PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

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Clark County

JULY 2015

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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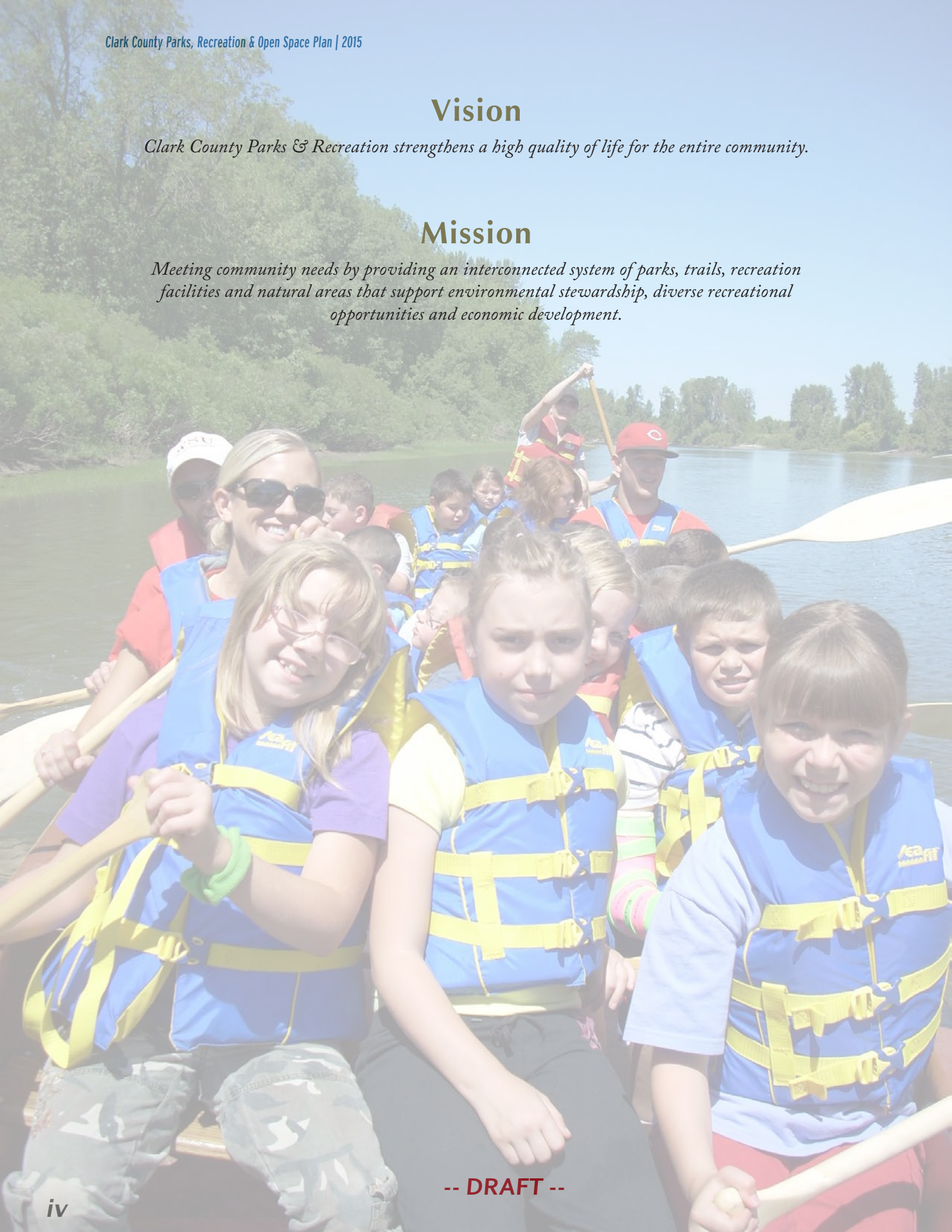
Vision

Clark County Parks & Recreation strengthens a high quality of life for the entire community.

Mission

Meeting community needs by providing an interconnected system of parks, trails, recreation facilities and natural areas that support environmental stewardship, diverse recreational opportunities and economic development.



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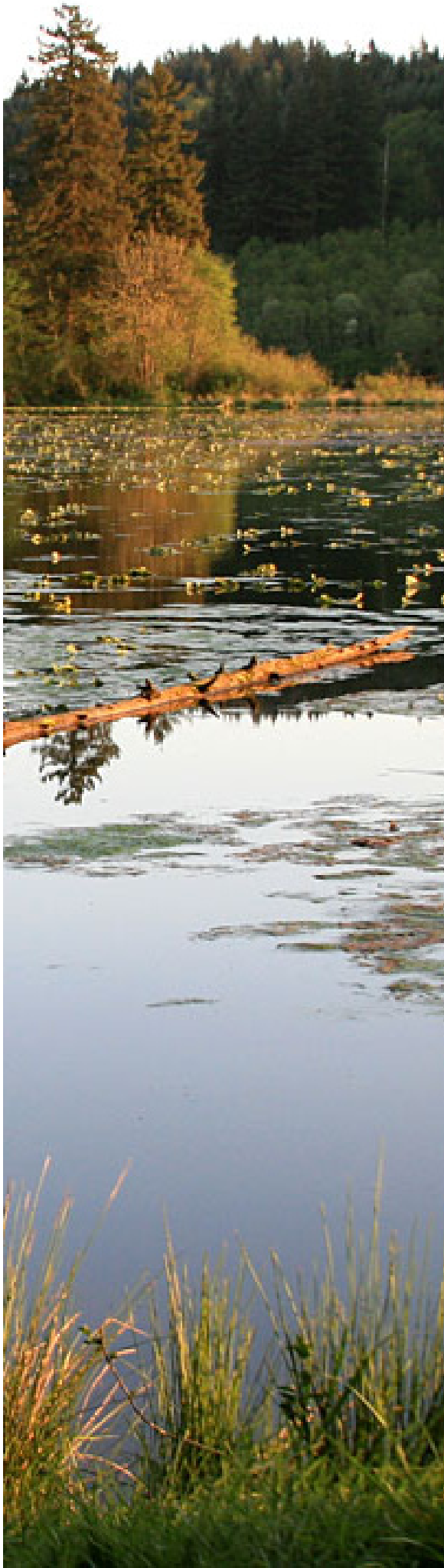
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan is a dynamic document that embraces expansion and implementation to meet changing community needs and technologies - capitalizing on opportunities and supporting a high quality parks, recreation and trails systems.

The PROS Plan provides direction for the future priorities of the park system over the next two decades, qualifies the county park system for eligibility for state and federal grant resources, fulfills the requirements for a parks element within the county comprehensive plan as part of the State of Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) and reflects the guidance from the Parks Advisory Board related to the recreational needs and priorities of the community.

Planning Process

The Clark County Parks Advisory Board (PAB), established in the fall of 2014, guided the planning process for this PROS Plan from the development of the vision, mission and goals to the recommendations, capital facilities plan and other implementation tools. Community outreach was conducted to ensure a broad, effective and legally-defensible public involvement process, which was integral to the development of this Plan. The planning process also included an assessment of local and statewide recreational trends as a means to examine park and outdoor recreation user patterns and future demand for amenities and facilities.

Current Inventory

Clark County provides regional parks, special facilities, regional trails, greenways and natural areas throughout the county, along with neighborhood and community parks and sports fields in or near the urban unincorporated area (Vancouver growth area). Vancouver and the other cities within the county are responsible for provision of parks and recreation facilities within their city limits. This PROS Plan reflects only county-owned, and applicable school district or other provider, properties.

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Figure E1: Summary of County-Owned Park Acreage

Park Type	Owned (ac.)	Developed (ac.)
Neighborhood	194.6	125.7
Community	335.2	150.0
Urban Natural Area	236.4	0.0
Regional Park	2,603.5	361.1
TOTAL	**3,369.7**	**636.7**

Since 2006, the urban unincorporated area has gained significant urban parkland acreage and development. The establishment of the voter-supported Greater Clark Parks District (GCPD) provides operation and maintenance funding that has supported the provision of 27 new neighborhood parks, 3 community parks and numerous sports fields, including the Luke Jensen Sports Park. Nearly 300 acres of land was secured or developed as public parkland or improved as recreational fields between 2006 and 2014.

Despite the significant progress made, the county park system has not yet reached its adopted target for acreage and developed public park lands based on population standards. Current performance for urban neighborhood parks is 67.5% towards reaching the acquisition standard and 42.9% towards the developed park standard. For urban community parks, the performance level is 76.6% to acquisition standard and 44.7% to development standard. Combining all PIF Districts in the urban unincorporated area, the performance for urban natural lands exceeds the standard 169%. Regional parks, with their 10 acres/1,000 population standard have reached 59.8% of the acquisition standard and 46.15 of the development standard. Clearly, as the county population grows more parks are needed to provide for outdoor recreation opportunities.

Recommendations

Clark County residents recognize the many benefits of parks, trails and recreation facilities that have been built upon the county's long-standing tradition of providing parks and conserving open spaces. Parks, trails and recreation facilities support healthy lifestyles, protect ecosystem services, enhance economic activities and sustain a strong sense of community. The Clark County Parks Division plays a critical role in leading the community into the future through its adopted vision and mission.

Vision

Clark County Parks & Recreation strengthens a high quality of life for the entire community.

Mission

Meeting community needs by providing an interconnected system of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and natural areas that support environmental stewardship, diverse recreational opportunities and economic development.

To achieve this vision, the PROS Plan includes a set of goals based on both the technical assessment and public engagement directing the future of the park system.

- **Forge strong public, private and non-profit partnerships** that serve to leverage the capacity of the County and all its resources and opportunities with the extent of its user groups, park advocates and supporting organizations.
- **Promote the Clark County parks system** as an essential contribution to the quality of life in the entire community and as an outdoor recreation and tourism destination by effectively marketing the county's parks, trails, special facilities, open spaces and natural resources.
- **Embrace a balanced strategy** for achieving a comprehensive parks system by continuing to build the county system of parks, trails, recreation facilities and open space through focused acquisition, timely development and the leveraging existing resources.
- **Ensuring equity and access** to parks, trails and facilities for a healthy community recognizes that the community of park, trail and outdoor recreation users includes all members regardless of interest, age or ability and seeks to connect people to nature and outdoor experiences without barriers.
- **Provide recreational opportunities for the entire community** by creating an interconnected system of parks, trails, recreation facilities and open spaces that offer a variety of outdoor recreation choices.
- **Be responsible, effective stewards** of public lands and finances: managing the environmental and economic resources are both important for the future of the park system.
- **Preserve Clark County's historic and cultural heritage** in its older parks interpret the heritage as contributing to a sense of place in the community.
- **Maintain and enhance parks and recreation facilities** through best practices, innovation and leveraging of existing and new resources.
- **Serve the community as a dynamic, effective organization** through parks division training and development and the enrichment of the Parks Advisory Board member leadership.
- **Seek adequate funding to meet community needs** for developing the desired public park, recreation and open space system through a variety of financial resources.

Implementation

The implementation of this PROS Plan will require the commitment of resources that go beyond existing dedicated funding for parks. The plan recommends a number of higher priority projects to aggressively pursue within next six years and additional desired projects to be achieved within the coming 20 years.

The capital facilities plan (CFP) identifies the 6-year projects with their estimated costs and associated funding sources. Across the Vancouver urban unincorporated area, the 6-year CFP identifies 71 significant projects with totaling over $38 million. In the regional park system, the 6-year CFP identifies five regional parkland acquisitions and six park developments totaling $79 million with a number of improvements within existing parks to enhance operations, user experiences, asset management and public safety.

Through both the 6-year and 20-year CFP, the plan has identified a significant breadth of new projects, improvements and programming that exceed the capacity of existing resources. The plan also provides a variety of potential funding tools to consider as options for leveraging local fiscal resources in the implementation of capital projects.

Expanding Partnerships

Working collaboratively with multiple partners to leverage funding and volunteer resources will be a core foundation to advance the implementation of many of the proposed projects. The County

Parks Division currently relies upon many outside partners for its park operations, and existing partnerships have contributed to the success of the county parks system. For example, partnership agreements with local sport leagues provide for facility oversight and recreational programming at special facility sites, such as the Harmony Sports Complex and Luke Jensen Sports Complex. However, partnerships, like many relationships, require time to develop and establish the mutual values that keep the partners at the table, leverage resources and lead to success. The Parks Division staffing will need to grow to allow for the capacity to capture stronger partnerships.

Strengthening Volunteers

Volunteers provide significant contributions to the county park system through a wide range of projects including park clean-up, tree planting, invasive species removal, trail building and sports field maintenance, and volunteers contributed over 15,000 hours of service in 2014 alone. Expanding upon its Adopt-a-Park program, Park Hero program and parks host program, the county will need to seek , foster and support additional volunteers to provide operational assistance across the parks system.

Enhancing Communications & Outreach

Many of the Plan recommendations will require the execution of effective communications and outreach. Forging strong partnerships will require effective communications and outreach to potential partners who can help the county to leverage park and recreation project implementation and program operation. Promoting the county's park system will require broader marketing and outreach that entails a combination of better signage, more public news coverage, enhanced wayfinding, printed maps and user information, in addition to enhanced social media and online platforms. The county will need to promote its facilities and new improvements to improve public information about the variety of recreational opportunities available.

PLAN OVERVIEW

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PLAN OVERVIEW

Purpose of Plan

The Clark County Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan creates a vision for an innovative, inclusive, and interconnected system of parks, trails and open spaces that promotes outdoor recreation, health and environmental conservation as integral elements of a livable community. The parks plan is a blueprint for guiding future actions and decisions to enable the county park system to strengthen a high quality of life for the entire community.

The 2015 update of the PROS plan considers the park and recreation needs of residents countywide, while recognizing that the individual cities will each address the park and recreation needs within their incorporated municipal boundaries. The county currently provides a regional system of parks, trails, recreation facilities and conservation lands, along with a significant urban system of park, trail and recreation facilities within the Vancouver Urban Growth Area (VUGA) that includes the Greater Clark Parks District.

This Plan establishes specific goals, objectives, recommendations and actions for developing, conserving and maintaining high-quality parks, trails, facilities and open spaces across the county. Strategies for the implementation of capital and non-capital projects are recommended to benefit the community based on identified needs, demands and in response to the public involvement process. The 2015 PROS Plan provides updated inventories, demographic conditions, growth projections, needs analysis, revenue forecasts and capital project phasing.

Process Overview

The formation of the Clark County Parks Advisory Board in the summer of 2014 activated the planning process for the PROS Plan update. This update is required every six years to maintain eligibility for grants administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). RCO requires jurisdictional applicants to have a current plan as a criterion for grant applications. This Plan is intended to comply with all RCO requirements.

The Plan is also designated to meet the requirements of the State of Washington Growth Management Act (GMA), which is codified as Chapter 36.70A Revised Code of Washington. GMA requires counties to:

- Designate the general location and extent of land uses including recreation and open space lands;
- Identify lands useful for recreation, including wildlife habitat, trails and connection of critical areas;
- Estimate park and recreation demand for at least a 10-year period;
- Develop a capital facilities (CFP) identifying funds necessary to implement the plan for at least a six-year period.

The GMA also requires an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities for meeting the parks and recreational demand of the community (RCW 36.70a.070(8)).

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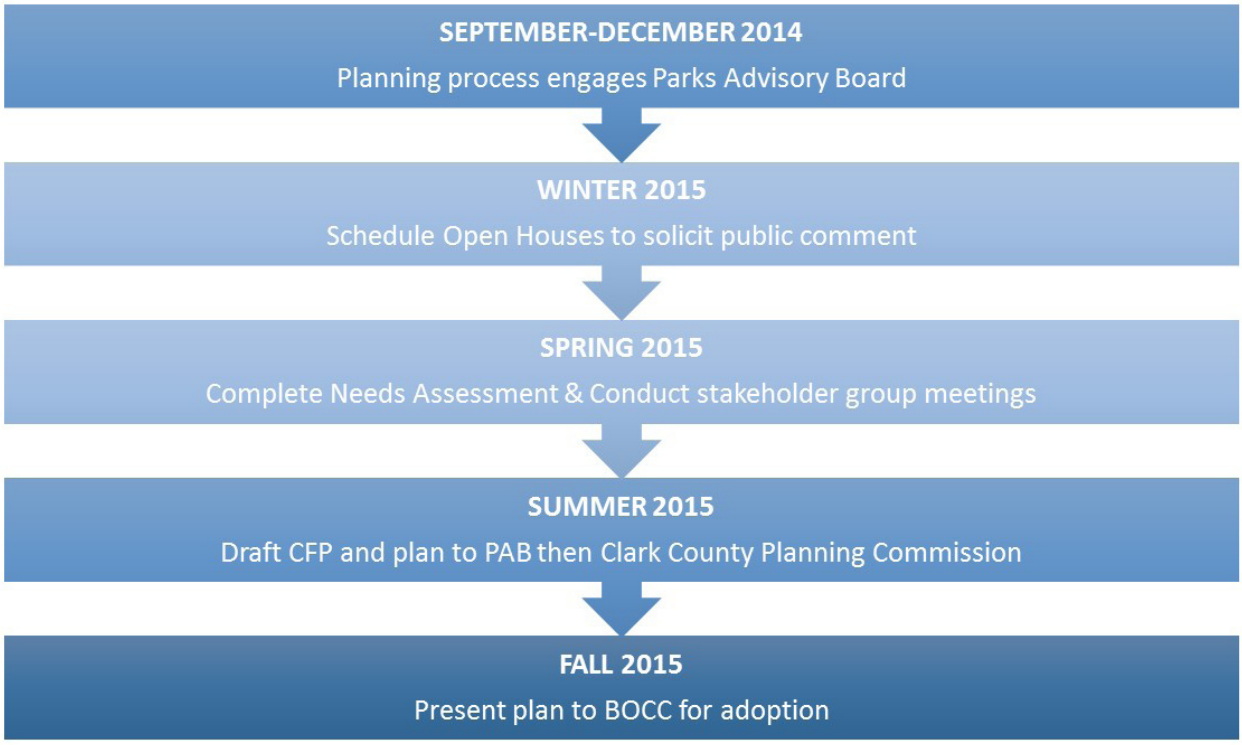
The PROS Plan is a reflection of the community's needs and interests in park and recreational facilities, and the planning process encouraged and enabled public engagement in the choices, priorities and future direction of the county's park system. The PROS Plan project team conducted a variety of public outreach activities to solicit feedback and comments in concert with the refinement of the park system inventory, level of service performance and the current and future needs assessment. An overview of the planning timeline is depicted below.

Figure 1. PROS Plan Process Diagram



The county park system, including both regional and urban area facilities, were inventoried during the summer of 2014. Between 1997 and 2013, the county park system was jointly planned and managed with the City of Vancouver via an interlocal agreement, which was not renewed in 2013. The inventory review aimed to clarify the separation from the former Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department administration and identified the resources under the jurisdiction of Clark County. This became the basis for determining the level of service for park lands and developed facilities. A needs analysis was conducted for both regional and urban parks to assess current demands and project the demand for future park acreage as the population grows in the county and within the VUGA. Community needs were also gathered through a series of public outreach and involvement efforts, including on-line surveys, open houses, stakeholder meetings, website comment access and Parks Advisory Board (PAB) meetings. Through these activities, the PAB articulated the vision, mission and goals of the park system and prioritized the recommendations of this Plan. To implement the planning goals, a capital facilities plan was prepared with a set of strategies to accomplish the park system mission through policies, practices and projects with identified costs and potential funding sources. Once adopted, the Plan can become part of the county's Comprehensive Plan and guide park and recreation service delivery for the next 6 - 20 years.

Report Organization

The remainder of the PROS Plan is organized as follows:

Chapter 2: Introduction describes the county park system planning area, including physical and demographic characteristics.

Chapter 3: Planning Framework reviews the guiding documents that have established the policies and foundations for the county park system. The determination of community demands for parks and recreation facilities was directed by the Parks Advisory Board members and a series of public engagement opportunities including a review of emerging recreation trends. The Vision, Mission and Goals were also articulated to set priorities for future implementation.

Chapter 4 – 6: Parks, Sports & Recreation, Trails details the existing inventory, classifications and standards for the urban and regional park system. Level of service performance, needs assessment and projected future needs are also evaluated.

Chapter 7: Public Demand reviews public comments from multiple outreach methods and summarizes core interests of the community.

Chapter 8: Recommendations describes the direction for future acquisitions, development and improvements for the infrastructure of park, trail and recreation facilities as well as the actions and steps to leverage and enhance the available resources for achieving the objectives for the county park system.

Chapter 9: Implementation describes the capital and non-capital projects that are the highest priorities for implementation in the next six years. Financial sources, funding strategies and projected needs for operations and maintenance are also identified.

Appendices:

- Capital Facility Plan: 6 and 20 year
- Inventory & Maps: Urban and Regional Parks
- Community Survey Summary Report
- Open House Comments
- Stakeholder Session Notes
- Park Impact Fee Program Methodology Documentation
- 20-Year Conservation Futures Priorities

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INTRODUCTION 2

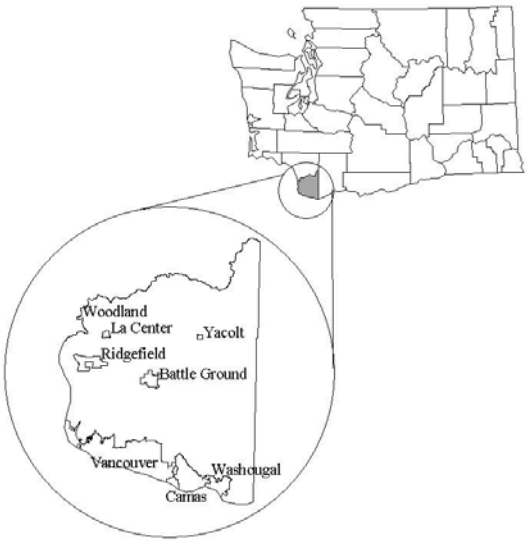
INTRODUCTION

Planning Area

Clark County is located in southwest Washington, approximately 100 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. The county is bordered on the south and west by the Columbia River, on the north by the Lewis River, and on the east by the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. In terms of political jurisdictions, the county is bordered on the south and west by the state of Oregon, on the north by Cowlitz County, and on the east by Skamania County. The county is located across the Columbia River from the city of Portland, Oregon, and according to the U.S. Census, Clark County is included in the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area for the greater Portland metropolitan region.

Clark County lies in a geographic basin known as the Willamette-Puget Trough, which is formed by the Cascade Mountains and Coast Range. The county includes over 41 miles of shoreline on the Columbia River, and the land area covers 629 square miles, which is characterized by four topographic zones. Low-lying bottomlands extend along the Columbia River. A series of alluvial plains and terraces extend north and northeast from the Columbia River bottomlands. These plains and terraces transition into uplands which range in width from two to seven miles and in many places are separated from the plains and terraces by an escarpment of from 100 to 200 feet. The east and northeast portions of the county consist of the foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range.

Figure 2. Location of Clark County within Washington State



Clark County and the southwest Washington region provide a rich diversity of natural features and recreation, historic and cultural opportunities. Clark County lies within close proximity to the Pacific Ocean and Cascade Mountains, including the major peaks of Mount St. Helens, Mount Adams and Mount Hood. The county encompasses a variety of local, state and federal wildlife refuges and conservation and greenway systems, including the Ridgefield and Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuges on the Columbia River. Historic sites of regional and national importance include Fort Vancouver and Officers Row, located near downtown Vancouver.

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The county also includes a variety of regional parks, trails and special facilities that serve a county-wide population. This Plan examines the existing system of regional parks and open space facilities and evaluates the need for additional lands, facilities, and services to meet current and future needs of the county's rapidly growing population.

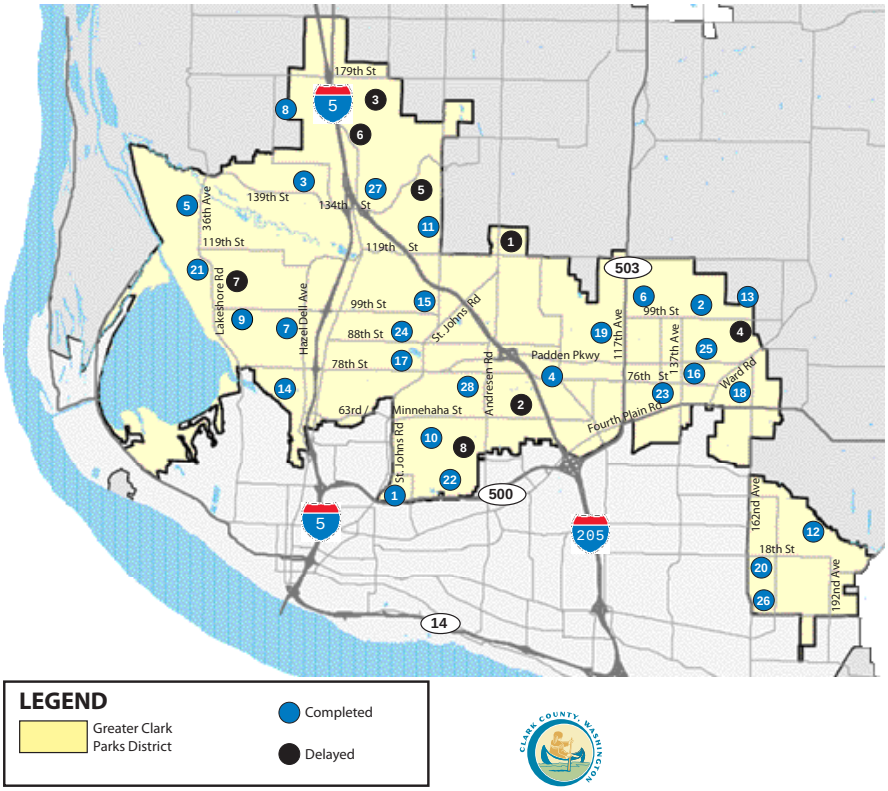
Urban development is most extensive in the plains and terraces that extend along the Columbia River in the south section of the county and along the Interstate 5 corridor. Cities in this area include Vancouver (the county's largest city), Camas, Washougal, La Center, Ridgefield, Woodland (a portion of which is also in Cowlitz County), Battle Ground and Yacolt. Rural residential and agricultural lands extend north and east from the Vancouver urban growth area to the slopes of the Cascade Mountain range.

Most new development in Clark County is expected to occur inside the city of Vancouver's Urban Growth Area (VUGA) and the other cities' urban growth areas. To facilitate park system planning, the Vancouver and County jointly segmented the VUGA into ten separate park impact fee districts in the early 1990s. Three of these districts fall completely within Vancouver city limits, four districts fall completely outside the city limits in the unincorporated (county-administered) area, and three districts cross jurisdictional boundaries. These park impact fee districts provide the planning framework for Park Impact Fee (PIF) assessments, and they are sometimes referred to as PIF Districts. At the end of 2013, the city and county chose not to renew their interlocal agreement that provided for joint management of the PIF program. With the challenges of sharing divided districts, the county and city are now considering the realignment of boundaries to simplify their respective park impact fee program administration.

Park impact fees were adopted in the 1990s for the acquisition and development of community and neighborhood parks and for the acquisition of urban open space, both inside the city of Vancouver and its urban unincorporated area. For previously existing park development deficits that could not be funded by impact fees, the county and city adopted and dedicated a one-quarter percent real estate excise tax to urban (VUGA) parks for six years. Under these funding programs, over 65 park sites have been acquired, and 16 community and neighborhood parks have been developed.

Early in 2005, the residents of the urban unincorporated area of Clark County approved the creation of the Greater Clark Parks District, a metropolitan park district intended to fund the maintenance for the development of 35 parks, seven miles of new trail alignments and a number of sports fields via a permanent property tax levy. Since 2005, the County has developed 28 neighborhood and community parks and 26 new sports fields. After an initial, intensive park development effort, the economic downturn, and specifically the depressed housing market, significantly reduced the amount of park impact fees and real estate excise taxes (REET) collected in Clark County. From 2006 to 2010, REET revenue dropped by 70 percent. The reduced revenues forced a postponement of new park development to a time when the local economy and housing market have fully recovered. The county proceeded with the construction of two neighborhood parks in 2014, but development plans for the promised remaining parks (8), sports fields (15) and local trail alignments remain on hold until adequate funding is available.

Figure 3. Greater Clark Parks District - Completed & Pending Projects



Completed

1. Bosco Farm Neighborhood Park
2. Cherry Neighborhood Park
3. Chinook Neighborhood Park
4. Covington Neighborhood Park
5. Sgt. Brad Crawford Neighborhood Park
6. Dogwood Neighborhood Park
7. Eisenhower School Neighborhood Park
8. Fairgrounds Community Park
9. Jack Z. Fazio Neighborhood Park
10. Douglas Carter Fisher Neighborhood Park
11. Greyhawk Neighborhood Park
12. Harmony Ridge Neighborhood Park
13. Hockinson Meadows Community Park
14. Jorgenson Woods Neighborhood Park
15. Kate and Clarence LaLonde Neighborhood Park
16. Little Prairie Neighborhood Park
17. Luke Jensen Sports Park
18. Oak Grove Neighborhood Park
19. Orchards Highlands Neighborhood Park
20. Pacific Community Park
21. Raspberry Fields Neighborhood Park
22. Road's End Neighborhood Park
23. Sifton Neighborhood Park
24. Tenny Creek Neighborhood Park
25. Tiger Tree Neighborhood Park
26. Vandervort Neighborhood Park
27. Vista Meadows Neighborhood Park
28. Walnut Grove Neighborhood Park

Delayed

1. Curtin Creek Community Park
2. Kelley Meadows Neighborhood Park
3. Kozy Kamp Neighborhood Park
4. Otto Brown Neighborhood Park
5. Pleasant Valley Community Park
6. Salmon Creek Community Club Neighborhood Park
7. Sorenson Neighborhood Park
8. Tower Crest Neighborhood Park

PLUS The remaining sports fields and trail acquisition

Demographics

Population

Clark County is one of the fastest growing and most heavily populated counties in Washington State. The county's estimated population[1] for 2035 is 562,207, which represents about 897 persons per square mile. Between 1970 and 2000, the county's population more than doubled from 128,454 to 345,238. In 1980, the county's population of 186,600 represented 4.6% of the statewide total. In 2000, the county's population of 345,238 represented 5.8% of the state total. Overall, Clark County is the fifth most populace county in the state of Washington, with a current (April 1, 2015) population of 451,820.

There are eight incorporated towns and cities within the county. The largest is Vancouver, with an in-city population in 2010 of 162,387. The city is also surrounded by a large unincorporated urban area. In 2010, the population of Vancouver and its urban growth area was 365,213. This population is concentrated in the southwest section of the county adjacent to the Columbia River and the Vancouver Lake Lowlands. The other cities and town in the county are Camas, Washougal, Ridgefield, Battle Ground, La Center, Yacolt and part of Woodland, which overlaps Clark and Cowlitz counties. The total 2010 population of these other towns and cities was 60,150. (This number, in the case of Woodland, includes only that portion of the city lying in Clark County.)

Population projections for Clark County indicate continued steady growth over the next 20 years. The Washington State Office of Financial Management and Clark County estimate that the county's population in 2035 will be 562,200.

1 *Population estimates are provided by the Washington State Office of Financial Management.*

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Age Distribution

The changing age breakdown of the county's population impacts the type of facilities that are used and needed within the county. Since 2000 the county has experienced an aging of the population. The share of the population 45 years of age and older has increased, while the share of the population under 45 years has decreased. This trend is expected to continue through 2030. The largest amount of growth occurred among those 45-64 years of age, while the population of children under 18 also grew as a whole, but decreased as a share of the overall population.

Economic Character

Clark County's economy has been growing steadily as the county's population has continued to grow at a fast pace. The labor force has been on a rise, increasing from 127,500 in 1990 to a projected 562,207 in 2035. Unemployment rates have consistently hovered around six to ten percent for the past eight years. The economy of the county continues to diversify. Historically, the county depended heavily on resource-based industries such as agriculture, timber, and mining. After 1950, however, heavy manufacturing and then high-tech industries became important components of the county's economy. Factors that contribute to Clark County's economic growth include high-quality transportation services and facilities. Clark County and the Vancouver-Portland metropolitan area provide a number of transportation facilities that help make Clark County a regional hub for commerce. Commercial river traffic utilizes the Columbia River, and the Port of Vancouver provides facilities for deep-draft ocean-going vessels. North-south and east-west transcontinental railroad lines serve Clark County. Interstate 5, Interstate 205, and State Highway 14 provide major freeway access. The Portland International Airport is located immediately south of the Columbia River, and provides national and international airline service for both passengers and freight.

In terms of educational services, the development of a full service Washington State University Campus in Vancouver has enhanced the availability of higher education in southwest Washington. WSU-Vancouver is the primary provider of baccalaureate and graduate college education. Clark College, located near downtown Vancouver, continues to provide high quality education within the community college system and provides a variety of educational services for the larger county community.

Land Use & Density

Clark County is the second most densely populated county in Washington, with 718 persons per square mile.[2] Population density and growth are rapidly changing the character and land use patterns of several areas within the county. Some areas that were once characterized by small communities, productive farmland, and harvestable and protected forests are now facing unprecedented development. The county is a place where more people are moving into unincorporated urban and rural areas and are in need of recreation facilities and services. Increasing density, smaller lot sizes, and disappearing open space has increased pressure to find close-to-home places to play. Open space and developed parks and recreation facilities will be critical as these areas continue to develop.

2 *Washington Office of Financial Management, 2015*

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PLANNING FRAMEWORK

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PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Following a long-standing tradition of providing parks and conserving open spaces, Clark County residents recognize the many benefits of parks trails, open space and recreation facilities. Parks, trails and recreation facilities support healthy lifestyles, protect ecosystem services, enhance economic activities and sustain a strong sense of community. Clark County Parks plays a critical role in leading the community into the future through its adopted vision and mission.

Vision

Clark County Parks & Recreation strengthens a high quality of life for the entire community.

Mission

Meeting community needs by providing an interconnected system of parks, trails, recreation facilities and natural areas that support environmental stewardship, diverse recreational opportunities and economic development.

Goals

To achieve the vision of enhancing its critical role in strengthening Clark County's quality of life through a diverse and interconnected parks system, the PROS Plan includes the following goals based on both the public engagement directing the future of the county park system and a technical assessment of the system.

1. **Forge strong public, private and non-profit partnerships.** The plan endorses the need to develop partnerships with public and private agencies which result in increased recreation opportunities as well as further the connections for park and trail land resources for County residents.
2. **Promote and market the county's parks system.** The planning process revealed that many residents are not familiar with the extent and diversity of park and trail facilities for their benefit. The plan seeks to promote Clark County as a recreation and tourist destination, marketing the region's system of parks, trails, special facilities, open spaces and natural resources as an economic driver and asset for the county.
3. **Embrace a balanced strategy for achieving a comprehensive parks system.** The plan identifies gaps within the urban and regional park and trail system that prevent the completion of an interconnected system of green space for the benefits of all residents. Connecting people to outdoor recreation facilities will require acquisition of public lands to close the gaps in the system. The plan recognizes that any growth in the park system must be based on adequate resources for obtaining and sustaining new facilities into the future.
4. **Ensure equity and access to parks, trails and facilities for a healthy community.** The plan proposes strategies to the need to meet the needs of all residents by providing full access (both physical and

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informational) to recreational and open space opportunities. By connecting people to parks, land and water trails and recreational facilities, the park system can promote a healthy sustainable community.

5. **Provide recreational opportunities for the entire community.** The plan responds to the changing recreational trends and demographics require a park system to continue to evolve to meet the needs of its growing population. More parks with more diverse facilities are being demanded by the public and the need to accommodate more users is very apparent. The park system can also plan a more active role in the economic development enhancement of the community through its recreation facilities.
6. **Be responsible, effective stewards of public lands and finances.** The plan endorses the efficient and effective management of park system resources in a sustainable and environmentally beneficial manner that contributes to a healthy, livable community and a rich natural park experience. The incorporation of sustainability practices can be more fully integrated into the design, development and maintenance of park system.
7. **Preserve our historic and cultural heritage.** The plan provides for the enhanced appreciation of Clark County's historic and cultural heritage through preservation, interpretation and restoration of historical and/or cultural resources.
8. **Maintain and enhance parks and recreation facilities.** The plan documents the existing inventory and parks trails and recreational facilities currently under jurisdictions of the county. The Clark County Parks Division is committed to ensuring that existing facilities are adequately maintained and sustained with sufficient resources before new facilities are brought into the county system.
9. **Serve the community and develop a dynamic, effective organization.** The county parks division is redefining itself as an urban and regional park and recreation facility provider, separate and distinct from each city's park and recreation system. The parks leadership, administration and staff in collaboration with the parks advisory board intend to build an effective and sustainable organization through public involvement, strengthened and new partnerships, technical training and professional development.
10. **Seek adequate funding to meet community needs.** The plan addresses the need to provide sustainable resources for maintaining and enhancing the county's park, trail and recreational facilities. Diverse funding will be required to provide financial stability and a secure future for the community's outdoor recreation system.

Community Involvement

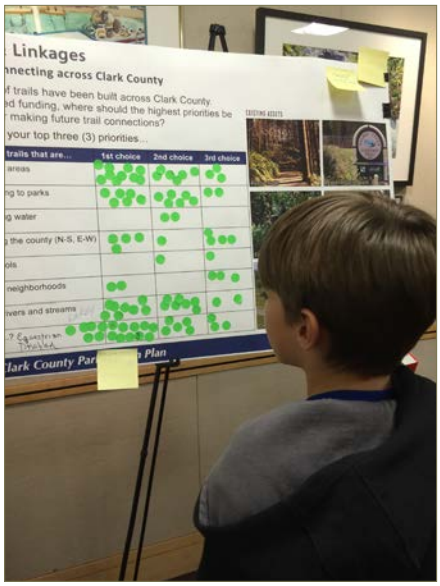
The Clark County Parks Advisory Board (PAB) was established in the summer 2014 with seven (7) appointed voting members, along with non-voting liaisons from Vancouver and Evergreen school districts and the Parks Foundation of Clark County. The seven voting members represent communities across the county and share their expertise, experiences and specialized focus in parks and recreation on the Board to provide a balanced strategy for current procedures and policies implemented by the Parks Division. The PAB also is responsible for making recommendations to the County Councilors regarding approvals for requested county policy adoption and sustainable funding support for parks and recreation facilities, as well as recommendations on specific procedural issues that may come before the PAB. The PAB has been leading the parks comprehensive planning process from the development of the vision and goals to the endorsement of the capital facilities plan and other implementation tools. PAB members anticipate being actively involved in promoting the implementation of the PROS Plan for the future benefit of the Clark County community.

Public engagement and outreach was conducted to ensure that a broad, effective and legally defensible public involvement process was integrated into the development of this PROS Plan update. The PAB guided the decisions on how extensive and intensive the activities should be for garnering public opinion and community interests for parks and recreation facilities and providing input for

the "blueprint for the future." PAB members themselves were connected to and represented their constituent groups and helped identify key stakeholders.

Communication tools for facilitating public engagement included:

- **Website** – Clark County established a website for the parks plan update early in the process. The website was continually updated with information and reporting about the plan's progress and contained a link to the existing 2007 parks plan.
- **Survey** (online and print) – a community survey to obtain public input and help direct community priorities and needs for parks, trails and outdoor recreation facilities was conducted through SurveyMonkey. Participation was encouraged through email blasts, open house information and press releases.
- **Email blasts** – tapped a number of different sources to share news and updates about the planning process and opportunities for participation.
- **Open Houses** – Three open houses were conducted across the county in early March. La Center, Camas and Three Creeks locations provided a distributed range of opportunities for residents to see the park planning in process and provide feedback for their preferences.
- **CVTV video** – a YouTube video clip was produced by CVTV, the local municipal cable access channel, to summarize the park plan and its relevance to the general public. The video clip is easily accessed from the website and was incorporated into the open houses.



Young participant at public open house meeting

Still image from CVTV video clip

Additionally, a series of four stakeholder group meetings were conducted with targeted groups representing specific users of the park system including local park and recreation providers (from cities within Clark County), sports leagues and trail organizations. Presentations and park planning updates were also shared with neighborhood association leaders (NACC) through their monthly meetings.

Guiding Documents

Clark County and its incorporated cities have a strong legacy of parks, recreation and open space, dating back to the dedication of Esther Short Park in downtown Vancouver in 1853 (before the City was incorporated) and the establishment of regional parks along the East Fork Lewis River in the early 1900's. Since then, the region's parks and recreation resources have grown dramatically.

Clark County adopted its first comprehensive parks and recreation plan in 1965, followed by updates in 1975, 1981, 1987, 1993 and 2000. In 2007, the City of Vancouver and Clark County Adopted a combined comprehensive parks, recreation and open space plan to cover both jurisdictions in their entirety, under the consolidated Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department. In 2013, the interlocal agreement that joined City and County park administration and planning was canceled, and the two jurisdictions separated their organizational resources.

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The plan draws from and builds on previous planning work for the park, recreation, trail and open space system, including:

- 2014 Clark County Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan
- 2007 Vancouver-Clark Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan
- 2006 Regional Trails and Bikeways System Plan
- 2004 Clark County Comprehensive Plan
- 2004 Sports Field Needs Assessment
- 2003 Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan
- 2000 Clark County Regional Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan
- 1998 Clark County Sports Fields Master Plan
- 1992 Clark County Open Space Commission Report

The Clark County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan discusses parks, and this PROS Plan is intended to supplement and implement the Comprehensive Plan. The goals, objectives and policies presented in this PROS Plan reflect and amplify the goals, objectives and policies that are provided in the countywide Comprehensive Plan.

Several jurisdictions within Clark County have developed and implemented their own park plans that include strategies for identified park locations. Once adopted, these community plans are considered to be part of the Clark County Comprehensive Plan. Community plans take a community-oriented approach to park and recreation planning, which is different from the regional park perspective and benefits-based approach in this Plan. While many of the recommendations from the Community Plans regarding parks and recreation have been incorporated into this Plan, future local jurisdictions will have the primary responsibility to implement the objectives and policies noted in individual community plans.

2014 Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan (CAAP)

In a related planning effort, the county's 2014 Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan (CAAP) provides the direction and focus for conserving and connecting significant open spaces and natural resources. Clark County possesses a rich variety of landscapes and natural resources that enhance the quality of life for all Clark County residents. Natural resources range from the Columbia River to the Cascade Mountains and include a diversity of streams and lakes, marshes, wetlands, shorelines, meadows and forests. These land and water resources provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife and provide opportunities for hiking, canoeing, picnicking, swimming and other outdoor recreation activities. In 2009, the county created an environmental services department whose responsibilities include overseeing the Legacy Lands program. This department now takes the lead in the planning, acquisition, management and stewardship for the county's conservation (open space) lands.

The 2014 CAAP reasserts the vision of establishing an interconnected system of habitat and greenways along the county's rivers and streams while also seeking to preserve other sites that have unique or rare conservation values. Clark County residents have repeatedly expressed high demand for protecting our most important conservation lands and providing recreation opportunities. The county's conservation lands system provide an important environment for outdoor recreation activities. The 2014 CAAP identifies greenways and trails as a core element of the conservation lands system.

The plan identifies specific project opportunities to pursue over the next six years, identifies high value conservation lands and highlights a variety of funding mechanisms that can support project implementation. The specific project opportunities represent acquisition projects, but by design most of these projects also include future opportunities for park development, trail creation and restoration opportunities. The plan prioritizes projects that meet multiple benefits, expand on the existing system and are aligned with other county plans (i.e. trails plans) and priorities. The plan also encourages the development of partnerships between public and private agencies that have supported development of the conservation lands system for over 25 years.

Other Relevant Plan Summaries

In addition to the guiding documents from local and county-wide efforts, the measure of outdoor recreation trends and participation reveals user patterns and preferences and helps direct the future decisions on needed facilities to meet public demand. A series of reports and plans were reviewed to provide guidance on expected public demands and needs for future improvements.

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PARKS

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PARKS

Clark County is responsible for a system of parks, trails, natural lands and recreation facilities that extend across the county, as a regional provider, and within the Vancouver Urban Growth Area (or urban unincorporated area – UUA) as an urban-based park and recreation facility provider. This dual role sets an expectation for the county to provide a livable urban area that contains parks and trails within walking distance of all residents and a regional system of facilities that provides destinations for outdoor recreation. The county park system, in both the regional and urban area, is identified by classifications for each type of facility to help manage the public land inventory; guide operations and maintenance; and direct acquisitions, design and development of additional facilities. While these classifications identify the categories for parks, trails, conservation lands and recreation facilities, the county recognizes the need to adapt and be flexible to changing public demands, to urban growth pressures and the realities of available resources. The classifications provide guidelines rather than distinct boundaries for facility identification – not all facilities fit neatly within one definition.

Classifications

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents, enhance neighborhood identity, and preserve neighborhood open space. These parks are designed primarily for non-organized recreation. Located within walking and bicycling distance of most users, these parks are generally three to five acres in size and primarily serve residents within a half-mile radius. Neighborhood parks often include amenities such as playgrounds, turf areas, pathways and trails, picnic tables, sports courts, and benches. Elementary school sites have been included under the neighborhood parkland classification, since they often have neighborhood park elements and serve some of the neighborhood park needs.

Community Parks

Community parks provide a focal point and gathering place for broad groups of users. Usually 20 to 100 acres in size, community parks are used by all segments of the population and generally serve residents from a one- to three-mile service area. Community parks often include recreation facilities for organized activities, such as sports fields, skate parks, and play courts. Community parks may also incorporate passive recreation space. Because of their large service area, community parks require more support facilities, such as parking and restrooms. Some middle and high school sites are included in the community parkland inventory, since these facilities can serve some of the community park needs.

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Regional Parks

Regional parks are recreational areas that serve residents from throughout Clark County and beyond. Regional parks are usually larger than 50 acres in size and provide opportunities for diverse recreational activities. Facilities may include sports fields, extensive trail systems, or large picnic areas. In addition, regional parks often include passive recreation space and unique features, such as significant natural areas or access to lakes or rivers. Because of their large size and broad service area, regional parks typically require more support facilities, such as parking and restrooms. These parks are usually designed to accommodate large numbers of people.

Natural Areas & Open Space

Natural areas and open space are primarily undeveloped spaces, which are managed for both their natural, ecological value and for light-impact recreational use. These areas can range in size from one to thousands of acres, and may include wetlands, wildlife habitats, or stream corridors. Natural areas and open space provide opportunities for nature-based recreation, such as bird-watching and environmental education. Natural areas also provide opportunities for active recreation such as walking and running, bicycle riding, and hiking. These lands can provide relief from urban density and may also preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as endangered animal habitat and native plant communities.

Existing Inventory

Clark County provides regional parks, special facilities, regional trails, greenways and natural areas throughout the county and neighborhood and community parks and sports fields in or proximate to the urban unincorporated area (Vancouver growth area). Vancouver and the other cities within the county are responsible for provision of parks and recreation facilities within their boundaries. Previous park comprehensive plans have reflected the combined inventory of the county and the city of Vancouver. The current PROS Plan update reflects only county-owned and applicable school district or other provider properties. The level of service and quantified acquisition and development needs to meet adopted standards for the county park system are based on the park system inventory presented in Figures 4 - 8. Other facilities, such as trails and sport fields, within the county park system which do not have level of service standards are not included in these park inventory tables. A separate assessment of demand and needs for these facilities has been conducted as part of this PROS Plan update.

The majority of land within PIF Districts 1 – 4 is within the City of Vancouver and only a few county-owned parks are situated within these primarily city districts. These parks will likely be transferred to or annexed into the city of Vancouver in the near future. As a result, this level of service assessment focuses strictly on PIF Districts 5-10 within the urban unincorporated area (UUA). Park District 1 contains an undeveloped neighborhood park, currently named "Alki" situated along the south banks of Burnt Bridge Creek and two regional parks (Frenchmans Bar and Vancouver Lake). Park District 4 contains two county parks (Pacific and Vandervort) and two special facilities (Harmony sports fields and English Pit rifle range) in the northern section of the District.

Figure 4. Neighborhood Park Inventory (Urban system)

Neighborhood Parks	Undeveloped Acres	Developed Acres	2014 Total
Park District 5 (*County portion*)	19.5	29.3	**48.8**
Park District 6	8.2	12.8	**21.0**
Park District 7 (*County portion*)	10.5	15.0	**25.5**
Park District 8	3.8	33.7	**37.5**
Park District 9	11.9	23.2	**35.0**
Park District 10	15.1	11.8	**26.9**
TOTAL	**69.0**	**125.7**	**194.6**

Figure 5. Community Park Inventory (Urban system)

Community Parks	Undeveloped Acres	Developed Acres	2014 Total
Park District 5 (*County portion*)	16.0	37.0	**53.0**
Park District 6	67.0	16.5	**83.5**
Park District 7 (*County portion*)	10.1	0.0	**10.1**
Park District 8	40.3	20.0	**60.3**
Park District 9	51.8	46.3	**98.1**
Park District 10	0.0	30.2	**30.2**
TOTAL	**185.2**	**150.0**	**335.2**

Figure 6. Urban Natural Area Inventory (Urban system)

Urban Natural Areas	Undeveloped Acres	Developed Acres	2014 Total
Park District 5 (*County portion*)	80.0	0.0	**80.0**
Park District 6	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Park District 7 (*County portion*)	6.2	0.0	**6.2**
Park District 8	25.3	0.0	**25.3**
Park District 9	22.2	0.0	**22.2**
Park District 10	102.7	0.0	**102.7**
TOTAL	**236.4**	**0.0**	**236.4**

The urban unincorporated area (Vancouver Urban Growth Area) contains six (6) park impact fees districts (District 5-10). Park Districts 5 and 7 are shared districts with land within both the city of Vancouver and the urban unincorporated area (refer to Figure 17 on page 28 for map). Regional parks may be inside other city jurisdictions and rural areas of Clark County but are under the ownership, operation and/or maintenance of the county parks division. Other providers, such as Washington State Parks and the National Park Service, operate public park facilities that provide the similar regional park amenities. While there may be differences in access fees, range of facilities and uses, these lands do provide park and recreation value to the county and beyond.

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Figure 7. Inventory of County-Owned or Operated Regional Parks

Regional Parks	Undeveloped Acres	Developed Acres	2014 Total
Bratton Canyon	62.0	18.0	**80.0**
Brush Prairie	76.5	7.5	**84.0**
Daybreak	183.6	6.0	**189.6**
Frenchman's Bar	125.5	37.0	**162.5**
Green Mountain	360.0	0.0	**360.0**
Lacamas Lake	290.0	7.4	**297.4**
Lewisville	68.5	90.0	**158.5**
Lucia Falls	22.8	25.6	**48.4**
Moulton Falls	413.9	27.0	**440.9**
Salmon Creek (includes Klineline)	122.9	51.1	**174.0**
Vancouver Lake	182.0	52.0	**234.0**
Whipple Creek	295.4	4.0	**299.4**
Capt. William Clark Park	39.3	35.5	**74.7**
TOTAL	**2,242.4**	**361.1**	**2,603.5**

Figure 8. Inventory of Other Providers Regional Parks

Other Provider - Regional Parks	Undeveloped Acres	Developed Acres	2014 Total
Battle Ground Lake State Park	240.0	40.0	**280.0**
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site	154.0	75.0	**229.0**
Paradise Point State Park	61.0	35.0	**96.0**
TOTAL	**455.0**	**150.0**	**605.0**

County parks, both urban and regional, have adopted park land standards based on population to allow for a standards-based measurement of need. Using a lower target than the historic National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guideline of 10 acres/1,000 population, the adopted standard for urban parks and natural areas, combined, is 6 acres/1,000 population. The neighborhood park standard targets 2 acres/1,000 population; community parks target 3 acres/1,000 population and urban natural areas aim for 1 acre/1,000 to create an aggregate goal of 6 acre/1,000 within the urban unincorporated area. The standards also include targeted acreages for developed park areas - neighborhood parks at 2 acres/1,000 population (using the assumption that the entire park is developed) plus community parks at 2.25 acres/1,000 population (allowing for natural areas to be included in many community park designs). Regional parks target 10 acres/1,000 population for park land acreage with an approximate 18% of the park being developed, while the rest of the park contains significant natural lands.

Aside from the urban natural areas that are measured as part of the UUA park impact fee program, conservation lands across the county are acquired and managed through multiple jurisdictions and agencies. The county-owned conservation lands extend across major stream and river systems and focus on protecting critical habitat areas. The county's Legacy Lands Program administers the Conservation Futures funding program and collaborates with partners across the county to identify, protect and restore significant open spaces and conservation habitat lands. Inventory and assessment

of county conservation and open space lands are not part of this PROS Plan's level of service assessment. While there are no adopted standards for acreage of open space lands, the county and others have proactively sought to identify and protect the most important sites. The adopted 2014 Conservation Area Acquisition Plan identifies future projects that are endorsed by this PROS Plan by reference and in the capital facilities plan component.

Current Level of Service

Since 2006, the urban unincorporated area has witnessed a significant increase in urban parkland acreage and development. The establishment of the Greater Clark Parks District (GCPD) with its property tax levy that provides operation and maintenance funding has supported the provision of 25 new neighborhood parks, three community parks and numerous sports fields, including the Luke Jensen Sports Park. Close to 300 acres of land was established or developed as public parkland or improved recreational fields between 2006 and 2014.

It should be noted that the urban unincorporated area and its associated PIF District boundaries go beyond the boundaries of the GCPD. The GCPD was established with static boundaries that do not automatically adjust with annexation or growth area expansion.

The current level of service was calculated using the population figures for each park impact fee (PIF) district for the urban unincorporated (UUA). The combined districts (including those portions of Districts 5 & 7 within the city) contain over 1,014 acres of neighborhood and community parks and urban natural areas. The level of service assessment compares the adopted service standard for the different park classifications to the actual inventory of existing acreage and developed lands as a measure of performance.

Neighborhood Parks

The Clark County park system continues to strive toward an acquisition standard for neighborhood parks at 2 acres/1,000 persons for both the park land base and developed acreage. In the UUA, the land base currently acquired for neighborhood parks (Districts 5-10) is 194.6 acres with 125.7 acres in developed neighborhood parks. This level of service (LOS) assessment for Districts 5 and 7 covers only the county portion of park inventory and its related district population. The combined current LOS for neighborhood park acreage in the UUA is 1.34 acres/1,000 persons, performing at 67.2% of the adopted acquisition standard of 2 acres/1,000 persons. The performance to standard for developed neighborhood parks is lower at 0.86 acres/1,000 persons, reaching only 42.9% of the targeted park development. Both the land base and developed areas fall below the historic NRPA guideline of 2 acres/1,000 for neighborhood parks.

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Figure 9. Current Level of Service for Neighborhood Parks

PIF Districts	Population (2014)	LOS (Acquisition)	LOS (Development)
Neighborhood Park Standard		*2 ac./1000*	*2 ac./1000*
Park District #5 (*County portion*)	31,094	1.57 ac./1000	0.94 ac./1000
Park District #6	20,667	1.02 ac./1000	0.62 ac./1000
Park District #7 (*County portion*)	19,928	1.28 ac./1000	0.75 ac./1000
Park District #8	24,132	1.55 ac./1000	1.40 ac./1000
Park District #9	28,530	1.23 ac./1000	0.81 ac./1000
Park District #10	18,903	1.42 ac./1000	0.63 ac./1000
TOTAL	**143,254**	**1.34 ac./1000**	**0.86 ac./1000**
Performance to Acquisition Standard		**67.2%**	
Performance to Development Standard			**42.9%**

Community Parks

Clark County community park standards are targeted to contain 3 acres/1,000 persons for an acquired land base with 2.25 acres/1,000 persons for developed community parks. The community park land base acreage is currently 335.2 acres with 150.0 developed acres within PIF Districts 5-10. Within the urban unincorporated area, the current performance to standard for the acquisition acreage is 2.3 acres/1,000 equal to 76.6% of the preferred service standard. Developed acreage of community parks has reached only 1.01 acres/1,000, performing at 44.7% of the targeted park development standard.

