



CITY OF REDMOND
Community Development Department

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Redmond, OR 97756
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www.redmondoregon.gov

REDMOND URBAN AREA PLANNING COMMISSION

411 SW 9th Street-COUNCIL CHAMBERS Redmond, OR 97756

Wednesday, November 20th, 2024 5:30 pm

Oral comments can be provided in-person or virtually. For those who plan to provide oral comments virtually during the meeting, pre-register at planredmond@redmondoregon.gov (must pre-register before 3:00 p.m. on November 20th)

Stream the meeting live at: <https://www.redmondoregon.gov/government/city-council/council-meeting-info/meeting-agendas-minutes-and-video>

Agenda

**UAPC
Members**

**Ben
Schimmoller,
Chair**

**Norman
Schultz, Vice-
Chair**

Heather DeWolf

**Joseph
Zampko**

**Mercedes
Cook-Bostick**

Michael Rogers

Tom Kuhn

**Ex-Officio
Ray Randall**

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. September 25, 2024

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Redmond Comprehensive Plan Amendment (711-24-000197-TA) to Adopt and Incorporate the Goals & Actions (Chapter 7) of the 2024 Parks Master Plan into Goal 8 of the Comprehensive Plan and Adopt the 2024 Parks Master Plan as a Supporting Plan to the Comprehensive Plan

V. Next Meeting - TBD

VI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

VII. ADJOURN

Please note that these documents are also available on the City's website www.redmondoregon.gov; click on City Government, hover on Commissions and Committees, click on Urban Area Planning Commission. You may also request a copy from City Records Office 541-923-7751 or email kelly.morse@redmondoregon.gov

The City of Redmond encourages all citizens to participate in its programs and activities. This meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for accommodation may include sign language interpreter service, assistive listening devices, materials in an alternate format or any other accommodation. If any accommodations are needed, please contact the ADA Coordinator at 541-504-3036 or access@redmondoregon.gov. Requests should be made as soon as possible, but at least 3 business days prior to the scheduled meeting. The City of Redmond does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment, or employment in, its programs or activities.

Regular Meeting Minutes

Council Chambers & Remote Video Conferencing

<https://www.redmondoregon.gov/>

Present: Chair Ben Schimmoller, Vice Chair Norman Schultz, Mercedes Cook-Bostick, Heather DeWolf, Tom Kuhn, Michael Rogers, and Council Liaison Tobias Colvin

Excused: Joseph Zampko, Ray Randall (Youth Ex-Officio)

Staff Present: Kyle Roberts, Planning Director; Maria Ramirez, Special Projects and Natural Resource Program Manager; Jamie Buddenbohn, Planning Permit Coordinator.

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Schimmoller called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 17, 2024

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2024. Commissioner Cook-Bostick seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 0.

PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Special Projects/Natural Resource Program Manager Ramirez presented the first draft of the 2024 Parks Master Plan Update via PowerPoint, reviewing the project timeline; capital planning, which included examining system gaps and potential development and renovation projects; Dry Canyon decision matrix, results of Open House #2, and next steps. The final document would be brought before the Commission on November 20th with a recommendation for adoption to City Council at its December meeting.

Staff addressed questions and comments from the Commission about Code parking requirements and availability; using grass or artificial turf, which would depend on water rights and year-round use; traffic concerns off Pershall Way, options for ADA access to Dry Canyon; rebuilding the Bowlby Park concession stand; designing separate Canyon pathways for e-bikes/scooters, noting that e-bike policies were in the Master Plan, and BPAC was very involved regarding e-bike safety issues; soccer and baseball fields in the potential Fairgrounds expansion being counted in the Parks inventory and service area, adding that the project is still very

conceptual; and that the costs related to extended field use would be considered in site specific discussions before construction/design.

Discussion included comments and suggestions that the Parks Master Plan exhibit readiness for the community's population growth, not just immediate needs, and that the Master Plan be included in the feasibility study of a sports complex at the Fairgrounds. More baseball/softball fields and basketball courts are needed in the northwest section of the city, and field houses should be included on the pitches in the Master Plan to store equipment; having nice fields would be great economic drivers in attracting tourism business.

Concerns were shared about the reservation system for the parks/fields not being fair and equitable, and that the allotment system had reduced field use while the fields sat vacant most of the time. Having fields open for extended hours would alleviate a lot of problems.

Next Meeting – TBD

The Commission's next meeting would be November 20th and include a public hearing on the Parks Master Plan. The November or December meeting would include work on a Transportation System Plan amendment and potentially the draft Sewer Collection System Master Plan.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Schimmoller appreciated the Parks Master Plan presentation and opportunity to provide feedback.

Councilor Colvin explained Council's desire to review and update the Code to ensure Good Neighbor principles and other things, like parking and distances between roads and developments, were accounted for before developments came before Council. Additionally, area plans for annexations approved many years ago need reviewed and potentially adjusted because the City had different priorities now given Redmond's rapid growth. Council would need the Commission's help with Code amendments moving forward to help ensure better livable neighborhoods and that Redmond grows appropriately and in the right direction.

Commissioner DeWolf shared concerns about the 2011 application of the Good Neighborhood principles which did not consider the tremendous expense passed on to homeowners. She wanted to discuss homeowners' association fees, which were uncontrolled, adding the city had many little parks that did not jive together.

Commissioner Rogers encouraged Council to commission an urbanization study, which was generally a first step towards Council having the authority to expand city limits automatically and to evaluate the distance between from the urban growth boundary and reserve lands outside the city to ensure Redmond had room for appropriate growth.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

APPROVED by the Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee and SIGNED by the Chair this
____ day of _____ 2024.

ATTEST:

_____/s/_____
Ben Schimmoller
Chair

_____/s/_____
Kyle Roberts, staff
Planning Director

FINDINGS FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO ADOPT THE 2024 PARKS MASTER PLAN AS A SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN INTO THE 2040 REDMOND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

HEARING DATE: November 20, 2024, 5:30 PM, Redmond City Hall Council Chambers and via digital conference

HEARINGS BODY: Redmond Urban Area Planning Commission (RUAPC)

FILE NUMBER: 711-24-000197-TA

FILE NAME: 2024 Parks Master Plan

REQUEST: A legislative amendment to adopt the 2024 Parks Master Plan as a supplemental plan to the Redmond Comprehensive Plan 2040, replacing the 2018 Citywide Park Master Plan.

APPLICANT: City of Redmond

REVIEWING STAFF: Morgan Snyder, Long-Range Planner

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Relevant Context:

The Redmond Comprehensive Plan 2040 is the policy document that enables coordination of all land uses within the Redmond Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), including but not limited to sewer and water systems, transportation systems, natural resources, recreational facilities, and more. Contained within are goals, policies, supplemental plans, and supporting documentation that collectively guide decision making regarding development and public investment in alignment with the community's unique needs and vision. The comprehensive plan is a living document that is updated in response to substantial changes of circumstance as needed and in compliance with State law.

The 2018 Citywide Parks Master Plan is a supplemental plan to the Redmond Comprehensive Plan 2040 and currently serves as the primary document addressing Redmond's recreation needs. Using the guidance and recommendations provided by this plan, the City was able to complete numerous recreational facilities upgrades and develop four new parks in just six years. With this progress and the emergence of new recreation-related challenges such as water consumption, e-bikes, sports trends, and more, the City has initiated the development of a 2024 Parks Master Plan, incorporated into this document by reference as Attachment A.

Proposal:

This proposal is a City-initiated legislative amendment to adopt the 2024 Parks Master Plan as a supplemental plan to the Redmond Comprehensive Plan 2040, replacing the 2018 Citywide Park Master Plan.

The 2024 Parks Master Plan contains an extensive inventory of all existing parks, including their functional classifications, current condition, and improvement

opportunities, and was drafted following an extensive public engagement process designed to identify the community's vision, priorities, and unique needs for the City of Redmond parks system. Multiple recommendations were developed based on analysis of demographic trends, industry research, and feedback received from the community and other key stakeholders, such as the Redmond Parks and Recreation District (RAPRD). These recommendations include ideal service level standards, a twenty-year capital improvement program (CIP) projects list that aims to develop and improve new and existing facilities, and updates to the Recreation Needs policies within the Redmond Comprehensive Plan 2040.

Applicable Criteria:

The following provisions are applicable to the application:

- Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS)
 - ORS 197.610: Submission of proposed comprehensive plan or land use regulation changes to Department of Land Conservation and Development; rules.
 - ORS 197.615: Submission of adopted comprehensive plan or land use regulation changes to Department of Land Conservation and Development.
- Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR), Chapter 660
 - Division 15, Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines.
 - Division 18, Post Acknowledgement Amendments.
- Redmond Comprehensive Plan 2040
- Redmond Development Code (RDC), last amended by Ord. 2024-14
 - Article I – Zoning Standards.
 - Section 8.750: Authorization to Initiate Amendments
 - Section 8.760: Criteria for Amendments.
 - Section 8.765: Tentative Approval.
 - Section 8.770: Public Hearing on Amendments.
 - Article II – Land Use Procedures.

Noticing:

In accordance with ORS 197.610, notice of this comprehensive plan amendment application was submitted to the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) on October 10, 2024. Pursuant to RDC 8.1110, a notice of public hearing by the RUAPC on November 20, 2024, was published in the *Bend Bulletin* on November 1, 2024.

Comments:

As of November 13, 2024, no comments have been submitted into the record for this application.

Attachments:

The following attachment is included in this document by reference:

- Attachment A – 2024 Parks Master Plan, rev. November 14, 2024.

II. FINDINGS & ANALYSIS

Staff findings and analysis for compliance with all applicable criteria are included below.

ARTICLE I – ZONING STANDARDS > AMENDMENTS

RDC Sections 8.750 through 8.770

8.0750 Authorization to Initiate Amendments. An amendment to the text of this chapter (Redmond Development Code), to the Comprehensive Plan, or an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan Map may be initiated by City Council, Planning Commission, or Community Development Director. A property owner may initiate a request for a map or text amendment by filing an application with the Community Development Department.

FINDING: This application was initiated by the City through the Community Development Director. This criterion is met.

8.0760 Criteria for Amendments. The burden of proof is upon the applicant. The applicant shall show the proposed change is:

1. In conformity with all applicable State statutes;

FINDING: ORS 197.610 and 197.615 are directly applicable to this application. These statutes are procedural; the application has been and will continue to be processed in compliance with these statutes. This criterion is met.

2. In conformity with the State-wide planning goals whenever they are determined to be applicable;

FINDING: There are nineteen statewide planning goals, however, the City of Redmond does not contain agricultural, forest, or Willamette Greenway lands, nor does it contain estuarine, coastal shoreland, beach and dune, or ocean resources. Therefore, statewide planning goals 3, 4, and 15 through 19 are not applicable to the City of Redmond.

Goal 1, Citizen Involvement: The City used various community engagement strategies prior to and throughout the drafting of the proposed plan. Specifically, the City informed the community through the 2024 Parks Master Plan project webpage, social media posts, newspaper notices, and discussions at two public events. The City also consulted with community members through online and mailed surveys, receiving over 600 responses, and further involved members at three focus group discussions and two in-person open house events. Additionally, the City of Redmond Parks Committee, the RUAPC, and the City Council will all have reviewed the proposed plan prior to adoption. The City Council and RUAPC, which also serves as the City's formal citizen involvement committee, will both review the proposed plan during public hearing and

encourage the submission and consideration of testimony from interested persons in compliance with land use law. This goal is met.

Goal 2, Land Use Planning: Due to significant population growth and the completion of numerous projects, the 2018 Citywide Park Master Plan is now outdated and is intended to be replaced by the proposed plan as the primary document addressing recreation needs within the Redmond Comprehensive Plan 2040. The proposed plan was developed based on relevant research, collaboration with other agencies, community feedback, and as discussed throughout these findings, is compliant with all applicable criteria. This goal is met.

Goal 5, Natural Resources, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Open Spaces: The City of Redmond does not have an adopted inventory of Goal 5 resources aside from various historically designated properties and places, none of which would be impacted by the proposed plan. However, as described in the proposed plan, the community values the many cultural, natural, and open space resources within the City that have been successfully protected through park designation and establishment, none more so than the Dry Canyon. The proposed plan contains recommendations for the next City of Redmond Dry Canyon Master Plan update, including the development of specialized preservation management and regulations, precise habitat mapping, and advanced decision-making criteria to limit conflicting uses. This goal is met.

Goal 6, Air, Water, and Land Resources Quality: Wherever they exist, park facilities and open space areas protect and improve the quality of available air, water, and land resources; the most notable example of this in Redmond being the Dry Canyon. The proposed plan includes recommended target areas for new park facilities and open spaces, all of which are located within residential or park designated areas. The City of Redmond 2022 Water Management Conservation Plan found that residential water use greatly exceeds water use by any other land use category due to outdoor landscape irrigation. Similarly, the majority of water demand in Redmond parks is attributable to the landscaping of high activity areas, such as natural turf sports fields. However, it is more efficient to meet the community's need for these amenities via public facilities rather than with privately owned facilities, which are not typically required to be accountable to the community for air, water, or land resource use. Furthermore, the proposed plan includes recommended environmental stewardship policies, such as integrating vegetation management and water-wise landscaping principles into the improvement and development of all existing and new parks. This goal is met.

Goal 7, Areas Subject to Natural Disasters and Hazards: The City of Redmond is located within an area subject to wildfire, winter, seismic, and volcanic hazards. However, the risks presented by these hazards apply broadly to the entire City rather than to specific lands or properties. As such, there are no substantial disparities of risk present between different areas of the City. The projects listed in the proposed plan's twenty-year CIP list are only generally described, and the locations of new recreational facilities kept approximate, such that each project could be adapted in response to potential site hazards as needed upon development. This goal is met.

Goal 8, Recreational Needs: The proposed plan is intended to replace the 2018 Citywide Park Master Plan as the primary document addressing recreation needs and facility planning within the City of Redmond. This goal is met.

Goal 9, Economy of the State: As discussed previously, the proposed plan includes recommended target areas for new recreational facilities, none of which are located within commercial or industrial designated areas. The proposed plan also contains recommended policies and projects that would increase the quantity, quality, and access of recreational resources within the City, improving the overall quality of life and economic attractiveness of the community. This goal is met.

Goal 10, Housing: The proposed plan includes recommended CIP projects to improve all existing parks and to develop three new community parks on properties already under City ownership. Also included are ten target areas for the acquisition and development of new parks, including eight neighborhood parks each ranging from two to four acres in size, and two community parks ranging from fifteen to forty acres in size. Of these target areas, eight are located within residential designated land, and two are located within park designated land that is directly adjacent to residential areas (see Target Areas A and C). The City of Redmond adopted a Housing Needs Analysis (HNA) via Ordinance 2019-16 containing a twenty-year estimate of residential need and an inventory of residential land within the UGB. Upon examination of the HNA findings and in consideration of the 1,616 acres of unconstrained and buildable Urban Holding (UH-10) zoned lands within residential or mixed-use comprehensive plan designation, the inclusion of an additional 40 acres of residential land into the UGB and city limits in 2021 (Ordinance 2021-03, Resolution 2021-32), and the conversion of 2.4 acres from residential to park designation for the establishment of Varnish Park in 2022, staff finds that there is a gross residential land surplus of approximately 1,367 acres. Even if an estimated 25% was to be dedicated to public rights-of-way, this amount of surplus residential land is easily able to accommodate the approximate 42 to 104 acres of land needed for the forecasted two community parks and six neighborhood parks planned within residential designated areas. Given the lack of significant impact to the inventory or development capacity of Redmond's residential land, and that development of new parks and improvement of existing parks within residential areas contributes to neighborhood livability overall, staff finds it reasonable to conclude that adoption of the proposed plan would support the community's housing needs. This goal is met.

Goal 11, Public Facilities and Services: The proposed plan includes extensive analysis of demographic trends, industry research, and community feedback, which was used to identify ideal amenities, park service levels, and facility conditions. Altogether, these standards informed the recommended policies and twenty-year CIP list that will enable the strategic management and provision of park facilities and services according to the community's growing needs and capacity. This goal is met.

Goal 12, Transportation: Adoption of the proposed plan would not directly impact any existing or planned transportation facilities; however, it would indirectly improve the

circulation and function of the transportation system as a whole. The proposed plan includes recommended target areas for new recreational facilities based on analysis of the overall parks network, accounting for factors such as park classification, travel shed distances, and locations of uniquely attractive amenities. By siting future parks within network gaps and neighborhoods, community residents and visitors will have reduced travel distances and barriers to overcome when accessing recreational facilities. This goal is met.

Goal 13, Energy Conservation: Recreational facilities, at least the kind provided by the City, are not typically high energy uses. As discussed previously, the proposed plan includes recommended target areas for new recreational facilities within residential or park designated areas. These facilities would consume less energy than housing developments and reduce the transportation-based energy demand of park users overall due to being sited in or near neighborhoods. This goal is met.

Goal 14, Urbanization: The urbanization of land within a UGB requires the strategic provision and management of public facilities and development in accordance with the community's needs and capacity. As discussed previously, the proposed plan includes policy and project recommendations developed to meet recreation needs based on demographic trends, industry research, and community feedback. This goal is met.

3. In conformity with the Redmond Comprehensive Plan, land use requirements and policies; and

FINDING: Sixteen policies were determined to be directly applicable to the proposed plan, compliance with which are evaluated below. Ordinarily, any proposed comprehensive plan amendment that impacts recreational facilities within the City of Redmond would be required to comply with the Recreational Needs policies of the Redmond Comprehensive Plan 2040. However, the proposed plan is intended to modify those very policies, updating the comprehensive plan in response to changes that have occurred over the past six years.

1-2-1: Prioritize place-based, community conversation activities as engagement methods to create better outcomes and build more equitable communities.

1-2-4: Conduct outreach that supports differences across all spectrums, including but not limited to ethnicity, gender, age, disability, and sexuality.

1-3-2: Ensure City-wide plans, programs and processes are available, including the CCI's community involvement plan.

- a) Develop annual performance report using key metrics to measure achievements, such as: permit processing times, housing unit final occupancy permits, total types of land use permits issued or applied for, staffing capacity, community engagement, operational efficiencies, process improvements, interagency cooperation, committee involvement and accomplishments, and special projects.

1-3-3: Develop project websites for significant planning initiatives that are updated frequently and provide information about engagement opportunities.

1-3-4: Ensure technical information is available to citizens in an understandable form.

The proposed plan was developed using a robust community engagement process that included public events in Sam Johnson Park and Centennial Park, two in-person open house events at Redmond City Hall, and three focus group discussions with specific stakeholders. The engagement process also included mailing a survey to 2,500 randomly selected Redmond households and hosting an online survey on the 2024 Parks Master Plan project page within the City of Redmond website, resulting in over 600 survey responses from various adult age groups. The project webpage also featured engagement event notices and a draft of the proposed plan as soon as it was available, all in simplified and understandable language. These policies are met.

2-1-1: Ensure that key elements of the Plan Vision are incorporated into Plan policies.

2-1-2: Maintain a Plan and associated implementation tools consistent with the Oregon Statewide Planning Goals and all other applicable state and federal regulations.

2-1-5: All land use plans shall include identification of issues and problems, inventories and other factual information for each applicable statewide planning goal, evaluation of alternative courses of action and ultimate policy choices, taking into consideration social, economic, energy and environmental needs. The required information shall be contained in the Plan document or in supporting documents.

2-3-2: Coordinate Plan policies and related implementation measures within the City, and other agencies, governments and special districts service providers.

2-3-3: Adopt updates to system plans, as required by state law or necessary to address changing community needs and incorporate these plans by reference in the Comprehensive Plan.

Although State law does not necessarily require the adoption or update of a parks plan, recent population growth and the successful completion of multiple recreational facility projects in Redmond warranted an updated plan that evaluated emerging challenges, community feedback, industry research, demographic trends, the parks network and inventory, and possible project alternatives. The proposed plan was developed with input from RAPRD to evaluate recreation needs, develop recommended policies and projects, and to replace the 2018 Citywide Park Master Plan as the primary document addressing recreational facility planning within the Redmond Comprehensive Plan 2040. Correspondingly, chapter seven of the proposed plan includes modifications to the Recreational Needs policies contained within the text of the comprehensive plan without altering the goals, ensuring that the original comprehensive plan vision is retained. These policies are met.

9-5-6: Ensure that Redmond has the services and amenities necessary to for residents of Redmond. These services and amenities include those in Policy 9-5-6 but also include parks and open space, public library, and public safety

services. Redmond should also ensure that there are opportunities for development of housing and services for seniors, such as assisted living and other senior housing opportunities.

11-1-2: Balance the extension of public facilities, utilities, and services in a manner that accommodates expected population and employment growth while maintaining the City's ability to continue providing existing services citywide at levels necessary and suitable for urban uses.

11-1-3: Weigh the following factors when determining public facility location:

- Availability and cost of usable land;
- Degree of disruption of residential areas;
- Operational efficiency of alternate locations;
- Social justice (i.e., disproportionate environmental and health effects on neighborhoods);
- Geographic restrictions and requirements; and
- Comprehensive Plan Vision, goals and policies

11-2-1: Coordinate public facility planning for the Redmond UGB with participation and assistance from Deschutes County and the following service providers:

- Transportation – Deschutes County, Oregon Department of Transportation, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council – Cascade East Transit.
- Water – Brentwood Water Association, Avion Water, Central Oregon Irrigation District
- Sewer
- Storm Drainage – Deschutes County, Central Oregon Irrigation District
- Parks – Deschutes County, RAPRD, Redmond School District.

11-3-1: Prepare, adopt, and periodically update a long-term Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for public facilities for the entire planning period.

13-1-2: Locate land use activities with adequate density and intensity so as to reduce energy-consuming travel and development patterns.

The proposed plan was developed with RAPRD as a member of the technical advisory committee and with input provided from the Redmond School District. The proposed plan addresses recreation needs through evaluation of demographic trends, industry research, and community feedback, and provides recommended performance metrics, policies, and a twenty-year CIP projects list. Most of the CIP projects are upgrades to existing facilities, however, target acquisition areas for the development of eleven new parks are also included. These target areas are planned within existing park network gaps to provide recreational facilities to neighborhoods that might otherwise be underserved, reducing accessibility and energy-consuming travel requirements for park users. Overall, the proposed plan was developed to address anticipated population growth and resident needs and will enable the City to provide recreational facilities in time with urban development. These policies are met.

4. That there is a change of circumstances, further studies justifying the amendment or mistake in the original zoning.

FINDING: The 2018 Citywide Parks Master Plan was adopted on January 9, 2018, via Ordinance 2018-02. Since then, four new parks were developed, eleven parks were improved, and multiple trail acquisition and improvements have occurred. Given this and the estimated 8,600 increase in Redmond's population over the previous six years, staff finds that the circumstances have changed such that an update to the parks master plan is warranted. This criterion is met.

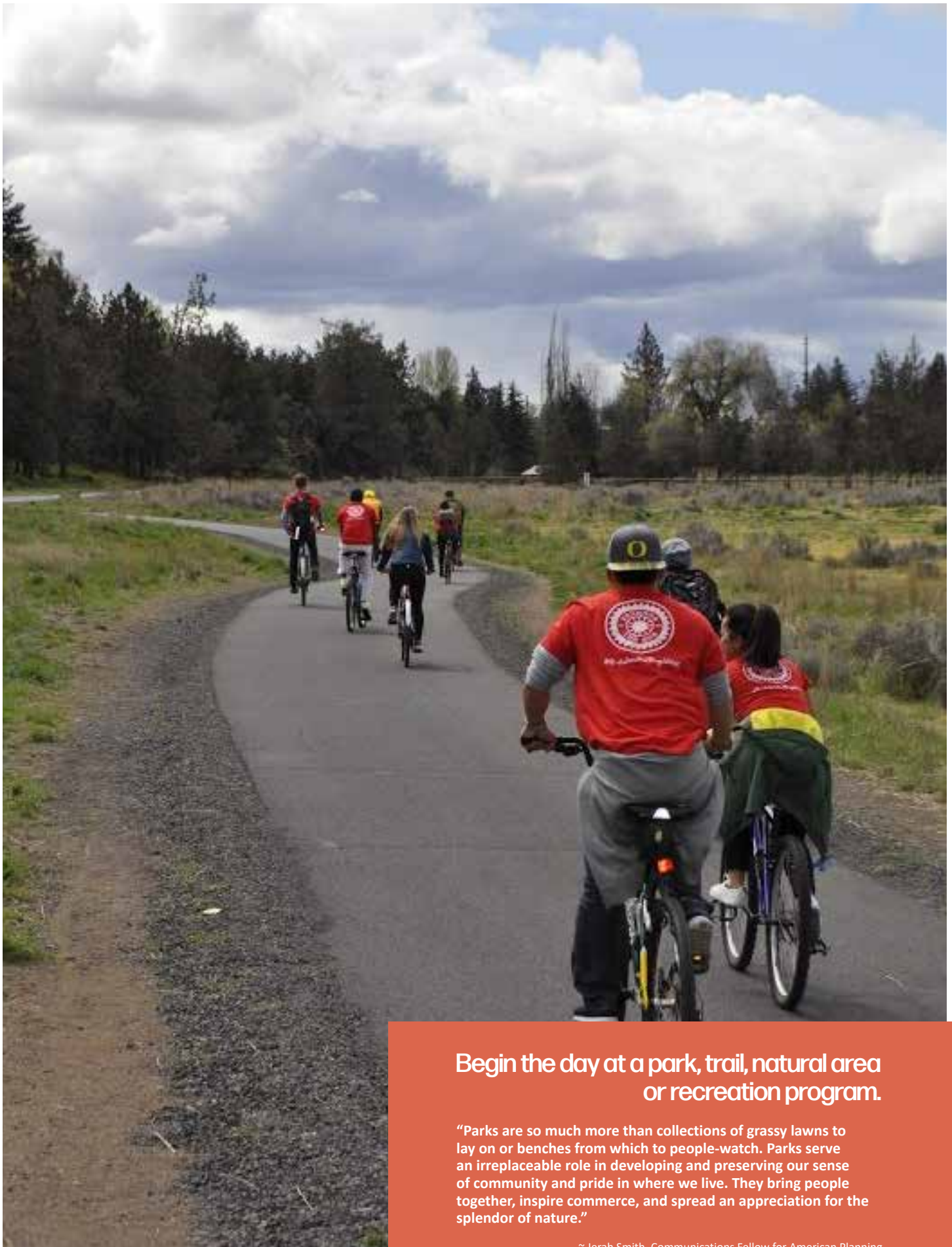
III. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to RDC 8.1120, the City Council shall be the final hearings body for this application at the local level. City Council adoption of the application via ordinance would have the effect of replacing the 2018 Citywide Parks Master Plan with the 2024 Parks Master Plan within the Redmond Comprehensive Plan 2040. Based on the findings of compliance with all applicable criteria in Subsection II above, staff recommends the RUAPC adopt a recommendation of approval for City Council review.



2024 Parks Master Plan

OCTOBER 2024



Begin the day at a park, trail, natural area or recreation program.

"Parks are so much more than collections of grassy lawns to lay on or benches from which to people-watch. Parks serve an irreplaceable role in developing and preserving our sense of community and pride in where we live. They bring people together, inspire commerce, and spread an appreciation for the splendor of nature."

~ Jerah Smith, Communications Fellow for American Planning Association's Great Places in America program

Acknowledgements

City Council

Ed Fitch, Mayor
Tobias Colvin, City Councilor
Clifford Evelyn, City Councilor
John Nielsen, City Councilor
Kathryn Osborne, City Councilor
Shannon Wedding, City Councilor
Cat Zwicker, City Councilor

Parks Committee

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Sydney Forbes, Vice-Chair
Jeannie Cote-Lashonse
Peter Gassner
Richard Lance
Gary Ollerenshaw
Brad Porterfield
Erin Trimble
Alison Anguilar, Youth Ex-Officio

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Kyle Roberts, Planning Director
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Consultant Team

Conservation Technix, Inc.
MacKay Sposito

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Chapter 1

Overview & Introduction

PURPOSE

This citywide Parks Master Plan is an update to the Parks Master Plan adopted in 2018. Redmond has experienced significant changes since the adoption of the previous Master Plan, and this 2024 Plan has been revised to reflect current community choices and opportunities related to rapid growth and the need to continue to expand park and recreation facilities.

The Parks Master Plan will guide City elected and appointed officials, management, and staff when making decisions or taking actions regarding planning, acquiring, developing, or implementing parks, open space, or recreational facilities. The Plan is intended to be updated on a five-year cycle, with a rolling 20-year capital project list, to remain current with the community's recreational interests.

The Parks Master Plan creates a vision for an innovative, inclusive, and interconnected system of parks, recreational trails, and open spaces that promotes outdoor recreation, health, and environmental conservation as integral elements of a thriving, livable Redmond. The Plan will establish a path forward to guide the City's efforts to provide high quality, community-driven parks, trails, natural areas, and recreational opportunities across Redmond.

This 2024 Plan considers the park and recreation needs of residents citywide. It provides updated inventories, demographic conditions, needs analysis, management considerations, and capital project phasing. The Plan establishes specific goals, recommendations, and actions for developing, conserving, and maintaining high-quality parks, trails, facilities, and open spaces across the City. The Plan also integrates some of the facility considerations expressed through its partnership with the Redmond Area Parks and Recreation District and their programs hosted in neighborhood and community parks.

PLANNING PROCESS

This citywide Parks Master Plan is a reflection of the community's interests and needs for parks, recreational facilities, and trails. The planning process was aimed to encourage and enable public engagement in the choices, priorities, and future direction of the City's park and recreation system. The Plan project team conducted a variety of public outreach activities to solicit feedback and comments, in concert with a review of the recreation system inventory, level of service review, and the current and future needs assessment.

Current community interests surfaced through a series of public outreach efforts that included open house meetings, focus group meetings, online engagement, website content and Parks Committee meetings. An assessment of the park inventory became the basis for determining the current performance of the system to potential standards for parks. An overarching needs analysis was conducted for recreational facilities, parks, and trails to assess current demands and project future demand accounting for population growth.

To guide the implementation of the goals of the Plan, a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was developed with a set of strategies that identified costs and potential funding sources. Together, this process is represented in this planning document, which has been reviewed by the public, Parks Committee and City Council. The Plan can become a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan and direct park system service delivery for the next five to 15 years.

Oregon Goal 8 on Recreation Planning

Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 8 states:

"The requirements for meeting such needs, now and in the future, shall be planned for by governmental agencies having responsibility for recreation areas, facilities and opportunities: (1) in coordination with private enterprise; (2) in appropriate proportions; and (3) in such quantity, quality and locations as is consistent with the availability of the resources to meet such requirements. State and federal agency recreation plans shall be coordinated with local and regional recreational needs and plans."

The City of Redmond has included these elements in this Plan.

City residents are proud of Redmond for what has been invested in the park system in the years since the 2018 Plan, and the City recognizes the need to continue its efforts to provide for park and recreation facilities for its growing population. This Plan documents those interests and provides a framework for addressing capital development and funding in the near-term.

PARK SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Guided by Values

Redmond's City Council adopted its most recent annual budget in June 2024, and it reinforced the vision, values and priorities for the City's future.

City Vision Statement

The City of Redmond will be a model for Northwest communities by being innovative in the creation of a high quality of life, ample family wage jobs and a safe environment in which to raise and educate families.

Redmond City Council Goals

The Redmond City Council established seven broad goals for the two most recent fiscal years (2023–2025), ranging from housing to safety to good governance. Three objectives and action statements among the list relate to the provision park and recreation services.

- Growth Management: Pro-actively invest in efforts to manage and prepare for population growth.
- Downtown/Midtown/Medical District: Respond to near-term opportunities by investing time and resources into critical initiatives, with an action to "Expand options for activities for families and children."
- Good Governance: Redmond will be a model for northwest communities by being innovative in the creation of a high quality of life, ample family wage jobs and a safe environment in which to raise and educate families, with an action to "Look for opportunities for sustainable development practices and environmentally conscious approach in the use of City resources."

Parks & Facilities Division

The City of Redmond, located within Oregon's High Desert in the heart of Central Oregon and close to the Cascade Mountains, fully leverages its 300 average annual sunny days and four distinct seasons. The City's system of parks, trails, and outdoor amenities takes advantage of this special climate to provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation offerings for local residents and visitors.

Redmond Parks and Facilities Division is housed within the City's Public Works Department. The Division is responsible for the development

and maintenance of City-owned assets including distinctive natural areas, parks, trails, buildings, and the Redmond Memorial Cemetery. The Division maintains the 29 developed parks, 5.6 miles of Dry Canyon Trail and over 285 acres of undeveloped open space. It also maintains landscaping within the round-about and entrance gateways, the downtown hanging baskets and landscaped areas, oversees the tree program with more than 2,700 trees, and houses two City Arborists charged with implementing the City's City Code and tree maintenance programs. The City has been recognized for 19 years by the Arbor Day Foundation with a Tree City USA designation. The Parks Division also coordinates and promotes volunteer activities, such as Redmond Earth Day and restoring park amenities. It provides support services to the ice skating rink and summer park events.

The Redmond Parks Division consists of 22 FTE spread across facilities maintenance and operations subareas. In total, the Department has an annual budget of \$14.5 million (FY 2024/25). The largest portion of this budget, \$8.5 million (59%), is attributed to capital outlay and fund reserves for construction and renovation projects. Operating costs, such as materials and services, account for \$2.7 million (19%) of the total budget. Personnel services at \$2.7 million represent an additional 19% of the total budget. The Division is primarily funded by the City's General Fund and system development charges.

Additionally, the Parks and Facilities Division plays a vital role in many aspects of community life, with staff support to two City committees.

Parks Committee

The Parks Committee is involved in park master planning, prioritizing park projects, setting objectives for park facilities, and evaluating citizen requests for special park uses. The Committee also participates in the planning process for acquisitions of parkland to meet community needs.

Juniper Golf Committee

The Juniper Golf Committee advises the City Council on issues pertaining to operation and management of the Juniper Golf Course.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2018

The previous Parks Master Plan was prepared in 2017 and adopted in 2018 as a clear guide for City officials, management, and staff in making decisions about planning and implementing parks, trails, and recreation facilities. The following represents a short list of the major accomplishments realized following the adoption of the previous plan:

- Five new park properties acquired
- Four parks developed: Quartz Park, Hathaway Park, Spruce Park, and Varnish Park
- Trailhead & trail connection improvements
- Baker Park perimeter path installation with exercise stations
- Centennial Park expansion
- Diamond Bar Ranch Park pavilion installation and turf and irrigation improvements
- Fairhaven Park play equipment installation
- Hayden Park playground upgrade
- Homestead Park improvements
- Kalama Park playground upgrade
- Quince Park nature-themed playground addition
- Sam Johnson Park tennis and pickleball courts resurfacing, plus basketball courts addition
- Valleyview Park tennis court resurfacing and conversion of one tennis court to four pickleball courts
- Umatilla Sports Complex play equipment installation
- Modernized the Park Amenity, Field and Court reservation process

**Developed four new parks
and acquired 65 acres
since the 2018 Plan**





PLAN CONTENTS

The remainder of the Redmond Parks Master Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile –provides an overview of the City of Redmond and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Community Listening – highlights the methods used to engage the Redmond community in the development of the Plan, as well as insights from past community planning efforts.
- Chapter 4: Classifications & Inventory – describes the existing parks and recreation system in the City.
- Chapter 5: Parks & Open Space Needs Assessment – discusses community feedback and other recreation trend data and provides context to the identification of potential park system enhancements.
- Chapter 6: Operations & Maintenance – provides a policy framework for the parks system grouped by major functional or program area.
- Chapter 7: Goals & Actions – provides a policy framework for the parks system grouped by major functional or program area.
- Chapter 8: Implementation – describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan and details a 20-year program for addressing park and facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Appendices – provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort.





Chapter 2

Snapshot: Redmond Today

Redmond is a medium sized city of just over 38,000 residents located in the high desert of eastern Oregon. The city was incorporated in 1910 and remained a small city through much of the twentieth century. However, Redmond has seen rapid growth over the past 20 years and is expected to continue to grow over the coming decades.

Redmond's climate – boasting over 300 days of sunshine a year – its easy transportation access, revitalizing downtown, lower cost of living, and abundant recreation opportunities are attracting families and retirees to the city.

LOCATION

Redmond lies in the heart of Central Oregon, surrounded by agricultural and rangelands. Nestled on the High Desert plateau, Redmond sits at an elevation of about 3,077 feet, surrounded by a diverse landscape. The area is characterized by its arid climate with sagebrush, juniper, and ponderosa pines dominating the landscape. To the west, Deschutes National Forest offers a mix of dense pine forests and volcanic rock formations and gives way to the Cascade Range, including Mount Bachelor and the Three Sisters.

Redmond is a central hub in the region, with major highways making it easily accessible. U.S. Highway 97 runs directly through the city, serving as a key north-south route that connects Redmond to Bend to the south and Madras to the north. State Highway 126 intersects with U.S. 97 in Redmond, providing an east-west route that leads to Sisters to the west and to Prineville and the Ochoco National Forest to the east. These highways make Redmond an important gateway for travelers exploring Central Oregon. Redmond is also home to Eastern Oregon's largest commercial airport.

HISTORY

Native American people, including the Northern Paiute, originally inhabited Oregon's high desert and the Redmond area. Originally semi-nomadic, early native residents travelled widely and faced conflicts with other area tribes, as well with white settlers travelling west. The Snake War, a major conflict between white settlers and the Northern Paiute, resulted in the deaths of nearly half of the native population.

Frank and Josephine Redmond, after whom the city is named, established their homestead along a planned irrigation canal and railroad in what would become Redmond in 1904. The City of Redmond was later platted as part of the creation of an irrigation canal district to support local agriculture. It was incorporated in 1910.

The town developed rapidly in the early part of the century, spurred by agricultural opportunities brought by accessible water; the completion of the Oregon Trunk Line railroad; construction of the High Bridge connecting the city by road to Oregon 97; and by electrification.

By the 1920s, Redmond had established itself as a key service center for the surrounding agricultural areas, with businesses, schools, and civic organizations taking root. The Great Depression of the 1930s brought challenges, but Redmond managed to persevere, partly due to federal projects like the construction of the Redmond Air Base in 1942, which later became the Roberts Field Airport. This development was a turning point, as it established Redmond as a critical transportation hub for Central Oregon. The air base would eventually become the Redmond Municipal Airport, the largest commercial airport east of the Cascades.

Redmond grew slowly throughout the mid-20th century. Agricultural, timber, and manufacturing industries, as well as a commercial main street, formed the basis of local employment. However, Redmond's population has expanded rapidly over the past 25 years, fueled by a combination of its attractive location, economic opportunities, and the broader growth of Central Oregon as a desirable place to live and work. Today, Redmond is known not just for its rich history, but also for its vibrant community and strategic importance in the region, balancing its historic roots with modern development.

ECONOMY

Redmond's economy centers on educational and health service sector – which employs one in four workers. Retail, construction, and the professional and management sectors each employ between 10% and 15% of workers and contribute significantly to the local economy. Major employers include local government, schools and hospitals, residential construction, and tourism and hospitality businesses.

Over six in ten residents over 18 are employed, though 4.8% are unemployed, and 33% are out of the work force. Despite relatively healthy employment levels, community members tend to have more modest incomes relative to the County as a whole. At approximately \$40,150, the median income in Redmond is \$11,000 less than that of surrounding Deschutes County.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Today, Redmond is a rapidly growing community whose population has more than doubled over the past twenty years. It is home to many families with children, making up more than three in ten households, who enjoy the recreational opportunities provided by the city’s parks and open spaces.

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: Redmond, Deschutes County, and Oregon State

Demographics	Redmond	Deschutes County	Oregon
Population Characteristics			
Population (2023) ¹	38,208	212,099	4,300,931
Population (2020) ²	33,274	198,253	4,233,358
Population (2000) ³	26,215	157,733	3,831,074
Percent Change (2010-23)	45.7%	34.5%	12.3%
Persons with Disabilities (%) ⁴	14.7%	12.0%	14.9%
Household Characteristics ⁴			
Households	13,025	81,481	1,680,800
Percent with children	30.9%	27.0%	27.7%
Median Household Income	\$72,798	\$82,042	\$76,732
Average Household Size	2.61	2.43	2.46
Average Family Size	3.14	2.88	3
Owner Occupancy Rate	64.2%	69.7%	63.2%
Age Groups ⁴			
Median Age	36.4	42.6	39.9
Population < 5 years of age	5.9%	4.8%	5.1%
Population < 18 years of age	22.8%	19.4%	20.2%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	60.8%	60.1%	61.5%
Population > 65 years of age	16.4%	20.5%	18.3%

Sources:

- *1: Portland State University Population Research Center. "Certified Population Estimates for Oregon and Counties, July 1, 2023".
- *2: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census.
- *3: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census.
- *4: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Population

Redmond’s population growth over time has been closely tied to key economic developments, transportation improvements, and its appeal as a livable community in Central Oregon.

In its early years after incorporation in 1910, Redmond was a small, tight-knit community. The arrival of the Oregon Trunk Railway in 1911 was one of the first major catalysts for growth, as it facilitated the movement of people and goods to and from the area.

The availability of irrigation from the Central Oregon Irrigation District also attracted settlers looking to farm the land, leading to a gradual increase in population through the 1920s and 1930s.

However, significant population growth did not occur until after World War II, when the development of the Redmond Air Base (later Roberts Field Airport) provided jobs and made Redmond more accessible, encouraging more people to move to the area. The timber industry’s expansion during the mid-20th century also contributed to the local economy,

supporting population growth as workers and their families settled in the region.

In the latter half of the 20th century, Redmond's population began to grow more rapidly. The broader development of Central Oregon, particularly the growth of nearby Bend, played a significant role in this. As Bend became more crowded and expensive, many people began to look to Redmond as an alternative, drawn by its lower cost of living, scenic beauty, and proximity to outdoor recreational opportunities.

Redmond's population grew rapidly in the 1990s and 2000s, driven by the diversification of the local economy, improvements in infrastructure, and Redmond's increasing reputation as a desirable place to live. The city's population grew from around 7,000 in 1990 to over 20,000 by 2010, and it has continued to expand since then, with the 2020 Census recording over 30,000 residents. The influx of new residents has been supported by Redmond's ongoing development, including new housing, schools, and businesses, making it one of the fastest-growing cities in Oregon.

The size of a community and its anticipated growth over time are key indicators of whether existing park and recreation facilities will be sufficient to meet future needs. Population growth can also result in increased residential density and/or the development of currently vacant land within a city, potentially increasing the need for away-from-home recreation opportunities while simultaneously reducing potential locations for

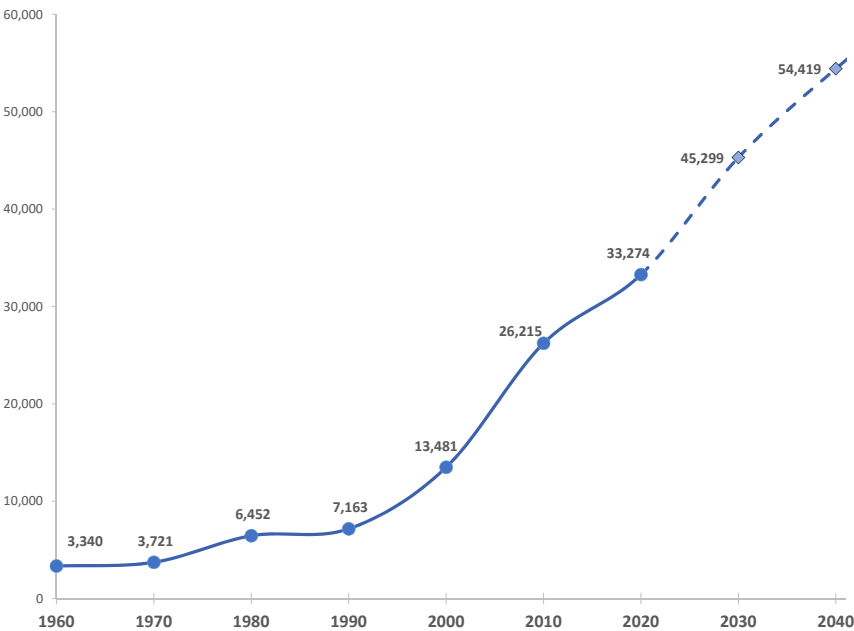
park and open space acquisition. Planning for parks and recreation facilities can help ensure residents can enjoy sufficient, conveniently located parks, open space, and recreation facilities while the community grows and evolves.

Age Group Distribution

Redmond's population has a median age of 36.4 (2022), much lower than both the Deschutes County (42.6) and statewide (39.9) averages. Adults between the ages of 25 and 44 make up the city's largest 20-year population group, comprising 30% of the overall population in 2022. This has important implications for park and recreation needs.

- Approximately 6% of Redmond's population are youth under 5 years old. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- Children 5 to 14 years make up current youth program participants. Approximately 14% of the city's population falls into this age range.
- Teens and young adults, age 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth program to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Residents of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. About 11% percent of the city's residents are teens and young adults.

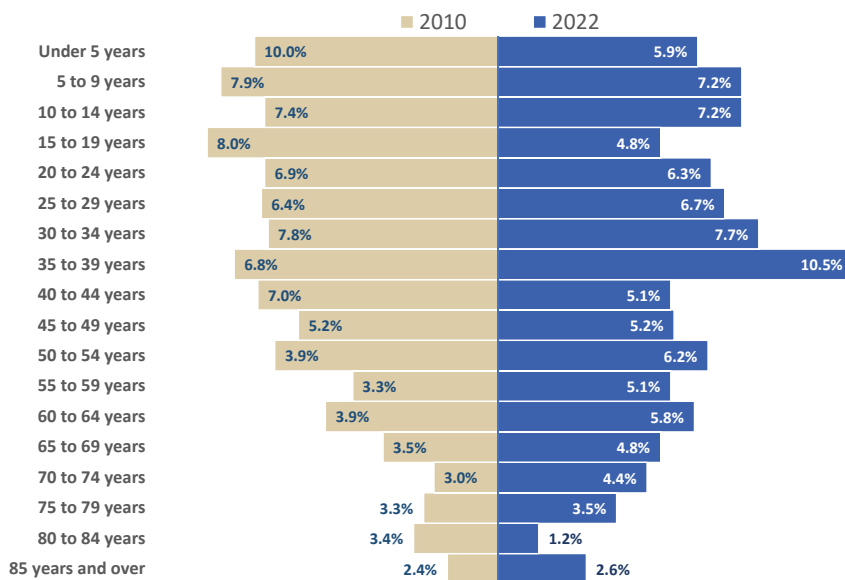
Figure 2. Population Change – Actual and Projected: 1960 – 2040



Sources
U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census.
Population Forecasts (2030 & 2040) prepared by Population Research Center, Portland State University, June 30, 2022.

