



CLARK COUNTY 2015



ANNUAL REPORT



OUR VISION: Clark County is a community of safe streets, neighborhoods and infrastructure; healthy natural and built environments; prosperity; engaged and informed citizens; diversity and inclusion; and a workforce trained for the future.

As my year as Acting County Manager nears a close, I look back with pride at what our employees, elected officials and community partners have accomplished, both separately and collectively. The work has been abundant and challenging, and I will highlight a few key accomplishments later in this report.

But first, I want to applaud the people responsible, those who carry out the policy decisions of our elected officials.

Clark County employees have approached each task or issue with professionalism, innovation, collaboration and accountability. Add integrity and respectful communication to that list, and you have the values our management team, elected officials and I adopted as guiding principles.

These values are the fabric of our organization, the foundation that has attracted talented, intelligent and dedicated employees to work for Clark County. We continue to reap benefits from people who have chosen and prepared for careers of public service.

Our roads, bridges and streets are safer because of them. They ensure our restaurants meet health standards and 1,000 county-owned stormwater facilities work properly so streams, wildlife habitat and drinking water are protected. Nearly half have completed advanced education, including bachelor's, master's, doctoral or professional degrees. They approach their jobs across wide-ranging fields armed with scientific data, thoughtful analysis and years of experience.

Others have noticed.



Mark McCauley, Acting County Manager

OUR MISSION: Clark County's mission is to enhance the quality of life in our diverse community by providing services with integrity, openness and accountability.

As we celebrate our people and successes, we also are looking ahead

- Gov. Jay Inslee reappointed Dr. Dennis Wickham, our county Medical Examiner, to a four-year term on the state's Forensic Investigations Council.
- Community Services Director Vanessa Gaston has been elected second vice president of the Washington Community Action Partnership board.
- In late October, Fire Marshal Jon Dunaway was sworn in as president of the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals.
- Chief building official Jim A. Muir is chair of the Building Code Development Committee of the National Fire Protection Association. He received special recognition from the Oregon Building Officials Association for "Leadership and efforts on behalf of building officials."

- Karen Llewellyn, volunteer program coordinator for Public Works, was awarded the prestigious Florence B. Wager Tributary Award by the Parks Foundation of Clark County.
- Public Works Director Heath Henderson was named Urban County Engineer of the Year by the Washington State Association of County Engineers.

- In 2014, the Sheriff's Office three-year accreditation was renewed by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.
- The Medical Examiner's Office five-year accreditation was renewed last month by the National Association of Medical Examiners.
- Larry Stafford, audit services manager for the Auditor's Office, received the Knighton Exemplary Award from the Association of Local Government Auditors. He was named *Accomplished and Under 40* by the *Vancouver Business Journal*, following in the 2014 footsteps of Axel Swanson, then our senior policy analyst, and Kate Budd and Tiffany Schwieterman of Community Services.

Exceptional work

These people and many others are the roots and substance of our community. County programs, operations and infrastructure they have designed, built and managed have been recognized in the past year:

- The Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant was acknowledged for 100 percent environmental compliance for the eighth consecutive year. Plant manager Kay Hust was honored this fall by the Pacific

Northwest Clean Water Association for professional contributions over the past five years.

- Our timber harvest program received high marks for environmental protection and sustainability during an audit by Northwest Certified Forestry.
- A new pedestrian bridge across Salmon Creek and repair of a partially collapsed culvert under Northeast Falls Road won awards from the American Public Works Association Washington chapter.
- Faith-Based Coffee, a partnership among Public Health, the faith-based community, local schools and other organizations, was cited for a Promising Practice Award by the National Association of County and City Health Officials. It helps children thrive despite disadvantages.

- The Pleasant Valley area farm owned by Heye and Eva Meyer, who helped found numerous local institutions, now is listed on the Washington Historic Register and National Register of Historic Places.
- Under John Morrison's management, the Clark County Fair reported record results in paid admission, gate revenues, carnival revenues and food and beverage sales.