Figure 10. Current Level of Service for Community Parks

PIF Districts	Population (2014)	LOS (Acquisition)	LOS (Development)
Community Park Standard		*3 ac./1000*	*2.25 ac./1000*
Park District #5 (*County portion*)	31,094	1.70 ac./1000	1.19 ac./1000
Park District #6	20,667	4.04 ac./1000	0.80 ac./1000
Park District #7 (*County portion*)	19,928	0.51 ac./1000	0.00 ac./1000
Park District #8	24,132	2.50 ac./1000	0.83 ac./1000
Park District #9	28,530	3.44 ac./1000	1.62 ac./1000
Park District #10	18,903	1.60 ac./1000	1.60 ac./1000
TOTAL	**143,254**	**2.30 ac./1000**	**1.01 ac./1000**
Performance to Acquisition Standard		**76.6%**	
Performance to Development Standard			**44.7%**

Urban Natural Areas

The acquisition standard for urban natural areas targets 1 acre/1,000 persons inside the urban unincorporated area. The inventory of natural areas exceeds the current total level of service at 1.69 acres/1,000 or 169% when combined across all six PIF Districts (#5-10). However, based on current inventory of urban natural areas, Districts 6, 7 and 9 do not meet the targeted level of service with 0.0 acres/1,000; 0.31 acres/1,000; and 0.78 acres/1,000, respectively. In determining the need for

additional urban natural areas, some consideration should be given to the proximity of regional natural areas and greenways within the urban area. While the inventory may define those lands as meeting regional needs, their value may contribute to the perception of open space within PIF Districts. The inventory identifies most urban natural areas as smaller more isolated lands when compared with regional natural areas that comprise greenways, riparian systems and other larger landscapes.

At the current 2014 population, the adopted standards would target 143.3 acres of urban natural area. Although the distribution of natural areas across the urban unincorporated area is not equal, the current inventory is 236.4 acres, exceeding the level of service standard by 93 acres.

Figure 11. Current Level of Service and Acreage Assessment for Urban Natural Areas

PIF Districts	Population (2014)	LOS (Acquisition)	Current Demand (ac.)	Surplus / (Deficit)
Urban Natural Area Standard		*1 ac./1000*		
Park District #5 (County portion)	31,094	2.57 ac./1000	31.09	48.91
Park District #6	20,667	0.00 ac./1000	20.67	(20.67)
Park District #7 (County portion)	19,928	0.31 ac./1000	19.93	(13.71)
Park District #8	24,132	1.05 ac./1000	24.13	1.17
Park District#9	28,530	0.78 ac./1000	28.53	(6.31)
Park District #10	18,903	5.43 ac./1000	18.90	83.75
TOTAL	**143,254**	**1.69 ac./1000**	**143.25**	**93.14**
Performance to Acquisition Standard		**169.0%**		

Regional Parks

Regional parks serve the entire population of Clark County with a target level of service of 10 acres/1,000 residents. County-operated regional parks currently total 2,603.4 acres. The 2014 level of service for county-operated regional parks is 5.98 acres/1,000 for the total park land acreage and 0.83 acres/1,000 for developed park land. This regional park acreage reaches 60% of the adopted standard for regional parks and a 46% level for developed areas within regional parks for the current population.

Figure 12. Current Level of Service for Regional Parks

Regional Park Level of Service	2014
Population (1,000s)	435.5
Parkland Acreage	2,603.5
Adopted Acquisition Standard (ac/1,000)	10
Current Level of Service (ac / 1,000)	5.98
Performance to Acquisition Standard	**59.8%**
Developed Area Acreage	361.1
Developed Area Average (18%)	1.8
Current Level of Service (ac / 1,000)	0.83
Performance to Development Standard	**46.1%**

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Future Parkland Demand

Land Acreage Standards

Quantified standards that are determined by inventory, population and service standards comprise an important consideration in the determination of demand and need for land and developed facilities in a park system. These quantified values are directly tied to the park impact fee program and serve to support the imposition of impact fees on new residential development that directly affect the level of service of the urban park system. The current inventory is compared to the targeted standard for each PIF District and each park classification (neighborhood, community and natural area). The surplus or gap between existing and desired park land and developed acreages then identifies the quantifiable need for park acquisition or development. Population estimates for projected growth are also considered for projecting future demands for parkland and developed park facilities. The estimated 2020 and 2035 populations were provided by Clark County GIS based on VBLM (vacant building lands model) yields adjusted to the 2016 Clark County Growth Management Plan Vancouver UGA growth allocation.

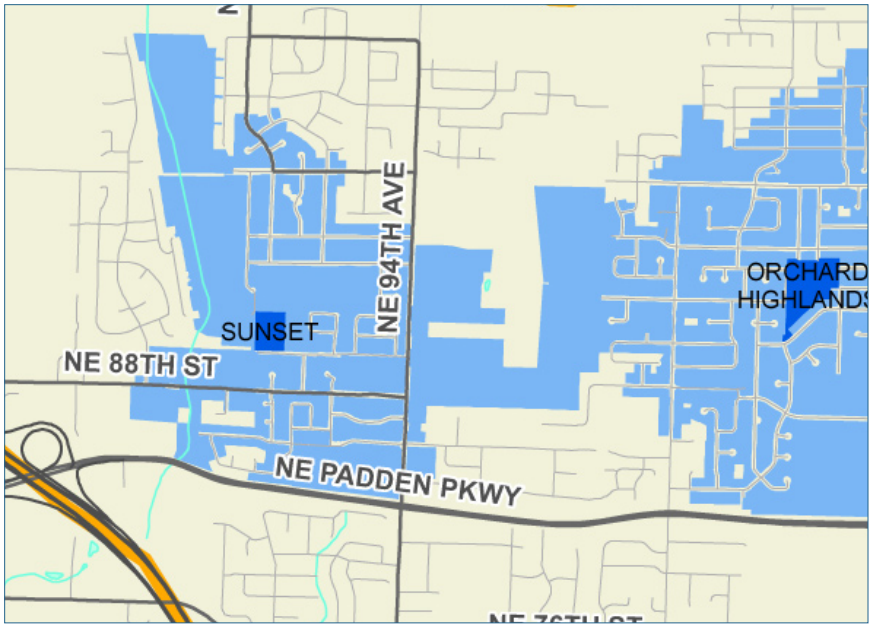
Figure 13. Clark County & Park District Population Estimates

PIF District	Jurisdiction	2020	2035
5	Vancouver	32,217	33,850
	Unincorporated UGA	33,157	39,913
6	Unincorporated UGA	21,673	25,196
	Rural	107	107
7	Vancouver	25,769	26,558
	Unincorporated UGA	20,654	22,850
8	Vancouver	6	60
	Unincorporated UGA	26,005	32,262
9	Vancouver	119	127
	Unincorporated UGA	29,581	33,071
10	Unincorporated UGA	21,244	29,947
	Vancouver & UGA Total	**327,661**	**365,743**
	Unincorporated UGA Total	**152,314**	**183,239**
	Clark County Total	**477,884**	**562,207**

Geographic Distribution Equity

The geographic distribution of existing urban parks reflects a performance standard of access and equity to the residents of the urban unincorporated area. With a community goal to connect people to parks with safe and reasonable park land distribution, urban parks (either neighborhood or community) should be within a ½-mile of all residents. Neighborhood parks are classified as "walk-to" parks and do not provide for off-street parking. A reasonable measure of walking distance used as a national guideline is ¼ - ½ mile between destinations or a 10-15 minute walk. In an ideal environment, this walking distance would be covered through an infrastructure of sidewalks and trails in a safe pedestrian situation. Mapping the geographic distribution of existing parks and their "walk-shed" or walking distance of ½-mile helps identify the geographic service area gaps in the urban park system. Locations for future park land acquisition opportunities should be targeted strategically within those identified gaps.

Figure 14. Sample ½-mile walking distance map



Neighborhood Parks

Acquisition and development need is measured by taking the service standard and calculating the necessary park acres to meet that standard for the existing population. The difference between existing acreage and the service standard then determines the gap between current parks and targeted park system goals. The quantity of needed neighborhood park acres to meet targeted goals for each district is shown in Figure 15.

Figure 15. Existing (2014) Demand for Neighborhood Parks

PIF Districts	Existing Demand (ac.)	Surplus / (Deficit)
Park District #5	62.2	(13.4)
Park District #6	41.3	(20.3)
Park District #7	39.9	(14.4)
Park District #8	48.3	(10.8)
Park District #9	57.1	(22.0)
Park District #10	37.8	(10.9)
TOTAL	**286.5**	**(91.9)**

The standard of 2 acres/1,000 persons for neighborhood parks is the same for both the targeted acreage of park land and developed park areas. Across all six PIF Districts that contain county-owned urban parks, the current need for additional neighborhood park acreage is 91.9 acres. Since 125.7 acres of existing neighborhood parks are developed out of an inventory of 194.6 acres, more development (68.9 acres) is also needed for the standard of neighborhood parks to be met across all PIF Districts in the UUA.

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As the urban population grows in the UUA, more neighborhood park land will be needed to meet the demand for recreational facilities and open space for residents and to attain the adopted standards for the park system. Figure 18 displays the future demand for neighborhood parks for the projected population growth for the years 2020 and 2035.

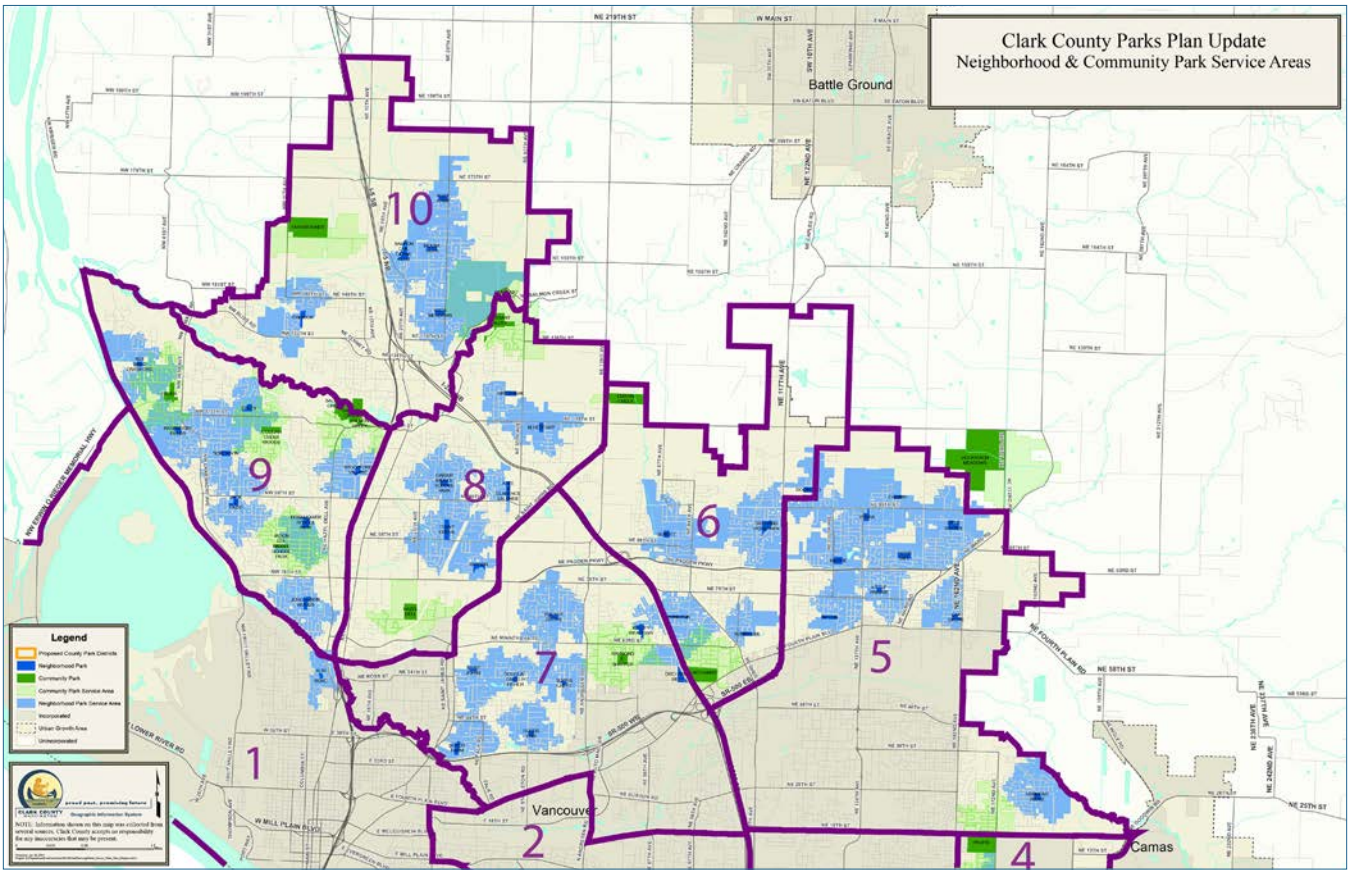
Figure 16. Projected Demand for Neighborhood Parks

	2020			2035		
PIF Districts	Population (2020)	Existing Demand (ac.)	Surplus / (Deficit)	Population (2035)	Existing Demand (ac.)	Surplus / (Deficit)
Park District #5	33,157	66.3	(17.5)	39,913	79.8	(31.0)
Park District #6	21,673	43.3	(22.4)	25,196	50.4	(29.4)
Park District #7	20,654	41.3	(15.9)	22,850	45.7	(20.3)
Park District #8	26,005	52.0	(14.5)	32,262	64.5	(27.0)
Park District #9	29,581	59.2	(24.1)	33,071	66.1	(31.1)
Park District #10	21,244	42.5	(15.6)	29,947	59.9	(33.0)
TOTAL	**152,314**	**304.6**	**(110.0)**	**183,239**	**366.5**	**(171.8)**

The distribution of parks within the urban area has a direct influence on the accessibility of park facilities to residents. An on-going goal to have a park or trail within a ½-mile walk of every home in the urban unincorporated area intends to provide an equitable geographic distribution of outdoor recreation and open space to the urban population. Using geographic information system (GIS) mapping to display walking distances from existing parks, a gap assessment can illustrate where to target future park land acquisitions. These illustrated gaps can be combined with the need for additional park acreage to meet the demand for future park land acquisitions.

Neighborhood parks, as local 'walk-to' parks, are intended to provide park amenities to homes within ½-mile. Community parks typically provide parking and restrooms facilities as well as more recreational amenities. The community park service area range is within a 3-mile distance. It should be recognized that community parks provide the same "walk-to" value as neighborhood parks and thus contribute to the system of ½-mile service areas as well. The map of walking distances in Figure 17 demonstrates the current gaps in service areas for the UUA park system. An equitable distribution of parks for the urban area would cover the UUA with the blue "walkshed" representing park facilities within walking distance of all urban residents.

Figure 17. ½-mile Walking Distance from Neighborhood & Community Parks in the UUA



Community Parks

Community parks can provide a greater variety of recreational activities, amenities and open space value in the urban area compared to smaller neighborhood parks due to their size and ability to contain more park features. The standard for acquisition of community park lands is 3 acres/1,000 persons. The development standard is slightly lower (2.25 acres/1,000 persons) recognizing that community parks with undeveloped areas of open space or sensitive environmental resources also provide valued benefits to urban parks. Each of the PIF Districts have different existing levels of service, with District 6 and 9 currently meeting the acquisition acreage standard. The other park districts have a deficit in community park land acreage. To meet the standard for community parks in the urban unincorporated area, acquisition of 94.6 acres is needed. None of the PIF Districts meet the developed acreage standard, and there exists a combined current need of 172.4 acres for community park development.

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Figure 18. Existing (2014) Demand for Community Parks

PIF Districts	Existing Demand (ac.)	Surplus / (Deficit)
Park District #5	(40.3)	(33.0)
Park District #6	21.5	(30.0)
Park District #7	(49.7)	(44.8)
Park District #8	(12.1)	(34.3)
Park District #9	12.5	(17.9)
Park District #10	(26.5)	(12.4)
TOTAL	**(94.6)**	**(172.4)**

As the population grows to its estimated 2020 level, the need for community park acreage across the urban unincorporated area will increase to 121.8 acres with a need for 176.7 acres of developed community parks. By the estimated 2035 population increase, the needs for more park land to support the standards for the community park system will have increased to 214.5 acres for addition acreage and 246.3 acres of needed developed community parks.

Figure 19. Projected Demand for Community Parks

	2020			2035		
PIF Districts	Population (2020)	Existing Demand (ac.)	Surplus / (Deficit)	Population (2035)	Existing Demand (ac.)	Surplus / (Deficit)
Park District #5	33,157	(46.5)	(21.6)	39,913	(66.8)	(36.8)
Park District #6	21,673	18.5	(32.2)	25,196	7.9	(40.2)
Park District #7	20,654	(51.9)	(46.5)	22,850	(58.5)	(51.4)
Park District #8	26,005	(17.7)	(38.5)	32,262	(36.4)	(52.6)
Park District #9	29,581	9.4	(20.3)	33,071	(1.1)	(28.1)
Park District #10	21,244	(33.6)	(17.6)	29,947	(59.7)	(37.2)
TOTAL	**152,314**	**(121.8)**	**(176.7)**	**183,239**	**(214.5)**	**(246.3)**

As illustrated in Figure 17, numerous gaps exist across the county's system of urban parks when mapping the ½-mile walking distances of neighborhood and community parks. While community parks are targeted to have a service area with a 3-mile radius, actual distribution of future community parks will realistically be determined by the availability of suitable parcels of land that can accommodate the development of community park facilities. Gaps in the equitable distribution of urban parks should consider the existing locations of both neighborhood and community parks (combined as urban parks) to achieve the mission of access to parks for all urban residents.

Urban Natural Areas

Clark County is fortunate to have conserved significant open space along its river and stream corridors to protect important and sensitive natural habitats and endangered species. As a result, the current standards for acquiring urban natural areas have been met for three of the six PIF Districts in the urban unincorporated area. District 5 and 10 currently exceed the standard with 2.57 acres/1,000 and 5.43 acres/1,000, respectively. District 6 currently contains no designated urban natural areas.

Although the existing urban natural areas exceed the acquisition standard across the UUA, as the population grows that "surplus" acreage will diminish. The need for additional urban natural areas within four of the six districts will continue to increase.

Figure 20. Projected Demand for Urban Natural Areas

	2020		2030	
PIF Districts	Population (2020)	Surplus / (Deficit)	Population (2035)	Surplus / (Deficit)
Park District #5	33,157	46.8	39,913	40.1
Park District #6	21,673	(21.7)	25,196	(25.2)
Park District #7	20,654	(14.4)	22,850	(16.6)
Park District #8	26,005	(0.7)	32,262	(7.0)
Park District #9	29,581	(7.4)	33,071	(10.9)
Park District #10	21,244	81.4	29,947	72.7
TOTAL	**152,314**	**84.1**	**183,239**	**53.2**

Regional Parks

As the projected population grows, the level of service (60% in 2014) will decrease to 53% in 2020 and 46% by 2035 based on population estimates and assuming no additional regional park acreage has been acquired. The regional park acreage need to reach the 10 acres/1,000 persons target standard would require the acquisition of an additional 1,751.6 acres, with 422.9 acres as developed areas within regional parks. If the regional park system includes the other providers of similar regional park facilities (state and national park lands accessible to the public), the existing parkland acreage is increased to 3,208.5 and the need for more acquired land to meet the performance standard is 1,146.6 acres with needed developed areas targeting 272.9 additional acres.

Figure 21. Existing Demand for Regional Parks by County and Other Providers

			Current (2014) Demand	
Facility Type	Existing Total Acreage	Developed Acreage	Acquisition Surplus / (Deficit)	Development Surplus / (Deficit)
County-only Regional Parks	2603.5	361.1	(1751.6)	(422.9)
County, State and National Park:	3208.5	511.1	(1146.6)	(272.9)

As the projected population increases, the need for additional regional park lands will increase to 2,304.2 acres for the 2020 population estimate. Including the national and state parks as other providers to meet the performance standard for 2020, the need for additional acquisition is 1,699.2 acres and for developed areas is 372.3 acres.

As the projected population increases, the need for additional regional park lands will increase to 3,018.6 acres for the 2035 population estimate. With the national and state parks included with regional park system providers to meet the performance standard for 2035, the need for additional acquisition is 2,413.6 acres and for developed areas is 500.9 acres.

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Figure 22. Projected Demand (2020 & 2035) for Regional Parks

Facility Type	Existing Total Acreage	Developed Acreage	2020 Demand		2035 Demand	
			Acquisition Surplus / (Deficit)	Development Surplus / (Deficit)	Acquisition Surplus / (Deficit)	Development Surplus / (Deficit)
County-only Regional Parks	2603.5	361.1	(2304.2)	(522.3)	(3018.6)	(650.9)
County, State & National Parks	3208.5	511.1	(1699.2)	(372.3)	(2413.6)	(500.9)

The deficit in regional park acreage represents a seemingly overwhelming shortfall for the county's regional park system toward reaching the standard to provide 10 acres/ 1,000 residents. However, future parkland plans should be highlighted to understand the possible attainment of the regional park standard.

Camp Bonneville, a former military training camp, is currently undergoing a clean-up process to remove munitions of explosive concern and other contamination across a targeted portion of the 3,840-acre property. In 2006, Clark County accepted transfer of the property from the U.S. Army that had closed the training site in 1995. Clark County is working with the federal government to clean up the site so it ultimately can be used by the public. A primary focus is the site's central valley, where the Camp Bonneville re-use plan proposes the future public park activities. The entire property is largely undeveloped; more than half of its six square miles is forested. Given that not all of the Camp Bonneville property will be reconditioned for public use (the higher level target zone will remain fenced off from any public access), the entire property should not be considered as future regional park acreage. However, a significant part of the site can contribute to meeting the regional park acreage standard for the county once it's available for public use and contains at least the first phase of developed outdoor recreation amenities. The Camp Bonneville Reuse Plan, revised in November 2005, states that the western portion of the Camp Bonneville property is recommended to be repurposed as a regional park of approximately 1,000 acres, including group shelters and picnic areas; amphitheater and stage for outdoor venues; a shared path trail system for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians; archery practice range; public firing range; RV camping facility; tent camping facility, restrooms, parking, water features for wildlife viewing and open fields for general play. The reuse plan also proposes an outdoor school or rustic retreat center in the primary barracks area that could contribute to the regional park programming opportunities in the future. Approximately 2,000 acres will be maintained for trails and nature areas in the central and eastern portion of the Camp Bonneville property. This additional public access can increase the regional park acreage since the classification for county regional park recognizes that often only 18% of a regional park is typically developed for more active outdoor recreational use.

In addition to the future inclusion of Camp Bonneville in the regional park system, the county Legacy Lands program continues to target regional greenways and significant conservation lands that will provide both ecological value as conserved sites as well as enhance public outdoor recreation amenities. The continued acquisition of the East Fork Lewis River Greenway (EFLR) and eventual connection of the regional EFLR Greenway Trail will add regional park acreage and close the gap on trail linkages as well as provide needed regional park acreage.

Summary of Park System Needs

Across the six PIF Districts containing county parks in the urban unincorporated area, the park system has a varied level of service based on existing inventory and current population. While the park system has grown significantly since 2006 and now contains over 529 acres of neighborhood and community parks, the acquisition and development of parks has not been able to catch up to the growing population to meet the park system's targeted service standards. The need for neighborhood (91.9 acres) and community (94.6 acres) park lands combine to target the acquisition of an additional 185.2 acres of urban parks across the UUA. The combined resources of the PIF (park impact fee) program and the GCPD (Greater Clark Parks District) maintenance levy funding have provided a critical boost to the development of the urban park system. However, this assessment has indicated the demands and needs for park and recreation facilities in the urban area will continue to grow and outpace park system development without additional investment.

The regional park system has reached 6 acres/1,000 population resulting in a 60% performance level. Developed areas within regional parks have reached only 46% of the targeted standard (18% of park land) for acreage of development. The regional park system would require the acquisition of an additional 1,751.6 acres to reach the LOS standard for the current population. If other regional park providers (state & federal) are included in the level of service inventory, the acquisition need targets an additional 1,146.6 acres. As Clark County grows, the estimated 2020 and 2035 populations will expand the gap in the level of service for the park system and increase the demand and need for more park land and developed facilities.

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SPORTS & RECREATION 5

SPORTS & RECREATION

Classification

Special Use Areas & Facilities

Special use areas are stand-alone facilities such as sports complexes, boat launches, rifle ranges or golf courses that provide space for a specialized activity. Since special use areas vary widely in function, there is no minimum size, but special use areas must be large enough to accommodate the intended use. Support facilities, such as parking and restrooms, are often included.

Sports Field & Recreation Facility Assessment

An assessment was conducted to determine the current inventory, use and demand for the county's urban and regional park system for the provision of sports fields and other specialized recreational facilities to project potential needs for future acquisition and development for 6- and 20-year capital facility planning.

The county provides regional parks, special facilities, regional trails, greenways and natural areas throughout the Clark County and neighborhood and community parks and sports fields in or proximate to the Vancouver urban unincorporated area. Vancouver and the other cities within the county are responsible for provision of parks and recreation facilities within their boundaries. Previous park comprehensive plans have reflected the combined inventory of the county and the city of Vancouver. This update reflects only county-owned sports fields and partnerships with private or school district partnerships for providing sports fields and other public-use recreational facilities.

In 2004, E.D. Hovee & Company conducted a game field needs analysis for youth sports fields (little league and soccer) in the area within the Vancouver Urban Growth Area (including Vancouver). The study did not include other cities or the rural unincorporated areas of Clark County. The Hovee study identified current and projected build-out population by league and sport; calculated long-term youth sports participation by league and sport; projected future participation by league and sport; and summarized their results.

At that time, there were sufficient youth soccer fields in the urban area to meet that specific recreational need. Long-term, however, the seven identified youth soccer leagues require 21 more fields to support anticipated residential growth. Since the Hovee study, the Greater Clark Parks District development program added nine additional soccer fields to the county-related infrastructure of recreational fields. Among the eight little league associations that were operating within the VUGA, the study projected a future need for 23 more fields to support the anticipated long-term residential growth. During the GCPD program (from 2006-2011) seven more ball fields were added to the inventory at Luke Jensen Sports Complex and Hockinson Meadows Park.

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In the 2007 VCPRD comprehensive park recreation and open space plan, the inventory of sports fields was counted across all providers. Those recreation providers including the city of Vancouver, school districts, and private entities supplied a total of 106 baseball and softball fields for dedicated league use within the urban areas of Vancouver. The City of Vancouver and school districts owned and operated the greatest portion of these fields, with private providers supplying the majority of the remaining fields in the inventory. In the more rural areas of Clark County, a number of providers supply baseball, softball and soccer fields for league use. These providers include Clark County Parks, local school districts, private agencies, and the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Washougal, Yacolt and Woodland. The tally in 2007 indicated that these agencies supplied a total of 59 baseball and softball fields for league use in the areas of Clark County outside the VUGA. These facilities are generally available to residents of Vancouver and Clark County.

Figure 23. Existing Sport Field Facilities (from 2007 VCPRD Plan)

Facility Type & Region	VCPRD	Other Agencies*	Total
Baseball / Softball Fields	**36**	**129**	**165**
Urban (inside Vancouver UGA)	35	71	106
Rural (unincorporated county)	1	58	59
Soccer Fields	**17**	**211**	**228**
Urban (inside Vancouver UGA)	17	122	139
Rural (unincorporated county)	0	89	89

**includes local school districts, private providers, and other municipalities in Clark County.*

In 2007, recreation providers including the city of Vancouver, local school districts, and private agencies supplied a total of 139 soccer fields for dedicated league use within the Vancouver urban area. The majority of these fields are the property of local schools. Private providers and the city supply a modest number of additional fields. Various agencies, including school districts and other cities, also provided soccer fields for league use in the rural areas of Clark County. These agencies supplied a combined 89 soccer fields for league use in the areas of Clark County outside the UGA.

Since the previous 2007 comprehensive parks plan, the urban unincorporated area has experienced significant recreation facility development. The establishment of the Greater Clark Parks District has supported the development of numerous sports fields, including the Luke Jensen Sports Complex, sports fields at Hockinson Meadows Park and Alki Middle School, mini-soccer fields at All Saints Episcopal Church and sports field(s) at Amboy Baptist Church.

Inventory

The current inventory of county-owned, managed or operated sports field facilities is listed in Figure 24. The county provides 44 fields through its parkland inventory with supporting infrastructure to accommodate practice, games and related activities to ensure safe and enjoyable youth and adult team sports. Programming for teams and league play is managed by different associations or leagues each with their own boundary and operations. The county typically provides the infrastructure and varying levels of maintenance depending on the facility and the terms of league use agreements.

Figure 24. County-owned Sport Fields

Field Location	Turf Type	Field Type							
		Adult Baseball	Youth Baseball	Youth Softball	Adult Softball	Adult Soccer	Youth Soccer	Football	Multi-Use
Felida Park North	Grass						X		
Felida Park West	Grass						X		
Felida Park U10	Grass						X		
Harmony Sports Complex #1	Grass						X		
Harmony Sports Complex #2	Grass						X		
Harmony Sports Complex #3	Grass						X		
Harmony Sports Complex #4	Grass						X		
Harmony Sports Complex #5	Grass						X		
Harmony Sports Complex #6	Grass						X		
Harmony Sports Complex #7	Grass						X		
Harmony Sports Complex #8	Grass						X		
Harmony Sports Complex #9	Grass						X		
Harmony Sports Complex #CL1	Grass	X							
Harmony Sports Complex #CL2	Grass		X						
Harmony Sports Complex #CL3	Grass		X						
Harmony Sports Complex #CL4	Grass				X				
Harmony Sports Complex #CL5	Grass				X				
Harmony Sports Complex #CL6	Grass		X						
Harmony Sports Complex #CL7	Grass		X						
Harmony Sports Complex #CL8	Grass		X						
Harmony Sports Complex #CL9	Grass				X				
Hockinson Community Park #1	Grass	X							
Hockinson Community Park #2	Grass		X						
Hockinson Community Park #3	Grass				X				
Hockinson Community Park #4	Grass				X				
Hockinson Community Park #5	Grass		X						
Hockinson Community Park #6	Grass		X						
Hockinson Community Park #7	Grass						X		
Hockinson Community Park #8	Grass						X		
Hockinson Community Park #9	Grass						X		
Hockinson Community Park #10	Grass						X		
Lewisville Park #1	Grass	X							
Luke Jensen Sports Park #1	Artificial								X
Luke Jensen Sports Park #2	Grass		X						
Luke Jensen Sports Park #3	Grass		X						
Luke Jensen Sports Park #4	Artificial								X
Luke Jensen Sports Park #5	Artificial								X
Pacific Community Park	Grass								X
Salmon Creek Park #1	Grass				X				
Salmon Creek Park #2	Grass				X				
Salmon Creek Park #3	Grass				X				
Salmon Creek Park #4	Grass				X				
Salmon Creek Park #5	Grass				X				
Salmon Creek Park #6	Grass				X				
TOTAL COUNTY FIELDS		**3**	**10**	**0**	**11**	**0**	**16**	**0**	**4**

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Figure 25 lists those privately owned facilities that have been partially or fully funded by Clark County. These eleven additional sports fields are primarily dedicated to youth leagues for playing baseball, softball and soccer. Three of these fields (one baseball and two softball) provide for adult games as well.

Figure 25. Other Sport Fields

Field Location	Ownership	Turf Type	Field Type							
			Adult Baseball	Youth Baseball	Youth Softball	Adult Softball	Adult Soccer	Youth Soccer	Football	Multi-Use
Amboy Baptist Church	A.B.C.	Grass		X				X		
All Saints Episcopal Church Field	A.S.E.C	Grass								
HB Fuller Park #1	Private	Grass	X							
HB Fuller Park #2	Private	Grass		X						
HB Fuller Park #3	Private	Grass		X						
HB Fuller Park #4	Private	Grass			X					
HB Fuller Park #5	Private	Grass			X					
HB Fuller Park #6	Private	Grass						X		
HB Fuller Park #7	Private	Grass						X		
HB Fuller Park #8	Private	Grass						X		
HB Fuller Park #9	Private	Grass						X		
TOTAL PARTNERS' FIELDS	**11**		**1**	**3**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**0**
TOTAL PROGRAMMABLE FIELDS	**55**		**4**	**13**	**2**	**11**	**0**	**21**	**0**	**4**

Additional facilities are provided by the cities, school districts and private groups within Clark County. A comprehensive inventory of all sports fields supplied by all providers in the county has not been actively updated as part of this assessment.

Sport Field Demand

Community demand guides the establishment of need for future recreational amenities within the Clark County parks system. Sports participation numbers and the rate of field use have more direct influence in determining the need for additional facilities and facility improvements. The county does not have an adopted standard for the provision of sports fields and other recreational facilities in its system. As a comparison, the historic National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recreation facility standards can be used as a benchmark for communities for planning facility needs based on local populations and projected population growth. These NRPA guidelines are outlined below.

Figure 26. Historic NRPA field guidelines

Activity	Standard (per population)
Baseball (youth)*	1 field / 6,000
Softball (youth)	1 field / 5,000
Soccer	1 field / 4,000
Basketball (outdoor)	1 court / 2,000
Tennis court	1 court / 2,000
Other (football, etc.)	1 field / 10,000

Using the 2014 population of the Vancouver unincorporated urban area of 143,254 residents, the need for the number of sports fields based on the historic NRPA guidelines are outlined in the Figure 27. The table also depicts the county-provided or assisted fields and how much those fields contribute to the overall need for sports fields if the NRPA standard is used as a guideline. While school districts and private facilities also provide substantial fields for team sports use, this assessment focuses solely on the county-provided infrastructure for recreation facilities. Although the historic NRPA standard is no longer actively used by park agencies, it serves as a benchmark for comparison and allows an assessment of the portion of fields being provided by the county to contribute to the overall demand and need for recreational sports field programming. Within the urban unincorporated area, county parks contributes a significant percentage of needed fields for youth sports. More than half of the fields needed to support youth soccer (36 fields) and youth baseball (24 fields) are within county-owned or county-supported parks and special facilities.

Figure 27. County-provided fields-contribution to NRPA standard

	Youth Soccer	Adult Baseball	Youth Baseball	Youth Softball	Adult Softball	Multi-Use
NRPA Standard	1/4,000	n/a	1/6,000	1/5,000	n/a	1/10,000
Clark County Fields	16	3	10	11	0	4
Clark County-assisted Fields	5	1	3	0	2	0
Total Clark County Inventory	21	4	13	11	2	4
Existing Field Demand	36	n/a	24	29	n/a	14
LOS Performance	59%	n/a	54%	38%	n/a	28%

Plans for two new sports fields at Pacific Community Park are underway for construction proposed in 2016, through private partnerships with Miracle League for an inclusive ball field and with a regional senior softball league. Harmony Sports Complex has been upgraded two turf soccer fields to all-weather play surfaces with completion planned for early summer 2015.

Other Specialized Recreation Facilities

Skate Parks

Skate parks have experienced a growing population of users since the 2007 VCPRD plan. The city of Vancouver provides the Waterworks skate park, an older skate park that may be decommissioned with the future expansion of the water utility facility on the same property. Battle Ground, Ridgefield, Washougal, Woodland and Yacolt have added skate parks to their recreation inventory. As part of the GCPD program, the county added a skate park at Pacific Park and numerous skate spots distributed among the newer neighborhood parks in the urban unincorporated area. A second phase of skate park amenities is proposed in the adopted master plan for Pacific Park and would provide a wider range of skate/bike experiences. There is no adopted standard for provision of skate park facilities, but observed use indicates continuing strong popularity of the recreational activity.

The existing inventory of Greater Clark Parks District skate spots includes the following:

- Harmony Ridge Parks, Clark County - GCPD
- Little Prairie Park, Clark County – GCPD

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- Oak Grove Park, Clark County – GCPD
- Tenny Creek Park, Clark County - GCPD

Off-Leash Areas (Dog Parks)

Formal, designated, off-leash areas are provided by the county at Pacific, Hockinson Meadows and Brush Prairie Parks. Additionally, Washougal and Bonneville Power (Ross station) in Vancouver have dog parks for public use. Some of these facilities are operated in partnership with the Dog Owners Group for Park Access in Washington (DOGPAW), a non-profit volunteer-based organization that provides the basic services for continuing care and management. The county manages the landscape while DOGPAW provides specialized dog-related maintenance, such as dog waste dispensers, trash receptacles, signage and some clean-up. The existing off-leash area in Washougal is planned for a new land-use development and will be eliminated unless another suitable site can be found.

While no adopted standard has been established for provision of dog parks or geographic distribution of off-leash areas within the urban area, the Board of County Commissioners did approve the planning approach for providing off-leash areas for dogs within the Vancouver urban area. The November 10, 2004 Board work session endorsed an approach for providing multiple, appropriately-sized sites (2-4 acres in size) through negotiations led by the parks and recreation department with off-leash area user groups (such as DOGPAW) partnering for the development, operation and maintenance of the off-leash areas. The planning approach aimed to target non-park lands to the extent possible by relying on BPA, Clark Public Utilities (CPU), and other public lands as appropriate.

County code mandates the use of leashes at all times except within designated off-leash areas. Informal off-leash dog uses have become a common occurrence within the county-owned properties of undeveloped GCPD neighborhood and community parkland and in the natural areas along the Salmon Creek Greenway and within regional parks. These unauthorized off-leash activities suggest the need for additional geographically-distributed off-leash areas within the Vancouver urban area.

Disc Golf

Opportunities for playing disc golf have been initiated since the last parks plan in 2007. The city of Vancouver added a disc golf course to Leverich Park through a partnership with Stumptown Disc Golf. Paradise Point State Park added a few disc golf holes near their shore launch area along the East Fork of the Lewis River. The master plan for Lower Daybreak Park (an extension of the existing Daybreak Regional Park) includes the accommodation of an 18-hole disc golf course, in partnership with a local disc golf club. Plans are underway for adding a disc golf course at Frenchman's Bar Regional Park.

Indoor Sports Field & Court Facilities

Several indoor facilities provide opportunities for year-round recreation (outside of community recreation centers, school gyms and pools). These facilities can help supplement the outdoor recreation needs for sports organizations during the winter months when weather may limit or prohibit outdoor field use.

Figure 28. Indoor Recreation Facilities

Facility Name	Type of Amenity	Ownership
Vancouver Tennis Center	9 Indoor tennis courts 4 outdoor tennis courts 3 racquetball courts	City of Vancouver
Clark County Indoor Sports Center	1 indoor field	Private
Salmon Creek Indoor Sports Center	2 indoor fields	Private

Boat Ramp & Shore Launch Facilities

A variety of providers offer access to rivers and lakes within Clark County. The inventory Figure 31 lists the public facilities available for boaters and paddlers. Additional shore launch opportunities can be accessed by carrying kayaks, canoes or paddleboards from parking lots to sandy shores in regional parks, such as Vancouver Lake and Frenchman's Bar.

Figure 29. Public launch sites for water craft

Site	Ownership	Improved Ramp	Shore Launch	Notes
Battle Ground Lake SP	State Parks	X		
Columbia River Renaissance Trail	NPS		X	Open to foot traffic only
Daybreak Park	County	X		
Francis Moorage	Camas	X		Heritage Park
Haapa Boat Launch	County	X		
Lacamas Park	County		X	Car-top launch
Landerholm Boat Launch	WDFW	X		
Lewisville Park	County		X	
Marine Park	Vancouver	X		
Paradise Point State Park	State Parks		X	
Parker's Landing	Washougal	X		Marina Park
Sandy Swimming Hole	Washougal	X		
South Vancouver Lake	WDFW	X		
Steamboat Landing Park	Washougal	X		
Washougal River Greenway	Washougal	X		Hathaway Park

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Indoor Community Recreation Facility

In the previous 2007 VCPRD comprehensive plan, the level of service was calculated for Vancouver and its urban growth area based on population and the level of service provided by the City of Vancouver's existing community centers. Since there is no existing standard or guideline for community centers, performance to standard cannot be measured. However, the analysis conducted for the 2007 plan recommended the addition of two facilities, one in the northwest portion of the urban unincorporated area (UUA) and one in the northeast based on geographic distribution. If Clark County considers the public need for a community recreation facility in the UUA as part of its role in providing public park and recreation services, an updated feasibility study should be conducted to determine the demand and capacity for an indoor recreation center.

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TRAILS 6

TRAILS

As part of this PROS Plan update, an assessment of the regional trail system under direction of the Parks Division was conducted to review current status and provide direction for reinforcing future needs. This trail assessment is not intended to replace the existing trail plans. The need for a connected regional trail system is still strong. The County Parks Division is determining its role in contributing to the implementation of regional trail connections for their recreation value, while recognizing the role of partnerships with active transportation value.

The trails of Clark County map shown at right illustrates the extent of existing public trails available for recreational and active transportation available throughout the county. While these trails support extensive use by residents and visitors, the overall network is fragmented and in need of considerable connections to close the gaps for enhanced value and function for Clark County residents and the contribution to associated economic effects of outdoor recreation.

Classifications

Trails & Greenways

The county completed a comprehensive Regional Trails and Bikeways System Plan (2006), which defines trails as any "path, route, way, right-of-way, or corridor posted, signed, or designated as open for non-motorized travel or passage by the general public." Five trail types are identified in the plan:

- Regional, multi-use trails, which provide the major access networks across the County
- Local trails, which provide access from neighborhoods to regional multi-use trails
- Rustic trails, which are smaller in scale than the local trails and are intended to provide access to natural features and loop trail opportunities
- Semi-primitive trails, which are intended for rural or forest settings
- Bike lanes and pedestrian walkways, which are located on City, County, and State road right-of-ways

Greenways are corridors that follow linear features such as streams, abandoned railroad rights-of-way, or power lines. Greenways often contain trails and may also include viewpoints, seating areas, and interpretive displays. Greenways provide public access to trail-oriented activities, including walking, biking, or running, and preserve open space. Greenways along streams can also help protect water and habitat quality.

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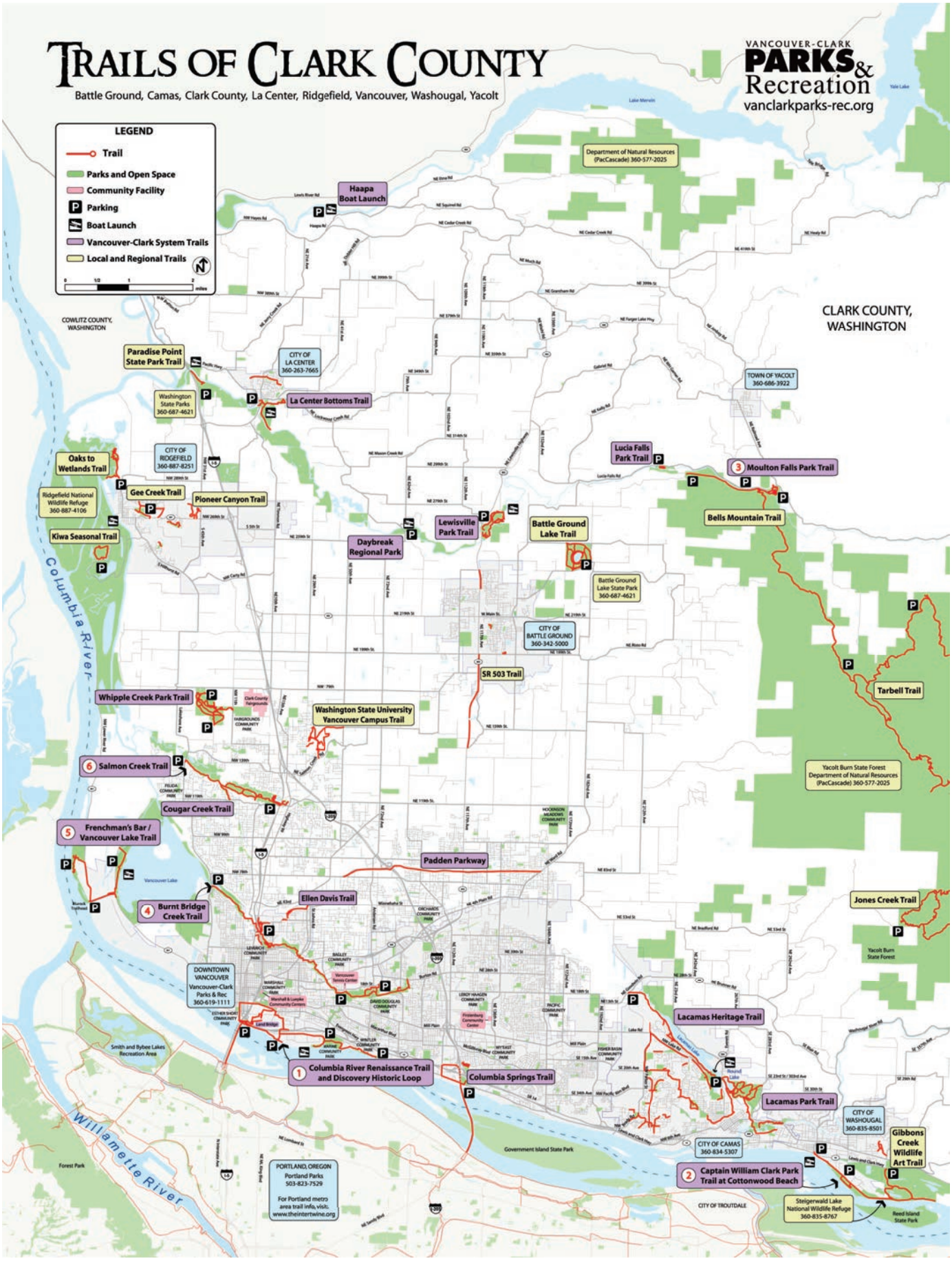
Figure 30. Trails of Clark County



Background

Trails in Clark County are part of the community-wide pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure that provides mobility and supports an active lifestyle for Clark County residents. Over the years, Clark County and its cities have demonstrated support for trails as an important community infrastructure by planning for trails through their adopted parks, recreation and open space plans and official trail systems plans. Review of the plans listed below provide the context and background for this PROS Plan update.

- Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan, 2006
- Vancouver-Clark Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan, 2007
- Greater Clark Parks District Local Trails Feasibility Study, 2008
- Bi-State Regional Trails Systems Plan, 2010
- Clark County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, 2010
- County Subarea Plans

Clark County's first trails plan was adopted in 1992. Since then, the county has recognized the need for connectivity and establishing a network of pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle trails that are both functional for mobility and provide recreational value. Trail planning and recommended projects have been identified in both the park/recreation capital facilities improvement plan and the transportation improvement program (TIP). Past trail plans have also sought to integrate a network of safe walking and bicycling pathways that connect to cities within the county and function as part of the greater Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region trail systems.

Existing Trail Plans

Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan

The 2006 Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan encompassed 16 regional trails (land-based) supporting a network of nearly 240 miles of regional trails and bikeways. The plan also added the Lower Columbia River Water Trail. Recognizing the importance of transportation alternatives as well as the value of outdoor recreation in contributing to the quality of life in Clark County the plan also provides opportunities for investment in trails as an economic catalyst making Clark County a great place to live and work.

The county-wide 2006 Regional Trails and Bikeways Systems Plan defines trails as "any path, route, right-of-way, or corridor posted, signed or designated as open for non-motorized travel or passage by the general public." The 2006 plan identified five trail types:

- Regional, multi-use trails that link local and regional destinations across communities;
- Local trails that connect neighborhoods to regional multi-use trails;
- Rustic trails that access nature areas and provide loop opportunities;
- Semi-primitive trails for rural and forest settings;
- Bike lanes and pedestrian walkways that are within public right-of-ways.

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The regional trails (proposed & existing) identified in the 2006 plan include:

- Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway
- Chelatchie Prairie Railroad
- Lake to Lake
- Salmon Creek Greenway
- Padden Parkway
- I-5 Corridor
- I-205 Corridor
- East Fork Lewis River Greenway
- Battle Ground/Fisher's Landing
- Washougal River Corridor
- North Fork Lewis River Greenway
- Whipple Creek Greenway
- North/South Powerline
- East Powerline
- Livingston Mountain Dole Valley
- Camp Bonneville
- Lower Columbia River Water Trail

In 2006, the existing regional trail system provided 46.2 miles of built shared pathways. Those miles of built trails are listed in Figure 31.

Figure 31. Existing Built Trails (2006)

Trail Name	Miles Planned	Miles Built
Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway	46.1	9.5
Chelatchie Prairie Railroad	34.2	2.7
Lake to Lake	22.3	11.4
Salmon Creek Greenway	24.9	3
Padden Parkway	10	9.7
Interstate 5 Corridor	22	1
Interstate 205 Corridor	13	2
East Fork Lewis River Greenway	28.4	4.1
Battle Ground/Fisher's Landing	16.1	2.8
TOTAL	**217**	**46.2**

Vancouver-Clark Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan

The 2007 Vancouver-Clark Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan reported the trail inventory as displayed in Figure 32.

Figure 32. VCPRD PROS Plan Regional Trail Inventory (2007)

Trail Name	Miles Planned	Miles Built
Battle Ground/Fisher's Landing	16.1	2.8
Camp Bonneville	12.1	0
Chelatchie Prairie Railroad	34.2	2.7
East Fork of the Lewis River Greenway	28.4	4.1
East Powerline	16.5	0
I-5 Corridor	22	1
I-205 Corridor	13	2
Lake to Lake	22.3	11.4
Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway	46.1	9.5
Livingston Mountain/Dole Valley	21	0
North/South Powerline	20.6	0
North Forth Lewis River	31.5	0
Padden Parkway	10	9.7
Salmon Creek Greenway	24.9	3.1
Washougal River	10.4	0
Whipple Creek Greenway	4.8	0
TOTAL	**333.9**	**46.3**

The slight discrepancy between the two above inventories regarding miles of built trail are likely due to a difference in measurement for the Salmon Creek Greenway Trail of one-tenth of a mile.

Greater Clark Parks District Local Trails

A feasibility study was conducted in 2008 to determine the proposed alignments for local trails within the metropolitan park district established in 2006 as the Greater Clark Parks District. As part of the park development program, seven miles of trail alignments were to be acquired with GCPD funding to help provide local trails within the urban area. Once alignments connected significant destinations, volunteer programs and organizations were assumed to be the resource for constructing the actual trails. The six GCPD trails identified in this local trail program are: Burnt Bridge Creek (#1); Cougar Creek (#2); Curtin Creek (#3); LaLonde Creek (#4); Salmon Creek (#5) and Whipple Creek (#6).

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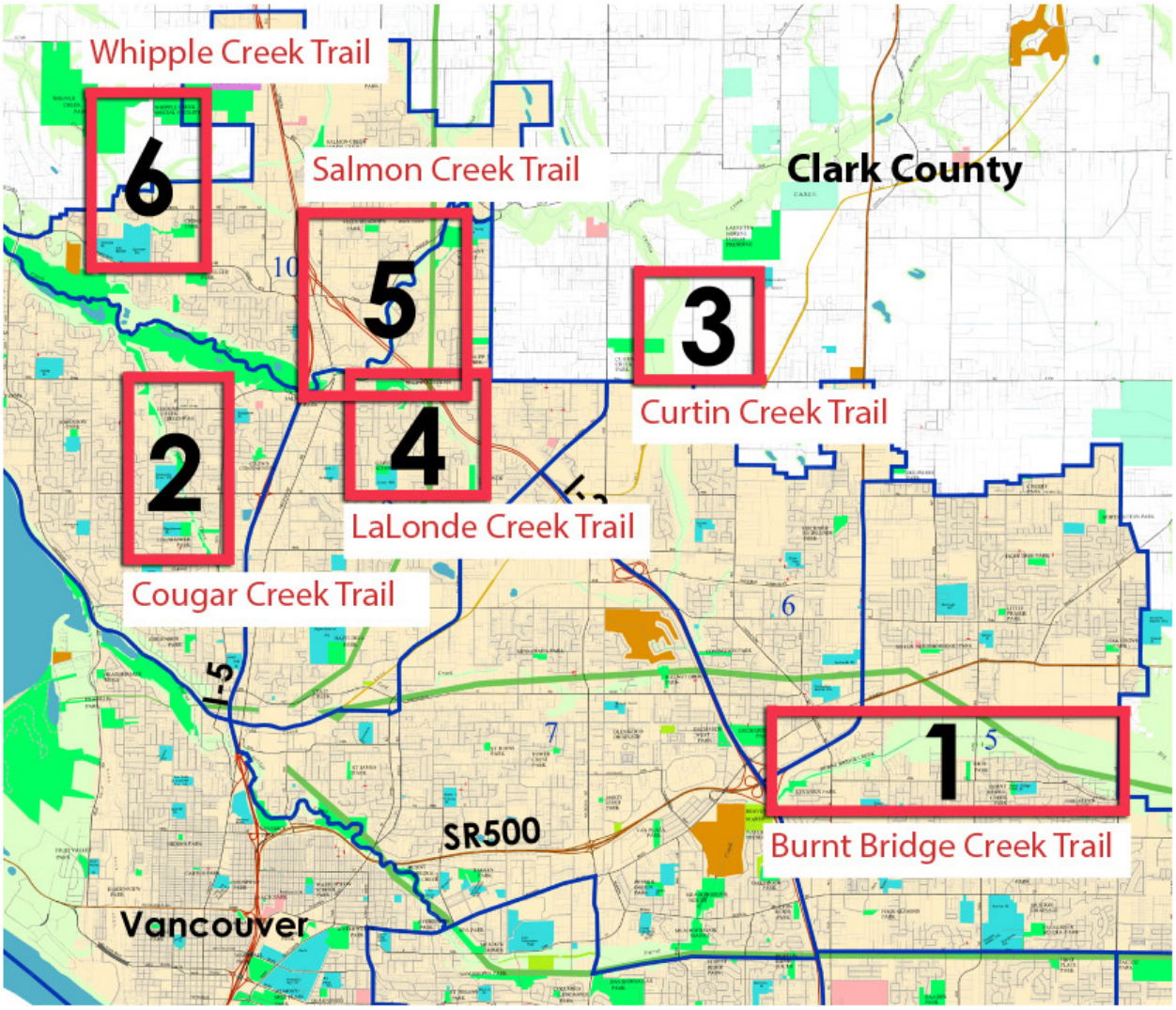
Figure 33. GCPD Local Trails



These local trails were not intended to replace sidewalks and regional trails or meet the design standards for regional trails rather the local trails allow for better connectivity within and through neighborhoods. In 2011, as a result of the economic recession, the trail alignment acquisition program was postponed.

Clark County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

The bicycle and pedestrian plan envisions an interconnected network of sidewalks, on-street bikeways, and off-street trails throughout the county. The plan identified top priority projects for the county to connect neighborhoods, schools, public facilities, business districts, and environmental features. In developing a more comprehensive bike and pedestrian system, the stated objective is to expand travel opportunities for transportation and recreation.

As part of the 2010 master plan, the community planning and public health departments collaborated on a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to identify policies and projects to facilitate cycling and walking. The HIA discerned health impacts associated with the plan and recommended

implementation strategies to maximize residents' health benefits. The HIA identified priority projects based on their potential to increase physical activity and reduce health inequities among populations.

The primary focus of the 2010 bike and pedestrian master plan was the on-street network for active transportation facilities countywide. The master plan used the 2006 trails plan to identify where new on-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities could connect and leverage with existing trails and proposed trail alignments.

The 2010 Clark County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that recommended regional pathway improvement priorities uses a simplified category for trails:

- Side path parkways – directly adjacent to roadways and within the right-of-way;
- Shared-use paths – dedicated off street paved facilities for a variety of users; and
- Primitive trails – non-paved pathways primarily for walkers.