- Adults ages 25 to 34 years are users of adult programs. About 21% of residents are in this age category, see Figure 3. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families. About 31% of households in the city are families with children.
- Adults between 35 and 54 years of age represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This age group makes up 27% of Redmond's population.
- Older adults, ages 55 years plus, make up 27% of Redmond's population. This group represents users of adult and senior programs. These residents may be approaching retirement or already retired and may be spending time with grandchildren. This group also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2010 & 2022



Household Characteristics

In 2022, the average household in Redmond was 2.61 people, higher than the state (2.46) and county (2.43) average. The average family is larger, at 3.14 people. Of the 13,025 households in the city, 31% were families with children under 18, and 26% were individuals living alone. Most city households own their home (64%), on par with the average throughout Oregon (63%), while 36% rent.

Employment & Education

The 2022 work force population (16 years and over) of Redmond is 26,812 (78%). Of this population, 62%

percent is employed, 4.8% is unemployed, and 33% is not in the labor force. Residents work in a wide variety of industries – about 25% of employed residents work in education and health care, 15% work in retail trade, and 14% work in construction. The professional and management services sector and arts, entertainment, and recreation sector each employ about 10% of workers and contribute significantly to the local economy.

The majority (89%) of Redmond residents over 25 years of age have a high school degree or higher, a rate slightly lower than the statewide average (92%). About 25% of city residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher, lower than statewide rates (36%).

Higher levels of employment and educational attainment positively correlate with both the income and health status of a community – both of which have further impacts on the use and need for park and recreation facilities, as described in the next two sections.

Income & Poverty

A community’s level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members as well as their willingness and ability to pay for recreational services. In 2022, the median household income in Redmond was \$72,798. This income level was about \$9,244 (11%) lower than the median income for Deschutes County households.

Higher income households typically have an increased capacity to pay for recreation and leisure services and often face fewer barriers to participation. Approximately 30% of Redmond households have household incomes in the higher income brackets (\$100,000 and greater), lower than the county average (40%).

Also, it is essential to consider the needs of lower-income residents, who may encounter barriers to physical activity due to reduced access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time, and poor health. Lower-income residents may also be less financially able to afford recreational service fees or pay for services like childcare that can make physical activity possible. In Redmond, 12% of households earn less than \$25,000 annually and 7% of local families live below the poverty level (\$27,750 for a family of four), slightly higher than county rates. Poverty affects 13% of youth under 18 and 7% of adults.

Race & Ethnicity

Redmond, like much of Central Oregon, has historically had a less diverse population compared to urban cities in the state. However, Redmond has become more diverse over time, especially as it has grown rapidly in recent decades.

As of 2020, the majority of Redmond’s population identified as White (81%), but the city has seen an increase in the number of residents of other racial and ethnic backgrounds. The Hispanic and Latino community is the largest minority group in Redmond, making up approximately 14% of the population, with

most identifying as Mexican. Smaller percentages of residents identify as Asian (1.2%), American or Alaskan Native (1.2%), two or more races (6%), or some other race not listed on U.S. Census forms (10%), see Figure 4.

Figure 4. Changes in Racial Composition - 2010 to 2020

Racial Identification	2010 ⁷	2022 ⁸
White	89.0%	81.2%
Two or more races	2.9%	10.0%
American Indian & Alaska Native	1.3%	1.2%
Asian	0.8%	1.2%
Black or African American	0.4%	0.6%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.1%
Some other race	5.4%	5.7%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	12.5%	14.0%

Approximately 12% of Redmond’s residents speak a language other than English at home, primarily Spanish, and about 4% speak English less than very well. The City should continue to provide information in Spanish to ensure recreation is accessible to these residents.

As noted above in the income and poverty section, people of color and residents who speak languages other than English may face similar barriers in finding, accessing, and participating in park and recreation facilities and programs. As it plans for future park and recreational opportunities, the City should explore ways to best meet the recreational needs of all community members.

Persons with Disabilities

The 2022 American Community Survey reported 15% of Redmond’s population (about 5,000 people) have a disability that interferes with life activities. This is on par with county and state averages (14–15% each). Approximately 5% of youth under 18 years of age, 12% of adults 18 to 64, and 39% of residents over age 65 live with a disability, signaling a potential need to design inclusive parks, recreational facilities, and programs.

Planning, designing, and operating a park system that facilitates participation by residents of all abilities will help ensure compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition to ADA, there



are other accommodations that people with disabilities may need to access parks and participate in recreation programs. Redmond should consider community needs for inclusive and accessible parks, recreational facilities, programs, marketing, and communications.

HEALTH STATUS

The overall health of a community’s residents can impact their ability to participate in recreation and other physical activity and may also reflect, in part, the locality’s level of access to appropriate and convenient green spaces, recreation opportunities, and active transportation facilities.

Deschutes County, where Redmond is located, ranks relatively high in health outcomes compared to other counties in Oregon. According to the 2024 County Health Rankings, the county performs well in several key areas, including length of life and quality of life. This indicates that residents generally enjoy a longer and healthier life compared to other regions.

The health of Deschutes County’s residents is influenced by strong social and economic factors, such as high levels of education and employment, which contribute to the overall well-being of its residents. Additionally, Deschutes County benefits from better access to healthcare services and preventive measures, which further enhance public health outcomes. However, there are still challenges related to health equity, particularly for certain racial and ethnic groups who may face disparities in health conditions and access to care.

Approximately 17% of Deschutes County adults aged 20 and older report getting no leisure-time physical activity – a rate lower than the statewide average of 20% and the nationwide average of 23%. In Deschutes County, 93% of residents have access to adequate physical activity opportunities, which is higher with the average for all Oregon residents (88%). This suggests that the County has a reasonable number of places where residents can participate in physical activity, including parks, trails, and public or private community centers, gyms, or other recreational facilities.

3



Community Engagement Process

Community engagement played an essential role in developing the 2024 Parks Master Plan. Several outreach methods were used to connect with the community, seek their input, and provide information about the Plan through convenient online and in-person activities. Public outreach methods were varied and extensive, including:

- Random-sample mailed and online survey
- Two community meetings
- Three focus group discussions
- Tabling at two community events
- Parks Master Plan Task Force meetings
- Regular meetings with the Parks Committee and City Council
- City Parks web page
- Social media content & emails

Throughout this process, the public provided information and expressed opinions about their needs and priorities for parks, trails and recreation facilities and programs in Redmond. This feedback played a crucial role in updating policy statements and prioritizing the Capital Improvements Plan project list contained within this Plan.

Community Survey

A survey was conducted both online and via mail to assess the recreational needs and priorities of Redmond residents. On April 26, 2024, the city mailed 2,500 surveys to randomly chosen households in Redmond, of which 237 were completed and returned (9.5% response rate, 6% margin of error). An online version of the survey was posted to the City's website on May 1, 2024. An additional 367 surveys were completed from the general, community-wide online survey. In all, 604 surveys were collected.

Information about the survey was promoted through several channels, including on the City's website, through multiple social media postings and through direct outreach to partner organizations. The survey was closed on June 2, 2024, and the full dataset was compiled and reviewed.

The survey gauged current satisfaction levels, identified which facilities were primarily used by residents, and asked about potential future recreational amenities desired to be incorporated into the park system. Survey respondents were asked about:

- Performance and quality of programs and parks.
- Usage of City parks and recreation facilities.
- Overall satisfaction with the value of services being delivered by the City.
- Opinions about the need for various parks, recreation, and trail improvements.
- Priorities for future park and recreation services and facilities.

Significant survey findings are noted below. A more detailed discussion of results can be found in the needs assessment chapter (Chapter 5). A complete survey summary is provided in Appendix B.

Key Findings

- Nearly all respondents (97%) feel that public parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life on Redmond.
- Many residents of Redmond visit the city's parks and recreation facilities, including the Dry Canyon and Canal Trail systems, to walk or run, exercise, relax, walk a dog, or attend a community event.
- A large majority of respondents (81%) are satisfied with Redmond's parks and open spaces. Overall, residents would like the City to prioritize acquiring land for community parks and expanding trail opportunities.

In hundreds of open-ended comments, survey respondents asked the City to consider:

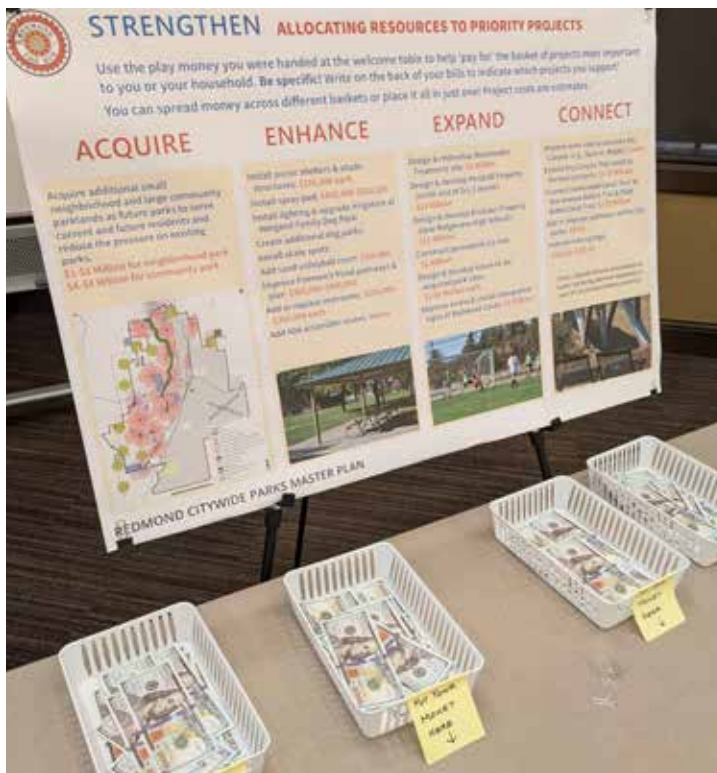
- **Trails and Connectivity:** Residents called for safer, more interconnected walking and biking routes, emphasizing both paved and unpaved trails for various activities. They particularly focus on improving access to the Dry Canyon Trail, ensuring safe street crossings, and adding segregated paths and off-road trails to enhance safety and connectivity.
- **Environmental Conservation:** Respondents stressed the importance of preserving natural areas, reducing water use, and responsibly managing vegetation.
- **Recreation and Sports Facilities:** There is strong support for expanding and improving recreation and sports facilities, including the new Redmond Recreation Center (RAPRD). Residents also expressed interest in more disc golf courses, soccer and baseball fields, bike parks, pickleball courts, and off-leash dog areas.
- **Community Events and Family-Friendly Activities:** There is a strong interest in more inclusive recreational options for all age groups, with specific suggestions for activities for teenagers. Residents also prioritize enhanced playgrounds, shaded areas, picnic areas, and additional family-friendly community events.
- **Security and Maintenance:** Safety, maintenance, and cleanliness of city parks are major interests, with residents suggesting increased security and better lighting to deter vandalism. They also advocate for stricter enforcement of leash laws and rules against littering, drug use, and graffiti, as well as more regular trash collection and cleaning.

Public Meetings

Open House Meeting #1 (May 30, 2024)

Community members were invited to an open house for the Parks Master Plan on Thursday, May 30, 2024 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at City Hall. The project team prepared informational displays covering the major themes of the Parks Master Plan. These displays included project overview, survey highlights, parks and outdoor recreation, e-bikes, lighting, water-wise landscapes, and investment priorities. The meeting was conducted as an in-person event.

Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members and record their comments. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation



in Redmond. Approximately 35 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

Comments offered ideas on system-wide improvements including adding more parklands, increasing connectivity between parks and to Dry Canyon. Park and recreation priorities for future investments indicated a strong desire for more walking trails, dog parks, sports fields, restrooms, and spray pads. Participants shared thoughts on the use of e-bikes and e-scooters on trails, park and trail night lighting, and water-wise landscaping approaches for parks. A full summary open house comments are detailed in Appendix C.

Open House Meeting #2 (September 9, 2024)

The second Parks Master Plan open house was held on Monday, September 9, 2024 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Structured similarly to the first open house, a series of informational displays provided an overview of the planning project, proposed park and outdoor recreation enhancements, and proposed projects segmented by project type. Attendees were provided with \$1 million of play money to distribute across a variety of proposed project types. Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members

and record their comments, and approximately 18 people attended the meeting. Comments including the following:

- Trail extension/expansion projects, such as extending the Dry Canyon Trail to the Pershall property
- Improving education/information about bike etiquette, and concerns about e-bike conflicts with other trail users
- Developing new parks, such as the Pershall property, additional neighborhood parks, and more dog parks
- Adding/improving amenities, such as adding benches around Hope Playground and winterizing major restrooms for year-round use
- Adding more emphasis on site management, trail maintenance, and natural area maintenance

For the play money allocations, attendees favored projects that expand recreation options and allocated \$6 million in play money to that grouping of projects. Between \$3 – \$4 million in play money was allocated for each of the other three project types: acquiring new parklands, enhancing existing parks, and connecting/expanding trails. A meeting summary is provided in Appendix D.

Community Event Tabling

City staff conducted a series of tabling activities at community events and festivals. Tabling occurred in August 2024 to build awareness of the Parks Master Plan and solicit input on priorities for improvements or upgrades to city parks, trails, and open space. Tabling occurred during the National Night Out (August 6, 2024) and Music in the Park (August 16, 2024). The combined, estimated attendance for these community events ranged between 3,500 people.

Focus Group Discussions

The City of Redmond conducted three stakeholder group discussions in May 2024 as part of their efforts to engage the community in the early stages of the 2024 Parks Master Plan update. The City identified three stakeholder interest areas to be represented – Recreation & Events, Dry Canyon Trail & Natural Area, and Park Users – and conducted outreach to individuals representing each area to participate in the group discussions. The outreach consisted of an initial email invitation to several individuals and organizations to solicit interest and follow-up emails to confirm the meeting date and time with interested parties. The purpose of these group discussions was to evaluate local needs and identify opportunities for enhancements to the park system.

Participants from each focus group discussion shared their appreciation for current parks, trails, and open spaces, highlighting their value as recreational and natural assets within the community. They expressed desires for future enhancements in sports facilities and park use, including requests for improved amenities and expanded recreational opportunities.

Participants contributed various ideas and suggestions for inclusion in the 2024 Parks Master Plan, emphasizing themes such as accessibility, sustainability, community engagement, and the preservation of natural resources. While each group had different responses to many of the questions, several interests were held in common across groups and included:

- There are stroller and ADA access issues into Canyon and limited access points.
- Explore options for better east/west trail connectivity. Look at options for trails within the Pershall property on the north side and COID laterals.

- Develop trail access to Cline Park and the Deschutes River; link to County Bike Ped Plan
- Acquire more land for active use park needs and more natural areas.
- Conduct more restoration to natural spaces. Utilize volunteers for planting and stewardship efforts
- Redmond needs access to more fields (i.e., soccer). A sport complex is needed to support the needs of multiple organizations.

Specific recommendations are incorporated in the needs assessment section (Chapter 5), and a full summary is provided in Appendix D.

Other Outreach Methods

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities described above, the Redmond community was informed about the planning process through various media platforms. The following methods were used to share information about the project and provide opportunities for community participation and feedback:

- City website home page
- Parks Master Plan project page
- Email outreach through the City's distribution list and partner organizations
- Social media via X/Twitter and Facebook
- Media releases and City newsletter
- Redmond Spokesman & Bend Bulletin



Chapter 4

Classifications & Inventory

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The classifications also reflect standards that inform future acquisitions and development decisions and operations and maintenance expectations for the level of developed facilities or natural lands. Classifying parkland by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and to plan for an efficient, cost-effective, and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent land uses.

Redmond's park system comprises a hierarchy of various park types, each offering different recreational

opportunities and natural environmental functions. The parks system is intended to serve the full range of community needs. The classification characteristics serve as general guidelines addressing the size and use of each park. The following five classifications are in effect in Redmond and are defined as follow:

- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mini Parks
- Special Use Facilities
- Natural Resource Areas & Open Space

Each park classification defines the site's function, amenities, and recreational uses. City-owned community, neighborhood, and mini parks provide outdoor recreation opportunities that offer a range of activities. Special-use facilities are specialized park sites or facilities designed for unique and primary purposes. Open space areas may vary in diverse natural characteristics and ecological functions, though they may not always provide public access or recreational value. The following descriptive guidelines offer the typical composition of each park classification.

Community Parks

Community parks are large park sites developed for organized play that generally contain a wide array of both programmed and unstructured recreation facilities and appeal to a diverse group of users. In general, community parks are designed for active and structured recreational activities and sports, although complementary passive components such as pathways, picnic areas, and natural areas provide non-organized opportunities for individual and family activities.

Community parks are generally ten to 40 acres in size, should meet a minimum size of 15 acres when possible and serve residents within a 2-mile drive, walk, or bike ride from the site. In areas without neighborhood parks, community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks. Since community parks serve a large geographic area and offer more facilities than neighborhood parks, on-site parking and restroom facilities should be provided.



Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are generally considered the basic unit of traditional park systems. They are small park areas generally designed for unstructured, non-organized play and limited active recreation. They are three to five acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including neighborhood need, physical location and opportunity.

Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity (up to ½-mile walking or biking distance) of the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Access to neighborhood parks is mostly pedestrian, and park sites should be located such that people living within the service area can reach the park safely and conveniently. Neighborhood parks should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites. Connecting and frontage streets should include sidewalks or other safe pedestrian access. Additionally, street plans should encourage maximum connectivity and public access to park sites.

Developed neighborhood parks should include amenities such as pedestrian paths, a picnic shelter or pavilion, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, open field area for informal play, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas and landscaping. When neighborhood





parks are designed in conjunction with school sites, these sites can include multi-use sport fields. On-site parking and ADA-accessible parking may be provided.

Due to their potential role for supporting summer and sport camp programming, select neighborhood parks should be utilized for hosting and supporting both active, structured and passive, unstructured uses. For neighborhood parks serving this expanded role, additional site amenities, open grass areas for field games, and permanent or portable toilets should be provided.

Mini Parks

Mini parks are small parks that provide limited opportunities for active play and unstructured recreation. They are generally less than one acre in size and provide some recreational amenity to residents within a ¼-mile walking distance. Developed mini parks may include lawn or other vegetation, a place to sit, and possibly a small feature, such as a play area, public art, or a historic or cultural marker. While mini parks can bring additional recreational amenities to a community, they cannot provide the range of experiences or activities of neighborhood and community parks due to their small size.



Special Use Areas

Special use facilities include single-purpose recreational areas or stand-alone sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. This classification may include stand-alone sport field complexes, golf courses, sites of historical or cultural significance, such as museums, historical landmarks and structures, and public plazas in or near commercial centers. Specialized facilities may also be provided within a park of another classification. No standards exist or are proposed concerning special facilities, since facility size is a function of the specific use.



Natural Resource Areas & Open Space

Natural resource areas are undeveloped lands intentionally left in a natural state and typically places that are geographically or geologically unique, with limited passive recreation use as a secondary objective. Natural areas can provide for connected or linked corridors that can support broader ecological functions than stand-alone properties. Open spaces are individual or isolated tracts of open space that are not connected to a larger natural area network. Natural resource areas may serve as trail corridors, and low-impact or passive activities, such as walking and nature observation may be allowed, where appropriate. No standards exist or are proposed for natural resource areas or open spaces. North Dry Canyon Park and the Redmond Caves are categorized as natural resource areas.

FACILITY INVENTORY

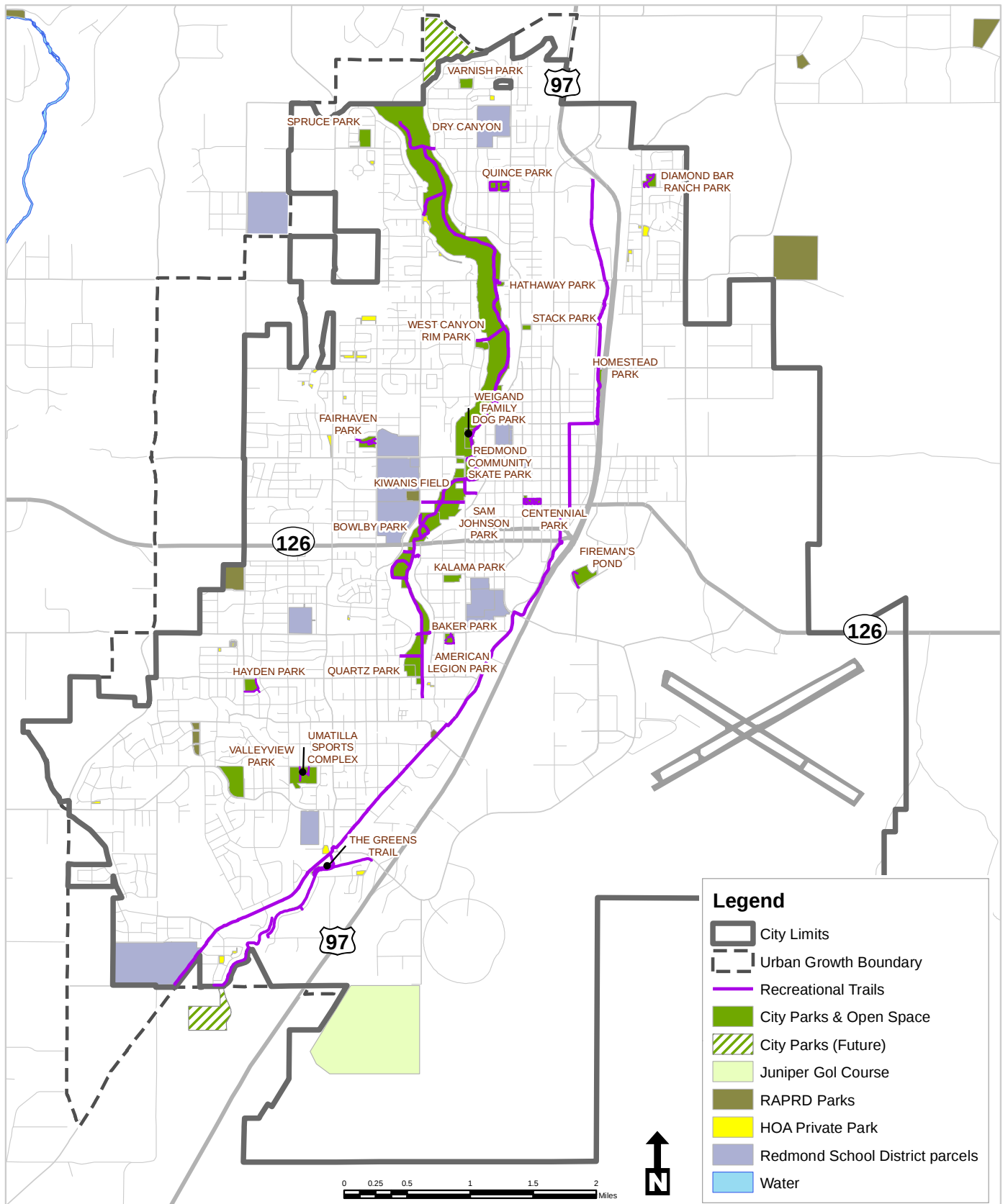
The City provides 28 developed parks, 14.5 miles of recreational trails and over 250 acres of undeveloped open space. The following table summarizes the current land inventory in Redmond.

Figure 5. Existing Inventory of City-owned Parks & Open Space

Park Type / Name	Status	Acreage	
Community Parks		Developed	Total Acres
Elkhorn Property	Undeveloped	0.00	22.31
Pershall Property	Undeveloped	0.00	36.16
South Dry Canyon Community Park			
American Legion Park	Developed	11.00	11.85
Bowlby Sports Complex	Developed	6.75	6.75
Kiwanis Field	Developed	1.54	1.54
Quartz Park	Partially Developed	6.40	7.20
Sam Johnson Park	Developed	9.73	9.73
Skate Park	Developed	0.67	0.67
Spud Bowl Park	Developed	4.74	4.74
Natural Area	Partially Developed	0.00	47.97
Umatilla Sports Complex	Developed	9.70	9.70
Neighborhood Parks			
Baker Park	Developed	1.77	1.77
Diamond Bar Ranch Park	Developed	3.00	3.30
Fairhaven Park	Developed	3.11	3.46
Hayden Park	Developed	3.06	3.06
Homestead	Developed	2.86	2.86
Kalama Park	Developed	2.36	2.36
Quince Park	Developed	4.10	4.10
Spruce Park	Developed	4.40	4.40
Valleyview Park	Developed	1.80	10.31
Varnish Park	Developed	2.20	2.20
West Canyon Rim Park	Developed	1.94	1.94
Mini Parks			
Maple Avenue Overlook / Hathaway Park	Developed	0.57	0.57
Pocket Park (NW Canyon Dr & Greenwood Ave)	Developed	0.10	0.10
Stack Park	Developed	0.81	0.81
Natural Resource Areas / Open Spaces			
North Dry Canyon	Undeveloped		166.10
Redmond Caves	Undeveloped		40.50
Special Use Facilities			
Centennial Park	Developed	1.85	1.85
Fireman's Pond	Developed	5.77	5.77
Juniper Golf Course	Developed	178.00	178.00
North Canyon Trailhead	Developed	0.50	0.50
The Greens	Developed	3.02	3.02
Weigand Family Dog Park	Developed	2.93	2.93
TOTAL		274.68	598.53

The following map shows the location of existing parks and open spaces within the City. The following sections provide an overview of other nearby recreational opportunities. Appendix A details site-

specific inventory information and recommendations for public parklands managed by the City of Redmond.



Map 1: Existing Parks, Open Space & Trails

OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Juniper Golf Course

Redmond's 178-acre Juniper Golf Course is an 18-hole championship golf course and includes practice facilities, golf shop, restaurant and special events venue. Redmond residents can utilize the course with a local green fee discount. The course hosts Redmond High School and Ridgeview High School boys and girls golf teams for complimentary practice and play, and numerous events are hosted on site annually. The course currently is managed by a third-party operator under a contract with the City.

Redmond Caves

The Redmond Caves are a group of five lava tubes located southwest of the Redmond Airport and are jointly managed by the City and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The caves were formed by volcanic flows of molten lava from the Newberry Caldera. The site is open year-round, and no amenities are provided on site.

Private HOA Parks & Open Space Tracts

Private homeowner associations (HOAs) provide another 23 mini parks across the city, totaling 10.4 acres. Private HOA parks contribute only slightly to the City's total park acreage, providing small-scale recreation opportunities for certain subdivisions. Private HOAs also provide an additional 30.3 acres of open space tracts. However, these private parks are not open to the general public. Because of this, the City should remain committed to providing neighborhood parks, especially for those residents not affiliated with private, homeowner association amenities and resources.

Other Public Recreation Providers

Redmond Area Park and Recreation District (RAPRD)

The Redmond Area Park and Recreation District (RAPRD) is a special tax district and serves the recreation needs of the great Redmond area, including the communities of Redmond, Terrebonne and Tumalo. The City of Redmond and RAPRD share a close working relationship in providing recreation resources to the community.

The District's facilities include the Cascade Swim Center & CSC Park, Pleasant Ridge Community Hall, the High Desert Sports Complex, Borden Beck Park, and undeveloped park sites at Majestic Ridge in Redmond and outside the city limits at Tetherow Crossing. The amenities at the Cascade Swim Center include a heated pool, spa, showers, splash park, basketball and a full-size sand volleyball court. RAPRD currently is constructing a new recreation center and pool on the western edge of the City of Redmond, which will include a gymnasium, walking track, cardio/fitness room, multi-purpose room and party room. The District offers a variety of recreation programs, which include youth and adult sports, before and after school programs, Red Cross classes, art classes, swim lessons and many others.

Bend Park & Recreation District (BPRD)

Bend Park & Recreation District maintains and operates more than 3,000+ acres of developed and undeveloped parkland, including 84 parks/open spaces and 75 miles of trail. The District offers over 1,000 recreation programs for all ages and abilities throughout the area and at the Juniper Swim & Fitness Center, The Pavilion and the Bend Senior Center. Bend Park & Recreation District is a special tax district, separate from the City of Bend.

Deschutes County

Deschutes County does not directly provide parks and recreation services. The County does own and operate the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center. The 340-acre site is located southwest of the Redmond Municipal Airport, and it is placed strategically at the hub of the tri-county area (Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook Counties). The facility is used for over 400 events public and private events annually. Each of its lawn areas can be rented exclusively by groups for different

events, which range from weddings, picnics, reunions, car shows, RV / motorcycle rallies, animal shows, and outdoor trade shows, among others.

Central Oregon Irrigation District

Established in 1918, the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) manages two main canals: the Pilot Butte Canal, which runs north through Bend, Redmond and Terrebonne; and the Central Oregon Canal, which runs east through Bend, Alfalfa, and Powell Butte. Both canals divert water from the Deschutes River. More than 700 miles of canals provide agricultural and industrial water to the Terrebonne, Redmond, Bend, Alfalfa and Powell Butte areas. COID has been supportive of utilizing canal ways for trail connections. The City of Redmond has worked with COID to construct trail segments along the Pilot Butte Canal.

State of Oregon

Oregon State Parks operates several well-known parks in Central Oregon and offers unique experiences for recreational users. These include day-use sites, waysides, campgrounds and scenic viewpoints. These diverse sites provide recreational opportunities for picnicking, fishing, swimming, bicycling, hiking, wildlife watching and environmental interpretation.

- Smith Rock State Park is located northeast of Redmond, and just north of the community of Terrebonne. The park covers over 650 acres and is a rock climbing, mountain bicycling and hiking destination. The park also provides camping, slack-lining, running, horse-back riding facilities.
- Cline Falls State Scenic Viewpoint is located on the banks of the Deschutes River. It is a rest area that provides plenty of shade for picnickers. The park provides fishing access to the river, picnicking, swimming access and toilets (flush).
- Tumalo State Park is located just south of the town of Tumalo and north of the City of Bend. The Park is about 330 acres and has camping, yurts, picnicking, fishing, swimming, restrooms (flush), bicycling and hiking trails, an amphitheater and playground.
- Peter Skene Ogden Scenic Viewpoint is about 86 acres and offers picnicking along the Crooked River just north of the town of Terrebonne.
- Redmond-Bend Juniper State Scenic Corridor consists of ten unimproved land parcels totaling about 353 acres. The parcels are located between Redmond and Bend.

Federal Lands

West of Redmond are the combined Willamette National Forest, Deschutes, and Sisters Range National Forests. These contiguous public recreation lands house the Cold Spring Campground, Sisters Cow Camp, Lava Camp Lake Trailhead, Three Creek Meadow Campground and Horse Camp, 370/4601 Junction Trailhead, Devils Lake Campground, Good Dog Trail, Aspen Day Use Area, Benham Falls East Trailhead, among others.

East of Redmond is the Ochoco National Forest, consisting of over 845,000 acres of land divided into three ranger districts: the Lookout Mountain Ranger District, the Paulina Ranger District, and the Snow Mountain Ranger District (currently administered by Malheur National Forest). The Forest is headquartered in Prineville, Oregon.

The Crooked River National Grassland is a unique landscape that serves as a host for a variety of different activities from hunting, fishing and boating to hiking, rock climbing and off-highway vehicle riding. The site also has camping, picnicking, bicycling, and horseback riding.

5

Chapter 5

Recreational Needs Assessment

The park system planning process assesses recreational needs and priorities for park facilities, active use areas, and open space in Redmond. The park assessment includes a discussion of specific local needs with consideration given to the City's broader park system. Public input and information on park inventory conditions also were heavily relied upon in the planning process. This chapter describes community feedback, trends, local needs, and potential improvements for the City's parks and recreational amenities.



PARK & RECREATION TRENDS

Understanding the outdoor recreation trends, along with community interests in parks, trails, and open space and assessing current conditions and levels of service, is essential for identifying and shaping recommendations for park system improvements within the City. Analyzing current recreation trends can inform potential enhancements and opportunities for the City's park system, contributing to a more vibrant community.

The following national and state data highlight some of the current trends in park usage, offering a framework for future considerations for Redmond's park system. Additional summaries of recreation trends are provided in Appendix G.

- 90% of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation is an important service provided by their local governments. (1)
- 84% of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live. (1)

- Running, jogging, and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities across the nation, based on levels of participation, followed by hiking, fishing, biking, and camping. (2)
- The outdoor activity categories with the highest growth rates among kids included backpacking, canoeing, climbing, and off-road triathlon. (2)
- A significantly higher percentage of seniors (ages 55+) are participating in outdoor recreation. In 2022, the senior participation rate hit a record high of 35% and is rising. (2)
- Participation nearly doubled for pickleball in 2022, increasing by 85.7% year-over-year. In 2022 for the first time in over seven years, every racquet sport increased its total participation number compared to the previous year. (3)
- Nationally, outdoor recreation economic activity increased 19% from 2020 to 2022, while the overall U.S. economy only saw a 5.9% increase. (4)

According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, recreation activity in the U.S. continues to increase for the sixth consecutive year. In 2023, the number of seriously committed athletes in America rose by 4.4%. This CORE participation is the foundation of any sport or activity. The Topline Participation Report shows strong positive trends across multiple sports and fitness categories.

Winter sports, team sports, racquet sports, and water sports all grew by over 9% last year. Winter sports grew by 22%, and team sports measured 10.8% growth with 20 of the 24 tracked sports showed increases. Pickleball is still the fastest growing sport in America with 51.8% growth last year and 223.5% in three years. Trend analysis shows fitness equipment and activities also showing gains in participation in 2023. Americans are valuing and pursuing active lifestyles post-pandemic.

According to 2024 Outdoor Participation Trends Report published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, the outdoor recreation participant base grew 4.1% in 2023 to a record 175.8 million Americans (57.3%) ages 6 and older. Key Insights include the following:

- **Diversity:** The participant base became more ethnically and racially diverse in 2023 but not by much. The number and percentage of Hispanic and Black people in the core participants has increased but the slower rate of increase compared to growth in the overall participant base indicates a lack of engagement in the more diverse participant base. Diversity brings new participants, new ideas, and new ways of engaging outdoors, more support for outdoor and environmental policies, and more dollars into the outdoor recreation market.
- **Women as Trailblazers:** More than half of American women are participating on outdoor recreation for the first time ever. Female participation reached 51.9% in 2023, up from 50% in 2022. American males reached a higher level in their participation rate with a new record of 62.9% in 2023.
- **Seniors:** Americans aged 55 to 64 showed increased participation of 49.7% in 2023, up from 41.2% in 2019. The participation rate for Americans aged 65 and older grew 11.5% between 2022 and 2023. Those participants aged 65 and older reached a 39.5% rate for 2023.

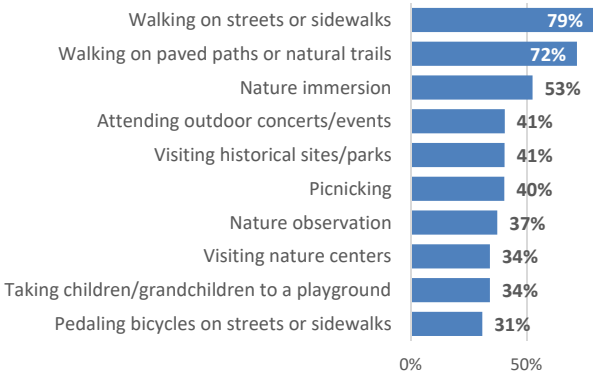
Demographics are changing quickly in the U.S. population, and the outdoor recreation market has lagged behind. Park and recreation agencies are recognizing the need for increased diversity in the

participant base of park and recreation users. The new and young outdoor participant bases are significantly more diverse than the total participant base, a formula for long-term growth in diversity for outdoor recreation. Monitoring progress on diversity is key to understanding if outreach is being effective.

The Draft 2025–2029 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), entitled “Balance and Engagement: Sustaining the Benefits for all Oregonians”, constitutes Oregon’s basic five-year plan for outdoor recreation. As part of developing the SCORP, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) conducted a statewide survey of Oregon residents regarding their 2022 outdoor recreation participation in Oregon, as well as their opinions about park and recreation management.

The survey measured the top ten outdoor recreation activities for Oregon residents that occur within their community. Walking rated the most participation whether on local streets and sidewalks or along paved paths or natural trails.

Figure 6. Top Ten Activities for Oregon Residents



Research also included the total net economic value for recreation participation in Oregon from their participation in 76 outdoor recreation activities in 2022 for a total of 1.27 billion user occasions. The total net economic value for a recreation activity is the value per activity day times the number of activity days. Filtering the top ten contributors for outdoor recreation activities and their associated economic value reveals walking and enjoying nature as the top generators followed by bicycling, running/jogging, field sports, and playground and dog park users.

Sources:

- (1) 2022 American Engagement with Parks Report, National Recreation and Park Association
- (2) 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends Report, Outdoor Foundation
- (3) 2023 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report, Sports and Fitness Industry Association
- (4) 2022 Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account data, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Trends in Playgrounds

Redmond residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities and park playgrounds are an important element in outdoor recreation. Reported in Landscape Architect magazine, the top five playground industry trends for 2021 were compiled from data and feedback from parks professionals, landscape architects, and educators.

1. **Inclusive Playgrounds**, increasingly popular over the last few years, have been evolving beyond meeting basic ADA guidelines. Designers are seeking to expand accessible playground equipment, consider multi-generational play, and leverage inclusive play to help overcome societal barriers.
2. **Rope-based Playgrounds**, climbers and playground nets provide a technique for working around natural environments and unusual topography. Their flexibility in placement offers more options for connecting with the landscape rather than working around difficult topography.
3. **Outdoor Fitness** has increased importance during the COVID-19 pandemic as many gyms and indoor fitness centers closed and forced more people to seek outdoor options. Outdoor fitness spaces are being increasingly integrated into park and trail designs to encourage health and physical fitness for all ages.
4. **Outdoor Learning** has been implemented during the pandemic to replace or supplement indoor classrooms. Outdoor classrooms can encourage activity in children to counteract the reduction in recess time due to hybrid class schedules and remote learning. Seating, tables, shelters, hand sanitizer stations and other outdoor products are helping create outdoor classrooms.
5. **Human-powered Play** engages users to provide physical energy to “power-up” the activity, such as turning a handle, pressing foot pedals, rotating wheels. These products often relate to sensory experiences like lights and music, story-telling, or social games.

Spurred on by the social distancing of the pandemic, these five trends in playground design and development point to more human-to-human interactions that reinforce the value of social connections, even in a physically distanced environment.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Community Survey Results

The community survey confirmed that Redmond residents strongly value their local parks, recreation options and open space opportunities. Virtually all survey respondents (97%) feel that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Redmond. Residents of all ages value parks and recreation similarly – there were no significant differences between age groups.

Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reason is for walking or running (70%). More than four in ten visit for fitness (44%), to walk a dog or use a dog park (44%), relax (43%), or attend a community event or concert (42%). More than one-third visit to view wildlife or enjoy nature (38%) or use a playground (38%). Between 20% and 30% of respondents visit for family gatherings, youth sports programs, or to use a sports field or splash pad, see Figure 7.

A large majority of respondents are somewhat to very satisfied with Redmond’s parks and open spaces (81%). However, more than one in six survey respondents (17%) are either somewhat or very dissatisfied in the City’s park and open space system. Respondents have varying views on the condition of Redmond’s community park. More than half of all respondents rated the condition of Sam Johnson, American Legion, and Quartz Parks as “excellent” or “good” (74%, 65%, and 63% respectively).

Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential park system investments. More than three quarters of respondents placed a high or top priority on seeing more hiking trails in natural open spaces (78%) and walking trails in parks (75%). More than half of respondents prioritized more outdoor performance areas or an amphitheater (55%) or community gardens (52%), see Figure 9. A minority of respondents placed a top or high priority on adding or expanding the other recreational facilities listed, which notably includes sports fields and courts.

Respondents were asked to rank various types of potential park system investments. Overall, respondents identified acquiring large pieces of land for larger community parks and expanding trail opportunities as their top priorities, see Figure 10.

Figure 7. Reasons for Visiting City Parks & Open Space

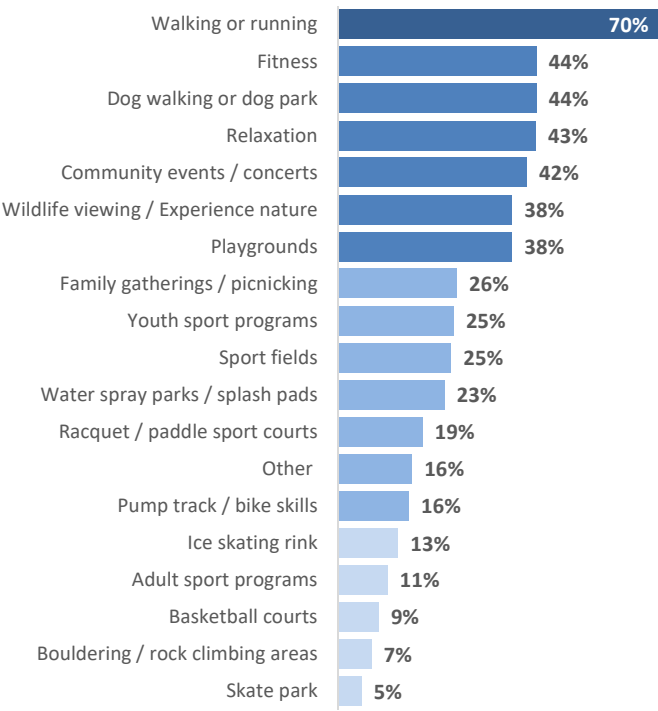
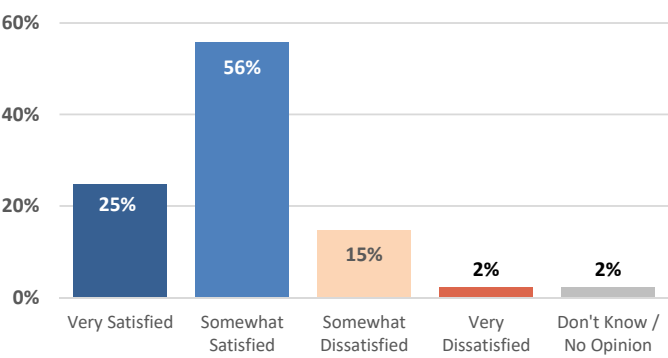


Figure 8. Sentiment Toward Condition of City Parks



Adding new recreational options and upgrading and renovating existing parks were moderate priorities. Acquiring additional land for smaller neighborhood parks and expanding communication about existing amenities were ranked as the lowest priorities by respondents.

Figure 9. Relative Priorities for Various Amenities

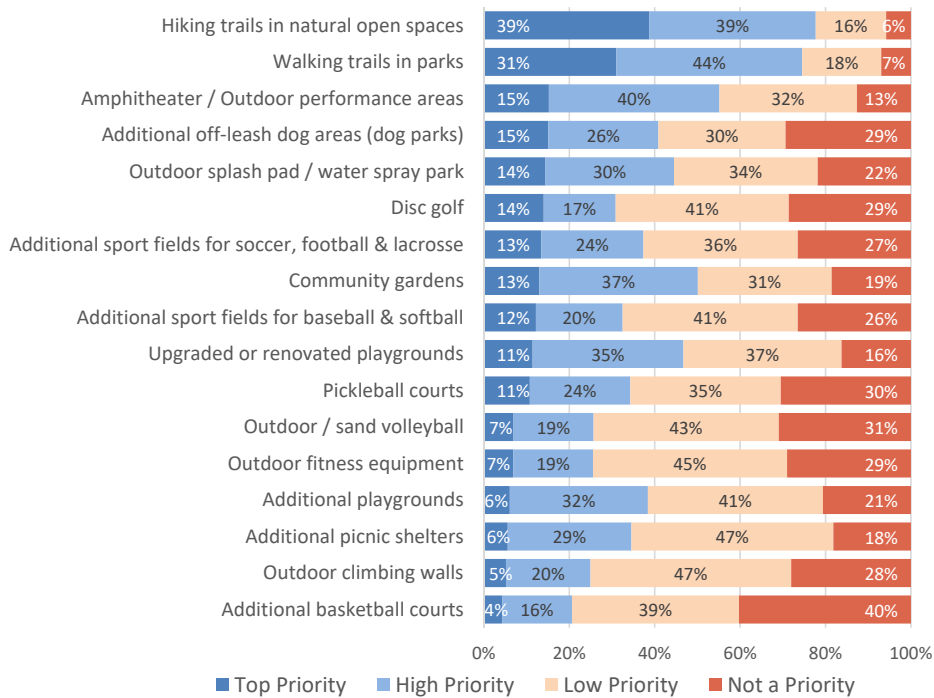
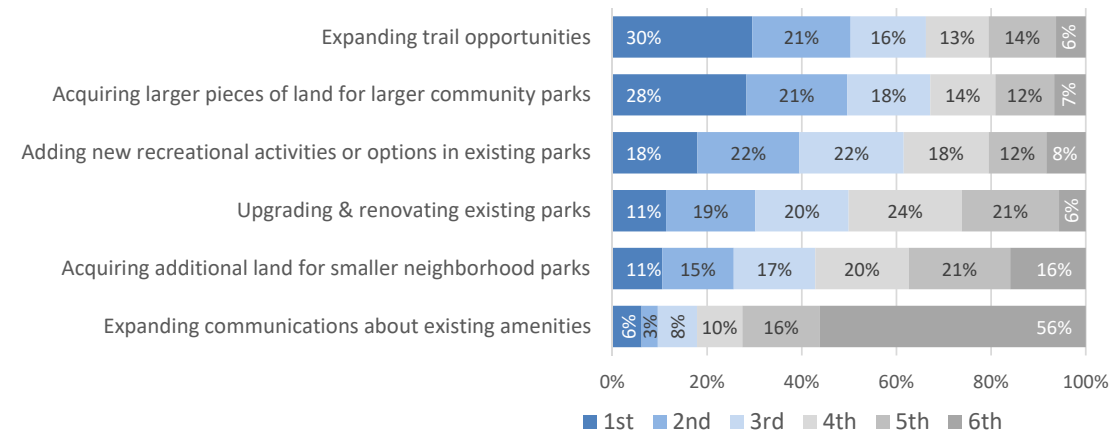


Figure 10. Ranked Priorities for Various Park System Investments



Respondents were asked to describe one thing that they would like to see the City of Redmond do to improve parks, trails, and/or recreation options. While respondents provided 438 specific comments and ideas, the following themes emerged:

Trails & Connectivity

Respondents called for safer, more interconnected walking and biking routes, including both paved and unpaved trails, throughout the City for walking, running, hiking, cycling, and mountain biking. Some respondents asked the city to create better biking and walking access to the Dry Canyon trail, ensure safe

crossings for busy streets, and add more segregated paths to enhance safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Some respondents commented on a need for improved trail maintenance and better lighting along existing trails.

Environmental Conservation

Comments related to environmental conservation highlight the importance of protecting natural areas and open spaces in Redmond. Residents emphasize the need to preserve and manage these areas to reduce the pressure on highly frequented spots like the North Dry Canyon. There is also a strong interest in acquiring

additional natural spaces to ensure that Redmond remains “wild” and accessible for future generations. Additionally, maintaining existing vegetation responsibly and removing invasive species are recommended to preserve local ecosystems. Overall, these comments reflect a community commitment to environmental sustainability, emphasizing the need for responsible land and resource management, water conservation, and the preservation of natural habitats.

