrastructure, the map recommends students walk on the left side of the roadway as far off the traveled part of the roadway as possible. Although an extensive connected sidewalk network exists in the urban core and in many of the urban villages, several residential areas currently lack sidewalks. These are mostly concentrated in Northwest Seattle and Northeast Seattle (sectors 1 and 2) north of N 85th Street and Duwamish (Sector 7). Figure 3.8–14 identifies where there is a substantial lack of sidewalk infrastructure (no sidewalks on either side of the street on over half of the streets) within the designated walk boundaries of elementary, K-8, middle schools, high schools and closed schools. A walk boundary of 2 miles was assumed for closed schools in the event that closed schools are used during the planning period of 20 years. Table 3.8–4 on page 3.8–23 identifies the schools where more than half of the streets in the designated walk boundary are missing sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Out of a total of 105 schools in the SPS district, there are 25 schools that are missing sidewalk infrastructure along more than half of the streets in the designated walk boundary. These include 18 elementary/K-8 schools, six middle or high schools and one closed school.

Urban villages that are near or contain schools lacking full sidewalk infrastructure in their walk routes include:

- Northgate
- Bitter Lake
- Lake City
- North Beacon Hill
- Othello
- Rainier Beach
- South Park
- Greater Duwamish

SDOT invests in safety around schools by selecting several schools each year to receive engineering improvements, an education and encouragement campaign, and traffic enforcement support. The program is funded by Seattle's Bridging the Gap levy, revenue from school speed zone cameras, and grants from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and the Washington State Department of Transportation. Engineering improvements can include new sidewalks, sidewalk repair, new or improved crosswalks, and curb ramps. In 2014, new sidewalks were placed near the Arbor Heights, Roxhill and Olympic Hills schools. Other engineering improvements were made for 25 other schools (SDOT 2014e).

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

In the last 50 years, student enrollment in Seattle Public Schools has decreased significantly. Enrollment reached its peak of 99,326 students in 1962. During the 1960s and 1970s, enrollment decreased rapidly until the mid-1980s when the decline slowed, hitting a low of 41,002 students in 1989. Student enrollment gradually increased for the next ten years and

Figure 3.8–14 Lack of sidewalk infrastructures within designated walk boundaries of Seattle school facilities

