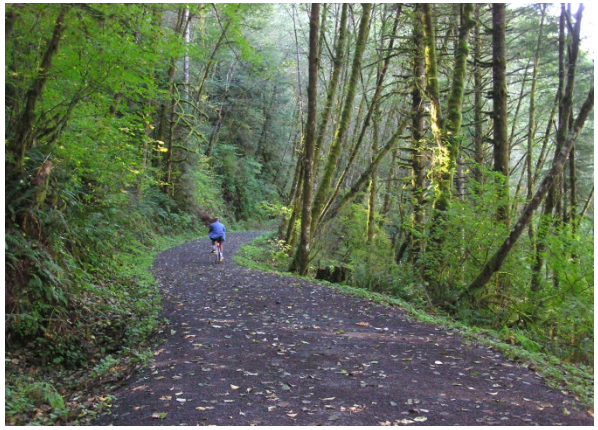
Clark County
Parks and Open Space
Comprehensive Management Plan



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Board of County Councilors Hearing 9/22/15

Background

- The Clark County Parks Division was created last year under the Department of Public Works

- The state Growth Management Act requires local parks plans as a component of county master plans (RCW 36.70A.070(8)-Mandatory elements of the comprehensive plan)and is required before the county staff can apply for state parks grant funding

- The Clark County Parks Advisory Board was created last year

Key master plan elements

- Inventory of parks, sports facilities, and trails-only county facilities
- Needs assessment for parks, recreation, open space and trails
- Results of public outreach effort: Public Demand Chapter of the plan
- Implementation recommendations, including funding strategies
- Parks Capital Facilities Plan- 6 & 20 year list of all county parks, trails, and planning projects

Outreach results

- More partnerships and collaboration
  - empower volunteers
  - forge stronger & new partnerships to leverage community resources
- Connect the gaps
  - parks
  - trails
  - recreational amenities
- Increase access
  - parks
  - parking
  - trail access
  - outdoor recreation opportunities for children
  - trail amenities such as parking, benches, and restrooms

Park funding sources

<u>Maintenance and Operations</u>: Two Primary Funding Sources

- **Metropolitan Parks District (MPD)**: Levy approved by the voters in 2005.
  Approximately $0.22 per $1,000 of assessed value to fund operations and maintenance of 35 new parks, as well as new sports fields and trails in the urban unincorporated area of Clark County.

- **General Fund Parks (urban & regional):** General Fund is used to support maintenance and operations of all parks not covered by the MPD levy.

Park funding sources continued

<u>Park Acquisition and Development</u>: Three Primary Funding Sources

- **Park Impact Fees (PIF)**: Only used in the Urban Unincorporated area of Clark County. Current PIF balance 12.5 million. Requires public share support funds.

- **Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET)**: Can be used inside or outside the urban unincorporated areas of Clark County.
  - Currently all REET funds have been allocated to debt service payment.

- **Grants**: Local, State and Federal. Typically requires 50% matching funds.

Plan implementation

Adoption of the parks master plan makes the county eligible for state grant funding

Cost of six-year Capital Facilities Plan: $108 Million

- Urban Parks System $38 Mil.
- Regional Parks System $70 Mil.

Several funding strategies will be necessary to meet plan goals. Grants will play a big role but require matching funds.

- Staffing: additional staffing needed to implement the Capital Facilities Plan
- Specifically- A grant writer will be needed to seek millions of dollars in grant funding.

Planning Commission recommendation

- The Parks Advisory Board recommended adoption of the Parks Master Plan on July 10th.
- The Planning Commission held a hearing on the Parks Master Plan on August 20th and voted 7-0 in favor of the plan.
- The Planning Commission recommendation is for the Clark County Councilors to adopt the Clark County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan by resolution.
- The parks master plan will be re-adopted by ordinance as part of the 2016 comprehensive plan update as an element of the county comprehensive plan, as required under the state Growth Management Act.

Special Thanks

Thank You For Your Support

Clark County Parks Advisory Board

Clark County Parks Division

Conservation Technix Consulting Services

Clark County Community Planning

Board of County Councilors

Citizens of Clark County