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Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY RECIEVES 2010 – 2017 OPEN SPACE PLAN

Mayor Carlo DeMaria Jr. was happy to receive the final Open Space and Recreation Plan last month. The plan outlines goals, plans, visions and needs for the City's open spaces for the next seven years. This is the third open space plan the city has developed and in each instance has led to the improvement and upgrade of parks and playgrounds in the city. This plan brings a number of components from the previous work into a solid long-term strategy for the areas open space.

The plan, developed through a series of meetings with the community as well as additional work from the Mayor's Office of Community Development, Everett City Services, Recreation Department, Energize Everett, Police Department, Everett Community Health Partnership, City of Everett Disability Commission, Planning Board, La Comunidad and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The combined work of the multiple groups help develop a firm understanding of the environmental, social, and physical needs of the City's open space. Many of the city's needs focus on policy changes and capital improvements. The group formulated four major goals and objectives, which will enhance the accessibility and durability of the city's multiple parks.

The plan's main objectives focus on generating accessibility to the city's waterfront areas, establishing regional partnerships to expand open spaces assets beyond Everett, supporting and expanding Energize Everett's programs, and maximize the use of the and quality of the current parks.

As funding sources become available the City hopes to implement changes outlined in the Open Space Plan. Regular maintenance and upkeep of the parks is a major priority for the Mayor, especially in areas where families regularly congregate. In the future all

areas of open space will be analyzed for different recreational uses. Walking routes, exercise equipment and accessibility for all is a major priority for the administration.

The Mayor will begin working on a number of strategic steps to increase open space awareness and long-term viability. The Open Space Plan outlines legislative and zoning initiatives to ensure new developments incorporate a recreation plan as part of any construction plans. The city will also examine re-zoning areas of the city to adopt a Parks and Open Space Zoning District.

In the short-term the open space plan identified the need for tennis courts, a dog-park, municipal partnership for sharing parks and recreation facilities and better accessibility in neighborhood parks. Although Mayor DeMaria did not commit to a timetable or budget for specific parks projects, he did note that maintaining open space is and will be a major priority.

The Open Space plan will be available in the coming weeks to the public on the city's website at www.cityofeverett.com, additional copies can be made through Community Development, for a small fee, and a copy of the plan will be available at the Parlin Library.

(Maps enclosed)

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For additional press information please contact Matt Laidlaw, Director of Communications, City of Everett.

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