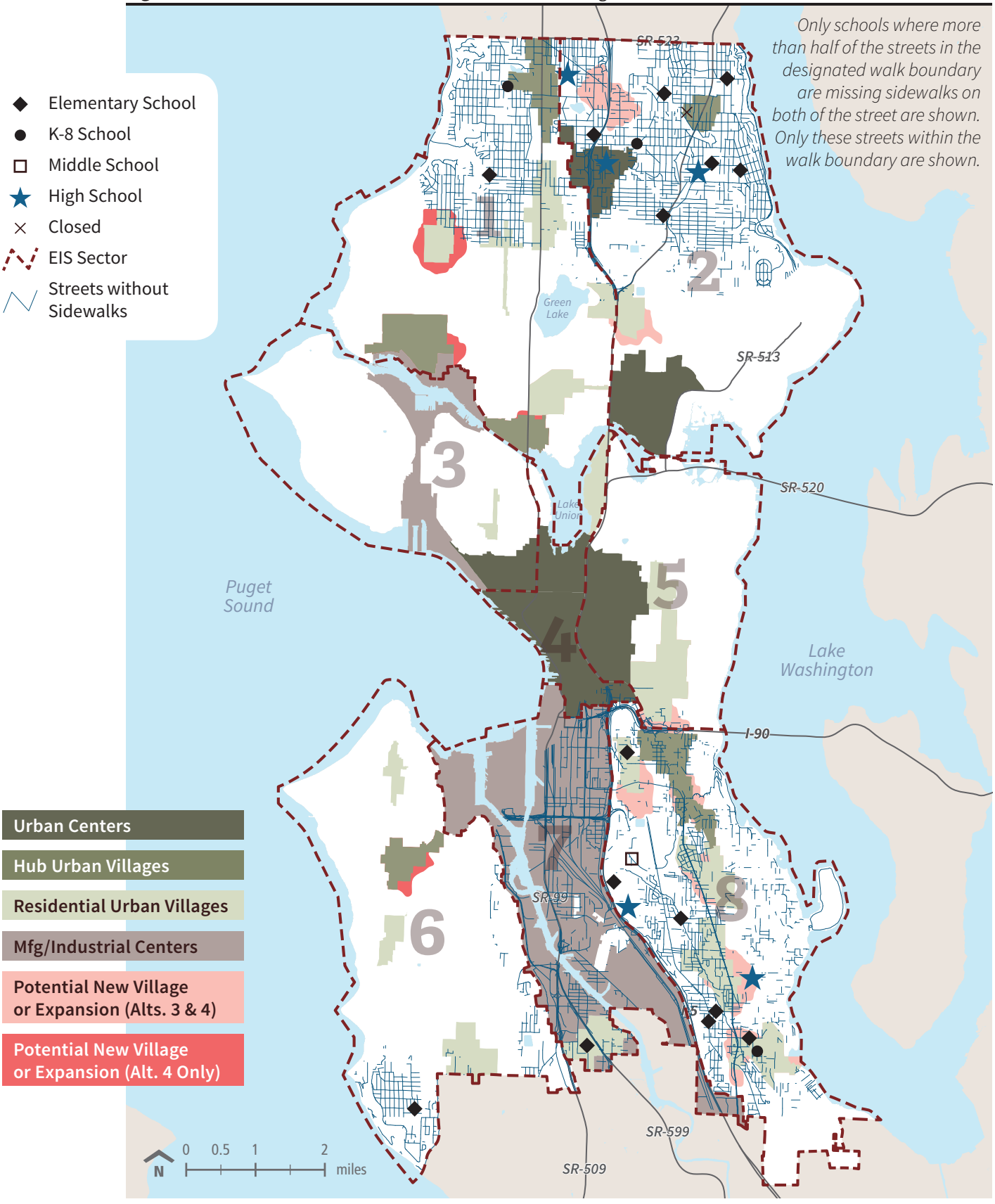


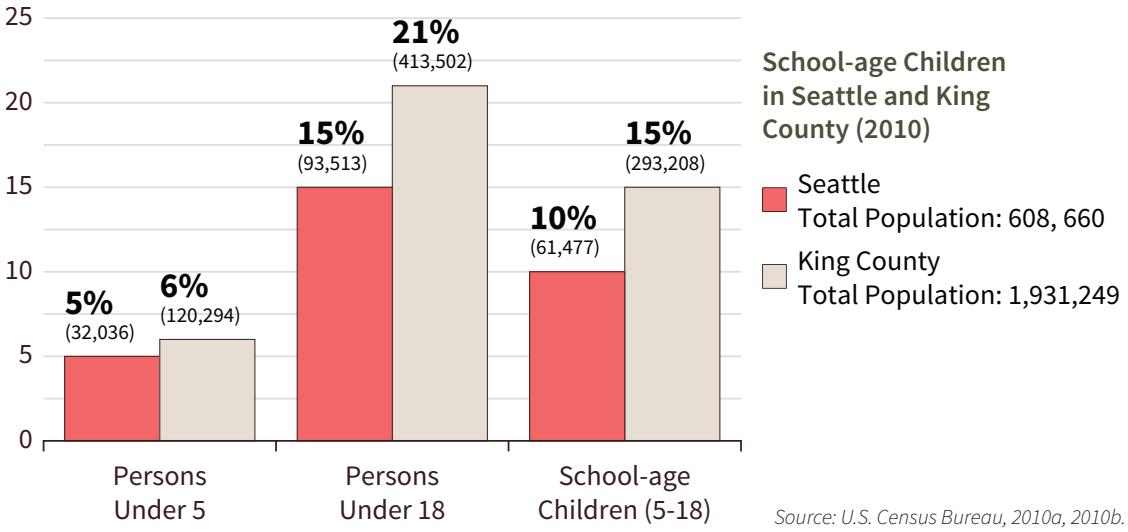
Table 3.8–4 Schools with more than half of streets missing sidewalks on both sides in the designated walk boundary