Recreation & Sport Facilities

Many respondents expressed a desire to expand and improve recreation and sports facilities across the City. Residents are excited for the construction of the new Redmond Recreation Center though some comments expressed a disappointment with the reduced scope of the project. There is interest in adding more disc golf courses, with some respondents suggesting extending the Dry Canyon course to 18 holes and others supporting the creation of a high-level, championship course to attract tournaments and visitors. Many comments discussed the need for more, better-maintained, full-size soccer and baseball fields to support local teams and tournaments. There is also interest in additional bike parks, pickleball courts, and in improving the existing sand volleyball courts. Off-leash dog areas are of interest, with many comments requesting more off-leash dog parks and trails.

Community Events & Family-Friendly Activities

Respondents emphasized a desire for more inclusive and varied recreational options for all age groups. There is a strong demand for activities geared towards teenagers, suggesting facilities such as a skate park, climbing wall, and courts for various sports to provide safe and active hangout spaces. Comments also highlight the need for shaded areas and shelters to make parks more comfortable for gatherings and events in all weather conditions. Also, respondents expressed a desire for more family-friendly community events, as well as the development of larger venues to support these events.

Security & Maintenance

Numerous comments highlight the community’s interest in the safety, maintenance, and cleanliness of City parks. Some respondents have concerns about vandalism, with several comments suggesting increased surveillance, better lighting, and more security cameras

to deter destructive behavior. The presence of off-leash dogs is another common issue, with many calling for stricter enforcement of leash laws to ensure all park users feel safe. Maintenance and cleanliness are also major themes, with calls for more regular trash collection and cleaning, particularly addressing issues like broken glass and overflowing trash bins.

Common Themes from Community Outreach

The City of Redmond hosted two open house meetings, three focus group discussions, and in-person tabling events to gather community feedback and identify suggestions for park system enhancements. The outreach displays included ‘dot’ exercises, as well as using play money and comment cards, to explore investment priorities. The following highlights the suggestions that were offered:

- Acquire more land for active use park needs (i.e., sports fields & courts, spray pads, etc.) and more natural areas.
- Developing new parks, such as the Pershall property, additional neighborhood parks, and more dog parks.
- Conduct more restoration to natural spaces, and utilize volunteers for additional planting and stewardship efforts.
- Increase connectivity between parks and to Dry Canyon, especially for improved east/west connections and more, better and accessible access into Dry Canyon.
- Improve education and information about bike etiquette, and aim to reduce concerns about e-bike conflicts with other trail users.
- Add and improve amenities, such as adding benches, shade, and restrooms.

The allocations of play money also correlated with community feedback and survey responses, with participants favoring projects that expand recreation options and allocating \$6 million in play money to that grouping of projects. Between \$3 - \$4 million in play money was allocated for each of the other three project types: acquiring new parklands, enhancing existing parks, and connecting/expanding trails.

PARK CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

A crucial measure of park adequacy and assurance of public safety is the condition of park infrastructure and amenities. Guidelines in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) also provide a measure for acceptable conditions. Park infrastructure includes site improvements such as walkways, parking lots, restrooms, drainage and irrigation, lighting, and vegetation. Examples of amenities include picnic shelters, play equipment, site furnishings, sports courts, sports fields, and other recreational assets.

Proper stewardship of park infrastructure requires developing a long-term maintenance and capital plan that ensures the safety of park users, aligns with community needs, and allocates limited funding resources effectively. Prolonged deferred maintenance can result in unusable amenities when they are perceived as unsafe or undesirable by park patrons.

The current conditions of the Redmond park system were assessed to identify existing site maintenance issues and opportunities for future capital improvements. The assessments occurred in early May 2024 and included visual observations of site conditions, general park infrastructure, and amenities. The following conditions assessment matrix (Figure 11) summarizes the results of these assessments. For each park, an inventory of amenities was summarized, and considerations for park maintenance were suggested. In some parks, the landscape architect noted potential design opportunities were noted for park enhancements and/or improvements. These specific recommendations are included in the individual park facility site descriptions. These assessments inform developing project prioritization strategy for park improvements and updating Parks Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).

The matrix on the following page indicates the types of amenities within each park facility, and park infrastructure and amenities are rated based on the following scale:

1 – Good Condition: Generally, amenities in ‘good’ condition offer full functionality and do not need repairs. Good facilities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features (railings, fences, etc.). Good facilities encourage area residents to use the park but may have minor cosmetic defects.

2 – Fair: In general, amenities in ‘fair’ condition are mainly functional, but need minor or moderate repairs. Fair facilities have play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or periods where they are unusable. Fair facilities remain essential amenities for the community but may slightly discourage the use of the park by residents given the current condition.

3 – Poor: In general, amenities in ‘poor’ condition are largely or completely unusable. They need significant repairs to be functional. Some examples include athletic fields that are too uneven for ball games, irreparably broken features, buildings that need structural retrofitting, etc. Poor facilities may present safety issues if left open or operational and discourage residents from using the park.

Good conditions should be the goal for the management and stewardship of park facilities. Where infrastructure or amenities are rated as ‘fair,’ strategies should be developed for repair or restoration. Park features, structures, amenities, or landscapes rated as ‘poor’ should receive immediate attention and be prioritized for near-term maintenance, capital repairs, or a new capital project. Facilities in poor condition should also be evaluated and taken out of operation if they are deemed unsafe.

In general, Redmond’s parks present a wide range of conditions from attractive new park facilities to aged or undeveloped park sites. Some improvements in providing universal access, removing architectural barriers, and ensuring compliance with ADA guidelines should be considered as upgrades and capital repairs are scheduled in older parks and facilities.

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Figure 11. Conditions Assessment Matrix

Site Name	Park Site Average	Recreation Amenities												Site Amenities				Park Structures				Vegetation				ADA				
		Playgrounds	Pickleball/Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Soccer Fields	Horseshoe Pits	Baseball / Softball Fields	Fitness Stations	Pathways / Trails	Skate Park	Pump Track	Disc Golf	Other Rec Amenities	Off-Leash Dog Park	Site Furnishings	Lighting (Y/N)	Signage	Parking Areas	Restrooms	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion	Amphitheater/Stage	Concession Building	Natural Turfgrass	Park Trees	Landscaped Beds	Natural Areas	Compliance			
Community Park																														
South Dry Canyon Community Park																														
American Legion Park	1.2	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	Y	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	2			
Natural Area	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1			
Quartz Park	1.1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	Y	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1			
Bowlby Sports Complex	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	2	2	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	2			
Kiwanis Field	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3			
Sam Johnson Park	1.1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1			
Skate Park	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	N	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	3		
Spud Bowl Park	1.8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	3			
Natural Area	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1			
Umatilla Sports Complex	1.3	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	N	1	2	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	2			
Neighborhood Park																														
Baker Park	1.1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	N	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	2			
Diamond Bar Ranch Park	1.1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	N	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	2			
Fairhaven Park	1.6	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	N	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	2			
Hayden Park	1.2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	Y	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2			
Homestead Park (Pump Track & Trail)	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	N	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2			
Kalama Park	1.5	1	-	2	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	N	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3			
Quince Park	1.3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	2			
The Greens (Yew Nature Trail)	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2			
Spruce Park	1.3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	N	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2	2	-	1			
Valleyview Park	1.2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	N	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1			
Varnish Park	1.1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	N	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	1			
West Canyon Rim Park	1.4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	N	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3			
Mini Park																														
Pocket Park	-																													
Stack Park	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	N	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3			
Natural Resource Areas/Open Spaces																														
North Dry Canyon	1.0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1			
Redmond Caves (IGA with BLM)	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3			
Special Use Facilities																														
Cemetery	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	3			
Centennial Park (includes expansion)	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	Y	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1			
Disc Golf Course	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	N	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3			
Pump Track	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	N	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2			
Fireman's Pond	1.6	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	2	N	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	2			
Maple Avenue Overlook / Hathaway Park	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	N	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	2			
North Canyon Trailhead	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	N	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1			
Weigand Family Dog Park	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2			
Parkland Acquisitions																														
Elkhorn Property	-							Undeveloped - not part of this assessment																						
Pershall Property	-							Undeveloped - not part of this assessment																						
Averages	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.0	1.7	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6	-	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1	2.0			

RATING SCALE

Playgrounds:

1	In good condition: no drainage issues; 0-10% material deterioration safety surfacing with a border at the site.
2	In fair condition: drainage issues; 10-25% material deterioration; some small compliance issues that could be spot fixed.
3	In poor condition: drainage issues; 25% or greater material deterioration; needs repair or replacement (but workable).

Paved Courts:

1	In good condition: no cracks in surfacing; fencing is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes/passages; painting and striping are appropriately located, whole, and uniform in color.
2	In fair condition: hairline cracks to ¼", surfacing required; fencing has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play; painting and striping have flaking or color fading.
3	In poor condition: horizontal cracks more than ½" wide, surfacing required; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects; painting and striping are patchy and color has faded dramatically.

Signage:

1	In good condition: a signage system for the site, appropriate signs, no damaged signs.
2	In fair condition; multiple signage system within one site, a few damaged signs (0-10%), need maintenance.
3	In poor condition; multiple signage systems within one site, signs that are not legible from a reasonable distance, some damaged signs (10-25%), old logos, deteriorated materials, no signage.

Public Art:

1	In good condition: no vandalism; no signs of weathering.
2	In fair condition: minor signs of weathering or wear.
3	In poor condition: metal leaching/concrete efflorescence/paint peeling/wood chipped or carved into or warping; vandalized.

Park Structures (Restrooms, Picnic Shelters, Etc.):

1	In good condition: roof has no leaks; floor shows little sign of wear; finishes are fresh with no graffiti or vandalism; all elements are in working order.
2	In fair condition: roof shows signs of wear but is structurally sound; floor shows some wear; finishes show some wear with some marks or blemishes.
3	In poor condition: roof leaks or otherwise needs repair; floor show significant wear and is difficult to maintain; finishes are dull or discolored, have graffiti, or are not easily maintained; some elements not working or in need of repair (e.g., non-functioning sink).

Park Trees:

1	In good condition: trees overall have good form and spacing; no topping; free of disease or pest infestation; no vandalism; no hazard trees.
2	In fair condition: some crowding may exist but overall health is good; less than 5% of trees show signs of topping, disease or pest infestation; vandalism has not impacted tree health (graffiti, not girdling).
3	In poor condition: Form or spacing issues may exist; evidence of disease or pests; vandalism affecting tree health, some hazard trees or trees in danger of becoming hazard trees.

ADA Compliance:

1	Appears to comply with ADA standards.
2	Some items appear to not comply, but could be fixed by replacing with relative ease.
3	A number of park assets appear not to comply, including large-scale items like regrading.

Sport Fields:

1	In good condition: thick grass with few bare spots; few depressions; no noticeable drainage issues, proper slope and layout; fencing if present is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes.
2	In fair condition: grass with bare turf areas in high-use locations, some drainage issues in overuse areas, slope is within one percent of proper field slope, infields have grading problems (bump) at transition to grass and have no additive, may not have proper layout and/or orientation, fencing if present has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play.
3	In poor condition: bare areas throughout the year, uneven playing surface that holds water in certain places, drainage issues, slopes not uniform and/or more than one percent from proper field slope, improper layout and/or orientation; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects.

Pathways / Trails:

1	In good condition: surface generally smooth and even; proper width and material for type of pathway; proper clearances; minimal drainage issues.
2	In fair condition: uneven surfaces in places; some drainage issues; some cracking; narrow widths in some places.
3	In poor condition: uneven surfaces; inadequate width; significant cracking or heaving; clearance issues.

Turf:

1	In good condition: lush and full, few weeds, no drainage problems.
2	In fair condition: some bare spots, some drainage problems.
3	In poor condition: irrigation problems, bare spots, weeds, soil compacted.

Site Furnishings:

1	In good condition; not damaged; free of peeling or chipped paint; consistent throughout park. Trash receptacles, drinking fountain, picnic tables, benches on paved surface.
2	In fair condition; 0-20% furnishings are damaged and require replacing parts; some peeling or chipped paint; furnishings are not consistent, but are operational.
3	In poor condition; 20% or more are damaged and require replacing parts; significant peeling or chipped paint; multiple styles within park site require different maintenance.

Parking Areas:

1	In good condition: paving and drainage do not need repair; pavement markings clear; pathway connection provided to facility; proper layout.
2	In fair condition: paving needs patching or has some drainage problems; has wheel stops and curbs.
3	In poor condition: surfaces (gravel, asphalt, or concrete) needs repair; uneven grading; limited signage; no delineation for vehicles.

Natural Areas:

1	In good condition: barely noticeable invasives, high species diversity, healthy plants.
2	In fair conditions: Noticeable invasives, fewer species but still healthy.
3	In poor condition: Invasives have taken over, low diversity, unhealthy plants.

Amphitheater/Stage:

1	In good condition: paving, stage and stair materials have little to no cracking or peeling; vegetation that is present is healthy; seating and other furnishings show modest signs of wear; views to stage from all seating vantage points.
2	In fair condition: paving, stage and stair materials have some cracking or peeling; vegetation that is present is healthy, but some soil compaction might be present; seating and other furnishings show signs of wear, but are still usable; stage orientation not be ideal for all viewers.
3	In poor condition: paving, stage and stair materials have significant cracking or peeling; vegetation is unhealthy (pests, disease, topped trees), compacted soil; seating and other furnishings need repair or replacement; redesign of space is needed for proper viewing and access.

Landscaped Beds:

1	In good condition: few weeds; no bare or worn areas; plants appear healthy with no signs of pest or disease infestation.
2	In fair condition: some weeds present; some bare or worn spots; plants are still generally healthy.
3	In poor condition: many weeds present; large bare or worn areas; plants show signs of pests or disease; compacted soils.

Summary of Existing Conditions

Detailed information for each park site and enhancement recommendations are noted in Appendix A for the parks visited. Highlights from park condition observations are provided below and include suggestions for improvements that informed the preparation of the Parks CIP.

Infrastructure

Park Structures

The park conditions assessment does not include architectural or engineering evaluations of existing park buildings. However, general observations may include signs of aging, barriers to access, and appearance. As part of an overall asset management program, park buildings (restrooms, concessions and picnic shelters) should be tracked by age and repairs, in addition to regular inspections and monitoring to help plan for eventual replacement in capital improvement planning.

Parking

Parking areas are generally in good condition, although some lots should have fresh paint applied for the stall demarcations. The gravel parking areas adjacent to Roger Jones Field at Bowlby Park could be more efficient if those spaces were better defined by paved and designated parking spaces and travel lanes. The paved parking area at Hayden Park did not have any defined parking spaces to guide visitors and delineate standard parking from handicapped spaces. Painted parking lines could more efficiently use the available space.

Pathways, Trails & Pavement

In situations where paved pathways meet footbridges, some gaps or uneven bumps may exist creating tripping hazards to ADA access barriers. Remedies to repair these uneven surface changes should be implemented. Most of these situations were not enough to trigger access issues at this time.

Paved asphalt pathways will often develop cracking and root upheavals over time. Some broken and uplifted pavement occurs along the trail behind the ballfields at American Legion Park. Regular monitoring of paved pathways in parks and along the Dry Canyon Trail and its side connections can provide information for when repairs and/or repaving may be necessary to avoid tripping hazards and maintain universal access.

Footbridges

A few parks in the Redmond park system have footbridges that provide secondary access to local parks along paved pathways from adjacent neighborhoods. The decking on the bridges was generally in good condition without large gaps from the bridge surface to the adjoining paved trails. Often those connections had been patched in the pathway but still meet ADA access guidelines. Close monitoring is recommended to ensure that any future settling can be addressed promptly to maintain good accessibility.

Signage & Wayfinding

The Redmond park system contains a wide variety of signs, markers, and monuments to identify sites and amenities. A few existing park facilities (Spud Bowl, Kiwanis Field, Fireman's Pond, Valleyview, Quartz, Spruce & Varnish Parks) lacked park identification signs. The City could consider adding secondary identification signage at the side pathways into parks to reinforce place-making and help with park identity, which is particularly valuable in the event of an emergency.

Wayfinding signage along the Dry Canyon Trail was very good. Extending that same signage format to some of the side connections to the regional trail (where messaging was limited) could provide more detailed information for the trail user regarding destinations, distances, etiquette, etc.

Amenities

Site Furnishings

Benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bike racks, and trash and recycling receptacles are common site furnishings provided in public parks. In Redmond's park system, these site furnishings are visually diverse, not always ADA-compliant, and can create a challenge for maintenance when the need occurs to repair these widely diverse amenities. For future park improvements and prior to implementing new master plans for undeveloped parks, it would be beneficial to have a standard design, style, and color for benches, picnic tables, etc. Future park improvements could be standardized to create unity and simplify future replacements and additions.

Many of these site furnishings are not technically ADA-compliant. Across the park system, the degree of accessibility varies, especially where tables and benches are out in grass lawn areas and not on accessible routes. Benches that provide universal access are located on



accessible routes, provide backs and armrests, and offer an extra space to the side of the bench as a ‘companion seating’ space. Picnic tables should have seating spaces that allow room for a wheelchair to pull forward comfortably to join their group at the table. Drinking fountains should be provided on accessible routes with easy-to-reach buttons and spouts. Trash receptacles and dog waste bag dispensers should be along accessible routes within easy reach of an individual in a wheelchair or using a cane or walker. The general recommendation for provision of site furnishings is to provide at least 50% of benches, tables, etc. that are fully ADA-compliant.

Play Equipment

Play equipment in City parks was installed over many years, and some equipment parts are showing signs of wear. The need for replacements should be based on existing conditions, as well as predicted by charting out past installation dates and planning for complete replacements when the assets have reached their expected lifespan (typically, 20-25 years). Regular monitoring by certified playground equipment inspectors should help to indicate if and when specific play equipment should be scheduled for replacement.

Access to playground areas was not always barrier-free. Several play areas contained timbers or edging that created access barriers from pathway pavement to the lower safety surfacing of the playground. The drop-off edges varied, and in some instances exceeded the maximum ½-inch tolerance.

Play Safety Surfacing

Some play areas appeared to have compromised wood fiber surfacing. Where surface drainage runs into a play area, sediments can build up and limit the resilience of the wood fiber buoyancy. Organic debris from nearby trees can build up and fill the voids in the wood fiber depth. Regular inspections should be conducted to ensure the play safety surfacing meets the ASTM standards for the provision of fall safety.

Sport Fields & Courts

Ballfields always require higher levels of turf management than general use grass lawn areas. The sports fields in the park system appeared in good condition.

The sport courts at Sam Johnson Park were closed for resurfacing, demonstrating good preventative care and management. Some basketball courts would benefit from fresh paint on the court lines (Kalama & West Canyon Rim Parks).

Off-Leash Areas

The Weigand Family Dog Park provided two off-leashed areas (OLA) designated for small and large dogs. The dog park appeared in good condition. It would be beneficial to extend ADA access for a short distance inside the fencing to allow wheelchair access into the OLA space.



Landscape/Environment

Dry Canyon Natural Area

Sections of the natural area within the Dry Canyon were undergoing fire fuel reduction activities during the time of site visits. This treasured natural area is a major focal point and defining native habitat for the City of Redmond. In recognition of its inherent value to the sense of place for the park system, a stewardship plan is a strong recommendation. A stewardship plan could carefully define and delineate “natural areas” from developed park spaces and establish standards of care and management practices for both staff and volunteers.

Forest Canopy & Park Trees

In general, the park trees were in good condition considering the challenges of regional climate and public use activities. Park operations should continue to be cautious about the use of string trimmers and lawn mowers near the base of park trees to avoid repeated injury to the tree trunk and subsequent damage to the cambium tissue.

Natural Turfgrass

Turf grass management appears to be managed adequately to maintain sport fields and open mown grass areas within parks.

Grass playing fields for organized sports require a higher level of maintenance and expected quality to ensure safe and continual team play during the baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse seasons. Typically,

these athletic fields with natural grass must be fertilized and mown more often than typical open grass areas in public parks.

Park standards can be established that specifically identify the tolerance for weed growth within natural grass sport fields and the approved methods for weed control in the public arena. Timing and notification methods should also be incorporated into adopted park standards to ensure safe application and public use.

Additionally, identifying the intentional irrigated grass areas with their associated higher levels of maintenance and the unirrigated grass zones can help with turf grass management expectations and anticipated schedules for mowing and fertilizing.

ADA Compliance

As with many older parks, some architectural barriers were present in the park system. It is clear that the City has been systematically upgraded facilities to address older infrastructure that had barriers to universal access. Updating and providing ADA accessibility and compliance with federal guidelines should be part of a regular capital repair schedule to ensure the reasonable access on older pavements, parking, playgrounds, picnic amenities, restrooms, and recreational elements. The Redmond park system has a few ADA compliance issues with park access at parking areas, insufficient travel aisles from handicapped parking spaces, missing tactile warning strips, barriers to access into playground areas, as well as non-ADA complaint benches and picnic tables that lack accessible routes.



Standards for park furnishing, such as benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash receptacles and other common amenities used throughout the park system, can be instrumental in assuring consistent ADA compliance and streamlined maintenance and repairs. The City will want to develop an ADA Compliance Checklist to identify and prioritize these deficiencies and develop a methodology for bringing all their parks into compliance.

Maintenance & Operations Considerations

Memorials & Donations

As often happens over time in a park system, a range of improvements have been implemented through memorial projects or from the support of dedications. These various donations, volunteer contributions, and park assets have been designated with different forms of signs, plaques, stones, etc. These diverse displays can be distracting and lack a cohesive messaging for all the efforts that contribute to the park system. The City could develop a donation and memorial policy that unifies the types and formats for donations, contributions, and dedications that are implemented in Redmond's parks and trails.

Stewardship Planning

Dry Canyon is recognized as the backbone of the City's park system. Its natural character defines the landscape of Redmond and unifies the trail and parks along its extent. The City does practice some fire fuel reduction and invasive species management activities

in Dry Canyon, but it does not have a long-term plan for habitat management, fire control management, water-wise practices, and other landscape maintenance practices. Developing a stewardship plan that guides both short-term, immediate maintenance practices and long-term management programs could establish the best practices of ensuring the sustainability of the Dry Canyon's natural resources.

Safety & CPTED Considerations

Much of the park layouts and landscapes meet the basic Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles of good visibility and overall positive perceptions of public safety. Park safety conditions were generally good throughout the park system with a few notable exceptions. At sport fields, some of the bleachers did not have safety railings. The International Building Code (IBC) requires safety rails on any bleacher seating with two or more tiers. These older and outdated bleachers should be replaced with IBC-compliant designs.

PARK SYSTEM GAP ANALYSIS

Understanding the known gaps in the park system will provide a foundation for strategic planning to ensure that tomorrow's residents have equitable access to a balanced distribution of parks, trails, and recreation amenities to stay healthy and active. To better understand the distribution of existing recreation amenities and where future acquisition efforts may be necessary, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the community's current access to parks and various recreation opportunities across the City.

The gap analysis used travelsheds for each park classification, which represents a geographic area that can be reached from specific points for specific travel distances. Park system travelsheds are calculated as travel distances along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each park and defined as each park classification as follows:

- For mini parks, a ¼-mile primary service area was used, since these parks are small and offer few amenities that would draw users from a wider area.
- For neighborhood parks, a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area were used, and a ½-mile distance approximately represents a 10-minute walk.
- For community parks, travelsheds were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, 1-mile and 2-mile travel distances, since these parks offer a wider variety of amenities such that users would drive to these parks.
- For homeowner association (HOA) parks, travelsheds were derived using ¼-mile and ½-mile distances, adjusted to reflect the boundaries of the subdivision.

Composite maps of all three park classifications illustrate the entirety of active-use parks to the ½-mile travelshed. Maps 2 through 4 illustrate the application of the distribution criteria from existing parks.

Efforts to provide City parks within a reasonable distance may require acquiring new park properties in currently unserved locations or improving multi-modal transportation connections to allow residents to reach their local park safely and conveniently.

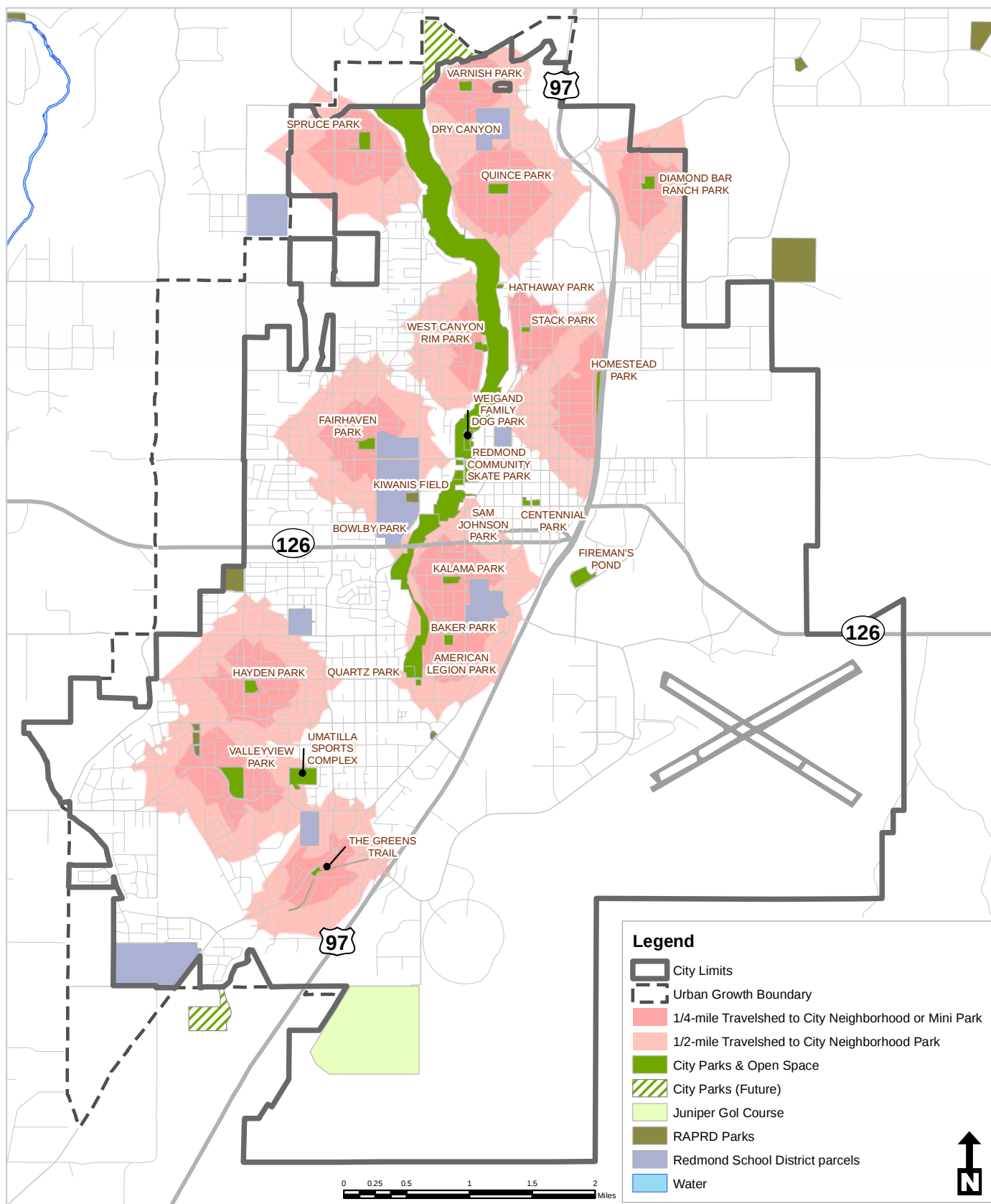
Mapping park distribution and travelsheds helps to illustrate the unserved parts of Redmond. West, northwest, and southwest Redmond extending into the Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) have limited access to public parks, as indicated by white areas on Map 5.

These areas should be targeted for future acquisitions to help create more equitable park access. While generalized acquisition areas do not identify specific parcels for consideration, they encompass areas ideally suited for acquisition.

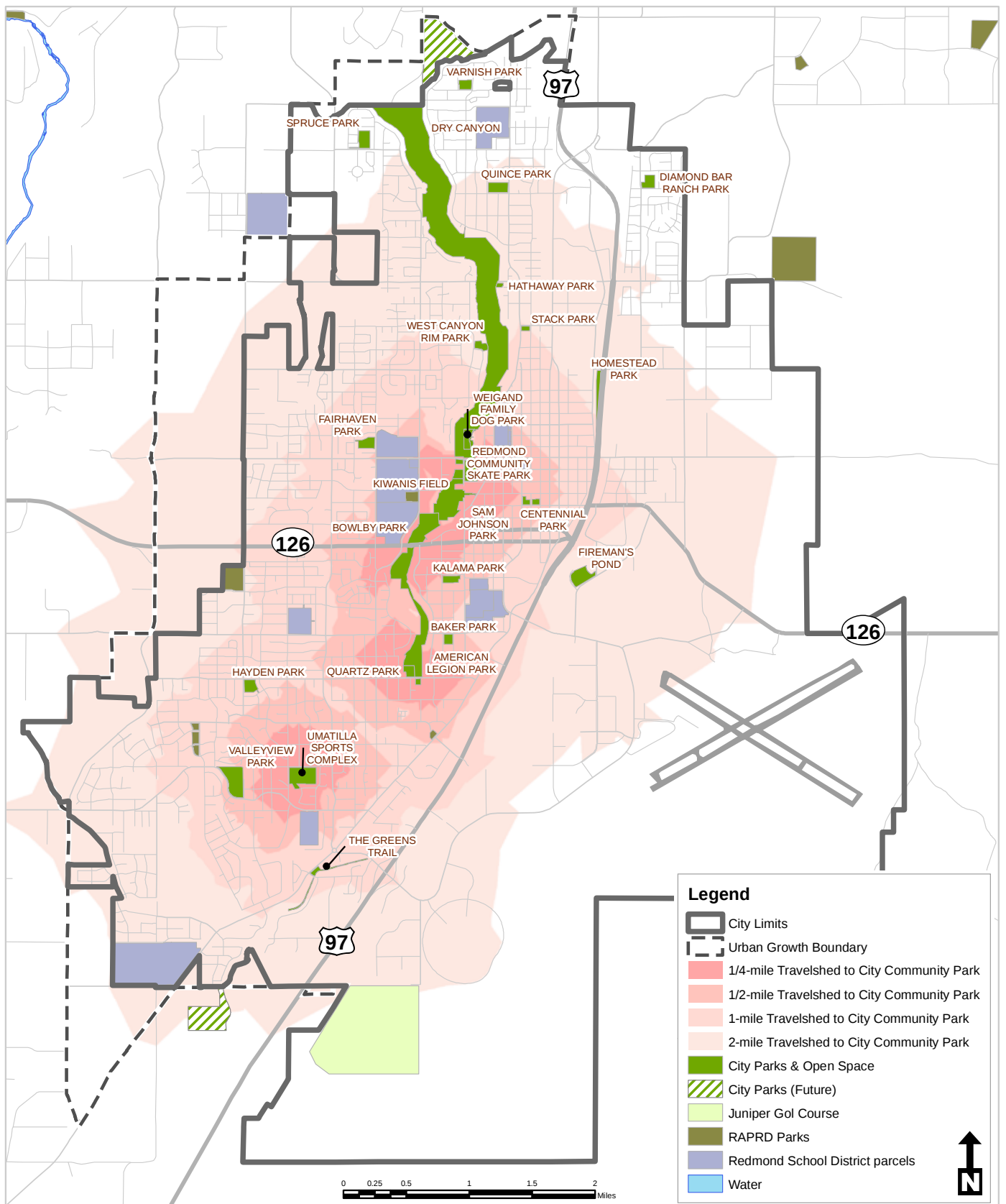
- Area A – 121 West
- Area B – near Maple & 22nd
- Area C – near Northwest Way & Oak
- Area D – near SW Antelope & SW 43rd
- Area E – within the Southwest Area Plan subarea
- Area F – near Helmholtz & Reindeer
- Area G – near Kingwood & 15th
- Area H – within the West Redmond Area Plan subarea
- Area I – within the West Redmond Area Plan subarea
- Area J – within the northern Dry Canyon

These recommended acquisition target areas (also shown on Map 5) will fill remaining gaps in Redmond's park system and will serve current and future residential areas with nearby parks. These future target areas account for eight neighborhood parks ranging in size from two to four acres, plus two larger community parks. The aggregate projected acreage for these future sites also aligns with the level of service assessment in the following section and will help meet the future acreage demand shown in Figure 14 on page 49 that is based on the adopted service standard of providing four acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents.

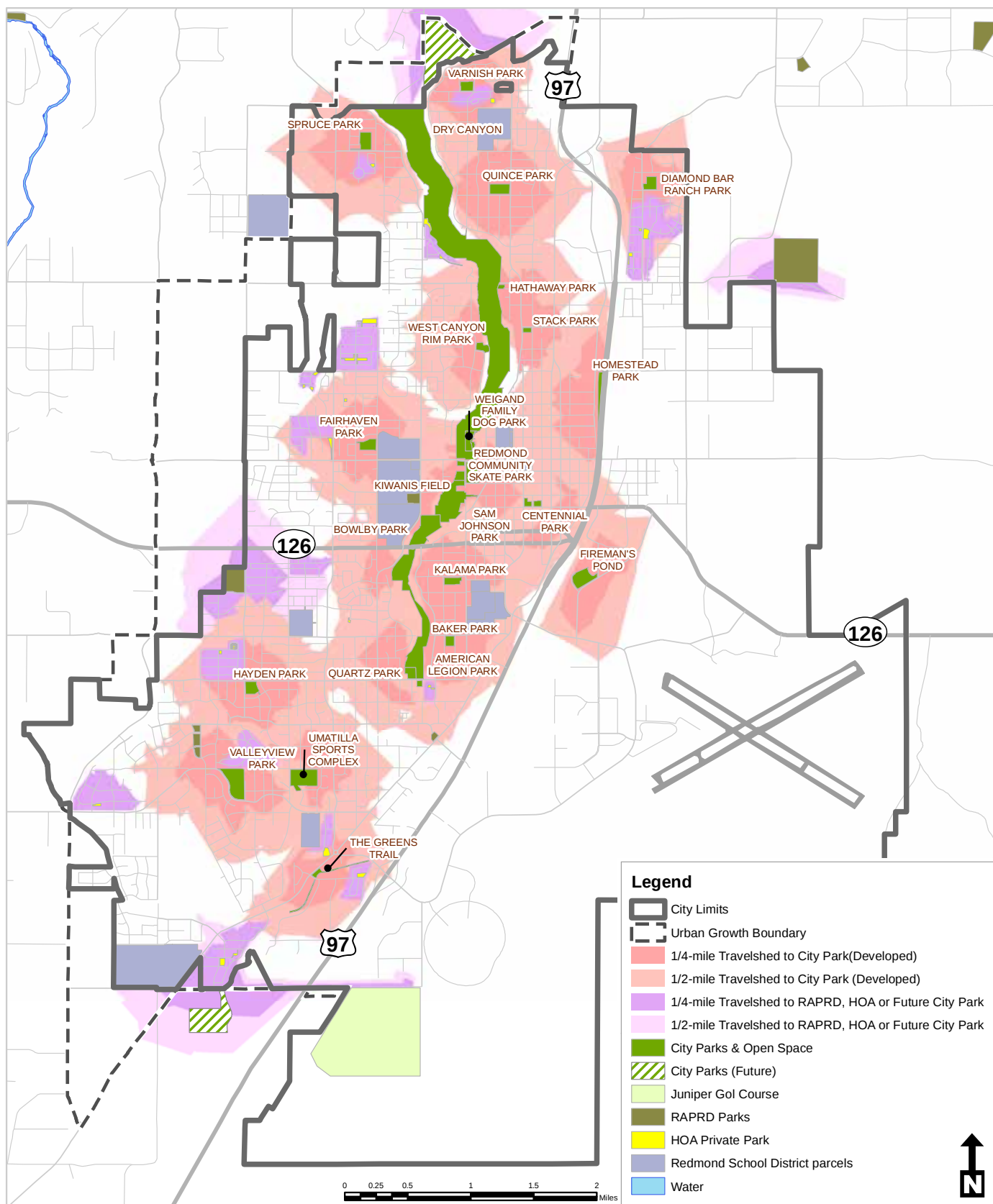
Gap analysis modeling also assessed the distribution of various recreation amenities, including playgrounds, sport fields, sport courts, and trails. Maps 6 through 13 illustrate the geographic distribution of these amenities. This information aids in future park planning to improve access to a variety of recreation options desired by the community.



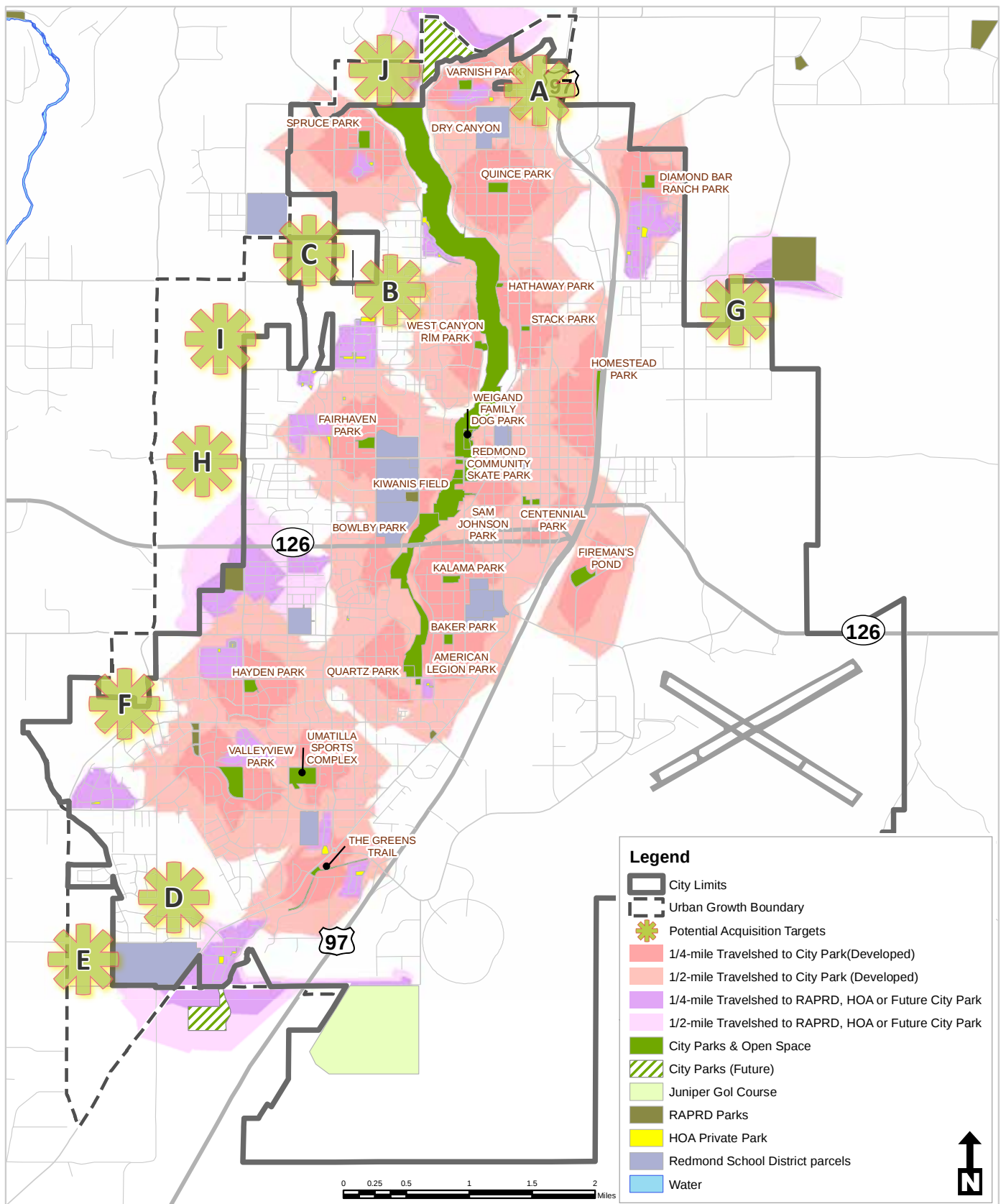
Map 2: Travelsheds for Neighborhood & Mini Parks (1/4- & 1/2-mile)



Map 3: Travelsheds for Community Parks (to 2 miles)

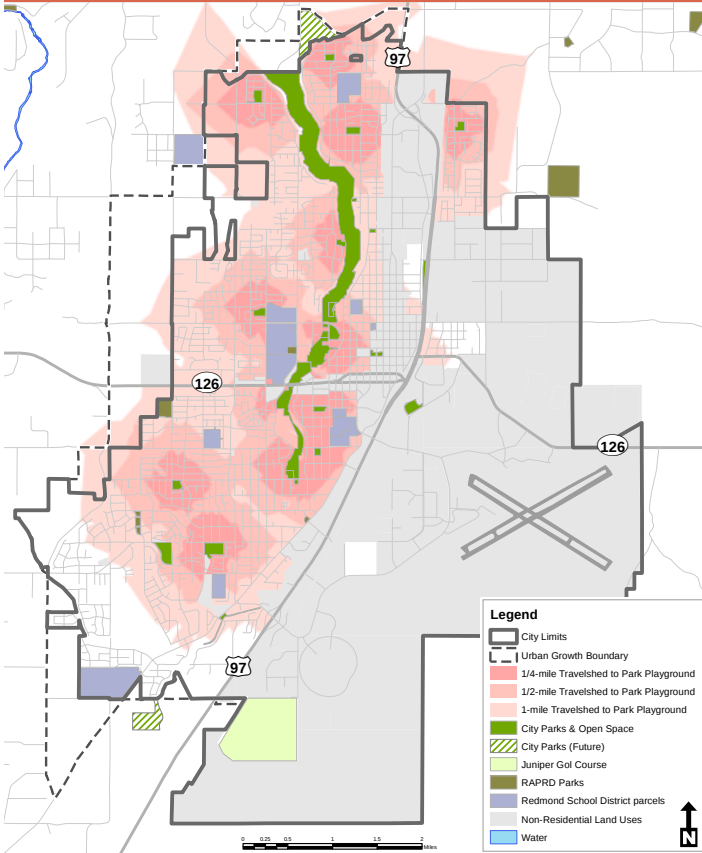


Map 4: Travelsheds for Community, Neighborhood & Mini Parks (1/4-, 1/2-mile)

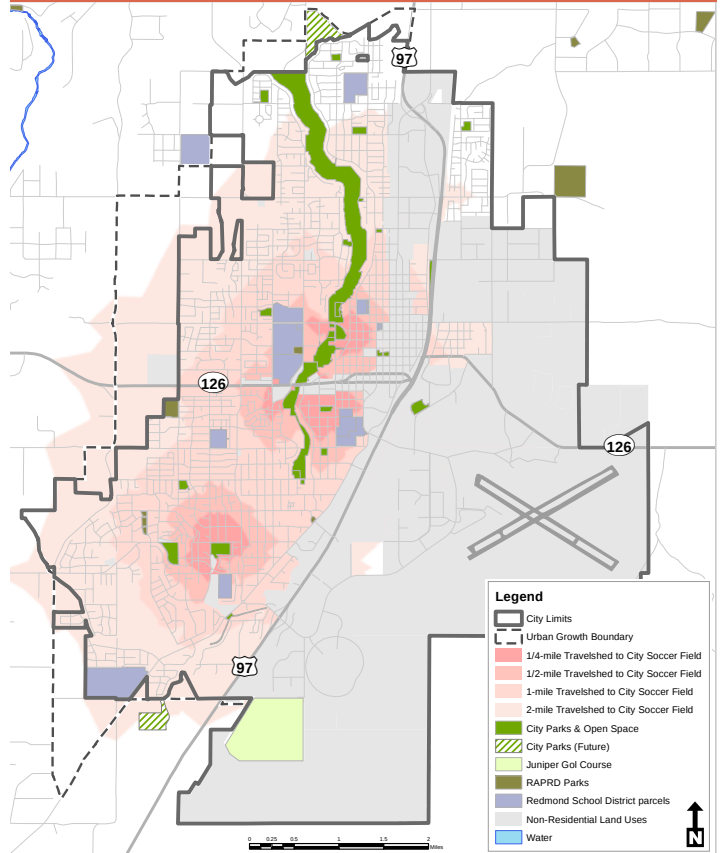


Map 5: Potential Acquisition Target Areas

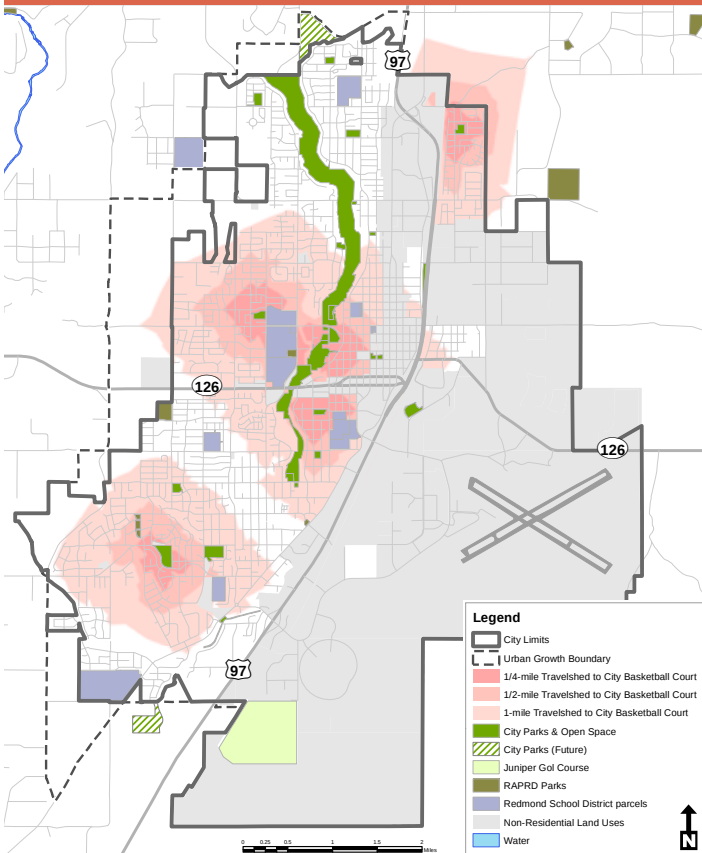
Travelsheds: Playgrounds (½-mile)