The master plan offered design guidelines and best practices for both pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The master plan recommended the revision of the Bicycle Advisory Committee to include pedestrians becoming the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). The top ten priority off-street projects (designated as a park department responsibility) included sections of the Salmon Creek Greenway, the North-South Powerline, and the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad. The plan also restates existing county policies (related to parks) that direct the provision of a comprehensive trail system to interconnect the regional trails and the transportation systems of sidewalks and bike lanes. The need to develop and maintain a comprehensive trail and bikeway system to link with other providers was also restated. Existing county policies related to trails included the provision of a system that will support the development of shared-use paths within one mile of every home within the urban area and a system of shared-use paths within one mile of every school.

County Subarea Plans

The County conducts subarea planning for more detailed growth management in specific geographic areas to help formulate focused community designs standards, as part of county-wide growth management planning. Some of these subarea plans have specific proposed local trail alignments or suggested additional trail connections.

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Figure 34. Highway 99 Subarea Plan Trails

The Highway 99 Subarea Plan located specific local trails to help connect residential, commercial and recreational designations by using off-street alignments through natural areas. Within the Highway 99 Subarea Plan, the proposed trails plan provides for a network of sub-area trails and sidewalks, trails design standards, and implementation measures. Most trail routes are within existing public rights-of-way with some off-street trail segments within existing parks and natural lands. The proposed Tenny Creek trail is a series of trails intended to be built in conjunction with new development to provide pedestrian connections between uses, streets and Tenny Creek Park. The proposed Cougar Creek Trails would help connect pedestrian circulation between commercial and high density residential areas.

Bi-State Regional Trails Systems Plan

The trail system within Clark County is also part of a bi-state, multi-metropolitan regional trail system, called The Intertwine, that connects active transportation and outdoor recreation users across Clark County and throughout the Portland metropolitan area. In April 2010, The Intertwine released the Bi-State Regional Trails System Plan "to coordinate the efforts of local businesses, non-profit organizations, government agencies and citizens to build the world's greatest network of parks, trails and natural areas." As part of a trail system extending across the Columbia River, the bi-state plan encompasses all the county-wide regional trails included in the 2006 Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan.

Lewis River Vancouver Lake Water Trail Plan

The Lewis River-Vancouver Lake Water Trail covers much of the boundaries of western Clark County and extends from the borders of Woodland and La Center to Ridgefield and Vancouver. The 32-mile water trail follows portions of the North Fork and East Fork of the Lewis River, a short section of

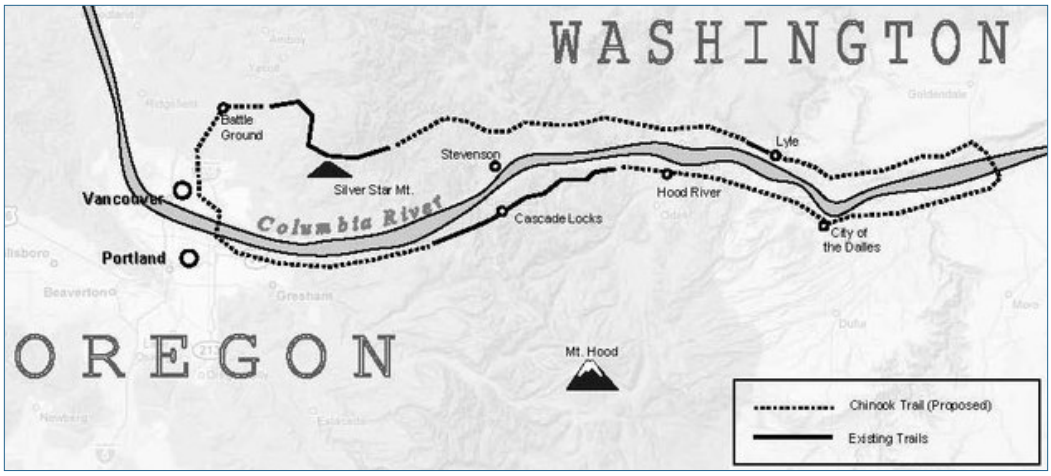
the Columbia River, the entire reach of Lake River and Bachelor Slough, and reaches into the full extent of Vancouver Lake. The planning effort included the inventory of existing public and private water access and identified needs for improvement, enhancement and additional access sites. The plan also produced a water trail map for promoting safe and enjoyable use of the existing waterways within the 32-mile route. Recommendations from the water trail plan included improving public access sites; developing a water trail wayfinding sign system; developing a mobile paddling guide app; adding launch site improvements to local jurisdictions' capital facilities plans; and forming a water trail coalition to promote water-based recreation.

Other Trails and Programs: Beyond Clark County into the Columbia River Gorge

The Chinook Trail

The Chinook Trail is a vision and work in progress. Once completed it will be a 300+ mile rim-to-rim loop encircling the Columbia River Gorge across both southern Washington and Oregon. To date the Chinook Trail Association (CTA) has completed a 30-mile stretch northeast of Vancouver that received National Recreation Trail status in 2005. The original route was proposed by co-founders Ed Robertson and Don Cannard. In its proposed alignment, the Chinook Trail will begin at Vancouver Lake in Clark County, Washington. The trail will climb northeast to its highest point, Silver Star Mountain, before meandering onto the rims of the Columbia River Gorge and continuing upriver to Maryhill State Park.

Figure 35. Chinook Trails Map (source: chinooktrails.org)



The following trails comprise a 30-mile segment beginning near Yacolt, continuing over the summit of Silver Star Mt. and ending approximately 8 miles from the junction of the Three Corner Rock and Pacific Crest Trail: Lucia Falls, Bells Mt., Tarbell, Kloochman Butte, Ed's Trail and Bluff Mountain.

Gorge Towns to Trails Program

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge are implementing a towns to trails program seeking to promote the use of trails, their connections to Gorge towns and the economic activity that trail use can generate in those local economies. The Friends of the Columbia Gorge envision a comprehensive trail system that links the communities with recreation and tourism benefits. This

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outdoor recreation activity is also one of the Columbia River Gorge Commissions key priorities for future efforts. Clark County is situated on the western edge of the Gorge. From the north side of the Columbia River, the county could be considered the gateway into the Gorge from the metropolitan Vancouver/Portland region. As such, there could be potential benefit from future connections of the Chinook Trail and the Friends' Towns to Trails Program. The loop nature of the proposed Columbia Gorge trail connections would require the use of the I-205 bridge bike/ped crossing and thus include that eastern portion of Clark County, including Camas and Washougal.

Lower Columbia River Water Trail

The Lower Columbia River Water Trail spans the bi-state region from below the Bonneville Dam traveling 146 miles to the Pacific Ocean. The water trail includes several portions of the Lewis River-Vancouver Lake Water Trail as it travels through Clark County. The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership hosts an interactive web-based guide to facilitate paddling trip planning. The interconnected system of rivers that border and flow through Clark County provide a variety of recreational opportunities that extend beyond county boundaries.

Trail Inventory Changes

Since the 2006 trails plan and the 2007 VCPRD plan, approximately one mile of the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail was completed as a paved shared path from Battle Ground Lake State Park south to the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands. A portion of the Washougal River Greenway Trail in Camas was completed from SE 6th Loop to SE 3rd Street, crossing the River and adding approximately 1.4 miles of paved trail. In 2014, a one-mile extension of the Vancouver Lake Regional Park trail system (aligned with the Lake to Lake Trail) was initiated as a volunteer-built project in collaboration with the Washington Trails Association and should be completed by the end of 2015.

Also since the 2007 VCPRD plan, portions of the Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway Trail have been constructed as off-street shared pathways by the Port of Vancouver as development occurs and funding is available. Another 1/2-mile extension of the Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway Trail is expected to occur when the City of Vancouver implements its waterfront park development project. Since 2007 approximately five miles of additional trail segments have been added to the regional trail system.

Trails consist of the highest known level of participation for public outdoor recreation use across the county. A lack of dedicated funding to assist in the implementation of trail connections poses a challenge for closing the gap on the need and demand for more trail linkages. To ensure a more satisfactory rate of trail project completion, the county will need to actively seek more resources to close the trail gaps.

Trail Usage Measurements

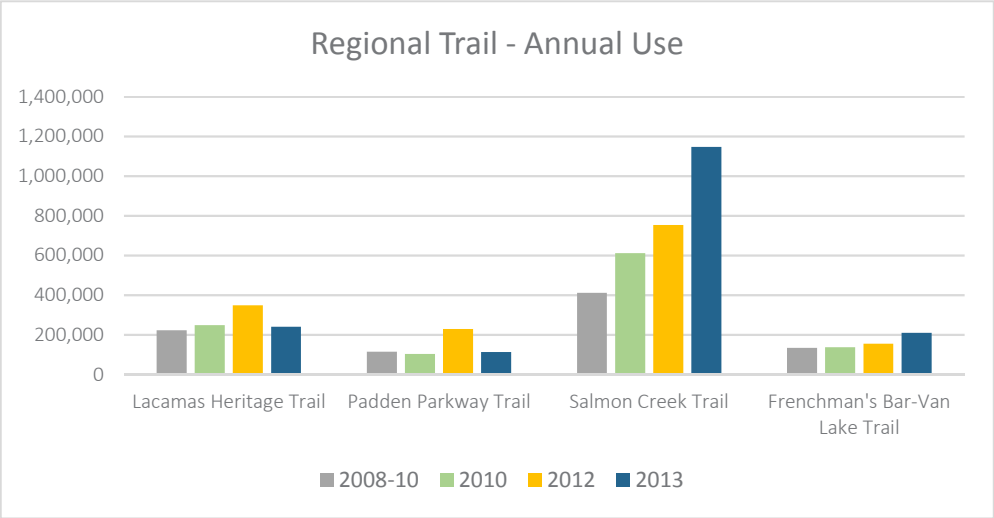
In addition to the collaboration for the bi-state trails system plan, jurisdictions within the Vancouver-Portland metropolitan region collaborate on an annual trail count to measure the trends in bicycle and

pedestrian use across the bi-state area. The trail counts are conducted in September and measure two-hour periods on two weekdays and two weekend days. The user counts are extrapolated into annual usage using the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project (NBPD) methodology.

In 2011, The Intertwine (a coalition of supporters for parks, trails and natural lands across the Vancouver-Portland metropolitan region) released a regional trail use snapshot report with trail usage and survey results for 2008 through 2010. The snapshot showed that, across the region, the share of bicycle and pedestrian users on The Intertwine is nearly even, with pedestrians representing 50% and bicyclists representing 48% of total trips. Other modes such as wheelchairs, horses, roller blades and skateboards make up the remaining two percent of users.

In general, trail use has been continuing its growth as new connections provide better routes for both pedestrians and cyclists. The annual estimated use of trails operated by the County are shown in the Figure 36 (below). Population density and proximity to active retail and employment centers tend to exhibit higher trail usage numbers as more people are congregated around home, work and shopping activities where trail use can provide an additional amenity or connection. The distance of Frenchman's Bar Trail from downtown Vancouver affects those trail counts just as the Padden Parkway's long gaps between destinations affects the numbers of pedestrian users. Salmon Creek Trail is accessible to extensive residential communities and provides a natural riparian setting that attracts trail visitors from beyond those adjacent neighborhoods.

Figure 36. Regional Trail Use: Annual Trends



In a few locations across Clark County's regional trail system, trail counters have been installed to measure trail usage on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. This data can be compared to the annual regional trail counts which predict trail use through the NBPD forecasting methodology. Trail counter devices were installed at strategic locations on the Burnt Bridge Trail, Salmon Creek Trail, Whipple Creek Trail and Moulton Falls Trail in late 2010 and early 2011. Technical adjustments to data gathering, interpolation, trail counter miscues and battery reliability have led to incomplete data collection after the first year of service. As a result, the existing trail counters have not provided the targeted reliability desired for gathering trail usage on those trails which are not part of the annual regional trail count program. However, the first year of data collection indicated that the trail counts and trail counters were fairly close in tabulating the 2011 trail use along the Salmon Creek Trail. The following years had large gaps in data, probably due to technical issues with the mechanical counters.

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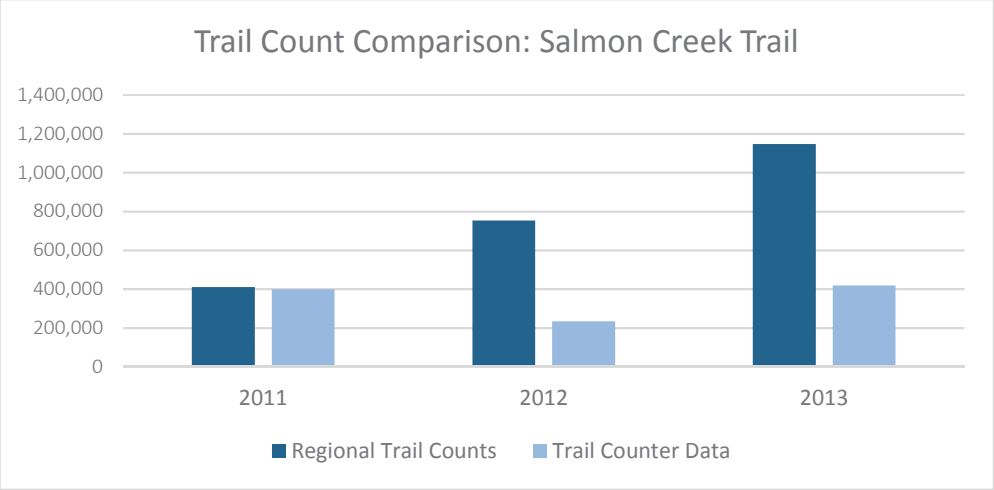
Figure 37 compares the regional trail count interpolated annual trail use with the mechanical trail counters triggered trail user counts.

Figure 37. Salmon Creek Trail - Annual Trail Counts vs Trail Counters



The gaps and discrepancies in trail count data indicate a need for the County to gather more reliable trail usage data with the installation of additional trail counters and a regular monitoring and collection program. Accurate trail counts for county-wide regional trails could provide valuable supportive data for grant applications, capital improvement project priorities and budget planning.

Additional data related to trail use can be extrapolated from past regional park vehicle visit counts. Since 2007, regional parks have experienced a steady increase in visitor numbers. Related to the fee collection program, vehicle counts were conducted during the summer months through 2011 (when the fee program was discontinued). Added facilities, increased populations and wider spread familiarity are some explanations for the increase in park users. Regional park visitors often include use of regional trails as part of their park activities. Many regional trails begin, end or extend through regional county parks. To supplement the trail count data, traffic counts at regional park entrances could provide additional use information.

Benefits & Public Support

Numerous studies across the globe have illustrated the importance of trails and their contribution to a healthy and sustainable community. American Trails provides ready access to a number of this studies in their website resources[1]. Benefits enhance the livability of neighborhoods and workplaces; increase economic activity through tourism, civic improvement and higher housing values; preserve and restore open space; and offer opportunities to improve fitness through physical activity.

> "*Access to parks and natural areas close to home and work has become increasingly important to communities' health and well-being. The ability to travel, exercise and recreate on trails has been identified by the public as a top priority in surveys conducted by local, state and federal parks and recreation providers.*" (from the 2010 Bi-State Trail Plan)

1 http://www.americantrails.org/resources/benefits/index.html

The Bi-State Trails Plan also state that a functioning and connected regional trail system can:

- improve public health and reduce health care costs by combating heart disease and obesity rates
- reduce congestion and transportation costs with fewer cars on the road
- provide inexpensive alternatives to automobile use
- foster the development of dynamic, mixed-use communities
- provide safe corridors for people of all ages and abilities to travel
- provide important connections to nature
- increase property values and economic development opportunities for local communities.

Highlights from the 2011 Intertwine Snapshot report that trail user surveys also revealed:

- Trails next to freeways and busy roadways draw significantly more bicyclists than pedestrians
- Longer, better connected trails tend to have a higher proportion of bicyclists
- Shorter, less connected trails tend to have a higher proportion of pedestrians

Current Conditions: Gap Analysis

Clark County is blessed with an extensive network of trails which span the entire county providing pedestrian and bicycle connections and outdoor recreation opportunities to its residents. However, this network contains many gaps across its on-street and off-street pathways, and its regionally-connecting backcountry trails. Additionally, the county's sidewalk system within the Vancouver Urban Growth Area is incomplete; numerous gaps make it difficult for residents to connect to parks, schools, shopping, workplaces and trail corridor linkages.

The county's adopted 2006 Regional Trails and Bikeways System Plan promotes an interconnected system of trails and greenways throughout the county. The county does not have an adopted standard for its trails and greenways. The regional trails plan proposes an additional 180 miles of trails to the existing 60-mile network to connect to more destinations and serve as a more legitimate transportation alternative. When the trails plan is implemented in its entirety, Clark County will have over 300 miles of trails.

While no specific standard for trails has yet been proposed, some comparison to the historic National Recreation and Park Association standards can provide a benchmark. For bicycle and jogging trails, the former NRPA standard was 1 mile/1,000 population. At Clark County's 2014 population of 435,500, approximately 435 miles of trails would measure up to the historic standard. While the NRPA standard was intended for urban areas, the need exists for more mileage within the regional system and for making critical connections. The Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and local public surveys reinforce the value of trails with their survey results that indicate walking and hiking trails rank as the most valued park amenity.

Given the additional five miles of trail segments that have been built since the 2006 trails plan and the 2007 VCPRD plan, the completion of the regional trail system's will need to address the gaps documented in the regional trails plan to help implement the trail network at a faster rate.

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Future Trails: Closing the Gap

Throughout the multiple planning efforts for trails in Clark County, it has been recognized that greater connections and closing the many gaps in the trails network will enhance both recreation and active transportation opportunities. Promoting future trails projects through both transportation capital improvement plans and parks capital facilities plans will increase the likelihood of capturing funding resources to implement trail projects.

The 2010 Clark County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan developed prioritization criteria to guide the ranking of trail projects. The master plan also lists the higher priorities for identified side path, shared-use path and primitive trail projects.

The 2006 Clark County Trail and Bikeways Systems Plan can be used as one directive to determine an approximate goal for trail acquisition and development. That trail system plan led the way for the 2007 VCPRD PROS Plan with its Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) that listed trail acquisition, development and improvement projects in the urban unincorporated area and regional system. Within the GCPD, acquisition and development included:

- Curtin Creek Trail acquisition
- LaLonde Creek Greenway and Trail alignment acquisition
- Cougar Creek Greenway and Trail alignment acquisition
- Whipple Creek Trail

The CFP included a segment of the Salmon Creek Greenway Trail as part of proposed conservation area acquisitions within the urban unincorporated area (UUA). Other UUA trail developments on the CFP included:

- East Powerline Trail
- Vancouver Lake Trail
- Salmon Creek Greenway Trail
- Bank stabilization for a portion of the existing Salmon Creek Trail

The 6-year CFP also included an urban area trail signage program to design, fabricate and install a wayfinding system to unify the county's urban trails identity.

The regional trail system enhancements on the 6-year CFP cited trail acquisition projects associated with:

- Livingston Mountain Trail
- Green Mountain Trail
- Chelatchie Trail

Trail development and improvements for regional trails included:

- Vancouver Lake Trail
- Chelatchie Trail
- Regional trail signage program

The VCPRD 20-year Capital Facilities Plan proposed trail development in the urban unincorporated area for:

- Chelatchie Prairie Trail
- Salmon Creek Greenway Trail
- Whipple Creek Trail

In the regional trail system the 20-year CFP listed acquisition targets for:

- Green Mountain Trail
- China Ditch
- Chelatchie Trail

CFP trail developments were targeted for:

- Camp Bonneville Trail
- Camp Currie-Lacamas Trail
- Chelatchie Prairie Trail
- I-5 Corridor
- North Fork Lewis River
- Washougal River Greenway Trail[2]

The Clark County Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan offers a set of criteria for evaluating and prioritizing trail projects across the urban and regional trail system. These criteria can provide an effective method for sequencing the trail improvement projects based on available implementation resources. Those suggested criteria are closing gaps; safety and comfort; access and mobility/land use; multi modal connections; implementation; community benefit; and healthy outcomes. The Washougal River Greenway Trail example footnoted below illustrates the value of capturing opportunities to partner with other agencies and projects that might coincide with future trail alignments. Utility and transportation projects are common examples of good partnering opportunities. Any proposed trail project plans should have some flexibility for scheduled implementation to allow for capturing partnerships.

2 *The Washougal River Greenway Trail development project was completed several years ago when the need for local utilities crossing the Washougal River triggered the need for a new bridge. The trail development project was partnered with this infrastructure project allowing the trail implementation to occur well ahead of the anticipated target dates. The project helps to illustrate the importance of longer term planning to allow park and trail projects to capture opportunities to partner with other transportation and utility infrastructure improvements.*

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PUBLIC DEMAND 7

PUBLIC DEMAND

The extent of community engagement and outreach utilized during the development of this PROS Plan resulted in a broad spectrum of identified park, trail and recreational facility public demands and desires for shaping the future of the county park system. The series of open houses, stakeholder group interviews, park advisory board meetings, PAB member interactions, individually-submitted public comments and online survey results have helped guide the determination of priorities for the future infrastructure of parks, trails and other outdoor recreation facilities.

The Park Advisory Board participated in the production of a YouTube video featuring the parks comprehensive planning process to help explain the need for public input for guiding decisions about future priorities. The video was produced by CVTV and accessed through the county parks website and links provided in various email blasts to park stakeholders.

Still image from CVTV video clip

Survey Summary

The online survey to gather feedback on residents' recreational priorities and needs was conducted from February through the end of April 2015. Close to 1500 participants completed the survey. While the survey was not collected through a statistical sampling method, the results still provide clear and representative guidance regarding the participation and activity of residents and the types of outdoor recreation amenities in demand. The survey was available at each of the open houses, shared through extensive email blasts and accessible from the Clark County parks website. The full survey report is located in Appendix C. Highlights of the survey results that strongly influence the shaping of public demand are described herein.

Most important among survey responses was the overwhelming importance that residents gave to parks and recreation as essential to the community's quality of life. Nearly all the survey respondents (99%) considered that Clark County's parks and recreation services were important and the vast majority (87%) considered these services to be essential.

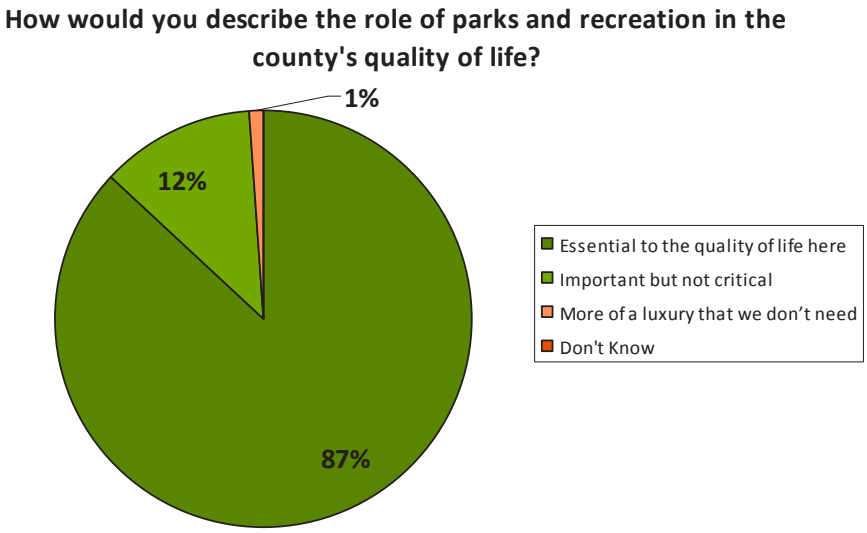

Figure 38. Importance of Parks & Recreation in Quality of Life

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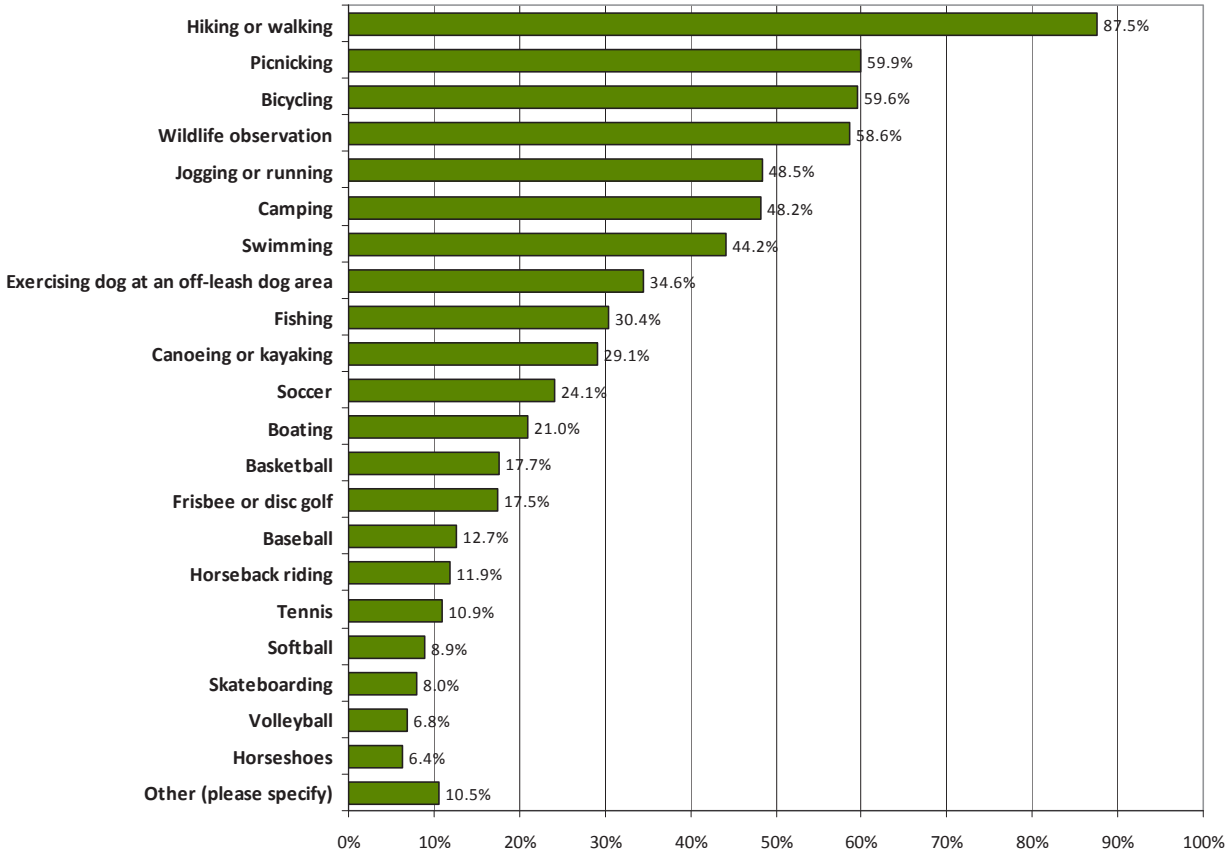
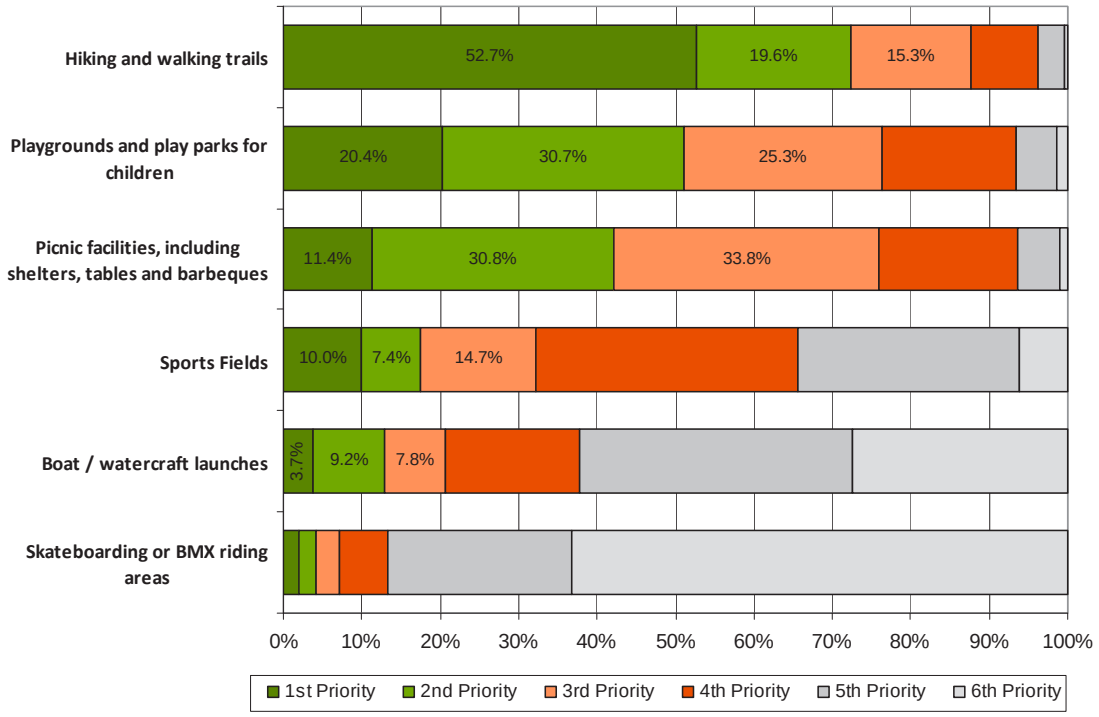
When asked about the recreational activities they participated in within the last year, the survey results indicated 87.5% chose hiking or walking. This high level of activity is consistent with the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP) that indicated walking and hiking as the activity most widely engaged by the majority of the population.

Figure 39. Participation Rates by Activity



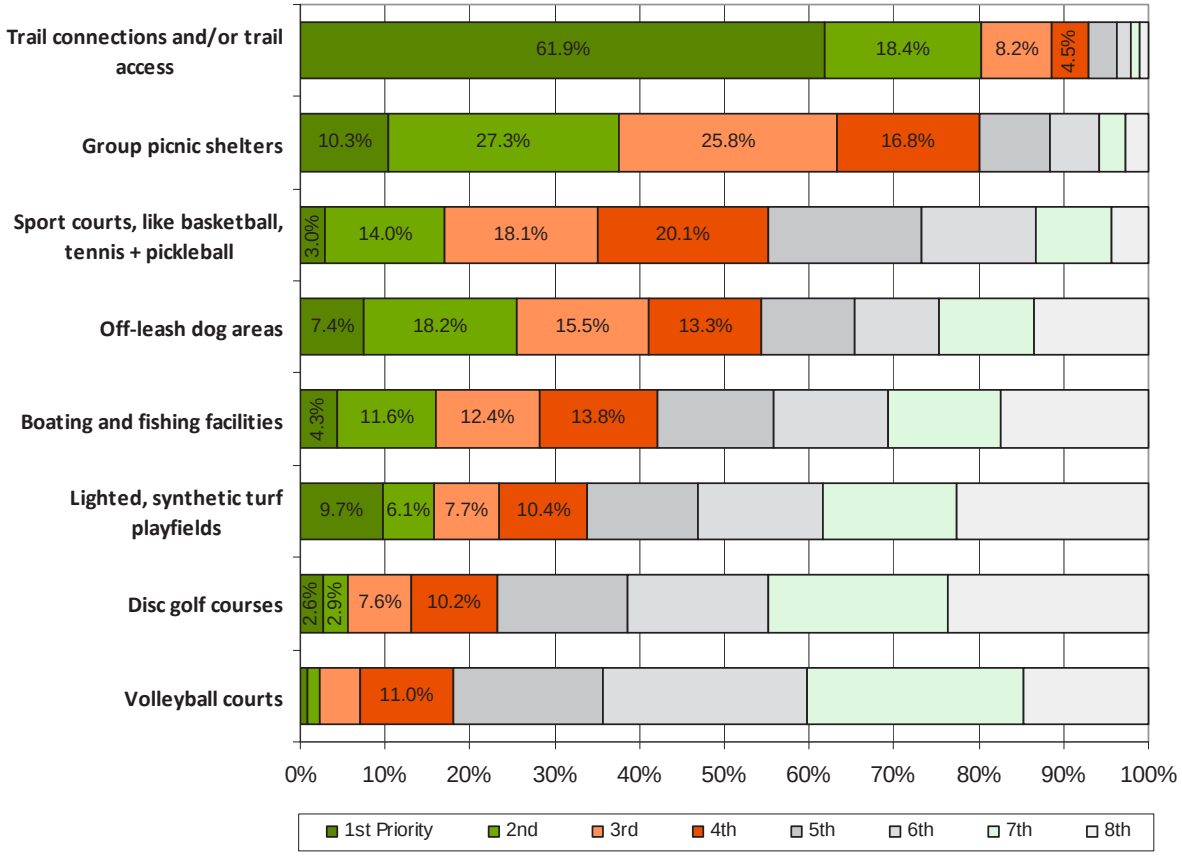
The participation level in different outdoor recreation activities is reinforced by the ranking of priorities for future facilities across six different recreational amenities. The highest priority in over half of the responses (52.7%) was given for hiking and walking trails.

Figure 40. Priorities for selected recreational opportunities



To help assess the overall priority for future recreation facility planning survey respondents provided their relative importance of selected recreation facilities. Trail connections and/or trail access rated the highest (61.9%), followed by picnic shelters, sports courts and off-leash areas.

Figure 41. Relative Importance of Selected Recreational Facilities



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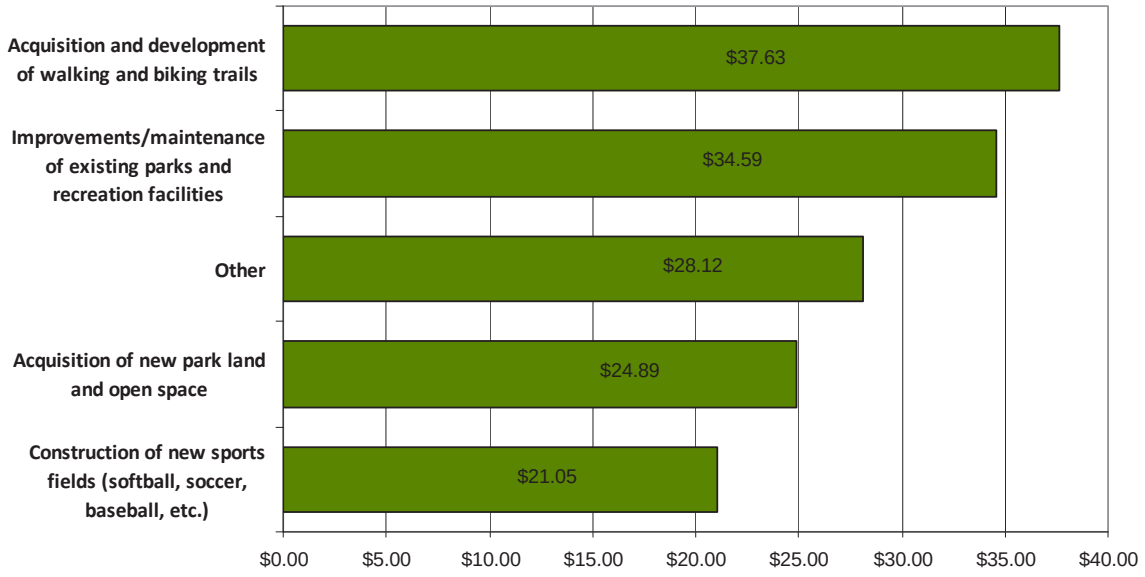
Given a hypothetical $100 budget across multiple choices, respondents allocated weight to their investment priorities. The strongest priority with the greatest allocation of dollars ($37.63) went toward the acquisition and development of walking and hiking trails. This public preference is consistent with other survey results, public comments, state-wide recreation trends, and park advisory board priorities. A close second in ranking among respondents ($34.59) identified the strong need to maintain and improve existing parks and facilities, an expressed public sentiment across the public engagement process.

Figure 42. Allocating $100 across Selected Activities



Focused Feedback

Stakeholder group meetings were conducted with targeted groups representing specific users in the park system including local park and recreation providers (from cities within Clark County), sports leagues, as well as equestrian, biking and hiking trail organizations. Presentations and park planning updates were also shared with neighborhood association leaders (NACC) through their monthly meetings.

During the series of stakeholder meetings, participants were asked to define the highest priorities for the future of the county park system. While many responses varied across each group and at the different meetings, some common themes were repeatedly shared among all stakeholders:

1. **Partnerships and Collaboration.** Partnerships were identified as a necessity between the county and each city park and recreation provider to further the opportunity for leveraging each agency's limited resources. Partnering with sports organizations through an over-arching county-wide sports council could enhance the opportunities to capture both public and private funding resources to pursue a more all-weather sports field surfacing and to foster the development of a regional sports complex that would support major tournaments. Trail organizations offered volunteer resources to help development trail systems within regional parks in partnership with available county resources to help further the regional trail plan.

2. **Connect the Gaps.** The urban park system has undeveloped parks and large residential areas without any park facilities within walking distance. The regional trail system has significant gaps that once connected could provide exponentially more value to residents for recreational walking, running and biking. Add recreational amenities for special user groups that are exhibiting growth and generating active use, such as BMX facilities, disc golf course, off-leash areas, watercraft launch sites and splash pads.
3. **Increase Access.** Ranging from the lack of nearby parks to the shortage of trailhead parking, the public feedback identified the need for access for outdoor recreation opportunities for children, basic park and trail access amenities for seniors (such as parking, benches and restrooms). Undeveloped regional parks like Green Mountain were identified as untapped resources – currently inaccessible, that the public is ready to help plan and develop. The need for better informational resources was suggested to increase access to parks and trails: from the development of an interactive park website to wayfinding signs providing direction along trails, to parks and within parks for better user experiences. The need for safe bike and pedestrian routes in the regional trail system and to local parks was stressed.

This PROS Plan was focused primarily on the needs assessment and public demand for outdoor recreation facilities. However, residents within the UUA and members of the Parks Advisory Board repeatedly expressed the desire for a future recreation center to provide a range of indoor recreation amenities. Historically, the county has focused on its regional park system and on providing parks, trails and other outdoor recreation within the Greater Clark Park District. To further any future potential for an indoor recreation center, partnerships with other recreation providers, such as the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club, should be explored. If the GCPD, as a metropolitan parks district, becomes the primary entity through which to develop a recreation center, then a public vote would be required to increase the levy rate necessary to fund the development and operation of such a center.

Measuring Outdoor Recreation Participation

Each year, nearly all Washingtonians participate in outdoor recreation. In fact, about 8 out of every 10 Washington residents visited a county, city or state park in the past year. As the state's population grows and becomes more urban, older and more diverse, the demand for outdoor recreation also increases and changes. Outdoor recreation has many important benefits, including physical and mental health benefits, educational value, environmental stewardship and economic value. Outdoor recreation opportunities strengthen communities by providing a venue for festivals, social events and concerts, all of which help encourage public investment in the community. Washington's economy benefits from outdoor recreation through consumer spending, tax revenue and jobs.

Understanding the current levels of participation in outdoor recreation activities guides the assessment of demand for parks and recreation facilities. These patterns of outdoor recreation participation provide a framework for planning for local park and recreation future needs. Several research resources were reviewed to compile a general picture of outdoor recreation participation across Washington State and the nation.

The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The SCORP is a five-year statewide recreation plan published by the Washington State Recreation

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and Conservation Office. The Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) document guides decision-makers in better understanding statewide recreation issues and is required to help maintain Washington's eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars. The SCORP is designed to determine outdoor recreation issues and opportunities and helps explore local park and recreation planning strategies. It includes valuable data on current trends in recreation participation and demand in Washington. Findings from the Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) were evaluated to help inform planning and funding considerations for future park and recreational facilities.

The 2013 Washington SCORP confirms that outdoor recreation is still an integral part of life for most Washington residents, 90% participate in the most popular category of activities, which includes walking and hiking, demonstrating the pervasiveness of outdoor recreation in Washington's culture. Significant increases in rates of participation in outdoor recreation activities since 2006 indicate the importance of the state and local communities to continue their investment in outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities.

Low-cost activities, easy or less strenuous activities, or activities that can be done close to home have relatively high participation rates: walking is at the top. Near the top are recreational activities (which includes jogging), nature activities and picnicking/barbecuing. More specialized activities have lower rates with the categories of horseback riding and air activities (flying, parachuting, bungee jumping, etc.) having the lowest participation rates. Participation rates in the 2013 SCORP Outdoor Activity Categories are depicted in Figure 43.

The overall category of walking (in which 90% of Washington residents engaged) is made up largely of those walking without a pet (71% of residents do this), with hiking (54%) and walking with a pet (52%) being of medium importance and climbing or mountaineering (10%) being of minor importance.

The breakdown of nature-based activities, in which 81% of Washington residents participated adds further details for wildlife viewing and photography (59%) and gardening (57%) each has a majority of residents participating. This overall category includes 16 different types of nature activities.

Three quarters of Washington residents (75%) engage in water-related recreation (note that this category does not include swimming in pools). The major individual activities within this category are swimming or wading at the beach (39%), boating (36%) and beachcombing (33%). The location where people participate in recreation also plays a part in demand for facilities and opportunities, as well.

In total, 57% of Washington residents participate in sightseeing, such as at a cultural or historical facility or scenic area (note that this overall category includes three different types of sightseeing activities).

Low-cost activities, less strenuous activities, or activities that can be done close to home (activities with any of these characteristics) have high participation rates among Washington residents. These include activities such as walking, recreational activities (jogging and fitness activities), nature activities and picnicking/barbecuing/cooking out. The most intensive users of public facilities and lands are participants in hiking, beachcombing, picnicking/barbecuing/cooking out, wildlife viewing and swimming in pools or natural waters.

Another question in the survey of residents asked about park use, regardless of the particular activities in which respondents had participated. A large majority of Washington residents (80%) had visited a park in the year prior to being surveyed, the most popular being a county or city/municipal park

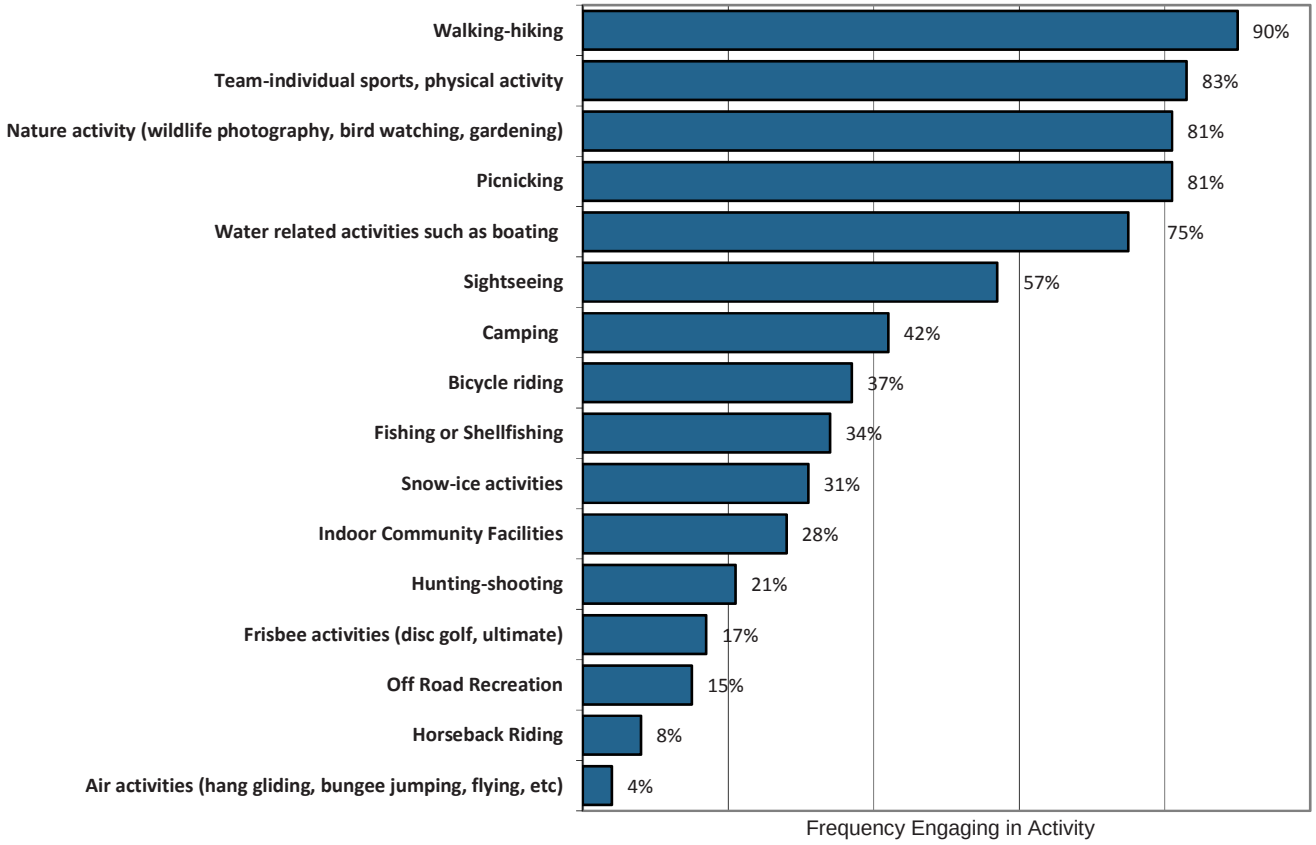
(60% had visited this type of park) and a State Park (58%) (Figure 43). Meanwhile, 38% had visited a National Park. Note that respondents could have visited more than one type of park. Actual use of public facilities and lands may be higher, as there may be respondents who used a public place but were unsure and who, therefore, could not be selected as definitely using a public location.

According to the 2013 SCORP report, it is assumed that most people will continue to engage in the outdoor activities in which they previously participated. After listing the activities in which they participated, residents were then asked if they planned to do those activities in the coming year. An overwhelming majority of them (91%) indicated that they planned to do all of the same activities in which they had participated in the previous year and another 3% indicated that they planned to do most of those activities. Therefore, it is likely that rates of planned participation would be roughly the same as the actual participation rates discussed previously in this section of the SCORP.

Regarding new forms of recreation, several activities were newly tracked in the 2012 resident survey, including general frisbee play, with a participation rate of 16.8%, disc golf or frisbee golf (4.5%) and ultimate frisbee or frisbee football (3.0%). While ultimate frisbee requires nothing more than a field, disc golf requires infrastructure for the tees and the baskets, which has implications for recreation providers.

Another activity that is eons old but newly tracked in 2012 is swimming in natural waters, in which 35.7% of residents participated. While this activity does not require any facility for the activity itself, it may benefit from some infrastructure, including access to water. Likewise, snorkeling was also newly tracked (3.7%), as were two other water-related activities: using a splash park (8.1%) and using a spray park (6.4%).

Figure 43. Statewide Participation Rates by Outdoor Activity (2013 SCORP)



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The participation rates confirm that outdoor recreation is an integral part of life in Washington's communities and a pervasive value in the Pacific Northwest. Research indicates that nature and outdoor recreation have a significant positive impact on human health, both physical and mental. Washington's economy also benefits directly and indirectly from outdoor recreation through consumer spending, tax revenue and jobs. To maximize the value of these benefits, the SCORP identifies the issues that affect participation, supply and demand. In the 2013 SCORP, the greatest challenges among recreation providers over the next five (5) years will be:

- An increasing state population,
- Changing demographics,
- Unpredictable funding for facilities development and maintenance and
- Access to outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities.

The 2013 SCORP Recommendations encourage local park and recreation service providers to:

- Recognize a return to nature-based activities.
- Understand that the top constraints to participation are social factors (not facilities or opportunities).
- Capitalize on the social benefits of outdoor recreation.
- Focus on increasing and/or improving recreation facilities and opportunities that support active recreation.
- Continue to offer diverse outdoor recreation activities and opportunities.
- Take advantage of current technology by using a map-based information system to provide an inventory of supply.
- Recognize recreation types in which supply may not be meeting demand.
- Focus on the capacity of facilities.
- Consider the implications of changing demographics when making recreation decisions.
- Prioritize regional funding allocations.
- Foster collaboration and cooperation among user groups.
- Understand that access issues encompass an array of physical and psychological issues.
- Increase priority of wetlands management as a recreation asset. Based on scientific research and a comprehensive planning process, these recommendations are intended to contribute knowledge and guidance to the future development of outdoor recreation in Washington for the benefit of both residents and the natural environment.

As part of the SCORP update process, local park and recreation providers were surveyed on the relative importance of key issues and grouped into identified regional zones within the state to highlight any unique needs for each geographic zone. While some differences in ranking occurred, most regions shared top issues due to the economic slowdown and the political climate regarding taxes.

- Creating new partnerships is an important issue acknowledged by many providers to allow for the pooling of resources and/or sharing of costs.
- Maintenance of existing public parks and/or recreation facilities continues to face funding challenges and increased pressure to provide for growing populations or new user groups.
- Increasing public access is an important concern among recreation providers who work to keep facilities open and available as well as accommodate a diverse public.

From the 2013 SCORP, the broadest recommendation for all areas across Washington is to continue the investment in outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities as the foundation for fulfilling the needs and expectations for the benefit of both residents and the natural environment.

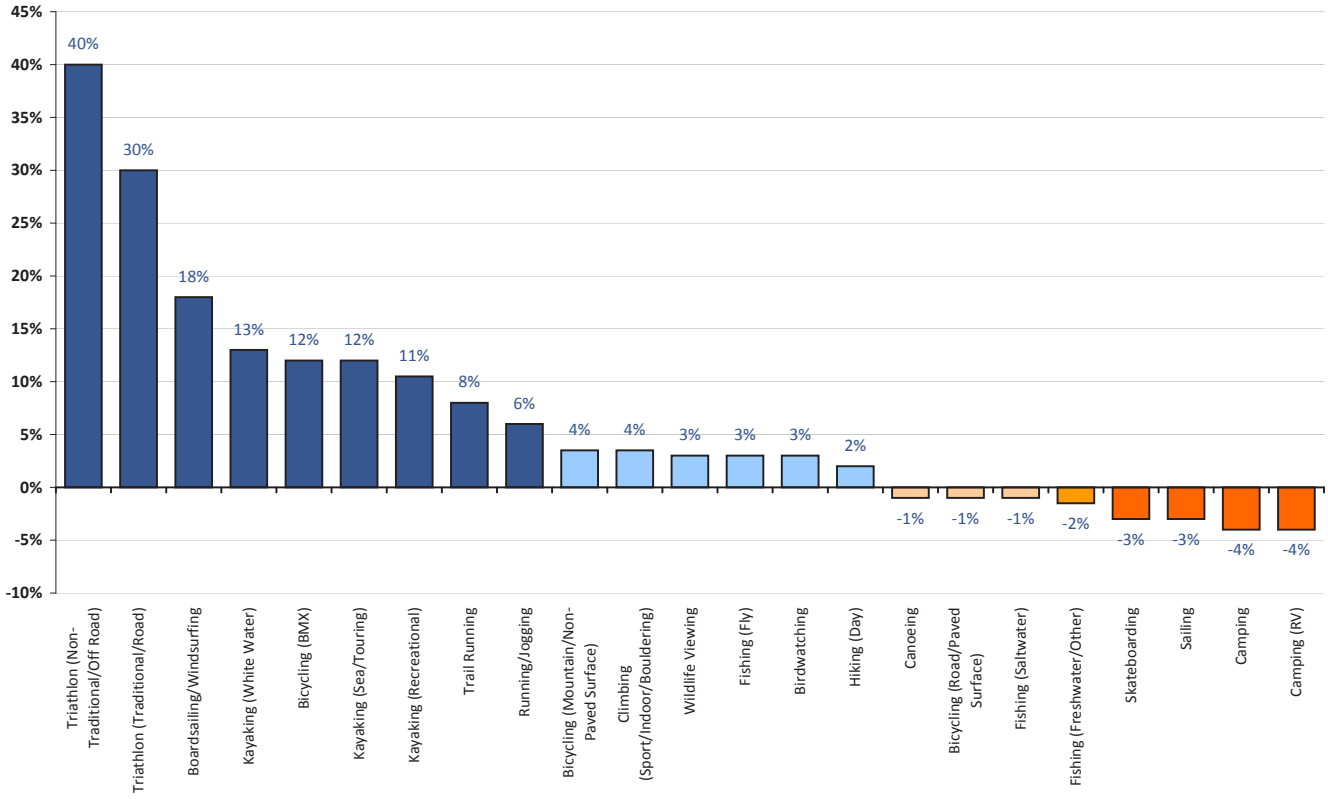
The 2014 Outdoor Participation Report

According to 2014 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual's age. Gender also plays a role in determining behaviors and participation trends.

More Participation Trends:

- Outdoor activities are popular among children, especially among boys ages 11 to 15.
- Participation rates drop for both males and females from ages 16 to 20. These rates climb back up slightly for females into their early 20's and males late 20's before gradually declining throughout life.
- Indoor fitness becomes the preferred activity among young women ages 16 to 20 and remains the most popular form of activity. Males, however, favor outdoor activities until they are age 66 and older.
- Almost one-quarter of all outdoor enthusiasts participated in outdoor activities at least twice per week.
- Running, including jogging and trail running, was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by number of participants and by number of total annual outings.
- Walking for fitness is the most popular crossover activity. In 2013, 53 percent of outdoor enthusiasts also walked.
- The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise.

Figure 44. 3-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation of Youth (6-24) (2014 Outdoor Foundation)



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The 2013 State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's 2013 State of the Industry Report listed the top 10 program options most commonly planned for addition over the next three years, along with their positions (in parentheses) in last year's top 10 programs:

1. Education programs (3)
2. Fitness programs (2)
3. Mind-body/balance programs like yoga and tai chi (4)
4. Day camps/summer camps (6)
5. Holiday events and other special events (n/a)
6. Environmental education (7)
7. Teen programming (2) Environmental education (10)
8. Active older adults programming (5)
9. Sports tournaments or races (10)
10. Sports training (n/a)

For most programming types, community centers are the ones most likely to be planning to add such programs. There are a few exceptions. Parks are most likely to be planning to add: environmental education; sports tournaments or races; individual sports activities; and water sports.

The same report indicated park systems that are planning to add features to their facilities in the next three years list their top five planned amenities as:

1. Dog parks
2. Splash play areas
3. Trails
4. Park structures and
5. Playgrounds

Sports Trends: National Sporting Goods Association (2013)

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) reported on participation levels in 47 sports indicating that 32 sports experienced growth during 2012. Highlights from the 2013 NSGA participation survey include:

- Indoor gaming activities increased by an average of 11%.
- Fitness sports each increased about 5%.
- Snow sports had the steepest decrease participation level in 2012, dropping an average of 11%.
- Shooting sports with firearms experienced more growth: hunting with firearms increased more than 18% with female participation up nearly 29%; target shooting with live ammunition increased by 10.9% with female participation increasing by over 27%.
- Team sports showed mixed results with participation lagging in basketball, baseball, ice hockey and soccer and increases in lacrosse, softball and volleyball.
- Tackle football experienced the largest team sport drop of nearly 13% decline in participation. Over half the decline was in the 7-11 age group of those who might participate on an infrequent basis.

- Female participation in 40 of the 47 sports/activities has increased compared to only 11 sports showing increased male participation.

Overall, the trend shows that participation in many sports is rebounding with some sports continuing to struggle to attract new participation.

National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (2012)

The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) is a comprehensive survey that has been collecting data and producing reports about the recreation activities, environmental attitudes and natural resource values of Americans since the 1980s. The NSRE core focus is on outdoor activity participation and personal demographics. The most recent 2012 NSRE reports the total number of people participating in outdoor activities between 2000 and 2007 grew by 4.4% while the number of days of participation increased by approximately 25 percent. Walking for pleasure grew by 14% and continues to lead as the top favorite outdoor activity.

Nature-based activities, those associated with wildlife and natural settings, showed a discernible growth in the number of people (an increase in 3.1% participation rate) and the number of days of participation. American's participation in nature-based outdoor recreation is increasing with viewing, photographing, or otherwise observing nature clearly measured as the fastest growing type of nature-based recreation activity.

(U.S. Forest Service, National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (Athens, GA: Southern Research Station, 2008). http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends.)