School by Type	Percentage of Streets with No Sidewalks Within Designated Walk Boundary
Elementary/K-8	
Arbor Heights	53%
Beacon Hill International School	53%
Broadview-Thomson	81%
Cedar Park	86%
Concord International School	73%
Dearborn Park	53%
Dunlap	59%
Jane Addams	88%
John Rogers	89%
Maple	56%
Northgate	75%
Olympic Hills	80%
Pinehurst	81%
Sacajawea	53%
South Shore	60%
Van Asselt	65%
Viewlands	76%
Wing Luke	60%
Middle/High School	
Asa Mercer	56%
Cleveland—STEM	57%
High Point	63%
Ingraham	78%
Nathan Hale	64%
Rainier Beach	50%
Closed	
Lake City	81%

then slowly declined between 1998 and 2007. Since 2007, enrollment has steadily increased and is expected to continue to do so into the foreseeable future (SPS 2012b).

Of the 61,477 school-age children living in Seattle in 2010, 76 percent were enrolled in Seattle Public Schools (47,008). The majority of the remaining 24 percent were most likely enrolled in private schools or home-schooled. Figure 3.8–15 provides a comparison of school-age population groups for Seattle and King County as a whole. The percentage of children living

Figure 3.8–15 School-age children in Seattle and King County in 2010



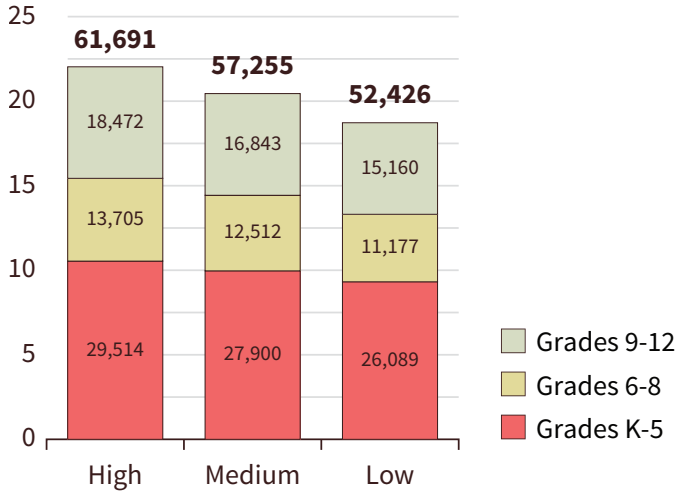
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010a, 2010b.

in Seattle that are under the age of 5 is slightly less than those living in King County as a whole: 5 percent and 6 percent, respectively. However, when children under the age of 18 living in Seattle are compared with those in King County, the difference becomes much larger: 15 percent and 21 percent, respectively. This difference can also be seen when comparing school-age children living in Seattle with those living in King County: 10 percent and 15 percent. These differences imply that while the percentage of total population under the age of 5 is comparable in Seattle with the whole of King County, many Seattle families move out of the city before their children are old enough to be enrolled in school.

To plan for future student enrollment, SPS uses the cohort survival model which projects a "survival rate" for each grade, based on the proportion of students who historically continue from one grade to the next. To project future kindergarten enrollment, a "birth-to-kindergarten ratio" is estimated, based on the proportion of children born in Seattle who historically enroll in Seattle Public Schools five years later. That ratio is then applied to the number of live births in the fifth year prior to the school year being projected. This generates an enrollment projection based on a projection of live births as the basis for ten-year projections. Projections beyond five years are less robust than projections based on known live births, which is why SPS updates its projections annually.

The 2012 Facilities Master Plan identified enrollment projections for elementary, middle and high schools. Figure 3.8–16 provides the low, medium and high projections by school grade based on the cohort survival method projection model. Based on the medium projection, over 57,000 students are estimated to attend Seattle schools in the 2021–2022 school year. The Facilities Master Plan determined that a growth of nearly 9,000 students would outstrip the capacity of the schools, especially at elementary and middle school levels. (The Facilities Master Plan was prepared at a time when school enrollment was 48,000 students; SPS 2012b).