- After doggedly pursuing every hunch and lead possible for eight years, Nikki Costa, operations manager in the Medical Examiner's Office, was instrumental with enabling experts to identify the remains of a 1974 murder victim, answering disturbing questions for the victim's family after 41 years.

Investing in people for the future

As we celebrate our people and successes, we also are looking ahead. We are bringing on bright, motivated, forward-thinking people who will keep the county on firm ground as the Baby Boom generation retires.

We are slowly rebuilding after being hard-hit by the 2008 financial crisis and

recession. We are hiring only within our means and when we find the right people. Still, we have fewer workers than before the recession.

Succession planning is foremost on my mind; 134 people have left our workforce this year, many to retirement. Human Resources excels at identifying new employees of high caliber while working to retain experienced, talented and trusted colleagues to guide those recently hired.

I am pleased to note that 73 employees earned promotions this year on the basis of initiative, performance and potential.

The Budget Office is a case in point. When I appointed former manager Bob Stevens to be deputy county manager and director of General Services, Adriana Prata was promoted

to budget director after eight years as an analyst and budget manager. Lisa Boman, a 19-year program and administrative assistant, was promoted to budget analyst.

We hired Sara Lowe, a Western Washington University graduate with experience managing large policy implementation and research projects and developing performance metrics.

We also hired Trista Zugel-Bensel, who earned a Master of Arts in Applied Economics at Seattle University. Trista's expertise is in strategic policy and budget management at both executive and legislative levels.

Last month, Sara joined the ranks of the promoted when she was named Deputy Treasurer.



Beth Conyers

Beth Conyers



Team Hymas

Troy Wayrynen

Making Clark County a better place by improving financial stability, public safety and infrastructure



Beth Conyers

Beyond the Budget Office

Other new employees add expertise elsewhere.

- Early this year, Anna Lookingbill, a licensed clinical social worker, and Kelly Anderson, who has vast experience in prison counseling, joined a Sheriff's Office program that aims to keep inmates from returning to jail.
- This summer, Dr. Martha Burt was hired as our first associate medical examiner; she is a board-certified anatomical, clinical and forensic pathologist and a graduate of Oregon Health and Sciences University School of Medicine.
- Throughout the year, Mike Lewis has been applying his 25 years of U.S. Coast Guard experience as the county's emergency response and continuity of operations coordinator. He has made great strides reviewing and improving plans, practices and partnerships to prepare for disasters.

These employees are among the many accomplished people who work for the citizens of Clark County. The enthusiastic attendance at peer recognition events makes clear that scores of employees give at least 110 percent to meet county responsibilities.

When I was appointed to this extraordinary new leadership position, I quickly realized I had been entrusted with a hard-working, good-hearted and talented workforce and strong ties to departments headed by elected officials. I am grateful for that.

Decisions we made and work we completed this year make Clark County a better place, particularly in three realms: financial stability; public safety; and infrastructure.

The remainder of this report, which is required under Article 3, Section 3.2, of the Clark County Charter, will focus on highlights from work in each of those areas. This report is not meant to be all-inclusive. Rather, these are examples of how we meet our obligations to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and deliver quality service under local, state and federal laws.

It is an honor to serve in this first-ever position in Clark County. I thank our staff, management team and elected officials for our combined good work and the Board of County Councilors for the opportunity. I look forward to working with you and for you in the future.

Sincerely,

Mark McCauley
Acting County Manager



Rick Yeager

Left: Fifth Plain Creek Bridge is replaced. Below: The Clark County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan supports transportation choices.



Beth Conyers

Public Safety

Law enforcement takes center stage when we think of public safety. The Sheriff's Office has our community's thanks for fulfilling a vital role and looking ahead by forging fundamental, positive changes and partnerships.

Other county workers keep watch in other ways. They make sure restaurant food is prepared properly, disease outbreaks are monitored and investigated, and our buildings and homes meet standards that protect life and property.