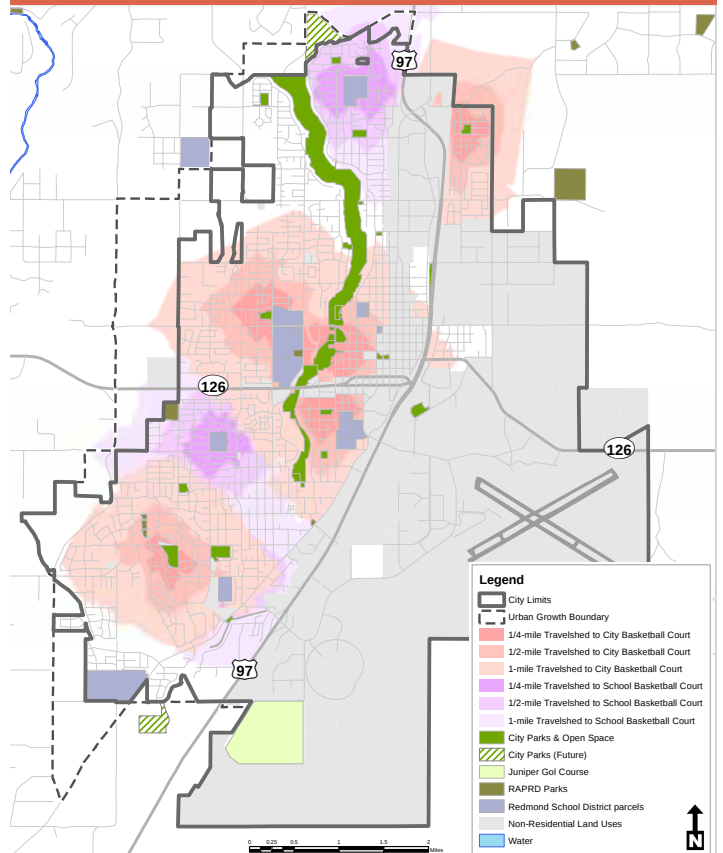
Travelsheds: Soccer Fields (1- & 2-mile)



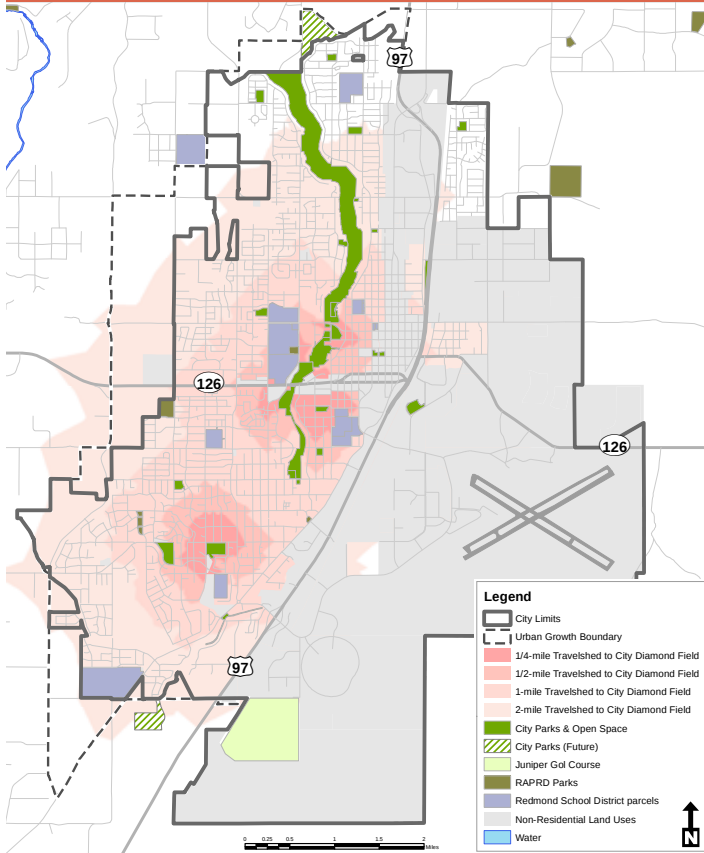
Travelsheds: Basketball Courts (½- & 1-mile)



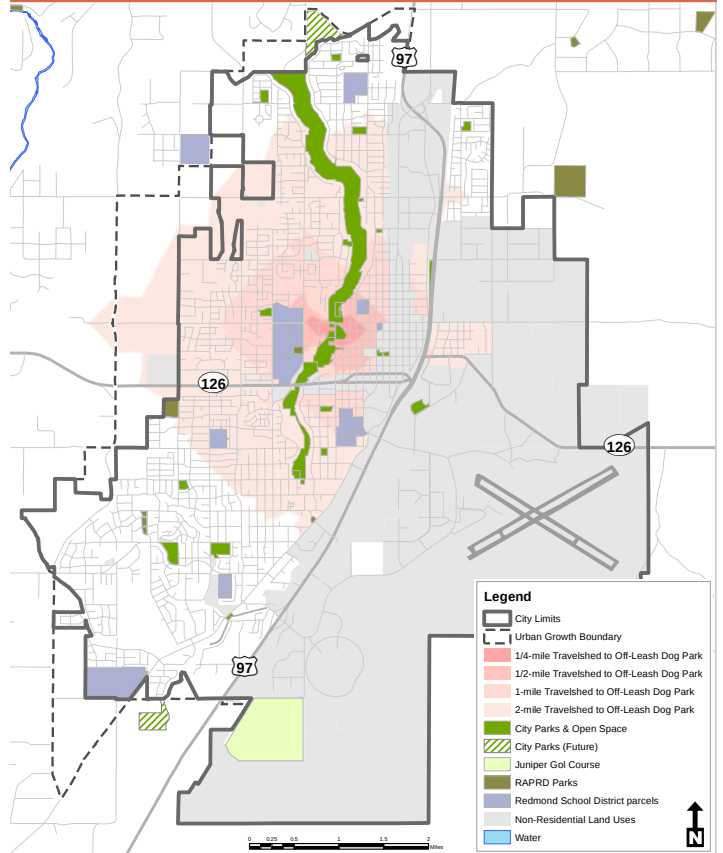
Travelsheds: Basketball with Schools (½- & 1-mile)



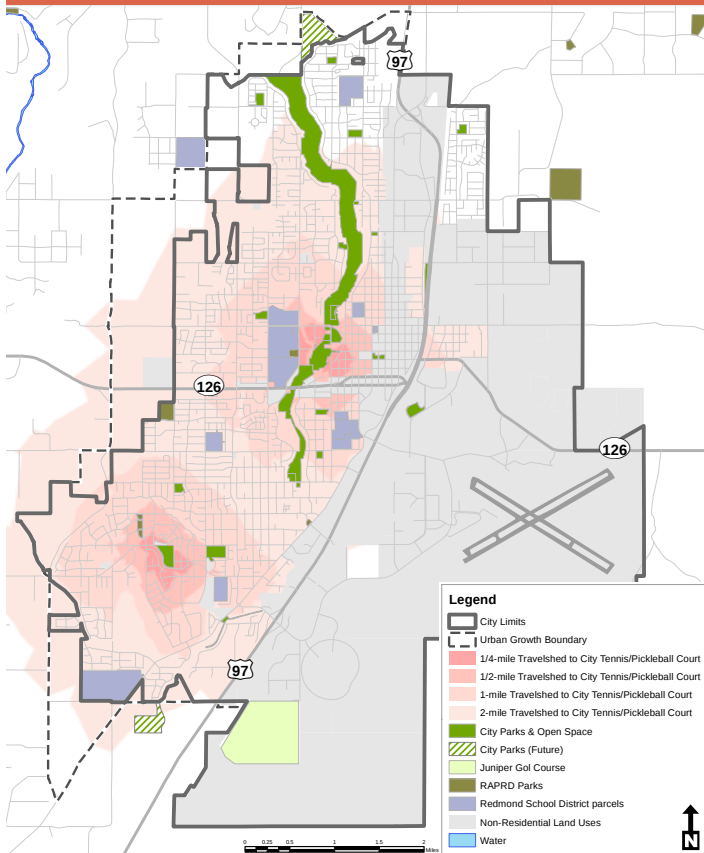
Travelsheds: Baseball/Softball Fields (1- & 2-mile)



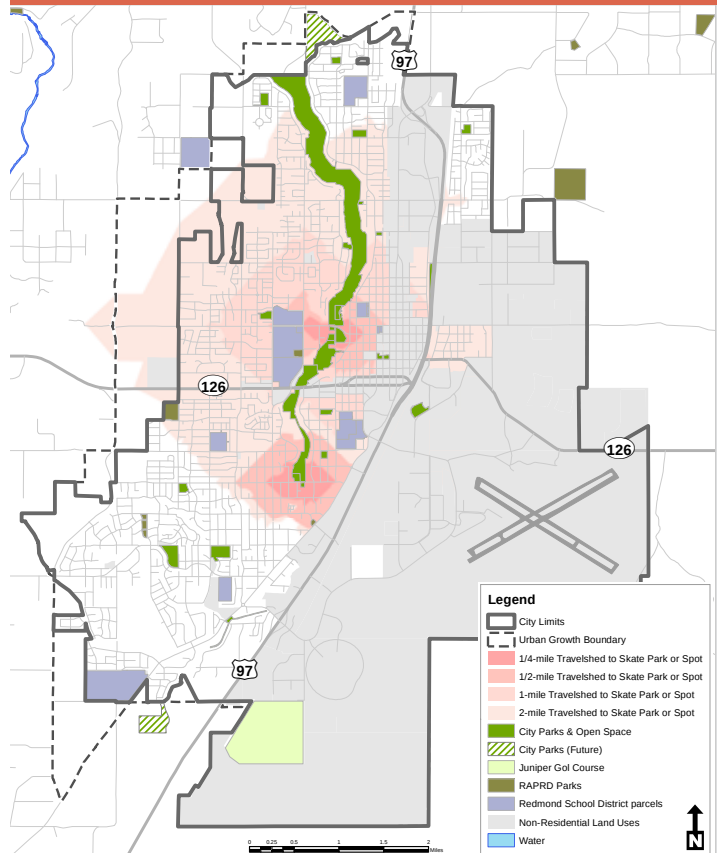
Travelsheds: Off-Leash Dog Parks (2-mile)



Travelsheds: Outdoor Tennis/Pickleball Courts (1-mile)



Travelsheds: Skate Parks or Skate Spots (2-mile)



LEVELS OF SERVICE

Service standards offer a benchmark for measuring how well the City is meeting the expectations for the provisions of parks, open space, and outdoor recreation facilities for the community. As guidance for assessing current quantities and qualities of parklands and facilities, the level of service (LOS) in Redmond can be compared other agencies across the country. The traditional measurement focused on acres of parkland for the population. While this standard should not be used exclusively, it can offer a starting point for examining a number of more customized and diverse approaches to evaluating the City’s current service levels through a variety of metrics.

National Recreation & Parks Association Agency Performance Review

The 2024 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review and accompanying Park Metrics provide comprehensive park and recreation-related data to inform park and recreation professionals and key stakeholders about the state of the industry. The 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review presents data from nearly 1,000

unique park and recreation agencies across the United States, as reported between 2021 and 2023. These data provide guidance to inform decisions and demonstrate the full breadth of service offerings and responsibilities of park and recreation agencies across the United States. This comparison of nationwide data with the City of Redmond can provide guiding insights rather than target benchmarks.

The NRPA data are used to compare different park and recreation providers in communities across the country; however, the Park Metrics database relies on self-reporting by municipalities. Some agencies only include developed, active parks, while others include natural lands with limited or no improvements, amenities, or access. The comparative standards in the table on the following page should be viewed with this variability in mind.

Acreage-based Metrics

The NRPA Agency Performance Review provides a comparative of parkland acreage metrics across a range of jurisdiction population sizes. Parkland refers to both maintained parks and open space areas, such as greenspaces and plazas. The current population of Redmond fits within the category of communities 20,000 and 49,999 people.

Figure 12. NRPA Park Acreage Metrics by Jurisdiction Size per 1000 Population

	All Agenes	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More than 250,000
Median	10.6	12.6	11.2	10.2	7.0	10.2
Lower Quartile	5.1	6.0	6.2	4.8	4.4	5.0
Upper Quartile	18.0	20.9	18.0	17.4	15.5	16.7

Figure 13. 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Comparisons

NRPA Metric	All Agencies	Jurisdictions 20,000 to 49,999	Redmond
Residents per Park (by jurisdiction size)	2,386	2,062	1,470
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents	10.6	11.2	11.5
Miles of Trails	16.0	10.0	14.5
Park & Recreation Staffing (FTEs)*	57.6	34.2	11.5
FTEs per 10,000 Residents	8.9	11.2	3.0
Annual Operating Expenses	\$6,453,357	\$3,462,654	\$3,806,909
Operating Expenses per Capita	\$99.45	\$114.81	\$99.64
Operating Expenses per Parkland Acre	\$8,260	\$9,013	\$8,648
Operating Expenses per FTE	\$110,912	\$112,366	\$331,036
5-Year Capital Budget Spending	\$12,000,000	\$6,500,000	\$17,852,372

* pro-rated between Park Operations and Facilities Maintenance for City of Redmond

Figure 13 provides the nationwide comparison coupled with aggregate data of jurisdictions with a similar population size to Redmond’s current population. In most of the listed categories, the City’s provision of parks and open space is within the range of other agencies in terms of residents per park, parkland acres per 1,000 residents, miles of trail and operating expenses, as indicated in green in the right-hand column. Redmond currently has 11.5 acres of total parkland for every 1,000 residents which is slightly higher than the median for similar-sized communities. Since 2018, the City has added 65 acres to the park system, representing a 18% increase in parkland acreage since the 2018 Parks Master Plan.

Redmond’s current level of service is examined using population data and existing park acreage. The combined acreage for City-owned community, neighborhood, and mini parks is 151.9 acres and includes the undeveloped acreage of the Pershall and Elkhorn properties. The City currently provides 3.98 acres of total community, neighborhood, and mini parkland per 1,000 population. The existing adopted standard is to provide four acres of developed parkland per 1,000 population. Today, approximately 65% of the current park inventory is developed, resulting in a current level of service for developed parks as 2.5 acres per 1,000 population. The pending development several sites, including the old wastewater site, Pershall property, and Elkhorn property, will significantly enhance the City’s level of service for developed parks in the coming years.

Considering the future growth of Redmond, additional park acreage will be needed to accommodate the estimated 2035 population of 49,134 residents. If

this current level of service for City-owned parks is maintained into the future, the resulting demand for additional parkland will translate into the need for approximately 45 acres of newly acquired parkland and 100 acres of developed parkland. The acquisition and development of one community and 11 neighborhood parks noted in the Gap Analysis section above will be necessary to meet the geographic distribution goals and significantly address the current and future level of service needs on an acres per thousand metric.

The use of numeric standards is a blunt and limited tool to assess how well the City is delivering park and recreation services, since the numeric values alone neglect any recognition for the quality of the facilities or their distribution (i.e., the ease to which residents have reasonable, proximate access to park sites). While public ownership of a broad range of recreation lands is crucial to the well-being of the City, the simple use of an overall acreage standard does not match with the citizen input received during this planning process. Residents were particularly interested in the availability of trails, equitable distribution of parks within a reasonable distance from their homes, upgrades to existing parks, and additional recreation amenities. The other service metrics addressed on the following pages help expand the notion of the City’s provision of park and recreation amenities as a snapshot in time and relative to national comparisons and public sentiment from the Redmond community.

The acreage-based discussion regarding levels of service represents a status quo approach to the City’s potential demand for parkland acreage relatable to today’s existing level of service. The assumption reflected in the chart (Figure 14) is that today’s level

Figure 14. Current Level of Service & Projected Acreage Need

Metric	Measurement			
Existing Level of Service (LOS) Standard	4 developed acres per 1,000 residents			
2023 Population	38,208 residents			
2035 Population Forecast	49,134 residents			
Parkland Acreage (Urban Parks)	Total	Developed		
City-owned & maintained	151.9 acres	96.68 acres		
Total	151.9 acres	96.68 acres		
Level of Service	2023	2035	2023	2035
Effective Level of Service based on total acreage (acres/1,000 residents)	3.98	3.09	2.53	1.97
Net LOS to Standard (acres/1,000 residents)	(0.02)	(0.91)	(1.47)	(2.03)
Performance to Standard	99%	77%	63%	49%
Acreage surplus (deficit)	(0.93)	(44.64)	(56.15)	(99.86)

of service would be held constant and used as a guide post to estimate the future demand for parkland acres to accommodate population growth. This section does not suggest or assume a higher level of service than is provided for the City’s current population.

Investment-based Approach

Another method for assessing park LOS involves examining the investment in parks and facilities relative to population and budget allocations. The NRPA data provides a comparison of annual operating expenses with other agencies and jurisdictions with similar population sizes. Applying the City’s 2024–2025 budget data, the operating expense per capita is \$99.64, which is on par with the \$99.45 median for all agencies and the \$114.81 median for park providers in cities with 20,000 to 49,999 residents, see Figure 13. With 440 acres of parkland (developed and undeveloped sites, excluding Juniper Golf Course), Redmond’s operating expenses per parkland acre equates to \$8,648, also on par with the median expenditures of all agencies in aggregate and similarly sized jurisdictions. In reviewing prior and current year City budgets, capital budget spending for Redmond parks and recreation facilities indicates continued, strong investments in the park system – a clear sign of a rejuvenating park system.

Looking at the provision of recreation amenities within the park system provides another perspective on the adequacy of park service delivery. From the NRPA Park Metrics data, ten amenities were compared with the median values from an aggregate of all agencies across the country, as well as from similarly sized jurisdictions to that of Redmond, see Figure 15. The comparisons indicate that Redmond is not significantly deficient in playgrounds, diamond (baseball/softball) fields, basketball courts, dog parks, or skate parks, as highlighted in green in the adjacent column. However, the City provides fewer rectangular (soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby) fields and multi-use sport courts than the median of agencies reporting. Also, based on the mapping analysis provided earlier in this chapter, several areas of Redmond do not have easy access to existing recreational amenities, requiring residents to drive to access various activities. Assuming the future population forecast to 2035, the City’s park system will need to develop additional sport fields, sport courts, and dog parks to remain comparable to other jurisdictions from the NRPA data. These metrics align with feedback from the Redmond community through this planning effort.

Figure 15. NRPA Park Amenity Metrics by Jurisdiction Size

Amenities	All Agencies	20,000 to 49,999	Redmond (2023 pop.)	Redmond (2035 pop.)
Median Acres per 1,000	10.6	11.2	11.5	9.0
Median Trail Miles	16.0	10.0	14.5	14.5
Amenity	Number of Residents per Amenity			
Playgrounds	3,750	3,105	2,939	3,780
Diamond Fields	4,063	3,007	3,821	4,913
Rectangular Fields	5,000	3,333	7,642	9,827
Dog Parks	46,917	27,508	38,208	49,134
Skate Parks	54,750	33,167	30,566	39,307
Disc Golf Courses	76,780	29,445	38,208	49,134
Tennis Courts (outdoor)	6,003	5,461	4,245	5,459
Pickleball Courts (outdoor)	12,597	7,737	3,184	4,095
Multi-Use Courts (outdoor)	19,571	15,531	-	-
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	8,000	7,501	7,642	9,827

Other Performance Metrics

In reviewing the park system as a whole, Figure 16 illustrates the current levels of service across different performance measurements. From the community survey results, the importance of park and recreation amenities to the quality of life ranked as the strongest indicator for the park system.

These level of service metrics include distribution criteria to reflect the percent of travelshed coverage for each type of park in the community. Based on the gap assessment mapping, the City’s community parks within a 2-mile travelshed cover approximately 76% of the residential areas within Redmond’s urban growth boundary. Coverages measured as a 1-mile and ½-mile travel distance for mini, neighborhood or

community parks are considerably lower, providing access to existing parks for only 52% of the city within one mile and 45% within a half mile. The gap analysis conducted for this Plan reinforces the need for new park locations to fill known gaps in parkland distribution.

The City should utilize the full range of service metrics to develop and amend the parks Capital Improvements Plan to put forward and execute on projects that aim to expand the capacity of the system and meet the needs from local growth.

Figure 16. Distribution & Sentiment Metrics

Quality Criteria				
Community Life				
Importance of parks & recreation (Essential or important)		97%		
	LOS Grade	A		
Satisfaction (very or somewhat) with City parks & open space		81%		
	LOS Grade	B		
Agency-based Assessment				
Condition Assessment Rating of Existing Parks (3-point scale)		1.3		
	LOS Grade	B		
Distribution Criteria *				
Developed Community Park Access (within 2-mile travelshed)				
Percent Service Area with Access to Developed Community Park		75.8%		
	LOS Grade	B		
City Parkland Access (within 1-mile travelshed)				
Percent Service Area with Access to Community, Neighborhood & Mini Parks		52.1%		
	LOS Grade	C		
City Parkland Access (within 1/2-mile travelshed)				
Percent Service Area with Access to Community, Neighborhood & Mini Parks		45.4%		
	LOS Grade	D		
Usage / Visitation Criteria				
Frequency of Park or Trail Use				
Percent Visiting Parks at least Multiple Times per Month		TBD		
	LOS Grade	TBD		

* Note: The percentage of land area covered by service area walksheds is a proxy for the population within the residential portion of the UGB.

Beyond “Metrics” to Uniqueness

Examining the quantity of parklands and the level of investment in the park system are merely two approaches for evaluating the current service levels for park and recreation facilities. As the Redmond park system continues to mature through the redevelopment of its parks and improves equitable access to recreation opportunities, the City must strive toward a more diverse, unique, and universally accessible suite of outdoor recreation amenities, trail connections, and support facilities that provide an enhanced sense of place and quality of life for the community.

Continuing to provide unique outdoor experiences, while working to fulfill basic recreational park amenities, will result in parks with a diversity of amenities. The variety and location of amenities available within the community’s parks and recreational facilities will create a range of preferences and levels of park usage by residents. Park systems should ensure an equitable distribution and quantity of the most common amenities, such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, restrooms, sport courts, sport fields and trails, to help distribute the potential usage of load on individual parks. Park planners also should consider that many park users, particularly families, look for a variety of amenities in a park that will provide a range of outdoor recreation activities for every visit.

PLANNING FUTURE INVESTMENTS

Acquisitions to Fill Park System Gaps

The City should continue to utilize budgeted funds to secure additional acquisitions to address existing and projected gaps in park services across Redmond. To implement the acquisition program, the City may need to actively search for potential locations and property owners to secure future park sites, ahead of or concurrent with anticipated new development. Additionally, the City should continue to coordinate with local residential developers to include public parks in new subdivisions and consider tools, such as park system development charge credits, to facilitate the process.

Park Development Planning

Through recent park site acquisitions, the City is poised to initiate the development of multiple, future parks that will offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences, while creating destinations that attract and engage park users. The preparation of site master plans the Pershall, Elkhorn and Wastewater Treatment properties will be beneficial to guide future decision-making and development of those three



sites. Once master plans have been adopted, phased park development should be planned as part of the capital facilities program. The following represent potential considerations for the future site master plan processes for each property and are intended only to represent potential amenities to include consistent with the size and capacity of each site. Community-based site master plans for each property will determine the ultimate mix of amenities and site development.

Pershall Property

The Pershall property park development concept utilizes the agricultural fields for future sport fields, sand volleyball courts, parking, playground and one of the shelters (includes restrooms). A second shelter location re-uses a former residence site perched above the flat area and overlooking the beginning and end of a disc golf course. The course could be a tight 18-hole layout or a 9- or 12- hole more challenging course layout. A third shelter (with restroom) provides a trailhead function for an extension of the Dry Canyon Trail and a rest area for a skate spot. Steeper portions of the site should remain in natural environments with stewardship measures taken to protect the native habitat.

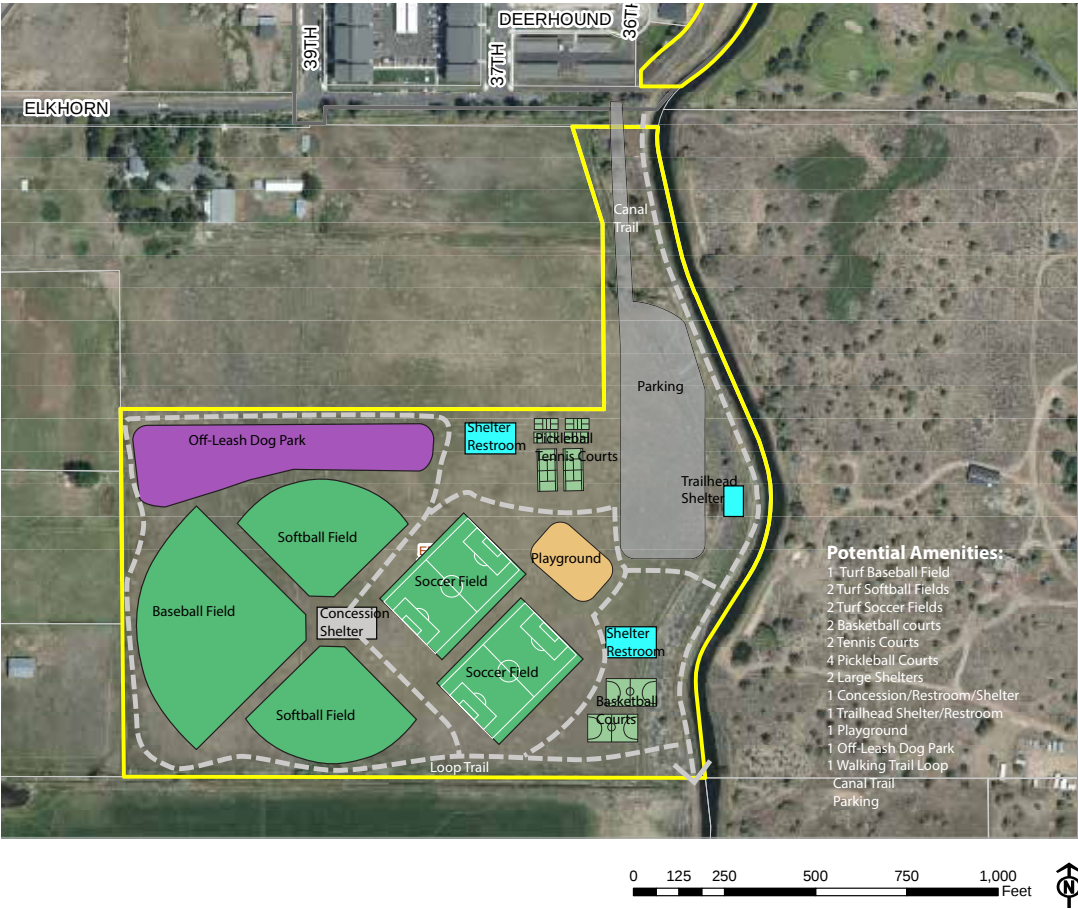
Elkhorn Property

The Elkhorn property offers a variety of development opportunities for active sport facilities on the flat agricultural fields. This could accommodate diamond ballfields (one baseball and two softball) and two rectangular soccer fields supported by a concession building with restrooms and pavilion space. Sport courts could be clustered with separate shelters (with restrooms) positioned to support multiple activity areas. A centrally-located playground is flanked by the full-sized shelters. An off-leash dog park could stretch along the northern perimeter to offer long-throwing distances and plenty of room to run. Perimeter loop trails offer walking options along with the extension of the Canal Trail. A smaller shelter also offers trailhead support for the Canal Trail between the parking lot and the canal.

Figure 17. Conceptual Sketch of Potential Site Development for the Pershall Property



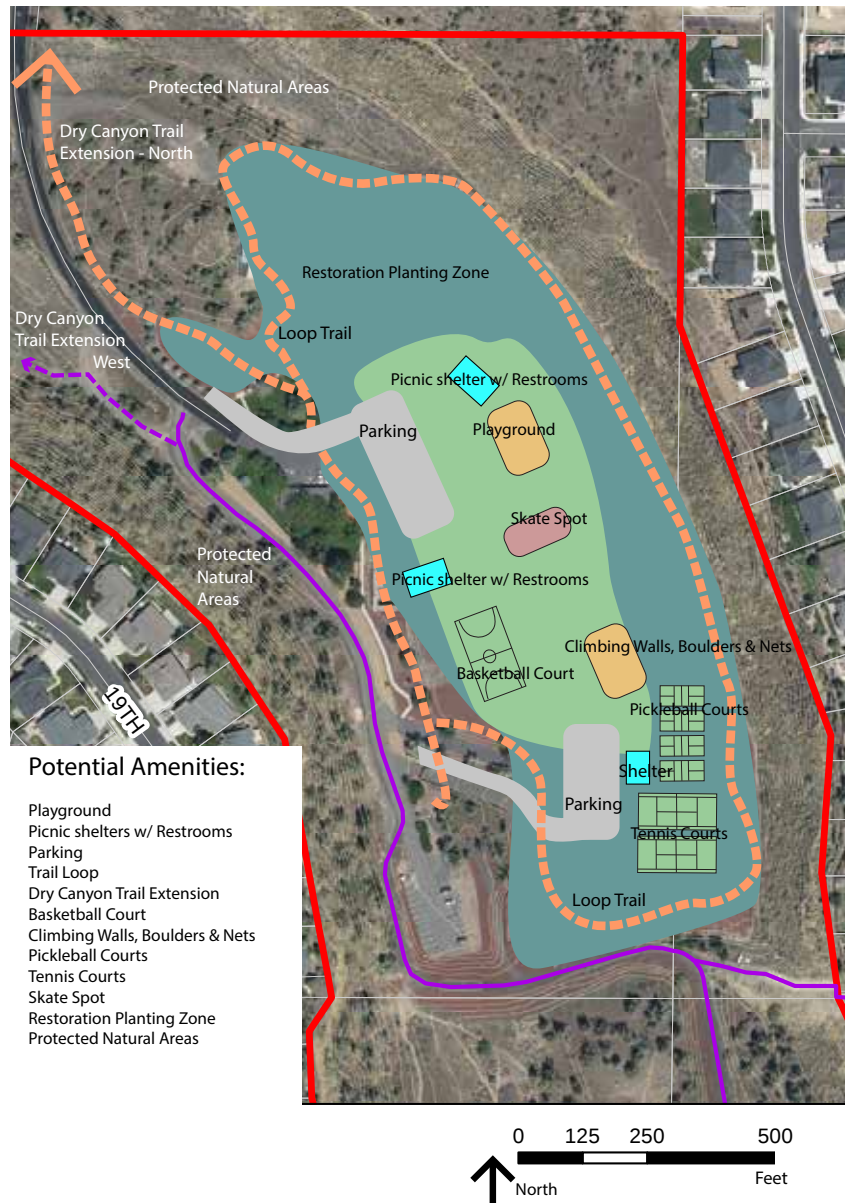
Figure 18. Conceptual Sketch of Potential Site Development for the Elkhorn Property



Wastewater Treatment Plant – Reuse Park

The wastewater treatment plant property contains existing natural areas (undeveloped) and a highly altered (developed) building site. The developed site provides room for both active and passive park amenities. Given the one entrance, the developed amenities are less than the site's developable area could accommodate with better public access. Picnic shelters, restrooms, parking areas, a skate spot, basketball court, playground, pickleball and tennis courts, specialized climbing challenges, and loop trail provide a variety of recreation. The Dry Canyon Trail extension connects to the park's loop trail then continues north along the road frontage. Existing canyon walls and natural areas are protected from development and stewarded for improved native habitat. Only the central park area is irrigated grass for open unstructured play. Surrounding the developed park, a restored landscape with native plantings provides a buffer between active park use and the loop trail and natural environment.

Figure 19. Conceptual Sketch of Potential Site Development for the Wastewater Treatment Site



Expanding Recreation Options

Neighborhood Park Enhancements

To support youth recreation programs and camps provided by RAPRD, select City neighborhood parks should be enhanced and utilized for hosting and supporting both active, structured and passive, unstructured uses. To support an expanded role, additional site amenities, open grass areas for field games, and permanent or portable toilets should be provided.

Sport Fields

Redmond's existing and popular sport programs outstrip the capacity of current fields. For many years, the Redmond community has benefited from a cooperative relationship between the City, RAPRD, and the Redmond School District. This partnership has been a critical component of meeting field sport needs within Redmond. The City should continue to work closely with the School District and RAPRD



to actively explore opportunities for greater joint use and development of facilities. Agreements between the agencies should identify opportunities and define responsibilities regarding field planning, acquisition, development, improvement, maintenance and operations; as well as clarify scheduling, decision-making and revenue sharing objectives.

With projected future population growth and growing participation in team sports, the City, RAPRD, and local sport leagues will need to properly maintain existing field resources, use existing sites more effectively, and acquire and develop additional field space to meet demands. Such actions will depend on continued active partnerships between the City, School District, RAPRD, sports organizations and other recreation providers.

Some of Redmond’s sport fields could benefit from enhanced maintenance, investments, and safety improvements. Improvements to turf, irrigation, restrooms, and spectator facilities could allow existing fields to better serve recreation users. Since lighting existing City fields within the canyon may prove to be unsupported by the community, the City should consider adding field lighting to future community park sites that will include sport fields.

Redmond does not have capacity to host large tournaments now, but if fields and lighting were added at future sites, then they might be able to attract tournaments in the future. If tournament space were available, then local programs could utilize those fields midweek and evenings, with the tournaments during the weekends to improve the facility’s cash flow.

Secondary benefits to tournaments include lodging, food and retail sales into the local economy, in addition to concession sales at the fields to support local leagues. The City should also look at the cash flow potential to offset the bond debt service requirements, and look at the lodging tax.

Sport Courts

Redmond currently provides courts for basketball, tennis and pickleball. The City has outdoor tennis/pickleball courts located at Sam Johnson Park and Valleyview Park. Outdoor basketball courts (mostly full courts) can be found at the Valleyview, Diamond Bar Ranch, Kalama, Fairhaven and Sam Johnson Park. The inclusion of half-court basketball courts may also be appropriate for neighborhood parks, particularly in underserved areas or where there is expressed neighborhood interest. Basketball (full court), volleyball, tennis and/or pickleball courts should be considered in the planning and development of future community parks.

Pickleball continues to rank as one of the fastest-growing sports and has seen significant jumps in participation over the past decade, attracting a wide range of age groups. Pickleball courts are most successful if clustered, rather than spread individually throughout the park system. Such a grouping promotes leagues, pick-up tournaments, and related social interaction. Courts are best located in groups (at least two, but preferably six to eight to accommodate the social aspects of the sport) to provide for the regular league activity that grows as the sport is adopted within a community.



Dog Parks

Walking with a dog is a very popular recreational activity, and off-leash areas have become desired amenities for dog owners living in urban environments who may otherwise have limited opportunities to exercise their pets. The Weigand Family Dog Park is Redmond's only official off-leash area at the present, and recreational trends and community input indicate the need for additional off-leash areas. The City has plans to develop a second dog park at the future 121 West site. Over the next ten years, it is recommended that the City provide up to three more dog parks, which should be at a minimum 1-acre in size and geographically distributed. Appropriate sites should be safe, not isolated, and noise impacts on neighbors should be considered. Ideally, a dog park would be a component to a larger park, where infrastructure (e.g. parking, restrooms, and garbage collection) exists.

The City also should continue to enhance signage and the enforcement of leash laws in parks or natural areas where only on-leash activities are allowed. Additionally, numerous communities have begun to rely on local grassroots or non-profit organizations for the on-going operations and maintenance of such facilities. The City should begin to explore the potential to coalesce the off-leash dog park users into a formal non-profit organization to assist with on-going support for existing and future facilities.

Skate Spots

With Redmond's projected population growth over the next two decades, the City should consider

incorporating small-scale skateboard (skate spots) or skate/scooter skills features into park sites, as appropriate. Small-scale elements are useful to segregate beginners from advanced skaters, while providing for a distribution of elements across the city for entry level riders.

Water Play or Splash Pads

Spraygrounds are water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost. The popularity of the Centennial Park spray park demonstrates the community interest in such facilities. Redmond should consider at least three more spraygrounds to accommodate the local need and locate them north, west and south of downtown to be closer to residential densities. Depending on the design and functionality, these amenities can draw significant numbers of visitors to the park; therefore, the siting of such a facility should consider access to parking and public restrooms.

Disc Golf

The City currently provides one, 9-hole disc golf facility in Dry Canyon located adjacent to the dog park, which was developed with the support and involvement of the Central Oregon Disc Golf Club and numerous volunteers. The City should continue to partner with the Central Oregon Disc Golf Club to facilitate the siting and development of additional courses in Redmond, potentially located on city or county lands near the fairgrounds or as part of future community parks.

The sport of disc golf has less stringent landscape requirements than many other outdoor recreation facilities. Extensive grading is not required. Individual hole alignments can bend and curve within reasonable environmental constraints. As long as the tee areas and cage locations can be on level surfaces, courses can be situated on side slopes and hillsides.

ADA Compliance

Minor improvements to access, such as providing ramped entrances, for site amenities are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. Also, the City should evaluate the play equipment and its signage for code compliance and replace outdated equipment, as appropriate. The Capital Planning section includes a line item for covering small upgrades and improvements to remove barriers and improve universal access. In general, the City should develop an ADA Compliance Checklist to identify and prioritize these deficiencies and develop a methodology for bringing all their parks into compliance.

Wayfinding & Signage

A good wayfinding system can provide a consistent identity and display effective and accessible information to orient the traveler. This guidance system ensures efficient use of the trail, park or other public space and conveys safety to the user by translating the environment into a known geography. Signs, symbols, maps, color palettes and standardized site amenities combined with good design of the park or trail help the user navigate the space and stay comfortably oriented.

Stemming from recent site assessments, Redmond parks need clearer, more prominent identification and directional signs located at multiple entry points. A few existing park facilities (Spud Bowl, Kiwanis Field, Fireman's Pond, Valleyview, Quartz, Spruce & Varnish Parks) lacked park identification signs. The City add secondary identification signage at the side pathways into parks to reinforce place-making and help with park identity, which is particularly valuable in the event of an emergency. Wayfinding signage along the Dry Canyon Trail is very good, and extending that same signage format to some of the side connections into the canyon could provide more information for the trail user regarding destinations, distances, etiquette, etc.

Overall, signage should identify the City of Redmond

as the provider, to be distinguished from school or private property, and offer methods for accessing additional information (e.g., contacts, volunteering, other facilities, etc.) to inform park users and visitors. Redmond should continue to implement a comprehensive wayfinding program that includes both visual graphic standards.

PARK SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

As part of this Parks Master Plan update process, several policies were assessed and reviewed. The following summarizes the key considerations and suggestions for these policy issues:

- E-Bikes,
- Water-Wise Landscaping,
- Dry Canyon Master Plan Decision-Making, and
- Lighting.

E-Bikes on Trails

E-bikes are bicycles that have a battery-powered electric motor that assists the rider while pedaling. The City of Redmond does not currently have a formal policy regarding the use of e-bikes on public recreational trails and park paths.

E-bikes come in a variety of styles, including road or city bikes, cargo and family bikes, and mountain bikes. E-bikes have seen a dramatic increase in popularity across the U.S. growing to more than 18% of pedal-only bicycle sales in 2023. The majority are Class 1 e-bikes (motor only engages when pedaling with maximum speed of 20 mph). The sales of e-bikes are expected to double by 2029.

The Oregon Vehicle Code sets the laws governing the use of vehicles, including bicycles and electric assist bicycles, in the state. According to the code, electric assist bicycle riders must be at least 16 years of age and are not required to have a license, registration, or insurance. E-bike riders may use bicycle lanes and paths, but not sidewalks. Where bicycle lanes do not exist, e-bikes can be ridden in the travel lane with vehicle traffic. Additionally, cities, towns, and other public landowners can set their own rules on where e-bikes are allowed.

Currently, the Oregon Vehicle Code defines an electric assist bicycle as a bicycle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of no more than 1000 watts, with a top speed of 20 mph when powered solely by the motor. However, the Oregon State Legislature recently adopted the three-tiered classification system described above as part of the Oregon Vehicle Code, effective as of January 1, 2025, via House Bill 4103.

Policy Considerations

When setting a policy for the use of e-bikes on public trails and paths, the City of Redmond should consider the impacts of e-bikes on trail access, user speed and safety, and conditions.

Access

Research into the use of e-bikes has found that e-bikes allow people to bike for farther distances and for longer periods of time. In particular, e-bikes can make cycling more accessible for older adults, people with disabilities, and those who cannot manage the physical resistance of a conventional bicycle.

Speed

Pedestrians often cite the speed of bicyclists as a concern on shared use trails. E-bike riders tend to travel at a slightly faster average speed, by about 1.9 mph, than conventional bicycle riders, though much of the increase is due to faster uphill speeds. Conventional and e-bike riders do not have significantly different maximum speeds. In this way, e-bike riders are using motor power to reduce the relative effort of cycling, but not necessarily to ride at higher maximum speeds. Multi-use trails should be designed and constructed to maintain safe user speeds, sight lines, and traffic patterns and reduce conflicts between users.

Safety

Though data is limited, studies have found that e-bikes and conventional bikes have similar rates of crashes, though self-reported injury severity is higher for class 3 e-bikes.

Rule Adherence

Studies in the U.S. and Europe found that e-bike users behave similarly to conventional bicycle riders when it comes to following traffic laws and complying with stop signs and traffic signals.

Trail Impact

The Central Oregon Trail Association (COTA), which manages and maintains trails throughout central Oregon, recently reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's proposal to allow Class 1 e-bikes on singletrack trails in the Deschutes National Forest. COTA supports allowing Class 1 e-bikes as they assist riders within the limits of normal human performance. In other words, an amateur rider on an e-bike pedaling at maximum effort and maximum assistance is unlikely to exceed the speed of a fit, expert rider using a conventional bicycle. Also, Class 1 e-bikes have similar design and mechanics to conventional bicycles, with similar gearing and brakes. As a result, off-road cycling trails that follow best practices for sustainable, environmentally sensitive design should be suitable for both conventional and electric assist bicycles. However, COTA does not support the use of Class 2 or 3 e-bikes on trails that are predominantly used by non-motorized users, as these bicycles allow users to exceed the normal range of human performance posing potential safety and trail risks.

Policy Suggestions

- Consider allowing Class 1 e-bikes (no throttle, 20 mph max) on paved and unpaved recreational trails where conventional bicycles are allowed.
- Consider permitting Class 2 e-bikes (throttle, 20 mph max) on paved recreational trails where trail width, design, and sight lines allow safe use.
- Continue to invest in trailhead and on-trail signage and implement etiquette signage, recognizing that this may create monitoring and enforcement challenge.
- Promote public education about allowed trail use and trail etiquette and encourage bike safety classes and programs.

Water-Wise Landscaping

Redmond's semi-arid climate of the high desert combined with its population growth and flourishing industrial have triggered the need to manage and conserve its water resources to ensure that groundwater can be sustained to meet system demands.

The City's 2022 Water Management Conservation Plan reported on annual and seasonal water consumption by customer categories including single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, and the city. The highest consumers

were in the single-family residential category with 61% of all water use due to outdoor landscaping watering associated primarily with large residential lots. Commercial use, including the Redmond School District's irrigation, was less than half that of single-family consumption. The City's water conservation outreach activities may have influenced the overall reduction in peak season water use, in addition to changes in zoning and real estate dynamics that have reduced average lot sizes. Although the City only consumes 4% of the annual water use compared to other water customers, its seasonal peak use is 6.3% higher in the summer than during non-peak use. Sport field irrigation and park grass areas likely can be attributed to this higher rate of use. While the most significant impacts will likely come from integrating water-wise practices in the single-family residential consumer category, the park system offers highly visible targets for demonstrating water-wise landscaping.

Adopting a Water-Wise Landscaping approach will not only significantly help the City in reaching the 10% water use reduction goal to accommodate the growing community, but also will provide additional benefits, such as reducing the City's carbon footprint, keeping ecosystems healthy, and reducing costs.

Policy Suggestions

Landscape Design Standards

The City should update its Standards and Specifications to include landscape design standards to be used in-house and shared with design consultants that incorporate Water-Wise principles to guide programming of new parks and/or renovating existing parks. The standards should expand the existing goals, means, and methods set forth in the City's WMCP by including among other items that reinforce the Water-Wise principles:

- Preferred Plant Lists: Provide a preferred plant list that sets the groundwork for park designs that discourage or prohibit the use of high water demand and high maintenance planting designs.
- Categorize Use Zones: Within any given park, there are varying levels of use intensity and required maintenance. For example, athletic fields are highly active, heavily programmed, and require a high level of water use and maintenance. In contrast, buffer zones surrounding the athletic fields, fence lines, small residual landscape beds, and parking strips receive little to no use, but they are often planted and maintained the same as highly active areas.

Categorizing the spaces by zone (i.e. Active, Passive, Inactive, Naturalized, Fully Irrigated, Partially Irrigated, Non-Irrigated, etc.) will enable prioritized landscaping standards for each zone category, thereby reducing water consumption and maintenance. Low-maintenance, drought-tolerant landscapes can dominate more planting areas in Redmond's parks.

Irrigation Standards

The City should review current irrigation standards and practices to identify deficiencies and opportunities to upgrade technology for more efficient irrigation and maintenance. The standards should consider the use of central controller to more easily track system failures and weather-based "smart" controller technology to more easily and accurately adjust irrigation to changes in weather and seasons and audit water use.

The graphic shown in Figure 20 illustrates the principles of designing for landscape zones within a generic, city neighborhood park. Focusing irrigation within portions of the active use zones of a park will reduce the overall water demand.

Water Wise Plant Selection

The City Code also contains an approved street tree list. The listed tree species include very few native species and few, if any, tree species that would naturally occur in the semi-arid high desert region. Other agencies have published recommended plant lists for Central Oregon that focus on native and adaptable plant species. The USFS Deschutes National Forest has compiled lists of native trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials that are drought-tolerant and provide ecosystem services for local wildlife. The City should re-evaluate and update lists of preferred trees, shrubs and perennials for use within park and natural area landscapes to be geared toward long-term reductions in irrigation demands.

Other Considerations

- The City should continue its active public education program for water conservation outreach through a variety of print and online materials, outreach at community events, and elementary school presentations and resources.
- The Public Works Department regularly recommends xeriscaping to the Community Development Department for existing parks and new parks projects. To reduce water use at existing and new City parks, the Public Works Department should continue to install weather-based irrigation controllers in the larger City parks.

Figure 20. Park Design Schematic Highlighting the Application of Irrigation Zones



Dry Canyon Master Plan Decision-Making Matrix

The Dry Canyon Master Plan (DCMP) was first adopted in 1984 and updated in 2013 to include a decision filter to guide the review and approval of new amenities proposed in the Dry Canyon. A core concern was that future development of the canyon without proper evaluation runs the risk of deteriorating the natural values of the canyon that make it so attractive.

Historically, the Dry Canyon has been subjected to various levels of disturbance from agricultural land uses to earth moving to residential and park development. The dry, high desert landscape of Western Juniper habitat is not tolerant of much disturbance and is difficult to get established. If the intent in the DCMP is to “preserve” the natural western juniper habitat, then a more proactive approach will be necessary going forward. Protection is much more effective (and economical) than restoration, and City staff recognize

the risk of disturbances to existing native habitat and the challenges of restoration.