Figure 3.8–16 Enrollment projections by grade for the 2021–22 school year



The capacity limits identified in the Facilities Master Plan through 2022 is used as the basis for developing the SPS's capital programs, including Building Excellence (BEX) Phase IV. The BEX Phase IV levy was approved in 2013 and provided $695 million in funds to pay for the construction of 18 new or replacement schools, seismic upgrades of 37 additional schools, technology improvements for all SPS schools and Downtown school planning. The planning period for this capital program is 2014–2019. BEX Phase IV assumed capacity needs based on the high projection for kindergarten through 5th grades and for 6th through 8th grades in the North region. Capacity needs were based on the medium projection for all other regions and for 9th through 12th grades. BEX Phase IV will provide an added capacity of 7,900 students to address the shortage identified in the Facilities Master Plan. This Phase IV includes planning for a K–5 elementary school in the downtown commercial core. SPS has begun the search for a suitable location.

3.8.2 Impacts

Impacts Common to All Alternatives

POLICE SERVICES

Population and job growth are not automatically presumed to cause a citywide increase in reported crime. Past trends show an overall decline in violent and property crime even when Seattle's population was growing. A myriad of other factors are known to affect the volume and type of crime (Federal Bureau of Investigation 2013):

- Population density and degree of urbanization
- Variations in composition of the population, particularly youth concentration

- Stability of the population, especially mobility, commuting patterns and transience
- Modes of transportation and highway system
- Economic conditions, including median income, poverty level and job availability
- Cultural factors, including education, recreation and religion
- Family conditions, especially divorce and family cohesiveness
- Climate
- Effective strength of law enforcement agencies
- Administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement
- Policies of other components of the criminal justice system (i.e., prosecutorial, judicial, correctional and probational)
- Prevalent attitudes toward crime
- Crime reporting practices of the local population

Since demand for police services varies over time and by neighborhood, population growth and shifts in area characteristics could influence the characteristics of crime. Although hiring under the Neighborhood Policing Staffing Plan has been delayed, additional officers are expected to be on staff in the next several years. Implementation of the staffing plan would assist the department in achieving prevention and response-time goals through increased staffing availability for neighborhood-oriented policing. A Resource Allocation Plan is expected to be completed by mid-2015, which will shed more light on probable future staffing directions (Seattle FAS 2015b).

The Resource Allocation Plan will also inform judgments about overall future police facility needs as well. However, some observations are possible at this time:

- The South Precinct station is the facility most likely to need improvements with any future growth in staffing there. It is near capacity for staffing space, it is in need of seismic upgrades, and would probably also warrant renovations and a possible building addition, and more parking.
- While additional staff hiring is probable in the North Precinct over the next twenty years, the planned new facility at N 130th St/Aurora Ave. N has already anticipated the space needs and will provide sufficient building area to meet those needs. The new facility would remedy the needs of both existing and future possible staff, which would help avoid adverse police facility impacts in that precinct. Land for the North Precinct facility has already been acquired.

In other precincts, no facilities needs are identified at this time in relation to serving projected growth. The Southwest Precinct station has capacity for 13 additional staff members, which is likely to be sufficient to accommodate staffing for the 20-year planning period. For the East and West precincts, ongoing planning will help determine staffing and related facility needs, if any, in the coming year.

Since population and employment growth do not directly correlate to an increased demand for police services, none of the four growth alternatives would necessarily result in proportional increases in call volumes or incidence of major crimes. Therefore, no specific findings

of adverse effects on response times or criminal investigations volumes are made. SPD will continue to analyze where best to focus its resources to respond to changes in demand for police services regardless of which alternative is selected. Implementation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in future development provide methods by which criminal activity might be reduced through better site and building design.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The impacts of additional growth over the next twenty years would be gradual, distributing increased call volumes across many fire station coverage areas, but with an anticipated level of increased call concentration in urban centers and urban villages where the greatest levels of employment and residential growth would occur. Such increases in citywide call volumes would be considered an adverse impact of future growth.

Anticipated housing and employment growth would not likely be so adverse as to substantively change how the City manages its fire and EMS services to the city as a whole (Roberts 2014b). Over the next several years, a probable continuation of recent growth trends is likely to lead to increased service demand in places where the Seattle Fire Department is monitoring facilities and equipment sufficiency. This includes the South Lake Union and Broadview-Bitter Lake-Haller Lake neighborhoods. The Fire Department anticipates proactively addressing these existing needs by making adjustments through system-wide evaluations that are conducted regularly to identify trends, and by planning for new fire stations, subject to funding availability. See the discussion of alternative-specific impacts for additional observations.