— Mark McCauley



INNOVATION: 500 inmates completed the Reentry Program in the first year

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Clark County Jail

Jail Chief Ric Bishop saw Reentry programs in action at other county jails. He thought they could save taxpayers money by keeping repeat offenders out of jail, offering them smart choices and a bit of hope to benefit the entire community.

The local program started at the Clark County Jail in early 2014. It had two Corrections deputies and one sergeant, but no budget. That spring, the board agreed to support the program with about \$150,000 annually from sales tax dedicated to treatment programs. The money went to hire two discharge planners. In April 2015, a Corrections deputy was added with discretionary funding from the General Fund.

Here's the story:

Before one of the first Reentry inmates was released, Deputy Barbara Schubach scheduled three hours to drive the inmate to agencies she had identified as her support system. The task took nine hours, even with a plan.

Schubach and the rest of the team welcomed the partnerships, services and expertise of nonprofits that increasingly stepped forward to help meet the needs of inmates motivated to make life changes.

"Our goal is to reduce jail bed days," Bishop said. "We want to avoid costs for taxpayers and give people a reason to get out and do something."

Inmates are in the program for 15-30 days. It's open to inmates who will be released soon, do not pose a safety threat and behave reasonably.

During the day, 15 Reentry inmates learn how to restore their driver's licenses, reestablish credit and buy or rent a home. They learn about services in the community and how to engage with mental health and public health services, veteran's assistance, substance abuse treatment and state and federal services. They learn job skills, stress management and how to find housing.

At night, Reentry inmates meet with organizations that bring various programs into the jail, including Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

"It behooves the county to use jail time practically, turn it to something inmates can use," said Cmdr. Randy Tangen. "That way, when they are released, they're on firmer ground. The more we can do here, the better."

In the past year, the jail has broadened the number and types of Reentry services. The program has expanded to include Superior and District

courts, case managers, therapeutic specialty courts, National Alliance on Mental Illness and Washington Department of Licensing, for example.

Reentry deputies have attended community meetings about issues such as homelessness to strengthen the jail's community network. Deputies also have acquired specialized case management skills and learned more about motivational interviewing and crisis intervention.

"Reentry is all about public safety," Tangen said. "If we can help some of these people recover from the issues and behaviors that brought them to jail and build safe, productive lives, everybody wins."

Anecdotes about Reentry successes are numerous:

- Three generations of one family, all jailed at the same time, completed the program and are doing well.
- A young mother enrolled her child in preschool and herself in drug treatment through Reentry.
- One frequent inmate, prompted to try Reentry because friends were dying or going to prison, hasn't been back to jail all year.
- Parents have regained custody of their children.

Monica Zazueta and Ryan Tabor were self-described "frequent flyers" at the Clark County Jail. In fact, they met in jail. And that's where they got support to turn their lives around, thanks to the expanding Reentry program.

About a year ago, Tabor's mother cared for the couple's baby boy when Zazueta checked herself in to inpatient drug treatment. When she completed the program, she came home to an empty apartment. Tabor was in jail again. Zazueta felt she was losing everything.

"Either I was going to kill myself with drugs or I was going to do something with my life," she said.

Zazueta chose life.

She turned herself in on an outstanding warrant and was sentenced to 30 days in jail. When she heard about the Reentry program, she applied, was accepted, then, she said, "I sucked up all that I could." At 29, Zazueta set a goal to become an executive administrative assistant and took computer classes from Reentry nonprofit partners.



The program is voluntary; inmates have to want to leave trouble behind. At first, deputies went looking for participants. Now, there is a waiting list.

Each Reentry inmate has required reading: a workbook where he or she can learn about community resources and how to tap the ones they need. Reentry inmates attend classes in jail and leave with a library card in hand. Information is always at their fingertips.

Tabor also benefited from Reentry.

"Reentry is all about public safety. If we can help some of these people recover from the issues and behaviors that brought them to jail and build safe, productive lives, everybody wins."

— Cmdr. Randy Tangen

"I don't think I'd have been as successful as quickly without Reentry," said Tabor, 30. "I used the information they gave me."