While the Dry Canyon Master Plan offers the intention of “native enhancement”, it does not specify “preservation” or determine what stewardship practices are needed to conserve the ecological integrity of what remains as a (mostly) natural environment. The land use policy in the DCMP proposes:

1. The majority of the canyon shall be preserved as natural open space. Land within the canyon shall be identified as “Enhancement Area” or “Preservation Area”.
2. “Preservation Areas” shall provide for the preservation and management of natural features and resources, including views and vistas, canyon walls, native juniper stands, lava tubes and exposed rock outcroppings.

The DCMP’s mapped “zones” for conceptual development do not completely align with the actual comprehensive zoning designations that regulate development. An initial first step in tightening the

“preservation” approach is to better define the actual areas that merit protection and map them.

Limiting disturbances, rogue trails, and inappropriate uses can then be considered and justified by having specific designations for protected habitat. The higher valued ecological areas should have stronger protections, including that no trails penetrate their interior. Past disturbed areas where access into the canyon was easier have been (and should be) the target locations of more intense park development. Passive uses, such as trails, could be an “allowable use” in some of the less-critical habitat that should be targeted for restoration efforts or as “augmented” open space.

Updated Habitat Mapping

As a first step, the City should refine the master plan designations based on updated mapping of the quality of existing natural/native semi-arid high desert landscape conditions. Once mapped and clearly designated, these public park areas are no longer subject to the decision-making matrix for future park development. They are subject to a (future) stewardship and management plan for the native Dry Canyon landscape.

1. Engage a qualified naturalist to map the current Master Plan areas designated for “passive land use/native enhancement” and identify the quality of the habitat. Ranking the values (and susceptibilities) of the existing natural landscapes can then be the basis for proposed levels of preservation, protection, conservation and future restoration/management efforts.
2. Build on this mapping to create a management plan for stewarding these habitats, so they will be less vulnerable to degradation from their proximity to urban populations, intense park uses, etc. Likely, three designations for these “preservation” areas:
 - Strong protection (i.e., do not disturb),
 - Conservation with some restoration, and
 - Complete restoration effort.
3. Train and fund specialized staff who can practice the necessary techniques needed for implementing the stewardship/management plan for the Dry Canyon’s unique habitat.

Decision-Making Tool

The decision making filter for the Dry Canyon Master Plan that was included in the 2018 Parks Master Plan has been under-utilized by City staff and the Parks Committee. While the intent of the matrix is to guide

decisions about amenity improvements or additions into the canyon, many of the matrix criteria are not very specific to the Dry Canyon (other than the first question). Also, the matrix structure is both incomplete and requires the application of arbitrary ratings and the use of numerics that suggest a nominal value for each criterion. The scoring system and the weighting system leave open questions about the ranges of values to insert and the resulting range of values used to sum a final weighted score.

Reframing the criteria and structure of the decision-making tool to a decision tree or flow chart may simplify the process and enable more discussion between Park Committee members on the specifics of any proposal under consideration, rather than the use of weighted numbers to ‘validate’ a pending outcome. See Appendix J for additional information.

Lighting

Based on the growing need for recreational opportunities, the City should continue to mindfully evaluate the benefits versus the impacts of proposals to install lighting to support recreational amenities. Currently, the most intense and heavily programed uses have been predominately located along the south and central areas of Dry Canyon. Subsequently, these also are typically the use areas (e.g., athletic fields and sports courts) that most benefit from and warrant the need for lighting.

Policy Considerations

Dry Canyon

To preserve the desired balance of developed versus the natural attributes of Dry Canyon, it is recommended that the following approaches be considered in developing policies for future programming and development of Dry Canyon with regard to lighting needs and demands.

- Utilize the Decision Making Matrix from the Dry Canyon Master Plan, amended to include outreach/discussion with neighbors and coordination with other City departments, to assess future proposals to install new or additional lighting in the Canyon.
- Central/South Zones of Dry Canyon: The existing recreation facilities, including the athletic fields, sport courts, skate park, and dog park, with the central and south zones may warrant lighted facilities. Lighting should be evaluated based on anticipated additional use, adjustments to hours of use, ability to control

and focus lighting, and potential impacts to nearby residences. At the present, it is recommended to further evaluate the need and benefits for lighting the dog park and pursue athletic field lighting at future sites outside the Dry Canyon.

- **North Zone of Dry Canyon:** Current uses within the north zone are dedicated predominately to less intensive uses such as trails that in turn do not demand high intensity of lighting. The recommendation for this zone is to keep this zone more naturalized with only necessary lighting to accommodate safety and security at areas such as trailheads, roadway crossings, parking lots and stairways. The need is likely low for lighting the trail itself considering that most runners and cyclists that will be using the trail during dark hours typically are equipped with personal lighting equipment such as head lamps and bike headlights.
- **Dry Canyon Expansion to the North:** With the planned redevelopment of the wastewater treatment plant and the acquisition of the Pershall property, it is probable that the future development within this area may warrant supporting recreational facilities consistent with the community park classification. Recommendations would be to focus the planning and design toward consolidating the intensive uses that may require lighting in a manner that keeps the natural areas shielded from light spill-over and designed as contiguous as possible.

Future Community Parks Outside of Dry Canyon

Introducing athletic field lighting is often a contentious issue with surrounding property owners. Although lighting technology has and continues to advance with primary considerations toward reduction of light pollution, hot spots and light spillage, as well as energy efficiency and light quality, it can be difficult to assure adjacent property owners that they will not be significantly impacted. That said, one recommendation for future lighting in areas of new development is to introduce the lighted facilities prior to surrounding housing when possible to help alleviate these potential conflicts.



6



Chapter 6

Operations

In Redmond's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, one of the stated visions for the future focused on a network of parks and trails. The vision was that "Redmond residents have access to an interconnected system of parks and trails that promote health, recreation, and local and regional access. Neighborhoods have well-maintained parks that are accessible to users of all ages and levels of physical ability. The Dry Canyon is the heart of Redmond, expanded and maintained with appealing park facilities."

As with many past planning efforts, the City continues to recognize the value of its park and trail system and the importance of providing professional maintenance and management for a successful future. Among the goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan, maintaining and managing the parks and recreation system is intended to optimize effective park infrastructure and its use and maximize opportunities for public recreation.

Parks & Facilities Division

The City's system of parks, trails and outdoor recreation amenities takes full advantage of its 300 average annual sunny days to provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation offerings for local residents and visitors.

The Redmond Parks and Facilities Division is housed within the City's Public Works Department and is responsible for the development and maintenance of city-owned assets including natural areas, parks trails, building, and the Redmond Memorial Cemetery. It also maintains landscaping within the round-about and entrance gateways, the 175 downtown hanging baskets and landscaped areas, and oversees the tree program with more than 2,700 trees. The City has been recognized for 19 years by the Arbor Day Foundation with a Tree City USA designation. The Parks Division also coordinates and promotes volunteer activities, such as Redmond Earth Day, improving Umatilla Park and restoring park amenities. It also provides support services to the ice skating rink and summer park events.

The Redmond Parks and Facilities Division consists of 22 FTEs (11.5 parks & 10.5 facilities) with some seasonal workers spread across facilities maintenance and park operations subareas. In total, the Division had an annual budget of \$4 million (FY22/23), \$4.7 million (FY23/24) and \$5.2 million for fiscal year 2024–2025. The Division is primarily funded by the City's General Fund and system development charges.

Community Perceptions

The community survey provides some perspective on the community's view of parks and their overall importance and care. Based on the spring 2024 survey, the majority of respondents (97%) feel that parks and open space are important to their households. A large majority of respondents were somewhat to very satisfied with Redmond's parks and open spaces. The respondents also rated the condition of community parks. More than half of all respondents rated the condition of Sam Johnson, American Legion, and Quartz Parks as "excellent" or "good" (74%, 65%, and 63% respectively). However, The Weigand Family Dog Park, Skate Park, and Spud Bowl Park had the largest percentage of respondents who rated their condition as "fair" or "poor" (33%, 24%, and 23% respectively). This may reflect a community desire for

increased maintenance, cleanliness, and/or community needs for additional park amenities. Respondents with children in the home generally rated the condition of the Umatilla Sports Complex and Spud Bowl Park lower than households without children. When asked why they do not visit Redmond's parks or open spaces more often, one in five respondents do not visit more because there are not enough restrooms (20%) or the restrooms are not clean enough (17%).

The survey also gathered comments about their target improvement for the park system. Numerous comments highlighted the community's interest in the safety, maintenance, and cleanliness of city parks. Some respondents have concerns about vandalism, with several comments suggesting increased surveillance, better lighting, and more security cameras to deter destructive behavior. Maintenance and cleanliness are also major themes, with calls for more regular trash collection and cleaning, particularly addressing issues like broken glass and overflowing trash bins.

Planning & Administration

Staffing Resources

The City's park system must continue adding parklands and amenities to meet the demand for outdoor recreation concurrent with projected residential growth. As new features are added to existing parks, new lands are acquired for future parks, and new parks are developed, the Parks and Facilities Division's operational staff capacity will need to grow to meet the need for the administration and maintenance of the larger park system. Redmond's Parks staff are a critical component of the current and future success of the parks system. To effectively plan, develop, maintain, and operate a high-quality park system, Redmond will need to continuously reassess and reinvest in its staff.

Over the last six years, Parks Operations has doubled its budget – with one to two full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) added each year to keep up with the need for care of added parks and facilities. The City will need to continue to plan for when additional FTEs should be budgeted, hired, and trained to perform the duties necessary to maintain and operate a safe and clean park system. Seasonal staffing for those time-intensive tasks, such as mowing and janitorial duties, has required on-the-job training that reduces the efficiency of the permanent staff and results in a slower

progression of needed skills and experience. The City currently is investing in an asset management plan that will include staff training on how to best track maintenance tasks that help indicate labor needs and replacement planning.

To assess how Redmond’s Parks Operations compare to other jurisdictions of similar population density, the NRPA Park Metrics offers a snapshot view of how the City compares with other peer park agencies across the US. It should be noted that not all comparable agencies provide equivalent services (e.g., recreation programming), and many park systems have differing sizes, locations and local standards. Therefore, this comparison offers suggestions rather than concrete targets, since all standards and service metrics are intrinsically local. Some general observations of the agency comparison should be considered for Redmond’s park system as it grows:

- Areas with higher population densities tend to require increasing park operating expenditures per acre of parkland. This factor seems intuitive, inasmuch as parkland requires more attention and maintenance as more people uses parks.
- The 11.5 full-time employees in the Redmond Parks Division compares to 34.2 for park and recreation agencies with similar jurisdiction population sizes and 57.6 FTEs across all agencies. This staffing disparity may relate to the recreation services provided by many park and recreation agencies and the comparisons exclude seasonal (or non-full time employees).
- Redmond is currently operating its park system with a ratio of 3.0 FTEs per 10,000 population as compared to 11.2 FTEs/10,000 population for other agencies with similar population sizes. Compared to all park agencies reporting in the NRPA Agency Performance Report, Redmond had 33.9% of the staffing level of park FTEs compared to the median level. Again, the comparison includes recreation programming staffing together with operations staffing.

- Additional responsibilities of park and recreation agencies include operating or maintaining tourist attractions (40%), managing large outdoor amphitheaters (36%) and operating or contracting golf courses (36%).

The NRPA metrics reported the distribution of FTEs across park and recreation responsibilities with almost half of FTEs being responsible for operations and maintenance. Since Redmond’s service provision focuses on infrastructure and coordinates with RAPRD for recreation programming, a comparison using NRPA’s 46% of operations FTEs seems more appropriate. The NRPA median for park and recreation FTEs for similar sized communities is 34.2. A pro-rated equivalent for Redmond’s park operations would be 15.7 FTEs.

Figure 21 offers some direct comparisons from the NRPA Agency Performance Report for Redmond regarding park operation metrics. With comparative park system sizes and the additional non-park sites, the City should consider additional staffing for their growing park system.

As with different agencies, different parks have their unique characteristics, which may vary widely in the amount of labor required for annual care. Parks with extensive multi-purpose mown field turf will demand higher labor hours than parks with natural areas and much smaller mown lawn areas. More intensive park labor tasks are typically associated with mowing and janitorial/restroom cleaning. Parks without restrooms or irrigated turf grass would have significantly lower demands on labor time.

For Redmond, annual labor expenditures in park operations entail a variety of tasks. The most time-consuming tasks involve mowing and ‘parks run’. The ‘parks run’ category includes the daily tasks of trash

Figure 21. NRPA Agency Performance Report Comparisons

NRPA Metric	All Agencies	Jurisdictions 20,000 to 49,999	Redmond
Residents per Park (by jurisdiction size)	2,386	2,062	1,470
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents	10.6	11.2	11.5
Park & Recreation Staffing (FTEs)	57.6	34.2	11.5
FTEs per 10,000 Residents	8.9	11.2	3.0
Annual Operating Expenses	\$6,453,357	\$3,462,654	\$3,806,909
5-Year Capital Budget Spending	\$12,000,000	\$6,500,000	\$17,852,372

collection, restroom, and shelter cleaning. Figure 22 illustrates the annual labor hours according to eight categories for operations activities.

Figure 22. Park Operations Annual Labor Tasks

Park Operations	Annual Labor	% of Annual Tasks
Mowing	3,286.0	40.7%
Parks Run*	2,737.5	33.9%
Tree Care	1,108.5	13.7%
Trail Maintenance	368.0	4.6%
Sports Field Maintenance	198.0	2.4%
Total	8,082.5	

*Parks Run tasks include trash collection, restroom & shelter cleaning

As the Parks and Facilities Division integrates its recent asset management software with its ongoing operations, more data may become available to help predict the additional labor hours that will be required for each new park facility as the City continues to work to keep up with population growth and its resultant demand for more parkland. More pressure on park facilities with higher use will also trigger higher labor expenditures to ensure maintaining a safe and enjoyable park environment.

Another approach for comparing Redmond’s park system to other agencies considers an investment-based approach. NRPA metrics from their annual agency performance report tallies all agencies and segregates those agencies based on population size. For communities that are similar to Redmond in population, the report offers annual park and recreation agency operating expenses and how those expenses can be compared with per capita spending and expenses per parkland acre. Figure 23 provides the typical funding for all agencies and similar-sized communities with Redmond operating expenditures. Those numerical comparisons show Redmond’s investment in its park system is very similar to other park and recreation agencies.

Figure 23. Investment-based Approach

NRPA Metrics	All Agencies	Jurisdictions 20,000 to 49,999	Redmond
Annual Operating Expenses (Parks & Facilities)	\$6,453,357	\$3,462,654	\$3,806,909
Operating Expenses per Capita	\$99.45	\$114.81	\$99.64
Operating Expenses per Parkland Acre	\$8,260	\$9,013	\$8,648

Future Staffing Needs

As the City’s park system grows to include new park development and expands recreation options within existing parks, the capacity of Operations staffing will need to respond with additional FTEs. The support infrastructure for providing a labor workforce (office space, motor fleet, parking, locker space) also may need to be increased to accommodate future employees. In addition, the park system requires seven days per week coverage during the busiest use season. The City may want to consider a staggered work week to ensure adequate weekend coverage to manage heavier park use and maintenance needs.

Redmond will be continuing its capital improvement plan to upgrade existing parks and add new parks or park amenities to the system. If all proposed projects are implemented within the projected timeline, new park operations staffing will need to coincide with completed park projects. Additional community parks resulting from the development of Pershall, Elkhorn, and the Wastewater Treatment properties will trigger the need for more labor.

Redmond has been steadily fulfilling its maintenance and operations FTE needs in the process of budgeting for capital projects and ongoing revenues and expenditures. New staffing in park operations positions should continue to be coordinated with capital project implementation to ensure smooth integration of park operations with park system growth.

Other Operations Considerations

Role in Climate Resilience

Park operations across the country have been changing their approach to park maintenance as a response to the need for water conservation, flood resilience, stormwater best management practices, wildfire management, and forest restoration. Cities realize that their park system plays an important role in helping to provide contributions to climate resilience through reducing heat islands, cooling waterways, protecting habitat, and many other ecosystems services.

For Redmond, irrigation water is a precious commodity. Methods for conserving water through a more refined and sophisticated irrigation infrastructure is one implementation tool. Intentional limits can be defined to where natural grass needs to be irrigated and where year-round green grass is not needed. In recognition of limits placed on residential outdoor water use, the parks can provide desired examples of ways to integrate non-irrigated grass areas within public spaces. Being proactive about the irrigation program (efficiency and distribution) will be desirable.

Community forestry and the expansion of more shade trees in parks is an active pursuit of the City. Continuing this support for a more complete urban canopy will be essential as Redmond continues to face development pressure. Parks and natural open spaces should be managed to restore, maintain, and where feasible, expand the canopy coverage for the City to meet the vision and goals outlined in the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Capital Repairs & Replacements

As park amenities and infrastructure age, repairs and replacements are needed to ensure smooth, uninterrupted service for park users. Additionally, as physical amenities age, they tend to require more attention and more staff time to keep in safe conditions. Keeping up with capital replacements can save staff time by reducing repetitive repairs. The adoption of park standards for site furnishings also can simplify repairs and replacements and ensure compliance with the guidelines for meeting ADA requirements.

Staff Training

Keeping up with changing standards, new regulations, and technology is an ongoing need. Irrigation systems are increasingly more complicated, and training is needed to ensure effective use of those systems. Climate resilience requires increasing understanding for all those who execute new practices in grounds maintenance, tree care, habitat conservation, energy consumption, and more. OSHA issues new rules for ensuring occupational health and welfare in outdoor conditions of excessive heat, sun exposure, wildfire smoke. Protective equipment, required work breaks, and other safety measures may trigger the need for training for all maintenance workers. The conversion of natural grass sports fields to synthetic turf will reduce regular maintenance hours, but will also require training for managing the surfacing to ensure its longevity. Training is essential for staff to be able to integrate new procedures effectively. Redmond's Parks and Facilities Division staff leaders should continue to work to follow these trends to remain current and provide their employees with necessary training.



7

Chapter 7

Goals & Actions

The goals and policies described in this chapter define the recreation and park services that Redmond aims to provide. Taken together, the goals and policies provide a framework for the Parks Master Plan. The City's Comprehensive Plan follows statewide planning goals and provides the overarching direction for the City, while these goals and policies focus the efforts toward tangible parks and recreation achievements.

The goals and policies are built on the foundation established in the previous Parks Master Plan, adopted in 2018, but have been updated to reflect input received throughout the planning process, from city staff, the Parks Committee, and community members.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

ENGAGE & INFORM THE COMMUNITY

GOAL: Redmond's Parks Division fosters and expands the social connections linking the City together and bridging its neighborhoods.

1. CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Policies

- 1.1 Encourage and support active and ongoing participation by diverse community members in the planning and decision-making for parks and recreational opportunities.

Actions

- 1.1.1 Involve residents and stakeholders in system-wide planning and park site facility design. Use a diverse set of communication and informational materials to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- 1.1.2 Employ innovative strategies to improve community involvement in park and recreation planning efforts.
- 1.1.3 Identify under-represented segments of the community and work to improve their capacity to participate in park planning and decision-making.
- 1.1.4 Continue to promote and distribute information about parks, recreational amenities, events and volunteer activities sponsored by the City and partner agencies and organizations.
- 1.1.5 Provide clear maps of City parks, trails and recreation facilities online, in the City newsletter, at trailheads and public counters, and in newspaper articles or notices.
- 1.1.6 Support the Parks Committee as the forum for public discussion of parks and recreation issues.
- 1.1.7 Conduct periodic joint sessions between the Parks Committee and other standing City boards, such as the Planning Commission, and with the City Council to improve coordination and discuss policy matters of mutual interest pertaining to recreational resources, opportunities and funding.
- 1.1.8 Survey, review and publish local park and recreation preferences, needs and trends at least once every five years.
- 1.1.9 Pursue opportunities to partner with residents and neighborhood groups to improve, maintain, monitor, and steward local parks, natural areas and trails.
- 1.1.10 Encourage and promote volunteer park improvement and maintenance projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, churches and businesses.
- 1.1.11 Support and promote efforts to document and publicize Redmond's local heritage and identity, to include interpretive displays/markers.
- 1.1.12 Continue to maintain and update the Division's webpage with planned and current park improvements.
- 1.1.13 Initiate site master plans for the undeveloped parklands with significant public involvement to engage support for proposed recreational design opportunities.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

SECURE LANDS FOR THE FUTURE

GOAL: Redmond provides a comprehensive system of parks, natural resource areas and recreation amenities that serves current and future needs.

2. PARK & OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

Policies

- 2.1 Plan for and acquire additional parklands necessary to adequately serve the City's current and future population based on adopted service levels, community needs, and subarea plans.
- 2.2 Plan for the location of parks in the proximity of under-served neighborhoods and/or high-density developments, as well as designated park areas within subarea plans.

Actions

- 2.1.1 Provide developed urban parks (community, neighborhood and mini parks) to a combined service standard of 4 acres per 1,000 persons.
- 2.1.2 Provide equitable access to parks such that all city residents live within a ½-mile of a developed park.
- 2.1.3 Proactively seek and establish parklands identified within this Plan to address current and future level of service needs, in both developed and undeveloped areas, to secure suitable locations for new parks to serve current and future residents.
- 2.1.4 Identify and prioritize lands for inclusion in the parks system based on factors such as contribution to level of service, connectivity or recreational opportunities for residents.
- 2.1.5 Continue to protect and preserve the northern reaches of Dry Canyon as public open space through strategic acquisitions and land use regulations.
- 2.1.6 Prepare development standards to ensure good park design.
- 2.1.7 Coordinate with the Community Development Department for Parks Division staff review and comment on development proposals to improve park siting and community planning; Update the development code as necessary to accommodate development review for park infrastructure.
- 2.1.8 Explore and implement subarea planning in areas of the UGB and URA that are not already planned to identify future park and trail sites.
- 2.1.9 Prioritize park acquisition in areas of the city facing population growth, and residential and commercial development.
- 2.1.10 Pursue acquisition of park-adjacent parcels to provide for needed parking expansion or valuable natural area/open space conservation.
- 2.1.11 Explore opportunities for agreements with local utilities, public agencies and private landowners for easements for parkland, trail corridors and recreation facilities.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

CREATE GREAT PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES

GOAL: Redmond's parks meet local needs for active and passive recreation, enhance the environmental and visual quality of the community, and enable healthy living.

3. PARK DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

Policies

- 3.1 Design and develop park sites and facilities to maximize recreational value and experience, while minimizing maintenance and operational costs and negative environmental or community impacts.
- 3.2 Strive to reduce barriers to participation and improve safety by providing universal access to parks and amenities.
- 3.3 Establish and operate specialized recreational facilities (e.g. sport facilities, off leash dog areas, skateparks, community gardens) to respond to identified public needs.
- 3.4 Conserve significant natural areas to meet habitat and canyon protection needs and to provide opportunities for residents to recreate and connect with nature.
- 3.5 Revise the City Code, development standards, and development code to accommodate and standardize development or park infrastructure.

Actions

- 3.1.1 Design new parks and provide improvements to existing parks which promote public safety and security, and provide accessibility to all in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.
- 3.1.2 Continually evaluate facilities for ADA compliance; Implement and update as needed the ADA Transition Plan to address and prioritize accessibility in parks and facilities.
- 3.1.3 Examine existing parks for opportunities to add, change or redesign existing recreational amenities to ensure the most effective use of park space and provide diverse outdoor recreation opportunities.
- 3.1.4 Incorporate low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities; emphasize the use of native vegetation for landscaping to reduce maintenance and irrigation requirements.
- 3.1.5 Maintain an inventory of assets and their condition; Update the inventory as assets are added, updated or removed from the system and periodically assess the condition of park facilities and infrastructure.
- 3.1.6 Expand the role of neighborhood parks to provide recreational amenities, facilities and opportunities and serve as youth recreation programming locations.
- 3.1.7 Provide additional picnic shelters for events, such as family gatherings and community events.
- 3.1.8 Assess overall sport fields needs on a regular basis, based on existing inventories and local participation trends.
- 3.1.9 Develop and maintain minimum design and development standards for park and recreation amenities within private developments to address community facility needs, equipment types, accessibility and installation procedures.
- 3.1.10 Implement the goals and policies of the Dry Canyon Master Plan and utilize its decision-making matrix to assess the appropriateness for new or additional amenities within the Canyon.
- 3.1.11 Develop a natural resource management plan for stewardship of the Dry Canyon's natural areas to ensure the protection of its wildlife habitat integrity into the future.
- 3.1.12 Consider the preparation of an Urban Forestry Management Plan to articulate a long-term strategy for tree protection, urban forestry management and public education and outreach.

- 3.1.13 Update the City's Design Standards and Specifications to include landscape design and irrigation standards that incorporate water-wise landscape principles to guide site design and programming of new parks and renovated existing parks.
- 3.1.14 Consider the installation of directional and low-level safety lighting into active park areas (i.e., sports fields, trails), as appropriate, to extend hours of use or enhance safety, while limiting light spill over for adjoining neighborhoods or impacting dark skies.
- 3.1.15 Implement policies for the use of e-bikes on shared-use trails through the adoption of speed limits, installation of trail courtesy signage and promotion of etiquette and community education.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

CONNECT TRAILS & NEIGHBORHOODS

GOAL: Redmond's parks, and open spaces are connected with safe and accessible trails, bikeways and pedestrian linkages.

4. TRAILS & LINKAGES

Policies

- 4.1 Support other City Departments to develop a network of shared-use recreational, pedestrian and bicycle trails to enable connections within parks and between parks, neighborhoods and public amenities.
- 4.2 Design and construct park trails to serve a variety of users at varying skill levels.
- 4.3 Support other City departments in the implementation of the Transportation System Plan Bike and Pedestrian Improvements.

Actions

- 4.1.2 Partner with other City Departments to acquire rights-of-way or public access/use easements for sections of canals to connect existing trails into a contiguous network of shared use trails.
- 4.1.3 Provide Dry Canyon trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, signage, restrooms and other amenities.
- 4.1.4 Implement Dry Canyon trail signage standards, route and wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities and informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities, as described in the Dry Canyon Master Plan.
- 4.1.5 Incorporate an environmental interpretation sign system for conveying values of natural areas in parks and along Dry Canyon trails.
- 4.1.8 Work with other City Departments to coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions, Deschutes County, RAPRD and COID to provide a connected trail network that provide continuous walking and biking access between parks, natural areas and other key destinations, especially along the Pilot Butte Canal and the BPA corridor, if appropriate.
- 4.1.9 Consider an amendment to City code to remove an accommodation for bridal paths within city limits.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5

FOSTER A HEALTHY, ACTIVE COMMUNITY

GOAL: Redmond's parks and facilities bring residents together, encourage and amplify healthy lifestyles, and foster community pride and identity.

5. WELLNESS & HERITAGE

Policies

- 5.1 Identify opportunities to create public gathering spaces that enable residents of all ages to connect with each other.
- 5.2 Seek opportunities to support and expand heritage facilities.
- 5.3 Reflect the City's identity by incorporating art, history and culture into the park and recreation system.

Actions

- 5.1.1 Continue to support community events that provide opportunities for social engagement and bring families and neighbors together.
- 5.1.2 Partner for and promote special events to enhance community identity, community activity and environmental education.
- 5.1.3 Identify appropriate locations within parks and natural areas for the installation of public art, interpretive signs or cultural displays.
- 5.1.4 Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available amenities.
- 5.1.5 Continue to partner and coordinate with RAPRD in their planning for recreation programs and to maximize the use of recreation facilities. Expand neighborhood park amenities to support RAPRD recreation programs in local neighborhoods.
- 5.1.6 Explore partnership opportunities with regional healthcare providers and services, such as St. Charles Health System and the Deschutes County Health Services Department, to promote wellness activities, healthy lifestyles and communications about local recreation amenities and the benefits of parks and recreation.
- 5.1.7 Plan for and develop Homestead Park to highlight the history of Redmond's original homestead, to include historical monuments and/or interpretive displays.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 6

MAINTAIN & MANAGE FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

GOAL: The Parks Division stewards the community's human, social and physical resources to care for and expand recreational opportunities for residents.

6. ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

Policies

- 6.1 Provide leadership and sufficient staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to the City's requirements.
- 6.2 Actively manage Redmond's park and recreational assets through a regular schedule of maintenance and capital renewal efforts to optimize use, reduce unplanned reactive maintenance and protect public investment.
- 6.3 Pursue and maintain effective partnerships with governmental agencies and private and non-profit organizations to plan and provide recreation activities and facilities in an effort to maximize opportunities for public recreation.
- 6.4 Use traditional and new funding sources to adequately and cost-effectively maintain and enhance the quality of Redmond's park system.

Actions

- 6.1.1 Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and commitment from staff, Committee members and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) and the Oregon Recreation & Park Association (ORPA).
- 6.1.2 Assess the Department's staffing needs and follow industry standards and appropriate staff metrics for maintainable acres. Hire adequate staff to manage the City's park and recreation system.
- 6.1.3 Use part-time, seasonal and contract employees for select functions to meet peak demands and respond to specialized or urgent needs.
- 6.1.4 Annually update the Capital Facilities Plan to reflect the recreational needs of the community.
- 6.1.5 Periodically update the Parks System Development Charges and methodology to reflect revised park capital and population forecasts.
- 6.1.6 Assess park maintenance standards and prepare a routine preventative maintenance program to ensure parks, facilities and equipment are maintained in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition.
- 6.1.7 Plan for and finance deferred maintenance projects and upgrades for ADA compliance to ensure safe and accessible park infrastructure.
- 6.1.8 Coordinate with public, private and non-profit providers, such as organized sport leagues and the Redmond School District, to plan for projects to expand specialized recreational facilities.
- 6.1.9 Utilize strategic capital investments in parks, trails, natural areas and art to encourage and support economic development and revitalization.
- 6.1.10 Pursue supplemental funding options and dedicated revenues for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities, such as through private donation, sponsorships, partnerships and state and federal grant sources, among others.
- 6.1.11 Consider the establishment of a Parks Utility Fee to facilitate funding for ongoing park operations and maintenance.

8



Chapter 8

Capital Projects & Implementation



The preceding chapters provided an overview of Redmond’s park and open space system, along with goals and policies to guide future planning, development, and operations. This chapter focuses on specific project actions, including the proposed 20-year capital project list, and offers recommendations on additional strategies for successful implementation.

Acquisitions to Fill Park System Gaps

The acquisition of additional neighborhood and community parks is necessary to address existing gaps in park services in Redmond and in anticipation of future growth. As land development continues,

opportunities to acquire large park sites will be more difficult and require Redmond to follow an intentional acquisition program, as well as think creatively and foster partnerships to provide desired public parkland with sufficient room for park amenities. To implement the acquisition program, the City may need to actively search out potential locations and property owners to secure future park sites, ahead of or concurrent with anticipated new development. Additionally, the City should continue to coordinate with local residential developers to include public parks in new subdivisions and utilize tools, such as system development charges, to facilitate the process.

Park Development & Enhancements

By securing new parklands, the City is poised to implement phased development of the Pershall property, Elkhorn property, and the redevelopment of the wastewater treatment site that will offer residents a wider range of recreational experiences. Considering local needs for types of park facilities and national trends, new park designs should include some of the following amenities, in addition to always supporting walking trails:

- Inclusive or destination playgrounds,
- Splash pad/water play,
- Skate spots and/or small bike skills areas,
- Picnic areas for small group gatherings,
- Lighted athletic fields, especially soccer,
- Sport courts, including futsal and pickleball, and
- Off-leash dog areas.

Continued effort by the City should be toward increasing connectivity between parks and to Dry Canyon, especially for improved east/west connections and more, better and accessible access into Dry Canyon. This also includes ensuring safe crossings of busy streets around parks and near Dry Canyon access points. The City should also continue to manage and reduce rogue trails in the canyon and address trail maintenance to manage for pavement quality, cracks and heaves.

Several parks have aging infrastructure that warrants upgrades. As older benches and tables are replaced, they should be re-installed with ADA-compliant versions that also include accessible routes to at least half of the furnishings per park. Other projects may include adding amenities to existing parks, such as picnic shelters for small gatherings and paved pathway connections to improve user circulation and ADA-compliant routes. A general consideration for the public is to create a park system that provided year-round facilities for all ages and all abilities to gather and recreate in diverse range of safe, clean and well-maintained park facilities that also balance fiscal stability.

ADA & Other Accessibility Enhancements

Minor improvements to access, such as providing ramped entrances to playgrounds or stable surface access to site furnishings, are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. The site assessment summaries and the capital project list identified and includes upgrades to remove barriers and improve universal access. In general, the City should make improvements to existing parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability, accessibility, and quality of park features and grounds.

Wayfinding & Signage

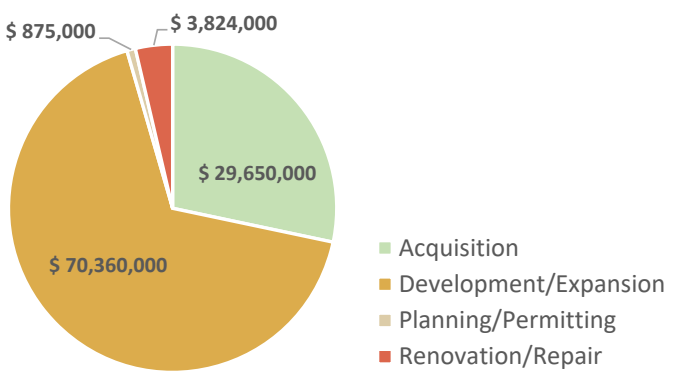
Parks, trails, and other public open spaces are the primary opportunities for unifying an urban environment into a cohesive, accessible, and connected community through an identifiable wayfinding program. Redmond has begun to implement an overall wayfinding and signage program, and the City should install additional, graphically-unified signs to help users navigate the outdoor recreation experiences offered by the City. Signage should be installed at key trail nodes and at all City parks (primary and secondary entry points); signage should include directional and mileage information, site and system maps, unique features, and user etiquette information.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

The following Park Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) identifies the park, trail, and facility projects considered for the next 20 years, along with brief project descriptions. The majority of these projects entail the maintenance, acquisition, and development of parks, recreational amenities, and trails. Based on survey results and other feedback, Redmond residents have indicated an interest in park facility upgrades and enhanced trail connections as priorities, and the Park Capital Improvement Plan is reflective of that desire.

The following table summarizes the aggregate capital estimates by park types for the next 20 years.

Figure 24. 20-Year Capital Project Expenditures (2024 dollars)



The following Park Capital Improvement Plan provides brief project descriptions and sequencing to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

As projects are phased over the next ten or more years, the planning-level project costs have been inflated at an increase of 3.5% annually. Overall, the inflated costs for projects identified in the CIP total over \$167 million. The proposed project list focuses primarily on improving existing facilities through timely repairs, replacements, and upgrades to ensure an ongoing, healthy, and safe recreation system for Redmond.

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Redmond Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Project Site	ID #	Project Description	Project Type	2023 CIP Projects	1-5 Years	6-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-20 Years
CIP Projects (2024)								
Central Dry Canyon Park	PK 2102	Improvements per Master Plan	D	\$ 4,628,357				
	WA 2202	As part of the Central Dry Canyon - install additional parking, accessible path, and restroom.	D	\$ 1,016,259				
	PK 2405	Neighborhood dog park.	D	\$ 1,000,000				
Fairhaven	PK	Playground Upgrade	D	\$ 500,000				
Wetlands	WW	Trail amenities/Public Access Permit	D	\$ 5,000,000				
Project Site	ID #	Project Description	Project Type	Cost Estimate (2024)	1-5 Years	6-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-20 Years
Park System Renovations & Enhancements								
Ice Skate Rink		Construct permanent ice rink downtown	D	\$1,188,000	\$1,188,000			
	American Legion Park	Add accessible route to ball field spectator seating	R	\$15,000	\$18,000			
		Add safety rails to bleachers	R	\$4,000	\$5,000			
Bowlby Park		Add dugouts to Field #2	D	\$40,000	\$48,000			
		Replace restroom/concessions building	R	\$650,000			\$ 1,089,000	
		Improve parking	R	\$130,000		\$ 183,000		
Diamond Bar Ranch Park		Install seating zones/benches in treed area	D	\$50,000	\$ 71,000			
		Connect walking path around the entire park; Improve trail in the upper native area	D	\$80,000	\$ 113,000			
		Add additional native plantings in upper area	R	\$50,000	\$ 59,000			
Fairhaven Park		Upgrade new play system	R	\$500,000	\$ 594,000			
		Install shelter & spray pad	D	\$600,000		\$ 846,000		
		Install small, fenced dog park/OLA	D	\$125,000			\$209,000	
Firemen's Pond		Install parking lot	D	\$150,000	\$ 212,000			
		Extend and pave pathways & improve pier	D	\$150,000			\$ 251,000	
		Install additional trees for canopy	R	\$8,000	\$ 10,000			
Hayden Park		Install small skate spot & bike skills course	D	\$500,000	\$ 705,000			
		Parking improvements	R	\$12,000	\$ 14,000			
		Install shelter, shade structure, shade trees	D	\$120,000	\$ 143,000			
Kalama Park		Install sand volleyball court	D	\$20,000		\$ 34,000		
		Conduct site master plan update for neighborhood park enhancements	P	\$35,000	\$ 59,000		\$ 99,000	
		Add ADA-compliant access routes to site furnishings	R	\$115,000		\$ 193,000		
Kiwanis Field		Renovate field to practice standards	D	\$140,000	\$ 166,000			
	Quince Park	Install additional shelter & skate spot	D	\$350,000		\$ 586,000		\$ 696,000
	Redmond Skate Park	Implement the Phase 2 Skate Park extension	D	\$350,000				
Sam Johnson Stack Park		Replace Hope Playground fall safety surface	R	\$600,000	\$ 713,000			
		Add ADA-compliant access routes to site furnishings	R	\$60,000	\$ 71,000			
		Install seating /viewing areas	D	\$120,000				\$ 239,000
Valleyview Park		Install bike skills park	D	\$750,000				\$ 1,492,000
		Install perimeter pathway	D	\$40,000		\$ 67,000		
		Install small, fenced dog park/OLA	D	\$50,000	\$59,000			\$ 796,000
West Canyon Rim Park		Install restroom	D	\$400,000				
Weigand Family Dog Park		Pave loop trail with ADA access	D	\$90,000		\$ 151,000		
		Install shelter	D	\$100,000		\$ 168,000		
		Install lighting	D	\$85,000	\$101,000			
		Install new irrigation system	R	\$60,000	\$ 71,000			
Sub Total:				\$ 7,549,000	\$ 3,260,000	\$ 2,130,000	\$ 2,807,000	\$ 3,223,000
Park System Expansion								
Parkland Acquisitions								
New Park Developments		Area A (121 West): 2.5 ac neighborhood park	A	\$ 350,000	\$ 416,000			
		Area B (near Maple & 22nd): 1-2 ac neighborhood park (due to land availability/topography)	A	\$ 1,400,000		\$ 1,975,000		
		Area C (near Northwest Way & Oak): 2-3 ac neighborhood park	A	\$1,600,000			\$ 2,681,000	
		Area D (near SW Antelope & SW 43rd): 4 ac neighborhood park (due to land availability)	A	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 2,999,000			
		Area E (SWAP): 1-2 ac neighborhood park (due to land availability/topography)	A	\$ 1,000,000			\$ 1,675,000	
		Area F (near Helmholtz & Reindeer): 2-3 ac neighborhood park	A	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,425,000			
		Area G (North Point near Kingwood & 15th): 2-3ac neighborhood park	A	\$ 600,000	\$ 713,000			
		Area H (WRAP): 3-4 ac neighborhood park	A	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,188,000			
		Area I (WRAP): 15-20 ac community park (Consider artificial turf and lights)	A	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 6,348,000			
		Area J (North Dry Canyon): 10-20 ac community park	A	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 14,252,000			
		Area A (121 West): 2.5 ac neighborhood park	D	\$ 750,000	\$ 891,000			
		Area B (near Maple & 22nd): 1-2 ac neighborhood park	D	\$1,500,000		\$ 2,513,000		
		Area C (near Northwest Way & Oak): 2-3 ac neighborhood park	D	\$ 2,400,000				\$ 4,775,000
		Area D (near SW Antelope & SW 43rd): 4 ac neighborhood park	D	\$ 3,500,000		\$ 5,289,000		
		Area E (SWAP): 1-2 ac neighborhood park	D	\$ 1,500,000				\$ 2,985,000
Wastewater Treatment Site		Area F (near Helmholtz & Reindeer): 2-3 ac neighborhood park	D	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,850,000			
		Area G (North Point near Kingwood & 15th): 2-3 ac neighborhood park	D	\$1,600,000		\$ 1,600,000		
		Area J (North Dry Canyon): 10-20 ac community park	D	\$ 8,000,000		\$ 13,403,000		
		Land Acquisition	A	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,801,000			
		Master planning & design	P	\$ 180,000	\$ 254,000			
Pershall Property		Decommissioning	D	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,375,000			
		Development of master plan	D	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 16,927,000			
		Park site master planning	P	\$ 500,000	\$ 594,000			
		Phase 1 development of master plan	D	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 9,501,000			
		Phase 2 development of master plan	D	\$ 7,000,000			\$ 11,727,000	
Elkhorn Property		Land use entitlements & park site master planning	P	\$ 160,000	\$ 190,000			
		Phase 1 development of master plan (considering artificial turf and lights)	D	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 9,169,000			\$ 11,939,000
		Phase 2 development of master plan	D	\$ 6,000,000				
	Sub Total:			\$ 93,640,000	\$ 41,195,000	\$ 36,273,000	\$ 54,215,000	\$ 19,699,000
Dry Canyon Trail Investments								
West extensions of DCT		Fir Ave and 13th - westside DCT staircase	D	\$400,000	\$475,000			
		19th and Poplar - westside pathway	D	\$300,000	\$423,000			
North DCT Extension		NW Vanish Place staircase into Pershall	D	\$500,000			\$838,000	
		NW 1100 Pershall Way trail access to Pershall	D	\$400,000		\$564,000		
Trail Amenities		Signage, benches, water fountains	D	\$300,000		\$300,000		\$100,000
Trail Maintenance		Maintenance, renovations & repairs	R	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$100,000		\$ 100,000
Sub Total:				\$ 2,300,000	\$ 575,000	\$ 1,387,000	\$ 938,000	\$ 100,000
Other System-wide Investments								
Park Signage		Additional Identification & wayfinding signage	R	\$ 115,000	\$ 37,500	\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000
ADA Upgrades		On-going barrier removal, improved access, compliant site furnishings	R	\$350,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 125,000
Irrigation System Upgrades		Install weather-based 'smart' controllers & water-wise upgrades	R	\$470,000	\$100,000	\$110,000	\$125,000	\$135,000
Annual Habitat Projects		Restoration & native planting projects; Invasive plant removals	R	\$ 285,000	\$ 67,500	\$ 67,500	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
	Sub Total:			\$ 1,220,000	\$ 255,000	\$ 290,000	\$ 320,000	\$ 355,000
	Total:			\$ 104,709,000	\$ 45,285,000	\$ 40,080,000	\$ 58,280,000	\$ 23,377,000

Project Type
A Acquisition
P Planning/Permitting
R Renovation/Repair
D Development/Expansion

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IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

A number of strategies exist to enhance and expand park and recreation service delivery for the City of Redmond; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community will is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life, and the Redmond City Council has demonstrated its willingness in the past to support parks and recreation and a high quality of life for local residents.

The recommendations for park and recreation services noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations, and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Parks Division is finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement, and support the implementation of proposed objectives, initiatives, and projects. While grants and other efficiencies may help, these alone will not be enough to realize many ideas and projects noted in this Plan, especially the development of future community parks with athletic fields.

The following recommendations and strategies are presented to offer near-term direction to realize these projects and as a means to continue dialogue between City leadership, local residents, and partners. Additionally, a review of potential implementation tools is included as Appendix H, which addresses local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and others.

Enhanced Local Funding

According to the City budget, Redmond maintains reserve debt capacity for local bonds and voter approved debt. The potential to bundle several projects from the Park Capital Improvement Plan or take advantage of unforeseen opportunities, such as acquisitions, may warrant a review of debt implications and operating costs for the City, along with the need to conduct polling of voter support for such projects.

To finance a large capital project, such as a major community park development, the City could explore the use and timing of General Obligation (G.O.) bonds, which are debt instruments sold by the City to fund new facilities or to make improvements to existing facilities. Bonds are repaid with property tax revenue generated by a special levy that is outside the

limits imposed by ballot Measures #5 (1990) and #50 (1997). Voters must approve G.O. Bond sales either in a General Election, or in another election in which a minimum of 50% of registered voters participate. G.O. Bond revenues may not be used for operations, maintenance or repairs, but they may be used for renovations to existing facilities.

Local Option Levies

Local option levies are separate property tax levies that can be assessed to fund capital improvements or operations and maintenance activities. Such levies are outside of the City's permanent tax rate limit, subject to the combined rate limit imposed under Measure #5. Local option levies require voter approval and are subject to the double majority (50% voter turnout and 50% approval) requirement of Measure #5. If used to fund capital improvements, revenues can be used to secure bonds or complete one or more projects on a pay-as-you-go basis, over a period of up to 10 years. Operations and maintenance levies are limited to a period of five years.

Parks Utility Fee

A parks utility fee is an ongoing fee (often billed monthly) that provides revenue for the needs of the park system. When charged by a city, such a fee can be an additional line item on an existing utility bill. The revenue received can be used for both operational and capital needs, and it can be pledged to the debt service of revenue bonds. Establishment of a parks utility fee in Oregon requires compliance with legal requirements at both state and local levels. Several jurisdictions across Oregon have implemented and utilized a parks utility fee as supplemental funding to maintain and enhance their park systems. Redmond could consider enacting a parks utility fee for the purpose of providing for the operation and maintenance of parks and facilities within the City and to ensure adequate resources are available for the sound and timely maintenance of existing recreation amenities.

System Development Charges (SDCs)

Park System Development Charges (SDCs) are fees paid by new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. SDCs can only be used for parkland acquisition,

planning and/or development. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of Redmond currently assesses a Parks System Development Charges (SDC) on new residential development to assist with the cost of improvements needed to accommodate new growth. The City should prioritize the usage of Parks SDCs to secure new park properties and finance park or path/trail development consistent with the priorities within this Plan. Also, the City should periodically update the methodology and rate structure, as appropriate, to be best positioned to obtain future acquisition and development financing from residential development.

Parkland Donations & Dedications

Land donations from development projects, individuals, or conservation organizations could occur to complement the acquisition of park and open space lands across the City and UGB/URA. Gift deeds or bequests from philanthropic-minded landowners could allow for lands to come into City ownership upon the death of the owner or as a tax-deductible charitable donation. Parkland dedication by a developer could occur in exchange for Park SDCs or as part of a planned development where public open space is a key design for the layout and marketing of a new residential project. Any potential dedication must be vetted by the Parks Division to ensure that such land is located in an area of need or can expand an existing City property and can be developed appropriately with site amenities meeting the intent of this Plan.

