

### 3.13 PARKS and RECREATION

This section describes existing parks in the neighborhoods surrounding the project site and opportunities for recreation within the existing community. The discussion includes current recreational use. The study area includes a one-mile radius from the Park Lake community center, since this area is near the center of Park Lake. A one-mile radius is approximately a 30-minute walk.

#### 3.13.1 Affected Environment

The existing community is part of an urban area that contains a mix of single-family and multifamily residences, and commercial uses. The area surrounding the project site includes a variety of neighborhood parks, playgrounds, ballfields, and open spaces. The on-site community center provides a focal point for organized group and individual recreational activities within the existing community. The nearby White Center Heights former school site, south of the community center, includes ballfields and other active recreation areas. Other less defined informal recreational spaces include lawns and yards of residences.

Current plans indicate that the school will be reconstructed at a new location further north of the former site near the Wiley Community Center. Although the school relocation is a separate project, it includes a variety of recreational facilities such as playfields, hard surface play areas, and play equipment that will be available to Greenbridge residents when school is not in session.

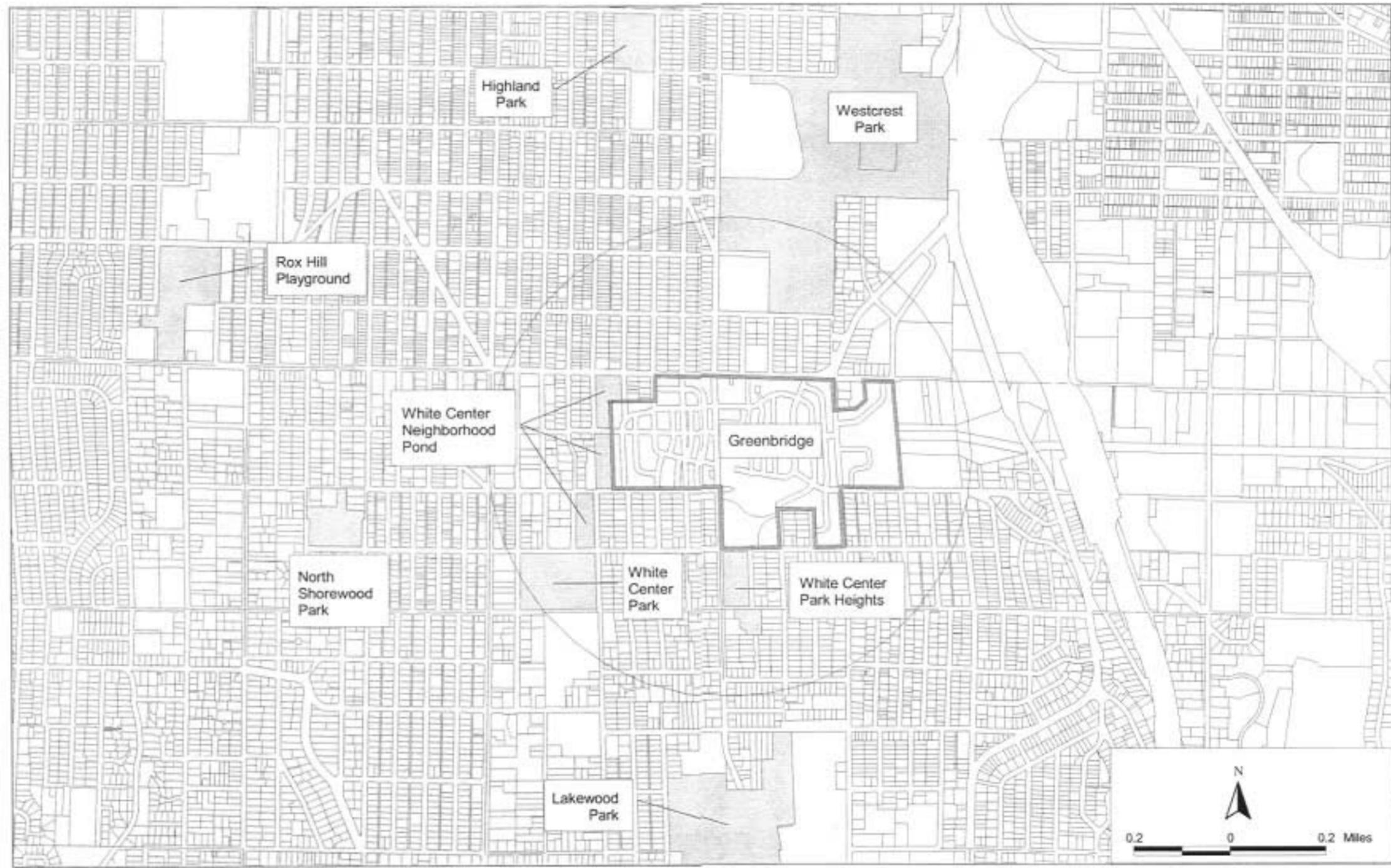
King County and City of Seattle recreational facilities within a one-mile radius of the project site community center are described below (see **Figure 3.13-1**).