Public Parks and Health: The Trust for Public Land

Aside from the recreational activity and sports participation figures noted earlier in this Plan, a number of organizations and non-profits have noted the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report in 2005 called "The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space." This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space.

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Residential and commercial property values increase.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and act as natural air conditioners.
- Trees assist with storm water control and erosion.
- Crime and juvenile delinquency are reduced.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.
- Stable neighborhoods and strong communities are created.

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Another significant, recent trend is that of the relationship between child development and access to nature or nature play. Stemming from Richard Louv's book "Last Child in the Woods," a relative network of organizations and agencies have come together to discuss the impacts of nature play and seek funding and partnerships to facilitate ways to connect kids to their local environment. Recent studies show that children are smarter, cooperative, happier and healthier when they have frequent and varied opportunities for free and unstructured play in the out-of-doors, according to the Children & Nature Network, a national non-profit organization working to reconnect children with nature and co-founded by Louv.

Outdoor Industries Association

The 2013 Outdoor Industries Association produces reports on the outdoor recreation economy for the entire country and for each state. The most recent OIA report reveals that at least 63% of Washington residents participate in outdoor recreation each year. This figure does not include the participants in hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing which are estimated separately. "Americans want and deserve access to a variety of quality places to play and enjoy the great outdoors. Outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy if we manage and invest in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for America." In Washington State, outdoor recreation generates $22.5 billion in consumer spending, creates 227,000 direct jobs and results in $1.6 billion in state and local tax revenue. Preserving access to outdoor recreation protects the economy, the businesses, the communities and the people who depend on the ability to play outside.

Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington (2015)

Released in January 2015, this economic assessment study quantifies the contribution of outdoor recreation to Washington State's economy and way of life. Prepared by Earth Economics, the report states that "the benefits of Washington's outdoor recreation industry go beyond supporting jobs to include creating a way of life. It is estimated that Washingtonians, on average, spend 56 days a year recreating outdoors. According to the recreation surveys and public land records used in this study, there were a total of about 446 million participant days a year spent on outdoor recreation in Washington, resulting in $21.6 billion dollars in annual expenditures."

The study revealed that expenditures were highest for recreation associated with public waters which includes a number of activities with high trip and equipment expenditures, especially motorized boating. Special events such as sports tournaments and races, which generally involve fees and attract overnight stays were ranked second in expenditures, followed by recreation on private lands, which includes expensive recreation activities such as golf, skiing and off-highway vehicle riding and hunting, which often occur on private timberland. Local parks are the most common place for people to visit as well as the most accessible and least costly destination.

Of particular relevance to Clark County, the study results show that outdoor recreation markets play an important role for bridging urban and rural communities. The outdoor recreation market is one of the largest markets in the state for moving income from urban to rural areas and building sustainable jobs in rural communities. The dynamics of the redistribution of wealth between the place of origin to the destination for recreation are important to many rural counties.

The report also recognizes that the value of outdoor recreation goes beyond its traditional economic contribution. Benefits included the general improved quality of life people get from engaging in

outdoor recreation (improved physical health, lower health care costs, reduced juvenile crime, less work absenteeism) and from the ecosystem services recreational lands provide. Trees, water and animals provide ecosystem goods and services has been measured to contribute a combined total estimated value of between $134 billion and $248 billion a year. The economic analysis report concludes that "investment in outdoor recreation yields tremendous results."

Core Community Interests

During the process of gathering community input from meetings, survey, open houses and submitted comments, a number of public interests were expressed for desired future facilities. Without ranking any priority or importance, these public interests were sorted into four basic categories: acquisition, development, additions / improvements, operational / staffing. The resultant "wish list" offers an overview of the range of public interests for future public park and recreation facilities.

Figure 45. Community "Wish List" Items from Public Process

Public Input - "Wish List"			
Acquisition	**Development**	**Addition/Improvement**	**Operational/Staffing**
trails	trails	trailhead parking	partnerships
trail connections	trail connections	trail restrooms	security patrols
regional park land	GCPD parks	specialized trails*	year-round restrooms
walk-to parks	off leash areas	drinking fountains	more trash pick-up
soccer fields	sports fields	off-leash areas	partnership for grants
sports fields	water access	all-weather sports fields	regional park fees
water access	disc golf courses	wayfinding system**	P&R collaboration
off-leash w/ water access	pickle ball courts	dog waste stations	enable volunteers
BMX park/pump track	tennis courts	community gardens	remove invasive species
indoor swimming pool	water splash pads	RV overnight - sports	partner w/ state & fed
outdoor swimming pool	swim/lap pool	picnic shelters	no surplus of park lands
community center	regional aquatic facility	volleyball courts	school collaboration
bank fishing access	regional sports complex	BBQ grills	add grounds keepers
conservation lands	playgrounds	swing sets	add trail planner
	rails to trails	special needs play areas	add park planner
	BMX park/ pump track	lighting for trail running	sports org coordinator
	camp sites, yurts, RVs	sidewalks/paths to parks	community center partnerships
	parking for local parks	benches along trails	P&R dept. combination
	playgrounds for disabled kids	plant more trees	wildlife conservation
	natural play areas	crosswalks near parks	early opening for boat launches
	RC***model vehicles & aircraft	overnight camping	
		skateboarding sites	

** equestrian, BMX, mtn bike, etc.*
*** wayfinding = signage system for land & water trails*
****RC = remote control*

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Demand for Parks

Across the stakeholder group interviews, open houses and submitted public comments, the key priorities for local and regional parks identified the need for greater accessibility to parks. This concern including providing greater access and recreation options for an aging population, closing gaps in service areas by providing urban parks where no current park facility is within walking distance and providing additional parking capacity. The desire for additional amenities within parks included more benches, more attractive play features for children, more dog waste stations, water features such as splash pads and spray parks, more off-leash dog areas and greater wayfinding through signs, marketing, website information and mapping. The need for greater access to water-based recreation for swimming and boating was also voiced. Park advocates also expressed the desire to enhance existing parks with added amenities such as disc golf, skateboarding, mountain biking and BMX facilities.

Community discussion at open house meeting

Demand for Trails

The need for implementing the connection of existing regional trails by closing gaps and building proposed trail alignments weighed strongly across all aspects of public input. As the amenity that supports the most broadly used form of outdoor recreation, trails provide safe and enjoyable venues for walking and biking. Equestrians, bikers, runners, hikers and walkers all expressed the desire to extend the current trail system and add more trailhead parking and restrooms to the regional trail system. Trails in natural areas were ranked as the most desirable type of trail setting. Additional emphasis was placed on providing safe connections where trail gaps currently exist. Connecting regional trails to residential areas and schools through a local trail system was also stressed. Acquisition and development of walking and biking trails was the highest priority for future planning expressed in the open houses and by the parks advisory board. The directive from the majority of public input was to focus on connecting the gaps between existing regional trail segments to "get more bang for the buck". Key trail segments that were specifically identified included:

- Vancouver Lake Trail connection to Burnt Bridge Creek Trail
- Frenchmans Bar Trail/Vancouver Lake Trail to downtown Vancouver
- Frenchmans Bar Trail/Vancouver Lake Trail to Ridgefield NWR
- Lacamas Lake Trail to Green Mountain
- Lacamas Lake Trail westward to Burnt Bridge Creek Trail
- Chelatchie Prairie Trail to Battle Ground

Stakeholders also stressed the value of continuing engagement with volunteer-based trail organizations and other service groups to provide resources for building and maintaining existing and future trails in the county and its parks. Wayfinding signs and better directional and informational

access to trails was identified including street signs, trail markers and web-based mapping. Through all public engagement activities, the need to provide additional staffing resources focused on trail planning and grant writing was both recognized and recommended.

Demand for Sport & Recreation Facilities

County residents also expressed their desires for more recreational amenities in the park system. Specialized user groups including sport leagues, equestrian groups, disc golf enthusiasts, mountain bike and BMX recreationists and dog owners all shared their ideas for enhancing and adding to existing county recreation facilities. Every user group expressed the need for more amenities to serve the growing popularity of their activity and the growing county population. Each of these specialized groups also expressed willingness to assist with volunteer resources to advance the implementation of their particular facility improvements.

Sport league representatives acknowledged the value of the recent addition of the Luke Jensen Sports Complex. While there was consensus on the facility's value, the need for a regional sports complex that could accommodate statewide tournaments was expressed across all the participating leagues. The demand for sports fields with all-weather surfacing was clearly indicated through all outreach avenues. Lacrosse arose as a growing sport in the Pacific Northwest and has arrived in Clark County. The County Parks Division already has numerous partnerships in place with sport leagues regarding the development, care and operations of sport fields. These partnerships with sports leagues also include those leagues providing volunteer hours and operating the leagues team's schedules, general programming and concessions. To help facilitate the collaboration of all the active sport leagues in the county to leverage public and private resources, the formation of a regional or county-wide sports council was proposed. Having county parks take a lead role in initiating that sports council was also strongly suggested. The sport leagues advocated for the use of county parks limited resources to provide "seed money" for organizations to use to garner private grant and funding support to help build sport fields and, eventually, a future regional sport tournament-sized complex.

Other outdoor recreation facilities were proposed through various enthusiasts during the public outreach period. Equestrian groups sought more trails and requested consideration for a public/private event arena dedicated to equestrian uses. Disc golf groups have already engaged the county to add a disc golf course at Frenchman's Bar Park and propose additional courses in the county to provide a wider distribution of recreation opportunities. Mountain biking groups are already active in the Yacolt Burn State Forests and Lacamas Park and expressed their need for more opportunities to ride trails designed for mountain bikes as well as biking connections to multiple trail experiences such as Lacamas Park to Green Mountain (currently an undeveloped regional park). BMX enthusiasts shared the value of their sport, particularly for youth development and the potential for partnering with the county to add facilities within the county park system. Off-leash dog areas came up repeatedly as a desired amenity during the various public outreach activities. This activity has seen significant growth over the last decade as reflected by the popularity at Pacific Park's Dakota Memorial Dog Park and the Ross substation off-leash area. DOGPAW is a local volunteer-run organization that has partnered with county parks to accept responsibilities for some of the care and maintenance for off-leash areas within several parks.

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Focus on Future Facilities

During the open houses, the ranking of future priorities expressed the highest need for the acquisition and development of walking and biking trails, a similar result to the online survey. Open house participants also acknowledged the need to acquire new park land and open space. This need was expressed slightly more than the basic need to focus on improvements and maintenance of existing parks and facilities. The desire to provide parks and trails within walking distance of residential areas weighed strongly in the online survey. Water access for swimming, paddling, boating and fishing as well as playgrounds and splash pads also surfaced to the upper priorities for facilities that should be added or enhanced in the future. In the allocation of the hypothetical $100 budget to prioritize investments across multiple facilities (see Figure 42), the survey respondents followed their first and second choices (mentioned above) with a combination of "other" priorities that included equestrian trails, mountain biking facilities, off-leash areas, pickleball courts and disc golf courses. More than one-fourth of the budget allocation was directed to acquisition of new park land and open space with the construction of new sports fields being allocated with over one fifth of the budget resources. Clark County residents expressed numerous desires and demands for more outdoor recreational opportunities and demonstrated the value they place on the contribution of the park, trail and recreation system to their quality of life.

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RECOMMENDATIONS 8

RECOMMENDATIONS

Clark County residents recognize the many benefits of parks trails, open space and recreation facilities and desire to continue to provide parks and conserving open spaces. Parks, trails and recreation facilities support healthy lifestyles, protect ecosystem services, enhance economic activities and sustain a strong sense of community. The PROS Plan goals and recommendations described in this chapter represent the highest priorities for the next six years and beyond for achieving the vision and mission of the county park system.

Vision

Clark County Parks & Recreation strengthens a high quality of life for the entire community.

Mission

Meeting community needs by providing an interconnected system of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and natural areas that support environmental stewardship, diverse recreational opportunities and economic development.

To achieve the vision of enhancing and strengthening Clark County's quality of life through a diverse and interconnected parks system, the parks plan make specific recommendations for each of the ten goals based on both the technical assessment and public engagement directing the future of the county park system. Specific action items may direct the need for new policies and practices, expanded programs or capital proposed projects.

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Goals and Recommendations

Goal 1: Forge strong public, private and non-profit partnerships.

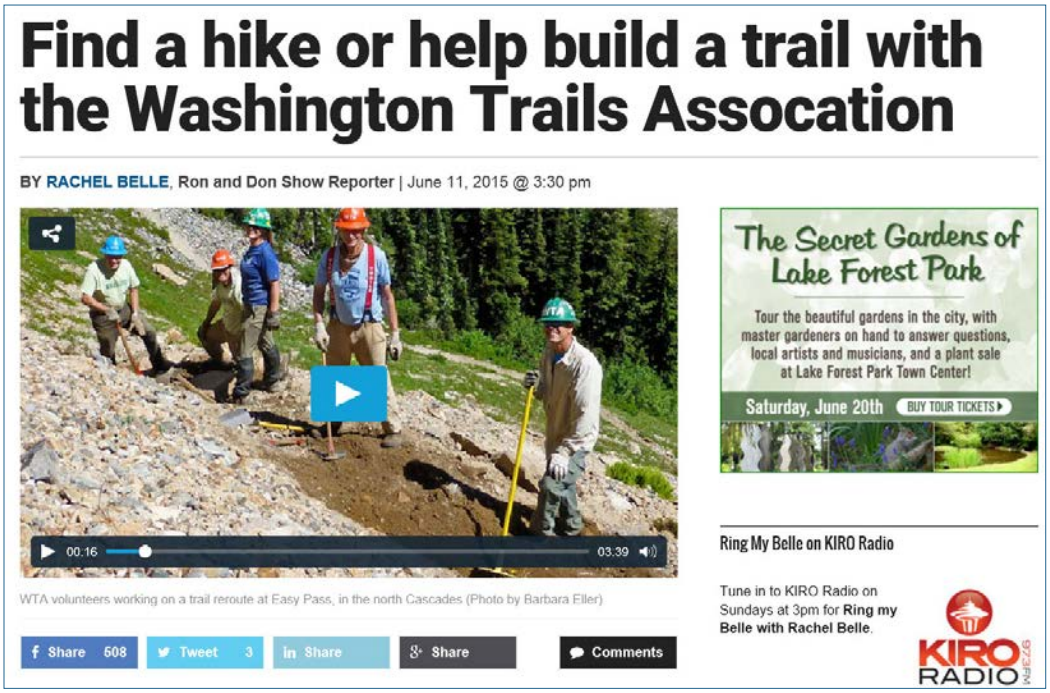
- Develop partnerships with public and private organizations to increase parks and recreation opportunities.
- Initiate the formation of a regional sports council to actively advocate for a regional sports complex to create a tournament level facility and provide valuable recreation and economic benefits.
- Collaborate with other agencies in developing and operating parks and recreational facilities for the regional population, such as water access, trails and regional parks.
- Cooperate with other public and private agencies, as well as with private landowners, to acquire and conserve land and other resources to provide quality park and recreation facilities.
- Facilitate active partnerships with schools, ports and utilities to help implement regional trails connections and safe routes to parks.

The county recognizes that local government cannot achieve all its goals independently of other agencies or organizations, whether public, private or nonprofit. Partnerships are necessary for all stakeholders to be more effective at leveraging their limited resources to achieve a significant goal. That collective impact from joining forces through strong relationships has already allowed the County Parks Division to complete more projects and program forward more effectively. Continuing this practice and enhancing its strength and value through extending the reach to more partners will be the most powerful tool for implementing the proposed PROS Plan for the future of the park system.

Goal 2: Promote and market the county's parks system.

- Promote Clark County as an outdoor recreation and tourism destination by effectively marketing the county's parks, trails, special facilities, open spaces and natural resources.
- Establish a brand identity for Clark County Parks, with a consistent look and feel to educational and promotional materials.
- Produce mapping and 'wayfinding' for parks and trails that reflects the county parks identity and adds value to the park and trail user's experience.
- Enhance the county parks web presence with active engagement of social media.
- Incorporate park and trail mapping and "wayfinding" into the county park website.
- Engage CVTV to produce a series of park and trail stories that serve to inform the community about the variety of outdoor recreation resources available in the county.
- Engage local media more actively to report on county parks activities, events, volunteer work parties, etc.
- Actively engage in and support Intertwine Alliance activities and events to capture the value of collaboration across organizations and agencies in the metropolitan region.

The County will need to reach beyond the traditional governmental practices for sharing messages and communicating its mission and goals to its partners and the public. Without the value of an effective public image, readily-available park system information and current updates on projects and progress, the parks system may continue to be under-appreciated and under-utilized by a large sector of the population. An effective communications and outreach program will be multi-faceted, highly responsive, interactive and flexible to help promote the park system and encourage community support.



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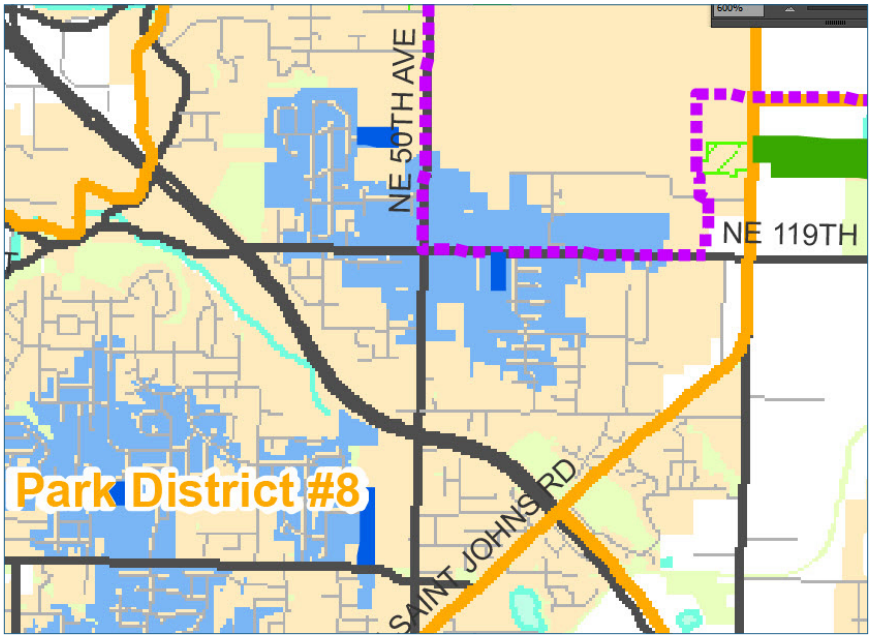
Goal 3: Embrace a balanced strategy for achieving a comprehensive parks system.

- Pursue land acquisition to provide geographically accessible regional parks and an equitable distribution of urban parks.
  - Acquire nine additional park sites within the urban unincorporated area PIF Districts in the 6-year capital facilities plan (CFP)
- Preserve the region's scenic beauty through protected open space areas and corridors and provide outdoor recreation, where appropriate.
  - Collaborate actively with Legacy Lands and Conservation Futures programs and the Columbia Land Trust and other conservation organizations to link open spaces and parks.
  - Connect greenways for riparian conservation and regional trail connections.
- Continue implementing the Regional Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan and coordinate with public and private stakeholders to develop a trails and bikeways network.
  - Collaborate with other jurisdictions to capture outside funding to close trail gaps.
- Open discussions with parks and recreation agencies to identify high priority projects across city jurisdictions to jointly seek funding and otherwise collaborate on their implementation.

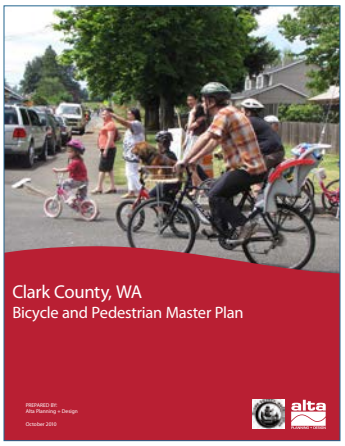
The urban unincorporated area containing the Greater Clark Parks District offers parks, trails and recreation facilities to the majority of the UUA population. Despite the number of developed and the locations of undeveloped (future) parks, there are still significant areas within the UUA where parks are not within reach of many residents. The map below illustrates how the walking area of ½-mile is determined for existing parks to depict residential neighborhoods with parks within reasonable walking distance. Those gaps between service areas show how many residents do not have parks nearby. The parks plan recommends acquiring properties in those service area gaps to help create the interconnected system of parks, trails and open space and to ensure geographic equity in the distribution of public recreation facilities.



Goal 4: Ensure equity & access to parks, trails and facilities for a healthy community.

- Accessibility: Follow the Americans with Disabilities Act and incorporate ADA Accessibility Guidelines to ensure equal and maximum accessibility for all users.
  - Expand potential on-street parking for neighborhood parking to provide access to more seniors and families with small children.
- Parks: Offer a range of active and passive recreation experiences for diverse age groups, interests and abilities.
  - Continue to develop urban parks and regional park facilities to provide more outdoor recreation opportunities to the county's diverse population of park users.
- Trail System: Promote active lifestyles by providing more trail connections and coordinating with other jurisdictions and providers to create a seamless system.
  - Add more trailhead parking and restrooms to existing and future trails.
  - Connect more residents to urban parks and regional trails through implementation of GCPD local trail projects.
  - Implement the 2010 Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan.
  - Ensure coordination between Public Works and Parks projects to capture trail enhancement opportunities.
- Water Access: Provide safe and appropriate water access for recreation and education and to inspire appreciation and stewardship of aquatic resources and habitat.
  - Coordinate with public and private stakeholders to provide additional access for fishing, wading, swimming and non-motorized and motorized boating where appropriate, including enhancements to water trails.
  - Improve existing publicly owned water access sites to address safety and disabled accessibility issues.
- Urban walkability: Promote safe pedestrian and bicycle routes during development review to encourage connectivity between parks, trails, schools and businesses.
  - A Safe Routes to Parks program should be initiated to help advocate for safer street connections to urban and regional parks and trails.
  - Enact development code changes (Title 40) that encourage and ensure safer bike and pedestrian standards.
  - Ensure that new developments provide reasonable connections to parks.

The level of service assessment for the county's urban park system revealed significant gaps in readily accessible parks for its urban residents. Large swaths of the unincorporated urban area lack any park, trail or special facility within walking distance. Closing these gaps will require new land acquisitions for future parks, connecting gaps in the regional and local trail system and coordinating with transportation improvements to ensure walkable and safe neighborhoods that connect to urban parks. The goal of equity and access is served by building the interconnected system of parks, trails and recreation facilities.



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Goal 5: Provide recreational opportunities for the entire community.

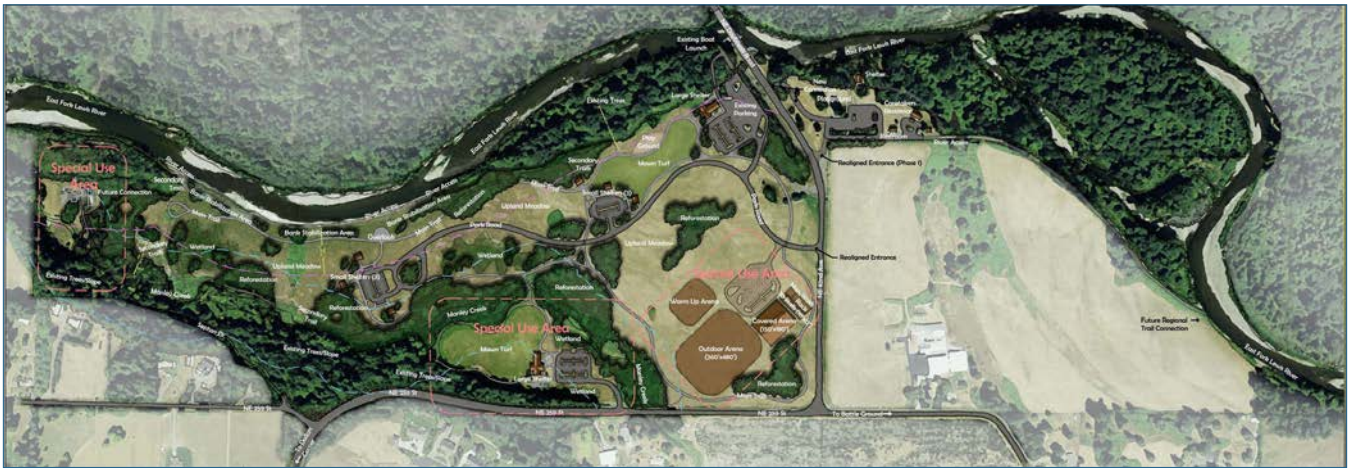
- Offer parks, trails and sports fields and support services to accommodate the needs of various existing users and future users with population growth and demographic changes.
  - Finish six GCPD neighborhood park development projects (in 6-year CFP)
  - Develop the acquired urban park lands into parks to help provide recreational amenities for more residential neighborhoods.
  - Acquire additional land within service area gaps to address underserved populations where parks are most needed.
- Explore new recreational trends and engage in partnerships with user groups to develop, operate and maintain specialized facilities.
  - Continue to engage and support user groups that build and maintain special facilities: trails, off-leash areas, disc golf course, BMX/pump track, mountain biking trails, equestrian facilities, etc.
- Prioritize facility development based on demonstrated demand, population served, regional appeal, fiscal opportunity and revenue-generating potential.
  - Develop the CFP priorities to complete GCPD parks.
  - Design and build undeveloped urban parks to continue closing gaps in service areas.
  - Facilitate private group investment in facility development that adds value to public park uses, such as equestrian facilities or BMX/pump tracks.
- Expand sports fields by acquiring additional sites and providing all-season designs.
  - Forge stronger partnerships through the facilitation of a county-wide sports council with a collaborative revenue building model.
  - Provide seed money to initiate faster resource acquisition for more fields and all-weather surfacing.
  - Develop partnerships with other agencies, both public and private, for providing recreation programs and facilities in the urban area.

The priority projects in the six-year capital facilities plan expand the range of recreational opportunities for more residents. The county park system needs to continually implement projects that provide outdoor recreation value to the entire community.

Goal 6: Be responsible, effective stewards of public lands and finances.

- Prioritize project implementation to leverage the highest valued benefits ("most bang for the buck") such as short gaps between existing built trails to create longer more usable connections.
- Incorporate sustainability and low impact development into design, development and maintenance of the county park system and be a leader in sustainable building practices.
- Use innovative and cost-effective methods to build, maintain, operate and promote the parks, recreation, and open space system.
- Cooperate with other county departments and neighboring jurisdictions to identify and conserve open space.
- Integrate user counts and surveys into regular operational practices to improve customer service and provide useful data for securing grants.
- Initiate a volunteer camp host program to increase parks' presence and hospitality at community and regional parks.
- Investigate feasibility of incorporating security patrols or park ranger program to ensure safety of park and trail users and protect facility infrastructure.
- Continually seek new opportunities to increase revenues and control expenses.

A regional park partnership project provides an illustration of effective stewardship through the story of the lower daybreak property, an extension of Daybreak Regional Park. The site was purchased in 2002 in partnership with the Columbia Land Trust. Since that acquisition, County Parks, Department of Environmental Services Growing Green and Legacy Lands programs have coordinated to implement several restoration and water quality improvement projects to enhance the riparian corridors, create fish habitat and stabilize the streambank. Additional partners from the AmeriCorps Volunteer program and Fish First helped with labor, grant funding and project planning. The undeveloped portions of the site are being actively managed for hay, providing vegetation control and reduced county maintenance costs. In 2010, after extensive public engagement, a master plan for the regional park was adopted by the county commissioners. Site development for these regional park facilities will require additional partnerships to combine resources for project implementation.



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Goal 7: Preserve our historic and cultural heritage.

- Protect and improve historic and cultural features through design approaches for existing and newly acquired park and trail sites.
- Partner with historical organizations to enlist volunteer-based interpretation programs in parks and along trails.
- Develop an ongoing program to preserve, restore and interpret historic and cultural resources.
- Collaborate with area historic preservation agencies.

The Clark County 78th Street Heritage Farm offers a prime example of how parks can play a role in the preservation of historic and cultural heritage. In 1873, the county operated a poor farm on the 100-acre site then converted a portion of the site into a research and experimental farm through a lease with Washington State College. In 1949, a 21-acre portion of the property became cemetery and county park (Hazel Dell Community Park) while the main site was deeded to Washington State College (now WSU) for its experimental agricultural station. In 2008, the county reassumed property ownership and still maintains a partnership with Washington State University. The property consists of 79 acres in Hazel Dell and, in 2010, was approved to be maintained as an accessible, agricultural, recreational, community-based asset that will reflect the area's history. Plans are in progress to coordinate efforts that can connect the resources of Hazel Dell Community Park and Heritage Farm. Future improvements can enhance the farm and park user experience and add value to the community's outdoor recreation and cultural resources.

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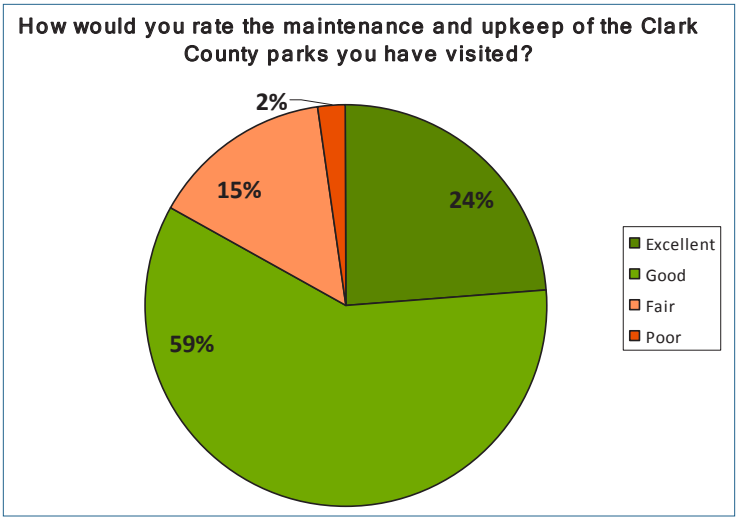
Goal 8: Maintain and enhance parks and recreation facilities.

- Use best practices and invest in preventative maintenance.
- Coordinate with trail groups to develop and maintain trail projects.
- Promote volunteerism to enhance community ownership and stewardship of parks, trails and natural areas.
- Seek higher levels of general fund support for operations and maintenance of regional parks.
- Advocate for allocations of fiscal resources, such as REET, to be designated to parks for capital projects.
- Collaborate with Transportation's sidewalk program to implement safer routes to parks and better access.

County parks has continually strived to provide the highest level of maintenance given available resources. The survey indicates a high level of customer satisfaction with the exhibited care of park facilities. However, the system will require continued support not only for regular maintenance and operations but also for significant capital repairs as the system ages and wears out from heavy use. To ensure adequate asset management, basic upkeep and the addition of facilities that enhance parks and recreation facilities, expanded fiscal resources are necessary. While outside volunteer groups and support from other organizations certainly contribute to the resources to maintain and enhance existing facilities, a secure commitment from the county for increased fiscal support for parks is recommended. The public infrastructure of parks, trails and outdoor recreation facilities must be adequately sustained for future generations.



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Goal 9: Serve the community and develop a dynamic, effective organization.

- Develop capital facilities plans to ensure adequate improvement and expansion of parks, trails, special facilities and natural areas to serve existing and future populations.
- Involve Clark County residents in planning and programming for the parks system and provide effective community outreach to increase public awareness and support.
- Support staff training and development to promote the use of best practices and new technologies.
- Encourage Parks Advisory Board enrichment for fine-tuning members' leadership and advocacy efforts.
- Advocate for additional staff resources to enable efforts on collaborating, planning and revenue generation.

The parks division and parks advisory board are working together to foster the best service for providing parks and recreation opportunities to the community. While both groups are relatively young, their commitment to excellence is apparent. Both staff and PAB members will benefit from additional resources to assist in the implement of the PROS Plan.

Goal 10: Seek adequate funding to meet community needs.

- Develop and maintain funding for acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of parks, recreation facilities and trails.
- Actively seek innovative funding methods and use alternate methods, where feasible, to enhance efficient and effective operations.
- Consider stabilizing the Greater Clark Parks District's finances by protecting the maximum levy rate of 25 cents per $1,000 of assessed value.
- Aggressively pursue state, federal and private grant resources to leverage local funding sources.
- Partner more expansively with the Parks Foundation of Clark County to encourage sponsorship of specific park and trail projects with private funding.

Park project implementation has a long track record of obtaining outside funding from state and federal grants to help leverage local resources for successful results. Over a 43 year period, acquisition projects received over $12 million in financial assistance from state and federal grant programs. Averaged across that time period, the contribution could be calculated as $284,660 per year. For park development projects over $8.5 million in financial assistance has helped build parks and recreation

facilities in the county since 1976. If those grant programs continue and the county is successful at the same rate, approximately $250,000 per year could provide support for park and trail development projects. However, even with this successful grant support, parks and trails will require more assistance to reach an acceptable rate of completion to serve the county population.

Figure 46. Summary of Grant Funding for Clark County Park Projects by Type

Project type	History	Averages
Acquisition	43 years	$284,660 per year
Development	33 years	$261,739 per year
Fish / Restoration	12 years	$82,169 per year

Time Period	Totals
1972-2015	$12,240,397
1976-2009	$8,637,388
2002-2014	$986,028

The Greater Clark Parks District is a junior district (included with libraries and fire districts) among the taxing districts in the county that assess levies on property tax. With voter approved rate of up to $0.27/$1,000 assessed value, the revenues could provide sufficient support of the original parks and facilities identified in the 2005 metropolitan parks district (MPD) levy. However, when senior taxing districts are affected by pro-rationing due to lowering assessed property values, the GCPD is the first district subject to pro-rationing. As the past recession demonstrated, collected revenues can drop to insufficient levels for supporting parks operations and maintenance. The MPD can protect $0.25 of the $0.27 levy to exclude that amount from the effects of pro-rationing and secure reliable operations and maintenance funding, if it is passed by popular vote. If approved the protection would be in place for six years. This plan recommends that the MPD Board consider seeking the protection of park revenue.

With clear evidence from numerous studies across the state and the nation that outdoor recreation provides for economic benefits, implementing park, trail and recreation facility projects is a good financial investment.

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IMPLEMENTATION 9

IMPLEMENTATION

The goals, recommendations and proposed projects that have been advanced in this comprehensive parks plan put forward an extensive array of capital and non-capital projects to enhance and secure the future of the county park system. The sum total of all the projects, partnerships and programs far exceeds the Parks Division's staffing and funding capacity. All proposed timelines are dependent on a combination of community support, outside funding resources and Division staff capacity. To provide some degree of success, proposed capital projects have been identified as higher priority through the 6-year capital facilities plan or assigned as lower priority of the 20-year capital facilities plan. Implementation of all the proposed projects is highly unlikely given limited resources; however, all the listed projects will add value to the county park system and its community of users. The capital facilities plan includes future projects that exceed existing resources to be posed for capturing opportunities to quality for grant support and support budgetary requests. Each project will move forward when, and if, adequate funding resources become available.

Project Priorities

The comprehensive planning process included a detailed inventory and assessment process to determine the current and future needs of the park, trail and recreation system. The cost of meeting the adopted standards and public expectations for the park system exceeds the county's fiscal resources. A variety of funding mechanisms will be required, including revenue from park impact fees, real estate excise taxes, GCPD revenues, Conservation Futures, grants, donations and private financial support. Partnerships with other agencies and organizations will be critical to leverage each entity's limited resources for assisting in project implementation. The entire Capital Facilities Plan (Appendix A) identifies each project, its anticipated cost (if known), the proposed timeline and potential funding sources. The higher priority projects are listed in the 6-year capital facilities plan and the longer term projects with a lower priority comprise the 20-year capital facilities plan.

The Urban Park System Priorities

In direct coordination with the park system level of services assessments that determined the need for additional facilities and the corresponding public demand, the 6-year CFP (see Figure 47) identifies a number of urban park acquisitions (14 new sites, one site expansion) and developments (13 projects) to provide a more equitable distribution of park facilities to urban unincorporated area residents. The park development projects include those remaining parks that were identified as part of the establishment of the Greater Clark Parks District) in 2005. Local trails within the GCPD are expanded in the 6-year CFP through seven alignment acquisitions and nine trail development projects. Many of these proposed trail projects were also part of the original intent of the GCPD development program. The 6-year CFP identifies special facilities including five sports field projects, one off-leash area and a BMX facility. These improvements may be located within existing or future

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park lands or on separate sites. Non-capital projects listed within the 6-year CFP involve planning needs that support the plan recommendations and the execution of identified programs. The six-year CFP for the UUA park system totals 71 proposed projects.

Figure 47. 6-Year Capital Facilities Summary for the Urban Unincorporated Area by Project Type

High Priority UUA Projects by Category	
Urban Park Acquisitions	**15**
New Park Sites - 14	
Community Park Expansion - 1	
Urban Park Developments	**13**
GCPD Neighborhood Parks - 6	
GCPD Community Park -1	
Community Park: Phase 2 - 2	
Community Park Parking Expansion - 1	
GCPD Neighborhood Park: Phase 2 - 1	
Community Park: Phase 1 - 2	
Urban Area Trail Acquisitions	**7**
Greenways - 2	
Trail Alignments - 5	
Urban Area Trail Developments	**9**
Trail Gap Connections - 8	
Volunteer Project Support - 1	
Urban Park Improvements	**15**
ADA Access Improvements	
Playground Replacements	
Upgraded Shelters	
Capital Repairs	
Camp Host Pads - 3	
Conservation Area Acquisitions	**1**
Salmon Creek Lower Greenway	
Special Facility Improvements	**7**
Sport Field Projects - 5	
Off Leash Areas - 1	
BMX Facility - 1	
Urban Area Planning	**4**
Safe Routes to Parks	
System-wide Maps	
Business / Organizational Plan	
Comprehensive Plan update	
TOTAL UUA PROJECTS	**71**

See Appendix A for details regarding the Capital Facilities Plans

Across the UUA, the 6-year CFP identifies significant projects with costs totaling over $38 million. (see Figure 48) While park impact fees (PIF) can cover the bulk of the acquisition needs, the public share requirement (see Appendix F for requirements details), dictates that PIF funds cannot be the sole source of funding for providing new parks. The current balance in PIF funds (as of April 2015) is $12,120,847 with $9,777,133 designated for acquisition, $847,959 assigned to development and $1,495,755 in a combined acquisition and development account. A shortfall of $26,082,998 presents a challenge to the county to achieve its project goals within six years. Other revenue and financial resources will be needed to overcome this deficit.

Figure 48. 6-Year Capital Facilities Costs for the Urban Unincorporated Area by Project Type

Urban Unincorporated Area (UUA) System	CFP Estimate	
Urban Park Acquisitions	$	8,610,000
Urban Park Developments	$	10,578,103
Urban Area Trail Acquisitions	$	3,580,742
Urban Area Trail Developments	$	6,030,000
Urban Park Improvements	$	560,000
Conservation Area Acquisitions	$	400,000
Special Facility Improvements	$	8,235,000
Urban Area Planning	$	210,000
TOTAL	**$**	**38,203,845**

The UUA 20-year CFP identifies the wide range of 42 projects that are important and valuable to the future of the park system but do not represent the highest priorities for more immediate implementation. Should opportunities arise in a shorter time frame that provide the necessary resources for implementation, certain 20-year projects could be advanced more rapidly. The 20-year CFP represents the continuation of efforts to provide adequate facilities for the growing urban area population to meet the adopted standards for the park system and provide the facilities being demanded by the residents.

Figure 49. 20-Year Capital Facilities Summary for the Urban Unincorporated Area by Project Type

20-Year UUA Projects by Category	
Urban Park Acquisitions	**18**
New Neighborhood Park Sites - 12	
New Community Park Sites - 6	
Urban Park Developments	**13**
Existing Neighborhood Park Sites - 9	
Community Park Sites - 4	
Urban Area Trail Acquisitions	**2**
Trail Connections / Extensions - 2	
Urban Area Trail Developments	**2**
Trail Connections / Extensions - 2	
Recreation Facilities Acquisition	**1**
Recreation Center - 1	
Recreation Facilities Development	**1**
Recreation Center - 1	
Special Facilities Development	**5**
Heritage Farm Development, Level III - 1	
Off Leash Area Sites - 3	
Lake River / Vancouver Lake Water Trail Access - 1	
TOTAL UUA PROJECTS	**42**

Since the 20-year CFP proposes projects with more distant implementation time frames, the estimates costs may increase significantly. Within the UUA, over $86 million would be needed to complete all the 42 listed projects.

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The Regional Park System Priorities

Directly correlated with the regional park system assessments that determined the need for additional facilities and the corresponding public demand, the 6-year CFP identifies five regional park land acquisitions and six regional park developments with a number of improvements within existing regional parks to enhance operations, user experiences, asset management and public safety. The 6-year CFP identifies six regional trail acquisitions to provide the land for making future connections and three trail development projects to link the gaps connecting trail segments. Two proposed development projects are designed to support the regional trail system: a camp host pad at a trailhead and signage program. Special facilities acquisition and development projects focus primarily on addressing more sports field facilities. Planning projects involve master planning for regional parks (mostly undeveloped) to provide design and direction for their future development. Combining park system and conservation lands projects in the 6-year CFP totals 62 projects.

Figure 50. 6-Year Capital Facilities Summary for the Regional System by Type

High Priority Regional Projects by Category	
Regional Park Acquisitions	**5**
New Park Sites - 2	
Additions to Existing Parks - 2	
Trust Lands Transfer - 1	
Regional Park Developments	**6**
Phase 1 Developments - 3	
Redevelopment - 1	
Renovation - 1	
Facility Addition - 1	
Regional Park Improvement / Repair	**8**
Camp Host Pads	
Bridge Maintenance	
Wayfinding Signage	
ADA & Capital Repairs	
Spray / Splash Pad & OLA Addition	
Pavement Preservation	
Regional Trail Acquisitions	**6**
Easements - 3	
Partnership - 1	
Additional Lands - 2	
Regional Trail Development / Improvements	**5**
Trail Segment Projects - 3	
Camp Host Pad - 1	
Signage Program - 1	
Special Facility Acquisition	**2**
Sports Complex - 2	
Special Facility Development	**4**
Sport Fields - 3	
Boathouse - 1	
Regional Planning	**6**
Master Plans - 4	
Master Plan Update - 1	
Comprehensive Plan update - 1	
Conservation / Open Space Acquisitions	**9**
Greenways & Riparian Corridors	
Conservation Futures Partnerships	**16**
Trail Alignments	
Greenway Additions	
Restorations	
Park & Open Space Connecting Lands	
TOTAL REGIONAL PROJECTS	**62**

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The 62 regional 6-year CFP projects span the range of tasks from acquisitions through development and include major renovations, enhancements and repairs. Keeping the regional park system safe, viable and expanded to serve all county residents are key criteria to the selected projects. The estimated costs of capital projects in the 6-year CFP totals over $79 million. At this time, the only source of existing revenue to accomplish some of these goals (primarily acquisition) is Conservation Futures funds. REET funding is currently being fully allocated to the county's existing debt service payments. As future REET revenues exceed the debt payment requirement, the allocation of REET revenues toward park funding will be important to help narrow the program funding gap. Significant amounts of other revenue will be necessary from local and outside funding sources.

Figure 51. 6-Year Capital Facilities Costs for the Regional System by Project Type

Regional System		CFP Estimate
Regional Park Acquisitions	$	22,300,000
Regional Park Developments	$	10,570,000
Regional Park Improvement / Repair	$	4,765,000
Regional Trail Acquisitions	$	4,720,000
Regional Trail Development / Improvements	$	3,025,000
Special Facility Acquisition	$	9,000,000
Special Facility Development	$	5,910,000
Regional Planning	$	415,000
Conservation / Open Space Acquisitions	$	18,325,000
Conservation Futures Partnerships		--
TOTAL	**$**	**79,030,000**

The regional 20-year CFP identifies the wide range of 30 projects that are important and valuable to the future of the park system, but do not represent the highest priorities for more immediate implementation. When opportunities arise that provide the necessary resources for implementation, certain 20-year regional projects may be advanced. The regional 20-year CFP represents the continuation of efforts to provide adequate facilities for the growing county-wide population to meet the needs for the regional park system and provide the facilities being requested by residents of Clark County. The participation of local cities will be a key to success in providing some resources toward the implementation of those regional projects that benefit their residents.

Within the 20-year CFP for the regional system, a total of over $50 million (not including Conservation Futures projects) will be necessary to achieve the acquisition, development and site repairs or improvements. Conservation Futures projects from the Conservation Areas Acquisition Plan are referenced in Appendix G.

All together (combining urban and regional systems) the 20-year CFP identifies $136,555,000 in estimated project costs with an additional $200,000 needed for non-capital projects that cover system-wide planning needs.

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Figure 52. 20-Year Capital Facilities Summary for the Regional System by Project Type

20-Year Regional Projects by Category	
Regional Park Acquisitions	**3**
New Sites - 3	
Regional Park Developments	**7**
Redevelopment / Phase II Sites - 5	
Phase I Development Sites - 2	
Regional Park Improvement / Repair	**1**
Boat Launch Addition - 1	
Regional Planning	**1**
Re-use Master Plan - 1	
Conservation / Open Space Acquisitions	**TBD**
TBD	
Conservation Futures Partnerships	**TBD**
TBD	
Regional Trail Acquisitions	**4**
Trail Alignments - 4	
Regional Trail Development / Improvements	**7**
Connections / Extensions - 7	
Special Facility Acquisition	**3**
Rural Sport Field Sites - 3	
Special Facility Development	**4**
Rifle Range Relocation - 1	
Additional Recreation Facilities - 3	
TOTAL REGIONAL PROJECTS	**30**

In addition to the capital projects listed in the 20-year CFP, several non-capital projects have been identified:

- **Recreation Trends Survey.** The need to assess changing needs of the growing population to reveal allow the parks division to adjust priorities and management requires a thorough survey of its urban and rural populations.
- **Watercraft Launch Access Study.** For both motorized and non-motorized recreational boating, planning for comprehensive access is recommended.
- **East Fork Lewis River Greenway Management Plan.** The EFLR Greenway serves to protect an important river system and provide the alignment for a future regional trail corridor. An assessment of natural resource conditions and potential alignment alternatives is recommended.
- **PIF Program Assessment.** As the urban area grows, current park impact fee rates will not keep up with the impact of future population pressures. Reviewing the PIF program to evaluate the potential for adjustments is recommended.

Operations & Maintenance Implications

The recommendations within the plan propose new projects, added facilities and significant expanded involvement in developing the park system for a better future. All county departments that provide services in and related to its park system will be affected by the implementation of plan recommendations.

The Clark County Parks Division within the Public Works Department oversees operations and maintenance responsibilities for both its urban and regional park systems. In the urban park system, funding for maintenance comes primarily through the Greater Clark Park District levy. In the regional park system, the county general fund is utilized for maintenance. The projects identified in the 6-year and 20-year capital facilities plans will trigger the need for higher levels of maintenance funding support. For the 6-year CFP alone, the additional allocation of staffing for maintenance reaches over 20.75 new full-time employees.

Figure 53. Additional Maintenance Staffing Needs by CFP Project Type

Project Type	Staffing Need (per new park)	6-yr CFP (new parks)	Total Staffing (FTEs)
Neighborhood parks	0.25	6	**1.5**
Community Parks	1	1.25	**1.25**
Regional Parks	2	3	**6**
Special Facilities (UUA)	4	1	**4**
Special Facilities (Regional)	4	2	**8**
TOTAL NEW FTEs			**20.75**

The Clark County park system has grown substantially in the last eight years - adding 25 new urban parks, a sports complex, new facilities within regional parks and more regional trail mileage. In considering the current and future administrative staffing needs for county parks, a quick historical review can offer perspective. In 1996, prior to the combination of Vancouver and Clark County parks department staffing through an interlocal agreement, county parks was staffed by ten full-time administrative staff. The park system infrastructure was considerably smaller and programming, such as the volunteer program and sports fields schedule coordination, were not developed. The 1996 administrative staff consisted of the parks manager, planning manager, maintenance superintendent, program coordinator, administrative assistant, an urban park planner, a regional park planner, a grant writer/permitting specialist, a recreation manager and an office assistant. The current 2015 parks administrative staff consists of seven FTEs and two seasonal part-time staff, including the parks manager, a facilities scheduling coordinator, volunteer program coordinator (shared with all of Public Works), resource management coordinator, an office assistant, a limited-term project assistant, and two seasonal part-time project assistants. With responsibilities for managing a larger system, the Parks Division is woefully under-staffed. In order to implement the proposed capital facilities plan, the park administrative staffing will need to add new staff positions with expertise in planning, acquisition, design development, project management, partnership development and grant programs. The plan recognizes this additional staffing capacity need and recommends the addition of specialized planning personnel.

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Other Implementation Strategies

Expanding Partnerships

The strongest recommendation that arose from the planning process was to work collaboratively with multiple partners to leverage local and outside resources to advance project implementation. The plan also includes a series of goals that will require interagency coordination and partnerships with other organizations. Potential partnerships include intergovernmental, interdepartmental, educational, public/private and bi-state partnership activities.

The county has existing partners in many facets of its park operations. Existing partnerships have already contributed to the success of the county parks system. For example, partnership agreements with various sport leagues provide for facility oversight and recreational programming in community parks, such as Hockinson Meadows Community Park, and on special facility sites such as the Harmony Sports Complex and Luke Jensen Sports Complex. These sport league partnerships are an example of unified efforts to acquire, develop and maintain parks and recreation facilities. Other types of partnerships that can be further employed include:

- Monetary, land, in-kind donations
- Grant programs
- Recreation programs
- Stewardship & clean-up
- Habitat restoration
- Trail building & maintenance

Developing or strengthening these types of partnerships will be essential for reaching the goals of the plan and meeting the needs of the future park system. Partnerships will allow the county parks division to share responsibilities for the financial, acquisition, development, planning, and operational activities. A short list of existing and potential partners include:

- Federal agencies
- State agencies
- Cities and towns
- Port districts
- Schools and colleges
- Local government agencies & departments
- Public utilities
- Conservation districts
- Non-profit organizations
- Private-sector business
- Neighborhood groups
- Special interest groups
- Youth & adult sports leagues
- Private citizens.

Partnerships, like many relationships, require time to develop and establish the mutual values that keep the partners at the table, leverage all accumulated resources and lead to success project or program implementation. The county parks staffing will need to grow to allow for the capacity to capture stronger partnerships.

Strengthening Volunteers

Volunteers already contribute to the county park system through a wide range of projects including park clean-up, tree planting, invasive species removal, trail building and maintenance, sports field maintenance and special facility operations. The county has an Adopt-a-Park program, a Park Hero program and a parks host program, and it also engages with outside volunteer organizations for additional resources to leverage and expand park operations. In 2014, volunteers contributed 15,008 hours of service through organizations, partners, individuals and programs in support of the county park system.

Examples of these contributions from volunteer organizations include the operational assistance for off-leash areas ("dog parks") by DOGPAW, a local dog-owner advocacy group and non-profit organization. The Chinook Trail Association provided volunteer trail design, development and maintenance for the Bells Mountain Trail and continues to contribute to trail infrastructure improvements. The Washington Trails Association has been building the one-mile trail extension in Vancouver Lake Park and is providing a solid volunteer base for other trail needs throughout the regional park system. Friends of the East Fork and other conservation advocacy groups provide volunteer assistance with restoration activities. The Whipple Creek Restoration Committee activities provide one example of one volunteer group working within the parks system to improve regional park trails. (see sidebar)

Whipple Creek Restoration Committee

The Whipple Creek Restoration Committee is a citizen's advocacy group that is working cooperatively with Clark County to improve and maintain trails within the Whipple Creek Regional Park. The volunteer-based group hosts monthly work parties and is regularly assisted by the County Parks Volunteer Program Coordinator who aligns county resources to leverage volunteer labor. In the spirit of collaboration, the group work parties often are joined by the work parties from the Washington Trails Association - expanding the volunteer efforts to provide trail-based recreation for equestrians, bikers, walkers, runners, hikers and naturalists.

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Enhancing Communications and Outreach

Many of the plan recommendations will require the execution of effective communications and outreach.

- Forging strong partnerships will require effective communications and outreach to potential partners who can help the county to leverage park and recreation project implementation and program operation.
- Promoting the county's park system will require broader marketing and outreach that entails a combination of better signage, more public news coverage, enhanced wayfinding, printed mapping and user information, use of engaging social media platforms, and interactive website/online activities.
- Embracing a balanced strategy for achieving a comprehensive parks system will require the use of more extensive communications and outreach tools to create the common ground and public dialog needed to support park policies, project implementation, collaborations with partners, and the search for financial support.
- Ensuring equity and access to parks can be advanced by involving messaging and informational techniques that inform residents about opportunities in their park and trail systems. Increased participation in park and recreation activities ranging from encouraging family picnic shelter use to recruiting for volunteer work parties can help residents increase their familiarity and satisfaction with their park system.
- Providing recreational opportunities for the entire community will require effective messaging and information sharing to be successful. The county will need to promote its facilities and new improvements to ensure public knowledge of the variety of recreational opportunities available.

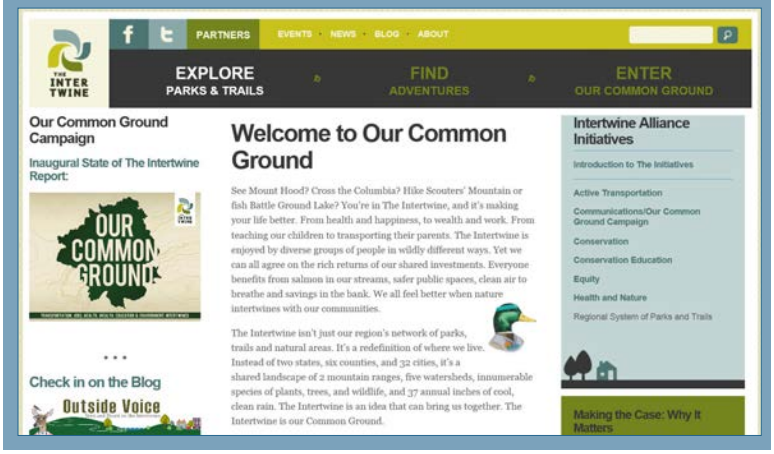
Developing an effective communication and outreach plan will require expertise and effort. Assistance from the county public information office can provide some resources to further this effort. As with other plan recommendations, additional staffing resources may be necessary to accomplish an effective messaging program. Capturing the value of joining actively in Intertwine Alliance programs can also help broaden the platform of communication and outreach. (see sidebar)

The Intertwine Alliance

Founded in 2007, the Intertwine Alliance consists of public, private and nonprofit groups working together to create a vibrant and healthy region by promoting, implementing and protecting the interconnected system of parks, trails and natural areas in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. The Alliance was built from a foundation of past efforts on both sides of the river to "connect the green" by conserving natural areas and promoting public parks and trails.

One of the first products attributed to the Intertwine Alliance was the production of the 2010 Bi-State Trails Plan. The plan documented the existing system, proposed connections and raised the leveraging capacity for garnering local and outside funding to support the trail system's implementation. Another Intertwine collaboration was the 2012 publication of the Regional Conservation Strategy & Biodiversity Guide representing the collective vision to protect and restore the metropolitan region's natural systems and a framework for moving forward together. The leaders and members within the Intertwine recognize the importance of building an interconnected network of parks, trails and natural areas, whether for outdoor recreation, public health, economic contribution or environmental conservation.

The Intertwine's website and numerous initiatives work to enhance the public dialog for advancing the connections in urban areas through their Outside Voice blog and Common Ground stories. The Intertwine's communication and marketing platform provides enhanced outreach for local park and recreation providers with limited resources for sharing the values of parks, trails and natural lands to the community.



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Funding Strategies

The plan has identified a significant breadth of new projects, improvements and programming that exceed the capacity of existing resources. For the capital projects involving acquisition and development, a variety of funding sources may provide options for reaching closer to the projected revenue needs. These funding options range from local sources to state, federal and private entities and programs.