Grants & Appropriations

Several state, federal and private grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including those offered by the Oregon State Parks & Recreation Department (such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund). Pursuing grants is not a panacea for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Redmond should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly

relevant on regional transportation projects, and the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on projects

Internal Project Coordination & Collaboration

Continued internal coordination between the Public Works and Community Development Departments can increase the potential of discrete actions toward the implementation of the proposed trail and path network, which relies heavily on street right-of-way enhancements, and in the review of development applications with consideration toward potential property acquisition areas, planned path corridors, and the need for easement or set-aside requests. However, to expand the extent of the park system and recreation programs, additional partnerships and collaborations should be considered.

Partnerships

Public-private partnerships are increasingly necessary for local agencies to leverage their limited resources in providing park and recreation services to the community. Corporate sponsorships, health organization grants, conservation stewardship programs and non-profit organizations are just a few examples of partnerships where collaboration provides value to both partners. The City has existing partners and should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships to help implement these Plan recommendations.

Coordination with the Redmond Area Park and Recreation District, Redmond School District, sport leagues, and other recreation providers should be ongoing to assess the range and type of recreation programs offered within Redmond and to maximize use of community facilities, such as fields, sport courts, and other park spaces.

Health Benefit Partnerships

Redmond also should explore partnership opportunities with regional health care providers and services, such as St. Charles Health System and the Deschutes County Health Services Department, to further promote wellness activities, healthy living, and communications about the benefits of parks and recreation. For example, this group could more directly cross-market services and help expand communications about local

wellness options, and they could sponsor a series of organized trail walks through Redmond as a means to expand public awareness of local trail opportunities and encourage residents to stay fit. For example, other communities have been successful with funding requests to regional hospitals for the development and printing of community walking guides that highlight the health benefits of walking and include trail system maps and descriptions.

Volunteer & Community-based Action

Successful volunteer efforts – through volunteer groups, students, neighborhood groups, or sport and service organizations – can result in significant site improvements and can allow community members to gain a sense of ownership in the parks and recreation system. Volunteers and community groups already contribute to a variety of community activities and events, such as youth sport facility support, tree planting, and park clean-ups, among others. Redmond currently maintains a webpage of volunteer-appropriate projects, which should continue to be updated and promoted through the website and social media platforms and via partnerships with school district.

While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals adds value to the Redmond parks and recreation system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time. Additional resources may be necessary to expand volunteer coordination to more fully utilize the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

Other Implementation Tools

Appendix H identifies other implementation tools, such as voter-approved funding, grants and acquisition tactics, that the City could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the Park Improvement Plan projects List.

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Appendix A:

Park Site Assessments



AMERICAN LEGION PARK

Community Park
11.85 acres

Design Opportunities

- Future expansion to south should consider implementing areas for respite – picnic tables in shade, benches, small gathering zones, shelter, etc.
- Potential for interpretive element about Dry Canyon, etc.
- Add playground ramp to improve ADA compliance.
- Add safety rails to bleachers.
- Add accessible route to ball field spectator seating.
- Replace missing plaque at Veteran’s Memorial between flagpoles.

Amenities

- Baseball / soccer field
- Picnic tables
- Concession building with restrooms
- Paved parking
- Playground with climbing boulders & swing sets
- Walking path/trails
- Amphitheater & stage
- Drinking fountain
- Bike tool stand



BAKER PARK

Neighborhood Park
1.77 acres

Design Opportunities

- New perimeter paved pathway connects to most amenities but drinking fountain lacks an accessible route. Small lip into play area creates a barrier to ADA access.
- Handicapped parking space lacks ADA compliant sign.

Amenities

- BBQ Pits
- Drinking Fountain
- Exercise s\Stations
- Paved Parking
- Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Play Structures
- Restroom, portable
- Pavilion
- Benches
- Bike Racks



BOWLBY SPORTS COMPLEX

Community Park
6.75 acres

Design Opportunities

- There is an opportunity to celebrate the Bowlby plaque dedication area. Paving improvements could add to the viability of the area.
- It is very difficult to find the appropriate parking lot for first time users. Improved signage would help direct users to overflow parking at the high school, but long term the development of a unified plan that establishes clear entry to the park by vehicle should be considered.
- Large swaths of dirt/gravel border the northern most ball field. Unclear if this is overflow parking or staging, etc. An adjacent maintenance vehicle access drive also makes it unclear as to what happens here. Area would benefit from defining elements; signage, striping and varying surfaces.
- A new plan for the park could greatly improve its function and use.
- Dry Canyon Trail tunnel has graffiti on trail pavement (not permitted based on signage).

Amenities

- Bleachers
- Paved parking
- Restrooms & portables
- Scoreboards
- Baseball fields
- Concession building
- Warm-up pens



CENTENNIAL PARK

Special Use Facility
1.85 acres

Design Opportunities

- Expanded urban park could offer some additional shade structures or umbrellas to provide shaded spots until the new trees grow larger.

Amenities

- Concession building with restrooms
- Drinking fountains
- Water play feature
- Benches
- Bike tool stand
- Bike racks
- Tables
- Public art
- Tables & chairs
- Paved pathways
- Public parking lot across street
- Interpretive historic signs
- Stage



DIAMOND BAR RANCH PARK

Neighborhood Park
3.3 acres

Design Opportunities

- The park provides an active park area and an upper, naturalized area to provide different experiences. Continue to manage the diversity of the native habitat.
- Consider paving the woodchip pathway through natural area while preserving natural, native habitat.
- Consider more native plantings in upper area to benefit both adjacent neighbors and the visitor’s experience.
- Opportunity for seating zones/benches in treed area (upper area) – along pathway or in pockets.
- Curbing around playground creates a barrier for ADA access. Consider adding a ramp or higher level of safety surfacing.

Amenities

- Basketball court
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Pavilion
- Play structures
- Restrooms
- Walking path
- Drinking fountain



DISC GOLF AREA

Special Use Facility

Design Opportunities

- Install additional native landscaping.
- Shared parking with Dog Park could have an ADA paved pathway to disc golf course entry to provide accessible route for spectators.
- Kiosk signage needs refreshing.

Amenities

- Paved parking
- 9-hole disc golf course
- Cement tees & disc cages
- Kiosk with course map
- Iron ranger for donations
- Picnic table



FAIRHAVEN PARK

Neighborhood Park
3.46 acres

Design Opportunities

- North portion of site could benefit from being refined into an attractive naturalized zone. This area could become an off-leash dog park without compromising the existing park uses.
- Consider adding a picnic shelter for shade and comfort of park users. Additional recreational elements could be added to park, such as a skate spot or climbing boulder.
- Benches need to be replaced.
- Basketball court needs painted court lines.

Amenities

- Basketball court
- Horseshoe pits
- Play structures
- Restrooms
- Walking paths
- On-street parking
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Bike rack



FIREMAN'S POND

Special Use Facility
5.77 acres

Design Opportunities

- Opportunity for a pathway that encircles the lake which would provide better footing and assist in minimizing worn areas in the lawn at the north and south banks.
- Add park identification sign.
- Goose droppings are so extensive it is unpleasant to walk anywhere in the park. Waterfowl management is needed to reduce this health hazard.

Amenities

- BBQ grill
- Horseshoe pit
- Paved parking (off-street)
- Portable toilets & hand-washing station
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Walking path
- Wildlife viewing
- Fishing pier



HATHAWAY PARK

Mini Park
0.57 acres

Design Opportunities

- Benches overlooking Dry Canyon are not on accessible routes, Consider a paved to connection to at least one of the overlook spots.
- Consider adding more shade trees to create a more comfortable sitting area.

Amenities

- Paved parking
- Picnic table
- Public art
- Stairway connection to Dry Canyon Trail
- Benches
- Gazebo



HAYDEN PARK

Neighborhood Park
3.06 acres

Design Opportunities

- Opportunity to enhance the usage of park by implementing more passive elements – i.e. shade structure, tree canopy area with seating elements, or develop ways to make use of the slope on site. Lots of room for added recreational elements. Park should be master planned for major improvements.
- Delineate parking area by defining parking stalls & turnaround space.
- Replace BBQ grill.
- ADA barrier from parking area into play area.
- Park could benefit from additional shade tree plantings.

Amenities

- BBQ grill
- Benches
- Paved parking (off-street)
- Picnic tables
- Play structures
- Restrooms
- Shaded bench
- Shaded picnic table



HOMESTEAD PARK

Neighborhood Park
2.86 acres

Design Opportunities

- Opportunity for better screening from highway and areas that could provide shade and respite.
- Trail wayfinding signage to identify canal trail and its destinations would be helpful.
- One of the handicapped parking spaces should have a painted access aisle added.

Amenities

- Picnic tables
- Walking path
- Bike pump track
- Interpretive kiosk
- Paved parking
- Benches
- Pavilion
- Public art
- Bike tool stand
- Bike rack
- Drinking fountain
- Portable toilet
- Connection to Homestead Canal Trail



KALAMA PARK

Neighborhood Park
2.36 acres

Design Opportunities

- Park should undergo a master plan design to determine how to update, renovate and add new amenities.
- Add trees for shade and to enhance programming.
- The northeast corner of the site provides an area to establish numerous opportunities: additional screening/ vegetation; bike parking bay; break out area for outdoor learning/interpretation. This could be an area where a circuit path around the park stretches into.
- Add perimeter paved pathway to pass through trees and around the ball fields.
- Sidewalks could be established at north & west edges of the park – providing better connection and accessibility.
- Safer street crossing could be implemented at the NW corner/ intersection of park.
- Basketball Court needs painted play lines.
- Park offers not accessible routes to any recreational amenities.
- Bleachers should have safety railings added to meet International Building Code.
- Replace broken drinking fountain when accessible routes are added.

Amenities

- Baseball / soccer field
- Basketball court
- BBQ grills
- Picnic tables
- Play structures
- Restrooms
- Benches
- Drinking fountain (broken)



KIWANIS FIELD

Community Park
1.54 acres

Design Opportunities

- A unifying concept master plan is being developed to improve parking, circulation and recreational spaces.
- The actual field should be evaluated to serve the highest sport field need with relevant improvements to follow that determination. Once its future is known, a park identification sign should be added.

Amenities

- Unimproved Baseball Field
- Gravel Parking (on street shoulder)



QUARTZ PARK

Community Park
7.2 acres

Design Opportunities

- Add park identification sign.
- Ensure that any new landscaping implements native plant species that will avoid invasive problems and contribute to wildlife habitat value.

Amenities

- Paved parking
- Restrooms with drinking fountain
- Paved pathways
- Pavilion
- Playground
- Connections to Dry Canyon Trail
- Skate spots
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Bocci courts
- Horseshoe pits
- Natural area
- Lighting (at parking & playground)



QUINCE PARK

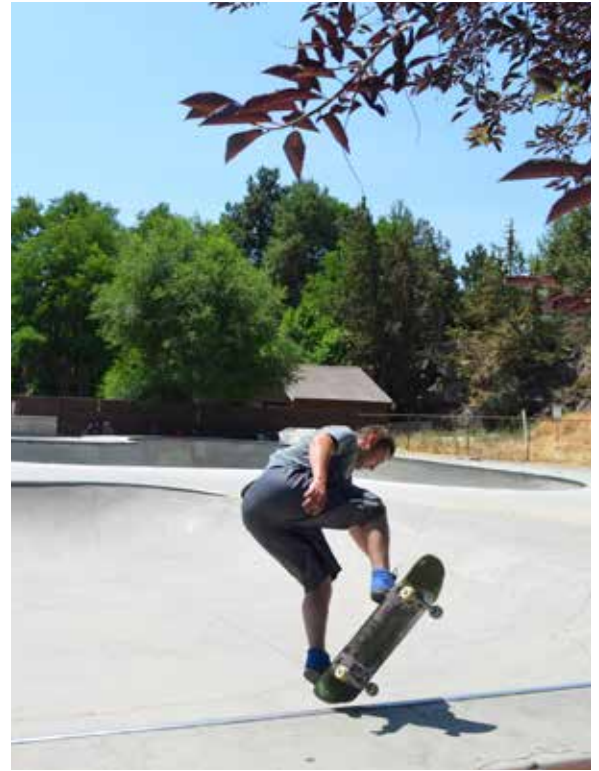
Neighborhood Park
4.1 acres

Design Opportunities

- Additional rest and pause areas (benches, picnic areas, etc.) could be incorporated.
- East portion of site could incorporate a more naturalistic landscape in conjunction with its play improvements.
- Ensure ADA access into playgrounds by adding ramps. Existing play area curbing creates access barrier into both playgrounds.
- Additional trees could create a more naturalistic feel on the east side and provide shade to additional areas.
- Drinking fountain is located near street. Should be located on an accessible route and more central to park users.
- Add painted travel aisle for second handicapped parking space (next to restroom).

Amenities

- BBQ grills
- Paved parking (off-street)
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Drinking fountain
- Play structures
- Nature-themed playground
- Restrooms
- Walking paths



REDMOND SKATE PARK

Community Park
0.67 acres

Design Opportunities

- An ADA-compliant picnic table with shade trees could be added between parking and skate bowl.
- Replace drinking fountain with ADA-compliant fixture.
- Areas of seating could be added in the current gravel/dirt area at the north. Add benches.

Amenities

- Gravel parking lot (transitioning to paved parking in 2024)
- Skate features
- Drinking fountain (broken)
- Bike rack



SAM JOHNSON PARK

Community Park
9.73 acres

Design Opportunities

- Opportunity to provide a shaded/naturalistic zone of the park at the west edge, nearest the bluff for passive park use.
- Tennis and pickleball courts were closed for resurfacing during site assessments. (A sign of good stewardship.)
- Picnic tables should be provided along accessible routes to equate to the quantity of tables scattered in the grass areas to comply with ADA guidelines.

Amenities

- BBQ drills
- Bike racks
- Drinking fountain
- Paved parking
- Picnic tables
- Play structures (Hope Playground)
- Restrooms
- Tennis courts
- Pickleball courts
- Basketball ½ courts
- Pavilion
- Public art



SPRUCE PARK

Neighborhood Park
4.4 acres

Design Opportunities

- Add a park identification sign.
- Perimeter pathway would be more ADA-compliant if paved.
- Plan to add more shade trees to enhance park perimeter pathway.

Amenities

- Pavilion
- Paved pathways
- Playground
- Bike racks
- Benches
- Picnic table
- Portable toilet
- Open grass for informal play
- Landscaped areas



SPUD BOWL PARK

Community Park
4.74 acres

Design Opportunities

- Plan for Central Dry Canyon is expected to improve parking, circulation, pedestrian safety and wayfinding.
- All bleachers should have safety railings to meet International Building Code. Replace older wooden bleachers.

Amenities

- Bleachers
- Soccer field
- Gravel parking lot



STACK PARK

Mini Park
0.81 acres

Design Opportunities

- Park lacks ADA-compliance for entrance, access to any amenity and non-compliant portable toilet and drinking fountain. A renovation should be scheduled to provide better access/circulation & amenities. A paved pathway connecting amenities and entries should be added.
- Transition from alleyway at south edge into park could be enhanced.

Amenities

- Picnic tables
- Portable toilet
- Tree identification map in kiosk
- Drinking fountain
- Bench



UMATILLA SPORTS COMPLEX

Community Park
9.7 acres

Design Opportunities

- Include paved pathway to access playground and soccer viewing area.
- Add wayfinding signage along pathway system.
- Add safety railings to bleachers to meet International Building Code.
- Existing drinking fountain is not ADA-compliant. Replace with new fountain that includes dog watering bowl.
- Handicapped parking spaces need fresh paint for required travel aisles.

Amenities

- Baseball fields
- Bleachers
- Concession building with restrooms
- Paved parking
- Picnic tables
- Play structures
- Fitness equipment
- Portable toilets
- Soccer field
- Drinking fountain



VALLEYVIEW PARK

Neighborhood Park
10.31 acres

Design Opportunities

- Add park identification sign.
- Opportunity for benches/viewing area at east of tennis courts – great view across the region to east and north toward Smith Rocks.
- Consider pruning trees on the east side to enhance views to the north and east.
- A path/ trail network around the extents of the site to north around water facility could offer additional recreation value on the site.
- Additional trees could be established at western edge of site to improve aesthetics.
- Opportunity for east edge of parking lot to accommodate a native plant palette and facilitate parking lot infiltration zone, while providing an aesthetically attractive element at a highly visible area upon entry.
- Opportunity to explore an off-leash dog area in the park.

Amenities

- Paved parking
- Tennis court
- Pickleball courts
- Basketball court



VARNISH PARK

Neighborhood Park
2.2 acres

Design Opportunities

- No wheelchair seating provided at picnic tables. Add another table that provides space for wheelchair.

Amenities

- Paved pathways
- Playground
- Pavilion
- Basketball court
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Bike racks
- Portable toilet
- Open grass for informal play
- Landscaped areas



WEIGAND FAMILY DOG PARK

Special Use Facility
2.93 acres

Design Opportunities

- Entry from street could be better defined with signage.
- Areas within the fenced dog parks could include more tree plantings. Adding shade trees allows for more comfort zones.
- Opportunity to provide shade and definition to parking lot with the implementation of native trees & shrubs.
- Consider installing dog agility structures/elements.
- Consider installing lighting and irrigation system.
- Add parking near the disc golf location and a restroom as part of the Well 9 project.

Amenities

- Paved parking (off-street)
- Portable restroom
- Small & large dog areas
- Kiosk
- Small shade structure
- Public art
- Drinking fountain
- Water spigot with hose for dog use.
- Connection to Dry Canyon Trail



WEST CANYON RIM PARK

Neighborhood Park
1.94 acres

Design Opportunities

- Future opportunity for passive design elements such as picnic tables, shelter, benches with shade trees, etc. at the SE corner of site where it can easily be accessed from new residential area.
- Paved paths should be added to provide for universal accessibility.
- Plan for resurfacing basketball court before its cracks affect playability.
- Containment system for play safety surfacing creates barrier for ADA access into playground.
- Consider adding wayfinding signage to side trail to Dry Canyon Trail.

Amenities

- Basketball court
- Play structures
- Picnic tables
- Restroom with drinking fountain
- Benches
- Access to Dry Canyon Trail



Appendix B:

Community Survey Summary

To: Maria Ramirez, Special Projects and Natural Resource Program Manager
From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.
Date: June 25, 2024
Re: **Redmond Citywide Parks Master Plan**
Community Survey Summary Results

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of a survey of the general population of the City of Redmond that assesses residents' recreational needs and priorities.

KEY FINDINGS

[Redmond residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities.](#)

Nearly all respondents (97%) think parks and recreation are important or essential to quality of life in Redmond. Very few, about 3%, feel they are useful, but not necessary, or not important at all.

[Residents visit City of Redmond parks to participate in a range of activities.](#)

Many residents of Redmond visit the city's parks and recreation facilities, including the Dry Canyon and Canal Trail systems, to walk or run, exercise, relax, walk a dog, or attend a community event. A large majority of survey respondents (81%) are satisfied with Redmond's parks and open spaces. Few cited concerns that keep them from visiting more often, though about one in five respondents stated they would visit more if there were cleaner and more restrooms available.

[Residents would like to see the City expand park and recreational opportunities while stewarding existing parks and facilities.](#)

Overall, residents would like the City to prioritize acquiring land for community parks and expanding trail opportunities. In hundreds of open-ended comments, survey respondents asked the City to consider:

- **Trails and Connectivity:** Residents called for safer, more interconnected walking and biking routes, emphasizing both paved and unpaved trails for various activities. They particularly focus on improving access to the Dry Canyon Trail, ensuring safe street crossings, and adding segregated paths and off-road trails to enhance safety and connectivity.
- **Environmental Conservation:** Respondents stressed the importance of preserving natural areas, reducing water use, and responsibly managing vegetation.
- **Recreation and Sports Facilities:** There is strong support for expanding and improving recreation and sports facilities, including the new Redmond Recreation Center (RAPRD). Residents also expressed interest in more disc golf courses, soccer and baseball fields, bike parks, pickleball courts, and off-leash dog areas.
- **Community Events and Family-Friendly Activities:** There is a strong interest in more inclusive recreational options for all age groups, with specific suggestions for activities for teenagers.

Residents also prioritize enhanced playgrounds, shaded areas, picnic areas, and additional family-friendly community events.

- **Security and Maintenance:** Safety, maintenance, and cleanliness of city parks are major interests, with residents suggesting increased security and better lighting to deter vandalism. They also advocate for stricter enforcement of leash laws and rules against littering, drug use, and graffiti, as well as more regular trash collection and cleaning.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In close collaboration with City of Redmond staff, Conservation Technix developed the 17-question survey that was estimated to take about ten minutes to complete.

The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within the city limits of Redmond on April 26, 2024, and reminder postcards were mailed to the 2,500 households on May 14, 2024. An online version of the survey was posted to the city's website on May 1, 2024. The mail survey included a unique QR code to complete the survey online. Residents who did not receive a mail survey could complete the survey online. The survey was closed on June 2, 2024, and the full dataset was compiled and reviewed.

Overall, 237 surveys from the random sample mailing were completed and returned (9.5% response rate, 6% margin of error). An additional 367 surveys were completed from the general, community-wide online survey. In all, 604 surveys were collected.

Information about the survey was promoted through several channels, including on the City's website, through multiple social media postings and through direct outreach to partner organizations.

Although households were randomly chosen to receive the mail survey, respondents were not necessarily representative of all city residents. Mail survey responses underrepresent residents under 35 years of age and over-represent residents over the age of 35. See Figure 1 below for age demographics for the mail and online surveys, as well as comparative percentages for Redmond's population. See page 15 for other demographic subgroup data comparisons.

Figure 1. Age demographics of survey respondents

Age group	Survey Respondents			Redmond	
	Mail	Online-only	Combined	All	Over 20
Under 20	0%	2%	1%	25%	--
20 to 34	11%	22%	17%	21%	28%
35 to 44	23%	34%	29%	16%	21%
45 to 54	10%	16%	14%	11%	15%
55 to 64	14%	10%	11%	11%	15%
65 to 74	25%	12%	17%	9%	12%
75 and older	17%	4%	9%	7%	10%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

This report includes findings of community opinions based on the combined responses from the mail survey and online. Each section also notes key differences between different demographic groups, where applicable. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

DETAILED FINDINGS

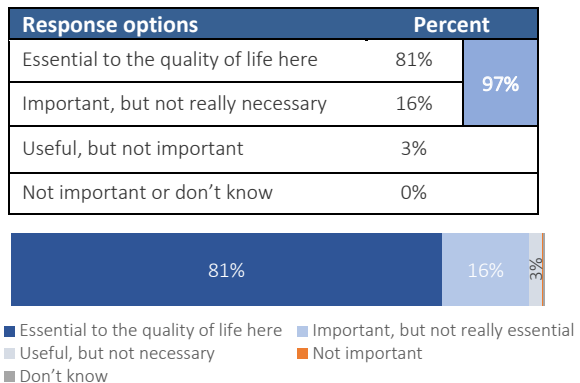
Usage and satisfaction of parks and recreation facilities

How much do residents value parks and recreation?

Virtually all respondents (97%) feel that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Redmond. Eighty-one percent of respondents overall feel that they are essential; while an additional 16% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential, see Figure 2. Only about 3% of respondents believe parks are useful, but not important, or not important.

Residents of all ages value parks and recreation similarly – there were no significant differences between age groups. There were also no significant differences based on where respondents live or whether they had children in their home.

Figure 2. When you think about what contributes to the quality of life in Redmond, would you say city parks and recreation opportunities are...

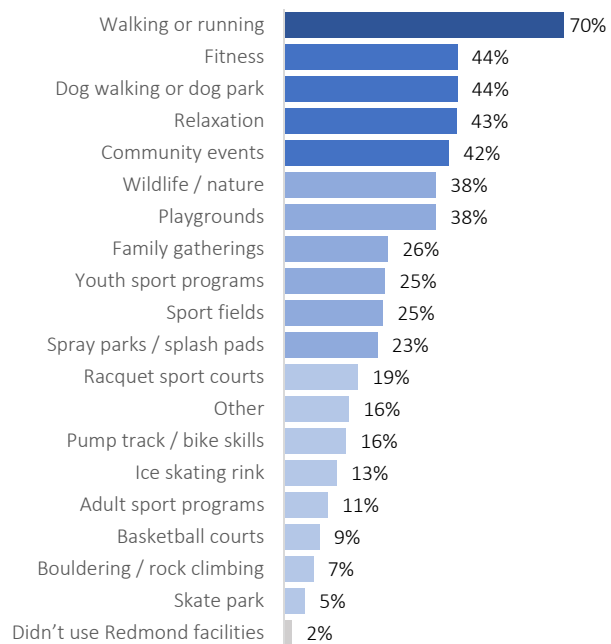


Why do residents visit Redmond's parks and recreation facilities?

Members of respondents' households visit city parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reason is to walk or run (70%). More than four in ten visit for fitness (44%), to walk a dog or use a dog park (44%), relax (43%), or attend a community event or concert (42%), see Figure 3.

More than one-third visit to view wildlife or enjoy nature (38%) or use a playground (38%). Between 20% and 30% of respondents visit for family gatherings, youth sports programs, or to use a sports field or splash pad. Fewer than one in five respondents chose racquet or paddle sports, adult sports programs, bouldering or rock climbing, or using a pump track or bike skills course, ice skating rink, basketball court, or skate park as a primary reason why they visit city parks.

Figure 3. What are the main reasons your household visits Redmond parks or recreation facilities? (check all that apply)



Approximately one in six respondents identified an ‘other’ reason for visiting parks, with popular responses including to play disc golf or ride a bike.

Respondents under the age of 45 were more likely than older residents to visit for playgrounds, sports fields, family gatherings, splash pads, youth programs, adult sports programs, and bike parks while older residents were more likely to visit to relax, attend a community event, or view wildlife or experience nature. Many activities, including running and walking, fitness or exercise, and dog walking are similarly popular across all age groups.

When compared to households with no children, those with children are more likely to visit parks to for all reasons except for wildlife viewing, relaxation, fitness, walking and running, walking a dog, or racquet sports. These activities were similarly popular across households with and without children. There were no significant differences between respondents based on where they live.

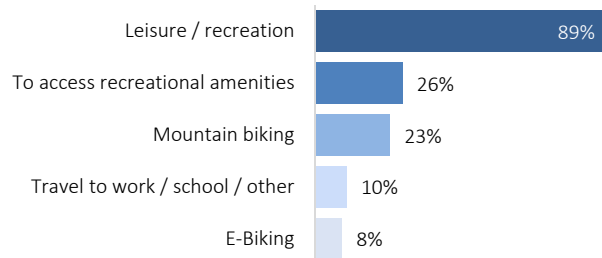
The survey included another question asking residents what activities typically draw them into Redmond’s parks. In this open-ended question, about one quarter of respondents said that they visit parks to walk, run, or hike (27%) or to use a playground or let kids play (25%). Approximately one in five respondents stated they visit to bike (19%), play disc golf (19%), or walk a dog (18%). Other respondents answered that they use Redmond’s parks to enjoy nature, attend community events or picnics with family and friends, or to play or watch sports like baseball, volleyball, and pickleball.

Why do residents visit Redmond’s Dry Canyon and Canal Trail networks?

The survey asked residents why they use the Dry Canyon and Canal Trail network. Nearly all respondents (89%) said they visit for leisure or recreation, see Figure 4. About one in four use the trail to access other recreational amenities or for mountain biking. Ten percent use it for commuting to work, school, or other destinations while 8% use it for e-biking.

There were no significant differences in reasons between residents of various ages, between those with versus those without children at home, or between residents living in various areas of the city.

Figure 4. How are you currently using Redmond’s Dry Canyon and Canal Trail network? (check all that apply)



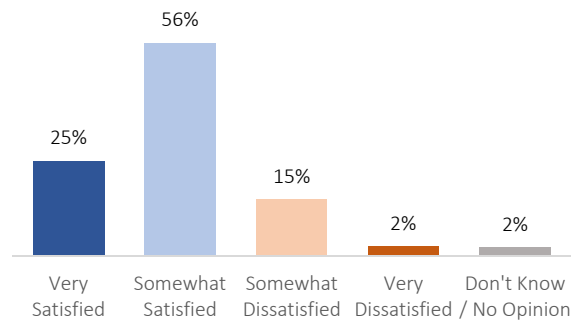
Satisfaction with existing parks and recreation

Are residents satisfied with the City of Redmond's parks and open spaces?

A large majority of respondents are somewhat to very satisfied with Redmond's parks and open spaces (81%). However, more than one in six survey respondents (17%) are either somewhat or very dissatisfied in the city's park and open space system, see Figure 5.

There were no significant differences in satisfaction between residents of various ages, between those with versus those without children at home, or between residents living in various areas of the city.

Figure 5. Rate your household's satisfaction with City of Redmond's parks and open spaces.



How would residents rate the condition of community parks they have visited?

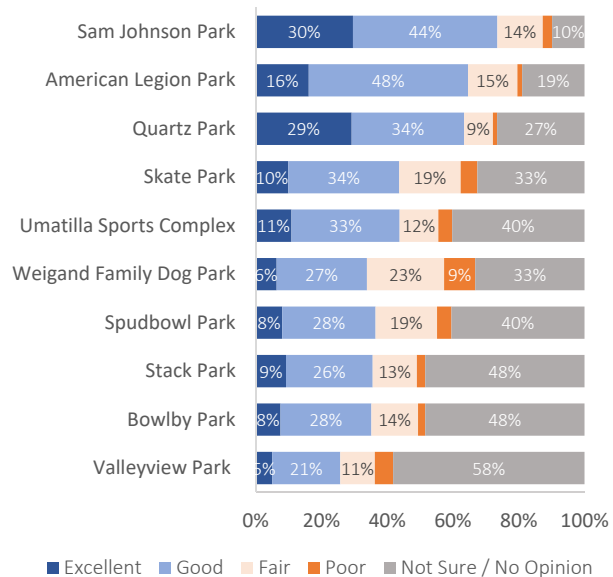
Survey respondents have varying views on the condition of Redmond's community parks, as shown in Figure 6. More than half of all respondents rated the condition of Sam Johnson, American Legion, and Quartz Parks as "excellent" or "good" (74%, 65%, and 63% respectively).

The Weigand Family Dog Park, Skate Park, and Spudbowl Park had the largest percentage of respondents who rated their condition as "fair" or "poor" (33%, 24%, and 23% respectively). This may reflect a community desire for increased maintenance, cleanliness, and/or community needs for additional park amenities.

Large percentages of respondents, ranging from 48% to 58%, were unsure or had no opinion about the condition of Stack, Bowlby, and Valley View Park, making it difficult to gauge overall community satisfaction. However, a large majority of respondents (61%-68%) voicing an opinion approved of the condition of these parks.

Respondents with children in the home generally rated the condition of the Umatilla Sports Complex and Spudbowl Park lower than households without children. There were no significant differences in how respondents of various ages or area of residence.

Figure 6. How would you rate the condition of each of the following Redmond community parks?



Why don't residents visit more often?

When asked why they do not visit Redmond's parks or open spaces more often, approximately one-third (32%) responded that they do visit often. However, about one in five respondents do not visit more because there are not enough restrooms (20%) or the restrooms are not clean enough (17%), see Figure 7.

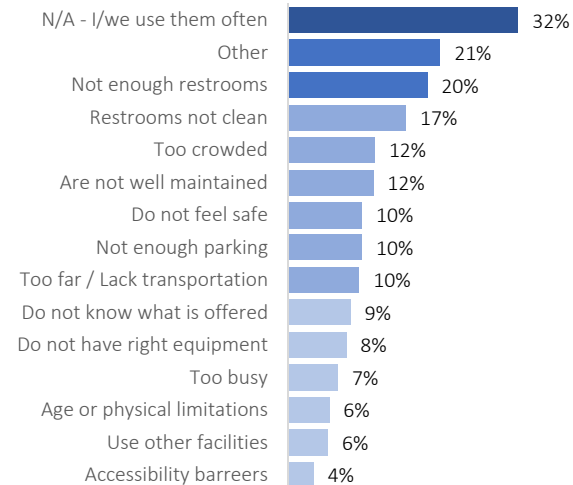
Smaller percentages of respondents, between 10% and 12%, noted that parks are too crowded, not well-maintained, do not feel safe, do not have enough parking, or are too far, preventing them from visiting city parks more often. Fewer than 10% of respondents do not know what is offered or because facilities do not have the right equipment for their needs.

Some residents use parks or facilities provided by other cities or organizations (6%), are too busy (7%), face age or physical limitations (6%), or are generally not interested (2%), suggesting that further improvements may not increase their use of parks.

More than one in four respondents (27%) wrote-in an 'other' reason for not visiting, including lack of adequate disc golf courses, sports fields, and off leash dog parks; a desire for improved restrooms, playgrounds, and shade at existing parks; a lack of safe walking and biking routes to get to parks; and concerns about other users not following park rules specifically teens, homeless users, and users who have their dogs off leash.

Respondents with children at home were more likely than those without to cite concerns about safety, overcrowding, and restroom cleanliness, as a reason they do not visit parks more frequently. Residents under the age of 45 were more likely than older residents to cite concerns about maintenance, safety, and crowding as reasons they do not visit more often. Older residents were more likely to report age or physical limitations or not knowing what is offered. There were no significant differences based on where respondents live.

Figure 7. Check ALL the reasons why your household does not use Redmond's parks or open spaces more often.



Does the number of existing park and recreation amenities meet residents' needs?

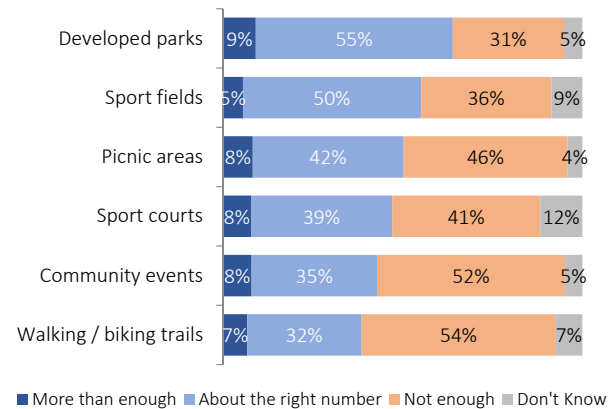
Residents were split on whether they feel the City provides enough parks and recreation facilities.

Roughly half of respondents would like to see more walking and biking trails (54%), community events (52%), and picnic areas (46%) but large numbers felt like there were already about the right number or more than enough of these facilities, see Figure 8. Respondents were slightly more likely to think the City already provides sports courts and fields as well as developed parks with playgrounds.

Residents with children in their home were more likely than those without to believe there are not enough of every listed amenity except trails, open spaces, and off leash dog parks, where their responses were similar. Residents under 45 were more likely than older residents to say there are not enough sports fields.

Respondents who live in the southwest and northeast map areas and in Downtown Redmond were significantly more likely than respondents who live in other areas of the city to say that the city needs more soft surface walking and biking trails.

Figure 8. When it comes to meeting the needs for park or recreation facility, would you say there are?



Investment Priorities

What park and recreation investments would residents prioritize?

Respondents were asked to rank various types of potential park system investments. Overall, respondents identified acquiring large pieces of land for larger community parks and expanding trail opportunities as their top priorities, see Figure 9. Adding new recreational options and upgrading and renovating existing parks were moderate priorities. Acquiring additional land for smaller neighborhood parks and expanding communication about existing amenities were ranked as the lowest priorities by respondents.

Respondents under the age of 45 and those from households with children were more likely to prioritize acquiring land for future community parks compared to older respondents and those without children at home. Respondents who live in different parts of the city varied on which type of investment they would prioritize. Figure 10 shows the most highly preferred option for respondents in each area of the city:

Figure 9. For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st is highest and 6th is lowest).

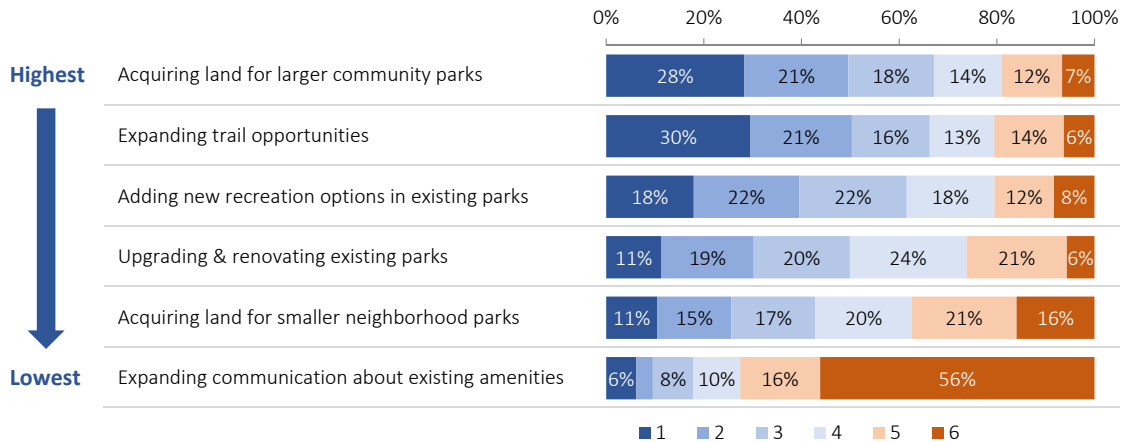


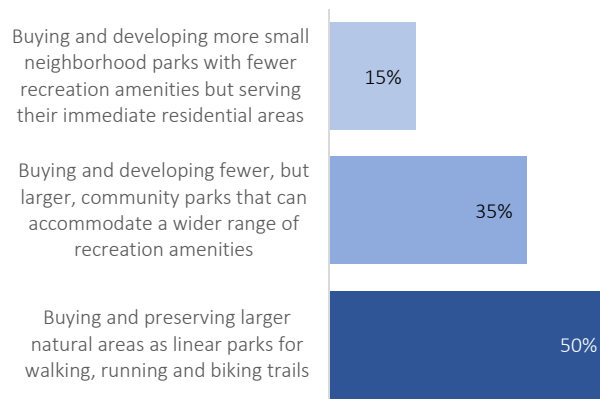
Figure 10. Investment priority by area of residence

Map Area	Investment Priority
(A) North of Hwy 126 & West of Hwy 97	Expanding trail opportunities (51%)
(B) South of Hwy 126 & West of Hwy 97	Acquiring larger pieces of land for larger community parks (52%)
(C) South of Hwy 126 & East of Hwy 97	Adding new recreational activities or options in existing parks (67%) Acquiring additional land for smaller neighborhood parks (67%)
(D) North of Hwy 126 & East of Hwy 97	Acquiring larger pieces of land for larger community parks (67%)
(E) Downtown Redmond	Adding new recreational activities or options in existing parks (60%)

How would residents prioritize limited resources?

The survey asked residents about their preference for how the City should invest limited resources to meet the needs of a growing community. Half of respondents want the City to buy and preserve larger natural areas as linear parks for walking, running, and biking trails, see Figure 11. However, a majority of respondents with children at home preferred that the City invest in buying and developing community parks, a significant difference from those without children at home. Similarly, respondents under the age of 55 were significantly more likely to prefer spending resources on community parks, whereas older respondents (especially those over 65) preferring preserving linear parks for trails.

Figure 11. The City of Redmond is expected to grow significantly in coming years, and budgeting for park maintenance may need to be re-assessed with the demands of a growing park system. Which of the following best meets your needs?



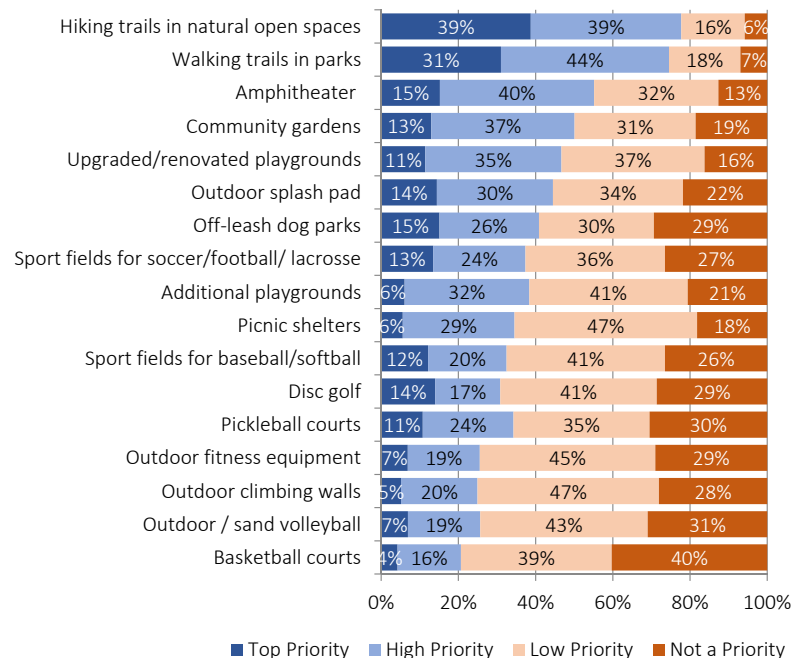
What specific park and recreation amenities would residents prioritize?

Survey respondents were also asked to rate the priority of a variety of recreational amenities that the City of Redmond does, or could, offer. More than three quarters of respondents placed a high or top priority on seeing more hiking trails in natural open spaces (78%) and walking trails in parks (75%). More than half of respondents prioritized more outdoor performance areas or an amphitheater (55%) or community gardens (52%), see Figure 12. A minority of respondents placed a top or high priority on adding or expanding the other recreational facilities listed, which notably includes sports fields and courts.

Younger residents, particularly those under 45, were more likely than older residents to express interest in playgrounds, sports fields and basketball courts, splash pads, and disc golf courses. Older residents were more likely to place a priority on additional pickleball courts, walking and hiking trails, community gardens, and outdoor performance areas.

Survey respondents with children at home were more likely than those without to note interest in additional or improved playgrounds, sports fields, and splash pads. Residents without children at home were more likely to express interest in walking and hiking trails and community gardens. Residents who live to the west of Highway 97 were significantly more likely than residents of other areas to prioritize additional off leash dog parks and pickleball courts.

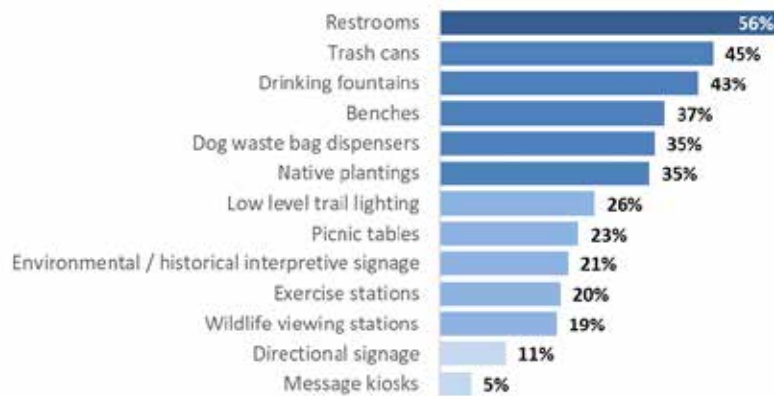
Figure 12. Some recreation opportunities may be missing from Redmond parks that you would like to see. How would you prioritize the following?



Would residents like to see improved amenities in the local trail network?

The survey asked community members about their interest in seeing a variety of amenities added to the City's Dry Canyon and Canal Trail networks. A majority of respondents would like to see more restrooms (56%). Between 35% and 45% of respondents would like to see more trash cans, drinking fountains, benches, dog waste bag dispensers, and native plantings, see Figure 13. There were no significant differences in respondents based on age, household composition or area of residence.

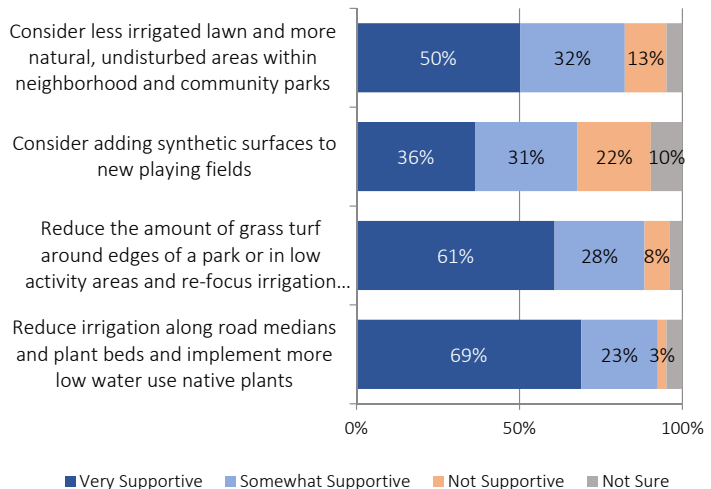
Figure 13. What amenities would you and your household like to see added to Redmond's Dry Canyon and Canal trail network?



Do residents support efforts to reduce water usage in parks?

More than half of respondents are very supportive of reducing water use in Redmond's parks by reducing turf areas and irrigation levels in parks, planting beds, and along road medians and 80-90% are somewhat or very supportive. Residents are more split on, but still generally support, the City adding synthetic surfaces to new sports fields, see Figure 14. There were no significant difference in responses based on the age, household makeup, or area of residence of respondents.

Figure 14. With the projected future growth, the City is exploring options to reduce the demand for water across the park system and is considering various water-wise approaches. Rate your level of support for each of the following:



Do residents have other specific improvements they would like to see?