White Center Park and Community Center: Established in the late 1930s, White Center Park was one of the first parks in the King County Park System. The park is located at 1321 SW 102<sup>nd</sup> Street in White Center and covers about 12 acres of land. The site contains the White Center Park Community Center, an historic log building that was one of eight “field houses” built by King County in the late 1930s.

Activity areas include indoor racquetball and handball courts, a gymnasium, and an auditorium that can accommodate up to 300 people. A large baseball stadium, Mel Olson Stadium, serves as the home field for two high schools – Seattle Prep and Seattle Lutheran. Outdoor areas include lighted tennis courts, basketball courts, and playground equipment. Picnic areas and restrooms are also provided.

Many amenities at the park are intended for families and children, such as a play area, barbecues, picnic tables, and rentable picnic shelters. The park also provides recreation programs for youth and teens.

White Center Neighborhood Pond: The White Center Neighborhood Pond, also known as the White Center Bog and Salmon Creek 1 wetland, is located at 12th Avenue SW and SW 98th Street, just west of Park Lake



Source: King County GIS



Figure 3.13-1

Recreational Facilities

Homes. Administered by King County, the park contains about 5 acres of linear open space, as well as a north-south trail.

White Center Heights Park: The White Center Heights Park covers approximately 5 acres and is located at SW 102nd St and 7th Ave SW, directly south of the Park Lake Homes property. All components of the park have either been closed or removed, including restrooms, playground equipment, and picnic equipment. No maintenance is scheduled during the closure.

Westcrest Park: Administered by the City of Seattle, the Westcrest Park is located at 9000 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, directly north and within less than one mile of the project site. The park comprises 81.1 acres of land and offers a wide range of park activities, including a 4.5-acre off-leash area for dogs, trails, and family activity areas.

A Pro Parks Levy provided \$515,500 in funds to improve amenities within the park. Completion of the improvements is expected in 2003. Improvements include an open space area for dogs, new playground equipment, enhanced picnic areas, and trail widening and development.

Other parks located within two miles of the project site include: Lakewood Park/Lake Garrett to the south; Highland Park to the north; North Shorewood Park to the west; and Roxhill Park to the northwest.

## Trails

The Seattle Parks Department is planning to connect the West Duwamish Greenbelt Trail through Westcrest Park and the Longfellow Creek Legacy Trail that starts in Roxbury Park and runs north through West Seattle. King County also has plans to further develop the Interurban and Green River Trails, which would result in a system of 46 miles of trails running essentially from Seattle's Alki Point in the north to King County's Auburn Narrows Park in the south. Residents of Park Lake Homes would have access to the trail system, given their proximity of within two or three miles. Other informal pathways used by pedestrians and cyclists are found at various locations within the project site. Most of these pathways cross through the community center area.

## King County Comprehensive Plan-Parks, Recreation and Open Space 2001

The goal of the County's Comprehensive Plan is to develop a contiguous park and open space system connecting and including active and passive parks, natural areas, and resource lands.

King County's local and regional parks and open space system is comprised of three primary components; recreation systems, including active and passive parks, special purpose sites and trails; natural systems, including waterways, greenways, forested and wilderness areas; and community-defining systems, including physical and or visual buffers within and between areas of urban and rural development. The local and regional parks accommodate a wide range of active and passive recreational activities. Active recreation includes organized, scheduled activities such as soccer and softball. Passive recreation includes activities such as informal play, hiking, walking, jogging and picnicking.

The plan indicates that local parks, trails, and open spaces should be provided in each community to compliment the regional system, enhance environmental and visual quality, and meet local recreational needs.