

Clark County Parks Plan Update

Clark County is updating its long-range parks plan for the urban and rural areas of unincorporated Clark County, or the portion of the county outside city limits.

Through this planning effort, the county will try to maximize the benefits of the community's park system while minimizing the costs to residents. Clark County wants to open a dialogue with community members about the future of their parks system.



The following are some questions and answers about the parks plan update:

What exactly is the county updating?

Clark County is updating its Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The plan was last updated in 2007, when the county operated a joint parks department with the City of Vancouver.

So is this a continuation of the old plan?

No. Clark County operates a parks system that is much different from the City of Vancouver's system. The county will develop a distinctly Clark County plan for a parks system that county residents want and deserve. This plan will embrace a robust network of regional, community and neighborhood parks, sports fields, trails, boat launches and other facilities.

Does that mean the county will build new parks?

Yes. The county's first priority is to finish the remaining six neighborhood parks and two community parks in the Greater Clark Parks District. Those parks are in the urban area outside the City of Vancouver. Park development will occur when the county has sufficient revenue, primarily from park impact fees, to build new parks and ongoing revenue to maintain the parks. The county also has long-term plans to develop or improve other parks, such as Daybreak Regional Park.

How does this parks plan fit with the county's comprehensive plan and when will it be adopted?

The county parks plan represents one component of the county's comprehensive plan. Current schedules call for completing the parks plan in August of this year and the county's comprehensive plan by June 2016.

Is the county looking at new fees or taxes?

No. The new parks plan will be designed within the parameters of existing revenues. The county does not envision seeking higher fees for parks. Instead, the county wants to identify smarter ways to provide services to the public and to work with schools and other community partners.

What is one approach to reducing costs?

Clark County already has a highly successful volunteer program. During 2014, volunteers contributed 16,800 hours for parks, trails and roads, which represents a 29 percent increase from 2013. Volunteers are busy improving trails at Whipple Creek Regional Park and other facilities so more community members can enjoy their parks year-round.

So why is it important to update this plan?

The parks plan will bring the county into compliance with Washington's Growth Management Act and make the county eligible to receive state and federal grants.

How can I comment on the parks plan?

Comments can be emailed to: parks@clark.wa.gov. Please include "Comp Plan" in the subject line. They also can be mailed to: Clark County Parks, Attn: Comp plan, 4700 NE 78th St., Vancouver, WA 98665

For more information about the parks plan, visit the county website: www.clark.wa.gov/parks.



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office
Voice (360) 397-2322, **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388,
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