Respondents were asked to describe one thing that they would like to see the City of Redmond do to improve parks, trails, and/or recreation options. While respondents provided 438 specific comments and ideas, the following themes emerged:

- **Trails and connectivity:** Respondents called for safer, more interconnected walking and biking routes, including both paved and unpaved trails, throughout the city for walking, running, hiking, cycling, and mountain biking. The Dry Canyon Trail is a focal point of the city's recreation system, with many commenting on how they use it to walk, run, bike, visit with friends, and enjoy nature. Some respondents asked the city to create better biking and walking access to the Dry Canyon trail, ensure safe crossings for busy streets, and add more segregated paths to enhance safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Additionally, some comments highlighted the need for more off-road paths for both recreational and commuting purposes, as well as connecting existing trails to form a more comprehensive network. Some respondents commented on a need for improved trail maintenance and better lighting along existing trails.
- **Environmental Conservation:** Comments related to environmental conservation highlight the importance of protecting natural areas and open spaces in Redmond. Residents emphasize the need to preserve and manage these areas to reduce the pressure on highly frequented spots like the North Dry Canyon. There is also a strong interest in acquiring additional natural spaces to ensure that Redmond remains "wild" and accessible for future generations. Reducing water use is another significant concern, with suggestions to replace grass fields with synthetic turf to conserve water. Additionally, maintaining existing vegetation responsibly and removing invasive species are recommended to preserve local ecosystems. Comments also advocate for planting native plants, which are better adapted to the local climate and require less water and maintenance. Overall, these comments reflect a community commitment to environmental sustainability, emphasizing the need for responsible land and resource management, water conservation, and the preservation of natural habitats.
- **Recreation and sports facilities:** Many respondents expressed a desire to expand and improve recreation and sports facilities across the city. Residents are excited for the construction of the new Redmond Recreation Center though some comments expressed a disappointment with the reduced scope of the project. There is a strong interest in adding more disc golf courses, with some respondents suggesting extending the Dry Canyon course to 18 holes and others supporting the creation of a high-level, championship course to attract tournaments and visitors. Many comments discussed the need for more, better-maintained, full-size soccer and baseball fields to support local teams and tournaments. There is also interest in additional bike parks, pickleball courts, and in improving the existing sand volleyball courts. Off-leash dog areas are also of significant interest, with many comments requesting more off leash dog parks and trails.
- **Community events and family friendly activities:** Multiple survey respondents emphasized a desire for more inclusive and varied recreational options for all age groups. There is a strong demand for activities geared towards teenagers, suggesting facilities such as a skate park, climbing wall, and courts for various sports to provide safe and active hangout spaces. Engaging and accessible playgrounds for younger children are also a priority, with suggestions for more playgrounds within walking distance in expanding areas of the city. Comments also highlight the need for shaded areas and shelters to make parks more comfortable for gatherings and events

in all weather conditions. Finally, many respondents expressed a desire for more family-friendly community events as well as the development of larger venues to support these events.

- **Security and maintenance:** Numerous comments highlight the community’s interest in the safety, maintenance, and cleanliness of city parks. Some respondents have concerns about vandalism, with several comments suggesting increased surveillance, better lighting, and more security cameras to deter destructive behavior. The presence of off-leash dogs is another common issue, with many calling for stricter enforcement of leash laws to ensure all park users feel safe. The homeless population using parks has raised concerns among residents, leading to suggestions for stricter enforcement of rules against littering, drug use, and graffiti. Maintenance and cleanliness are also major themes, with calls for more regular trash collection and cleaning, particularly addressing issues like broken glass and overflowing trash bins.

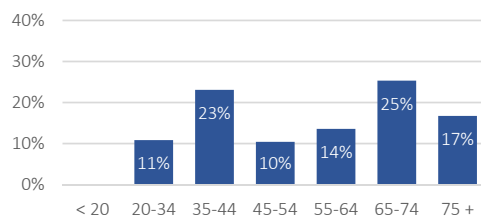
A compilation of write-in comments is on file with the Redmond Public Works Department.

Demographics

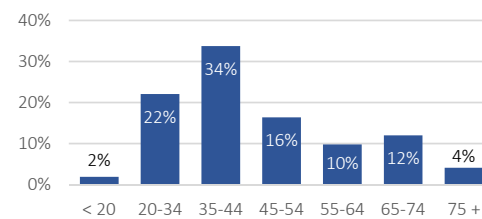
Age groups

Overall, about 34% of mail respondents were under 45 years of age, one-quarter were between 45 and 64, and 42% were 65 or older. Online-only survey respondents tended to be younger than mail respondents – 58% were under 45 years while 16% were over 65.

Mail survey responses



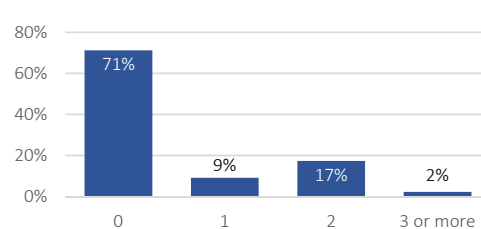
Online-only survey responses



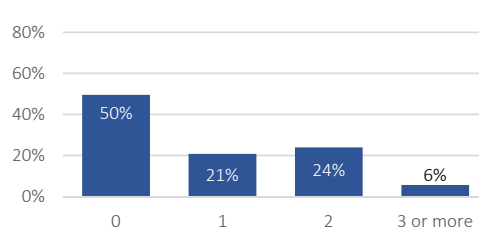
Number of children in household

Over 70% of respondents to the mail survey live in households with no children under 18, while thirty percent live in a household with either one (9%), two (17%), or three or more (2%) children. Online-only survey respondents were significantly more likely to live in households with children than respondents to the mail survey – fifty percent had children in the home.

Mail survey responses



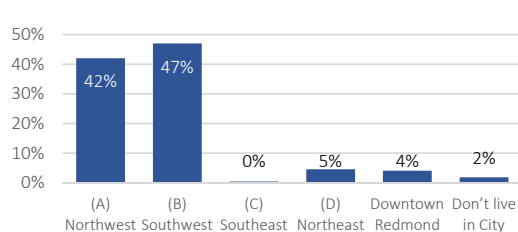
Online-only survey responses



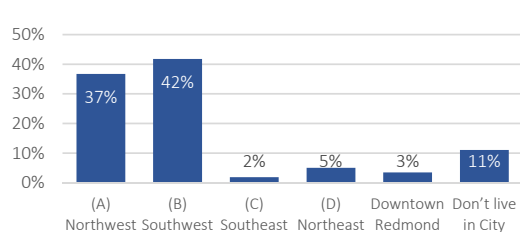
Location of residence

Nearly all survey respondents live within the City of Redmond. About 47% of mail respondents live south of Hwy 126 and west of Hwy 97 (map area B). Another 42% live north of Hwy 126 and west of Hwy 97 (map area A). Smaller amounts live in north of Hwy 126 and east of Hwy 97 (map area D) or in Downtown Redmond. Approximately 12% of all respondents live outside the City of Redmond.

Mail survey responses



Online-only survey responses



ATTACHMENT 1. SURVEY INSTRUMENT



Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

Dear Redmond Resident:

The City of Redmond has started a community-led process to update its citywide Parks Master Plan. We need your help to determine how to prioritize projects and what we should focus on to keep our parks and activities thriving into the future. As an initial step, the City is conducting this short survey to assess the community's recreation needs. We ask that you consider your needs for the future as you evaluate Redmond's parks, trails, and recreation amenities. Your opinions are important to the City.

Use the QR code to take this survey online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QWX2F22>



1. When you think about what contributes to the quality of life in Redmond, would you say that city parks and recreation opportunities are...

☐ Essential to the quality of life here ☐ Useful, but not necessary ☐ Don't know
☐ Important, but not really essential ☐ Not Important

2. When it comes to meeting the needs for park and recreation facilities, would you say there are...
(Check only one box in each row)

	More than Enough	About the Right Amount	Not Enough	Don't Know
Developed parks with playgrounds	☐	☐	☐	☐
Soft surface walking / biking trails	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hard surface walking / biking trails	☐	☐	☐	☐
Picnic areas & shelters	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community Sport fields (soccer, baseball, softball, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Natural and Open Space areas	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community gathering spaces (such as space for summer concerts)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Off-leash dog areas / dog parks	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. Rate your household's satisfaction with the City of Redmond's parks or open space.

☐ Very Satisfied ☐ Somewhat Dissatisfied ☐ Don't Know / No Opinion
☐ Somewhat Satisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied

4. How would you rate the condition of each of the following Redmond community parks? (Community parks are larger parks people typically drive to for active and organized recreation.)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Sure / No Opinion
American Legion Park (850 SW Rimrock Way)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bowlby Park (1767 SW Parkway Dr.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quartz Park (2001 SW Quartz Ave.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sam Johnson Park (333 SW 15th St.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Skate Park (SW 15th St. & W Antler Ave.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spudbowl Park (164 SW 15th St.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stack Park (820 SW Kingwood Ave.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Umatilla Sports Complex (1000 SW Umatilla Ave.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Valleyview Park (3660 SW Reservoir Dr.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Weigand Family Dog Park (1429 W. Antler Ave.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Save a stamp! Use the QR code and take this survey online:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QWX2F22>

Or send it back in the enclosed Return-Reply envelope provided. Thanks for participating!



5. What are the main reasons your household visits Redmond parks or recreation facilities? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Wildlife viewing / Experience nature | ☐ Adult sport programs |
| ☐ Fitness | ☐ Skate park |
| ☐ Playgrounds | ☐ Pump track / bike skills |
| ☐ Walking or running | ☐ Bouldering / rock climbing areas |
| ☐ Dog walking or dog park | ☐ Sport fields |
| ☐ Family gatherings / picnicking | ☐ Basketball courts |
| ☐ Community events / concerts | ☐ Racquet / paddle sport courts (tennis, pickleball) |
| ☐ Water spray parks / splash pads | ☐ Relaxation |
| ☐ Ice skating rink | ☐ N/A – I didn't use any Redmond facilities |
| ☐ Youth sport programs | ☐ Other: _____ |

6. What activities typically draw you in to Redmond's parks or how do you use Redmond parks (i.e., walk with friends, let kids run around, specific type of activity, etc.)?

7. Please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household does not use Redmond's parks or open spaces more often.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ N/A - Does not apply; I/we use them often | ☐ Not enough parking |
| ☐ Barriers due to physical access / accessibility | ☐ Not enough restrooms |
| ☐ Age or physical limitations | ☐ Restrooms not clean enough |
| ☐ Are not well maintained | ☐ Too busy to go to parks or open spaces |
| ☐ Too far away / Lack transportation | ☐ Too crowded |
| ☐ Do not know what is offered | ☐ Not interested in park or recreation activities |
| ☐ Do not have the right equipment | ☐ Use facilities provided by another city, organization, or private club |
| ☐ Do not feel safe in park or open space | ☐ Other: _____ |

8. How are you currently using Redmond's Dry Canyon and Canal Trail network? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Travel to a work/school/other | ☐ Mountain Biking |
| ☐ Leisure/Recreation | ☐ To access recreational amenities |
| ☐ E-Biking | |

9. What amenities would you like to see added to Redmond's Dry Canyon and Canal trail networks? (Check all that apply).

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Benches | ☐ Message kiosks |
| ☐ Directional signage | ☐ Native plantings |
| ☐ Dog waste bag dispensers | ☐ Picnic tables |
| ☐ Drinking fountains | ☐ Restrooms |
| ☐ Low level trail lighting | ☐ Trash cans |
| ☐ Environmental / historical interpretive signage | ☐ Wildlife viewing stations |
| ☐ Exercise stations | |

10. The City of Redmond is expected to grow significantly in coming years, and budgeting for park maintenance may need to be re-assessed with the demands of a growing park system. Which of the following best meets your needs?

- ☐ Buying and developing more small neighborhood parks with fewer recreation amenities but serving their immediate residential areas
- ☐ Buying and developing fewer, but larger, community parks that can accommodate a wider range of recreation amenities
- ☐ Buying and preserving larger natural areas as linear parks for walking, running and biking trails



Community Survey on Park & Recreation

11. Some recreation opportunities may be missing from Redmond parks that you would like to see. How would you prioritize the following?

	Top Priority	High Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority
Additional basketball courts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Additional off-leash dog areas (dog parks)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Additional picnic shelters	☐	☐	☐	☐
Additional playgrounds	☐	☐	☐	☐
Upgraded or renovated playgrounds	☐	☐	☐	☐
Additional sport fields for baseball & softball	☐	☐	☐	☐
Additional sport fields for soccer, football & lacrosse	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor splash pad / water spray park	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pickleball courts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor / sand volleyball	☐	☐	☐	☐
Amphitheater / Outdoor performance areas	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor climbing walls	☐	☐	☐	☐
Disc golf	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community gardens	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hiking trails in natural open spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐
Walking trails in parks	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor fitness equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐

12. For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st priority is highest and 6th priority is lowest). Mark each ranking number only once.

	Select each priority ONLY ONCE . Highest priority → Lowest priority						Don't know / No opinion
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	
Adding new recreational activities or options in existing parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Acquiring additional land for smaller neighborhood parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Acquiring larger pieces of land for larger community parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Expanding trail opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Upgrading & renovating existing parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Expanding communications about existing amenities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

13. With the projected future growth, the City is exploring options to reduce the demand for water across the park system and is considering various water-wise approaches. Rate your level of support for each of the following:

	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Not Sure
Reduce irrigation along road medians and plant beds and implement more low water use native plants	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reduce the amount of grass turf around edges of a park or in low activity areas and re-focus irrigation toward larger common play areas and sport fields	☐	☐	☐	☐
Consider adding synthetic surfaces to new playing fields	☐	☐	☐	☐
Consider less irrigated lawn and more natural, undisturbed areas within neighborhood and community parks	☐	☐	☐	☐

14. If you wanted the City of Redmond to do just one thing to improve parks, trails, and/or recreation options, what would it be?

The following questions help us understand whether we have a cross-section of the community responding to this survey. It's important that you provide a response to each question.

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

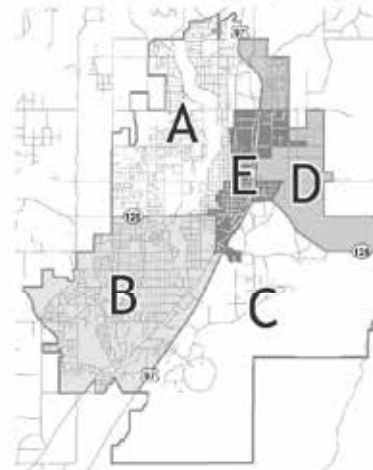
- ☐ 0 ☐ 2
☐ 1 ☐ 3 or more

16. What is your age?

- ☐ Younger than 20 ☐ 55 to 64
☐ 20 to 34 ☐ 65 and 74
☐ 35 to 44 ☐ 75 and older
☐ 45 to 54

17. Using the map, in which section of Redmond do you live?

- ☐ (A) North of Hwy 126 & West of Hwy 97
☐ (B) South of Hwy 126 & West of Hwy 97
☐ (C) South of Hwy 126 & East of Hwy 97
☐ (D) North of Hwy 126 & East of Hwy 97
☐ (E) Downtown Redmond
☐ Don't live in the City of Redmond



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Your input will help guide the development of the 2024 Redmond Parks Master Plan.

Save a stamp! Take this survey online with the QR code or at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QWX2F22>

Learn more about Redmond parks, trails and other recreation opportunities and stay informed about the Parks Master Plan process at www.redmondoregon.gov



The City of Redmond is using the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning.

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed Return-Reply Envelope addressed to:

Conservation Technix Inc., PO Box 12736, Portland, OR 97212



Appendix C:

Open House #1 Summary

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER: #24-155PLN ISSUE DATE: June 5, 2024
PROJECT NAME: Redmond Parks Master Plan Update

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh
TO: FILE
PRESENT: Members of the public
City staff
Project team members from Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: Parks Master Plan Update: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (May 30th)

Community members were invited to an open house for the citywide Redmond Parks Master Plan on Thursday, May 30, 2024 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at City Hall. The project team prepared informational displays covering the major themes of the Parks Master Plan. These displays included project overview, survey highlights, parks & outdoor recreation, e-bikes, lighting, water-wise landscapes, and investment priorities. The meeting was conducted as an in-person event.

Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members and record their comments. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation in Redmond. Approximately 35 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

Priorities? Anything Missing?

- Fence outer areas at Umatilla Sports Complex (or other unused areas) for dogs off-leash area
- Outdoor fitness stations in Dry Canyon along the trails
- Undeveloped spaces and trails good
- Art that stimulates the mind. Health facts posted at the existing points in the Canyon
- More designated off-the-leash dogs areas to help with Dry Canyon violators
- Develop a system or program for community members to volunteer to monitor or pick up trash
- Remove paper towels from the restrooms and replace it with blowers
- Connect Pershall Park to wetland via trail
- Invasive plants; erosion – off trail impacts

City-wide Park System Map Comments

- More 10-20 acre community parks
- North Dry Canyon access west side steps
- More ADA accessibility

Parks Master Plan Update: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (May 30th)

Redmond Parks Master Plan Update

Project Number #24-155PLN

Page 2

- East-west connectivity
- Northwest-southeast connectivity
- South Parks - fields/sports, dog
- Trail entrance into N. Canyon, not just stairs
- Look at open natural space in south end Owens Ridge area

Recreational Trails

- Ability to have my dog off leash in some areas, better parking at trailheads
- Safer access for youth bikers to get the pumptrack from the canal paths, better parking at High Desert park
- Specific bike or walk trails marked (not always compatible)
- Trails connecting parks along Canyon
- E-bikes currently use the Dry Canyon trail. Most e-bike riders are considerate of walkers and bicyclists. If e-bike numbers increase too much, there could be problems
- Separate areas for walkers and bikers on the Canyon trail. Bikers don't let walkers know they are behind them
- Need connectivity whether it's for recreation or just alternative transportation modes.
- Safer connectivity between places of interest. Design separate bike/ped facilities.

Park & Recreation Priorities (dot exercise)

- 11 - Walking trails
- 10 - Dog parks
- 8 - Sports fields
- 4 - More restrooms
- 4 - Splash pad
- 3 - Picnic shelters
- 3 - Multi-sport courts
- 2 - Public art
- 2 - Resolve environmental impacts in Dry Canyon

Other Ideas (Open-ended responses)

- Steps to Dry Canyon the two areas that have former or existing gravel roads (one Central E [former] and one NW [gravel])
- Deschutes River and Cave access
- Connectivity of trail systems with public utilities, CEC, Pacific Power, irrigation canals
- East-West trails
- Locate new parking area closer to Antler
- E-bikes and walkers don't mix

Water-Wise Landscaping

- I don't oppose the idea of astroturf, but it gets super hot in the sun, so that's a consideration
- Yes, more natural areas, Sam Johnson and American Legion Stage, yes ideally
- More plants and trees

Parks Master Plan Update: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (May 30th)

Redmond Parks Master Plan Update

Project Number #24-155PLN

Page 3

- Astroturf around public facilities and use more native high desert plant species – doesn't require lots of water
- I love the 'green' of watered grass. Consider leaving at least a few spaces to sit and relax in the grass as an option
- Yes native; minimum grass added to Canyon
- Less grass, more native plants
- Astroturf fields

E-bikes, E-scooters & more

- E-bikes only on paved trails
- Please allow e-bikes, it lets older folks keep biking
- No e-bikes on trails; regular bikes need their own trail away from walkers
- Yes! develop specific e-bike paths
- Lowest level e-bikes with pedestrians <20mph
- Allow e-bikes, physically separate trails
- Allow e-bikes, but identify where they can be and what they can do

Parks & Trail Lighting

- Downtown business core area crosswalks need caution blinking lights, so drivers in vehicles see pedestrians
- People would want more community parks and lights
- Beacon lights at Anther Ave., the state park, and dog park
- Lighting needed as safety; have some dark areas and/or events
- Community parks (what they were)
- More lighted pedestrian crossings for evening use
- Dark sky city
- Lighting at Dry Canyon connection points
- Lighting only along the Dry Canyon stairways, egress/ingress points
- No bright lights in new parking areas #2 and #5
- Yes! Yes! Minimum to no lighting in areas for stargazing
- All outdoor lights leaking upward affects bird migration, insects
- Sports fields are a must!

Other comments

- Restroom maintenance - Portable: change TP! (on Dry Canyon). Permanent: repair (vandalism)
- Water fountain retrofit: with freeze protection valves, so we can use most of year
- Extensions to Dry Canyon trails - yes!
- Police visibility in Dry Canyon – yes!
- Consider safety for users of parks, like sledding into Dry Canyon, safety of people walking with bikes
- Liability?? Gate or barricade for disc golfers to keep them from parking in non-designated areas
- Add a fitness station with more water locations
- Signs to mitigate impacts by bikes
- Shade over Quartz Park playground equipment

Parks Master Plan Update: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (May 30th)

Redmond Parks Master Plan Update

Project Number #24-155PLN

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- More bike racks at parks and water fountains. More inclusive playground equipment. Shaded areas like pavilions at Quartz Park, Quince Park, Kalama Park, Hayden, and Baker Park.
- Large trail systems or something similar to Pine Nursery or Riley Ranch
- More East-West trails
- More safe off-leash dogs areas
- Acquire more large park and trail spaces
- Come up with a management plan for the North Dry Canyon area
- Protect the 500 year old junipers trees in SW Redmond under threat of development

Comment cards

- Photos of changes in the Canyon to natural areas: 1) trail impacts, 2) lighting impacts on birds, insects, people (Dark Skies program)
- ADA access – Canyon
- “Canyon Man” would love to be part of the data collection process (ongoing). I am a runner.

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: Maria Rameriz, Natural Resource Program Manager
File

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Appendix D:

Open House #2 Summary

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER: #24-155PLN ISSUE DATE: September 11, 2024
PROJECT NAME: Redmond Parks Master Plan Update

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh
TO: FILE
PRESENT: Members of the public
City staff
Project team members from Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: Parks Master Plan Update: Open House #2 Meeting Notes (September 9th)

Community members were invited to a second open house for the citywide Redmond Parks Master Plan on Monday, September 9, 2024 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. The project team prepared informational displays, which included project overview, parks and outdoor recreation enhancements, and proposed projects segmented by project type. Attendees were encouraged to sign-in upon arrival and provide written comments. Attendees also were provided with \$1 million of play money to distribute across a variety of proposed project types.

Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members and record their comments. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation in Redmond. Approximately 18 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

Trail Comments

- Fix the trail pavement heave along Dry Canyon Trail near the dog park (x3)
- Add trails throughout the new water site north of town
- [There are] Walker/biker conflicts
- [There are] E-bike conflicts with vehicles
- Educate people about bike etiquette
- No e-bikes along Dry Canyon trails. Separate paths for walkers vs faster moving amenities (i.e., bikes, skaters). Don't like the idea of e-bikes on trails
- Signage and education seems easiest/cheapest route to addressing e-bikes
- No throttle-powered anything in same space as pedestrians, children, bicycles, animals, etc.

Parks Master Plan Update: Open House #2 Meeting Notes (September 9th)

Redmond Parks Master Plan Update

Project Number #24-155PLN

Page 2

Park Acquisition & Development Comments

- Add benches around perimeter of Hope Playground, maybe with some shade trees too
- More water fountains in parks
- More emphasis on management. Maintenance of natural trails as well as natural area management, not just a hands off approach
- When the waste water site moves, utilize that space as compatible activities for Dry canyon natural area (i.e., greenhouse to grow native plants, demonstration garden, interpretive area, etc.
- Wetlands at north end of Dry Canyon
- Expand the pump track
- It's been 5 years, develop Pershall property
- Winterize major restrooms for year-round use
- More neighborhood parks with pickleball
- Prefer dog park in larger natural area. At edge of town?
- Leave natural area alone and natural
- Music on the Green – spread to multiple locations; that location feels crowded; not enough porta potties

Investment Priorities using Play Money

- Acquire (\$3.1 million):
 - o 1 - I like the areas proposed for new parks – near where people live
- Enhance (\$3.7 million):
 - o 1 - No e-bikes on Dry Canyon Trail
- Expand (\$6 million):
 - o 1 - Have benches next to Hope Playground so adults can sit in the shade;
 - o 1 - Design future park sites (Pershall, Erickson)
- Connect (\$3.1 million):
 - o 1 - Extend Dry Canyon Trail to Pershall property; connect Homestead, Yew Ave, Pilot Butte trails

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: Maria Rameriz, Natural Resource Program Manager
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Appendix E:

Focus Group Session Notes



STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Project Name:	Redmond Parks Master Plan 2024 Update	Project No.:	Proj-# 24-155PLN
Location:	Redmond City Hall	Interview Date:	May 29, 2024
Notes by:	Steve Duh	Time:	1:00pm
Participants:	Katie Hammer, RAPRD Tony Pupo, Redmond School District Nathan Saito, Redmond School District Tyler Lampella, Ridgeview Ravens Hayes McCoy, Redmond Little League Amanda Joe Luelling, Redmond Chamber of Commerce	Evelina Davidson, Redmond Chamber of Commerce Kurt Noonan, Rock Chuck Pickleball Club Mack Carlson, Premier Pickleball Club Maria Ramirez, City of Redmond Dusty Hood, City of Redmond Steve Duh, Conservation Technix	
Subject:	Parks Master Plan: Stakeholder Discussion (Recreation & Event Group)		

PURPOSE

To discuss current issues, opportunities and needs for City park and recreation amenities. The discussion occurred on May 29, 2023, in person at Redmond City Hall.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction and an overview of the City's Park Master Plan process. Maria provided an overview of new and pending projects, including reference to three new city parks (Varnish, Quartz, & Spruce), new acquisitions (36 ac Pershall property and 22 ac. Site near Ridgeview High School), and the relocation of the sewage treatment plant. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about park system planning and local recreation needs.

General

- Grateful the City makes parks a priority
- The City's focus on parks and events is great. In other places, parks get funded last or are an afterthought.
- Easy access to the outdoors. Easy access to rivers and only 10 minutes from Tetherow Crossing and the Deschutes River for fishing.
- The Redmond School District has done a fantastic job with team sports, especially high school tennis.
- Eight high school tennis courts were recently re-done. The District and the teams are proud of facilities.
- The District now has 40 girls and 30 boys on high school teams.

Interview Notes (continued)

Sport Courts & Fields

- There is a need for tennis/pickleball court lighting, extending and adding courts, and installing a hitting wall
- The Redmond Pickleball Club needed access to courts. Bend has courts, and they are all full by other clubs and leagues. The Premier Pickleball Club wants to relocate in 5 years to a facility with additional capacity (indoor and outdoor) – ideally 16 court complex
- There is a shortage of racquet courts, and there is a need a complex of 16 for large events (pickleball)
- Professional tour stops require indoor courts as a backup to outdoor courts.
- Tournaments can provide local revenue – drawing 300-400 participants. Professional picklers get tournament awards upwards of \$100,000
- RAPRD started a pickleball club and had 251 players in 1st year
- The City park system can help by providing access to courts and fields and offering recreation options. Private entities can encourage sport activities and provide the base support from players.
- There is also a demand for field space for adult programs. The only field used for adults is at RAPRD's High Desert Sports Complex
- Redmond needs access to more fields (i.e., soccer). Look to THPRD and Medford as examples for field complexes
- A sport complex is needed to support the needs of multiple organizations; look at Meridian ID as example.
- The Chamber has been approached about an idea for a private sport complex near the fairgrounds for large tournaments
- Sam Johnson has parking limitations; utilize nearby parking for future complex (e.g., schools, etc.)
- For sport programming, RAPRD currently has staffing limitations. The soccer league plays 984 kids in spring and 400 in fall. Currently, they play in the baseball outfield. Soccer fields will be part of future phase of RAPRD community center complex
- The future RAPRD community center will not be a release valve. Once it is built, it will be full. The demand for more indoor space will still exist.
- RSD also does not have enough programming space. Middle schools and high schools need facilities. There is strong demand for indoor space, especially gym space, plus versatile spaces for camps and programs.

Trails

- East/west trails needed. Look at options for trails within the Pershall property on the north side and COID laterals.
- The wastewater site and Pershall property are 72 acres combined (36 acres each); connect with trail, extend Dry Canyon north, maybe provide more passive uses
- There are stroller and ADA access issues into Canyon and limited access points.
- Cline Falls outside City has waterfall; need a trail to connect Redmond to the Deschutes River.

Interview Notes (continued)

Program Partner Coordination

- Avoid duplication of efforts between City, Scholl District, non-profits
- The future RAPRD Community Center is located at 35th and Lava will have:
 - 25-meter, 8-lane lap pool
 - Leisure pool
 - Warm water loop
 - Lazy river
 - Multi-purpose recreation room
 - Party rooms, fitness space, gymnasium (high school sized basketball)
 - Outdoor basketball, soccer field, playground
- RAPRD is also looking to satellite facilities to support programs
- RAPRD used to schedule sport fields, and now the City does field allocations
- The Redmond School District has been scheduling their own facilities. In last 6-7 years, there have been more users and groups wanting access to facilities. Bend programs are willing to pay high costs to access facilities.
- For Redmond School District, there are no new schools planned in next 10 years. There will be a November 2024 school bond to support installing artificial turf and reducing irrigation.

Events

- The Chamber has been struggling with and hitting capacity at events at Sam Johnson. Events of 3000 to 5000 are hitting the upper limits for these events.
- There is a need for access to available power (20 amp) for events, plus restrooms and porta potties; need power for the stage and spigot for water.
- There has been strong growth in events. Those that were 700 people are now 1000 people.
- Need more access to grass, trees, and shade

Other Project Ideas & Improvements

- Add speed bump/tables around parks to slow vehicular traffic
- Renovate covered pavilion at Sam Johnson; add fitness circuit maybe near playground
- When the house at Sam Johnson comes out, consider adding pickleball
- Avoid pickleball adjacent to residential areas (noise concerns)
- Add lights to increase field and court capacity – directional and focused, and Dark Sky approved
- Turf infield and grass outfield
- Build another splash pad
- Waste water site could be for off-leash dog park or bike skills or bouldering

-- End of Notes --

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Project Name:	Redmond Parks Master Plan 2024 Update	Project No.:	Proj-# 24-155PLN
Location:	Redmond City Hall	Interview Date:	May 29, 2024
Notes by:	Steve Duh	Time:	3:00pm
Participants:	Stacy Nahlik Ramona Sorensen Brad Porterfield		Maria Ramirez, City of Redmond Steve Duh, Conservation Technix
Subject:	Parks Master Plan: Stakeholder Discussion (Park Users Group)		

PURPOSE

To discuss current issues, opportunities and needs for City park and recreation amenities. The discussion occurred on May 29, 2023, in person at Redmond City Hall.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction and an overview of the City's Park Master Plan process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about park system planning and local recreation needs.

General Comments & Values about Redmond's City Park System

- Our family uses parks all the time; they are well maintained
- Really like that there are multiple parks to visit along Dry Canyon Trail – allows for long, casual walks and is separated from the road system. This is a special aspect of Redmond.
- Sam Johnson Park is icy and shady in the winter

What's Missing or Needs to be Improved?

- Shade structures
- Restrooms with keypad locks at reservable spaces
- More swings, especially ADA swings
- Water play / splash pad – need more, maybe with timed activator feature
- Hope playground – basketball court usage stops when it rains
- Would like to see the basketball court at City Hall utilized
- Open RSD facilities for more community use. Tennis courts at Ridgeview would be used by community
- Update RSD/City IGA

Interview Notes (continued)

- Dog waste is an issue at RSD sites and City parks, especially on turf
- Provide opportunities for other sports/activities: sand volleyball, tennis practice wall, gaga ball, tetherball
- More basketball for teens, or parcour, or volleyball. They need more spaces. Maybe introduction classes to disc golf
- Consider fitness exercise equipment along trails
- Bocce ball court and horseshoe pits are not well used. People don't understand that they need to bring their own equipment
- Event parking management needs to be better, especially for Chamber events. Turket Trot is an example of an event with good parking management
- Interpretive/educational signage
- Volunteer plantings, stewardship efforts

Dry Canyon Enhancements

- Need more access points into the Canyon
- Improve access point on Canal near Subway into the Canyon
- User conflicts along DCT with dogs off leash, cyclists, need improved signage and etiquette
- For e-bikes, is a speed limit an option?
- Better define the user focus for Dry Canyon (rec users, families, commuters)
- Consider striping the trail – could help manage youth kids using trail too

-- End of Notes --

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Project Name:	Redmond Parks Master Plan 2024 Update	Project No.:	Proj-# 24-155PLN
Location:	Redmond City Hall	Interview Date:	May 30, 2024
Notes by:	Steve Duh	Time:	3:00pm
Participants:	Richard Lance, Parks Committee Leslie Write, Dry Canyon Trail User Aaron Smith, Central Oregon Trails Alliance Ryan Lane, Disc Golfer Karin Stauder, Retired Police Officer Eve Ponder, Neighbors of North Dry Canyon	Ian Caldwell, Climber Maria Ramirez, City of Redmond Dusty Hood, City of Redmond Steve Duh, Conservation Technix Jim Sandlin, MacKay Sposito	
Subject:	Parks Master Plan: Stakeholder Discussion (Dry Canyon Trail Group)		

PURPOSE

To discuss current issues, opportunities and needs for City park, trail and recreation amenities in Dry Canyon. The discussion occurred on May 30, 2023, in person at the Redmond Public Works office.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction and an overview of the City's Park Master Plan process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about park system planning and local recreation needs.

What Do You Value About the Dry Canyon

- Being in the Canyon; the sense of being in nature in the middle of the city
- Being able to graduate through the space; and it grows with you
- Having access to playgrounds, sports, and nature
- It is the jewel of Redmond
- The Canyon brings people to the City
- It's also a wildlife corridor – birds, rockchuck, deer, fox
- It is safe in Canyon; there are no roads and there are wide paths – safe for families and children
- It's a gathering space for passive recreation, for seniors and pickleball, and for concerts
- The unique geological formations serve many functions
- It's the spine of Redmond's alternative transportation system and provides off-road connections between Pershall and sport fields

Interview Notes (continued)

Canyon Accessibility & Safety

- Tunnel under highway doesn't feel safe
- W Antler Avenue crossing is dangerous
- Need more parking areas and more access to the Canyon
- Define the use zones within the Canyon, with defined trail space to avoid conflicts. Need dedicated walking path that is delineated with signage and off-trail surfacing
- Disc golf needs tree density for safety for passersby and for player's variety

Trails & Trail Management

- There is heavy usage of the trail, and it is most developed on west side and north
- On the north end, it is mostly walkers, bikes and e-bikes. It's also an informal dog park. On the west-side, it's mostly dirt trails
- There is a maze of non-paved paths; need a better defined trail system
- At the sewer pond along south side where stairs meet, there is a steep spot with an undercut near the pavement
- Need to do more to mitigate potential conflicts: etiquette, signage, call-outs, education
- E-bikes should be limited to a top speed of 20 mph
- Throttled bikes change the dynamics of the trail, especially on ramped courses
- Horses are still allowed by code; this use should be eliminated
- Redmond doesn't have a lot of natural open space, except what is available within the Canyon; there are special rock outcroppings, as well as native plants and sensitive landscapes
- Need more restoration to natural spaces
- Educate people about the activity zones or 'rooms', etiquette, rogue trails, native vegetation

Opportunities

- Develop the Pershall site as a community park with multiple uses and developed trails
- On the north side at the wetland area, consider adding access as a release value to other Dry canyon entries and provide parking
- Expand options for trail loops –paved/non-paved, short loops, long loops, a variety of route options
- The north end of the Canyon feels like a free for all, without defined uses; it needs to be more organized. Eliminate some rogue trails
- Consider an Interpretive center that tells the story of the Dry Canyon as a special location, its geologic formations and plants/animal (natural history), and serve as an outdoor classroom
- Develop an interpretive trail with stations along the path

Interview Notes (continued)

Lighting

- Consider lighting needs by 'zone' – in heavy use areas, maybe. In the north section, no.
- Consider lights in areas of more intensive use.
- Review the framework for the Dry Canyon and consider the 'experience of the canyon' before installing lights

Water-wise landscaping and irrigation

- There is value in green/soft areas
- Don't add new irrigated areas
- Define the need for irrigation by the preservation and enhancement zones defined in the Dry Canyon Master Plan

Other Ideas

- Acquire more land for active use park needs and more natural areas.
- Review the Transportation System Plan for the routing of a planned road across Pershall property
- Look for better east/west connectivity
- Develop trail access to Cline Park and the Deschutes River; link to County Bike Ped Plan
- Be mindful of staffing needs as the park system expands
- Support the creation of a stewardship group or 'friends of' group

-- End of Notes --

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A photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, there is a paved walkway and some low-lying green plants. To the right, a large wooden pavilion with a flat roof and stone pillars stands. In the background, a playground with a large slide and climbing structures is visible. Further back, there is a grassy field and a row of houses under a sky with many white clouds.

Appendix F:

Summary of Relevant Plans

Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for parks, trails and recreation opportunities in Redmond. The development of each involved public input and adoption by their respective responsible legislative body.

2018 Citywide Parks Master Plan

Adopted in January 2018, the updated Citywide Parks Master Plan responded to community growth related to renewed economic development and downtown revitalization efforts. The Parks Master Plan provided updated inventories, demographic conditions, needs analysis, management considerations and capital project phasing. The priorities, policies and projects that were recommended in the Plan offered recommendations for developing, conserving and maintaining high-quality parks, trail, facilities and open space across the City. The proposed capital improvement plan along with the goals and recommendations in the plan were adopted and incorporated into the City's Comprehensive Plan 2040.

Comprehensive Plan 2040

The City's Comprehensive Plan envisions its future 2040 character as a community with an interconnected system of parks and trails that promote health, recreation, and local and regional access. The Plan recognizes that Dry Canyon is the heart of Redmond and should have expanded and appealing park facilities. Safe walking and biking connections to all parks and special amenities should provide access to users of all ages and physical abilities. Following the State of Oregon's Goal 5, Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, the Plan ensures the protection of natural resources and promotes healthy and visually attractive environments in harmony with the natural landscape. In addition to the Dry Canyon Trail network, the Plan has a policy to utilize canals, rights-of-way and easements as recreation linkages for bike paths, hiking and jogging trails throughout the urban area. Expanding the public lands along the Dry Canyon was another Plan policy. Preserving and enhancing the natural conditions of the Dry Canyon was also an adopted policy. The Plan's Policy 5-1-8 recommended the preservation and management of the 40-acre Redmond Caves area as natural open space and/or for recreational purposes.

Water conservation, mature tree and tree canopy preservation, and the encouragement of habitat-friendly development practices for regionally significant fish and wildlife habitats were also recommended in the Plan.

For recreational needs, the Comprehensive Plan refers to the Parks Master Plan to describe the goals and policies for the provision of parks, open spaces and recreational services. Among the stated goals for providing a comprehensive system of parks, natural areas and recreation amenities includes:

- Secure lands for the future
- Create great parks and public spaces
- Connect trails and neighborhoods
- Foster a healthy, active community
- Maintain and manage for the public good

A relatively new comprehensive plan goal for Redmond is its Livability goal that states: "Redmond shall guide development by implementing forward-looking policies to improve livability, retain community identity, create a

high quality of life, and support a safe environment.” The livability goal includes a policy that reinforces the City’s intent to become an interconnected community of parks and open spaces.

Transportation System Plan 2020

The Redmond Transportation System Plan (TSP) establishes a system of transportation facilities and programs to serve the City over the next 20 years. The TSP is the transportation element of Redmond’s Comprehensive Plan and updates the TSP adopted in 2008. The TSP updates policies and provides a prioritized capital improvements project list to support the City’s community needs. The TSP included the goal to provide comfortable, convenient and safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities for all users. This goal followed on the intention to provide transportation choices for travelers of all abilities, ages, ethnicities and incomes. Bicycle and pedestrian policies were recommended to maintain a safe and efficient connected system. Improvements that compliment and increase access to the Dry Canyon trail system were prioritized as well as potential regional connections. Key multi-use pathways and key bicycle corridors were identified for inclusion in the TSP.

The TSP supported the continued coordination with the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) which maintains the Pilot Butte Canal (running north-south through Redmond). This canal connects to Terrebonne and Bend.

The TSP listed a number of priority multi-use pathways totaling over 34 miles and costing over \$104 M as proposed future improvements to the City’s bike/ped system. The improved continuity focused on eliminating north-south barriers for better east-west access particularly through the Dry Canyon and across US 97. New sidewalk and bicycle routes were also identified.

Northwest Area Plan

Adopted and included as formal amendments to the Redmond 2020 Comprehensive Plan Map, the Northwest Area Plan (NAP) provides recommendations for the location, type and design of various land uses, and ensure that all development in the project area is coordinated. The NAP neighborhood setting is a broad plain between two scenic canyons: Dry Canyon to the east and an unnamed canyon to the west. The NAP identifies general land uses and potential zoning designations to be applied within them as land is annexed and developed in the future. The NAP also identifies the potential need for and approximate location of future school and park sites. Public open spaces are planned throughout the area and include two neighborhood parks, trail corridors, and signage directing bikes and pedestrians to Dry Canyon and other planned regional trails. Residential developments must include common open space in site plans.

Highway 97 Area Plan

Adopted and included as formal amendments to the Redmond 2020 Comprehensive Plan Map, the Highway Area Plan (HAP) provides recommendations for the location, type and design of various land uses, and ensure that all development in the project area is coordinated. The HAP includes 190 acres of land on either side of Highway 97 in Deschutes County within the Redmond UGB. The HAP identifies general land uses and potential zoning designations to be applied within them as land is annexed and developed in the future. The HAP also identifies the potential need for and approximate location of future school and park sites. Public open spaces are planned throughout the area and include a neighborhood park, trail corridors, and signage directing bikes and pedestrians to Dry Canyon and other planned regional trails. Central Oregon Irrigation Canals (COID) are integrated into the HAP design. Trails are proposed along a canal which crosses the northern portion of the planning area. The HAP designated an Open Space and Parks (OSPR) district covering 14.22 acres with primary uses as parks, trails, public recreation uses and natural areas.

Southwest Area Plan

The Southwest Area Plan was completed following the Northwest Area Plan and the Highway Area Plan to help guide future growth since the expansion of the Redmond Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in 2006. The

Southwest Area Plan (SWAP) examines land uses in the area surrounding the newly opened Ridgeview High School. In addition to addressing future potential residential and commercial growth needs and anticipating the needs for public infrastructure to support that growth, the SWAP identifies the potential need for public parks, school development/expansion, as well as appropriate sites. Following the Great Neighborhood Principles, the SWAP includes a diverse mix of activities including open spaces and parks for public use. The proposed land use designations in the SWAP identified the lands reserved for parks, trails, and natural areas as totaling 31.95 acres, covering approximately 3.2% of the land area. There are four areas within the SWAP identified as potential Park sites on the proposed SWAP map. Three are identified as Neighborhood parks (approximately 3–5 acres in size) and one is identified as a Community Park (approximately 20 acres in size). The sizes and locations of the parks conform to the location and size requirements as stated in the City Parks Master Plan.

West Redmond Area Plan

The West Redmond Area Plan (WRAP) is currently in process. The West Redmond Area is approximately 440 acres in size, is zoned Urban Holding 10 Acre (UH-10), and is located within the UGB between 35th Street, NW Hemlock Avenue, Helmholtz Way, and SW Obsidian Avenue. The West Redmond Area is located near existing residential development, Highway 126, and mountain views, and was identified due to its potential to serve as the West entrance to Redmond, and to provide a much-needed neighborhood/ commercial/ mixed-use center on the west side of the City. Public engagement activities are expected to continue in the coming months.

ADA Transition Plan 2017

In 2017, the City Council accepted a self-evaluation process outlined in the City of Redmond ADA Transition Plan. The City of Redmond evaluated its facilities, parks and rights-of-way adjacent to City facilities in March of 2015. At the time of the facilities evaluations, the ADA 2010 Standards, 2014 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) Chapter 11 Accessibility, 2011 Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (PROWAG) and the 2013 Accessibility Guidelines; Outdoor Developed Areas (AGODA) were used to identify barriers at City facilities. This 2017 Transition Plan addresses the findings of the assessments of city-owned facilities and their adjacent public rights-of-way. Specific structural modifications required to make programs accessible are listed in the City of Redmond Facility Barriers Analysis Tool, which is an Excel workbook of barriers identified during the facility evaluations. The Transition Plan for facilities included all city buildings, parks, and their related grounds and the public rights-of-way around these facilities. The facility assessment reports, under separate cover from the City, provide the identification of barriers and the specific barrier removal actions. In addition to the ADA 2010 Standards, park facilities were also evaluated using the Architectural Barriers Act – Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas (AGODA) adopted in 2013. The ADA Transition Plan outlined the procedure for complaints and grievances for better access and barrier removal. A phasing schedule for barrier removal in city parks proposed a ten-year plan with emphasis on the first 3 years for implementation. Continual removal of barriers in parks was to be included in the budget process.



Appendix G:

Recreation Trends

The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local park and recreation trends. Examining current recreation trends may inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities to enhance programs and services.

2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review

In the 2024 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review and its accompanying Park Metrics share comprehensive park and recreation-related data collected and analyzed to inform park and recreation professionals and key stakeholders about the state of the industry. The 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review presents data from nearly 1,000 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported from 2021 to 2023. These resources provide guidance to inform decisions and demonstrate the full breadth of service offerings and responsibilities of park and recreation agencies throughout the United States. This data can offer a perspective for Redmond, Oregon parks and recreation to compare their service provision to other agencies across the country. However, every park & rec agency has its own unique characteristics, combination of responsibilities and community composition. This comparison of nationwide data with the City of Redmond can provide guiding insights rather than target benchmarks. The agency performance report indicated recent trends in staffing and volunteers for park and recreation agencies show that numbers of authorized full-time positions has steadily rebounded since 2011.

Key Findings & Characteristics

Park facilities and operations vary greatly across the nation. The typical agency participating in the NRPA park metric survey serves a jurisdiction of approximately 45,000 people, but population size varies widely across all responding jurisdictions. The typical park and recreation agency has jurisdiction over 22 parks comprising over 571 acres. When including non-park sites (such as city halls and roadway medians), the median management scale for park agencies increases to 30 sites encompassing 676 acres. Park facilities also have a range of service levels in terms of acres of parkland per population and residents per park. These metrics are categorized by the agency's population size.

Park Facilities

The typical park and recreation agency has:

- One park for every 2,386 residents
- 83% of agencies offer summer camp
- 10.6 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents in its jurisdiction
- \$99.47 operating expenditures per capita
- 8.9 full-time equivalent employees per 10,000 residents
- 93% of agencies have playgrounds
- An average of 16 miles of trails across all agencies

Figure G1. Median Residents per Park Based On Population Size

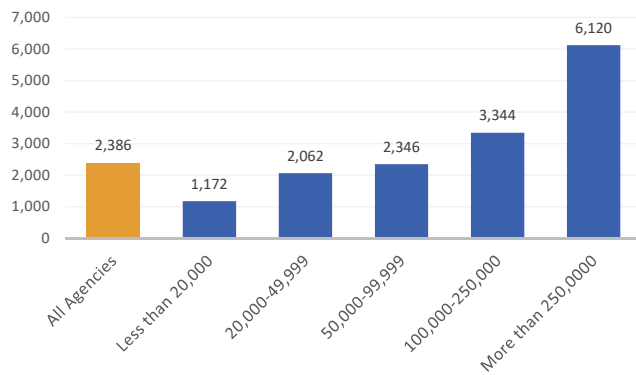
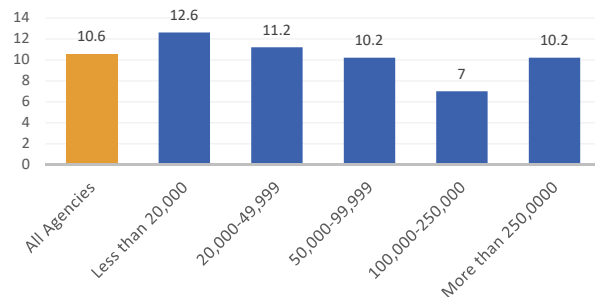


Figure G2. Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents based on Population Size



A large majority of park and recreation agencies provide playgrounds (93%) as their most common facility in their portfolio of outdoor assets. Eighty-five percent have diamond fields (baseball, softball), 84 percent have standalone basketball courts and 83 percent have rectangular fields (soccer, field hockey, lacrosse). Other common facilities include tennis courts (72%) and dog parks (68%).