All new buildings associated with projected growth would be constructed consistent with the 2012 Seattle Fire Code, comprised of the 2012 International Fire Code with amendments adopted by the City in Ordinance 124288. Adequate fire flow and emergency access would be provided in new structures as required by the fire code.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Population and job growth over the 20-year planning period would generate more demand for parks, recreation facilities and open space across the city.

As an illustration of possible demand to serve projected 20-year growth in a way that meets an aspirational goal of 1 acre per 100 residents, the City would need to add 1,400 acres of breathing room open space to the current park inventory of 6,200 acres. Demand for usable open space would similarly increase as growth would lead to more people working and living in urban villages. A parks analysis calculated the acreages of usable open space that would be needed to meet the household-based goal for each urban village by 2035 based on the existing inventory of usable open space within and abutting urban village boundaries and the number of households projected to be added by 2035 under each of the four EIS alternatives.

Urban villages in which over half of the geographic area does not meet adopted open space distribution standards:

Urban Centers

Downtown
First/Capitol Hill
Northgate

Hub Urban Villages

Ballard
Bitter Lake
Fremont
Mount Baker
West Seattle Junction

Residential Urban Villages

Greenwood-Phinney Ridge
Morgan Junction
Westwood-Highland Park

Under all EIS alternatives, Downtown, First/Capitol Hill, Greenwood-Phinney Ridge and Morgan Junction are projected to have less than the amount of usable open space that would meet the 1 acre per 1,000 households goal. These urban villages are currently not meeting the household-based goals and adding more households would widen the existing gap, unless additional actions are pursued to address those needs. Parks' ability to acquire sizable open space is currently very difficult given the cost of land, the need to pay fair market value and the lack of available space for purchase. This is particularly the case in the Downtown Urban Center, which, for example, could need as much as 5 acres of usable open space (for Alternative 2) to meet the household-based goal given the projected growth. Five acres of land in Downtown is equivalent to roughly about 5 blocks in size.

Significant open space gaps in single family areas in Northwest Seattle (Sector 1; Whittier neighborhood), Northeast Seattle (Sector 2; Wedgewood neighborhood) and West Seattle (Sector 6; Beach Drive area) are all likely to continue under all alternative scenarios, unless additional actions are pursued to address those needs. Distribution goals that are currently not met would probably continue to be unmet until Parks purchases and develops property in those urban villages.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Enrollment forecasts have been calculated by the Seattle Public School District to the 2021/22 school year, 13 years short of the comprehensive plan update planning horizon of 2035 (Wolf 2014). The latest capital program, BEX IV, ensures adequate capacity to meet those enrollment projections. Student enrollment would likely continue to grow as population increases in Seattle, affecting school capacity in the long run. When student enrollment exceeds capacity, SPS typically responds in several ways:

- Adjust school boundaries to address capacity needs
- Adjust geographic zones for option schools
- Add or remove portables
- Add or renovate buildings
- Open closed buildings or schools
- Pursue future capital programs

Population growth under the four alternatives would increase student enrollment in various EIS Sectors. Because only 34 of 117 schools (30 percent) are located in urban villages where all alternatives propose the most population growth, demand for SPS transportation services would likely increase. Families with school-age children may also choose to locate closer to schools outside of urban center and urban village boundaries. Historically the district has relied on existing SPS-owned property to provide school services. Currently no policies direct the district to purchase new property or to increase capacity in schools within urban villages, with the exception of a possible investment in a downtown school, currently under exploration.

Focusing population growth in urban villages with deficient sidewalk infrastructure in or near school walking boundaries would increase potential safety risks, which may burden some families with driving children to school who could otherwise walk if sidewalks were available.

Alternative 1: Continue Current Trends (No Action)

POLICE SERVICES

Under Alternative 1, projected growth levels across the city would be comparable to growth patterns over the last twenty years. This can be summarized as intermediate levels of growth distributed among the urban centers and hub urban villages including Ballard and Bitter Lake, and in other urban villages such as Columbia City, but with an emphasis of greater growth in employment and residential development in South Lake Union.