Local Funding Options

Clark County possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks, trails and other recreation facilities. The sources listed below represent potential sources though some may be dedicated for other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, county leadership will need to consider the feasibility and potential to modify or expand the use of existing county revenue sources in favor of park and recreation programs.

General Obligation Bond

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.52.056

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest. The state constitution (Article VIII, Section 6) limits total debt to 5% of the total assessed value of property in the jurisdiction.

Excess Levy

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.52.052

Washington law allows counties, along with other specified junior taxing districts, to levy property taxes in excess of limitations imposed by statute when authorized by the voters. Levy approval requires 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election.

Sales Tax

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.14

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of counties to impose sales and use taxes at a rate set by the statute to help "carry out essential county and municipal purposes." The authority is divided into two parts. Counties may impose by resolution or ordinance a sales and use tax at a rate of ½% on any taxable event within their jurisdictions.

Impact Fees

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.02.050

Impact fees are charges placed on new development as a condition of development approval to help pay for various public facilities the need for which is directly created by that new growth and development. Counties, cities, and towns may impose impact fees on residential and commercial "development activity" to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open

space and recreation facilities. Funds received must be spent on approved capital projects within 10 years of collection. Clark County adopted a park impact fee ordinance in 1990. County code (CCC 12.65.098) anticipates that "Impact fee rates shall be adjusted periodically to reflect changes in costs of land acquisition and construction, facility plan projects, and anticipated growth." The park fees currently charged by Clark County were lasted updated in 2002. The park impact fees vary across the six park districts in the urban unincorporated area (UUA) based on local real estate costs. PIF rates range from $1,534 per single-family residential dwelling unit in Park District 10 (lowest) to $2,016 per single family dwelling unit in Park District 9 (highest in UUA). Across all six park districts in the UUA, the average PIF rate is $1,762 per single-family dwelling.

In 2009, the City of Vancouver and Clark County jointly adopted a revision to the Vancouver-Clark Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan. These amendments included the removal of the PIF fee schedule and district boundaries from the plan and transferred them to a separate document known as the PIF Technical Document. This was completed to facilitate future updates to the program without requiring coordination with the annual comprehensive plan update process. A fee indexing methodology was also adopted in the PIF Technical Document for future implementation at the discretion of City of Vancouver and Clark County.

Real Estate Excise Tax

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.46.010

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of counties and cities to impose excise taxes on the sale of real property within limits set by the statute. This authority may be divided into three parts relevant to park systems.

A county may impose a real estate excise tax (REET 1) on the sale of all real property in the unincorporated parts of the county at a rate not to exceed ¼% of the selling price, to fund "local capital improvements," including parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, water systems, bridges, sewers, etc. Also, the funds must be used "primarily for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan . . . "

A county may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the unincorporated parts of the county at a rate not to exceed ½%, in lieu of a ½% sales tax option authorized under state law. These funds are not restricted to capital projects. The statute provides for a repeal mechanism.

A county that is required to prepare comprehensive plans under the new Growth Management Act is authorized to impose an additional real estate excise tax (REET 2) on all real property sales in the unincorporated parts of the county at a rate not to exceed ¼%. These funds must be used "solely for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan."

Since REET collections are directly tied to the frequency and valuation of real estate transactions, this funding source is widely variable with local real estate conditions. In the past, Clark County REET 1 revenues have funded the regional park capital repair program. Currently, all county REET funds have been allocated to debt service payments.

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Real Estate Excise Tax - Local Conservation Areas (Clark County)

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.46.070

Boards of County Commissioners may impose, with majority voter approval, an excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at rate not to exceed 1% of the selling price for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining conservation areas. The authorizing legislation defines conservation areas as "land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations..." These areas include "open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna." Clark County does not currently assess a Conservation REET.

Conservation Futures Tax (Clark County)

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.34

The Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) is provided for in Chapter 84.34 of the Revised Code of Washington. Clark County imposes a Conservation Futures levy (current 2015 rate of $0.0534 per $1,000 assessed value) for the purpose of acquiring open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife habitat and trail rights-of-way proposed for preservation for public use by either the county or the cities within the county. Funds are allocated annually, and cities within the county, citizen groups and citizens may apply for funds through the county's process. The CFT program provides grants to cities to support open space priorities in local plans and is administered by the County's Legacy Lands Program in the Department of Environmental Services.

Federal & State Grants and Conservation Programs

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

National Park Service

http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a technical assistance resource for communities administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program

US Fish & Wildlife Service

http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. Two competitive grants programs exist (Standard and a Small Grants Program) and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute toward a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed $75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/wrp/

The WRP provides landowners the opportunity to preserve, enhance and restore wetlands and associated uplands. The program is voluntary and provides three enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and 10-year restoration cost-share agreements. In all cases, landowners retain the underlying ownership in the property and management responsibility. Land uses may be allowed that are compatible with the program goal of protecting and restoring the wetlands and associated uplands. The NRCS manages the program and may provide technical assistance.

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs

The Recreation and Conservation Office was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act. The RCO grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources. Historically, these have included the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds, Initiative 215 monies (derived from unreclaimed marine fuel taxes), off-road vehicle funds, Youth Athletic Facilities Account and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)

This program, managed through the RCO, provides matching grants to state and local agencies to protect and enhance salmon habitat and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on aquatic lands. In 1998, DNR refocused the ALEA program to emphasize salmon habitat preservation and enhancement. However, the program is still open to traditional water access proposals. Any project must be located on navigable portions of waterways. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

The RCO is a state office that allocates funds to local and state agencies for the acquisition and development of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Funding sources managed by the RCO include the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The WWRP is divided into

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Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails and water access categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year, and the State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to buy land and develop public outdoor facilities, including parks, trails and wildlife lands. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of Federal revenue derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources. The existing 50-year program expires in September, 2015. The legislature is currently considering reauthorization of the fund in one form or another.

National Recreational Trails Program

The National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and re-routing of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. A local match of 20% is required. This program is funded through Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses.

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program

The YAF provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Grants are awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for acquisition or restoration of lands directly correlating to salmon habitat protection or recovery. Projects must demonstrate a direct benefit to fish habitat. There is no match requirement for design-only projects; acquisition and restoration projects require a 15% match. The funding source includes the sale of state general obligation bonds, the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and the state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund.

Transportation Enhancements

U.S. Department of Transportation

http://wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/GRANTS/ENHANCE.HTM

The federal Surface Transportation Program provides states with funding for highway projects. States are allocated funds based on a combination of population, transportation systems, miles of roads, and other factors. Each state must reserve at least 10 percent of its Surface Transportation Program dollars for transportation enhancement (TE) activities. These

enhancement projects include historic preservation, rails-to-trails programs, easement and land acquisition, transportation, museums, water pollution mitigation, wildlife connectivity, and scenic beautification. All projects must be related, in some way, to transportation.

In each state, TE projects are selected through a competitive process. Applications are submitted by local government entities, often in partnership with nonprofit organizations. The federal government provides 80 percent of the funds and the municipalities need to contribute a 20-percent match.

In Washington, each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), lead county agency, or Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) establishes its own criteria and selects projects up to the amount of TE funds sub-allocated to the region. Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) statewide project selection criteria are used as a basis for regional selection procedures. Additionally, each MPO and RTPO submits its regionally selected list, plus up to five additional local project proposals not funded with regional TE funds, to WSDOT for competition in a statewide selection process. A statewide TE Selection Committee, consisting of representatives from WSDOT; cities; counties; Indian Nations; and pedestrian, bicycle, trail, and historic/scenic groups reviews these projects, ranks them, and makes final selections for funding. The federal government gives final approval to the projects and distributes the funds directly to the municipalities or nonprofits on a reimbursement basis.

Other Methods & Funding Sources

Metropolitan Park District

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=35.61

Metropolitan park districts may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, parkways and boulevards. In addition to acquiring and managing their own lands, metropolitan park districts may accept and manage park and recreation lands and equipment turned over by any city within the district or by the county. Formation of a metropolitan park district (MPD) may be initiated in cities or unincorporated county areas of five thousand population or more by ordinance or by petition and require majority approval by voters for creation. Clark County voters approved the formation of the Greater Clark Parks District in 2005 approving a levy rate up to $0.27 per $1,000 assessed value to fund operations and maintenance of 35 new urban parks, as well as new sports fields and trails in the urban unincorporated area.

Park and Recreation District

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.69

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities and must be initiated by petition of at least 15% percent of the registered voters within the proposed district. Upon completion of the petition process and review by county commissioners, a proposition for district formation and election of five district commissioners is submitted to the voters of the proposed district at the next general election. Once formed, park and recreation districts retain the authority to propose a regular property tax levy, annual excess property tax levies and general obligation bonds. All three require 60% percent voter approval and

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40% percent voter turnout. With voter approval, the district may levy a regular property tax not to exceed sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for up to six consecutive years.

Business Sponsorships / Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works and utility providers.

Private Grants, Donations & Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

Acquisition Tools & Methods

Direct Purchase Methods

Market Value Purchase

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

Life Estates & Bequests

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate."

Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the county, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the county. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the county upon death. While a life estate offers the county some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the county in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessor's office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

Option to Purchase Agreement

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the county that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

Right of First Refusal

In this agreement, the landowner grants the county the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the county. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Conservation and/or Access Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

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Park or Open Space Dedication Requirements

http://www.codepublishing.com/wa/clarkcounty/clarkco40/clarkco40540/clarkco40540050.html

Local governments have the option to require developers to dedicate land for parks under the State Subdivision Law (Ch. 58.17 RCW) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Ch. 43.21C RCW). Under the subdivision law developers can be required to provide the parks/recreation improvements or pay a fee in lieu of the dedicated land and its improvements. Under the SEPA requirements, land dedication may occur as part of mitigation for a proposed development's impact. In Clark County, Title 40 contains a section on Park Sites Reservations (Section 40.540.050) that enables the park director to require the reservation of land (undergoing site plan review for proposed development) that has been identified in the parks plan for future park use. The reservation of land would require that the county purchase the designated land within one year of the final subdivision approval.

Landowner Incentive Measures

Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the "sending" and "receiving" property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irc.gov for more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the County.

Current (Open Space) Use Taxation Programs

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, and/or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their "highest and best" use assessment. This differential assessed value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Ch.84.34 RCW) helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm or timber lands. If land is converted to other non-open space uses, the land owner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years' worth of differential tax rates is waived. The amount of this tax liability can be part of the negotiated land acquisition from private to public or quasi-public conservation purposes. Clark County has a current use taxation program that offer this property tax reduction as an incentive to landowners to voluntarily preserve open space, farmland or forestland on their property. More information is available at http://www.clark.wa.gov/assessor/taxrelief/currentuse.html.

Other Land Protection Options

Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. The Columbia Land Trust is the regional land trust serving the Clark County region (and beyond), and their efforts have led to the conservation of more than 262 acres of parks and natural areas in the region (www.columbialandtrust.org). Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land.

Regulatory Measures

A variety of regulatory measures are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include: Critical Areas Ordinance, Clark County; State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Shorelines Management Program; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fisheries and Department of Wildlife.

Public/Private Utility Corridors

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors. Bonneville Power corridors travel through portion of Clark County providing linear opportunities for parks, trails and connections to neighborhoods.

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APPENDIX A - Capital Facilities

6-YEAR (HIGH PRIORITY) PROJECTS

Clark County-Urban Unincorporated Area

Project Name	Description	PIF	Local Funding Source	Uninflated Local Cost	Estimated Cost with Annual Inflation (3%) 2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total Estimated Local Cost	Outside Funding Source	Expected Outside Cost	Year	Total Estimated Cost
Urban Park Acquisition																
Neighborhood Park #5-1	N of18th/E of 162nd	5	PIF-A	$500,000	$0	$515,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$515,000	G,D,P		2016	$515,000
Neighborhood Park #5-2	N of Fourth Plain/E of 117th	5	PIF-A	$500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$562,754	$0	$0	$562,754	G,D,P		2019	$562,754
Neighborhood Park #6-1	N of Padden/W of 94th	6	PIF-A	$500,000	$0	$0	$530,450	$0	$0	$0	$0	$530,450	G,D,P		2017	$530,450
Neighborhood Park #6-2	S of Padden/E of 94th	6	PIF-A	$500,000	$500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$500,000	G,D,P		2015	$500,000
Neighborhood Park #7-1	N of 63rd	7	PIF-A	$500,000	$0	$0	$0	$546,364	$0	$0	$0	$546,364	G,D,P		2018	$546,364
Community Park #7-2	Central PIF 7	7	PIF-A	$2,500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,898,185	$0	$2,898,185	G,D,P		2020	$2,898,185
Community Park #7-2 (Swanson)	North/Central PIF 7	7	PIF-A	$150,000	$0	$0	$0	$163,909	$0	$0	$0	$163,909	G,D,P		2018	$163,909
Neighborhood Park #8-1	S of 99th/E of I-5	8	PIF-A	$500,000	$0	$515,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$515,000	G,D,P		2016	$515,000
Neighborhood Park #8-2	N of 99th/E of I-5	8	PIF-A	$500,000	$0	$0	$530,450	$0	$0	$0	$0	$530,450	G,D,P		2017	$530,450
Community Park expansion	Felida parking site	9	PIF-9	$260,000	$260,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$260,000	G,D,P		2015	$260,000
Neighborhood Park #9-1	Central PIF 9	9	PIF-A	$500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$579,637	$0	$579,637	G,D,P		2020	$579,637
Neighborhood Park #9-2	Central PIF 9	9	PIF-A	$500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$597,026	$597,026	G,D,P		2021	$597,026
Neighborhood Park #10-1	E of I-5	10	PIF-A	$500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$562,754	$0	$0	$562,754	G,D,P		2019	$562,754
Neighborhood Park #10-2	Connection @11th	10	PIF-A	$200,000	$0	$0	$212,180	$0	$0	$0	$0	$212,180	G,D,P		2017	
Neighborhood Park #10-3	W of I-5	10	PIF-A	$500,000	$500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$500,000	G,D,P		2015	$500,000
TOTAL				**$8,610,000**	**$1,260,000**	**$1,030,000**	**$1,273,080**	**$710,273**	**$1,125,509**	**$3,477,822**	**$597,026**	**$9,473,710**		**$0**		**$9,261,530**
Urban Park Development																
Otto Brown NH Park	Park Development	5	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$799,224	$0	$0	$0	$0	$899,534	$0	$0	$899,534	G,D,P	tbd	2019	$899,534
Curtin Creek Community Park	Park Development	6	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$4,500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$5,216,733	$0	$5,216,733	G,P	$500,000	2020	$5,716,733
Tower Crest NH Park	Park Development	7	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$513,090	$0	$528,483	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$528,483	G,D,P	tbd	2016	$528,483
Kelley Meadows Park	Park Development	7	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$704,831	$0	$0	$747,755	$0	$0	$0	$0	$747,755	G,D,P	tbd	2017	$747,755
Hazel Dell CP - Heritage Farm	Phase II Development	8	GCPD, REET-U	$850,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$985,383	$0	$985,383	G,D,P	tbd	2020	$985,383
Sorenson NH Park	Park Development	9	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$786,529	$0	$810,125	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$810,125	G,D,P	tbd	2016	$810,125
Kozy Kamp NH Park	Park Development	10	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$765,206	$0	$0	$0	$0	$861,246	$0	$0	$861,246	G,D,P	tbd	2019	$861,246
Felida Community Park	parking expansion	9	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$285,000	$0	$35,000	$250,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$285,000	G,D,P	tbd	2016-17	$285,000
Salmon Creek Community Club	Park Development	10	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$749,223	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$868,555	$0	$868,555	G,D,P	tbd	2020	$868,555
Curtin Sprgs Wild.Habitat (Swanson)	Comm. Park phase 1	7	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$600,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$716,431	$716,431	G,D,P	tbd	2021	$716,431
Felida Park-Children's Garden	Phase II Development	9	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$10,000	$0	$10,300	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$10,300	G,D,P	$90,000	2016	$100,300
Sgt Brad Crawford Park	Phase II Development	9	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$10,000	$0	$0	$10,609	$0	$0	$0	$0	$10,609	G,D,P	$90,000	2017	$100,609
Cougar Creek Woods Park	MP & phase I	9	PIF-D, GCPD, REET-U	$5,000	$0	$0	$0	$5,464	$0	$0	$0	$5,464	G,D,P	$250,000	2018	$255,464
TOTAL				**$10,578,103**	**$0**	**$1,383,908**	**$1,008,364**	**$5,464**	**$1,760,780**	**$7,070,671**	**$716,431**	**$11,945,618**		**$930,000**		**$12,875,618**

Clark County-Urban Unincorporated Area (continued)

Project Name	Description	PIF	Local Funding Source	Uninflated Local Cost	Estimated Cost with Annual Inflation (3%) 2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total Estimated Local Cost	Outside Funding Source	Expected Outside Cost	Year	Total Estimated Cost
Trail Acquisitions - GCPD																
Curtin Creek Trail	Salmon Cr Grnwy - Padden	7	GCPD	$650,000	$0	$0	$0	$710,273	$0	$0	$0	$710,273	G,D,P	tbd	2018	$710,273
Lalonde Creek Greenway	Salmon Cr Greenway to BPA	8	GCPD	$325,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$365,790	$0	$0	$365,790	G,D,P	tbd	2019	$365,790
Lalonde Creek Trail	Salmon Creek Grnwy to BPA	8	GCPD	$325,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$376,764	$0	$376,764	G,D,P	tbd	2020	$376,764
Cougar Creek Greenway	Hazel Dell Ave to Salmon Cr	9	GCPD	$1,000,000	$0	$0	$1,060,900	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,060,900	G,D,P	tbd	2017	$1,060,900
Cougar Creek Trail	Hazel Dell Ave to Salmon Cr	9	GCPD	$900,000	$0	$0	$0	$983,454	$0	$0	$0	$983,454	G,D,P	tbd	2018	$983,454
Whipple Creek Trail	11th ave access/trailhead	10	GCPD	$325,000	$0	$0	$344,793	$0	$0	$0	$0	$344,793	G,D,P	tbd	2017	$344,793
Salmon Creek Trail	I-5 to WSU	8&10	GCPD	$55,742	$0	$57,414	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$57,414	G,D,P	tbd	2016	$57,414
TOTAL				**$3,580,742**	**$0**	**$57,414**	**$1,405,693**	**$1,693,727**	**$365,790**	**$376,764**	**$0**	**$3,899,388**		**$0**		**$3,899,388**

Trail Development & Improvements																
East Powerline Trail, BPA	192nd ave. to Lacamas TH	5	REET-U	$1,500,000	$0	$0	$1,591,350	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,591,350	S,G,P	$4,500,000	2017	$6,091,350
Vancouver Lake Trail	Lake River Bridge	9	REET-U	$1,500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,688,263	$0	$0	$1,688,263	G,P	tbd	2019	$1,688,263
Salmon Creek Greenway Trail	Lake River to NW 36th	9/10	REET-U	$1,500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,738,911	$0	$1,738,911	G,D,P	$3,000,000	2020	$4,738,911
Curtin Creek Trail	119th St through park to 87th Ave	7	REET-U	$100,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$119,405	$119,405	G,D,P	tbd	2021	$119,405
Cougar Creek Trail	Hazel Dell to 119th St	9	REET-U	$100,000	$0	$0	$0	$109,273	$0	$0	$0	$109,273	G,D,P	tbd	2018	$109,273
Lalonde Trail	Sherwood North to 99th St via BPA	8	REET-U	$150,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$168,826	$0	$0	$168,826	G,D,P	tbd	2019	$168,826
Salmon Creek Trail	Salmon Ck Prk - Pleasant Valley Prk	8&10	REET-U, CF	$860,000	$0	$0	$912,374	$0	$0	$0	$0	$912,374	G,D,P	tbd	2017	$912,374
Whipple Creek Trail	11th Ave to Chinook Pk	10	REET-U	$200,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$231,855	$0	$231,855	G,D,P	tbd	2020	$231,855
Trail Development	Support volunteer projects	All	REET-U	$120,000	$20,000	$20,600	$21,218	$21,855	$22,510	$23,185	$24,597	$153,966	G,D,P	$120,000	2015:2021	$273,966
TOTAL				**$6,030,000**	**$20,000**	**$20,600**	**$2,524,942**	**$131,127**	**$1,879,600**	**$1,993,951**	**$144,003**	**$6,714,223**		**$7,620,000**		**$14,334,223**
Urban Park Improvements & Repair																
Orchards Community Park	Upgrade Shelter - phase II	6		$80,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$95,524	$95,524	D,P	tbd	2021	$95,524
Pacific, Hazel Dell & Heritage Farm	Camp Host pads															
UUA Neighborhood Parks	ADA access improvements	All	GCPD, REET-U	$60,000	$10,000	$10,300	$10,609	$10,927	$11,255	$11,593	$12,299	$76,983	G,D,P	tbd	2015:2021	$76,983
UUA NH / COMM Parks-as needed	Capital Repairs	All	GCPD, REET-U	$300,000	$50,000	$51,500	$53,045	$54,636	$56,275	$57,964	$61,494	$384,914	--	tbd	2015:2021	$384,914
UUA Community Parks, as needed	Playground Replacements	All	REET-U	$120,000	$20,000	$20,600	$21,218	$21,855	$22,510	$23,185	$24,597	$153,966	G,D,P	tbd	2015:2021	$153,966
TOTAL				**$560,000**	**$80,000**	**$82,400**	**$84,872**	**$87,418**	**$90,041**	**$92,742**	**$193,914**	**$711,387**		**$0**		**$711,387**
Conservation Area Acquisitions																
Salmon Creek Lower Greenway	60 ac. Upland to Van Lake		CF	$400,000	$0	$412,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$412,000	G,D,P	$400,000	2016	$812,000
TOTAL				**$400,000**	**$0**	**$412,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$412,000**		**$400,000**		**$812,000**
Special Facility Development & Improvements																
UUA-Regional Parks	Off-Leash Facilities		REET-U	$225,000	$0	$0	$238,703	$0	$0	$0	$0	$238,703	D,P	tbd	2017	$238,703
UUA-Regional Parks	BMX facility		REET-U	$60,000	$0	$0	$63,654	$0	$0	$0	$0	$63,654		tbd	2017	$63,654
H.B. Fuller	Sports Field Development	10	REET-U	$500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$579,637	$0	$579,637	G,D,P	tbd	2020	$579,637
Curtin Creek	Sports Field Development	11	REET-U	$500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$500,000	$0	$500,000	G,D,P	tbd	2020	$500,000
Harmony Sports Complex	Sports Field Development	4	REET-R	$650,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$753,528	$0	$753,528	M,G,D,P	tbd	2020	$753,528
Hockinson Comm Park Phase 2	Sports Field Development	5	GCPD, REET-U	$6,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$7,164,314	$7,164,314	G,D,P	tbd	2021	$7,164,314
Pacific Park Sports Fields	Softball and Soccer Fields	4	GCPD, REET-U	$300,000	$0		$0	$0	$0	$0	$358,216	$358,216	G,D,P	tbd	2021	$358,216
TOTAL				**$8,235,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$302,357**	**$0**	**$0**	**$1,833,165**	**$7,522,529**	**$9,658,051**		**$0**		**$9,658,051**
Planning																
Park/Facility/Open Space Maps	User-friendly park system maps	All	REET- U (REET-C, REET-R, PS)	$15,000	$0	$15,450	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$15,450	--	tbd	2016	$15,450
Safe Routes to Parks Plan	Trans/Parks dept collaboration	All	REET- U (REET-C, REET-R, PS)	$60,000	$0	$0	$63,654	$0	$0	$0	$0	$63,654	--	tbd	2017	$63,654
Organizational Study/Business Plan		All	REET- U (REET-C, REET-R, PS)	$75,000	$0	$77,250	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$77,250	--	tbd	2016	$77,250
Parks Comprehensive Plan Update		All	REET-U	$60,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$71,643	$71,643	--	tbd	2021	$50,000
TOTAL				**$210,000**	**$0**	**$92,700**	**$63,654**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$71,643**	**$227,997**		**$0**		**$206,354**
GRAND TOTAL UUA				**$38,203,845**	**$1,360,000**	**$3,079,022**	**$6,662,961**	**$2,628,008**	**$5,221,719**	**$14,845,116**	**$9,245,547**	**$43,042,374**		**$8,950,000**		**$51,758,551**

Clark County - Regional System

Project Name	Description	PIF	Local Funding Source	Uninflated Local Cost	Estimated Cost with Annual Inflation (3%) 2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total Estimated Local Cost	Outside Funding Source	Expected Outside Cost	Year	Total Estimated Cost
Conservation Area Acquisition																
Salmon Creek Greenway Phase 1	112th Ave. near CASEE (6 acres)	R	CF	$150,000	$150,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$150,000			2015	
Vancouver Lake In-holding	Near Buckmire Slough (5 acres)	R	CF	$25,000	$25,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$25,000			2015	
Lake River Water Trail & Greenway	Vancouver Lk to Salmon Ck.(60 ac)	R	CF	$800,000	$800,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$800,000			2015	
East Fork Lewis River Greenway	Lower Greenway (150 ac)	R	CF	$2,000,000	$0	$2,060,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,060,000			2016	
Salmon Creek Greenway Phase 2	112th Ave stream to Brush Prairie Reg. Park (40 ac)	R	CF	$12,000,000	$0	$12,360,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$12,360,000			2016	
Mill Creek Greenway	WSU to SR 502 (80 ac)	R	CF	$800,000	$0	$824,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$824,000			2016	
Main Lewis/Lake Rosannah	Allen Creek to Lewis River (320 ac)	R	CF	$2,300,000	$0	$0	$2,440,070	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,440,070			2017	
Lake River Water Trail & Greenway	Salmon Ck to Ridgefield (50 ac)	R	CF	$250,000	$0	$0	$0	$273,182	$0	$0	$0	$273,182			2018	
Whipple Creek		R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	#N/A				
TOTAL				**$18,325,000**	**$975,000**	**$15,244,000**	**$2,440,070**	**$273,182**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**#N/A**		**$0**		**$0**
Regional Park Acquisition																
Ridgefield/Battle Ground Area	Acquisition (~200 acres)	R	REET-R, CF	$8,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$9,552,418	$9,552,418	G,D,P	tbd	2021	$9,552,418
Chelatchie Prairie Corridor	Acquisition (~320 acres)	R	REET-R, CF	$12,800,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$14,406,513	$0	$0	$14,406,513	G,D,P	tbd	2019	$14,406,513
Lower Daybreak property	105 ac addition to Daybreak	R	CF	$500,000	$0	$515,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$515,000	G,D,P		2016	$515,000
Green Mountain	public access addition	R	REET-R, CF	$1,000,000	$0	$0	$1,060,900	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,060,900	G,D,P		2017	$1,060,900
Trust Land Transfer	Accept Trust Lands from DNR	R	state	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	G,D,P	$3,000,000	2015:2021	$3,000,000
TOTAL				**$22,300,000**	**$0**	**$515,000**	**$1,060,900**	**$0**	**$14,406,513**	**$0**	**$9,552,418**	**$25,534,831**		**$3,000,000**		**$28,534,831**
Regional Park Development																
Camp Currie	Development	R	REET-R	$2,500,000	$0	$0	$0	$2,731,818	$0	$0	$0	$2,731,818	G,D,P	$90,000	2018	$90,000
Frenchmans Bar Phase II	Disc Golf Development	R	REET-R	$20,000	$20,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$20,000	G,D,P	tbd	2015	$20,000
Green Mountain Park	Phase I Development	R	REET-R	$1,500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,738,911	$0	$1,738,911	G,D,P	tbd	2020	$1,738,911
Lower Daybreak Park	Phase I Development	R	REET-R	$4,500,000	$0	$0	$0	$4,917,272	$0	$0	$0	$4,917,272	G,D,P	tbd	2018	$4,917,272
Camp Lewisville	Ongoing Renovation	R	REET-R	$200,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$225,102	$0	$0	$200,000	G,D,P	tbd	2019	$200,000
Brush-Prairie Regional Park	Phase I Development	R	REET-R	$1,850,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,208,997	$1,850,000	G,D,P	tbd	2021	$1,850,000
TOTAL				**$10,570,000**	**$20,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$7,649,089**	**$225,102**	**$1,738,911**	**$2,208,997**	**$11,458,000**		**$90,000**		**$8,816,183**
Regional Park Improvements & Repair																
Camp Host Pads	Van Lake, Moulton Falls, Lacamas		REET-R	$75,000	$75,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$75,000			2015	$75,000
Moulton Falls	Repair and stain main bridge	R	REET-R	$120,000	$0	$123,600	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$123,600	--	--	2016	$123,600
Wayfinding Signage	Fabrication & Installation	R	REET-R	$45,000	$0	$46,350	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$46,350	--	--	2016	$46,350
Frenchman's Bar	Spray Park	R	REET-R	$500,000	$0	$0	$0	$546,364	$0	$0	$0	$546,364	G,D,P	tbd	2018	$546,364
Salmon Creek Regional Park	Off Leash facility	R	REET-R	$225,000	$0	$0	$238,703	$0	$0	$0	$0	$238,703	--	--	2017	$238,703
Regional Capital Repairs	Restoration	R	REET-R	$2,100,000	$300,000	$309,000	$318,270	$327,818	$337,653	$347,782	$358,216	$2,298,739	--	--	2015:2021	$2,298,739
Regional Park ADA Upgrades	ADA Compliance Program	R	REET-R	$1,400,000	$200,000	$206,000	$212,180	$218,545	$225,102	$231,855	$238,810	$1,532,492			2015:2021	$1,532,492
Surface Seal Pavement	regional parks & trails	R	REET-R	$300,000	$0	$309,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$309,000			2016	$309,000
TOTAL				**$4,765,000**	**$575,000**	**$993,950**	**$769,153**	**$1,092,727**	**$562,754**	**$579,637**	**$597,026**	**$5,170,247**		**$0**		**$5,170,247**
Trail Acquisition																
Livingston Mountain Trail	WA State Forest Partnership	R	state	n/a	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	P	n/a	2015:2021	n/a
Green Mountain Trail	Green Mt Park to Goodwin Rd	R	REET-R	$225,000	$0	$0	$0	$245,864	$0	$0	$0	$245,864	L,G,D,P	$900,000	2018	$1,145,864
Chelatchie Prairie RR Trail	Reversionary rights	R	REET-R	$2,500,000	$0	$2,575,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,575,000	L,G,D,P	n/a	2016	n/a
East Powerline Trail	Easements: 192nd to Lacamas TH	R	REET-R	$1,500,000	$0	$0	$0	$1,639,091	$0	$0	$0	$1,639,091			2018	
Van Lake-FB loop	Connection south of game lands	R	REET-R	$145,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$163,199	$0	$0	$163,199			2019	
LRVL Water Trail Access	TH Parking at Fales Rd	R	REET-R	$350,000	$0	$0	$371,315	$0	$0	$0	$0	$371,315			2017	
TOTAL				**$4,720,000**	**$0**	**$2,575,000**	**$371,315**	**$1,884,954**	**$163,199**	**$0**	**$0**	**$4,994,468**		**$900,000**		**$1,145,864**
Trail Development & Improvements																
Vancouver Lake Trail	Vancouver Lk Park to Lake R	R	REET-R	$150,000	$0	$0	$0	$163,909	$0	$0	$0	$163,909	F,S,L,G,D,P	$750,000	2018	$913,909
Chelatchie Prairie RR Trail	Battle Ground to DNR	R	REET-R	$1,000,000	$0	$1,030,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,030,000	F,S,L,G,D,P	$1,650,000	2016	$2,680,000
Chelatchie Prairie RR Trail	Salmon/Morgan to BG	R/UU	REET-R	$1,750,000	$0	$1,802,500	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,802,500	F,S,L,G,D,P	$5,250,000	2016	$7,052,500

Regional Trail Signage Program	Fabrication & Installation	All	REET-R	$100,000	$0	$0	$106,090	$0	$0	$0	$0	$106,090	G,D,P	tbd	2017	$106,090
Hantwick Rd. Trailhead	Camp Host Pad	R	REET-R	$25,000	$0	$0	$0	$27,318	$0	$0	$0	$27,318			2018	$27,318
TOTAL				**$3,025,000**	**$0**	**$2,832,500**	**$106,090**	**$191,227**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$3,129,817**		**$7,650,000**		**$10,779,817**
Special Facility Acquisition																
Prairie Softball Complex	Existing/private sports complex	R	REET-R	$3,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$3,278,181	$0	$0	$0	$3,278,181	F,S,L,G,D,P	$1,500,000	2018	$4,778,181
Regional Sports Complex	I-5 Corridor	R	REET-R	$6,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$6,753,053	$0	$0	$6,753,053	F,S,L,G,D,P	$6,000,000	2019	$12,753,053
TOTAL				**$9,000,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$3,278,181**	**$6,753,053**	**$0**	**$0**	**$10,031,234**		**$7,500,000**		**$17,531,234**
Special Facility Development																
Vancouver Lake Rowing Club	Boathouse	R	REET-R	$50,000	$50,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$50,000	G,D,P	tbd	2015	$50,000
Brush Prairie Regional Park	Sports Field Development (phase I)	R	REET-U	$1,600,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,910,484	$0	G,D,P	tbd	2021	$0
Prairie Softball Complex	Sports Field Development	R	REET-R	$3,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$3,376,526	$0	$0	$3,376,526	M,G,D,P	tbd	2019	$3,376,526
Regional Sports Complex	Sports Field Development	R	REET-R	$1,260,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,504,506	$0	M,G,D,P	tbd	2021	$0
TOTAL				**$5,910,000**	**$50,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$3,376,526**	**$0**	**$3,414,990**	**$3,426,526**		**$0**		**$3,426,526**
Planning																
Regional Parks Comp Plan	Regional element	R	REET-R	$60,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$71,643	$71,643	--	--	2021	$71,643
Green Mountain	Master Plan	R	REET-R	$75,000	$0	$0	$0	$81,955	$0	$0	$0	$81,955	--	--	2018	$81,955
Whipple Creek	Master Plan Update	R	REET-R	$45,000	$0	$0	$0	$49,173	$0	$0	$0	$49,173			2018	$49,173
Camp Currie	Master Plan	R	REET-R	$85,000	$0	$0	$90,177	$0	$0	$0	$0	$90,177	--	--	2017	$90,177
Camp Lewisville/Camp Hope	Master Plan	R	REET-R	$35,000	$0	$36,050	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$36,050	--	--	2016	$36,050
Brush Prairie Reg Park	Master Plan	R	REET-R	$115,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$137,316	$137,316	--	--	2021	$137,316
TOTAL				**$415,000**	**$0**	**$36,050**	**$90,177**	**$131,127**	**$0**	**$0**	**$208,959**	**$466,313**		**$0**		**$466,313**
Conservation Futures Partnerships Projects																
Lower Washougal Greenway	Bowling Alley Reach (2 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	--	--	2015	$0
Columbai River Shoreline	I-205 to Lady Island (12 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0			2015	
Gee Creek Greenway	Ridgefield NWR to High School (20-30 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0			2015	
Woodin Creek Greenway	Salmon Creek to Heisson Road (10-20 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0			2015	
Felida Bluffs/Lake River Greenway	Vancouver Lk to Salmon Ck (20-30 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0			2015	
East Fork Lewis River Rock Creek Phase 2	Tier 1 Steelhead Reaches (60-75 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0			2016	
Campen Creek Greenway	Hartwood/Eldridge Park Addition (40 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0			2016	
Yacolt Parks and Open Space	Thompson Rd to Little League Fields (40 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0			2016	
Washougal Greenway Lacamas Creek Reach	Columbia River to Lacamas Creek (80-100 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0			2016	
Washougal River Waterfront Park Phase II	Upstream of Hathaway Park (8-10 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	--	--	2016	$0
Lacamas Creek	Camp Currie Addition (22-25 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	--	--	2016	$0
Green Mountain Addition	High Points on Green Mtn. (70-100 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	--	--	2016	$0
Lacamas Lake Greenway	Northeast side of Lake (40-60 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	--	--	2018	$0
Lewis and Clark Trail	Fairgrounds Park to Tukes Mtn				$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0			2018	
Tukes Mountain	Forested uplands (50 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	--	--	2019	$0
Wooding Creek Greenway Phase II	Heisson Rd. to School Trust Lands (160 ac)	R	CF		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	--	--	2019	$0
TOTAL				**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**		**$0**		**$0**
GRAND TOTAL REGIONAL				**$70,030,000**	**$1,620,000**	**$22,196,500**	**$4,837,704**	**$11,222,306**	**$18,734,094**	**$2,318,548**		**#N/A**		**$11,640,000**		**$58,339,781**
TOTAL - ALL PROJECTS				**$108,233,845**	**$2,980,000**	**$25,275,522**	**$11,500,665**	**$13,850,315**	**$23,955,813**	**$17,163,664**		**#N/A**		**$20,590,000**		**$110,098,331**

20-Year Projects (lower priority)

Urban Unincorporated Area

Project Name	Description	PIF	Act	2015 Appr.	Local Funding Source	Local Funding	Outside Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Priority
Neighborhood Parks									
Acquisition									
Neighborhood Park #5-1		5	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P	$720,000	Low
Neighborhood Park #5-2		5	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #6-1		6	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #6-2		6	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #7-1		7	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #7-2		7	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #8-1		8	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #8-2		8	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #9-1		9	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #9-2		9	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #10-1		10	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #10-2		10	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #__-3			NA		PIF-A		G,D,P		
Neighborhood Park #__-3		10	NA		PIF-A		G,D,P	$790,000	Low
TOTAL								**$1,510,000**	
Development									
Mackie NH park	Level II development	5	ND		PIF/REET		G,D,P	$450,000	Med
Vydra NH park	Level II development	5	ND		PIF/REET				
Sunnyside NH park	Level II development	6	ND		PIF/REET				
Sunset NH park	Level II development	6	ND		PIF/REET				
St Johns NH park	Level II development	7	ND		PIF/REET				
Blueberry NH park	Level II development	8	ND		PIF/REET				
Foley NH park	Level II development	9	ND		PIF/REET				
Kozy Kamp NH park	Level II development	10	ND		PIF/REET		G,D,P	$450,000	Med
Mount Vista	Level II development	10	ND		PIF/REET		G,D,P	$450,000	Low
TOTAL								**$1,350,000**	
Major Maintenance, Repairs, and Site Improvements									
TOTAL								#REF!	

Community Parks

Acquisition

Community Park #5-1

Community Park #5-2

Community Park #7-1

Community Park #8-1

Community Park #10-1

Community Park #10-2

TOTAL						#REF!	
Development							
Pacific Park	Level III development	4	CD	PIF, REET	G,P	#REF!	Med
Curtin Springs Habitat Park	Level II development	7	CD	PIF,REET	G,P	#REF!	Low
Pleasant Valley Community Park	Level II development	8	CD	PIF, REET	G, P		
Cougar Creek Woods	Level II development	9	CD	PIF, REET	G,P	#REF!	Med
TOTAL						#REF!	
Major Maintenance, Repairs, and Site Improvements							
TOTAL						#REF!	
Open Space & Greenways							
Acquisition							
See separate listing						#REF!	
TOTAL							
Trails							
Development							
Chelatchie RR Trail	St. John's to 119th (5.8m)	7/8	TD	no current	G,D,P	#REF!	Med
Burnt Bridge Creek Trail						#REF!	
TOTAL						**#REF!**	
Major Maintenance, Repairs, and Site Improvements							
TOTAL						#REF!	
Recreation Facilities							
Acquisition							
Future Community Rec Center Site	NW area		FA	$10,000,000	no current	G,D,P	Low
TOTAL							
Development							
Community Rec Center	Construction		FD	$20,000,000	no current	G,D,P	Low
TOTAL						**$0**	
Special Facilities							
Development							
Heritage Farm	Phase III Development						
Off Leash Area - Southeast	Development Match						
Off Leash Area #3 - North UUA	Development Match					M,G,D,P	Med
Off Leash Area #4 - Northwest UUA	Development Match					M,G,D,P	Med
Motorized Boat Launch	Columbia River Access						
TOTAL						**$0**	
Major Maintenance, Repairs, and Site Improvements							
TOTAL						$0	
GRAND TOTAL UUA						**#REF!**	

Regional System

Project Name	Description		Act	2015 Appr.	Funding	Funding	Funding	Cost	Priority
Regional Parks									
Acquisition									
Conversion of Souixon	Conversion (~160 acres)	R	RA		--		--	n/a	Low
North Fork Lewis River RP	Acquisition (~200 acres)	R	RA		no current		G,D,P	$8,000,000	Med
La Center/Ridgefield Area RP	Acquisition (~200 acres)	R	RA		no current		G,D,P	$8,000,000	Med
Tukes Mountain	Acquisition (~150 acres)	R	RA		no current		G,D,P	$6,000,000	Med
TOTAL								**$22,000,000**	
Development									
Whipple Creek Reg Park & Trail	Master Planning & Development	R	RD		REET-R		G,D,P	$650,000	Med
Camp Currie	Redevelopment	R	RD		REET-R		G,D,P	$1,050,000	Low
Green Mountain	Phase II Development	R	RD		REET-R		G,D,P	$700,000	Low
Bratton Canyon	Master Planning & Redevelopment	R	RD		REET-R		G,D,P	$225,000	Low
Lucia Falls Park	Phase II Development	R	RD		REET-R		G,D,P	$700,000	Low
Lacamas Lake Park	Phase II Development	R	RD		REET-R		G,D,P	$500,000	Med
Camp Bonneville	Phase I Development	R	RD		REET-R		G,D,P	$5,000,000	
Salmon Creek Uplands Access	Park Development	R	RD		REET-R		G,D,P	$600,000	Low
TOTAL								**$9,425,000**	
Major Maintenance, Repairs, and Site Improvements									
Captain William Clark Park	Non-motorized boat launch	R	RM		REET-R		G,D,P	$50,000	Low
TOTAL								$50,000	
Planning									
Camp Bonneville	Reuse and Master Plan Update	R	RP		REET-R				

Open Space & Greenways

Acquisition/Preservation									
See separate listing								#REF!	Low
TOTAL								#REF!	
Development									
TOTAL								#REF!	
Major Maintenance, Repairs, and Site Improvements									
Lewis River Greenway Project	Restoration	R	OM		REET-R		--	$420,000	Med
Special Projects	Restoration Opportunities	R	OM		REET-R		--	$65,000	Low
TOTAL								$485,000	

Project Name	Description		Act	2015 Appr.	Funding	Funding	Funding	Cost	Priority
Trails									
Acquisition									
Green Mountain Trail	Green Mtn Park to Goodwin Rd	R	TA		REET-R		L,G,D,P	$100,000	Med
China Ditch	Hockinson Park to Lacamas Creek	R	TA		REET-R		L,G,D,P	$1,000,000	Med

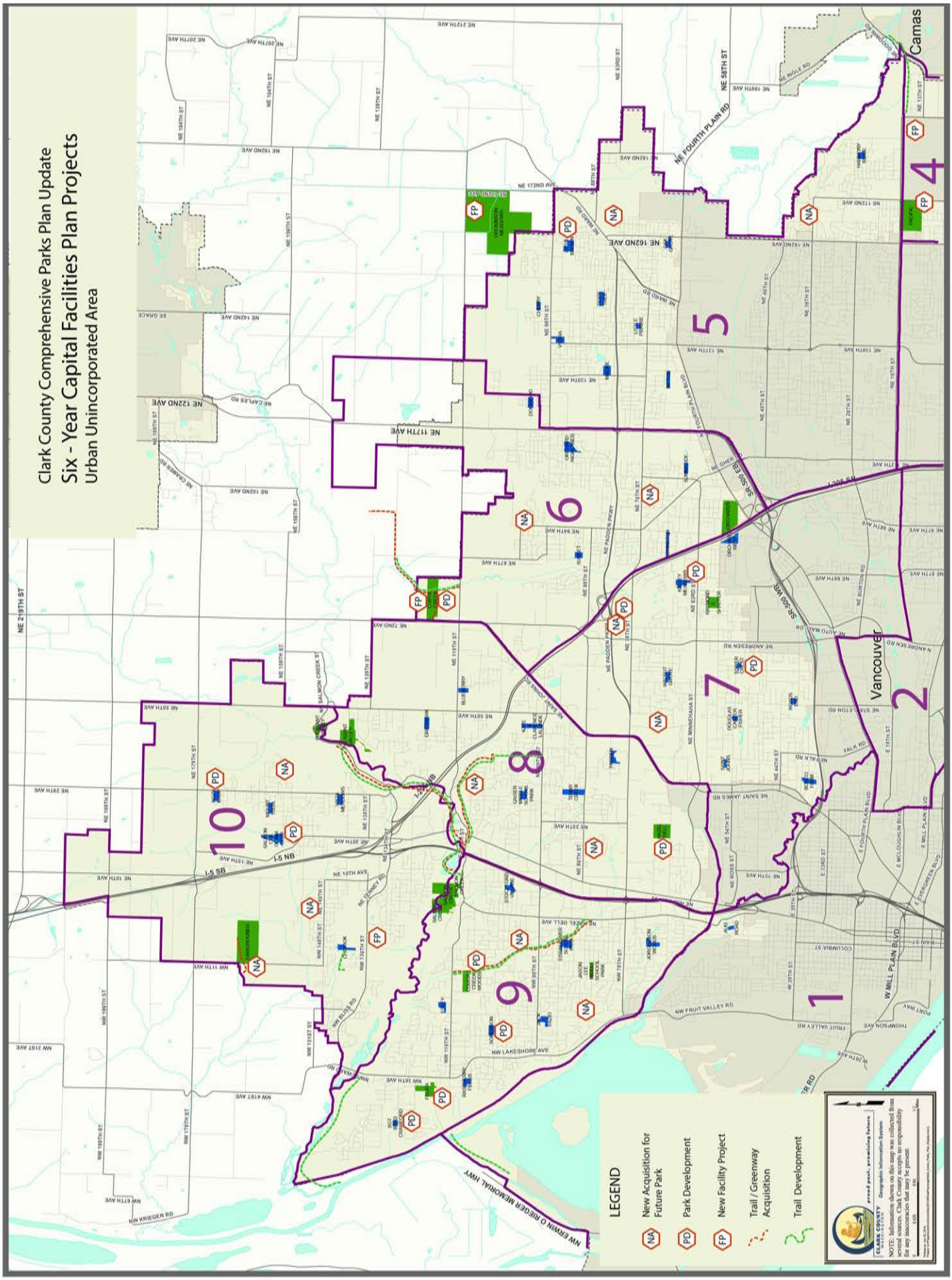
North South Powerline Trail	Ross to Lewis River Greenway						
Chelatchie Prairie Trail	CASEE Center to Battle Ground	R	TA	REET-R	L,G,D,P	n/a	Med
TOTAL						$1,100,000	
Development							
Camp Bonneville Trail	Heritage Trail to Green Mtn	R	TD	REET-R	F,S,L,G,D,	#REF!	Low
	Green Mtn - 54th St (2.4m)	R	TD	REET-R	F,S,L,G,D,	#REF!	Low
Camp Currie-Lacamas Trail	Camp Currie to Lacamas Trail	R	TD	REET-R	L,G,D,P	$300,000	Med
Chelatchie RR Trail	199th through City of BG (1.7m)	R	TD	REET-R	F,S,L,G,D,	#REF!	Med
	Moulton Falls to Yacolt (2.7m)	R	TD	REET-R	F,S,L,G,D,	#REF!	Low
I-5 Corridor	Downtown Vancouver to Ridgefield	R	TD	REET-R	F,S,L,G,D,	n/a	Low
North Fork Lewis River	Yale Dam to Siouxon Park (3.7m)	R	TD	REET-R	S,L,G,D,P	#REF!	Low
TOTAL						**#REF!**	
Major Maintenance, Repairs, and Site Improvements							
TOTAL						#REF!	

Special Facilities

Acquisition							
Rural Sports Field Development Program							
Site #3: Lacamas/Camas-Wash ar	Sports Field Acquisition	R	SA	REET-R	M,G,D,P	$450,000	Med
Site #5: East County/Camas-Wash	Sports Field Acquisition	R	SA	REET-R	M,G,D,P	$600,000	Med
Site #6: North Clark/Battle Ground	Sports Field Acquisition	R	SA	REET-R	M,G,D,P	$900,000	Low
TOTAL						**$1,950,000**	
Development							
English Pit Rifle Range	Relocation to Camp Bonniville	R	SD	REET-R	G,D,P	n/a	Low
BMX Park	Development in regional park	TBD	SD				
Disc Golf - Small to mid-size course	Development in regional park	1	SD				
Motorized Boat Launch	Development along Columbia River	R	SD	REET-R	G,D,P	$500,000	Med
TOTAL						**$500,000**	
GRAND TOTAL REGIONAL							
TOTAL - ALL CAPITAL PROJECTS							

Non-Capital Projects

Project Name	Description	PIF	Act	2015 Appr.	Local Funding Source	Local Funding	Outside Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Priority
Feasibility Study	Community Rec Center	8/9/10	P	$60,000	REET-U			$60,000	Med
Survey - assess changing needs	Public survey for Outdoor Rec	All	P	$15,000	REET-R			$15,000	Low
Motorized & Non-motorized Boat Launch Site Study		R	P	$20,000	REET-R			$20,000	Low
East Fork Lewis River Greenway	Management Plan			$45,000					
Condition Assessment		All	P	$60,000	REET-R				Med
TOTAL								**$95,000**	


Clark County Comprehensive Parks Plan Update
Six - Year Capital Facilities Plan Projects
Urban Unincorporated Area
LEGEND
NA New Acquisition for Future Park
PD Park Development
FP New Facility Project
Trail / Greenway Acquisition
Trail Development
Vancouver
Camas
1
2
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

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APPENDIX B - Inventory & Maps

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK INVENTORY

Unincorporated Urban Area	Acreages		
Neighborhood Parks	**Undev'd**	**Dev'd**	**2014 Total**
PARK DISTRICT 5 - (Shared)			
Cherry	0.00	2.87	2.87
Dogwood	0.00	4.86	4.86
Harmony Ridge	0.00	4.21	4.21
Little Prairie	0.00	2.26	2.26
Mackie	6.44	0.00	6.44
Oak Grove	0.00	3.92	3.92
Otto Brown	7.99	0.00	7.99
Sifton	0.00	5.05	5.05
Tiger Tree	0.00	6.12	6.12
Vydra	5.07	0.00	5.07
District 5 Subtotal	**19.50**	**29.29**	**48.79**
PARK DISTRICT 6			
Covington	0.00	4.58	4.58
Orchard Highlands	0.00	8.22	8.22
Sunnyside	4.23	0.00	4.23
Sunset (School) Park	3.96	0.00	3.96
District 6 Subtotal	**8.19**	**12.80**	**20.99**
PARK DISTRICT 7 - (Shared)			
Bosco Farm	0.00	5.87	5.87
Fisher, Douglas Carter	0.00	2.37	2.37
Kelley Meadows	7.25	0.00	7.25
Road's End	0.00	3.01	3.01
Saint Johns	1.89	0.00	1.89
Tower Crest	1.35	0.00	1.35
Walnut Grove	0.00	3.71	3.71
District 7 Subtotal	**10.49**	**14.96**	**25.45**
PARK DISTRICT 8			
Blueberry	3.82	0.00	3.82
Greyhawk	0.00	5.00	5.00
Lalonde, Kate & Clarence Park	0.00	7.76	7.76
Padden	0.00	5.66	5.66
Tenny Creek	0.00	8.25	8.25
Gaiser Middle School Park	0.00	5.00	5.00
Sarah J. Anderson Elementary School	0.00	2.00	2.00
District 8 Subtotal	**3.82**	**33.67**	**37.49**
PARK DISTRICT 9			
Eisenhower Elementary School Park	0.00	1.30	1.30
Fazio, Jack Z.	0.00	5.47	5.47
Foley	4.40	0.00	4.40
Jorgenson Woods	0.00	7.11	7.11
Raspberry Fields	0.00	4.32	4.32
Sergeant Brad Crawford	0.00	2.45	2.45
Sorensen	4.97	0.00	4.97
Stockford Village	2.50	2.50	5.00
District 9 Subtotal	**11.87**	**23.15**	**35.02**
PARK DISTRICT 10			
Chinook	0.00	5.32	5.32
Kozy Kamp	4.98	0.00	4.98
Mount Vista	4.01	0.00	4.01
Salmon Creek Community Club	6.09	0.00	6.09
Vista Meadows	0.00	5.00	5.00
Salmon Creek Elementary School Park	0.00	1.50	1.50
District 10 Subtotal	**15.08**	**11.82**	**26.90**
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TOTAL	**68.95**	**125.69**	**194.64**

Note: 3 school/park sites NH parks schools counted as providing park sites and acreage in UUA

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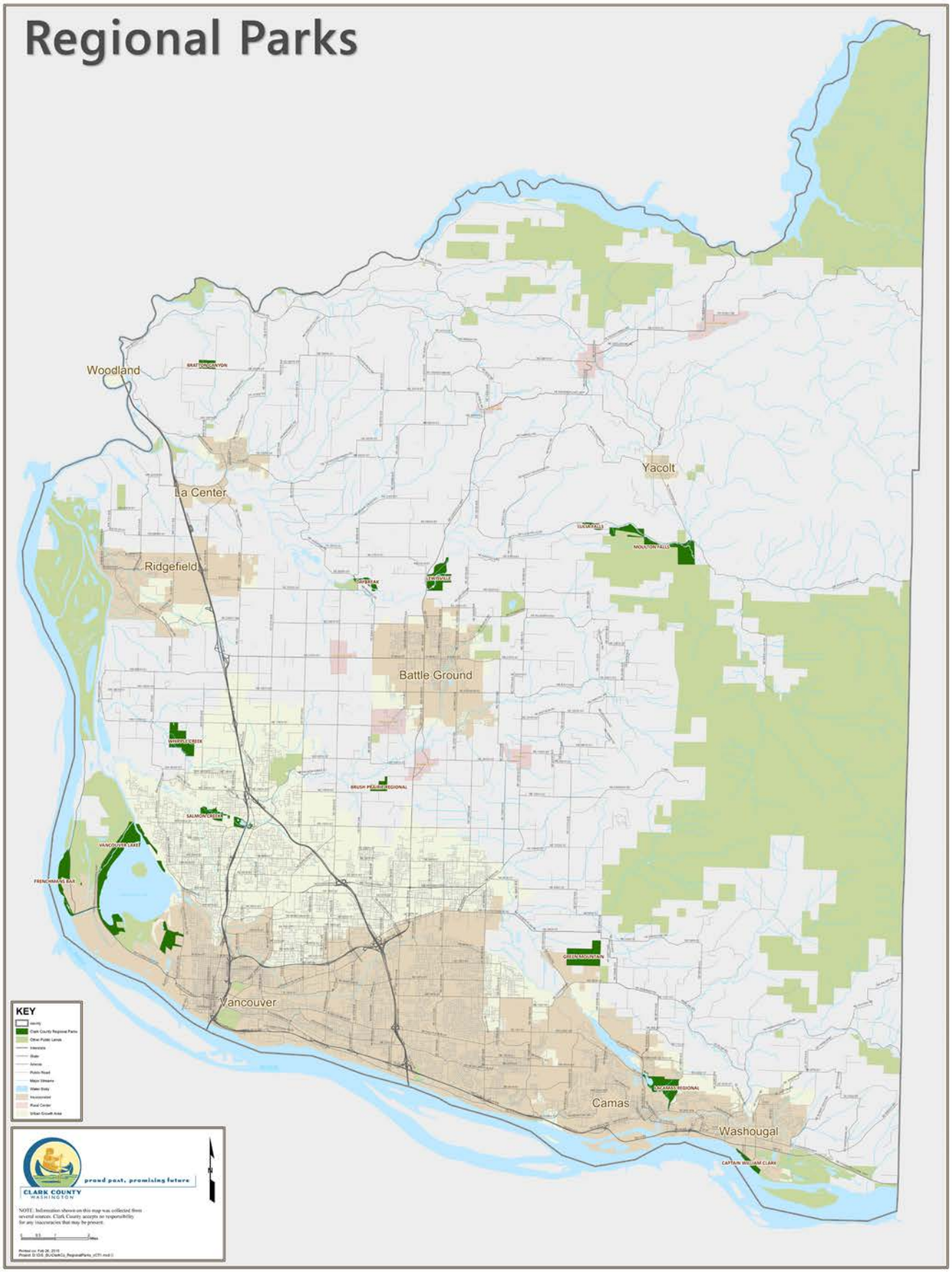
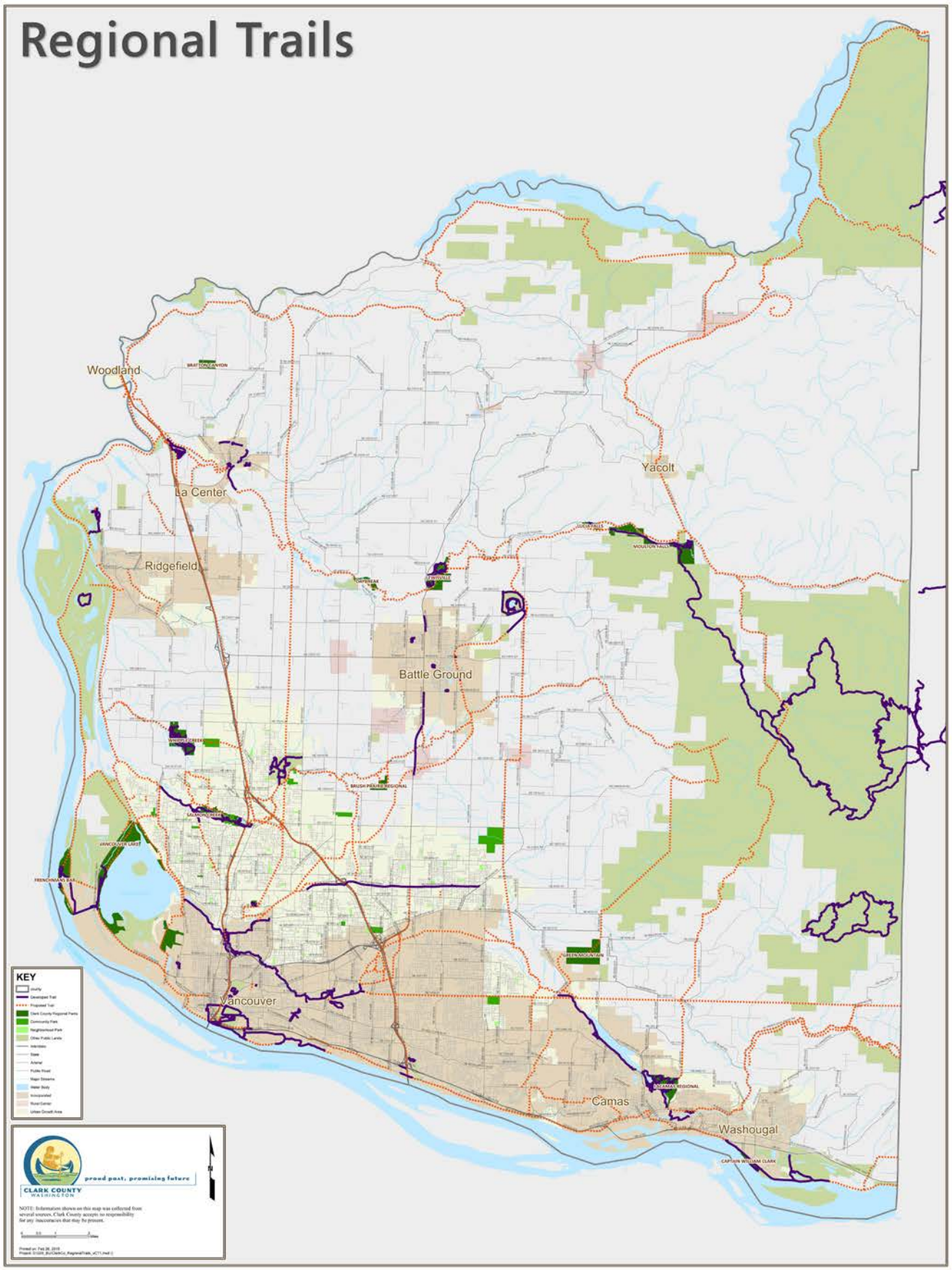

Regional Parks
Woodland
La Center
Ridgefield
Yacolt
Battle Ground
Vancouver
Camas
Washougal
KEY
proud past, promising future
CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON


Regional Trails
Woodland
La Center
Ridgefield
Yacolt
Battle Ground
Vancouver
Camas
Washougal
KEY
proud past, promising future
CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

APPENDIX C - Survey Summary

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CONSERVATION TECHNIX

To: Bill Bjerke, Parks Manager
County Parks Division

From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix Inc.