Tabor had a life plan on paper when he was released from jail early this year. He was ready to get established, finish probation, and find a job. A local company hired him as a temporary worker, then as a full-timer. Then he was promoted to shift supervisor.

"I don't have anything hanging over my head anymore," Tabor said. "I know I can support my family. That's a great feeling."

Zazueta is now enrolled at Clark College. The Vancouver couple decided to give their son, now 18 months old, the childhood they never had. They attended child care and parenting classes. They provide only healthful food and play language tapes to help offset any brain damage caused by drug use during pregnancy.

"It's one life," Zazueta said. "I didn't want to blow it."

People and technology dedicated to keeping our community safe



Beth Conyers

SHERIFF'S OFFICE New records management system

After months of planning, 41 law enforcement agencies jointly launched what members say could be the only regional crime-related database of its kind in the country.

The new records management system – called the Regional Justice Information Network – replaced systems in the Clark County Sheriff's Office, Portland Police Bureau and Clackamas County Sheriff's Office. It allows deputies to complete reports in the field, improves the quality and depth of critical information, and speeds information across jurisdictions. RegJIN went live in April.

Here's an example of how it works:

Last May, Troutdale Police Officer Dave Licht called a Ridgefield man late at night. He said he talked to a Troutdale motel manager who was suspicious of three people who checked in using a driver's license with a Ridgefield address.

Using the computer in his patrol car, Licht searched the new database with

records of 41 Washington and Oregon law enforcement agencies, including our Clark County Sheriff's Office.

In the database, Licht found a Ridgefield police report that included the name on the driver's license used at the Troutdale motel. Three weeks earlier, the owner had reported his wallet stolen in Ridgefield. Licht called the victim's cell phone number in the report.

"Are you renting a room at a motel in Troutdale tonight," the officer asked?

"No," answered the identity theft victim.

Bingo.

A short time later, Licht and a Troutdale detective contacted three suspects at the motel. One gradually disclosed information. The others were taken into custody.

Licht checked RegJIN again and found two suspects' names in a report about another identity theft in Portland. Two suspects have pleaded guilty and one is pending trial in Multnomah County.

"To me, that's exactly the way the program was designed to work," said Lt. Roy Rhine of the Ridgefield Police Department.



Teah Hymas

Open house at West Precinct was a chance to personalize and demystify law enforcement for all ages.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE Deputies

In Clark County, 64 percent of General Fund dollars go to pay for law and justice services, including the Sheriff's Office. In uniforms and marked patrol cars, Clark County Sheriff's deputies may be the most visible of public safety providers.

The 2008 economic downturn took a toll on all three branches of the Sheriff's Office: Corrections, Civil and Enforcement. A total of 46 positions were cut.

Public safety is the Board of County Councilor's highest priority. The

board remains committed to rebuilding the department and has taken steps to do so in recent years.

In early 2014, the board approved adding two jail discharge planners. In the austere 2015-2016 budget, the board included money to hire eight enforcement deputies as a strategic investment to promote public safety.

All eight new enforcement deputies are now patrolling Clark County roads. Three more are at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy, and three others are hired and awaiting space at the academy.

Also last fall, the board endorsed the Sheriff's plan to use \$755,000 received from housing state inmates to restore 10 deputies at the jail.

To get deputies into the community more quickly and at less expense, Sheriff Chuck Atkins approved some lateral transfers from other law enforcement agencies. The experienced deputies help maintain levels of service as more colleagues retire and emergency calls increase. A new internal application process for Records and Corrections employees also speeds the process and taps into talent within the county organization.

We will continue to partner with the Sheriff's Office to invest in people and technology dedicated to keeping our community as safe as possible.



Reentry staff

Quick takes

Deputies are dispatched to calls 162 times a day, one every eight minutes.

Residents report property crimes 13 times a day, one every two hours.

38 reserve deputies volunteered 9,848 hours in 2015.

85 Sheriff's office vehicles were repainted for visibility and recognition.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Building Safety Program

Building requirements and inspection processes are not arbitrary, but rather standards – set by the International Code Council and Washington State Building Code Council – to keep homes and public places safe.