The Impacts Common to all Alternatives discussion identifies a probable adverse facilities impact to the South Precinct police facilities with future growth under any alternative, but does not make other findings of direct adverse impacts necessarily occurring regarding growth in service call volumes. Additional police officer staffing appears probable. Given these factors, it is difficult to make distinct conclusions that the distribution of growth under the different EIS alternatives would definitely generate different impact levels, citywide or in particular parts of the city. The police would continue to provide services that would respond to call volumes received, and would actively manage its efforts to address trends in call service types and locations over time.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Under Alternative 1, projected growth levels across the city would be comparable to growth patterns over the last twenty years. This can be summarized as intermediate levels of growth distributed among the urban centers and hub urban villages including Ballard and Bitter Lake, and in other urban villages such as Columbia City, but with an emphasis of greater growth in employment and residential development in South Lake Union. In such areas, this growth would result in increased service call volumes. In the worst case, this could contribute to slower average response times, unless the Fire Department proactively takes steps to manage and balance service and equipment availability throughout its system, and plans for additional station construction subject to future funding availability.

PARKS AND RECREATION

See discussion under Impacts Common to All Alternatives on page 3.8–27. Under Alternative 1 (No Action), the projected growth levels across the city would be distributed in a manner comparable to growth patterns over the last twenty years. The discussion under Impacts Common to All Alternatives addresses areas with potentially significant adverse impacts. Other neighborhoods as well would experience adverse increases in demand for parks and

recreation, proportional to their projected growth. This would include neighborhoods such as Uptown, 23rd & Union-Jackson, Aurora-Licton Springs, Columbia City and Othello among others, that are projected to experience considerable growth during the 20-year planning period. As the No Action Alternative, this range of potential adverse impacts represents a baseline impact level against which other alternatives are compared.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Under Alternative 1, Northwest Seattle, Northeast Seattle, Downtown/Lake Union and Capitol Hill/Central District (sectors 1, 2, 4 and 5) would experience the highest percentage of population growth. With only one school in Downtown/South Lake Union (Sector 4) more students would rely on SPS and public transportation systems to get to school. Northwest Seattle, Northeast Seattle and Capitol Hill/Central District (sectors 1, 2 and 5) are currently well-served by schools and thus prepared to serve anticipated growth under Alternative 1 without experiencing significant adverse impacts.

Alternative 2: Guide Growth to Urban Centers

POLICE SERVICES

Under Alternative 2, a greater concentration of projected residential and employment growth within urban centers is noted.

However, given the observations discussed in Impacts Common to All Alternatives and for Alternative 1, there is no clearly identified basis to speculate that different patterns of growth distribution under Alternative 2 would result in different patterns of call volume increase. Therefore, the potential adverse impacts for Alternative 2 are concluded to be similar to those for Alternative 1. The police would continue to provide services that would respond to call volumes received, and would actively manage its efforts to address trends in call service types and locations over time. The potential impacts upon police facilities are therefore concluded to be similar to Alternative 1, and could result in a need for improvements to South Precinct facilities

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Compared to Alternative 1, greater concentrations of projected residential and employment growth within urban centers under Alternative 2 could contribute to somewhat greater adverse impacts on fire and emergency services due to higher demand, specifically in Downtown, South Lake Union and similar “center city” neighborhood areas, and in the University District and Northgate. There would be relatively lesser potential for the impacts of added service demands in places such as Ballard, Bitter Lake, Lake City, Aurora-Licton Springs and Columbia City.

PARKS AND RECREATION

In addition to the impacts identified under Impacts Common to All Alternatives, usable open space goals for the number of households likely would not be met in the Northgate and South Lake Union Urban Centers under Alternative 2, unless additional actions are pursued to address those needs. The Downtown and First/Capitol Hill Urban Centers would experience the greatest increase in household growth under Alternative 2 and proportional increases in demand for parks and recreation, relative to the other alternatives. As a result of this growth, the First/Capitol Hill Urban Center would have the highest level of demand for added space and facilities to meet the household-based goal, equivalent to approximately 10 acres. The Downtown Urban Center would have the second highest level of demand for added space and facilities, equivalent to approximately 5 acres. Due to the concentration of growth in the urban centers, most of the urban villages would face a somewhat lower projected growth under Alternative 2, and therefore a somewhat lesser potential adverse impact on parks and recreation demand, compared to Alternative 1.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Alternative 2 would affect public schools similarly to Alternative 1, including in Downtown and South Lake Union, except that higher projected growth in those areas could result in more enrollment growth for those neighborhoods. Similarly, somewhat more enrollment growth could be generated in the First/Capitol Hill, University District and Northgate urban centers. No significant adverse impacts from this different growth pattern are identified.