Date: April 22, 2015

Re: **Clark County Parks & Recreation Plan Community Survey** (Summary Results)

I. METHODOLOGY

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of the Clark County community survey assessing residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities. In close collaboration with staff, Conservation Technix developed the 18-question survey which was estimated to take approximately 5-7 minutes to complete.

The survey was posted online via Clark County's website on February 18, 2015. The survey was promoted in a number of ways, including:

- Three email blasts (Feb. 19, March 2 and April 30) to more than 5,300 recipients using Parks email distribution list. The first two email blasts also promoted the public open houses.
- Another email blast by Clark County Community Planning using its distribution list.
- Other agencies, including Evergreen Public Schools, Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks Foundation of Clark County, were requested to publicize the survey using their distribution lists.
- Attendees at three open houses during the first week of March were urged to take the survey using laptops provided at each open house.
- Also, information about the survey was posted on the county's website in three different locations.

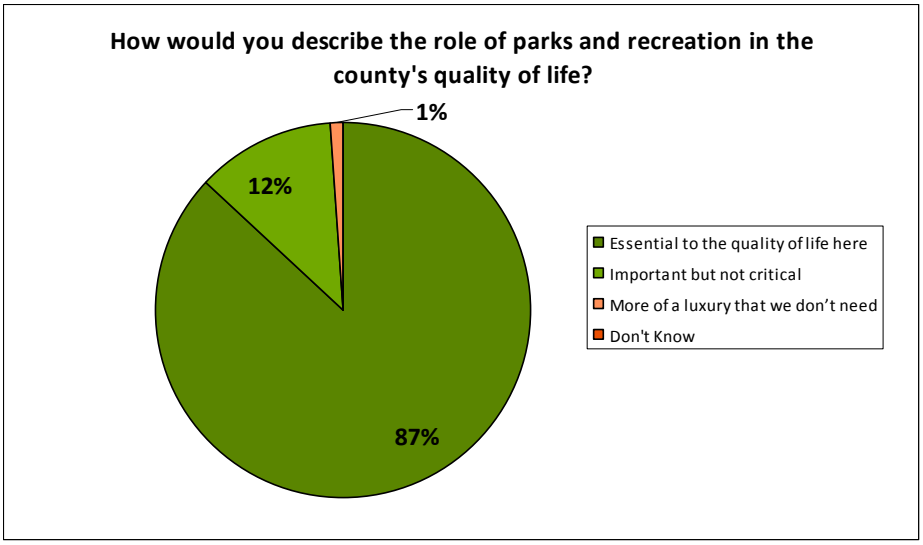
The survey was accessible to residents for seven weeks and was closed on April 3, 2015. A total of 1,483 completed surveys were recorded. Since the survey was open to the general public, and respondents were not selected through statistical sampling methods, the results are not necessarily representative of all Clark County residents. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

II. KEY FINDINGS

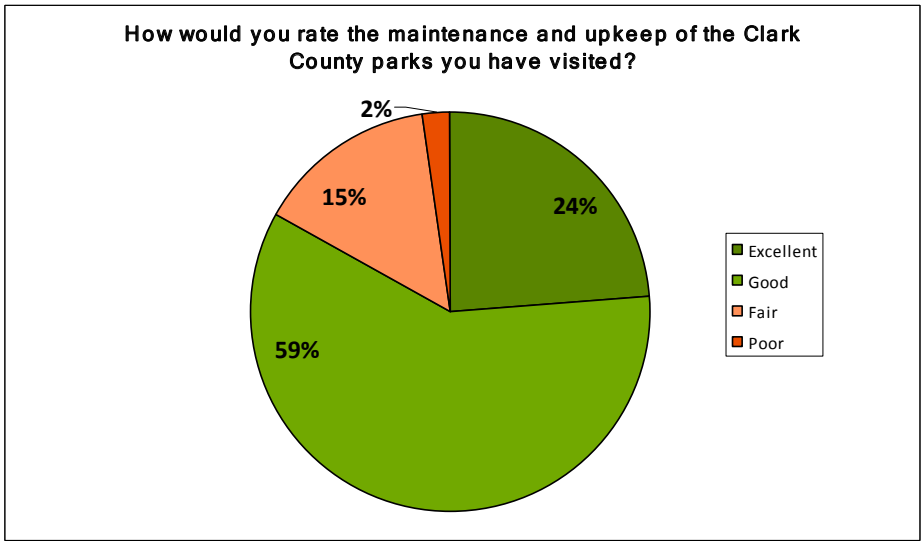
A. PERCEPTIONS OF CLARK COUNTY PARKS

Community Value of Parks and Recreation

Nearly all respondents (99.0%) noted that Clark County's parks and recreation services were important to the community's quality of life. No gender or age based differences were noted.



A majority of respondents (83%) rated the quality of the maintenance and upkeep of the Clark County parks (Q3) as good or very good.



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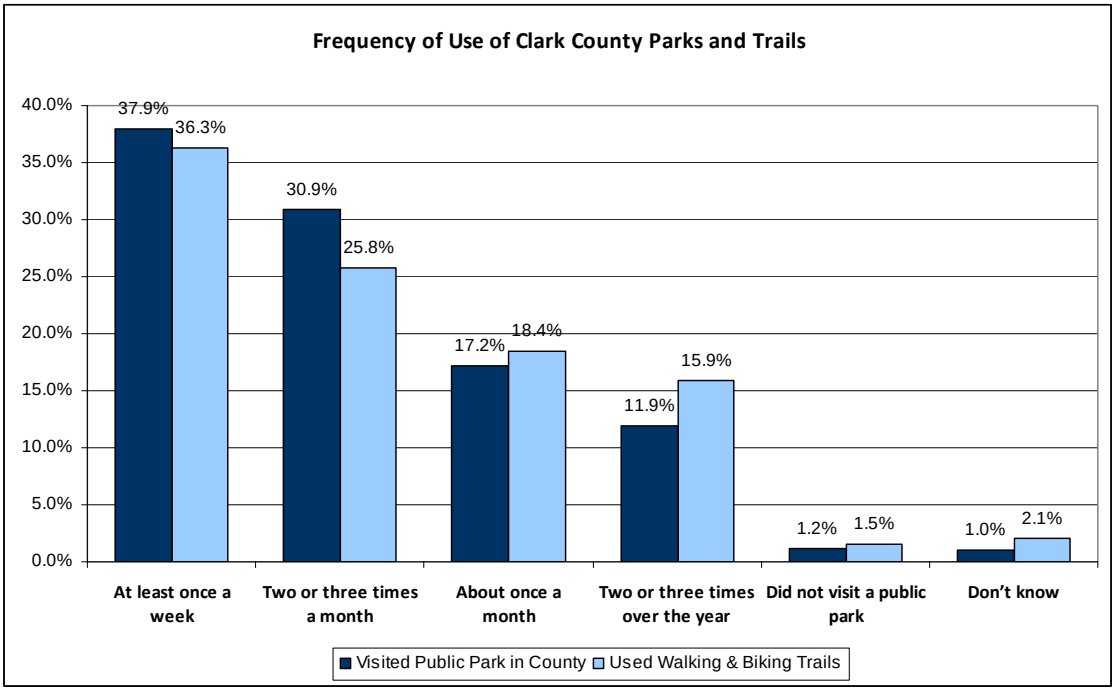
B. PUBLIC USE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Participation and Frequency of Use

Residents were asked how many times over the past year they or other members of their household had visited parks in Clark County (Q4). A majority of respondents visited parks at least two to three times per month (68.8%), and slightly more than one-third of respondents visited parks at least once per week (37.9%).

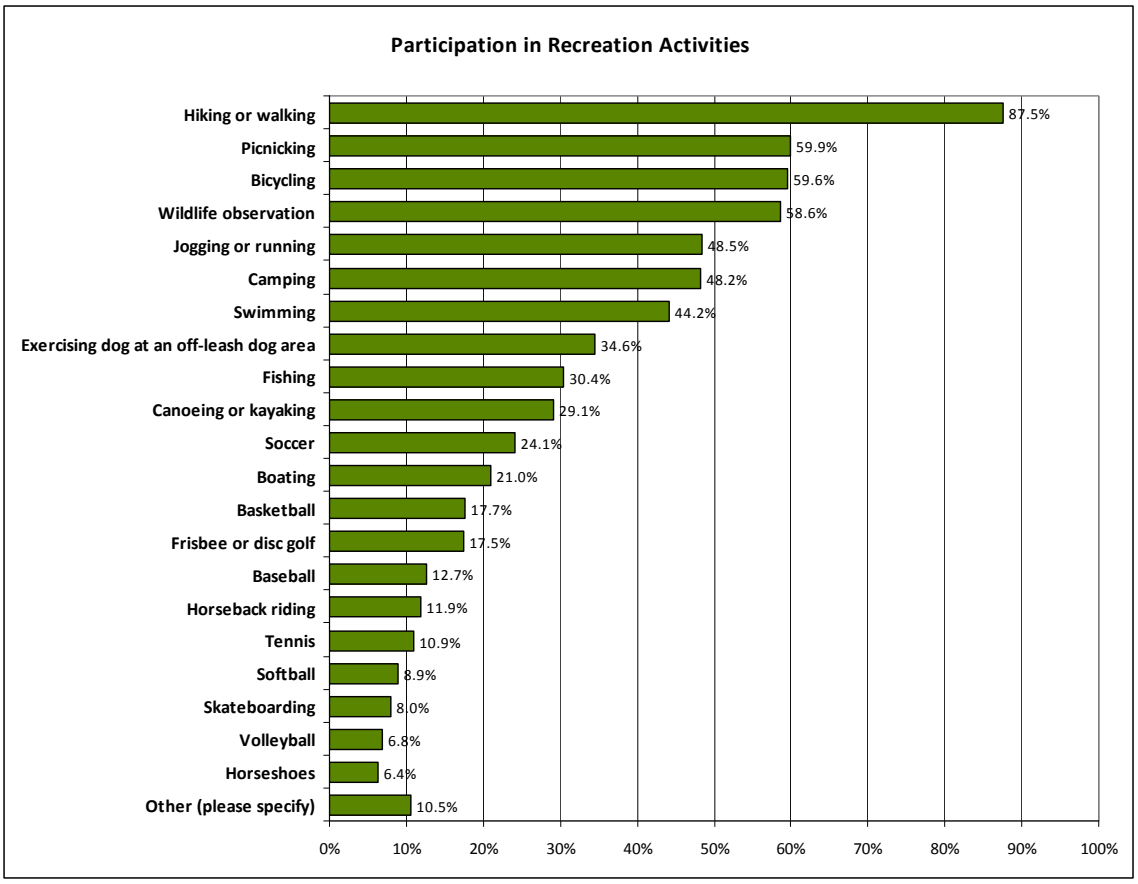
Also, residents were asked how many times over the past year they used the walking or biking trails in Clark County (Q5). A majority (62.1%) visited trails at least two to three times per month. Similar to park usage, more than one-third (36.3%) visited trails at least once per week.

Women had slightly higher frequency of park and trail visitation than men.



Residents were asked what recreational activities they participated in within the last year. Walking or hiking was noted as the most popular (87.5%) - followed by picnicking (59.9%), bicycling (59.6%), wildlife observation (58.6%) and jogging or running (48.5%).

Only minor variations were observed between genders. Men had slightly higher participation in cycling and fishing, and women had slightly higher participation in picnicking and horseback riding.



The written responses to the "Other" category are noted at the end of this summary. Frequently mentioned activities included:

- mountain biking
- dog walking
- playing at a playground; watching kids or grandkids at a playground

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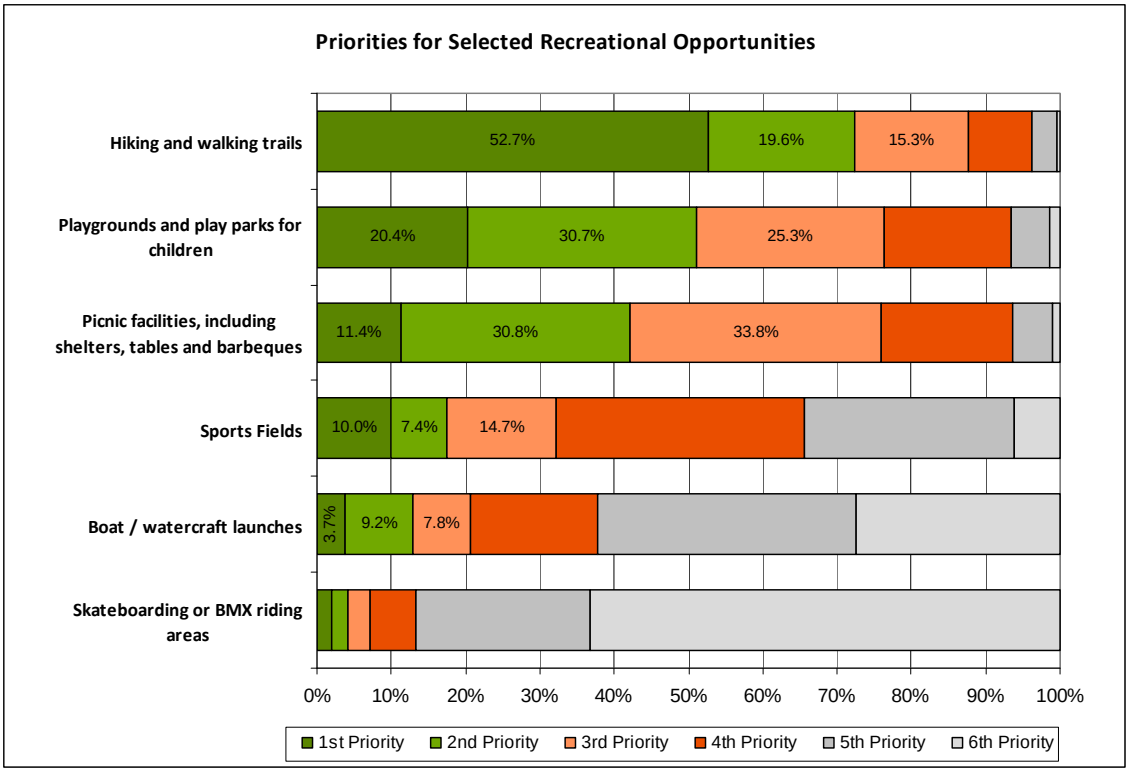
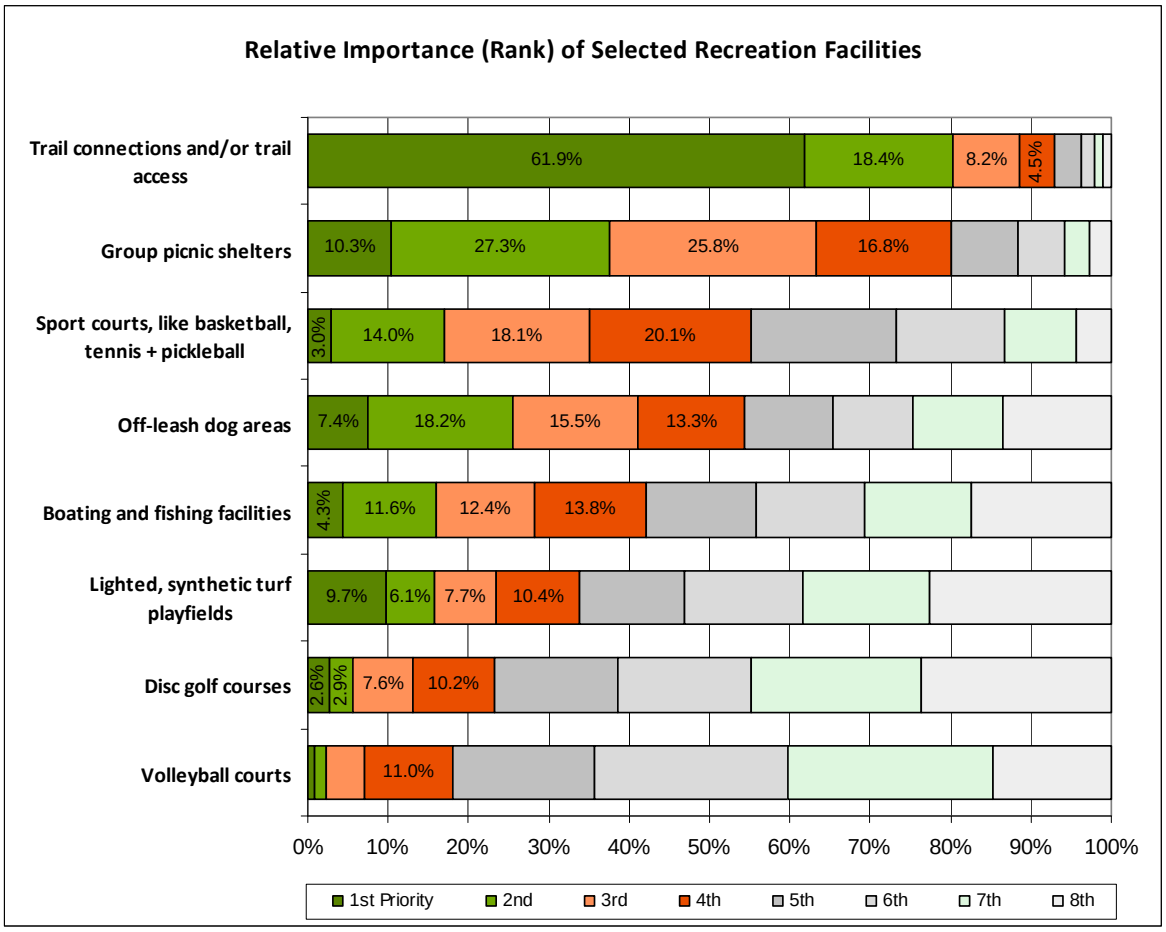
C. PRIORITIES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

Selecting Priorities

Respondents were informed that planning for the future can involve making choices and trade-offs. They were then asked to choose among six items to indicate their preferences among different park and recreation services (Q6). The highest ranking in over half of the responses (52.7%) was given for hiking and walking trails. Playgrounds and play parks for children ranked second with 51.1% of responses placing this in the top two choices. Picnic facilities also ranked high, and only slightly lower than playgrounds, with nearly even responses for picnic facilities as the second or third priority. Sports fields, boat launches and skateboarding/BMX area were ranked much lower n comparison (4th, 5th and 6th positions, respectively). Overall, the facilities that can accommodate usage by the general public ranked higher than specialized facilities.



Respondents were asked to rate the importance of selected recreation facilities in an effort to assess an overall priority for future recreation program planning. Trail connections and trail access rated highest (61.9%), followed by group picnic shelters, sport courts and off-leash areas. Respondents under 34 and over 55 were slightly more in favor of off-leash dog areas than sport courts, and both sets of age groups placed off-leash area in third priority position. No significant gender differences were noted in the responses.



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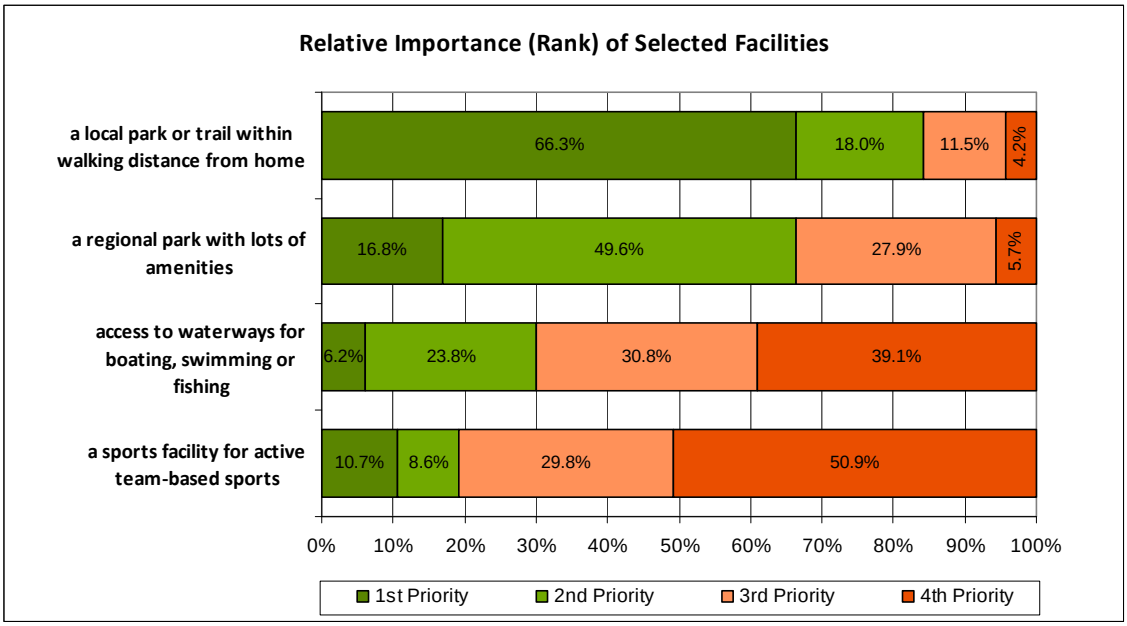
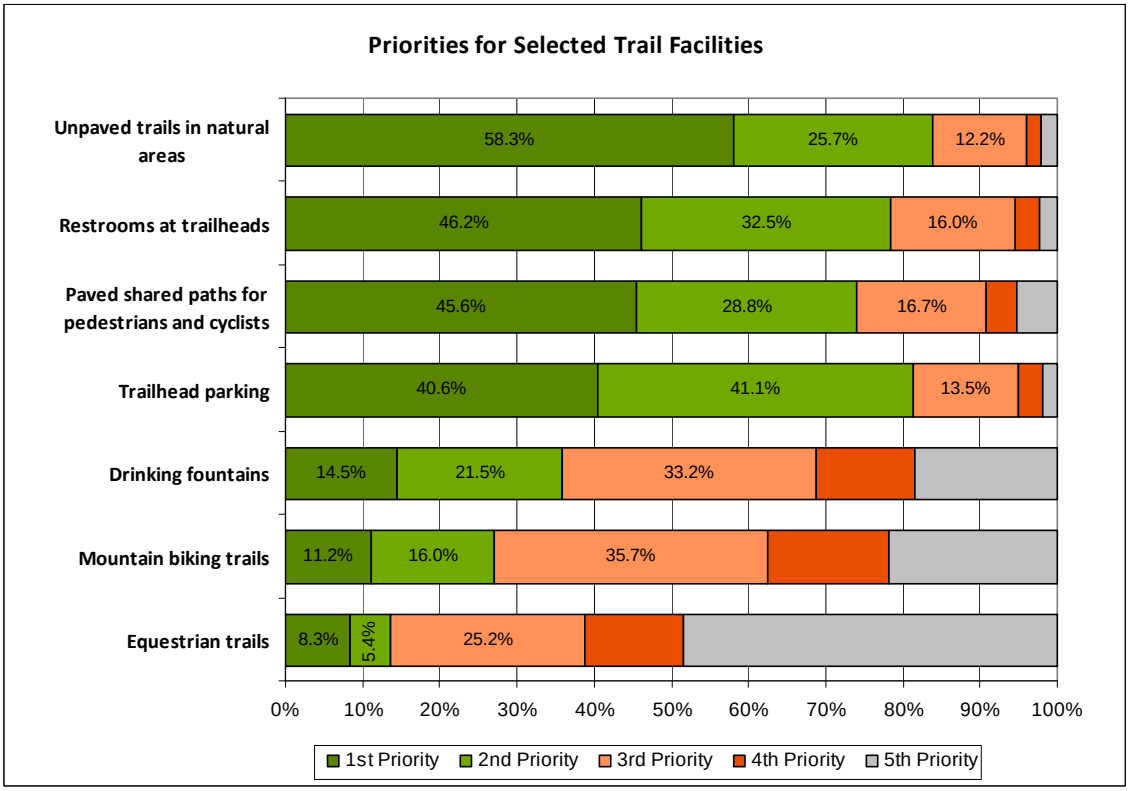
In a different grouping of major facility types, respondents were asked to rank among a listing of local and regional parks, sport facilities and water access (Q13). Local parks within walking distance from ranked highest in importance - suggesting the relative importance of accessible, nearby recreation. Regional parks ranked second, followed by water access opportunities and sports facilities. Respondents over 55 were the only subgroup that varied from the overall rankings, and this group showed a slightly stronger interest in water access and less interest in sports facilities.



Further exploring the trail facility preferences and priorities of residents, respondents were asked to rank a set of different types of trail facilities (Q14). Unpaved trails in natural areas had the highest ranking (58.3%), and there were no differences by subgroups of age or gender. A second tier grouping included trailhead restrooms, paved shared-used trails and trailhead parking. These facilities ranked very closely to one another, and there were no differences by subgroups of age or gender. A third, lower tier grouping of facilities included drinking fountains, mountain biking trails and equestrian trails.



Regarding water access opportunities, respondents were asked to rank a set of items related to water-dependent recreation and support facilities (Q8). Physical access to beaches and rivers ranked highest (48%) of the group, and there were no differences by subgroups of age or gender. Passive access to water via viewpoints and vistas ranked second of the group - ahead of the three options that included some form of waterfront improvement for the listed facilities. Boat launches for hand-carry craft ranked third, followed by docks and trailered boat launches and ramps. The ranking of these items were consistent across age and gender subgroups.

Next, respondents were asked to rank the importance of different sport facilities (Q9). Sport fields adjacent to playgrounds and other park amenities ranked highest at 2.25 on a 5-point scale (63.2% of respondents ranked it as either first or second priority). All weather synthetic turf followed closely behind 2.58 (53.6% of respondents ranked it as either first or second priority). A significant plurality of respondents noted that sport fields are not important priorities to their household.

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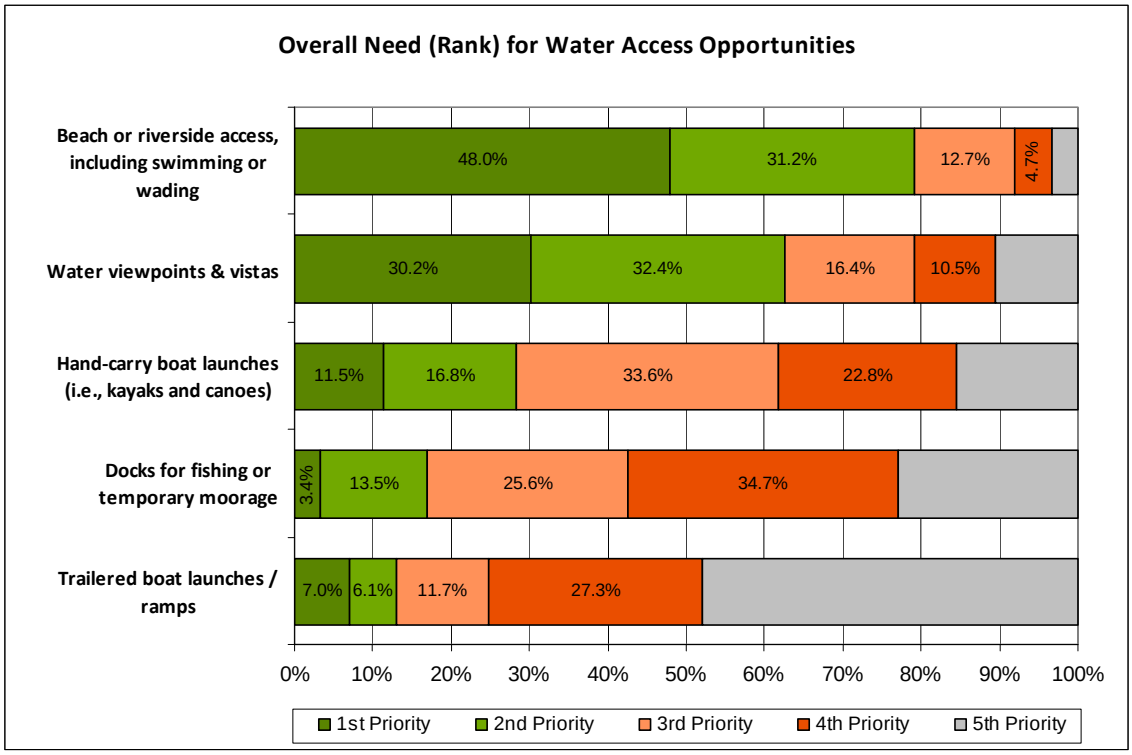
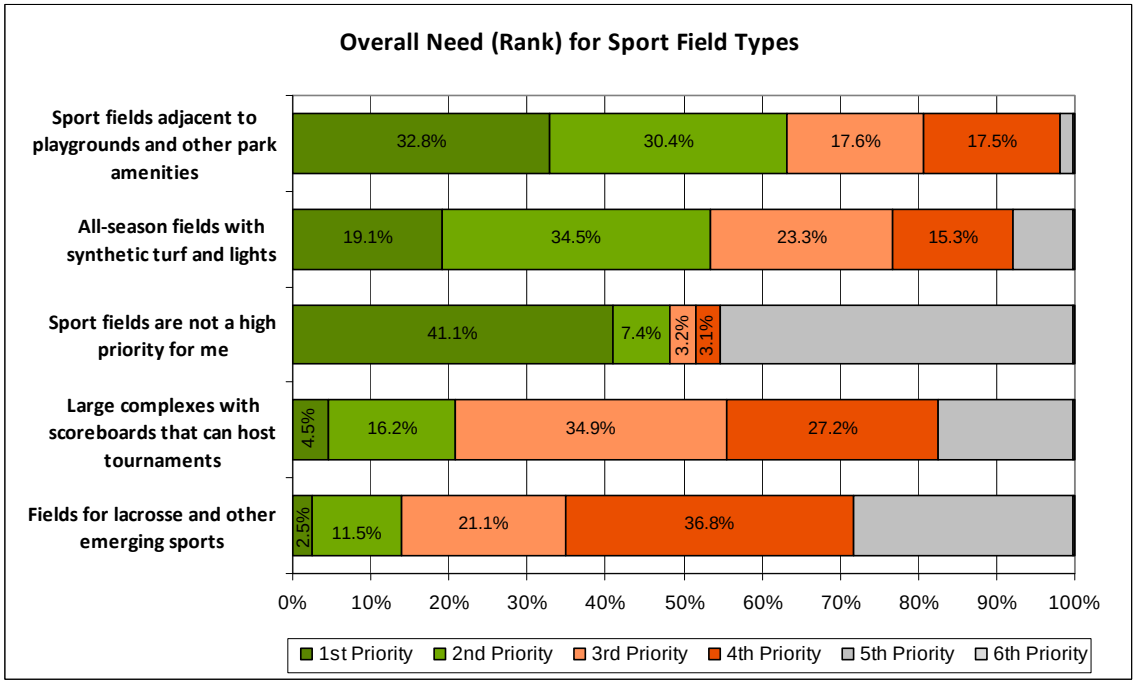
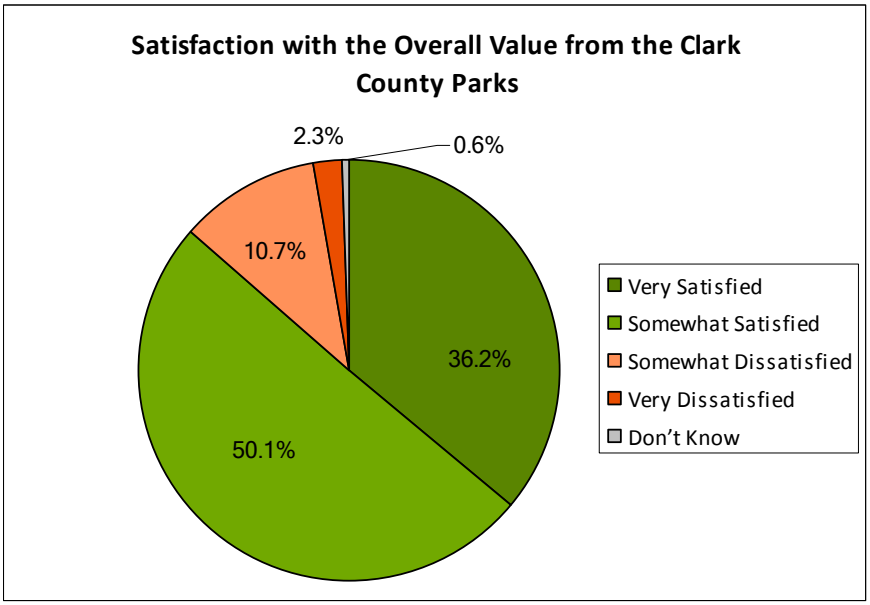

Overall Need (Rank) for Water Access Opportunities
Beach or riverside access, including swimming or wading
48.0%
31.2%
12.7%
4.7%
Water viewpoints & vistas
30.2%
32.4%
16.4%
10.5%
Hand-carry boat launches (i.e., kayaks and canoes)
11.5%
16.8%
33.6%
22.8%
Docks for fishing or temporary moorage
3.4%
13.5%
25.6%
34.7%
Trailered boat launches / ramps
7.0%
6.1%
11.7%
27.3%
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
1st Priority
2nd Priority
3rd Priority
4th Priority
5th Priority


Overall Need (Rank) for Sport Field Types
Sport fields adjacent to playgrounds and other park amenities
32.8%
30.4%
17.6%
17.5%
All-season fields with synthetic turf and lights
19.1%
34.5%
23.3%
15.3%
Sport fields are not a high priority for me
41.1%
7.4%
3.2%
3.1%
Large complexes with scoreboards that can host tournaments
4.5%
16.2%
34.9%
27.2%
Fields for lacrosse and other emerging sports
2.5%
11.5%
21.1%
36.8%
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
1st Priority
2nd Priority
3rd Priority
4th Priority
5th Priority
6th Priority

Funding Priorities

Respondents were asked to rate the satisfaction with the overall value their household receives (Q10) from the Clark County Parks. A strong majority (86.3%) noted they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the value provided by Clark County Parks. Only 2.3% were very dissatisfied. Women and respondents under 34 indicated higher levels of satisfaction (87.8% and 88%, respectively), and respondents over 55 indicated a higher level of dissatisfaction (3.6%).



Finally, respondents were asked to allocate a hypothetical $100 budget across multiple choices (Q11) in a effort to identify investment priorities in Clark County parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities. Consistent with other ranking questions in this survey, respondents most strongly favored allocating funding ($37.63) toward the acquisition and development of walking and hiking trails. An almost equal allocation ($34.59) was suggested for maintenance and improvements to existing parks and facilities. Also consistent with the findings from other survey questions, respondents offered the lowest allocation toward the construction of sport fields. Nearly one-third of the budget allocation ($28.12) went toward items in an "Other" category.

With regard to the subgroup populations, there was no significant difference in responses by gender. Respondents under age 34 more heavily supported the acquisition of new parkland ($26.60) over the total sample. Respondents between 35 and 54 showed stronger support for the construction of sports fields ($28.68) over the total sample. Respondents over 55 indicated a higher allocation ($39.88) toward maintenance of existing facilities.

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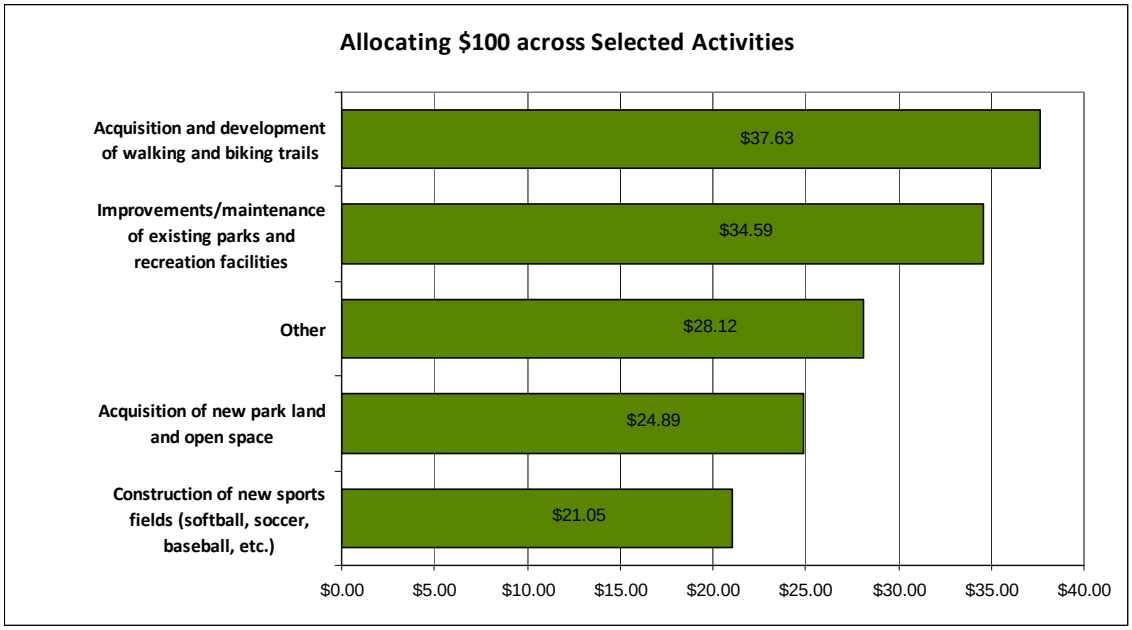

The written responses to the "Other" category are noted at the end of this summary. Frequently mentioned funding priorities included:

- equestrian trails
- mountain biking facilities
- off-leash areas
- pickleball courts
- disc golf courses

D. DEMOGRAPHICS

The following details the demographic profile of survey respondents by type.

Q15. What is your gender?

Gender	Survey	Clark County
Male	41.7%	48.5%
Female	58.3%	51.5%

Q16. What is your age?

Age Group	Survey	Clark County
Younger than 18	0.7%	
18 to 34	16.3%	28.8%
35 to 44	25.9%	19.1%
45 to 54	23.4%	19.8%
55 to 64	20.2%	16.7%
65 and older	13.5%	15.6%

Note: County totals derived from 2010 Census

Q17. What is your zip code?

Zip Code	Count	Zip Code	Count
98601	6	98664	43
98604	119	98665	96
98606	22	98666	1
98607	113	98671	50
98625	1	98674	10
98626	1	98675	12
98629	27	98682	103
98642	63	98683	89
98660	57	98684	51
98661	91	98685	185
98662	68	98686	64
98663	55	Other	14

Q18. How many children under age 18 currently live in your household?

Children under 18	Count	Percentage
Zero	676	51.0%
One	208	15.7%
Two	285	21.5%
Three or More	157	11.8%

Open Ended Responses

Q2. Which of the following recreational activities did you, or a member of your family, participate in within the last year? [Responses below represent those submitted that fell into the "Other" category.]

- target shooting, hunting
- golf
- battle ground little league
- Covered Picnic Areas
- Motocross
- Surveying frog egg masses for SWAMP
- Dog walking in off-leash areas. PLEASE we need more of these!!
- Exploring natural areas with a 3-year-old and watching him play on park equipment with other kids.
- Mountain biking
- Rugby
- Swinging
- Racquetball....it rains here some, just call it indoor tennis!
- single track mountain biking
- No North Clark County Swimming had to go to Portland Parks and Recreation.
- play grounds for young children/ bbqing shelters
- enjoying the playgrounds for the younger children and grandchildren
- Mountain Biking on single-track in the forest
- Mountain biking at Larch mountain
- It's mountain biking. Look at the Bay Area for an example. We are missing big oppty.
- Collecting nettles
- play on play equipment
- Mountain Biking
- taking granddaughter to park to play
- mountain biking/ mountain biking park / mountain bike jump park/ mountain bike down hill/ bmx bike park
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain biking (we are in desperate need of more places, don't let us become the next Portland with how they treat Mountain bikers!)
- Exercising my dogs AROUND the outside of the dog parks. They need a place where they can go off leash without other dogs that is closed off from traffic. They do not come when called and have behavior problems With other dogs and children.
- Mountain biking
- barbecue
- children's play equipment
- Playgrounds
- Playground areas & splash parks/fountains
- Taking my toddlers to the playgrounds
- Photography
- Child play areas / play structures
- keeping my property neat and clean don't have time for this stuff.
- in my own yard, already have 7,200 acres set aside????? we really need more?????
- Playground activities with the grandchildren
- Swings, slides, and playground area

- Mountain biking
- solace/rejuvenation/grounding,etc
- Pickle Ball
- Golfing
- English pit
- Visited playground
- Dragon Boating
- playground with toddler
- Walking dog on leash
- swimming
- hurling, its kind of like field hockey.
- fly rc quad copter
- Walking dog at an on-leash area
- Just enjoying the play structures constantly with two young children
- We're old - so not as active as we once were - but grandkids will soon be "park age"
- Exercise dog at neighborhood park.
- Taking my grandson to play structures to play and socialize
- Pickleball (new trend, great for senior citizens!)
- rock climbing, mountain biking
- take care of homestead acres park with all that marijuana money...use "grass" money to water grass
- Children play area
- Kite flying
- Marshall center gym
- bocce
- Mountain biking
- Golf
- Spending time relaxing with friends in parks and on trails
- dragon boating
- Fitness classes at rec. center
- Playing in water-creeks,streams,rivers
- Wedding
- Off road mountain biking and paved trail bike riding
- dog walking on trails
- SUP
- Hunting, shooting, archery
- Playground & water park
- Playing at the playground
- shoot potato guns
- Mountainbiking
- HORSEBACK RIDING TRAIL RIDING
- Dog walking on leash
- Playing in your parks with my children!
- volunteer work in Whipple Creek Regional Park
- driving horse and cart
- Mountain biking
- bicycling on trails in particular
- Mountain biking
- Mountain Biking
- hanging out at the river
- social group celebrations--one celebration of life

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- Children's playgrounds
- mountain biking
- Mountain biking
- Stand Up Paddle boarding
- mountain biking
- Mountain biking
- Taking kids to play on the play structure at the local public park. I wish our local (Landover-Sharmel) neighborhood park was developed and had a play structure, we would go there almost everyday!!
- grand children played on play structure
- Barbecuing
- Bird watching
- endurance riding on horse back
- Stand-up paddle boarding, ice skating, cross country skiing
- As I have gone through the survey I did not see Horse trails mentioned/ there are over 29,000 horses in Clark County that is significant, and needs to be a high priority for recreational considerations. There is an Equestrian Plan that was accepted October 9th 2012 by the County Commissioners . It was stated "Encouraging more economic activity will benefit the public, and as any equestrian knows, owning horses is certainly an economic activity." That said, I repeat Horse trails, should be one of the top priorities for the Parks Dept. When I am out on the trails riding my horse people out walking , riding bikes so enjoy meeting us and often stopping and engaging me in conversation. Horse have been part of our past and they are part of our future don't overlook the need for more equestrian trail. Thank You , Kathy Cannon
- mountain bike trails
- gardening
- Fountains/non-swimming water activities
- golf
- playing at playground
- football, shooting
- snowshoe
- walking dog on lead
- Enjoying the Columbia River at Cottonwood Beach
- Sculling on Vancouver Lake
- kite flying
- human powered boating on Vancouver Lake
- Fly RC Airplanes
- Mountain biking
- kickball, lacrosse, playgrounds
- Walking dog on leash
- Mountain bike riding
- Horse back riding
- mountain biking
- We are really missing the horse related parks , there are so many horses in this area
- disc golfing dog walking
- mountain biking
- Inline skating
- Always looking for dog areas - There are no off-leash parks near downtown.
- mountain biking
- mountain biking: skill park, pump track, free ride
- enjoying nature, walking meditation
- Amateur radio activity (Parks on the Air)
- playground use--swings, slides, etc

- We enjoy walking in our neighborhood. Also, it is important to the Sorenson neighborhood to finish their park that the voters approved.
- paddle board and small boat sailing at Vancouver lake
- Mountain Biking
- Motorcycling
- horse trail course
- Single track mountain bike trails
- mountain biking
- Mountain Biking
- Sitting on a park bench, enjoying the outdoors
- Playground
- Mountain Biking
- Enjoyment of wide open spaces at various times of the year - watching the seasons unfold and discussing the position of the sun, noting the shadows and the effect on foliage and wildlife.
- geocaching, bird watching, playgrounds
- Use of children's playgrounds
- Bird watching
- lacrosse
- Racquetball
- Dragon boating, rowing,kayaking
- dog walking
- Walking
- Climbing

Q11. If you had an additional $100 to invest in Clark County parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities, how would you allocate the funds? [Responses below represent those submitted that fell into the "Other" category.]

- Programs
- Equestrian trails
- Swimming pools. There is a lack of public pools in Clark County. Planning of facilities needs to start.
- Invest in our children!!
- off the leash dog park
- Horse friendly parks
- I would like more flat water kayak launches with ramps. Not everyone can carry a kayak over things like trails etc to launch it. Smith and Bybee Lake is an example of a place that is inaccessible to be because of the long carry distance. Best places to launch include the Marine park ramp on the Columbia and the Fish & Wildlife gravel ramp at Vancouver Lake. It would be nice to see a kayak launch area for people in wheelchairs too.
- Cougar creek needs to be protected and connected to salmon creek park. So much educational value there with it starting at the heritage farm and running by Columbia R HS
- Acquisition and development of new Off-leash dog areas - including one with river/water access.
- Stuff for kids and families
- Applying for grants to do the items marked.
- Enforcement of ordinances, including leash laws, littering and smoking in non smoking areas. Understandably difficult to enforce, but it seems no effort is made. Dogs are often running amok and leaving waste all over sports fields, etc.
- putting in bathrooms or port a potty's in the neighborhood parks its hard to talk little kids to the park when they have to go to the bathroom
- More swing sets
- Rails to trails
- Offer classes on the environment and ecology of the area in and surrounding parks.
- Equestrian trails
- I didn't select "other", but assume that the 1st item - improvement of existing parks, refers also to parks that are still a bare piece of land such as the "Otto Brown" park.
- Horse riding trails
- Complete the GCPD parks and add a diversity of experiences such as accessible play equipment and nature play elements for kids of all abilities. Make sure there are benches at parks and along trails to support use by people with limited abilities.
- Wildlife preservation
- "New dog parks
- New neighborhood parks"
- Use wherever most needed (like a slush fund)
- This County sorely needs TENNIS / Bball / Pickle ball outdoor combo courts. Or a cheap indoor tennis facility!?! PLEASE? P-L-E-E-E-E-A-S-E-E-E-E? I'm not above begging! I'll do whatever it takes! Really I will.
- Our parks should be largely supported by user fees. These should be restored, with discounts for seniors and/or low income. There is no reason what-so-ever for the increased vandalism and lack of supervision that has been brought about by the "free" access for all! Quit trying to fix that which is not broken! It was better before you changed it!
- Specifically Mountain Biking trails, AKA natural surface single-track in the forest
- Mountain bike trails
- Horse trails
- Dog parks and multi use trails that allow horses.

- Clark county needs mountain bike trail access that mixes trails and pavement to access vast trail networks. Educated people with money ride mountain bikes. biking is one of the fasting growing social activities for C-Level executives. Don't ignore the impact a well thought out trail network that ACCESS vast open space. If the designed solution involves needing to put your bike on a car rack, don't even bother. It needs to be accessible from mix of roads and trails (mostly dirt).
- Mountain bike trails and bike skills parks. Like Duthie Hill in King County
- Development of mountain biking designated trails.
- BMX park or a pump track. More stuff for young cyclists.
- Let sports associations build new sports fields for competition. County parks should keep a few sports fields up for pick up games for families.
- I believe that there needs to be more opportunities for actual bike riding. We have skateparks, walking/bike paths but there is a complete lack of any type of bicycle riding other than trundling along the walking paths. We cyclists (be it BMX or MTB) need a place to go ride that is both legal and something we can enjoy. Not everybody is wanting to just go peddle around, there are those of us that need more 2 wheeled stimulation such as indoor bike parks, outdoor bike parks, even having bike related obstacles that parallel the paths.
- a dog park with sealed fencing gated for aggressive dogs that can be shared - individually. the way from hazardous Towers.
- mountain bike trails
- bathrooms!
- Development of more horse trails
- Equestrian trail and linking parks together. No paved trails
- More playgrounds
- stupid thing won't let me just put $100.00 in trail category
- camping sites, yurts, RV parking at Vancouver Lake
- Making sure there is good play equipment for children.
- Emergency/vandalism or flexibility if priority land becomes available to purchase; fund to make up for loss of fees; restore fees
- 100 lighted tracks and trails for night running
- water features
- We need more equestrian related parks and trails
- Develop land already owned by the county.
- more park land dedicated to native plants and wildlife habitat with trails and educational material
- $100 to beef up security patrols and maintenance in the parks we already have
- Improve safety of existing playgrounds And parks. Lighting of trails.
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Equestrian access and trails
- Indoor swimming pool for NORTH clark county
- Open up better boat launch (kayak) around Vancouver Lake, Lacamas Lake, Lake River, Ridgefield, Wintler Park etc.
- Before you acquire more land maintain what you have AND develop land you already have into parks as promised.
- Restrooms
- maintenance -- I think it's suffered some in the last 18 months
- I sold a house in 2011 and paid enormous park taxes and didn't get shit for my money cause I don't use the parks. Complete taxation without representation or use. These questions don't ask if people want to continue the existing tax structure for parks,
- less tax's!!!!! socialism only works well as long as you don't run out of other peoples money.
- Keep restrooms open all year. It is really frustrating to find restrooms that are locked due to lack of funding, or not having restrooms when needed.
- Community garden space

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- Put walking/bike underpasses or overpasses for roundabouts so that drivers, who are supposed to be looking left, do not have to deal with cross walks on the right!!!
- more tennis courts in parks as a good all age sport, school grounds open to the public as parks during non-school hours, weekends, vacations, summers, reserving some waterfront areas for public access parks, Shade trees in parks strategically located, bathrooms open in all county parks all months of the year with water access, at least one garden park with bulbs, flowering shrubs, roses, lilacs etc
- Construction or acquisition of unused tennis courts for pickle ball with night lighting.
- "items not mention
- e above"
- sidewalks and access to local parks so we don't have to drive our kids and dogs
- Complete the park on 109th and 26th
- Security - Someone that can give citations to citizens that are breaking park rules.
- There is a need for more security in the parks. Drug dealing/use, sexual liaisons between juveniles, motorcycles using the park as a short cut, after dark nefarious activities. Security cameras would help identify individuals for law enforcement.
- Removing invasive species, managing for wildlife.
- Add seating along trails and in parks (population is aging); provide drinking fountains near playgrounds and sports fields. Add garbage disposal cans, one per park is NOT enough.
- Disc Golf Courses. Leverich just isn't enough and is not a full course. I cross into Oregon to play most of the time. I'd much rather play locally and keep my business local.
- Security Patrols for law and rule enforcement.,
- Wheel chair and other special needs adapted playground equipment
- Disc golf course
- Fields for emerging sports.
- Creation of more off-leash dog area
- Develop Cougar Creek Park.
- Swimming access with lifeguards
- Boat launches
- Put funds toward fencing off the area south of Tower Crest Park that backs up to a residential neighborhood - there is vandalism, drug use, unsupervised youth destroying trees to make dangerous bike ramps. The police, city and county officials have been notified of this ongoing issue to no avail.
- Tied in with school programs, from 1-12 grade
- community center opportunities around the county
- Dog parks please
- fun type playground and exercise (gym-like) setup for people on foot, rather than sport fields for organized teams
- Taxes are high enough to pay for parks upkeep...use you HUGE income from marijuana. Should be ashamed for taking upkeep of parks and other areas around Homestead Acres away from us and still collect HIGH taxes with no service. Better learn to budget like we have to do and clean house.
- "Pay stations and security at parks like Wintler, Frenchmens Bar, and Vancouver Lake.
- They are currently not family friendly or pleasant on summer evenings.."
- Hiking, walking and bike trails are very efficient use of dollars for enjoyment and diversity of people using them.
- combined operation with the City of Vancouver and other cities in the county.
- reducing the bureaucracy to free up funds.
- Community Center Partnerships
- planting of new trees and maintenance of current flora that could pose a hazard to guests
- More off leash dog parks
- Invest in adequate FREE parking (many of the parks are not within walking distance of most county residents. Maybe put some money towards facilities at schools (walking tracks, tennis courts, playgrounds, etc.) that

most people can get to. Decide which parks are supposed to be in a more natural state and which are supposed to be built up--sport fields, skate parks, disc golf etc. and don't put them next to each other or you will have dreadful traffic/parking issues.