Windows in new homes must meet certain dimensions so firefighters can get people out a window if flames are at the door. Handrails have to be sturdy enough to steady a person but small enough to grab. Stairs must be a consistent height to help prevent trips and falls. Openings between posts of a guardrail must be less than

four inches so small children cannot become trapped or slide through.

Clark County resident Pam Laughlin gives Clark County's Building Safety program high marks.

Laughlin knows a thing or two about building a house. She has helped family members build several over the years, and hired a contractor when she decided to build her new home in the Barberton area.

The foundation was poured in January. The house was to be finished in May. It wasn't.

In late August, Laughlin called Chief Building Official Jim Muir when, yet again, a county building inspector would not approve the contractor's work.

"Thank you," Laughlin told Muir. "I feel like the inspectors are doing their job to make the house secure."

Inspectors found nails in girder trusses were too short to disperse the weight of the roof to the walls. The gas heating exhaust was installed too close to a window. Laughlin, Hudson's Bay High School's librarian, had a list.

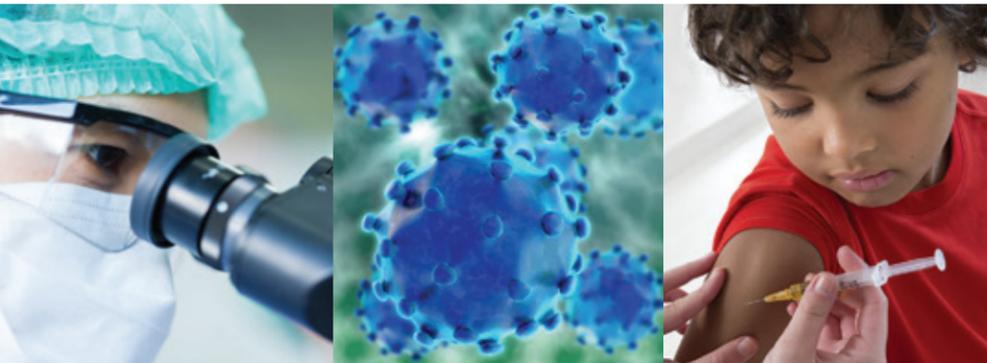


"I'm not upset with the inspectors," said Clark County resident Pam Laughlin. "I'm happy they're doing their job and catching things that aren't right."

"I want to know that the house won't fall down around me and I won't have to be making repairs in two or three years for something that should last 20," she said.



Partnering with local health providers to successfully investigate and contain public health risks



PUBLIC HEALTH Containing disease

Late last year, Public Health and PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center concluded a months-long, joint investigation prompted by concerns that hundreds of patients might have been exposed to Hepatitis C after a former hospital employee was suspected of diverting drugs for personal use.

Public Health has experience managing disease outbreaks and investigations and PeaceHealth has expertise in patient care and communication. They agreed to build on their existing partnership to assess and address the risk of Hepatitis C.

In May 2014, PeaceHealth and Public Health identified 936 potentially exposed patients, sent them certified letters, and urged them to receive testing at PeaceHealth's expense. Information also was posted online.

For some people, Hepatitis C is a short-term illness that affects the liver. But for up to 85 percent of infected people, Hepatitis C becomes a long-term, chronic infection that can lead to serious problems, including cirrhosis or liver cancer. Nationwide, 1.6 percent of the U.S. population has the Hepatitis C virus, and many are unaware they are infected.



PeaceHealth encouraged patients to go to their primary care provider or one of three temporary patient service centers open 12 hours a day, seven days a week for more than two weeks. A news conference was held to spread the word. More than 80 percent of potentially exposed patients came in for testing.

Although the investigation found 27 patients who tested positive for past or present Hepatitis C infection, it did not find a link between any of them and potential exposure at the local hospital.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure built today pays long-term community dividends by supporting job creation, enhancing community livability, and safeguarding environmental resources.