Alternative 3: Guide Growth to Urban Villages near Light Rail

POLICE SERVICES

The potential adverse impacts for Alternative 3 are similar to those of alternatives 1 and 2. Also see the Impacts Common to All Alternatives discussion on page 3.8–25.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Compared to Alternative 1, greater concentrations of projected residential and employment growth in urban villages served by light rail transit under Alternative 3 could contribute to somewhat greater adverse impacts on fire and emergency services due to higher demand. This includes Mount Baker, Columbia City, Othello, Rainier Beach, Roosevelt and the vicinity just north of Interstate 90 near Rainier Ave S. Depending on the rate of growth in these areas, these changes could cause the Fire Department to adjust its service provision and equipment over time as it monitors performance.

The increase in service demands in places including the Downtown and South Lake Union urban centers and urban villages in northwest Seattle would be less than identified for Alternative 1. This would probably result in somewhat less growth in service demand at the

Bitter Lake fire station, but would nonetheless contribute to impacts and possible station facility needs in the South Lake Union vicinity.

PARKS AND RECREATION

See discussion under Impacts Common to All Alternatives on page 3.8–25. Under Alternative 3, a greater concentration of growth in urban villages served by light rail transit would contribute to increased potential for impacts on parks and recreation in those places compared to Alternative 1. This is most likely to occur in southeast Seattle urban villages with light rail stations. It is noted that a possible growth emphasis area near the future I-90/East Link station and in the Mount Baker and 23rd & Union-Jackson Urban Villages would also contribute to increased demand for parks and recreation, up to 1.50 acres of usable open space. Overall, this pattern could create a greater number of neighborhoods with moderate growth concentrations than Alternative 1, which could contribute to slightly greater potential for overall impacts upon parks and recreation than Alternative 1, because more places would face increased demands for added open space and facilities.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The potential impact findings under Alternative 3 are between the levels identified for alternatives 1 and 2 in comparative effect on different neighborhoods. Potential adverse impacts on school enrollment from growth in the urban centers would be less than Alternative 2, due to a lesser emphasis on concentrating growth in urban centers. Comparatively, more population growth could generate more enrollment growth in Southeast Seattle neighborhoods, but this sector of the city is judged to be well served by school facilities and can serve future growth within the context of the school district's facilities planning efforts. Also, focusing growth near light rail stations would likely provide for better student access to middle schools and high schools than alternatives 1 and 2.

Alternative 4: Guide Growth to Urban Villages near Transit

POLICE SERVICES

The potential adverse impacts for Alternative 4 are similar to those of alternatives 1, 2 and 3. Also see the Impacts Common to All Alternatives discussion.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Under Alternative 4, the projected growth patterns would generate increased service call volumes in a manner similar to the combined patterns of alternatives 1 and 3. This would reflect projected growth in central urban centers as well as in northwest Seattle areas, southeast Seattle transit station areas and in other places including Crown Hill, Fremont and West Seattle Junction. Alternative 4 would distribute growth across the most number of places of any alternative. This means a wider array of fire stations experiencing increased

call volumes and potential equipment or operational challenges potentially requiring the Fire Department to make a greater number of management decisions on how it distributes its operations to serve and respond to call volumes across the city. Therefore, the identified potential citywide adverse impacts on fire and emergency services are concluded to be greater than for alternatives 1, 2 or 3.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Park and recreation impacts under Alternative 4 would be similar to those identified for Alternative 3, but somewhat greater in overall degree, due to an even greater geographic span of ares experiencing higher amounts of growth. This would include the added growth emphasis areas identified for this alternative, including Fremont, West Seattle Junction and Crown Hill. This conclusion is also reached because Alternative 4 is projected to see more growth in the Ballard, Fremont and Mount Baker neighborhoods, and each of these neighborhoods includes a notable proportion of its area mapped as having gaps in usable open space.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Under Alternative 4, Northwest Seattle, Northeast Seattle, Downtown/Lake Union and Southeast Seattle (sectors 1, 2, 4 and 8) would experience the highest percentage of projected population growth. Growth patterns in urban villages would be similar to Alternative 3, except there would also be added growth anticipated in places such as West Seattle Junction and Crown Hill, compared to Alternative 3. The greater geographic span of areas experiencing higher amounts of growth is noted as one factor that could potentially require SPS to make a greater number of management decisions on how it distributes its operations to serve future growth. This impact analysis does not identify any significant adverse impacts to facilities under Alternative 4's pattern of growth for any part of the city. Comparatively, Alternative 4's level of overall potential impacts would be similar to Alternative 3.