- Watering---4 times min. during summer
- Keep up your neighborhood parks. It is awful, they trees and plants are dying and there is no watering in the summer. Neighborhood parks are your responsibility and you need to spend some money in this area.
- I would invest in the creation of more horse trails. Clark Co has a very large horse population, and needs more areas to ride in. longer trails, and more variation.
- New Playground construction and playground updates
- $100 Walnut Grove Park needs cross walks
- Designated Bank Fishing Access
- New playground equipment, climbing structures for children
- off-leash dog parks
- Water the grass in the parks. Clark county has the worst looking parks during the summer. Use some of the huge profits the state is making off the marijuana sales to maintain the parks. It's embarrassing to have visitors see the conditions of the parks, litter, streets, etc. Homestead Park in Cascade Park just added a lot of "exercise" equipment while the children's playground is a deplorable, graffiti covered and in unsafe condition, it needs "padding" under the equipment, painting, and removal of the sliver covered wood balance board.
- We need More Disc golf courses. I have heard the county is charging an absorbinant permitting fee to set up the Frenchmans Bar course. I don't understand why, the county should be encouraging the development of its facilities by non profit community driven groups
- dog parks
- more mountain bike trails
- Safety. Currently sums to be a total hands off policy for use and costs. As is the users drive way to fast on the roads out to park have little respect for any walkers etc. Know they can get away with anything
- To utilize Vancouver Lake to it's full potential. Boating of all kinds, Crew, canoe, kayak, SUP, dragon boating, etc. Large potential for bring money into the city.
- Off leash dog paw area and water access in the fairgrounds/salmon creek area.
- Provide overnight camping opportunities
- Acquisition of off road and unpaved mountain biking opportunities
- Equestrian trails and riding areas.
- I grew up in Anchorage, Alaska where the bike trails/cross country ski trails run for miles throughout the city and are easily accessible. I didn't realize how lucky we were. I thought all cities were like that. Now that I am raising my family in Vancouver, I really miss being able to get on a safe bike trail and go for a bike ride as a family. I don't feel it's very safe just riding around the neighborhoods but in order to get on any trails, we'd have to put the bikes all in our truck and then drive two vehicles to a trail to ride. Please make more biking trails!
- 1 A DIY skills community workshop with tools and computers that are signed out for onsite use like a library.
- complete the construction of parks promised when the park district was proposed and approved
- An indoor swimming facility in the battle ground area. With all the water activity in the area more people need easier access to swimming lessons. It is essential for safety. If indoor and reasonably priced it could also offer year round recreational options. Right now too much is completely inaccessible 6 months out of the year under normal rainy conditions.
- Disc golf
- Many of the playgrounds have big gaps between the steps and are not suitable for kids under 3. It would be great if the play structures could be a bit safer for little kids.
- We need more public swimming pools in northern Clark County.
- Construction of new horse trails as well as improvements/maintenance of existing horse trails.
- gravel horse trails
- Horse trails. Gravel trails not paved.

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- I would put it all in off road biking opportunities in Vancouver. The demand for off road cycling far exceeds the opportunities available.
- I would like to see the parks and recreation acquire scenic areas that should NOT be developed by track homes . I would prefer see more of a conservation angle effort when it comes to parks and recreation.
- Equestrian access
- Development of equestrian facilities
- maintenance of equestrian trails
- horse trails
- Create new equestrian trails a maintain existing ones (i.e., Whipple Creel).
- equestrian trail supplies for maintenance
- Trails are essential as everyone ages.
- heavy emphasis on open space specifically for wildlife with corridors between open space areas that help birds and other animals thrive
- More money invested into disc golf courses
- Mountain biking specific trails.
- It does add up to $100...?
- Improve Heritage Trail--need trees removed and trail graveled.
- Please connect Burnt Bridge Creek Trail with Heritage Trail following the waterways as closely as possible.
- We need to acquire more open space so it doesn't get developed. Once it's developed, it's lost forever. I realize development will occur, but there is absolutely no reason why we cannot dramatically increase our "natural land" holdings before the developments occur. Planning said developments AROUND the natural space will improve the everyday lives of ALL residents of Clark County.
- Free ride, single track, mountain biking trail, pump track
- Acquisition of land and open space for development of new mountain biking and hiking trails.
- Development of primitive trails for mountain biking and hiking in land currently held by the county (Green Mountain area)
- long distance 50m pool
- Enlarge horse trailer parking areas at BG Lake and Whipple Creek - They fill up with cars and we end up having to leave because there is no parking.
- Kayak access
- Extending trails for equesitian,hiking and biking.
- hand launched water craft facilities
- Off leash dog parks.
- horse trails
- Horseback riding trails
- lighting and maintenance
- Disc golf courses in East County (Camas/Washougal).
- My family along with my neighbors of the Landover-Sharmel neighborhood would absolutely LOVE it if our local neighborhood park off 18th Street was finally developed!! If there was a play structure and maybe a park bench or table I know without a doubt that it would be used EVERYDAY!! (My kids would be there everyday for sure!) We already have a neighborhood garden that we put in and many of our community members volunteer their time and personal equipment to care for it. Furthermore, we have our annual neighborhood get-togethers there such as our neighborhood picnics. However we must bring everything we need like tables and chairs, activities for the kids, and so on. No one stays for very long because the kids always get bored with nothing to play on and with the roads so busy most of our kids can't go to the school or public parks without their parents driving them. Please, please help us improve our neighborhood park, I know if there is ANY volunteer work needed on our part to make this happen we would be more than happy to do it!! Thank you for listening, I hope we can start this project in the very near future.
- Restroom facilities in neighborhood parks
- It could be used for acquisition but I would like to see it used for special projects like for disabled children.

- New properties
- acquisition and development of equine trails and facilities for the ever expanding equine population and non motorized vehicles
- Preservation of old growth trees and natural areas; large swaths of forest and field areas, with limited maintenance (eliminate noxious weeds) and promote wildlife habitat and preservation, such as birds, deer....
- Clark County needs MORE park land. It would be amazing to be known for beautiful parks and streams.
- Clean up trash and litter. I see so many plastic bags and litter all over. Put some programs in place that encourage respecting nature, not littering and removing ivy! Please!
- I would support Horse trails/multi use trails that all can use.
- Horse Trails
- Equestrian Trails Explained earlier.
- Creating natural play areas for kids not plastic metal jungles.
- A few picnic tables and regular mowing for my neighborhood park, in Landover/Sharmel :-)
- "Expanded equine trails. Equine use is only listed once in this survey. This is very unsatisfactory.
- Most county trails should allow equine travel and all new planning of trails should include equine use. With all the money spent in Clark Co on equines and all the stuff that goes with them, you would think we would garner quite a bit more respect and representation when it comes to trail planning and use."
- Security, with the removal of paid parking undesirables have taken over parks. Security must be improved to offset this change.
- Parking, often the lots are full and force residents to park on busy streets
- As a member of Back country horseman and Washington trail riders, I have spent many hours working on trails in Clark county . We have many equestrian in this county that generates a lot of money to Clark county . We need better access to more trails and riding on asphalt is not safe to horse or riders . Horse back riding is also a sport ! And Clark cty. needs to realize this and offer more horse friendly Trails
- Horseback riding trails throughout the county
- "Improve trail access to connect trials together to form more walkable communities. For example children cannot get to Luke Jensen sports park safely from 68th St. If we proceed on the walking trail plan at Heritage farm that would connect people south of 78th st and make so they could walk to stores on Hwy 99, walk or bike to luke Jensen, get to padden parkway trail and even get to hazel dell park safely.
- Also Heritage farm has 5 acres of Hazel dell park that is now located off of 68th st and we need more community garden plots as their is a wait list currently at Heritage farm. I was on the sounding board in developing the plan for heritage farm and one of the guiding principals is to improve community health and wellness. We need to do this and work in conjunction with Clark county public health. The best way to lower obesity and improve walkability of neighborhoods is to connect the existing trails and that includes bpa land. It also is the most budget conscious way to proceed. Thank you."
- Horse riding trails
- Development of parks that were put on-hold
- "Maintaining/building fountains/splash pads/non-swimming water areas that are closer to shade & the playground.
- For example, the Ester Short fountain is so far from the playground my kids can't do both at the same time."
- improvement of boating facilities, emergency
- Leverich is a great park but is often very crowded and hard to play due to so many people playing the course. A second course of its statute would be a great addition to the county.
- Recreation Center!!! The County Council needs to provide this community a recreation center up north in the Salmon Creek area or multiple smaller recreation centers throughout the county.
- Build Sorenson park which was slated for development under the Metropolitan Parks district but subsequently put on hold.
- Increase canoe, kayak access and develop a water trail map.
- Dog Parks and Bike Parks
- Develop the land already purchased into a park, enough years have gone by for some still un-developed.

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- Build Sorenson park, it is desperately needed since the neighborhood has limited sidewalks and small lot sizes.
- BMX/skateboard area in an existing park area
- Build Sorenson park which was slated for development under the Metropolitan Parks district but subsequently put on hold.
- Building parks promised under the Metropolitan Parks District that were put on hold when the economy turned. Specifically Sorenson Park.
- Building of parks promised under the greater Clark parks district specifically Sorenson Park.
- Acquisition and improvement of horse trails-the few we have are mainly only walkable-and I really like to go more.
- Equestrian trails. Equestrian groups were sold a bill of goods on the Battle Ground connector trail, promised multi use and it is pave and for walkers/bikers only. There are only two county parks with horse trails, yet you build the Hockinson Community park in the middle of ag land and high horse population and made no provisions for equestrian use.
- water play areas and a community center with pool
- bicycle skills area
- Security
- $100 for additional signs stating dog owners MUST keep their dogs on lead and MUST clean up dog poop.
- Disc golf!
- Clark county needs more soccer fields, soccer is growing so fast. Awesome sport.
- Actually, this change requires NO additional money but it needs to occur. Namely, unlock gates to river access parks one hour BEFORE sunrise or, if money were to be spent and there's a reason to not open earlier, then create "early bird" parking just outside of gates for anglers. Fishing at first light will happen even if these parks are locked and vandalism does not occur nearly as often early in the day as it does late at night.
- Fix cougar creek and the other ignored under utilized properties that already exist!!!
- Offset additional charges for visiting places like Salmon Creek Greenway
- Security
- This question does not work. I would allocate 20 to maintenance and 80 to trails
- Skateboard/box, disc golf
- A public pool that did not require a membership.
- preservation of Vancouver Lake. the lake has a wonderful park, but it is underutilized and watersports on the lake needs to be promoted.
- HORSE trails.
- Security, administration
- equestrian trails, parking, access
- Your website talks about all the horseback riding opportunities in Clark County Parks, but that's nonsense. Horses don't belong on paved paths. They need native dirt paths. I would spend my money to preserve the few horseback riding opportunities that currently exist in Clark County Parks. PLEASE, don't forget about the horseback riders when you are doing your planning!
- Matching grant fund for new sports fields.
- Neighborhood dog exercise areas, including maintenance, upkeep (hauling away owner collected dog waste) and occasional law enforcement monitoring
- "There is so much litter in all the Washougal parks (& on the streets),I don't know that Washougal residents deserve or want better parks. There is more litter here than in
- L A. Camas & Vancouver are much better - what do they do that we don't?"
- Dirt trials like forest park (wildwood etc)
- Equestrian facilities and trails
- Equestrian use
- provide equestrian access as set forward in comprehensive planning to connect whipple creek trail system across clark county.....do not force out horses
- skateboarding more little somein in parks.

- equine recreation
- Investment would be in trails that are accessible to all users, including equestrians. Rather than cutting us out at the last minute as on the most recent stretch of the Chelatchie trail.
- Have more mutt mitts available for dog waste. More garbage containers.
- Horse trails
- Improve, maintain, acquire, and develop horse trails and riding facilities.
- Horse Trails
- Equestrian trails
- I most frequently visit clark county parks to play disc golf. I would like to see additional funding go to expanding access to disc golf courses.
- Rifle range
- better horse trails
- A place to have our dogs off leash
- Equestrian trails
- A few new shelters built for 5 - 15 people inside and 10 people outside.
- How about a park for inclusion of special needs (physical and or mental) community members, similar to Oso De Oro Park in Fresno CA.
- More effort put into enforcing park rules/county ordinances such as active ticketing of owners of unleashed dogs in leash only areas.
- "Horse related and shared walking trails,
- Clark country has more horse per capita compare to other states , yet Clark Country is doing nothing for this quality of life with trails. Horse add jobs, and bring money to the local community.
- Review states like AZ, KY, FL, NV ,
- Horse keep kids out of trouble!"
- Horseback riding trails
- Taking out the homeless so I feel safer. I see homeless people in campers/vans at EVERY clark county park. It's creepy and a high risk for the county not to deal with before it gets worse. Today I saw 4 homeless people at vancouver lake! Creepy!!!
- Equine trails and Facilities
- Pay for toll takers to keep out the riff raff.
- More opportunities for equestrian trails
- Finish parks that we have land for but are just fields
- new off-leas dog parks
- off leash dog park downtown
- We really need a off-leash dog park downtown. We mostly use Esther Short park where our dogs must do their business right where everyone has to sit on the same grass for events.
- off-leash dog parks
- Opening of a new 18 hole disc golf course in Clark County, as the existing parks are becoming more and more crowded.
- Seating areas along trails and in parks - especially as our population ages or just want to sit and enjoy view/sport/play.
- Mountain bike pump tracks like they have in most other cities.
- Security to stop partying and other illegal activities.
- I would give money and volunteer my free time to build mountain biking: pump track, skill park, free ride, single track.
- horseback riding/hiking trails
- disc golf course development.
- Community swimming pool
- Installation of a disc golf course.
- Disc Golf Courses, 18 Holes, Par 60-72

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- Disc Golf a New 18 Hole Course at Orchards Park
- "This section would not work. It kept telling me the choices need to add up to $100, which they did.
- Improvements $25.00, Acquisition of new park land $50.00, Acquisition and dev of walking trails $25.00"
- I would and have given way more than $100 to Disc Golf Improvements in Clark County and in Oregon.
- Developing park property that is already owned by the parks dept--there are 2 park properties within walking distance of my house that are undeveloped but no existing parks that we can safely walk to. Cougar Creek park on 16th ave and Sorenson would both be easy to walk to, and we'd love to see at least one be turned into a real park.
- Security - Some of the current parks are unsafe with the removal of pay entrance guard.
- The Sorenson Park had a site plan developed and construction was approved and scheduled to begin in the spring of 2011. We are committed to seeing this park developed. We think the shuffling of funds and plans are wrong and there should be no doubt that this park should be finished ASAP. Show your commitment to the Sorenson Neighborhood Park!!
- Making sidewalks for safe neighborhood access to parks and trails in unsafe places.
- Acquisition of land for ecology conservation
- I would like to see an indoor facility with lap pools in the Salmon Creek/Ridgefield area.
- Horseback riding trails
- hand carry launches that can also be accessed by small boat hand dollies - don't put the posts at parking so close together that hand dollies won't fit through
- development of more dog parks
- Fixing up and making playgrounds better. They are all sort of the same. Portland has some amazingly cool playgrounds and we should too!
- Quality BMX racing track to hold regional races. Bicycle skills parks, pump track.
- More park staff and security
- Room for the wisdom of advisory board and staff to invest in the system itself including additional acquisitions of park land and open space.
- Additional paid staff and park security.
- REMOVING ALL SKATE PARKS.
- Enhancement of administrative capabilities - reservations, public outreach, grant writing, etc.
- More off leash dog parks.
- building bark chip paths
- Open covered Small creek tributaries to historical past.
- multi use trails for horse back use
- Dog park
- Single track dirt trails in forested areas for mountain biking and hiking.
- more benches with shady trees
- I would actually spend the money on other parts of the budget. Parks don't rank as high as other departments
- I would like to see a water feature that kids can play in. I would prefer to have this on the east side of town.
- "Be open to new opportunities, so far we have just hit the basic / traditional offerings, that's not bad but there is more and we/you can do better.
- What's the demographics of the county/cities tell you? I.e., do your trails intersect with transportation lines (buses) so one could bus his bike out to Battle Ground / Camas and bike back home? Are your trail rated for difficulty, I may be older or disabled or if I am blind how do I know what I should be seeing /brail. Don't just look at what we have and say that's fine. Look at what we don't have or what our population make up suggests! What do YOU need to be providing when we look around and there is another 100,000 new residents here. That may likely be to late to get the right land mass in the best or right place. Who's coming and what will they want? Change is the only predictable thing. We have to be ready for it and accepting of it - but it would be better if we were the change makers! VISION and Future Think is a must."
- 20 for completion of undeveloped park lands in the inventory, 10 for development of nature play / non-traditional play features, like those at Jorgenson Woods Park

- Security / police presence improvement
- Vancouver Lake - hosting rowing, dragon boating, kayaking events (draw in for state/region; handicap accessible sports dock (for rowers, kayakers, dragon boaters);
- Pickle Ball Courts
- na
- Phase out public funding of sports complexes, allowing the organizations who use them to fund them through membership fees.
- Reducing fee of use for local non-profit sports organizations like Little League and Soccer clubs
- Volleyball & Basketball courts - indoor
- neighborhood play areas near more neighborhood for youngsters to play and relief for adults from city scapes. Safe areas with open space to use your imagination
- Completing parks that have been put on hold (i.e. Kelly Meadows) before moving on to acquire and maintain other new parks.
- By law, counties only purchases parkland and when folks are annexed into the City do they get the full park experience. So maybe all of Clark County should be annexed into the City of Vancouver as it's our future per GMA. Read the RCW on Parks and what the County can and can't do.
- dog parks
- Facilities for remote control model vehicles and aircraft
- Creating more active areas such as water access for kayaking, bouldering areas, interconnecting existing parks with off road biking and walking trails.
- Creation of water access areas for the public
- Create a comprehensive trail system. Build the Chelatchie Prairie Trail.

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APPENDIX D - Public Meetings

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Parks Master Plan Open House

La Center Community Center **Tuesday, March 3, 2015**

Comments from attendees:

Maintain road in and out of Whipple Creek; Post signs in parking lot reinforcing leash law; Post sign designating trailer parking from auto parking, post in parking lots; connecting fairgrounds to Whipple Creek, something like what Cle Elum has in its WA State horse park. Expand Daybreak Park for trailer parking and expand trails along the river.	I am in favor of the proposed plan in regards to the trails which could be used by bikers/hikers and equine users. I realize that the equine use would require more capital because the plan would have to accommodate horse trailer and vehicle which would require a larger parking area.
I am in favor of the proposed plan in regards to the trails which could be used by bikers/hikers and equine users. I realize that the equine use would require more capital because the plan would have to accommodate horse trailer and vehicle which would require a larger parking area.	Would love more trails that make a loop. Ex: Capt. William Clark Park, Daybreak Park.
I enjoy the county, state and national parks from horseback weekly. I would like more horse trail/multi-use trails, better and marked parking for horse trailers. It would be great to have a vault restrooms at Whipple Creek at the main parking lot. It would be great to have a parks rep attend WTRA on every 4th Thursday meeting, 6:30pm at Saddle Club, once a quarter. And attend BCH meeting on every 1st Monday, 7pm, at Round Table, JM Plaza in Hazel Dell.	I enjoy the county, state and national parks from horseback weekly. I would like more horse trail/multi-use trails, better and marked parking for horse trailers. It would be great to have a vault restrooms at Whipple Creek at the main parking lot. It would be great to have a parks rep attend WTRA on every 4th Thursday meeting, 6:30pm at Saddle Club, once a quarter. And attend BCH meeting on every 1st Monday, 7pm, at Round Table, JM Plaza in Hazel Dell.
Parks people need to get out and visit various "horse organizational meetings, such as BCH, WTRA, etc., especially the 6 and 20 year master planners. Roads in general: pot hole repair. Pot holes damage vehicles and trailers in many various ways.	Your laptop survey: good, however one singular glaring unimpressive addressment – a one liner to horses! Totally unsatisfactory. This county needs considerable more horse trails. Additionally those that do exist need repairs and maintenance (in many cases). Further, your address of horses (lack of) would grant you an "F".
Enforce parking signage. For example, parking that is designated horse/horse trailer parking. No other parking such as no car, motorcycles, etc. Creates many, many problems for pickups with horse trailers. Those that violate, fine or ban, or both. This also applies to those that do damage. More hose/multi-use trails.	Work with private facilities such as Clark County Saddle Club to help them grow. CCSC relocation possible to 40 acres west of 503, S. of 179th in line with trail to Whipple Creek and Chelatchie RR trail.
More trail connections for equestrians: Whipple Creek – Fairgrounds-park. Fairground-county property on 10th – county property across from 164 to old road bed that goes under freeway to county property along Whipple Creek to Union,	Use of eco-green grid to replace paving for bikes instead so costs are better and path is more multi-use. Kayakers harass the duck hunters on Vancouver Lake.

then get to the property behind Northwoods cemetary (Whipple Creek woods). (hand-drawn map submitted)	
Change the county signs that give horses a negative impression. Put horses higher up on the sign.	Bonneville Park, equestrian use – get something going. Green Mtn Trail – acquire entrance. Day Break Park – Trust fund.
Keep Bratton Canyon Park natural with minimum development and continue to be open to the public and able to reserve for special events occasionally. Developing a network of connecting green space to hike/ride bike. Ex: rails to trails.	For kids under 12: climbing rocks/boulders/trees/stumps; low water spray type features like Ester Short Park; more playground equipment; another park in the middle of the county.
Turn on water features earlier, based on temperatures.	Please protect old-growth trees when designing new parks. In existing parks, some trees are subject to a lot of wear and tear. Try to save them. Thanks for asking residents for input.
Fill in pot holes at Whipple Exit NW 21st.	Add leash law signs at parking lot.
Vancouver Lake not a place you go by yourself. Sketchy safety, lots of trash.	Most parks seem well maintained. Keep up the good work.
Equestrian trails on Whipple Creek Woods property – gravel the unofficial trails to control mud and erosion.	Promote wildlife habitat in all parks. Bird view areas, for instance.
Some covered walking areas would be wonderful for the rainy season.	We need more horse friendly trails/parks.
Leave some places in a natural condition for wildlife, e.g. bushes, dead trees, etc.	Keep old growth trees and large natural areas. Horses not everywhere, only in larger parks to eliminate damage. Solve the English Ivy problem at Whipple Creek, awful!
Protect existing trees and vegetation as much as possible. New construction – try to save trees. And watch for damage done to trees in existing parks.	Responsible horse/dog owners care about the trails/parks. They use and take care to not cause damage. Thjey also volunteer their time to maintain/improve those areas for further enjoyment of all.
Keep some minimally developed with trails and limited facilities. People can walk and see a river and less “busy” space.	

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Parks Master Plan Open House

Camas-Washougal Fire Station 42 **Wednesday, March 4, 2015**

Comments from attendees:

Consider that some uses are incompatible with other uses. For example, a single track mountain bike trail is incompatible for nearly any other use and takes up a lot of linear land. Users of such facilities should the county build them, should be charge a user fee. Wildlife viewing is incompatible with any use that scares the animals away. Heavy impact uses should not be considered for park areas intended for wildlife viewing.	Wanted to share concerns about the upcoming development just north of Lacamas Park. A large parcel on the east, adjacent to the park trails has already been cleared for building. This is very visible from the trail. Primary, current worry is the development of Camas School Dist. Property adjacent to the Park's Lily Fields. Can a buffer be left to protect this area?
In my opinion, the county Parks mission should be to provide recreation opportunities and facilities that the urban, i.e. cities don't provide rather than trying to duplicate those I same facilities in rural or lesser populated areas. I feel neighborhood parks are not part of your responsibility.	Both BG lake and Whipple Creek need more horse trailer parking.
Water access for hand-launched vessels with parking.	Open tracks: could be looped soft surface within park. I suggest this because some schools are fencing in their tracks.
Deliberately chose to live where we live in part because of access to trails!	It is time to reinstitute parking fees at certain parks. Taxes should also be considered. Definitely have adequate parks impact fees for development, especially housing. To rely so much on volunteers (although they do good work) is foolish in the extreme.
Enjoy signage along trails sharing historic or natural info.	More natural areas and, assuming sufficient revenue, nature programs at our biggest parks would be great.
Kayak access! (x 21)	More walking/hiking trails. Trails in natural areas should be rustic, not paved highways.
More access for off-leash dogs in natural settings.	Lap pool at Firstenberg (x 2)
Water trail markings/signage in Lower Columbia River	Running trails longer than 3 miles, non-concrete. (Yes!)
Spend money on gravel trails rather than paved – money goes farther=more trails.	Extend dike trail along Columbia River.
Create linkages with trails that provide circular/looped and continuous alternative transportation alternatives (Fire/Ice Loop) like Cowlitz-Koakum COG's.	Can Parks be involved in the development review process?
Sensitivity to future development around parks when they are designed.	Parking for horse trailers (more)
Would like trails in Camp Bonneville area (Yes! Tie it to Green Mountain); Yes!	Connect Washougal Greenway with Washougal Dike (Agree!)
The mileage markers on dike trail and heritage are super useful!!	More primitive trails (single track).

Connect areas/development with non-paved paths.	Build Green Mountain and Camp Curry to be accessible community areas, i.e. Lacamas.
Keep Clark County natural/green space rather than promote sprawl.	Why is there no 50m pool anywhere in SW WA? Would love it! Closest one is Multnomah Comm. College.
Connect Lacamas Park, Camp Currie and Green Mountain with forested, single track trails (bike access).	

Parks Master Plan Open House

Three Creeks Community Library **Thursday, March 5, 2015**

Comments from attendees:

Use porous trail material for better drainage. Finish Daybreak Park for multiuse and equestrian. Wider road shoulders in rural areas (safety for equestrians and bicyclists). Additional equestrian trail access with signage that supports equestrian/multi-use. Diverse trails for both beginner and advanced riders. Finish connection between Whipple Creek & Fairgrounds.	There is a vocal minority that really wants equestrian trails. I feel that very few residents own horses compared to the number of people that walk or ride bikes. As far as funding goes, it does not make sense to cave to this vocal minority, especially if it is at the expense of providing services to a large portion of the community. My priorities: 1. E. Fork Lewis River trail; 2. North-South powerline trail; 3. Some sort of Columbia River trail (Vanc. Lake to Ridgefield); 4. Bike lanes of 72nd Ave.
The paved trail next to BG State Park could be used to drive our phone & carts BUT you have locked cement pillars at both ends, who has the keys? How can we use the trail? Maybe this problem could be corrected. Plus most people thought there was supposed to be a gravel path next to the pavement for horses? Pony cart driving is very popular within the county! We need more places to drive, too dangerous to use public roads. This county has approx. 37,000 horses. We need as many trails as possible. It is too dangerous to ride on the road or shoulder of the hwys. Horse people spend a lot of money in this county!	Parks & trails are great and very much needed. Salmon Creek needs some additional paved or gravel trails so people don't have to crowd together on the main trail. Chelatchie Prairie rails to trail should be extended. Thank you CC our park facilities are already quite good. Please continue to add parks & greenspaces. It's ok to leave open space & trails. Don't always need to spend a lot of money on extras, like sports fields, etc. If you're going to spend money use it first to make sure adequate restrooms, etc
When constructing the new connector trails & building new trails, would love to see horses included in the plan to connect Whipple Creek to Klineline in the future! Try (trial maybe) using eco-green grid product when building trails & permanent low maintenance product instead of paved bike lanes – water drains through easier to hike on.	I took the survey & made comments. Sorenson Park is one of the parks that has its plan ready & should be started ASAP. This park was approved by the voters in 2005 & needs to be finished. I did see a list & hope it is complete in 2016.
1. Promote shared use of trails (horse, hikes, bicycles). Make an educational effort to each group about needs of the others, etiquette, leave no trace, etc. 2. Develop link between Whipple Creek Park & Fairgrounds. Develop a trail obstacle course, a growing interest group among horsemen. 3. Grow the Rails to Trails projects to encompass the county.	1. Improve entry for equestrians & shared use at Green Mt and get Bonneville started also. Whipple Creek Mill area & maintenance plan for the park for future, add trail course to connector trail for all to use. 2. Loop for driving horses at Fairgrounds, trail training stations, encourage the horse park outdoor use park 3. Talk to CCSC as they need to relocate to more agriculture land to build new facility (Mike Schultze mschulze@ix.netcom.com 4. Complete Sorenson Park; consider adding school dist. Property to the park for sports field.

More equestrian trails; fix up mill at Whipple Creek; finish train course at Whipple Creek; do connecting trail to Fairgrounds; horse activities at Daybreak Park	It is very important to our community to develop park land in Salmon Creek. Would love to see a community center for our community.
Equestrian trails need to be kept and shared. Need more materials for volunteers.	Continue to help support (maintain) Whipple Creek Mill; finish the connector trail; refurbish the mill; Bonneville and Green Mtn. access for horses; reinstitute horse use plan at Daybreak Park. There was a plan made in Master Plan prior to county and city parks splitting).
We are looking forward to more bike trails including jump trails similar to Meldrum Bar Dirt Jump Park in Gladstone OR & Duthie Hill Park in Issaquah WA. We have Cold Creek and Thrillium on Larch Mt & can make anything in between.	Thanks to the county commissioners for recognizing the opportunity to develop a disc golf course at Frenchman's Bar. The county has needed a tournament level course for years to keep up with the demand for this growing sport.
We need a community center for indoor play in winter. Turn sprinklers on in neighborhood parks for kids to run through on hot days. More hiking trails that connect.	We walk the Pleasant Valley Park 50th Ave & Salmon Creek Pleasant Valley School and enjoy the new foot bridge across Salmon Creek Dr. We're looking forward to the connecting trail to WSU.
Would like to see maintenance of footing for horse trails. Also longer horse trails, bathrooms, education for trail users (right of way).	More equestrian courses
We would love to see Cougar Creek Woods Park developed and the trail extended.	More equine trails for us, a trail course & connecting trails. Lots of horses in our community.
More horse trails and connector trails, trail maintenance, horse training (obstacle) course.	Connect horse trails, trail courses.
More equestrian trails, Fairgrounds Park obstacle course, maintenance plan for Whipple Creek trails	I would like to see more neighborhood parks within walking, biking distance from houses. Small parks with playground equipment and short walking trails.
Connect horse trails, trail courses.	Have you considered airsoft/paintball activities in parks?
I would like to see more neighborhood parks within walking, biking distance from houses. Small parks with playground equipment and short walking trails.	More equine trails for us, a trail course & connecting trails. Lots of horses in our community.
Need more parking at Ridgefield boat launch.	New parking lot at Hazel Dell Park to the west of park.
Need to maintain existing multi-use equestrian parks/trails.	Build and maintain more multi-use equestrian areas in parks.
Would like areas accessible for disabled folks.	Build Sorenson Park.
Encourage shared use horse, hikers, bicycles.	Kozy Kamp
Extend Cougar Creek Trail south of 119th St, please	Add equestrian access to existing trails.
Finish Daybreak Park extension with multi-use trail and equestrian access. Equestrian access between Whipple Creek & Fairgrounds.	Build permanent extreme trail obstacles between Fairgrounds Park & Whipple Creek: bring in world class events (additional funds into Clark County).
Equestrian access to trails; don't pave everything. Allow shared trails, paved and ground surface as the Chelatchie Trail was supposed to be (wood chips, eco green grid solution for gravel shared use and save money.	Equestrian parking at Hartwick Park and others.

Continue to work on planned parks i.e. Kozy Kamp	More equestrian courses.
Our family likes parks like Lacamas with the full spectrum of recreation out of one hub: bathrooms/playground/wide, smooth trails/primitive rugged trails.	Move the equestrians off Whipple Creek Park and consider relocating that use to Vancouver Lake & Frenchman's Bar. Those parks have flatter topography and trails would have fewer impacts on local watershed, less than existing impacts on Whipple Creek trails.
Post speed limit for shared use trails.	More equestrian trails & maintenance of finished trails.
Need county maintenance of equestrian trails and all-use trails.	Allow for mixed use of trails with safety concerns.
Educate public on courtesy use of parks and trails, and who helps maintain.	Promote shared use (ped, bikes, horses).
Education for each user group about the others' needs.	Trails connecting neighborhoods to promote broader sense of community.
We need safe commuter trails for bikes to reduce congestion on busy roads and hwys.	Horse trailer parking.
Trails for the disabled.	Maintenance of footing on horse trails.
Fix and restore the mill area at Whipple Creek Park so it is safe to enjoy, add education info so people will appreciate the area!	Connect Whipple Creek trails to WC Wood Park via Military Rd.
Allow horse access through Frenchman's Bar to the trails north.	Fix bumps on Burnt Bridge Creek trail from 4th Plan to Andresen.
Build new trails that connect existing trails with Eco green grid, great for all users – bikes, hikers, horses – share easily. Good drainage, save money.	Fill in gap between Fruit Valley and Lake Shore bike paths (bridge over Burnt Bridge Creek & bridge over railroad tracks are too narrow and too much traffic.)
Develop stacked loop trail systems with a variety of hike distances and user experiences.	Avoid design flaws (unsustainable fall-line grades). Fix design flaws in existing trails.
Have key available for removable bollards at the connector trail by BG State park for miniature horse carts (can Ranger have key available?)	Make Chelatchie Prairie Rail to Trails multi-user (house, hiker, bike).
Equestrians are ruining Whipple Creek Park by destroying the trail.	Would like to see more gravel or paved side trails on the Salmon Creek greenway so people don't have to crowd the paved trail, gets crowded on nice days.
Would love to see E Fork Lewis River trail completed (multi modal, dirt/gravel or paved, or single track) It would be a big draw for all of N County. People often do multiple loops around Lewisville Park and I think the long trail would be a big attraction to the area especially one that connected Moulton Falls to La Center. Personally, highest priority would be Daybreak Park to Lewisville Park. Would also love to see multimodal trail along Columbia River from Vancouver Lake to RW Refuge.	Unsanctioned user-built trails indicate unmet demand for trails, but often have serious design flaws. Come up with way to meet demand while fixing unsustainable trails.
Help provide more materials to volunteer workers.	Develop the existing Sorensen Park property in 2015/2016! Access gate from west side/109th St. ASAP.

Loop trails with a designed/preferred direction of trail to minimize sense of crowding (user encounters) thus increase capacity to serve more people and preserve solitude.	Finish Sorenson Park in 2016, voted on already.
Sorenson Park & Cougar Creek Woods splash pads/water features.	Develop Sorenson Park. Add access to SE corner and path first.
Have larger leash law/dog waste signs. Enforce leash laws and direct people to official dog parks.	More equestrian trails.
Firstenburg type community center	Kozy Kamp
Parks plan should be to finish Sorenson Park as voted and approved. Do this, voted on plan in 2005 and needs to finish what was started. Needs to be finished and on the list for 2016.	Trial building 1 bike and equestrian lane combined and walkway using eco green grid = less maintenance, offset bikes away from cars, on 2 projects 119th St and North 164th
Very much liked the padded surface at Douglas C. Fisher, very nice. Also could use another bench and access from houses on east of wetland, too far for neighbors to walk with children/toddlers!	Need reasonably priced, better map of all county parks with available streets listed.
Equestrian shared use trail to connect parks.	Multiuse parks with connected trails that include equestrians.

Parks Master Plan
Open House Survey Results

Trails & Linkages: Trails Connecting Across Clark County			
	Top (3) priorities		
Focus on trails that are:	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice
In natural areas	29	17	8
Connecting to parks	14	11	6
Accessing water	1	4	
Crossing the county (N-S, E-W)	9	8	11
To schools (safe routes to schools)	2	1	1
Linking neighborhoods	3	4	4
Along rivers and streams (lakes)	19	16	11
Other: Equestrian	15	5	4
Other: Disabled	7		
Other: trail towards the Gorge, end of dike trail	2		
Other: Create more primitive trails	1		
What facilities support your outdoor enjoyment?			
Disc golf	9		
Exercise stations	2		
Playgrounds	17		
Off-leash dog areas	11		
Sport Courts (basketball, pickleball, tennis, racquetball)	2		
Skateparks, skate spots	3		
Sport fields	7	More soccer fields:	1
Bike trails, bike jump trails, single track bike trails	5		
Water access for swimming, boating, fishing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding	22		
Water play features (fountains, splash pads)	17		
Horse trail obstacle course at Whipple Creek	1		
More Equestrian trails	7		
Riding horses	8		
Running trails	2		
Bike access	5		
Investing for the future - choose top two facilities to be funded			
Improvements/maintenance of existing parks and facilities	31		
Acquisition of new park land and open space	36		
Construction of new sports fields	6	Soccer only fields:	1
Acquisition and development of walking and biking trails	46	Comment: some bike only trails like Stub Steward Park	
Other: Bike skills park/pump track/BMX dirt track	2		
Other: Horse parks; multi-use	6		
Other: Horse trails	18		
Other: Develop/maintain Kozy Kamp	1		
Other: Develop Sorenson Park	1		
Other: Build connector trails for existing trails, multi-use, year-round, natural footing, gravel, ecogreen grid product	3		

Parks Master Plan
Open House Survey Results

Sports and Fields: Teamwork			
Most important facilities needing improvement to meet demands of growing population:			
Baseball and/or softball fields	6		
Soccer fields	10		
Lacrosse, rugby or other fields	3		
Lighting for extended play	8		
All-weather surface for extended play	15		
Tennis courts	6		
Pickleball	3		
Other: Equestrian	17		
Other: Horse-free parks & trails	1		
Other: Hiking trails	2		
Other: Trails encircling sport fields/arenas for horses	8		

-- DRAFT --

Parks Master Plan
Email Comments

PARKS
One issue of concern for us downtown (Esther Short Park) is the number of skaters that violate city ordinances against skating in our downtown parks — Esther Short and Turtle Place, for examples, in addition to their illegal use of private property. When asked, these violators often cite two issues: skate parks are unsafe from gang activities and bullying; skate parks are located too far away the city center to use. I'd urge you to consider making the existing parks safer and consider expanding skate parks into areas where skaters can access them more easily. I don't know where all the skate parks are located, but if you have a map/grid, perhaps you can see where the gaps exist and consider plugging where you see a major gap. And, if you do consider developing additional skate parks — please be sure to do so only with local resident input as, the last thing we need is a skate park located in a residential area where the boards can be heard day and night slamming on pavement. There are industrial areas and buffer greenspace areas downtown where placing such a skate park would not be a residential or small business disturbance and I'd urge you to consider these kinds of locations. Call me if you have questions.
My biggest concern for parks is that there is a safe walking route to the park for the kids/families to get there, which means sidewalks. For those not close enough to walk, enough parking for several cars at one time. Otherwise, they tend to park where it is dangerous.
Thank you for your email and I have already did your survey and helped in the search for the County Parks. I will add by law, Counties only purchase lands and once you are annexed into the City do you get a fully developed park. For years we have watch the County sell the land that were deemed for future parks. 'Parks are not a need!!' The Budget money should not fund these to fully developed parks nor should these be maintained by those doing time. One should check out the RCW that govern parks and what the counties can do. Also the liability of those they make an agreement for maintenance, such as soccer groups or neighborhood assn. Beside it's been a proven fact and history, these places are where drug dealers go.
Regarding the Comprehensive Plan for Parks. 1)You need to hire a lot more boots on the ground, i.e., maintenance and grounds keepers. You need blue collar workers to provide the services to the community by keeping up the parks that you already have, and improving hiking and biking trails, and extending them where it makes sense to do so, to connect the major parks throughout the county. (Use Whatcom County as a fine example to pattern after. Whatcom is much smaller in population, yet has highly developed and well maintained trail system and really nice parks). 2)You should NOT sell any lands that are currently owned by parks. Whatever you paid for them when you bought them was a bargain compared to what you would have to pay now or in the future. I feel compelled to let you know that the county park I visit daily, Lucia Falls Park, is uncared for and in terrible shape. There is invasive species (ivy) taking over the entire wooded areas, climbing the trees, and generally killing off native plants. It just looks like hell. Limbs have been down for months even years in some areas there, with no apparent effort to even move them to the side. The signage is falling apart. The trails appear unkempt, no new media having been added since before the Great Recession started. Charlie's untimely death didn't help matters any. But Clark County Parks has dropped the ball, at just simply keeping the park neat and in presentable condition. Its not uncommon to see men fishing in the rocks just beneath the falls, totally illegal, with none trying to stop them. It's sad, the poor condition that this beautiful park has sunk. I also have had occasion to walk past a park in the Minnehaha area that appears to be totally unimproved, been that way for twenty years, as long as I remember. But there has been housing development all around it. Yet there it sits, a nice wooded area, perfect for a picnic area, yet with really no improvement whatsoever, for a decade or more. There is no way around it, these examples, and I'm sure there are many more, are a disgrace for the entire community. I realize the certain ideologues control the county for now, and have set out to starve your budget, and it seems to be working. But when something like this happens, you have to spread the word that you need more budget not less, but in the meantime, you got to get back down to the basics and provide the fundamentals, which is really what 80% or more of folks want anyway. Boots on the ground—maintenance and grounds keepers.
We think you should put the fee back on Lewisville park, because it was kept up better then.It is a shame to let a nice park like this go down hill, and it seems like there has been more vandalism since they took it off.

Parks Master Plan
Email Comments

PARKS (CONT'D)
I would like to see: A) Maintenance of existing parks before building new ones.B) more off leash parks. I think the one of 18th in east vancouver is County, but it is used by hundreds of people every week. C) more parks dedicated to high density housing, i.e. apartments or R-* developments. D) a dedicated lap pool on the east side. E) a dedicated tennis center on the east side F) low maintenance grass seed (Korean grass) that never needs mowing.
RE: Fazio Neighborhood park, We have noticed that signs have been set along NW 21st Avenue by this park, advising park visitors (and others) not to park on the pavement. Well, that's great and it's certainly safer than parking there and trying to get your children out with traffic close by, so where are they going to park? We suggest that a parking area be made out of the southernmost part of the park, adjacent to NW 96th Street. Access would be from NW 21st Ave to NW 95th Street and NW 23rd Ct. There could easily be room for 6-8 vehicles. PS. Many vehicles daily are ignoring the signs to "do not park on pavement".
Re: Sorenson Neighborhood Park (Felida) The Great Clark County Parks 2005 levy promised the development of county parks, which included Sorenson Neighborhood Park. We want to know the current schedule for completing the parks, since 2012 wasn't possible. In March 2014, our e-mail was answered by Heath Henderson, David Madore, and Jeff Mize. Heath Henderson said that all of their staff are excited to continue building the parks and it is a very rewarding process for the staff to see the neighborhoods appreciate their new parks. Sorenson Park is slated for 2016. Help make this plan work. Sorenson Park has gone through the master-planning process (2011) and the next step is to initiate the design process. As a voter and as a neighbor to Sorenson Park (Felida neighborhood) for 28 years, we are committed to seeing this park developed. Your help is truly appreciated by many families. Florence (Flossie) B. Wager believed in our parks, too.
Thank you for accepting our comments on Clark County's comprehensive parks plan update. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the process and request that you please place us on any notice list involving the County's parks plan update process. We own property located at 7703 NE 129th Street Vancouver, WA 98662, adjacent to land designated for the Curtin Creek Community Park within the Greater Clark Parks District. We believe that the parks plan update is an appropriate time for the County to reconsider the future use of the Curtin Creek Community Park. The 38.5 acre parcel was originally designated for a future community park. But today, a significant portion of the property is now being used for a wetland enhancement and compensatory mitigation site, subject to a perpetual conservation easement to protect and maintain the ecological functions of the area. There is also a fire station on the property. Given the change in use of this property, we believe it is no longer suitable for a community park, which is a high-intensity use requiring a large, permanent footprint. At this point, it seems better appropriated for a different use. We suggest that the County re-designate the Curtin Creek land from community park to a natural area as a part of the comprehensive parks plan update. A natural area or open space designation is consistent with the long-term protection of the wetland enhancement and mitigation site. A natural area park is managed for both natural and ecological value and light-impact recreational use, which provides for nature-based recreation like bird-watching and low-impact environmental education activities to the extent such activities are consistent and compatible with the restrictions and goals of the required conservation easement. Further, designating the land as a natural area park effectively places the land into reserve for future mitigation projects, which in turn provides the County with its own banking mechanisms for future public works projects. Using this land for dual purposes offers a long-term opportunity for the County that would otherwise be unavailable. Also, there simply is not the demand for a community park in this area, as indicated by the lack of funding and lower than average population growth in this area of the county. The designated park land is also not very visible or accessible from the road given the fire station is in front of the property and the fact that other park sites may be more accessible to higher population densities and be more appropriate. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to discussing these comments with you further. We believe there are opportunities to work collaboratively to address the future use of the Curtin Creek park site.

PARKS (CONT'D)
Just took the parks survey and have additional comment. I would prefer there be a charge for parking and access to Vancouver Lake and other parks (like there used to be) because it feels unsafe to go there. We bring our kayaks and no longer feel we can park car with expensive car top carrier in the parking lot. Lots of untrustworthy people hanging out now. It used to be much safer place to go, especially as women. Also, that might help with how much we have to spend on parks. Thanks.
I noticed the time was running out on sending in comment on the Clark County Parks Comp Plan. I just wanted to highlight Foley Community Orchard in the Felida neighborhood park. The partnerships between, then VCP, Clark Public Utilities and Urban Abundance. Its long term partnerships between public agencies and volunteer driven nonprofits. Here is a well written article about the project: http://www.columbian.com/news/2014/sep/03/volunteers-pick-pounds-of-parks-pears/ We look forward to discuss how Urban Abundance can partner with CCP in the future to develop more Community Orchards.
What happened to the gazebo that was supposed to be built at Covington Park off NE 94th Avenue? We lost out on part of the park when NE 90th Avenue had to be extended from NE 68th Street through to NE 71st Street, did we lose this too? Thank you
Is it true we already have over 7,000 acres set aside for park land ????? enough already, socialist programs only work ,until you run out of other people's MONEY!!!!
As a resident of the West Minnehaha neighborhood, I can attest to the desirability of these “pocket” parks as our grandchildren have grown up using them and making them a priority stop whenever they visit us from their home in Snohomish. Keep up the good work! I am concerned, however, about their maintenance and their susceptibility to tagging and other destructive activities. Knowing Park personnel are stretched thin, I suggest that you promote volunteer assistance through the neighborhood associations for basic upkeep (such as weeding and picking up wind-downed branches) and security (security patrols such as Neighborhood Watch and maybe videocam surveillance so police can be notified of problem activity). Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
A disc golf course would be great! I currently pay Oregon State Park fees because I play at Dabney, Rooster Rock, McIver, Champoeg, etc. I would love to make such contributions to the Clark County Parks if there were courses to play.
I am the field scheduler and administrator for Salmon Creek Soccer Club. We serve about 1000 children each year from the county. With the formation of many new sports such as flag football, ultimate frisbee, and lacrosse competition for school fields is at an all time high. We are struggling to find place for our players to practice without destroying the fields that they have to play on. Numbers of soccer players each season is also going up and finding enough fields to accomodate all of the games each weekend is difficult. Especially with the league shortening our season and adding double headers. I believe that working on improving the drainage in the fields that we have and creating some new fields, the young soccer players in the community would be well served. Many sports can play anywhere there is a flat patch of grass but soccer is harder. We need space of a specific size and certain types of grass hold up to the abuse of cleats better. I hope that you will take this into consideration when developing your long range plan and help the youth soccer players here in Clark County.

Parks Master Plan
Email Comments

There is a VERY large, and growing, interest in Clark County, an surrounding areas, for Pickle Ball. This sport is so popular that Firstenburg Community Center has expended the number of courts availability and times to accommodate the growing interest. Washougal recently converted old tennis courts that were not being used into 6 Pickle Ball courts and they are being used every day by large numbers of players. Clark County is the home of The Columbia River Pickle Ball Club that was form just a few years ago and has tripled in members and has hosted several sanctions tournaments drawing players as far away as Phoenix and Northern California. I would like to suggest that the County provide more Pickle Ball courts, or re-vamp old un-used tennis court, into Pickle Ball Courts. If you would like more information regarding the size and scope of Pickle Ball in Clark County, you can contact Michael Wolfe at wolfemike@aol.com. Mr. Wolfe has been instrumental in promoting Pickle Ball in Clark County. At the moment the Pickle Ball enthusiast in Clark County are playing where ever they can find available courts.

TRAILS
Trail maintenence for hikers, bicycles, and horses are my main concern. And bathrooms!
I would like to see more natural areas that horseback riding is allowed in such as Whipple Creek Regional Park and allow a trail obstacle use area at the west side of fairgrounds park. there is one already submitted to the county for the property that joins Whipple Creek Regional Park east of 11th Ave making it possible for all users to learn how to use the trails correctly. Not all children play ball. some enjoy nature and can learn better from the natural environment please consider more connecting horse trails that can be used to enjoy nature. this allows many elder people to get outside and excerise. More parking areas that are graveled and larger for trailers to use. maintain exsisting trails for the future. save wooded areas and plant more for the future. Maintain the Mill area at Whipple creek. allow the restoration of the old bridge Mill & water wheel and the Gazebo area which already are in the park. support a restroom area for the Whipple Creek Regional Park users. please consider a larger parking area as our trailers are larger now and more people walk at the park also need parking. keep things rustic but safe and maintainable, no pavement at all. Interconnecting trails at Daybreak for equestrian use would also help natural trails, less pavement and concrete.
One thing I didn't have a chance to comment on in the survey is lack of parking at some trails. I don't know if it is Clark County Park or not, but there is a newer trail head on Fruit Valley Road near Vancouver Lake. When they last improved this trail head they closed off street parking. I still don't understand why that was done. The trailhead isn't really within walking distance of many homes and they got rid of the parking. ?????? Also restrooms are very important to us older people. I hate to admit it, but I have sometimes had to find a tree while out walking on some of the trails. I really try to make sure I am not offending anyone, but I fear getting cited for indecent exposure.
I'd like to see more available single track mountain bike trails in the parks. I have no problem going and helping with trail work at various parks if that would help. Having trails closer to home makes it easier to get the whole family out riding and we all like more rugged trails than the current wide gravel paths. A bike park in the county would be an awesome idea to get everyone out as well. Something like what Castle Rock has.
It has come to my attention there are some upcoming open forums on use of open spaces for parks. I may not be able to attend any of them due to my work schedule. So I wanted to express my interest in the need for BMX tracks to be included in the design of any parks. Someone may recall that a Vancouver resident & bmx racer has done some extensive communication with the Parks Department in the past in regards to this very topic . He did spark an interest and we were going to get the go ahead for the space located out off Andresen but we were told the grant fell through. The sport of BMX racing is & has been a very family friendly sport and would go over quite well in our neighboring communities.
Hi! I read with great interest the article on Updated Parks Plan in the Works in the Columbian newspaper. I have completed the survey and I appreciate the opportunity you give us to share feedback/priorities. I want to bring to your attention that the trail by the Quarry off on 192 Ave, just north of SR 14 (exit 10) is very nice but incomplete. Can the extension of the walking/bicycling trail to Goodwin Street (new Breckenridge subdivision) and connecting NW 18th Ave. (also SE 40th St) be considered in Clark County plan? It will create a complete great walking loop, great for those who want walking and exercising. We had a very successful HOA meeting last Saturday and our members supported this concept wholeheartedly. I would be more than happy to meet with you in person to explain further. Thank you very much.

Parks Master Plan
Email Comments

TRAILS (CONT'D)
I completed the online survey and attended the Camas open house where I put some dots on the boards, but I did not fill out a comment card. On both the survey and the boards, I voiced my preference for trails and open space as a priority over other facilities such as sports fields. These comments provide further information on my preferences as the County updates its parks plan. I would like the updated parks plan to provide for acquisition of new regional park land and open space and development of walking and hiking trails. I walk for exercise and would like more natural areas to walk in, like those I enjoy at Lacamas Park. When I am in that park, I enjoy walking along the water, hearing the birds singing, and seeing what native plants are in bloom. In addition to my enjoyment, the park provides habitat for wildlife. Having habitat for wildlife in parks results in more wildlife in neighborhoods and backyards, such as my backyard where I have bird feeders. I think it is important to have a network of trails and open space for wildlife and for people to enjoy nature. I live close to Lacamas Heritage trail and would walk there more but the parking lot is often full. It would be nice to have more areas like it and Lacamas Park in Clark County. It would also be nice if there was more interconnection between parks and trails for better movement of wildlife and so those areas don't become isolated islands surrounded by development. Whipple Creek is also a nice park to enjoy nature in but unfortunately horses turn the trails into a muddy mess. I don't think the County needs to provide more places for riding horses, which are owned by a small percentage of County residents. Mountain biking also needs to be limited so trails aren't torn up by their tires. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the parks plan update.
Good morning, I missed the open houses. I would just like to say as a horse trail rider and hiker, my family and I hope all future projects include multi use trails and horse trails. Thank you for all that is done to encourage a love of nature and enjoying this beautiful land.
Hi, I would like to see the bike path completed between Battle Ground Lake State Park and Battle Ground. There is a beautiful path started from Battle Ground Lake that dead ends in the middle of nowhere. In the Battle Ground area, there are few paths for walking or bicycling, in fact, other than Lewisville Park there are absolutely no county parks close to Battle Ground, third largest city in Clark County. To complete this path would give residents access to Battle Ground Lake, one of the treasures in Clark County. Currently we have to drive to the Lake or ride on county roads with high speed traffic and narrow shoulders. I always dreaded taking my kids for a bike ride to the lake. Not much incentive to get exercise that way! Thanks for reading and I hope you can take some positive action to get this path done. It would be a feather in Clark County's and north county's cap.

APPENDIX E - Stakeholder Session Notes

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CONSERVATION TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	# 15-065PLN	ISSUE DATE:	April 21, 2015
PROJECT NAME:	Clark County Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan		

RECORDED BY:	Jean Akers & Leanne Mattos
TO:	FILE
PRESENT:	Debbi Hanson, Battle Ground Pete Capell, Camas Jeff Niten, Ridgefield Jody Bartkowski, Woodland Barbara Anderson, PAB co-chair Kelly Punteney, PAB co-chair Bill Bjerke – Clark County Parks Leanne Mattos – Clark County Parks Jean Akers – Conservation Technix
SUBJECT:	**Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Park and Rec Providers (04/09/15)**

Bill Bjerke welcomed the representatives from Battle Ground, Camas, Ridgefield and Woodland to discuss the county parks plan. Participants introduced themselves and shared their relative roles within their jurisdictions. Bill provided a short summary of the project and thanked the stakeholders for their time. (After the meeting, additional emailed comments were submitted by Suzanne Grover of Washougal who was unable to join the meeting.)

DISCUSSION / COMMENTS

1. **What do you see as key priorities for regional park and trail system within, affecting or adjacent to your jurisdictions? What regional facilities are missing? Where are the regional recreation facility gaps??**

- Gaps in regional trails need to be connected. Especially the second phase of the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail into Battle Ground.
- Relationships should be developed so it's easier to know who to contact for more information about parks, recreation and trails.
- Consider the need for a regional aquatic facility through a multi-jurisdictional partnership.
- Potential acquisition in the works for the Brush Prairie softball complex (private) that could provide space for Battle ground Little League to move out of Battle Ground's Fairgrounds Park to allow that park to complete the build-out for its master plan.
- Sports fields are in high demand. Camas is serving Camas, Washougal and portions of east county and could use more facilities. Camas has an interest in partnering.
- Connecting regional trails – Camas is ready to partner.