— Mark McCauley



NUTS & BOLTS: The county monitors 109 bridges, 76 of which are county-owned.

PUBLIC WORKS Transportation

As traffic and population continue to increase, the county's role in a safe transportation system gains importance. Examples of recent improvements range from removing and replacing an 82-year-old bridge to upgrading technology for smart traffic signals.

Across Public Works programs in the past year, the county has invested \$33.8 million in the local economy by hiring private contractors to build or improve transportation, park and stormwater facilities.

The most visible project was the \$122.3 million Salmon Creek Interchange on Interstate 5. One of the biggest public works projects in the county in decades, it was a partnership of Clark County and Washington State Department of Transportation. The interchange has relieved traffic congestion and improved safety in a strategic commercial and residential area. It improved access to vital medical services and businesses, boosting economic opportunities in the area.

Improvements in the Northeast 119th Street corridor are proceeding with an eye toward safety for people wanting to live and establish businesses there.

Public Works is improving more than 100 traffic signals, school flashers and crossings for pedestrians with disabilities. The program has focused on signal timing in busy areas and added backup batteries to keep signals working during power failures. We also will be installing signals that respond to shifting traffic conditions and upgrading traffic signals in the Orchards area.

The county hired a contractor to demolish and replace Fifth Plain Creek Bridge, our last wooden support bridge, near Proebstel. Experts in the county's bridge inspection and evaluation program found rot in the pilings of the bridge, which was built in 1933.

To stretch local dollars, Public Works used administrative and financial know-how to garner \$17.4 million in federal and state transportation grants between September 2014 and August 2015. These grants include \$1.9 million in federal money to replace Fifth Plain Creek Bridge.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chelatchie Prairie Railroad/Industrial land bank study

In late 2014, Clark County and the Port of Vancouver agreed to plan and carry out projects of mutual interest to support industry, jobs and economic development.

Large, development-ready sites with rail service are critical to attract industries and firms that generate goods and services consumed elsewhere. Knowing that, the county and port hired a consultant to conduct an industrial land

readiness study to help understand impediments to development.

The study area covers 630 acres of light industrial land that offer easy access to Interstate 5 and Interstate 205 and are adjacent to the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad, the county-owned, 33-mile short line between Vancouver and Amboy.

In the 2013-2015 biennium, Clark County received \$775,000 in state grants to improve five grade crossings and make other repairs to track and bridges to attract more jobs and rail traffic. That total is in addition to \$2.5 million the county had received since 2009.

Quick takes

Chelatchie Prairie Railroad under county ownership since 1987.

Connects with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway near NW Lakeshore Avenue in Vancouver.

Passenger and excursion train near Yacolt operated by nonprofit Battle Ground, Yacolt and Chelatchie Prairie Railroad.

Rail movement of freight has been the equivalent of more than 14,000 trucks since 2004.

TECHNOLOGY

Systems upgrade

Infrastructure includes information technology. It enables local residents and vendors to do business with the county more quickly, easily and conveniently, and the county to work more efficiently, economically and sustainably to deliver public services.

The county Finance Team supported proposals to add \$4.3 million for critical technology replacements in the second half of the 2015-2016 budget. Proposals include replacing the obsolete phone system to help ensure the county's ability to continue operations, especially in the wake of a disaster.

The county also needs to replace its financial management system, which serves all county departments and programs. The current, 15-year-old platform soon will be at the end of its functional life.

System upgrades will allow the county to continue to deliver a high level of service using existing resources, even as information needs continue to increase with advancing technology and the county's growing population.



Public Works staff monitors signals to improve traffic flow at major intersections.

Also this year, we have redesigned our public website and updated its software. We are closing the first phase of the project this month, and will continue to enhance the site. A top priority is to help citizens find services they need more quickly. As a result, the site is task-oriented and focuses on ease of use.