3.8.3 Mitigation Strategies

Although future growth over twenty years would contribute to increased demand for services and certain facilities from these service providers, and each has already-identified needs that the City anticipates addressing in coming years, the alternatives evaluated in this EIS would largely avoid generating significant adverse impacts. Future growth could cause adverse impacts relating to the availability or distribution of park/recreation facilities/amenities and open space in certain areas of the city. Mitigation strategies for parks/recreation are proposed, to address the identified range of potentially significant adverse impacts.

"Other Possible Mitigation Strategies" are also included below to offer advisory guidance on actions that could be taken to support improvements that would address existing conditions

that could be remedied by a combination of continued departmental management choices and execution of improvements fitting within capital improvement funding capabilities.

Each of the service providers studied here actively manages how its operations and facilities are allocated to serve its customers. However, their responsiveness and ability to deliver services in certain ways could potentially be constrained due to funding availability when competing for available resources to provide capital improvements, or when City decision makers decide how to allocate the available resources among potential improvements.

Proposed Mitigation Strategies

Given that future growth across the city would continue to generate additional demands upon parks/recreation and open spaces in relation to its per-capita goals, Parks would strive through the 20-year planning period to address possible shortfalls by continuing to leverage funds allocated in the Park District to match state funding grants. The areas identified with outstanding needs include the following:

- ***Urban Centers:*** Downtown, First/Capitol Hill, Northgate and South Lake Union
- ***Hub Urban Villages:*** Ballard, Bitter Lake, Fremont, Mount Baker and West Seattle Junction
- ***Residential Urban Villages:*** Greenwood-Phinney Ridge, Morgan Junction, Westwood-Highland Park and portions of Mount Baker and 23rd & Union-Jackson Urban Villages in the vicinity of the future I-90/East Link light rail station
- ***Other Neighborhoods:*** Whittier, Wedgewood and Beach Drive

Other Possible Mitigation Strategies

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- The Fire Department could take steps to obtain funding for and construction of a new fire station in South Lake Union.
- The Fire Department could take steps to address additional equipment assignment and/or other changes to address possible operational challenges identified as possibly present at the Broadview-Bitter Lake-Haller Lake fire station under existing conditions.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Update Comprehensive Plan goals and policies related to the acquisition of new park lands and development of usable open space within existing parks.
- For urban villages that have limited opportunities for park acquisition, the City could consider the following tools with respect to open space goals:

- Examine whether separate goals should be established in areas where non-park open space provides for some open space needs, such as college campuses and schoolyards.
- Conduct an evaluation of best practices for public community center operations and conduct a peer review of Seattle's current model and operating plan.
- Consider allowing green streets or other greening efforts to count towards meeting open space goals.
- The City could incorporate incentives and other regulatory tools to encourage and enforce developers to set aside publicly accessible usable open space.
- The City could partner with other government agencies or private property owners to provide and maintain open space that is available to the public

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- The City could identify specific objectives to assist SPS in acquiring and developing a downtown school.
- The City could establish Comprehensive Plan policies or other agreements that would recognize that public schools in urban areas must contend with constrained properties, and allow flexible mitigation for tree preservation, landscaping, critical areas, and drop-off and bus-loading, for future school project planning and design flexibility.
- The City could consider prioritizing installation of sidewalk infrastructure in areas that are expected to receive new residents. Prioritization criteria could include considerations relating to equity in how these improvements are distributed.

3.8.4 Significant Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

No significant unavoidable adverse impacts to public services are anticipated from projected population and employment growth.

< intentionally blank >