- Consider the future of Camp Currie and how it can serve the growing urban area (of Camas).
- How can Green Mountain, Camp Currie and Lacamas county properties relate with trails and growing population? Suggests the need for a broader, more regional master park/special facility plan.
- Camas is conferring with the Port of Camas/Washougal to create a connecting trail system all along waterfronts – Stiegerwald NWR to Washougal River Greenway Trail.
- Trail connections for a regional system (including sidewalks to bridge off-street connections)
- RV camping is missing. William Clark Park is the perfect solution for East County.
- Trail connections are important to Ridgefield.
- The Lewis River-Vancouver Lake Water Trail has huge potential to draw people to Ridgefield.
- The proposed regional trail from Vancouver Lake to the Ridgefield NWR Carty unit is desirable.
- Flume Creek property (purchased by Conservation Futures funding) could be helpful connection.
- Woodland is working on their park and recreation plan update. They just did their survey. The top results indicated trails were priority and people wanted more trails and more connections.
- Woodland has a new 40-acre property with plans to build a sports complex. Rotary Club is doing a management plan to review the operations and maintenance requirements/expectations.
- YMCA has purchased property for a future facility in Woodland.
- Woodland has participated in the initial LRVL water trail planning and is interested in being more involved. Recent city ownership of a parcel on the river on the east side of town could serve as a future launch access.

2. **What do you see as the future role for the County in providing regional parks and trails that should be incorporated into this Plan? Are there critical themes, issues or policies that need attention?**

- Traditional county role is to provide the regional approach with cities taking care of themselves. Usually there is a clear distinction between roles. However, park and recreation users do not know boundaries between city/county jurisdictions
- Most cities have very limited capital resources. County has very little regional park/trail capital resources. New money is needed. The regional MPD could be the answer.

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- Discussions in the past about a potential regional MPD were not supported by some cities who did not want to cede local control. Now with resources that are not adequate for needs/demands, there may perhaps be a more open receptive attitude.

- Promoting the Intertwine and being engaged can help local cities get the message out (about parks and trails).

3. Are there opportunities you would like to explore for collaborating on special projects that would benefit by county park participation; with recreational programming within county facilities; or to increase collective resources through grant funding, volunteer programs or other pursuits?

- Woodland got some RCO grants due to "partnership" value.

- Camas would like to have more collaborative discussions more regularly.

- Past attempts to have regular P&R leaders meet to discuss shared topics were unsuccessful but could be time to try again.

- City public works directors meet monthly. A less frequent interval could work for parks and recreation. Same person from smaller cities would be the representative (so meeting too often would be too much).

- There's a need for more available recreational programming in the Vancouver urban growth area.

- Battle Ground is ready to explore the opportunity to get after-school and summer camps to more of the community. Providing recreation programs gets folks engaged in the rest of the parks and trail system.

- The county could have a role to facilitate recreation programming by providing infrastructure.

- New (proposed) park and recreation leadership group could explore collaborative recreation programming. Meetings could meet quarterly and at different jurisdictional locations.

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

-- End of Notes --

cc: Bill Bjerke
project file

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	# 15-065PLN	ISSUE DATE:	April 24, 2015
PROJECT NAME:	Clark County Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan		

RECORDED BY: Jean Akers & Laurie Lebowsky

TO: FILE

PRESENT:
Anita Will, Whipple Creek Restoration Committee
Betty Espey, Whipple Creek Restoration Committee
Ron & Patty Everson, neighbors at Whipple Creek Park
Ryan Ojerio, Washington Trails Association
Sean Vergillo, Lacamas Trail Advisory Group
Ed Fischer, Camas Bike Shop
Alice Heller, CC Executive Horse Council
Leith Dist, Washington Trail Riders Association
Mike Schultze, Clark County Saddle Club
Susan Staub, Clark County Saddle Club
Jan Verrinder, Vancouver Bicycle Club
Kelly Punteney, Parks Advisory Board, co-chair
Bill Bjerke – Clark County Parks
Laurie Lebowsky – Clark County Community Planning
Jean Akers – Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Trail User Groups (04/23/15)

Bill Bjerke welcomed the representatives from various trail-related organizations to discuss trail system priorities for the county parks plan. Participants introduced themselves and shared their relative roles within their organizations. Bill provided a short summary of the project and thanked the stakeholders for their time.

DISCUSSION / COMMENTS

1. What does your organization see as the key priorities for the county's regional and local trail system?

- Safe, usable parks and trails that are accessible to broader range of users.
- More ADA access that includes natural settings.
- How are we defining trails and how many trails should we have?
- Should primitive trails be pursued for more bang for the buck?
- The natural evolution of regional and local trails has often started with an informal trail created by users. Then improvements have been made in phases and along sections of the trail until the trail is eventually fully developed.
- Washington Trails Association (WTA) seeks an experience for users in nature. WTA is more focused on local trails and more local trails are needed to provide this experience. Good design and layout is required.
- Local trails need to be built correctly.

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- Some attendees expressed desire for more local trails rather than widening existing trails as population increases.
- Another member expressed the desire for trails to connect different areas in the county.
- Primitive trails often don't have ADA compliance.
- Ecogreen grid is now being used for erosion control in Whipple Creek as an alternative surface to paving when trails are in areas with difficult soil types. Hoof grid is another alternative for creating stable surfacing without using pavement.
- Moss growing on pavement is a maintenance challenge.
- Once trails are good the trailhead parking becomes a challenge and signage is needed as well as more parking.
- Many cyclists can bike both pavement and gravel.
- Trails are great for cyclists who are too timid to ride on the road.
- Vancouver Lake and Frenchman's Bar Parks are great resources but getting there (on Lower River Road) is scary. Traffic through the Port of Vancouver is heavy and fast. The Port is working on an off-street shared use path but it is not complete yet.
- Best practices for trail design should be implemented for local and regional trails.
- Many runners prefer a softer surface (not asphalt).

2. What are the highest priority gaps for connecting the community's trail facilities?

- Could Frenchman's Bar and Vancouver Lake connect to the Burnt Bridge Creek Trail and Salmon Creek Trail?
- Ron Onslow has stated that Ridgefield would love getting a connection to Frenchman's Bar. What about the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)? Could that connection be made?
- Could horseback riding come back to the Ridgefield NWR again?
- Equestrians have access to tractors that can really help with trail building projects.
- What about providing opportunities for kids and families? Could the Safe Routes to School concept be leveraged with schools and cities to get to and from schools and fill gaps in trail access?
- The future of biking requires kids to be users and future advocates.
- The Intertwine just announced a $1M funding for wildlife refuges improving access to urban populations. How can that kind of resource be tapped?
- Population density is a key criteria for connecting to existing parks like the Cougar Creek local trail (connection gap).
- Burnt Bridge Creek – is it being extended east or west? Connect Burnt Bridge east to Lacamas Lake Trail.

- There is a need to connect people from where they live to where they recreate so they don't have to drive to recreational opportunities. Connect dense population areas to parks and trails.
- Access to Green Mountain is needed. That regional park property is a huge resources that is untapped.
- Is Clark County involved with the Port of Camas/Washougal and their waterfront trail project?

3. What does your organization see as the future role for county parks in helping complete the regional trail system?

- Camas had a trail plan that was left up to developers to implement. Those trails are underutilized, scary and poorly maintained. One entity needs to oversee and plan the trail system so it's defined and coordinated.
- Are there plans for a trail planner position?
- The parks comp plan recommendations could include adding staffing to work on the trail system planning and implementation.
- The County should be like "Stone Soup" – providing the role of convening people and resources; acting as coordinators to get grants and permitting; and being leveraged by volunteer and user groups assistance.
- County staff could be in a role of communicating with cities; coordinating projects, programs, players and permitting.
- Volunteers are the key to trail system success.
- Is there a rule that trails can't be only four (4) feet wide?
- There is a hierarchy of trail types and trail definitions.
- Does a trail system have a percentage of pavement coverage?
- County sponsored signage, parking signs, directional signs, trail closure signs are needed.
- Clinics and educational events could be conducted to aid in understanding good trail behavior and shared use.
- Grant writing assistance to chase more support.
- It is helpful to have county staff who like volunteers.
- Having county help with staging materials for volunteer projects is very helpful.
- A community planning meeting was conducted to review light industrial and ag/rural land uses. Make sure new land use zoning includes implementation of trail plans.
- County leaders should support parks and trails.

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4. What contribution, collaboration, and responsibilities can your organization bring to the future implementation of the county-wide trail system?

- Whipple Creek Restoration volunteers have logged thousands of hours of labor, provided equipment and materials for trail improvement for shared use in Whipple Creek Park. They have coordinated fund-raising with the Saddle Club – 30% contribution to trails. Their organization provides a model for other volunteer groups and could be a template for future programs and projects. Proof of volunteer value.

- Equestrian community can spur their clubs to be more involved doing clean-up and trail maintenance. Some volunteers get burned out by doing too much. Clubs need to consider a better way to manage and sustain member volunteers.

- Encourage clubs & groups to get involved with trails.
- High school involvement has been valuable getting kids involved. It may be related to lower vandalism occurrence.
- Other service organizations have community service goals.
- WTA's volunteer program and future advocacy focus is being expanded.
- County needs trail planning staff to coordinate.
- Coordination is important.
- Public access to Green Mountain regional park property is needed to allow use of this untapped regional park resource. Volunteers could help with trail planning, once access is provided.

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

-- End of Notes --

cc: Bill Bjerke
project file

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	# 15-065PLN	ISSUE DATE:	April 14, 2015
PROJECT NAME:	Clark County Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan		

RECORDED BY:	Steve Duh & Laurie Lebowsky
TO:	FILE
PRESENT:	NACC members Bill Bjerke – Clark County Parks Jeff Mize – Clark County Public Works Laurie Lebowsky – Clark County Community Development Steve Duh – Conservation Technix
SUBJECT:	**Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: NACC (04/13/15)**

Doug Ballou welcomed Bill Bjerke to discuss the county parks plan. Bill provided a short summary of the project and thanked the NACC for their time.

DISCUSSION / COMMENTS

1. What are the key priorities for the county's regional and urban park and trail system?

- Playgrounds
- ADA play areas; disabled-accessible play equipment for children using wheelchairs
- Everything we taxed ourselves for under the MPD
- Soccer and baseball fields
- We have an aging county, and the aging population should have access to facilities and that are easy to use; not things just for small kids; need benches and foot stools for the aging population
- Parking is needed
- Access issues in urban parks; if access standard is measured in miles, then it shouldn't be as the crow flies. It needs to relate to actual access routes. People do not know where access to some parks is. Pleasant Valley Community Park and Greyhawk Neighborhood Park are examples; unless you live in the immediate neighborhood, you might not know how to enter the park
- Better signage
- Westside community center
- Pool
- Heritage Farms Trail - should be a priority in the next few years to get the trail accessible and usable; with the site master plan, there are still concerns about splitting the site with a roadway. Needs to be some type of gazebo or lookout point at the top.
- Water access for kayaks and canoes - small boat launches, especially along Lake River and the Lewis River
- Water features and splash pads; something button-activated. Could be something that is simply an irrigation system or uses the water for irrigation.

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1A. What park/trail/recreation facilities are missing?

- Things that get kids outside and playing and off their computers
- More seating and shelters along trail corridors. Seniors need places to stop and rest.
- More dog waste bins/stations
- Safe crossings along busy roads in areas of parks - 54th Avenue is dangerous
- Add wayfinding markers for water trails
- East Minnehaha (St Johns Park property, undeveloped) - what would it take to add some simple benches to make the site usable? How can neighbors add benches without county maintenance workers removing them?

1B. Where are the gaps in regional recreation facilities?

- Hazel Dell Community Park - site needs re-development. Can the back fencing be removed to link the property to the Heritage Farms site?
- Does the County coordinate with the federal agencies and outreach with the wildlife refuges? Consider partnering with the federal agencies for coordinated development and management of sites like Flume Creek
- Partner with different agencies, including Columbia Land Trust.
- Camp Bonneville status - it will still be 6 to 8 years before the spent ordinances are removed. Some areas will have limited access and others will be fully restricted.

1C. What amenities or opportunities will make the county park system better / stronger?

- Boating and sailing education facilities
- Mountain biking
- Skateboarding areas, including ADA skateboarding facilities
- Golf
- Disc golf
- Off leash areas
- Something similar to the Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver.
- Partner with environmental groups and neighborhood associations and provide incentives, similar to the fee waiver program for development
- Clean up Vancouver Lake
- Wetland interpretive features - signage along trails; coordinate with schools for environmental education
- Most people don't know where the parks are; need a handout and better marketing to include information about what is located at each site – better marketing for the entire parks program

- Work closely with disabled-accessibility groups that provide information to people with disabilities, a "know before you go" type approach

2. How do you see the future for county parks, trails and recreation facilities?

- Develop more parks – do not surplus parks property
- Coordinate with cities and establish a single countywide agency for parks, so cities will not need their own departments
- Look to future trends to see what activities are likely coming
- Build the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail

3. What contributions or support can your organization offer to help create this future?

- NACC can help with public outreach; aim to over communicate with NACC to help disseminate information
- Volunteering - in-kind contributions, landscaping, labor
- Develop a mechanism for volunteering (Bill referenced parkhero.org - the County's volunteer calendar portal)
- Consider rezoning parkland that is still designated as residential – do not combine park impact fee districts

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

-- End of Notes --

cc: Bill Bjerke
project file

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CONSERVATION TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	# 15-065PLN	ISSUE DATE:	April 29, 2015
PROJECT NAME:	Clark County Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan		

RECORDED BY: Jean Akers & Laurie Lebowsky

TO: FILE

PRESENT:
Kevin Seewer, Battle Ground Little League
Scott Smith, Vancouver Girls Softball
Brad Hill, Salmon Creek Little League
Sean Mitchell, Evergreen Little League
Ryan Reese, Salmon Creek Little League
Danelle Schaff, Vancouver Youth Lacrosse
Cyndi Johnse, Vancouver Girls Softball
Brent Bates, Harmony Sports Association
Greg Foster, Parks Advisory Board
Kelly Punteney, Parks Advisory Board, co-chair
Bill Bjerke – Clark County Parks
Laurie Lebowsky – Clark County Community Planning
Jean Akers – Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Sports Organizations (04/28/15)

Bill Bjerke welcomed the representatives from various sports-related organizations to discuss sports field and recreation facilities priorities for the county parks plan. Participants introduced themselves and shared their relative roles within their organizations. Bill provided a short summary of the project and thanked the stakeholders for their time.

DISCUSSION / COMMENTS

1. **What does your organization see as the key priorities for the county's regional and urban sports field system?**

- Luke Jensen Sports Complex is "almost" good enough for attracting regional tournaments. The natural grass surface is a limiting factor. And complex should have slightly more fields. Eight fields would enable them to have a tournament at Luke Jensen where they could have multiple games occurring at the same time.
- Clark County should be ready for something bigger.
- Synthetic fields are the answer. Happy Valley (Oregon) is a good example.
- Softball needs dirt infield (not synthetic). Centralia has a great sports complex facility.
- Major events seek 12 fields – all accessible (all weather play surfaces).
- Major events need support/back up facilities and services, like hotels and/or RV camping.
- Potential partnering for big tournaments could work with Delta Park if large sports complex was near the bridge (in Vancouver).

- Battle Ground's field is among the oldest in the county and needs a new location. Current space and field is very limiting and BG population is growing. They could share a new space with other north county leagues.
- Battle Ground field is within Fairgrounds Park whose master plan shows a future build-out without the field.
- New complex in Woodland being proposed (by Rotary in partnership with city). Need a similar facility in Clark County.
- All weather fields are needed for lacrosse and soccer. Their seasons extend into wet winter weather.
- Lacrosse has reached the PacNW and is growing rapidly. Limited growth allowed due to few available and affordable fields.
- Luke Jensen is a good example of a great improvement using tax dollars.
- Harmony is an example of a user-based volunteer facility improvement.
- Harmony's nine fields are fully utilized. There is some room for expansion.
- Harmony soccer is seeking funding for all-weather surfacing.
- Moving to synthetic fields will increase use but for youth leagues the extension into evenings is limited due to curfew times.
- Harmony wants to pave their parking lot.

2. What are the shortcomings with the existing facilities? Where are the challenges for future recreation facilities?

- Weather challenges create a need for indoor facilities. No school gyms are available for winter or wet weather practices. Need practice and training facility. Centralia has a good facility and draws folks from Clark County on a regular basis.
- Centralia facility is the result of a public/private partnership between school districts, leagues and public utility.
- Indoor training facility may not be used sufficiently when weather is good.
- The Sports Council works only within the Vancouver School District in coordination with VSD for field scheduling. A similar entity does not exist for Evergreen School District who works out contracts with each sports organization individually.
- There are different organizations – no unifying entity.
- Tournaments often allow RV parking - overnight stays - at other sports facilities in the state. Without that feature, it's not very welcoming for out-of-town participation.
- Tournaments have a captive audience so revenue generation from RV parking permits and extended concessions could result from tournament play.
- Hockinson Park sports fields could benefit by adding lighting (in the approved master plan).
- Waste stream management will be a new task for tournament planning. Lots of concession sales will generate more waste. Need to do more recycling.

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- Tournament revenue can generate other economic effects if there are more support facilities to capture that revenue: lodging, food services, etc.
- How much revenue could come back into the sports fields?
- Luke Jensen is reaching its capacity, pushing against evening lights out deadlines.

3. What does your organization see as the future role for county parks in providing public sports field/recreation facilities?

- Partner with sports organizations (acknowledge this is already happening).
- County has access to more data and information and this needs to be readily available e to help support volunteer-run groups.
- County expertise could help with applying for grant funding and assist with permitting.
- VGSA will partner with Vancouver lacrosse and convert one of their fields to a lacrosse field. They hope to add some expanded field capacity (if allowed) into greenway.
- VGSA also hopes to add some support facilities like a concession stand and batting cage.
- County staff could be in a role of helping to coordinate a group "council" that is county-wide and serves all sports organizations.

4. What contribution, collaboration, and responsibilities can your organization bring to the future implementation of the county-wide public park and recreation system?

- We'll help fund-raise and are happy to partner with the county.
- Consideration for a county-wide sports council – what type of organization is desired?
- Two items to consider: 1.) Comp plan CFP priorities, and 2.) future sports alliance for greater power.
- Vancouver USA – can help tourism promotion through sports events. They can also help with measuring economic value of tournaments.
- We could increase our clout by working together.
- Economic development is an important value of sports events and activities.
- There is strength in partnership.
- Would a "council" carry more weight on getting private foundation grants?
- Public/private is a good combination.

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

-- End of Notes --

cc: Bill Bjerke
Project file

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APPENDIX F - PIF Technical Document ('09)

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VANCOUVER-CLARK
PARKS AND RECREATION

PARK IMPACT FEE

TECHNICAL DOCUMENT

November 1, 2009

We create community through people, parks, programs and partnerships.

P.O. Box 1995 - Vancouver, WA 98668-1995
(360) 619-1111 - www.vanclarkparks-rec.org

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I. ELEMENTS OF THE PARK IMPACT FEE TECHNICAL DOCUMENT

- **INTRODUCTION / PURPOSE**
- **PARK IMPACT FEE**
  - Background
  - Overview
  - Formula and Formula Factors
  - Park Impact Fee Rate Schedules
    - City
    - County
  - Park District Map
- **PARK IMPACT FEE INDEXING**
  - Purpose and Intent
  - Indexing Models Used by Other Jurisdictions
  - Methodology
    - Acquisition Index
    - Development Index
  - Conclusion
- **PARK IMPACT FEE FUND MANAGEMENT**

II. INTRODUCTION / PURPOSE

The Park Impact Fee Technical Document is prepared to provide a framework to facilitate and streamline future fee updates or revisions at the direction of the elected officials of the City of Vancouver and Clark County. The purpose of this initial version of the Technical Document is to provide a vehicle to re-adopt the fee schedule and numeric formula factors currently in effect. In addition, the Technical Document describes the methodology for future implementation of park impact fee indexing in order to keep pace with fluctuations in the economic market, and allow rates to more accurately reflect current acquisition and development costs. In the future, at the direction of the City Council and the Board of Commissioners, rate change proposals can be brought forward for consideration, utilizing the adoption of a revised Park Impact Fee Technical Document. The revised Technical Document would provide the updated analysis for inflation or deflation adjustments, identify any revised data sources or values for formula factors, and include a proposed fee rate schedule.

III. PARK IMPACT FEE

A. Background

In 2009, references to PIF rate schedules and numeric calculation factors were removed from the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (Parks Plan), the Clark County Code, and the Vancouver Municipal Code. The purpose of this action was to:

- Establish a streamlined process for rate changes using a PIF Technical Document as a vehicle to adopt both current and future rate schedules,
- Adopt numeric calculation factors,
- Define the park impact fee indexing methodology, and
- Improve consistency between city and county administrative codes as they relate to the application and management of the park impact fee program.

No rate changes or implementation of indexing methodology are proposed herein at this time.

B. Overview

The formula used to compute park impact fee rates is based on four primary factors: 1) acquisition costs; 2) development costs; 3) adopted park standards, and 4) an adjustment factor required by state law.

1. **Acquisition cost** is the unique cost of land in each of the ten established park districts.
2. **Development cost** is the average cost of park development over all 10 park districts within the Vancouver urban growth area.
3. Adopted **park standards** are those adopted by the Parks Plan for neighborhood and community parks and urban open space. These standards are population based and represent the acres of land needed to serve one thousand residents for each of the respective park types.
4. The **adjustment factor** is based on state statute that requires an "adjustment to the cost of public facilities for past or future payments made or reasonably anticipated to be made by new development..." Commonly known as the "proportionate public share" or "shift", this adjustment is intended to reasonably relate the cost of public facility improvements with the service demands of new development.

State statute requires that park facilities on which impact fees may be spent must be part of a capital facilities plan that is a component of an adopted comprehensive land use plan. Both City ordinance (VMC 20.915.100) and County code (CCC 40.630.010) anticipate that impact fee rates will be revised periodically when financial analysis establishes that there is a need for a major program update, or adjusted annually to account for inflation/deflation using an indexing methodology. All fee adjustments are to be described in a Technical Document to be reviewed and adopted by the elected officials of the City of Vancouver and Clark County.

C. Park Impact Fee Formula and Formula Factors:

$$\text{PIF} = [\text{ Acquisition Cost} + \text{Development Cost }] - \text{Cost Adjustment Factor}$$

$$\text{PIF} = \left[\left(\frac{\text{Ca} \times \text{Ia} \times \text{Sa}}{\text{P}} \right) + \left(\frac{\text{Cd} \times \text{Id} \times \text{Sd}}{\text{P}} \right) \times \text{U} \right] \begin{array}{ll} \times \text{ A} & \text{(City of Vancouver)} \\ - \text{ A} & \text{(Clark County)} \end{array}$$

1. **"PIF"** means the total cost of the acquisition and development components of the impact fee per single family/duplex, or multi-family residence.

2. **a. "Ca"** means the average cost per acre for land appraisal, acquisition, associated due diligence fees and expenses, closing and Level 1 Development for each service area or overlay area as described in the Parks Plan for neighborhood parks, community parks and urban open space, and adopted by the Board and City Council in the impact fee revision process pursuant to CCC40.630.010 and VMC 20.915.100.B.

   b. "Cd" means the average cost per acre for site development. Development costs shall be calculated assuming development standards described in the Parks Plan for neighborhood and community parks, and adopted by the Board and City Council in the impact fee revision process pursuant to CCC 40.630.010 and VMC 20.915.100.B.

3. **a. "Ia"** means the percentage annual inflation/deflation adjustment index applicable to the acquisition component, as outlined in the Park Impact Fee Program Technical Document and

annually determined by the Board and City Council in the impact fee revision process pursuant to CCC 40.630.010 and VMC 20.915.100.B.

b. "**Id**" means the percentage annual inflation/deflation adjustment index applicable to the development component as outlined in the Park Impact Fee Program Technical Document and annually determined by the Board and City Council in the impact fee revision process pursuant to CCC 40.630.010 and VMC 20.915.100.B.

4. **a. "Sa"** means the parks acquisition standard in acres per thousand residents for neighborhood parks, community parks and urban open space as established in the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (Parks Plan).

   The current (2006-2007) acquisition standard per the Parks Plan is 6 acres per thousand residents. This standard is designed to include a combined 5 acres / 1,000 residents for neighborhood and community parks and one acre per thousand for urban open space. Within the combined standard, the preferred distribution is two acres for neighborhood parks and three acres for community parks. However, the combined standard allows for modifications where existing and proposed development limits the availability of parcels large enough to accommodate the preferred standard-size for community parks.

   b. "**Sd"** means the parks development standard in acres per thousand residents for neighborhood and community parks as established in the Parks Plan.

   The current development standard per the Parks Plan is 4.25 acres of developed park land / 1,000 residents. No development standard is proposed for urban open space, which should remain in a relatively natural condition.

5. **"P"** means one thousand (1000) residents.

6. **"U"** means the average number of occupants per single-family/duplex dwelling unit or per other multifamily dwelling unit, based on the most current applicable statistical census data (US Census Bureau or Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) census data for persons per dwelling unit) and as adopted by the Board and City Council in the impact fee revision process pursuant to CCC 40.630.010 and VMC 20.915.100.B.

   Current fee rates are based on 2000 OFM census data identifying 2.59 persons per dwelling unit for a single family/duplex residence, and 1.9 persons per household for a multi-family residence.

7. **"A"** means an adjustment to the cost of park facilities for past or future payments made or reasonably anticipated to be made by new development to pay for park system improvements in the form of user fees, debt service payments, or other payments earmarked for or proratable to park system improvements. The City and County allocate their Real Estate Excise Tax funds at their discretion, thus resulting in a slight difference in adjustment values. The respective adjustments for the City of Vancouver and Clark County are noted below:

   a. Clark County Adjustment Value "A".

Unit Type	Adjustment
Single-Family	$228.50
Multifamily	$166.98

   b. City of Vancouver adjustment value is determined to be five percent (5%), so that "A" factor equals 95%.

D. PARK IMPACT FEE RATE SCHEDULES

1. **City of Vancouver** *(As adopted by Ordinance M-3653, effective June 3, 2004)*

CITY OF VANCOUVER PARK IMPACT FEE SCHEDULE				
Park District	**Single-Family Rates**		**Multi-Family Rates**	
	Acquisition	**Development**	**Acquisition**	**Development**
1	**$1,608**	**$635**	**$1,175**	**$464**
2	**$2,116**	**$635**	**$1,547**	**$464**
3	**$1,750**	**$635**	**$1,279**	**$464**
4	**$1,481**	**$635**	**$1,082**	**$464**
5	**$1,291**	**$635**	**$943**	**$464**
6	**$1,048**	**$635**	**$766**	**$464**
7	**$1,372**	**$635**	**$1,003**	**$464**
8	**$1,292**	**$635**	**$944**	**$464**
9	**$1,497**	**$635**	**$1,094**	**$464**
10	**$1,039**	**$635**	**$759**	**$464**

2. **Clark County** *(As adopted by Ordinance 2002-10-16, effective January 1, 2003)*

CLARK COUNTY PARK IMPACT FEE SCHEDULE				
Park District	**Single-Family Rates**		**Multi-Family Rates**	
	Acquisition	**Development**	**Acquisition**	**Development**
1	**$1,693**	**$440**	**$1,237**	**$321**
2	**$2,228**	**$440**	**$1,628**	**$321**
3	**$1,842**	**$440**	**$1,346**	**$321**
4	**$1,558**	**$440**	**$1,139**	**$321**
5	**$1,359**	**$440**	**$993**	**$321**
6	**$1,103**	**$440**	**$806**	**$321**
7	**$1,445**	**$440**	**$1,056**	**$321**
8	**$1,360**	**$440**	**$994**	**$321**
9	**$1,576**	**$440**	**$1,151**	**$321**
10	**$1,094**	**$440**	**$799**	**$321**

IV. PARK IMPACT FEE INDEX

A. Purpose and Intent of Indexing

The intent of indexing is simply to keep impact fees as current as possible by accounting for inflation or deflation adjustments over time using a known or common factor, such as the consumer price index or the construction cost index. Annually adjusted impact fees also minimize potential public share obligations to the system, which are caused by the difference between current rates and the annually eroding value of those rates as they are impacted by inflation. Indexing is implemented by County and City Code as follows:

CCC40.630.010 (Impact Fee Revision) and VMC20.915.100 (Other Provisions)

B. Park impact fee rates may be revised using the following process:

1 The adopted Park Impact Fee Program Technical Document may be revised periodically by the Board [or City Council] when financial analysis establishes that there is a need for a major program update. Such adjustments shall only become effective upon adoption by the Board [City Council].

2. Between major program updates, the calculated park impact fee will be adjusted annually to account for inflation/deflation using the indexing methodology described in the adopted Park Impact Fee Technical Document. Such adjustments shall only become effective upon adoption by the Board [City Council].

B. Indexing Models Used by Other Jurisdictions

Numerous jurisdictions across Washington and Oregon apply an annual inflation index to their impact fees or system development charges. Several common indices are used, as noted below:

- **Producer Price Index** (PPI) – shows the direction and magnitude of price changes for finished goods; published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- **Consumer Price Index** (CPI) – shows day-to-day inflation in prices as experienced by urban consumers for a representative basket of goods and services; also published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- **Engineering News Record** (ENR) – calculates national index of building cost changes using a 20 city average and individual costs as local average. ENR offers two indices: Construction Cost Index (CCI) and the Building Cost Index (BCI).[1] The CCI can be used where labor costs are a high proportion of total costs. The BCI is more applicable for structures.

Additionally, two primary approaches exist to apply indexed adjustments: uniformly across dual components or uniquely to each component.

- **Uniform Indexing Approach** – The uniform approach merely applies an index to the composite impact fee, and in the case of park fees, it would apply to the combined acquisition and development rates equally. No distinction is made between components or between the relative impacts of how each component is affected by the index. Upon initial review of the application of indices throughout the region, it was noted that most jurisdictions elected to index impact fee rates uniformly.

[1] The difference between ENR's Construction Cost Index and Building Cost Index is the approach to the labor component. The CCI uses 200 hours of common labor, multiplied by the 20-city average rate for wages and fringe benefits. The BCI uses 68.38 hours of skilled labor, multiplied by the 20-city wage- fringe average for three trades–bricklayers, carpenters and structural ironworkers. For their materials component, both indexes use 25 cwt of fabricated standard structural steel at the 20-city average price, 1.128 tons of bulk Portland cement priced locally and 1,088 board ft of 2x4 lumber priced locally. The ENR indexes [sic] measure how much it costs to purchase this hypothetical package of goods compared to what it was in the base year. (*source: enr.construction.com*)

- **Unique, Component-Specific Indexing Approach** – An alternative approach is to annually adjust each impact fee component based on a unique index, both pertinent and suitable to that component. For example, the development component is adjusted based on a construction cost index, and the acquisition component is adjusted based on a real estate or land valuation index as appropriate. By design, component-specific indexing allows for a higher degree of congruence between the component and the index, along with providing a more true reflection of local changes on an annual basis.

  In Oregon, jurisdictions can choose to use the local tax assessor's annual ratio report to index the acquisition component. In Washington, no similar report is required, but some cities have indexed acquisition costs based on annual changes in land value. The indexing approach used by the City of Olympia offers a compelling model, as described below from their PIF program documentation:

  The change in property value is calculated based on information from the Thurston County Assessor's Office. Thurston County is on an annual valuation cycle, meaning that all real property is physically inspected at least once every six years, but is statistically updated every year. The County Assessor does not create values, but interprets current market activity to estimate the values of parcels in Thurston County for the purposes of property taxation. Fair market value is the amount a willing buyer would pay a willing seller when neither is under undue pressure. The Thurston County Assessor's Office uses valid recent sales data of similar properties and the replacement cost of buildings (based on the cost of current labor and material, less depreciation), to arrive at fair market value. For projects where the location of the property is known, the property value factor will be calculated based on the difference between the current year and preceding year's fair market value for land. For projects where the location of the property is not known, the property value factor will be calculated based on the average of the changes in land value for representative similar facility type projects in the CFP.

Thurston County's approach to annual assessment re-evaluation is consistent with that of Clark County's and is identified as a viable approach. During the current PIF assessment, staff from the Clark County Assessment office was contacted to discuss and coordinate a comparable approach for local, annual PIF adjustments based on Clark County data and modeling.

With readily accessible, quality indexing datasets, the component-specific approach can offer Clark County a stronger nexus between the selected index and the base PIF rate. As a historically high-growth region, an approach using a uniform index for both components, such as a construction index, does not accurately reflect the differences in and changes to real property valuations, and does not reflect value differentiation across the urban area. As such, when the City of Vancouver and/or Clark County are ready to proceed with implementation of an annual index of Park Impact Fee rates, a component-specific indexing option will be used, whereby the acquisition base rate is indexed to recent real property changes and the development base rate is tied to a construction related index, such as the ENR-CCI. The establishment of the real property index is the most complex task, and it is a uniquely local exercise. The following section details the methodology.

C. Indexing Methodology

1. PIF Acquisition Component

In close collaboration with Clark County Assessment and GIS staff, land valuation tables for the Vancouver urban area were isolated and reviewed for the three most recent property tax assessment cycles (2007, 2008, 2009). The primary goal was to establish the rate of change in land valuations between consecutive property tax cycles as the basis for a potential PIF acquisition rate index. Secondarily, the data were reviewed to evaluate the appropriateness of applying a single, urban area-wide index factor versus unique index factors per each of the 10 PIF districts.

Acreage valuations from the Assessor's Neighborhood Land Tables were the primary input. Clark County annually updates the assessment land tables with a physical inspection of ⅙th of the county per cycle and statistical revisions of the remainder. The data used in this analysis are consistent with the assessed valuations used for annual property tax assessments.

The land coverage of the Assessor's Neighborhood Land Tables was correlated to that of the PIF districts using GIS. The acreage and percentage of total land area of each Neighborhood was calculated as it relates to each of the 10 PIF districts. Using these relative coverages, a weighted average land valuation was calculated by PIF district. Additionally, a single average was calculated for the Vancouver urban growth area (VUGA) as a whole.

In comparing the valuations of each PIF district to that of VUGA composite, significant differences were noted. While the average valuation change of the sum of the 10 PIF districts was the same as the valuation change of the VUGA as a whole, a wide degree of variability was noted between PIF districts for each comparative cycle reviewed. In looking at the differences between the 2009 and 2008 tax years, a 14% spread exists between the highest and lowest change between PIF districts. Given this variability, the acquisition component will be indexed based on the unique rate of change by PIF district, instead of using a VUGA average, to best reflect the specific changes in valuation within the urban area. This approach is consistent with that taken to establish the acquisition base rates, and the data and calculations required to determine these unique index factors have been tested.

Using the weighted average land valuation by PIF district, the acquisition index factors for each PIF district are determined by the ratio of the current tax year to the previous. Table 1 shows these results.

Table 1: Acquisition Index Factors by District (2008-09)

PIF District	Tax Year 2009	Tax Year 2008	Index Factor	Index Change
1	$ 136,135	$ 138,890	0.980	-2.0%
2	$ 149,378	$ 149,619	0.998	-0.2%
3	$ 165,304	$ 175,479	0.942	-5.8%
4	$ 160,373	$ 168,254	0.953	-4.7%
5	$ 154,999	$ 179,888	0.862	-13.8%
6	$ 156,412	$ 176,384	0.887	-11.3%
7	$ 148,720	$ 159,786	0.931	-6.9%
8	$ 161,771	$ 162,060	0.998	-0.2%
9	$ 168,909	$ 168,910	1.000	0.0%
10	$ 169,001	$ 169,001	1.000	0.0%
Average	**$ 157,100**	**$ 164,827**	**0.955**	**-4.5%**
VUGA Average	**$ 154,079**	**$ 162,135**	**0.950**	**-5.0%**

Using the established PIF acquisition base rates for each district, Table 2 shows how the index would be applied by multiplying the index factor with the PIF base rate to establish a revised PIF acquisition rate.

Table 2: Application of Index to PIF Acquisition Component

PIF District	Base Acquisition Rate		Index Factor		Revised PIF Rate (Acq)		Change ($)
1	$ 1,227	*	0.980	=	$ 1,203		$ (24)
2	$ 1,524	*	0.998	=	$ 1,521		$ (2)
3	$ 1,357	*	0.942	=	$ 1,279		$ (79)
4	$ 1,519	*	0.953	=	$ 1,448		$ (71)
5	$ 863	*	0.862	=	$ 744		$ (119)
6	$ 777	*	0.887	=	$ 689		$ (88)
7	$ 1,275	*	0.931	=	$ 1,187		$ (88)
8	$ 868	*	0.998	=	$ 867		$ (2)
9	$ 993	*	1.000	=	$ 993		$ (0)
10	$ 721	*	1.000	=	$ 721		$ (0)
Average	**$ 1,112**		**0.955**		**$ 1,065**		**$ (47)**

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***NOTE**: The Clark County Assessor's Office does not release land valuation tables until the early fall of the tax year in question (i.e., October 2009 for the 2009 property tax assessment). Given this known and reliable lag time, it is recommended that annual PIF indexing occur in the early fall of each year to accommodate delivery of the most recent Assessor's data.*

2. PIF Development Component

The application of a construction cost index to the PIF development component is simple and direct. Using the Seattle ENR-CCI monthly data available from ENR, calculate the index factor as the percentage change based on the ratio of the current month to the previous period (see below).

Table 3: Construction Cost Index (Oct '07 – Oct '08)

ENR-CCI Periods			ENR-CCI Factor		Index Change
October '08::	**8812.22**	=	**1.023**	or	**2.3% Increase**
October '07::	**8612.75**				

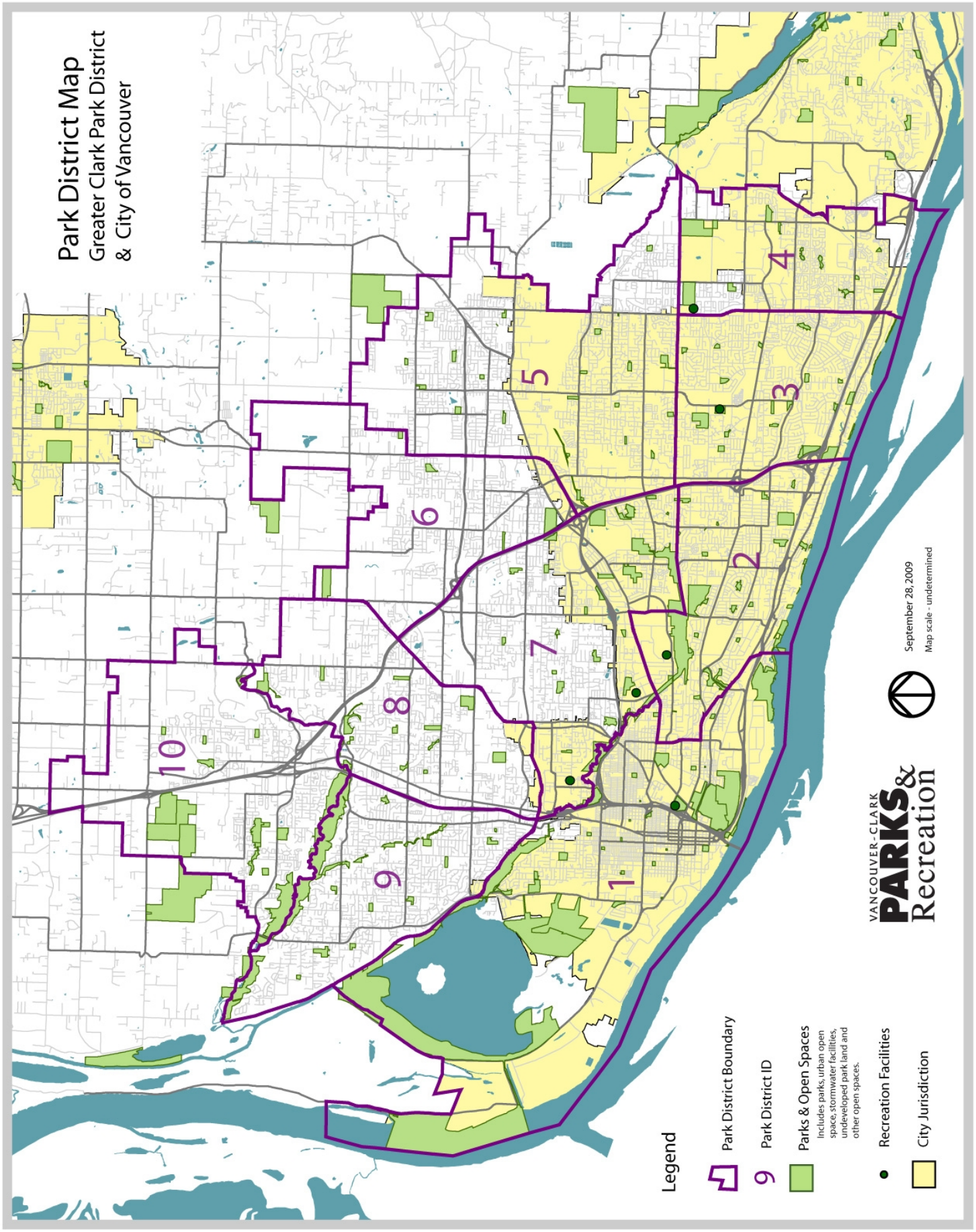
Using the established PIF development base rates for each district, the index is applied by multiplying the index factor with the PIF base rate to establish a revised PIF development rate. Since development rates are uniform across all PIF districts, this calculation is completed only once as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Application of CCI to PIF Development Component

PIF Base Rate (Dev)		ENR-CCI Factor		Revised PIF Rate (Dev)		Change ($)
$553	*	**1.023**	=	**$566**		**$13**

D. Conclusion - Indexing Methodology

Both the Vancouver Municipal Code and the Clark County Unified Development Code already include a provision for periodic revisions and indexing adjustments to the park impact fee schedule through adoption of a Technical Document. To date, this provision has not been utilized regularly; Park Impact Fees have not been adjusted on an annual basis. The indexing methodology proposed in this document does not suggest that the City or the County implement the indexing provision at this time, but that this methodology be considered and implemented at some point in the near future to ensure the viability of the Park Impact Fee program.


Park District Map
Greater Clark Park District
& City of Vancouver
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
Legend
Park District Boundary
9 Park District ID
Parks & Open Spaces
Includes parks, urban open space, stormwater facilities, undeveloped park land and other open spaces.
Recreation Facilities
City Jurisdiction
VANCOUVER-CLARK
PARKS&
Recreation
September 28, 2009
Map scale - undetermined

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Clark County and the City of Vancouver with the necessary resources to proceed autonomously in monitoring their respective Public Share responsibilities associated with the Park Impact Fee (PIF) program.

ASSUMPTIONS

A. At any given point in the life of the PIF program the Public Share Deficit is Park Need minus the existing park land inventory and committed financial resources to meet that need.

Public Share Deficit = **Park Need** *(based on current population X adopted standard)*

- **Existing Park Inventory** and **PIF funds** *(converted to equivalent acres of park land and development)*.

Public Share Deficit

When the Park Impact Fee program was first adopted the **Original Deficit** was the public share responsibility to bring the park system up to the same standard for existing population as that applied to new development.

Over time the public share is progressively reduced by non-PIF revenues that contribute to PIF eligible projects for both acquisition and development. Non-PIF funds include sources such as grants, Real Estate Excise Tax, Conservation Futures, etc. Likewise, public share may increase if the fees collected do not sufficiently meet the actual cost of land acquisition and development to serve new development. State law requires that the Public Share Deficit be satisfied within a reasonable time period.

B. With the exception of park impact fee Districts 2 and 3, which are exclusively within the City of Vancouver, and districts 9 and 10, which are exclusively within Clark County jurisdiction, all other park districts cross jurisdictional boundaries to some extent. Tables 1 and 2 reflect the split of these shared district funds based on the actual location of the project within the respective district.

In the dissolution process it was established that the City of Vancouver would assume the responsibility of PIF District 4, leaving only districts 5 and 7 as shared districts that required the division of existing PIF funds.

C. Legal counsel advised that the City of Vancouver is not required to separate acquisition and development funds for the evaluation of concurrency. This analysis provides the findings for

acquisition and development separately but similarly can be used at the discretion of the respective jurisdictions in the analysis of public share deficit.

D. A list of the criteria used for the evaluation of PIF eligible projects and Non-PIF funding sources is attached. These criteria were employed to identify expenditures and revenue sources used for eligible Park Impact Fees projects and the information is separated by park impact fee district and jurisdiction for the time period since the conclusion of the 2008 Financial Review. The same criteria were used for the City of Vancouver and Clark County activities.

NON-PIF CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY

The table below identifies the non-PIF revenue sources that contributed to PIF eligible acquisition and development projects by park impact fee district. For the period from April 1, 2008 through December 31, 2013 the information is also separated by jurisdiction, however this distinction is not available for the previous time period. A spreadsheet of the itemized data is attached for further analysis, as needed.

PIF Acquisition Public Share

		Original Deficit			April 1, 2008 - Dec 31, 2013	
District	City/County	Original Deficit ($)	Public Share Eligible Non-PIF Monies ($)	Over/(Short) Status ($)	Public Share Eligible Non-PIF Monies ($)	PIF Funds Spent ($)
1	City	133,853	1,985,995	1,852,142	283,709	1,192,104
2	City	1,017,502	2,123,763	1,106,261	-	26,654
3	City		3,558,124	3,558,124	-	360,898
4	Shared	-	2,389,319	2,389,319		
	City				463,174	52,220
	County				3,397	21,517
5	Shared	1,704,922	1,706,401	1,479		
	City				415,766	291,877
	County				469,571	102,110
6	County	-	47,279	47,279	308	61,468
7	Shared	-	960,934	960,934		
	City				-	248,945
	County				-	3,533,445
8	County	-	647,538	647,538	-	754,135
9	County	234,076	1,127,296	893,220	11,649	1,322,062
10	County	-	2,337,791	2,337,791	-	416,666

PIF Development Public Share

		Original Deficit			April 1, 2008 - Dec 31, 2013	
District	City/County	Original Deficit ($)	Public Share Eligible Non-PIF Monies ($)	Over/(Short) Status ($)	Public Share Eligible Non-PIF Monies ($)	PIF Funds Spent ($)
1	City	-	5,169,978	5,169,978	1,271,973	329,300
2	City	-	264,392	264,392	477,885	18,793
3	City	4,977,315	2,923,056	(2,054,259)	124,231	0
4	Shared	-	534,113	534,113		
	City	-	0.00	0.00	3,839	0
	County			0.00	1,477,805	17,625
5	Shared	7,756,933	1,599,338	(6,157,595)		
	City				273,668	92,866
	County				7,453,804	441,788
6	County	328,875	266	(328,609)	102,176	70,684
7	Shared	4,984,088	638,061	(4,346,027)		
	City				105,626	12,756
	County				359,264	599,997
8	County	1,785,454	141,301	(1,644,153)	93,893	170,548
9	County	3,617,114	1,688,096	(1,929,018)	1,724,200	81,417
10	County	1,188,147	8,484	(1,179,663)	21,485	2,899,759

The 'Original Deficit' section of the table references the summary data from the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Park Impact Fee Financial Review Final Report completed in 2008 (Paul Lewis). The public share contribution to the original deficit is identified as well as the 'Over/(Short) Status of the Original Deficit at the conclusion of the analysis period, being March 31, 2008. A complete copy of the report and associated appendices is attached for historical reference.

Data tables for PIF expenditures and non-PIF funding associated with PIF eligible projects are included as attachments to this report in digital form. The data is separated for acquisition and development for each park district and can be used at the discretion of the respective districts to determine the public share deficit.

CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) AND PARK NEED

The interlocal agreement for joint planning efforts between Clark County and the City of Vancouver was terminated effective January 1, 2014. However, the Level of Service and Need Analysis provided in the *2014 Vancouver Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Natural Area Plan* was evaluated based on the original ten park districts, irrespective of jurisdiction, for those park types funded by the Park Impact Fee program. These include neighborhood parks, community parks and urban natural areas. The current districts recognize natural and built barriers to non-vehicular circulation, and reflect the functional distribution and need within the City of Vancouver and Vancouver UGA with the existing inventory of park lands. The current PIF district boundaries are recognized by the City of Vancouver for analysis and planning purposes until formally amended by Vancouver City Council.

The Level of Service and Need Analysis for the ten joint park districts was extracted from the *2014 Vancouver Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Natural Area Plan* and included as an attachment for reference. The Park Plan can be referenced in its entirety on the City of Vancouver website and applied at Clark County's discretion in evaluating and calculating the current and projected Public Share Deficit. The inventory used as the basis for the Park Plan was provided to Clark County previously to help facilitation completion of their pending comprehensive park plan update.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Grant revenue deposits that fund eligible PIF projects should include project coding to assure that it is credited to the appropriate project and PIF district as a public share contribution.

B. The 2014 Public Share Analysis is the first since the 2008 review. With inevitable changes in technology, coding procedures, and staff it is recommended that a PIF public share review be completed on an annual basis within the first quarter following the end of the calendar year to consistently account for non-PIF funding and changes in inventory.

C. An expanded public share deficit analysis is warranted with future updates of the Vancouver and Clark County comprehensive park plans. This analysis should include recognition of the acquisition and development need for the then current population that exceeds available PIF revenues, thus adding to the public share deficit.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Itemized revenue data for non-PIF revenue contributed to eligible PIF projects by impact fee district and jurisdiction (April 1, 2008 – December 31, 2013, digital);

B. Itemized data for expenses charged to PIF eligible acquisition and development projects by park district and jurisdiction (April 1, 2008 – December 31, 2013, digital); and

C. Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Park Impact Fee Financial Review Final Report (October 8, 2008, Paul Lewis).

D. Eligible Expense Criteria

E. 2014 Vancouver Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Plan, Level-of-Service & Need Excerpt

APPENDIX G - 20-Year Conservation Futures Priorities

Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan – 2015 Update

Twenty Year Conservation Futures Priorities

Burnt Bridge Creek Subarea: Acquire and preserve riparian areas, wetlands and floodplains and upland buffers, especially where new acquisitions expand or link existing facilities. Acquire property that supports the" Lake to Lake" (Vancouver Lake to Lacamas Lake) trail corridor.

Columbia South Slope Subarea: Acquire Columbia River Shoreline and associated uplands between SE 192nd Avenue and the Washougal River. Acquire forested hillsides east of SE 164th Avenue and north of Evergreen Highway. Protect riparian areas, wetlands and small streams and seeps that support clean water, wildlife habitat and salmon recovery.

Gee Creek and Flume Creek Subarea: Expand the greenway system between Abrams Park and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Extend the greenway system upstream of Abrams Park. Support development of the Vancouver Lake-Lewis River Water Trail. Explore establishment of an agricultural district within the Gee Creek/Flume Creek vicinity.

Gibbons Creek and Lawton Creek Subarea: Expand the Campen Creek Greenway. Support acquisitions that complement the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Washougal Oaks Natural Resources Conservation Area.

Lower Lacamas Creek Subarea: Expand and link the Lacamas/Round/Fallen Leaf Lakes greenway system with emphasis on trails, shorelines and forestlands as development occurs on the East side of Lacamas Lake. Facilitate trail connections and improve public access to Green Mountain. Expand public ownership to high points on Green Mountain. Support expansion of the Lacamas Prairie Natural Resources Conservation Area.

Upper Lacamas Creek Subarea: Preserve high value riparian and upland areas along the extensive network of small streams. Explore establishment of an agricultural district within the China Ditch/182nd Avenue vicinity.

Main Stem Lewis River and Allen Creek Subarea: Continue cooperation with the Plas Newydd Farm regarding conservation, restoration and recreation efforts on their property. Expand the greenway

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system between Two-Forks and Plas Newydd to link the East Fork Lewis River Greenway with the Columbia River Lowlands. Support development of the Vancouver Lake-Lewis River Water Trail.

Lower East Fork Lewis River Subarea: Preserve, restore and enhance aquatic and riparian habitats for all populations of Endangered Species Act (ESA) - listed salmon, migratory waterfowl and other wildlife. Improve recreation access and facilities along the Lower East Fork Greenway. Expand Lewis River Ranch and other public greenway ownership as opportunities arise in order to close gaps in the greenway and facilitate development of the Lower East Fork Lewis River Greenway Trail. Enhance access points for the Vancouver Lake-Lewis River Water Trail.

Upper East Fork Lewis River Subarea: Preserve aquatic, riparian and upland habitat on the main East Fork Lewis River and Rock Creek that support recovery of ESA-listed steelhead populations. Work with forest landowners to develop compatible strategies for sustaining forest resource lands while exploring opportunities to expand hiking, mountain biking, camping, fishing and other recreational activities. Facilitate trail connections between Moulton Falls Regional Park and the Town of Yacolt.

Lower North Fork Lewis River Subarea: Protect critical aquatic and riparian habitat to support salmonid and wildlife populations. Expand greenway opportunities between the City of Woodland and the East Fork Lewis River, Eagle Island and Haapa Park/boat launch. Develop water access sites for paddle craft within stream reaches that are part of the Vancouver Lake-Lewis River Water Trail.

Cedar Creek Subarea: Explore opportunities that protect high value salmon habitat along the creek and a greenway that connects public land in the watershed and allows wildlife movement along riparian areas and into the forest lands in higher elevations.

Upper North Fork Lewis River Subarea: Explore conservation projects with PacifiCorps and other partners. Work with forest landowners to develop compatible strategies for sustaining forest resource lands while exploring opportunities to expand hiking, mountain biking, camping, fishing and other recreational activities. Provide land based trail connections to Soiuxon Park and between recreational sites along Lake Merwin and Yale Lake.

Lower Salmon Creek Subarea: Expand greenway linkages between the Vancouver and Battle Ground urban growth areas. Preserve tributaries in the urbanizing area to support clean water, salmon recovery, wildlife habitat and recreation. Protect forested buttes near Battle Ground and complete the

Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail from Battle Ground Lake State Park through the subarea to St. John's Road. Extend the Salmon Creek Greenway trail from Klineline Pond to Washington State University, Vancouver.

Upper Salmon Creek Subarea: Expand the Salmon-Morgan Creeeks Natural Area along Salmon and Morgan Creeks and complete public use improvements at the natural area. Acquire shorelines and associated uplands to protect and restore watershed processes. Cooperate with forest land owners to minimize conversion of forest lands in the upper watershed.

Steigerwald Lake Subarea: Support restoration and expansion of Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Washougal Oaks Natural Resources Conservation Area. Improve trails and waterfront recreation facilities.

Vancouver Lake Lowlands Subarea: Acquire shoreline and adjacent uplands that support the Vancouver Lake-Lewis River Water Trail concept. Preserve habitat and greenway connections between Vancouver Lake Lowlands and all subareas that intersect with it (Burnt Bridge Creek, Salmon Creek, Whipple Creek, Flume Creek and Gee Creek).

Washougal River Subarea: Preserve and restore shorelines and riparian habitat in the lower greenway between Lacamas Creek and the Columbia River and upstream of Hathaway Park for habitat and park improvements. Acquire waterfront property on the main river for fishing, picnicking and water access.

Little Washougal River Subarea: Preserve and restore high-quality salmon habitat. Preserve high value riparian and forested upland areas along the network of small streams.

Whipple Creek Subarea: Acquire riparian areas that also support intact mixed mature forests and upland habitat. Assemble sufficient land to support multiple habitat functions (breeding, nesting, sacnctuary) along Packard Creek and other areas. Expand existing conservation lands at Whipple Creek Regional Park, Whipple Creek Hollow and between Packard Creek and the Vancouver Lake Lowlands.

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