Freight service on the railroad is operated by Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad, a private contractor.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES Thomas Wetland East

Clark County has 10 major watersheds with more than 1,700 miles of rivers and streams. Water resources are affected by the sheer volume and velocity of polluted runoff from rooftops, parking lots, roads and other impervious surfaces causing erosion, flooding and damage to fish and wildlife habitat.

Our Clean Water program works to protect surface water and groundwater from polluted storm runoff in compliance with state and federal laws.

The program includes:

- regulations governing runoff
- construction of treatment and flow control facilities
- pollution source control
- public education
- monitoring and assessing natural resources.

In addition, staff and contractors maintain county-owned infrastructure, including approximately 1,000 treatment and flow control facilities, 11,000 storm sewer inlets, 2,000 drywells and 400 miles of storm pipe.

In late 2014, Environmental Services and Public Works teamed up to focus on the East Minnehaha neighborhood, where a wetland needed restoration and high volumes of runoff from outdated stormwater facilities contributed to erosion of Burnt Bridge Creek and degradation of water quality.

In weeks, crews transformed the ditched and drained wetland into a four-acre, 3.63-million-gallon facility to protect waterways, improve habitat for wildlife and enhance neighborhood livability. A heron now keeps watch over Thomas Wetland East and ducks parade through grasses. Logs and snags provide places for animals to roost, find shelter and build nests.

Tucked between homes and Douglas Carter Fisher Neighborhood Park, the facility offers a short walking trail with a split-rail fence and vistas across 7,000 plants, shrubs and trees. The enhanced soils and plants filter out sediments, oils, fertilizers, pesticides and other contaminants from runoff.

The facility stores stormwater and releases it slowly, reducing rapid, destructive flows into the Lower



At capacity, the facility will hold enough water to fill five Olympic-size pools.

Burnt Bridge Creek watershed and letting water soak into the ground to recharge groundwater and support plant life.

Of the \$1.7 million project, 40 percent was paid by a state grant and 60 percent was paid by local Clean Water fees.



Communities build parks; and parks build communities

Quick takes

14,200 acres mowed, enough to cover 10,700 football fields.

16,078 trees and shrubs pruned, planted or replaced.

11,144 tons of organic material produced from sewage treated at the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant to enrich local farmlands.

700 vehicles fueled, maintained and driven 3.84 million miles by on-the-job county employees.

PUBLIC WORKS

Parks

Over the past year, we completed two new neighborhood parks, one in the Salmon Creek area and one in the area north of Orchards. With the opening of Chinook and Dogwood parks, Clark County has built 28 of the 35 parks planned for the Greater Clark Parks District.

Staff drafted and the board adopted a long-range Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan that outlines major, high-priority investments for the next six years. The plan, which also includes a 20-year list of projects, makes the county eligible for state parks grants.

Local sports facilities will be even better thanks to new partnerships with several community groups.

Vancouver West Soccer Club installed lighting on two synthetic fields at Luke Jensen Sports Park on Northeast 78th Street. The county will discount the club's field rentals until the cost of the discount equals the \$34,000 cost of the lights.

Clark County helped the Washington Timbers, a program for youth and young adult soccer players, secure financing to improve two fields at Harmony Sports Complex for year-round play at 192nd Avenue and Northeast 18th Street.



Clark County's diverse natural landscape consists of broad river valleys, narrow creek canyons, wetlands, lakes, riparian zones, forests, mountains, meadows, foothills and farms.

The county signed agreements with Miracle League of Vancouver and Vancouver Metro Senior Softball Association for those groups to build three fields at Pacific Community Park, just outside east Vancouver. Two fields would be for children and adults with disabilities; the third would be for slow-pitch softball played by those 60 and older. Money-raising is in progress.



Fiscal Stability

Clark County has a reputation for living within its means. County elected officials and the financial experts we have on staff analyze, monitor and invest our revenues to meet current needs and prepare for the future. Together, we have maintained a stable financial condition that reinforces confidence in the strength and resiliency of our community.

– Mark McCauley



BOTTOM LINE: Clark County's total 2015-2016 budget is \$916.3 million, from all revenue sources

Fiscal stability

Clark County has an ongoing commitment to fiscal stability despite fluctuations in the economy. The Board of County Councilors receives regular updates on actual and projected revenues and expenses. Strict controls on hiring have been in place for many years. Major projects are planned only as funding allows.

Our 2015-2016 budget assumes the economy will grow at a moderate level. We expect to cover all expenses planned at present. We also expect to maintain at least \$23 million in General Fund reserves, in keeping with fiscal policy developed by the county Auditor's Office and adopted by the board in 2013.

The policy aims to:

- ensure cash flow adequate to maintain operations
- guard against sudden changes in sales tax receipts linked to consumer spending
- meet exceptional one-time needs.

To help achieve those goals, the board has reinforced the policy by agreeing to set aside one-half of sales tax receipts that exceed revenue forecasts during positive economic times.

General Fund reserves dipped to a low of \$12.7 million during the early stages of the financial crisis in 2008. Sharp reductions in spending and staffing began to correct the situation in 2009. County departments continue to practice fiscal restraint. They examine and retool practices and processes on a continuous basis to ensure maximum efficiency.

Why the General Fund is important

The General Fund is the largest county fund. It includes all money over which the Board of County Councilors has discretion in how, or when, it is spent.

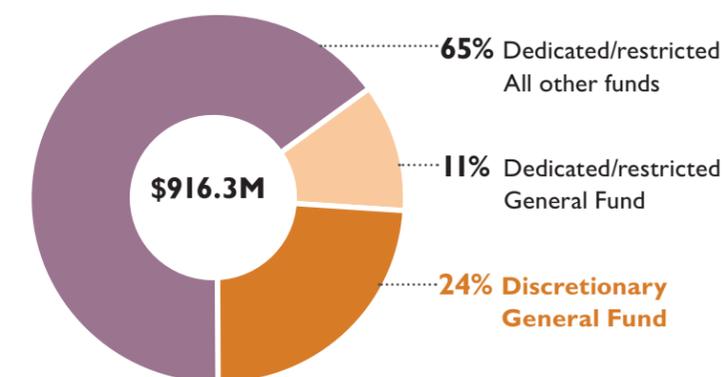
Most county spending comes from other revenue restricted to certain purposes based on laws, grants or contractual requirements. Revenue includes substantial state and federal money to deliver services according to state and federal policies.

Of the total county budget, 76 percent – including 11 percent of the General Fund – is restricted for specific purposes.

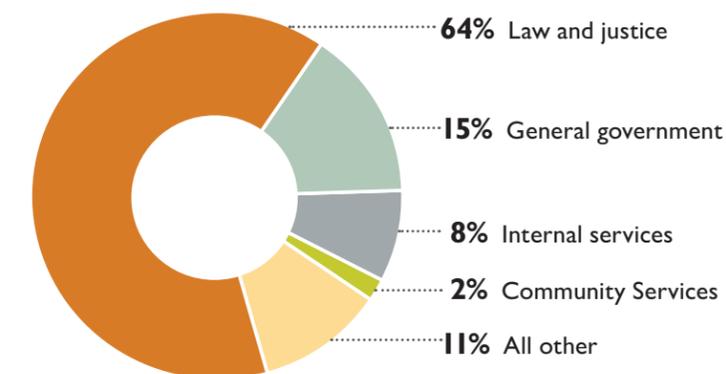
The remaining 24 percent of all county revenues is unrestricted

within the General Fund. As the county's only discretionary source of money, that portion of the General Fund is the focus of most discussions about local spending.

Clark County Revenues 2015-2016 Current Budget



General Fund 2015-2016 Current Budget



A new year awaits us. I look forward to it. I am privileged to spend my days in this vital, caring community among those who make up the county workforce.

The future of Clark County is in capable hands. For my part, I pledge my continued hard work to keep the county and its residents on track to share many more successes.

Thank you,





For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office:
Voice (360) 397-2322; Relay 711 or (800) 833-6388;
Fax (360) 397-6165; Email ADA@clark.wa.gov.



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