The breakdown of the most common types of outdoor facilities includes:

- One playground/play structure for every 3,750 residents
- One diamond field for every 4,063 residents
- One basketball court for every 8,000 residents
- One rectangular field for every 5,000 residents
- One tennis court for every 6,003 residents
- One dog park for every 46,917 residents

Most agencies (three in five) offer community and/or recreation centers. Recreation centers (63%) are provided more often than community centers (59%). Senior centers (41%), performance amphitheaters (37%) and nature centers (33%) are also common.

Currently, 40 percent of agencies report providing Pickleball courts in their inventory. National trends indicate Pickleball as the fastest growing sport so it is expected that this percentage will rapidly change in the future.

The typical park and recreation agency that manages or maintains trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking has 15 miles of trails. Agencies serving more than 250,000 residents have a median of 89 miles of trails under their care.

Park and recreation agencies often take on responsibilities beyond their core functions of operating parks and providing recreational programs. Other responsibilities may include tourist attractions, golf courses, outdoor amphitheaters, indoor swim facilities, farmer's markets, indoor sports complexes, campgrounds, performing arts centers, stadiums/arenas/racetracks, fairgrounds and/or marinas.

Programming

At least eight in ten agencies provide themed special events (89% of agencies), social recreation events (88%), team sports (86%), youth summer camps (83%), fitness enhancement classes (82%), and health and wellness education (80%).

Staffing

Park and recreation employees are responsible for operations and maintenance, programming and administration. The typical park and recreation agency has:

- 57.6 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs) on payroll
- 8.9 FTEs on staff for every 10,000 residents in its jurisdiction

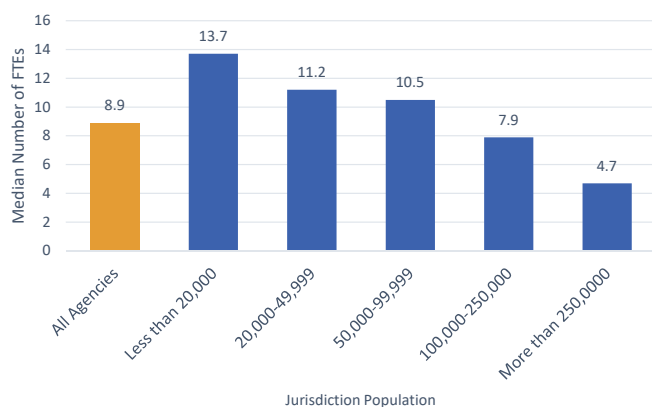
Median FTE counts also positively correlate with the number of acres maintained, the number of parks maintained, operating expenditures, and the population served. For example, agencies that serve populations between 20,000 and 49,999 residents employ an average of 34.2 FTE, while agencies that serve 50,000 to 99,000 people employ an average of 70.3 FTE.

Figure G3. Park and Recreation Agency Staffing: Full-Time Equivalents (By Jurisdiction Population)



Another way of comparing agency staffing across different park and recreation agencies examines number of staff per 10,000 residents. These comparative numbers hold fairly steady across population sizes with the median for all agencies at 8.9 FTEs.

Figure G4. Park and Recreation Agency FTEs Per 10,000 Residents



Capital and Operating Expenses

For capital expenses, the typical park agency:

- Dedicates about 56% to renovation projects and 30% to new development projects.
- Plans to spend about \$8 million on capital expenditures over the next five years.

For operations, the typical park agency spends:

- \$6.45 million per year on total operating expenses
- \$8,260 on annual operating expenses per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency
- \$99.47 on annual operating expenses per capita
- \$110,912 in annual operating expenditures per employee
- 54% of the annual operating budget on personnel costs, 38% on operating expenses, and 6% on capital expenses not included in the agency's capital improvement plan (CIP)
- 39% of its operating budget on park management and maintenance, 35% on recreation, 17% on administration and 9% on other activities

Agency Funding

The typical park and recreation agency:

- Derives 62% of their operating expenditures from general fund tax support, 21% from generated revenues, 8% from dedicated taxes or levies, 3% from other dedicated taxes, 2% from grants, and the remaining 3% from sponsorships, private donations and other sources
- Generates \$22.58 in revenue annually for each resident in the jurisdiction

2024 State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's 2024 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry summarizes the opinions and information provided by a wide range of professionals with the majority of respondents in leadership positions working in the recreation, sports, and fitness industry. While the respondents came from a wide range of sports-related entities, 42.5% were from park and recreation providers. The vast majority of respondents from parks—98.5%—were with public or governmental organizations. Park respondents manage the most facilities, with an average of 9.4, down from 13.3 in 2023, but in line with 2022, when park respondents averaged nine facilities.

Partnerships

The 2024 report indicated that most (85.4%) recreation, sports, and fitness facility owners form partnerships with other organizations as a means of expanding their reach, offering additional programming opportunities or as a way to share resources and increase funding. Local schools are shown as the most common partner (59.9%) for all facility types. Youth-serving organizations (Ys, JCC, Boys & Girls Clubs) and park and recreation organizations were the most likely to report that they had partnered with outside organizations, at 96.1% and 92.9% respectively.

Facilities and Improvements

A majority of park respondents (74.6%) said they had plans for construction, on par with 2022. More than half (54%) of park respondents were planning renovations to their facilities, and 36.9% of park respondents were planning to new construction with 31.5% planning additions. The top 10 planned features for all facility types include:

1. Splash play areas (26.5% of respondents with plans to add features are planning to add splash play)
2. Fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (21.1%)
3. Park restroom structures (19%)
4. Park shelters (17.8%)
5. Playgrounds (17.6%)
6. Walking and hiking trails (17.3%)

7. Synthetic turf sports fields (17.3%)
8. Dog parks (16.4%)
9. Outdoor sports courts (14.3%)
10. Community gardens (13.6%)

Programming

Nearly all respondents (95.2%) offer programming of some kind. The top 10 most commonly offered programs include: holiday events and other special events (provided by 78% of respondents); group exercise programs (65%); fitness programs (62%); educational programs (62%); day camps and summer camps (60%); youth sports teams (57%); arts and crafts programs (55%); mind-body balance programs such as yoga and tai chi (54%); programs for active older adults (53%); swimming programs such as learn-to-swim or swim teams (47%) and sports tournaments and races (46%).

2024 saw a great deal of growth in a large number of program types. The programs that saw an increase of at least five percentage points include: arts and crafts (up 11.9 percentage points); group exercise programs (up 11.5); festivals and concerts (up 10); active older adult programs (up 9.7); holiday events and other special events (up 9.2).

Parks respondents were more likely than others to offer sports tournaments and races, sport training such as golf instruction or tennis lessons, and festivals and concerts.

The ten most commonly planned program additions in 2024 were:

1. Environmental education programs (26.4%, up from 22.2% in 2023)
2. Educational programs (24.1%, down slightly from 24.8%)
3. Holiday events and other special events (23.8%, up from 18.1%)
4. Fitness programs (22.5%, up from 20.3%)
5. Mind-body balance programs (22.2%, down from 23.3%)
6. Adult sports teams (22.2%, up from 19.9%)
7. Teen programming (22.2%, down from 23.3%)
8. Programs for active older adults (22.2%, up from 19%)
9. Group exercise programs (20.6%, down from 22%)
10. Special needs programs (19.6%, up from 18.8%)

General Challenges

Over the past three years, staffing troubles has dominated the list of top industry challenges. Filling positions with qualified staff creates a challenge for recreation providers to meet the demanding needs of their members or visitors. In 2024, 56% of respondents identified staffing as their top challenge, while equipment and facility maintenance was the next most common concern with 53% calling it a top issue.

2024 Outdoor Participation Report

According to 2024 Outdoor Participation Trends Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, the outdoor recreation participant base grew 4.1% in 2023 to a record 175.8 million Americans (57.3%) ages 6 and older. The number of outdoor participants has grown as new and more casual participants began hiking, biking, camping, running and fishing. Key Insights include the following:

Growth

The recreational participant base is growing. New and young outdoor participants are driving growth and increased diversity in the outdoor recreation participant base. While the number of participants increased the average number of outings per participant fell 11.4% from 70.5 outings per participant in 2022 to 62.5 outings per participant in 2023. The declining frequency of participation offers a cautionary warning that the loss of committed participants may result in declining retail sales of outdoor products.

Diversity

The participant base became more ethnically and racially diverse in 2023 but not by much. The number and percentage of Hispanic and Black people in the core participants has increased but the slower rate of increase compared to growth in the overall participant base indicates a lack of engagement in the more diverse participant base. Diversity brings new participants, new ideas, and new ways of engaging outdoors, more support for outdoor and environmental policies, and more dollars into the outdoor recreation market.

Women as Trailblazers

More than half of American women are participating on outdoor recreation for the first time ever. Female participation reached 51.9% in 2023, up from 50% in 2022. American males reached a higher level in their participation rate with a new record of 62.9% in 2023.

Seniors

Americans aged 55 to 64 showed increased participation of 49.7% in 2023, up from 41.2% in 2019. The participation rate for Americans aged 65 and older grew 11.5% between 2022 and 2023. Those participants aged 65 and older reached a 39.5% rate for 2023.

Inclusion

Members of the LGBTQ+ community make up 11.3% of the outdoor participant base (19.9M) and continue to be the most active adult cohort in outdoor recreation with total participation rates above 60%.

The report suggests that efforts to build core participation in a more diverse market will be key to growing outdoor participation in depth as well as breadth.

2024 Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this nationwide study represents 18,000 individual interviews conducted in 2023 that summarize levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. The 2024 report provides a high degree of statistical accuracy using strict quotas for gender, age, income, region, and ethnicity. The study looked at more than 124 different team and individual sports and outdoor activities.

Compared to 2022, activity increased by 2.2% in total participation rates. Activity in the U.S. continues to increase for the sixth consecutive year. In 2023, the number of seriously committed athletes in America rose by 4.4%. This CORE participation is the foundation of any sport or activity. The Topline Participation Report shows strong positive trends across multiple sports and fitness categories.

Winter sports, team sports, racquet sports, and water sports all grew by over 9% last year. Winter sports grew by 22%, and team sports measured 10.8% growth with 20 of the 24 tracked sports showed increases. Pickleball is still

the fastest growing sport in America with 51.8% growth last year and 223.5% in three years. Trend analysis shows fitness equipment and activities also showing gains in participation in 2023. Americans are valuing and pursuing active lifestyles post-pandemic.

Figure G5. 2023 Total Actives (U.S. population, ages 6+)

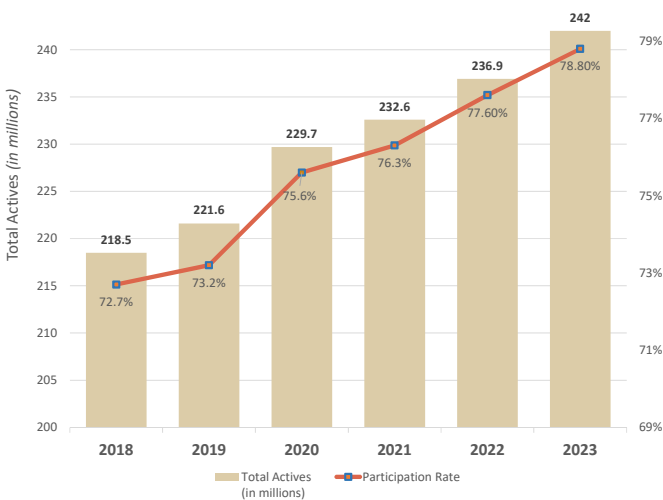
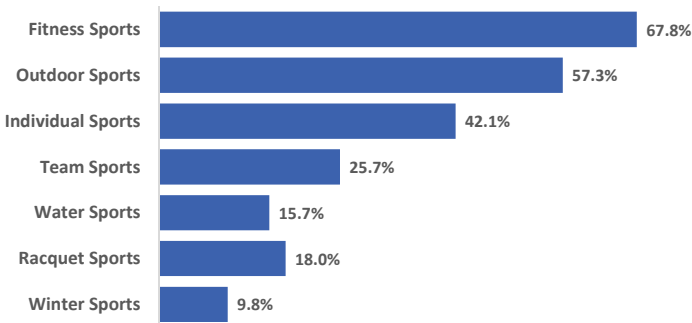


Figure G6. 2023 Total Participation Rate by Activity Category (U.S. population, ages 6+)



Health club-based activities (Treadmill, Stair-Climbing Machine, Stationary Cycling, and Rowing Machine) all had good participation increases from 2022. Class-based fitness activities (Barre, Pilates, Aquatic Exercise, Boot Camp Style Training, Dance, and Yoga) all had good gains in participation from 2022 to 2023. Trail Running and Hiking (Day) both continued to grow their sport’s participation. Trail Running grew 12.3% from 2022 to 2023 while Hiking (Day) grew 3.1% from 2022. Golf (on-or-off course) continues its momentum, increasing participation by 3.9% from 2022. This was driven by an 18.8% increase in off course golf, though on course golf showed a modest increase of 9.6%

Oregon State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Draft 2025–2029 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), entitled “Balance and Engagement: Sustaining the Benefits for all Oregonians”, constitutes Oregon’s basic five-year plan for outdoor recreation. As of June 2024, the draft was still under review and accepting public comment. With the completion of the 2025–2029 plan, the state maintains eligibility to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund up through December 2029.

The draft SCORP addresses three important priorities facing outdoor recreation providers in the coming years, including:

1. The importance and benefits of recreation to Oregonians and the local economy.

2. Balancing conservation with outdoor recreation.
3. Engaging with underserved communities in outdoor recreation efforts.

As part of developing the SCORP, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) conducted a statewide survey of Oregon residents regarding their 2022 outdoor recreation participation in Oregon, as well as their opinions about park and recreation management.

The resident survey measured the top ten outdoor recreation activities for Oregon residents that occur within their community. Walking rated the most participation whether on local streets and sidewalks or along paved paths or natural trails.

Figure G7. Top Ten Activities for Oregon Resident in their Community

Activity	Percent
Walking on streets or sidewalks	79.1%
Walking on paved paths or natural trails	71.8%
Nature immersion	52.6%
Attending outdoor concerts/events	40.6%
Visiting historical sites/parks	40.5%
Picnicking	40.4%
Nature observation	37.4%
Taking children/grandchildren to a playground	34.2%
Visiting nature centers	34.2%
Pedaling bicycles on streets or sidewalks	30.9%

The resident survey also gathered input on where respondents liked to experience outdoor recreation. Local parks were the most frequently visited by 83% of respondents.

Figure G8. Types of Outdoor Recreation Areas Used

Outdoor Recreation Area	Percent
Local/city park	83%
State park, forest, or game land	71%
County park	48%
National park, forest & recreation area	49%

Further survey questions explored where residents felt future investments were needed in their community outdoor recreation areas. Their highest two priorities covered clean and well-maintained facilities and provision of restrooms.

Figure G9. Priorities for Future Investments in their Community

Recreation Priority	Mean*
Clean & well-maintained facilities	4.16
Restrooms	4.06
Free recreation opportunities	3.99
Parks & recreation areas	3.78
Directional/info signs for trails	3.71
Nature & wildlife viewing areas	3.64

**Means for 5-point Likert Scale (1="lowest priority need" to 5="highest priority need")*

This data can help local park and recreation providers better understand public opinions and the preferences of outdoor recreation participants.

In addition to the resident survey, land managers and public recreation providers in Oregon were also surveyed regarding their needs, challenges and priorities for recreation management in their jurisdiction. The most challenging management issues for local outdoor recreation providers (within urban growth boundaries) were identified.

Figure G10. Local Providers: Top 5 Challenges

Management Issues
Reducing illegal activities
Creating new park and recreation facilities
Maintaining existing local parks and facilities
Addressing ADA and other accessibility issues
Providing safe walking and biking routes to parks and trails

The results illustrate that providers face large challenges when increasing opportunities and access to outdoor recreation through resident-supported actions like creating new park and recreation facilities and providing safe walking and biking routes to parks and trails. These larger challenges require more significant investments and longer term planning.

The SCORP report also offers management recommendations to outdoor recreation providers to help protect natural resources and visitor experiences, triggered partly due to issues created by crowding.

- Promote outdoor practices and principles to minimize visitor impacts.
- Utilize web presence to provide information about crowding and encourage visitors to explore less-busy locations.
- Implement timed-entry systems, reservation requirements, and permit requirements to manage crowding.
- Adapt current infrastructure to address crowding and natural resource impacts.

Another series of studies measured the benefits of outdoor recreation on public land systems through healthy lifestyles, lower health care costs and overall quality of life. The research findings were included in the 2025–2029 SCORP. Physical health benefits are demonstrated in the SCORP chapter titled, “Health Benefits Estimates for Oregonians from their Outdoor Recreation Participation in Oregon,” showing how energy expenditure from physical activity related to outdoor recreation participation may lead to \$2.965 billion in cost of illness savings for these chronic illnesses.

Research also included the total net economic value for recreation participation in Oregon from their participation in 76 outdoor recreation activities in 2022 for a total of 1.27 billion user occasions. The total net economic value for a recreation activity is the value per activity day times the number of activity days. Filtering the top ten contributors for outdoor recreation activities and their associated economic value reveals walking and enjoying nature as the top generators followed by bicycling, running/jogging, field sports, and playground and dog park users.

Figure G11. User Occasions, Activity Days, and Total Net Economic Value

Top Ten: SCORP Activity in your Community	RUVD* Activity	Total Annual Activity Days	Value/Activity Day (2023 USD)	Total Net Economic Value (2023 USD)
Walking on streets or sidewalks	Walking	357,558,563	\$21.83	\$7,804,896,510
Nature immersion	Wildlife viewing	59,056,930	\$67.36	\$3,978,126,928
Nature observation	Wildlife viewing	54,981,854	\$67.36	\$3,703,626,212
Pedaling bicycles on streets or sidewalks	Leisure biking	42,666,036	\$67.19	\$2,866,672,617
Pedaling bikes on paved or natural trails (incl. mtn bikes)	Mtn biking	22,888,395	\$115.68	\$2,647,691,141
Jogging or running on streets or sidewalks	Jogging/running	28,791,816	\$67.69	\$1,948,961,000
Field sports (soccer, softball, baseball, football, disc golf, etc)	Jogging/running	17,130,797	\$67.69	\$1,159,609,218
Jogging or running on on paved paths or natural trails	Jogging/running	19,867,529	\$67.69	\$1,344,862,692
Taking children/grandchildren to a playground	Walking	48,003,644	\$21.83	\$1,047,838,067
Going to dog parks or off-leash areas	Walking	45,415,364	\$21.83	\$991,340,308

The total net economic value for recreation participation in Oregon by Oregonians is estimated to be \$57.1 billion (2023 USD) annually based on 2022 use levels. Total consumer spending on outdoor recreation in 2022 supported 198,000 full and part-time jobs in Oregon, associated with \$8.4 billion in wages and other compensation.

Americans Engagement with Parks Survey

This annual study from the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) probes Americans’ usage of parks, the key reasons that drive their use, and the greatest challenges preventing greater usage. Each year, the study examines the importance of public parks in Americans’ lives, including how parks compare to other services and offerings of local governments. The survey of 1,000 American adults looks at frequency and drivers of parks/ recreation facilities visits and the barriers to that prevent greater enjoyment. Survey respondents also indicate the importance of park and recreation plays in their decisions at the voting booth and their level of support for greater funding. Key findings include:

- Eighty-four percent of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live.
- Nearly 3 in 4 U.S. residents have at least one local park, playground, open space or recreation center within walking distance of their homes.
- Nine in ten people agree that parks and recreation in an important service provided by the local government.
- Nearly 3 in 4 adults agree that equity should be an extremely or very important goal for their local park and recreation agency.

People who live near parks and recreation facilities are more likely to be park and recreation users. Individuals living near at least one park are much more likely to arrive at that park by an “active” means (e.g., walking, biking, running), with walking being the most common method of transport. Conversely, 80 percent of U.S. adults who do not live within a walkable distance to parks or recreation opportunities travel to those amenities by car. The typical adult in the United States visits their local parks or recreation facilities every other month. Four main reasons for visiting local parks and recreation facilities stand out: being with family and friends, exercising and being physically fit, taking a break from day-to-day stresses, and being closer to nature. Park and recreation agencies can customize their offerings to the specific needs, wants and desires of their community members by knowing their motivation for visiting parks.

Figure G12. NRPA Park Engagement: Key Reasons for Park Visits



According to the Americans Engagement with Parks report,

“Parks and recreation’s success results from its vast offerings of parks, trail networks and other recreation facilities that deliver critical programs for every segment of a community. Each person’s relationship with parks and recreation is unique. Some people flock to their local park to stay physically fit, meet with friends and family, or reconnect with nature. Others depend on their local park and recreation agency for indispensable services that improve their lives.

But there remains much work to do. One-hundred million people do not live within a walkable distance of

at least one park or recreation facility. Further, many survey respondents indicate they have felt unwelcome at a park or recreation facility or say the infrastructure and programming are not inclusive. Parks and recreation is for everyone — regardless of age, income, race, ethnicity, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation. Professionals, advocates and political leaders have the opportunity to narrow any accessibility or inclusivity gaps through greater community engagement and addressing inequitable funding and infrastructure investments that have deprived millions of people of access to parks and recreation.”

Outdoor Recreation Economy

In November 2023, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released its annual report on the economic impact of the outdoor recreation industry at national and state levels. The gross economic output for the outdoor recreation economy was \$1.1 trillion in 2022, accounting for 2.2% of the gross domestic product that year.

The GDP contribution from outdoor recreation economic activity increased by 4.8% from 2021 to 2022. People finding employment in the outdoor recreation industry increased by 7.4% from 2021 to 2022. Outdoor recreation remains a significant sector of the U.S. economy. A wide range of activities—from hiking, boating, and hunting to golf and tennis—result in outdoor recreation jobs in a wide variety of industries.

Oregon Outdoor Recreation Industry

The research group Headwaters Economics, in collaboration with the State Outdoor Recreation Business Alliance, published a report in 2023 on the state of the outdoor recreation economy nationally. In the State of Oregon, the outdoor recreation industry employed approximately 72,737 people in 2022 with a total compensation level of \$3,760,711. The total recreation value contributed \$7,502,130 to Oregon’s economy. The report emphasizes that investments in outdoor recreation directly result in visitor spending that supports jobs, businesses, and industries across the country.

Inclusion & Universal Access

Across the country, local municipalities and park and recreation providers with older public infrastructure have been upgrading their facilities to comply with the outdoor recreation guidelines for universal access and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The removal of existing architectural barriers in park facilities has been ongoing and should continue until renovations, upgrades and newer construction provide barrier-free access to all users. Access and inclusion in public parks extends beyond the physical amenities and incorporates considerations of language, technology, wayfinding, program equity and equitable geographic distribution of facilities.

Park and recreation agencies are in a unique position to champion efforts that advance diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). By assuring representation of diverse life experiences and voices, park and recreation professionals will better reflect the communities their agencies serve. Inequity is the ultimate challenge facing the nation, and parks and recreation can make a profound difference.

Parks for Climate Resiliency

Numerous studies have been documenting the contributions of parks and public lands to better climate resiliency. Parks, open space and natural lands can cool urban heat islands, buffer flood impacts, improve water quality and improve air quality. Urban tree canopy in parks can remove air pollution and sequester carbon. Parks and greenways along storm-affected coastlines are being created to help buffer impacts of anticipated flooding due to sea level rise, storm surges, and increased precipitation. Climate resilience strategies involving parks can focus on resilient shoreline development, green stormwater infrastructure and increased tree groves.

As the climate changes, outdoor recreation opportunities and availability can become more inconsistent. Wildfires, flooding, reduced snowpack and other environmental impacts from climate changes can directly and indirectly affect visitor-use patterns. Recreation planners and managers play a role in climate resiliency by protecting vulnerable resources that can impact outdoor recreation opportunities.

Trends In Playgrounds

Across multiple communities, residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities and park playgrounds are an important element in outdoor recreation. Reported in Landscape Architect magazine, the top five playground industry trends for 2021 were compiled from data and feedback from parks professionals, landscape architects and educators.

1. Inclusive Playgrounds, increasingly popular over the last few years, have been evolving beyond meeting basic ADA guidelines. Designers are seeking to expand accessible playground equipment, consider multi-generational play, and leverage inclusive play to help overcome societal barriers.
2. Rope-based Playgrounds, climbers and playground nets provide a technique for working around natural environments and unusual topography. Their flexibility in placement offers more options for connecting with the landscape rather than working around difficult topography.
3. Outdoor Fitness has increased importance during the COVID-19 pandemic as many gyms and indoor fitness centers closed and forced more people to seek outdoor options. Outdoor fitness spaces are being increasingly integrated into park and trail designs to encourage health and physical fitness for all ages.
4. Outdoor Learning has been implemented during the pandemic to replace or supplement indoor classrooms. Outdoor classrooms can encourage activity in children to counteract the reduction in recess time due to hybrid class schedules and remote learning. Seating, tables, shelters, hand sanitizer stations and other outdoor products are helping create outdoor classrooms.
5. Human-powered Play engages users to provide physical energy to “power-up” the activity, such as turning a handle, pressing foot pedals, rotating wheels. These products often relate to sensory experiences like lights and music, story-telling or social games.

Spurred on by the social distancing of the pandemic, these five trends in playground design and development point to more human-to-human interactions that reinforce the value of social connections, even in a physically distanced environment.

Special Report on Paddlesports & Safety

In 2019, the Outdoor Foundation produced a report focused on paddlesports data based on a participation survey (over 20,000 online interviews with a nationwide sample of individuals and households). In 2018, 22.9 million Americans (approximately 7.4% of the population) participated in paddle sports. This represents an increase of more than 4 million participants since the study began in 2010. Over the last five years, there continues to be an increase in paddlesports popularity among outdoor enthusiasts, with significant portions of the nationwide growth occurring in the Pacific region.

Recreational kayaking continues to grow in popularity but may be driving some of the decline in canoeing. The popularity of stand-up paddling has soared, increasing by 1.5 million participants over the past five years, though it does not have nearly as high a participation rate as either recreational kayaking or canoeing.

Most paddlers are Caucasian, other racial and ethnic groups are largely under-represented. However, Caucasian participation has remained relatively flat while participation by people identifying as Hispanic or Black/African American has grown by 0.5% to 1% per year since 2013. This growth has led to more than 773,000 new Hispanic paddlers in just six years, signaling the importance and potential of engaging minority groups in paddlesports.

One in eight paddlers have been participating in the sport for 21 years or more. However, many participants –

between thirty and sixty percent, depending on the discipline – tried a paddlesport for the first time in 2018. Such high levels of first-time participation may produce longer term growth in paddling, assuming participants continue to enjoy the sport.

Among adult paddlers, most participate for excitement and adventure, for exercise, or to be close to nature. Kayakers, rafters, canoers and stand-up paddlers often enjoy, or would be willing to try, other paddlesports. Many also enjoy similar outdoor “crossover” activities such as hiking, camping, walking, and nature viewing.



Appendix H:

Implementation Tools

The City of Redmond possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks and recreation system. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with city leadership is critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing city revenue sources in favor of parks and recreation efforts.

LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

General Obligation Bond

These are voter-approved bonds with the authority to levy an assessment on real and personal property. The money can only be used for capital construction and improvements, but not for maintenance. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 15–20 years). Passage requires a simple majority in November and May elections, unless during a special election, in which case a double majority (a majority of registered voters must vote and a majority of those voting must approve the measure) is required. Cities in Oregon have a legal debt limit on general obligation (GO) debt equal to 3% of their real market value.

Park Utility Fee

A park utility fee provides dedicated funds to help offset the cost of park maintenance and could free up general fund dollars for other capital project uses. Most city residents pay water and sewer utility fees. Park utility fees apply the same concepts to city parks, and a fee is assessed to all businesses and households. The monthly fee would be paid upon connection to the water and sewer system. Redmond does not assess a park utility fee.

System Development Charges

Redmond currently assesses a parks system development charge (SDC). SDCs are charged for new residential development to help finance the demand for park facilities created by the new growth.

Fuel Tax

Oregon gas taxes are collected as a fixed amount per gallon of gasoline purchased. The Oregon Highway Trust Fund collects fuel taxes, and a portion is paid to cities annually on a per-capita basis. By statute, revenues can be used for any road-related purpose, which may include sidewalk repairs, ADA upgrades, bike routes and other transportation-oriented park and trail enhancements.

FEDERAL / STATE GRANTS & CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program - National Park Service

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a community resource 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 assists communities and public land managers in developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as creating outdoor recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors.

Urban and Community Forestry Grants - Oregon Department of Forestry

The Oregon Department of Forestry provides a range of grants and incentives for private landowners and municipalities. Program areas range from community forestry to weed control to conservation and resiliency efforts.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program - US Fish & Wildlife Service

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. Both are 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 towards 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. In Mexico, partners may also conduct projects involving technical training, environmental education and outreach, organizational infrastructure development, and sustainable-use studies.

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.

Local Government Grant - Oregon Parks and Recreation

Local government agencies who are obligated by state law to provide public recreation facilities are eligible for OPR's Local Government Grants, and these are limited to public outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities. Eligible projects involve land acquisition, development and major rehabilitation projects that are consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant - Oregon Parks and Recreation

LWCF grants are available through OPR to either acquire land for public outdoor recreation or to develop basic outdoor recreation facilities. Projects must be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives stated in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and elements of local comprehensive land use plans and park master plans. A 50% match is required from all successful applicants of non-federal funds, in-kind services and/or materials.

Recreational Trails Program Grant - Oregon Parks and Recreation

Recreational Trails Grants are national grants administered by OPRD for recreational trail-related projects, such as hiking, running, bicycling, off-road motorcycling, and all-terrain vehicle riding. Yearly grants are awarded based on available federal funding. RTP funding is primarily for recreational trail projects, rather than utilitarian transportation-based projects. Funding is divided into 30% motorized trail use, 30% non-motorized trail use and 40% diverse trail use. A 20% minimum project match is required.

Oregon Heritage Grants – Oregon Parks and Recreation

Oregon Heritage offers a variety of grant programs for heritage projects from historic building preservation to oral history projects and more. Grant programs focus on specific foci, including façade renovation, main street revitalization, Veterans’ and War Memorials, the preservation of historic resources, among others.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Grants - Oregon Department of Transportation

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Grant Program is a competitive grant program that provides resources to Oregon cities, counties and ODOT regional and district offices for design and construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Proposed facilities must be within public rights-of-way. Grants are awarded by the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Project types include sidewalk infill, ADA upgrades, street crossings, intersection improvements, minor widening for bike lanes.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Grant

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board focuses on projects that approach natural resources management from a whole-watershed perspective. OWEB encourages projects that foster interagency cooperation, include other sources of funding, provide for local stakeholder involvement, include youth and volunteers and promote learning about watershed concepts. There are five general categories of projects eligible for OWEB funding: watershed management (restoration and acquisition), resource monitoring and assessment, watershed education and outreach, and technical assistance.

Arts Grants - Oregon Arts Commission

The Oregon Arts Commission funds arts programs and individual artistic innovation throughout Oregon. Grant programs serve as investments in our state’s culture. They are supported by contributions from the State of Oregon, the Oregon Cultural Trust, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

OTHER METHODS & FUNDING SOURCES

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 fund raising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

Meyer Memorial Trust

The Meyer Memorial Trust seeks opportunities to make program-related investments in Oregon and Clark County, WA. General Purpose Grants support projects related to arts and humanities, education, health, social welfare, and a variety of other activities. Proposals may be submitted at any time under this program, and there is no limitation on the size or duration of these grants.

REI Cooperative Action Fund - Non-Profit Partnerships and Grants

Partnerships begin with store teams who may connect with nonprofits by promoting or partnering for events and service projects, raising visibility with REI customers, offering product donations, and inviting and selecting organizations for an REI grant. The Fund awards grants twice a year, in spring and fall, focused around three approaches:

- **Local Grants:** Nonprofit recommendations from the public via online recommendation form and from REI employees in the communities where REI operates stores. These grants support the Space and People initiatives.
- **Advisor-led Grants:** Nonprofit recommendations from compensated advisors supporting Space, People and Health initiatives.
- **Community Grants:** Nonprofit recommendations from the general public and other partners supporting Space, People, and Health initiatives.

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, school districts, other municipalities and utility providers.

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 city, 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 city. 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 city upon death. While a life estate offers the city 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 city in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

Option to Purchase Agreement

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the city 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 city 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 city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Conservation 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 (or private organization) that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. 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. 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. The preservation and protection of habitat or resources lands may best be coordinated with the local land trust or conservancy, since that organization will likely have staff resources, a systematic planning approach and access to non-governmental funds to facilitate aggressive or large scale transactions.

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).

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 Deschutes Land Trust is the local land trust serving the Redmond area. Other national organizations with local representation include The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.



Appendix I:

Site Acquisition & Development Guidelines

ACQUISITION GUIDELINES

Planning and land acquisition for future parks is a recognized component in land use and urban growth management, since the provision of parks and open space is considered essential to the livability of urban areas. For the recreation resource planner, the land acquisition process is an important task for ensuring the availability of future recreation resources for the majority of the community. The established planning goals for a community's comprehensive plan recognize the development of parks and retention of open space with conservation values as a tool for managing the effects of increased density and fostering livability.

Level of Service (acreage needs)

The 2018 Parks Master Plan proposed the provision of a service standard of four acres per 1,000 residents of urban parks, which include community, neighborhood and mini parks. The Plan also sets a park and open space goal to strive to provide equitable access to parks such that all city residents live within ½-mile of a developed neighborhood park.

Distribution Equity (location/gaps)

Equitable distribution of public park facilities is a community goal (articulated in the Parks Master Plan). GIS mapping and analysis documented and tracked the existing public park inventory and areas where public parks are lacking in search for park land acquisition targets. Park acquisition should be prioritized in underserved areas where households are more than ½-mile from a developed park.

Specific Site Suitability for Developed/Active Parks

According to the 2018 Parks Master Plan, the minimum size for a typical neighborhood park is 3 acres to allow for the accommodation of the desired range of recreational amenities. While existing neighborhood parks may range from 1.5 to 10 acres in size, some basic location and land characteristics influence how accessible, “developable” and convenient a potential site might be for a future public park. Evaluating a potential land parcel should include consideration of the following property features:

- Access and visibility to the property. An adequate amount of public right-of-way is needed to allow for creating bike/pedestrian pathways, at a minimum, and either on-street parking or a parking lot for park visitors who must drive a vehicle.
- Existing publicly owned lands, easements and right-of-way. Are there existing lands under public ownership that could be converted to public park use? What other public amenities are proximate and complementary to a future park development (e.g., schools, police stations, etc.)?
- Connectivity to trails, schools, parks, neighborhoods and connectivity of the trail links. Connections to and from related land uses can add value to a potential park location.
- Environmental constraints, field assessment (does not include Environmental Assessment level detail), regulatory and permitting requirements and GIS data for critical areas. Sensitive environmental lands should be protected, but often they are not the best sites for development of recreational amenities for public parks. Protected and conserved lands can provide complementary value to public parks, while the public park land can create a buffer for the conserved land.
- Topography. Existing landforms, whether flat or hilly, will influence the park's design and best fit for provision of recreational facilities.

- Technical analysis of park standards and development costs should be evaluated to help provide realistic site development costs. For example, existing road improvements within the public right-of-way or lack of public water and sewer may trigger additional park development costs.

Within identified neighborhoods that may lack or have limited access to public parks, potential properties should be evaluated for suitable site conditions for the development of future recreational amenities and/or access to natural resources and water.

Neighborhood/Community Park Site Suitability Criteria:

- Access / visibility
- Parcel size / configuration
- Contiguous public land / connectivity
- Extent of sensitive areas
- Cost factors (acquisition, development & maintenance.)
- Compatibility with surrounding uses
- Vacant land preference

Trail Site Suitability Criteria:

- Development feasibility
- Continuity / connectivity (“safe routes”)
- Natural, cultural, historic value
- Public ROW access
- Land costs / value

Urban Natural Areas Site Suitability Criteria:

- Ecological, cultural, historic value
- Continuity / connectivity
- Public right of way access
- Development pressure (threat of conversion)
- Acquisition costs, donations, grants, third-party support (i.e., land trusts), etc.

Site-Specific Concerns

Once a targeted park land acquisition has been identified and evaluated with consideration to its potential suitability as a future public park, more specific assessments should be conducted to ensure a measure of known development variables for future park use.

- A boundary survey and review of the title is important to identify an existing encroachments, encumbrances or entitlements that need to be addressed or corrected prior to closing.
- Environmental constraints, such as wetlands, waterways, other sensitive habitats and any associated buffers, should be identified to determine their impact on developable park spaces.
- An environmental site assessment should be conducted to identify environmental conditions that could have resulted from a past release of hazardous substances and determine any potential mitigation requirements to protect public health. Additionally, environmental law typically leaves the burden of responsibility on the property owner, so conducting an environmental site assessment is important to protect the City’s liability.
- An archeological assessment to review potential cultural resources may also help bring to light future park development costs and variables.
- Any underground tanks, wells, septic systems and existing structures should be evaluated for the need to remove, decommission, or demolish after closing of land sale.

Design Standards for Environmental Site Assessment

Considering a current use of a property is typically not sufficient for evaluating potential environmental concerns. For example, a vacant lot may previously have been used for agricultural purposes and may contain pesticide residues in the soil, or a current retail building formerly may have housed an auto repair business with underground tanks. Additionally, properties that are considered low-risk, such as a residence, could have a leaking underground heating oil tank or other concerns. Therefore, conducting an environmental site assessment is an important step in purchasing and managing property.

Prior to purchasing or accepting ownership of a property, the City should conduct an environmental site assessment to determine if contaminated soil, sediment or groundwater could be present. This process typically begins with a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) per ASTM E1527-13 to identify environmental conditions or other business risk issues that could impact site development, pose a liability to the City, or present a risk to human health or the environment. Depending on the results of the Phase I ESA, a subsequent Phase II ESA may be warranted to sample and test soil, sediment or groundwater for the presence of contamination.

For property currently owned by the City, conducting an ESA prior to redevelopment can help to identify issues that could affect building design or result in construction delays.

For property that will be leased by the City, conducting a baseline environmental assessment may be warranted to establish initial conditions prior to the City occupying the site.

PRESERVING FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

Public outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities are eligible for funding assistance through the Oregon Local Government Grant Program (LGGP). Land acquisition projects must be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) or the recreation elements of local comprehensive plans and local master plans. Acquisition of land and waters for public outdoor recreation areas and facilities, including new areas or additions to existing parks, forests, wildlife areas, open spaces and other similar areas dedicated to outdoor recreation are eligible for assistance through the LGGP. To be eligible in the LGGP, the acquisition procedures set forth by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) should be closely followed. The grant funding program requires a percent match based on the population size of the eligible jurisdiction.

DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

With planned park upgrades and the potential for development of park acquisitions, Redmond would benefit from park design and facility standards that help unify the system's amenities, operations and maintenance going into the future. Standards can begin with the adoption of typical bench details and expand to incorporate graphic sign styles, materials, colors and specific site furnishings. With the desire for Redmond to create a unifying identity and enhance park maintenance efficiencies, guidelines for park standards should be planned, endorsed and implemented.

If the City should annex its urban reserve area, the acquisition and development of additional parks will be necessary. There may be opportunities to partner with residential development projects for providing new parks to be dedicated to the City upon completion. The establishment of park design and development standards with predetermined requirements for consistency and quality of site amenities would ensure that new parks could readily fit within on-going park operations and maintenance. All newly developed parks and trails shall adhere to the Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas as set forth by the United States Access Board.

Great Neighborhood Parks Principles

1. **Have a clear statement of purpose**
 - a. Involve the neighborhood in planning the process
 - b. Target the demographics of neighborhood and nearby community facilities (schools, senior center, etc.)
 - c. Further the mission of the Redmond Parks System
2. **Integrate with and add value to the Redmond Park System**
 - a. Locate parks consistent with the Parks Master Plan
 - b. Expand the range of recreational opportunities offered within the system
 - c. Provide inter-park connections through access to multi-use trails
3. **Establish a sense of place**
 - a. Help define the neighborhood as unique
 - i. Incorporate unique amenities rather than “cookie-cutter” solutions
 - ii. Consider incorporating public art
 - b. Integrate park plans and theme with existing or planned adjacent developments
 - i. Minimize surrounding fencing
 - ii. Maintain good sight lines from community
 - iii. Consider providing neighborhood message board, meeting place, etc.
 - c. Signage and amenities should establish a coherent and distinct character for each park that relates to nearby existing and planned developments
4. **Plan for sustainability, maintainability and growth**
 - a. Use resources responsibly
 - b. Acquire sufficient land to accommodate future recreational opportunities
 - c. Maintain adequate staff and funding for upkeep and maintenance
 - d. Regularly measure neighborhood and user satisfaction
5. **Provide equitable access**
 - a. Meet and exceed ADA guidelines
 - b. Provide easy, protected pedestrian access from the neighborhood
 - c. Integrate the park into the city trails system
 - d. Provide a diverse mix of usages serving targeted groups
 - e. Be located in an open, accessible location readily available to residents within a half mile.
6. **Provide a safe environment**
 - a. Design and site amenities for safety and neighborhood oversight
 - b. Design to encourage users’ sense of physical security
7. **Provide green space and shade**
8. **Use green design principles**
 - a. Plant native, drought-resistant trees and plantings
 - b. Use environmentally friendly and energy efficient design for amenity construction and siting.
9. **Accommodate year-round usability**

Design Standards for Urban Parks

Public park space should be clearly identifiable and provide a safe and secure environment for outdoor recreation and enjoyment. To help communicate the identity, amenities and uses within the park, some unified design standards should be applied. These standards are intended to help with public access, communication of safety and appropriate behaviors, and efficiency in operations and maintenance without creating a park system of identical “cloned” urban parks. Standardizing the designs for park signage, benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, lighting, bollards, irrigation systems and fencing can allow for easier and less expensive procurement, installation, maintenance and replacement. The visual character of unified park amenities can quickly convey to the park visitor that the space is part of an overall system of public spaces where they are welcome.

While sharing standard site furnishings and signage styles helps unify the system identity, each individual park should have its own unique character. The shape and size of the land, the layout of circulation and location of key features, the styles, types and colors of play equipment, the architecture of restrooms, picnic and other park structures should be specific to that park. Even though each park contains some standardized site furnishings, each park site master plan design should strive to create a sense of place that highlights the character of that park in its local context and for its primary purpose (such as passive park with natural area or active sports-oriented facility).

The following tables highlight the range and considerations of various amenities that may be provided within urban parks (community, neighborhood and mini parks) and can provide guidance for negotiating facility development opportunities in situations when private entities propose park development in-lieu of payment or for other, alternative arrangements, such as density bonuses.

Figure 11. Minimum Site Design Considerations for Mini Parks

Amenity	Considerations - where feasible
Playground	- Minimum 2,000 sq.ft. play area - Play equipment should be age-specific targeting pre-school and elementary school children - Playground should be ADA-compliant
Paved Access	ADA compliant surfacing for barrier-free access
Picnic Tables	Use standard ADA compliant picnic table style
Drinking Fountain	Provide ADA-compliant standard fixture
Benches	Use standard ADA compliant bench style
Grass Area	Open play space with sun exposure; 800-1,000 sq.ft. minimum size; irrigated
Trees	- Provide shade for portion of playground area - Provide tree canopy for >40% of park space
Bicycle Racks	Accommodate 2-bike minimum
Trash Receptacles & Dog Waste Disposal Stations	Minimum of 1 located at entry

Figure 12. Minimum Site Design Considerations for Neighborhood Parks

Amenity	Considerations - where feasible
Playground	- Minimum of 4,000 sq.ft. play area - Equipment should be suitable for and developmentally-appropriate for toddlers and elementary school-aged children - Playground should be ADA Accessible and play equipment should be ADA Compliant
Loop Walking Path	- Minimum 8' wide - ADA-compliant surface to accessible elements (benches, tables, play area) - Pathway slope not to exceed 5% grade or no more than 8% for more than 30 lineal feet without switchbacks or railings
Picnic Tables	Minimum of 2, Use standard ADA compliant picnic table style
Drinking Fountain	Provide ADA-compliant standard fixture
Benches	Minimum of 2, Use standard ADA compliant bench style
Open Turf Area	Provide at least 15% of total lawn area with irrigation, preferably adjacent to the play area
Trees & Landscaping	- Provide shade for portion of playground area - New trees and shrubs should be irrigated for a minimum of 2 years until established
Bicycle Racks	Minimum of 2, with capacity to serve 4 bikes
Trash Receptacles & Dog Waste Disposal Stations	Minimum of 1

For community parks, any or all of the following outdoor recreation features should be considered in addition to the same amenities provided in neighborhood parks.

Figure 13. Minimum Site Design Considerations for Community Parks

Amenity	Considerations - where feasible
Parking	- Based on types of amenities and their parking quantity requirements - Include requisite number of handicapped parking stalls at appropriate locations - Consider need for parking provision at multiple access points, where appropriate
Loop Walking Path	Provide a perimeter trail in addition to pathways accessing all major park amenities
Multiple Access Points	Provide connectivity to neighborhoods and public rights-of-way
Restrooms	Provide ADA-compliant standardized design facilities
Picnic Shelter	Provide minimum of 1 group picnic shelter
Sports fields	Type and quantity dependent on available space and current public demand for each sport facility
Sports courts	Type and quantity dependent on available space and current public demand for each sport facility
Tree Canopy	Target a 25-45% tree canopy dependent on other park amenities and feasibility
Open Grass Area	- Open play area with sun exposure - Minimum target of 1 acre
Natural Areas	Based on existing and restored environmental characteristics
Off-leash Dog Area	- Minimum target of 1 acre - Fenced enclosure with double-gate access - Provide doggy waste dispenser and trash receptacle at entrance

Figure 14. Design Considerations for Other Park Amenities

Amenity	Considerations
Picnic Shelter	▪ Minimum of 400 sq.ft.
Sport field	▪ Practice level for youth soccer, T-ball, baseball and/or softball
Sport court	▪ ½ court basketball court
Tennis court	
Alternative recreation court	▪ Such as bocce ball, pickleball, horseshoes, lawn bowling
Skate spot	▪ 600 to 1,200 sq.ft. with small ramps, bowls or features for beginners
Disc golf course	▪ Minimum 9 baskets
Sprayground	
Natural area	
Water feature	▪ Such as a passive water-based amenity that provides a visual focal point, i.e. fountains, ponds, or waterfalls
Restroom	
Drinking fountain	
Utilities	▪ Automatic Irrigation, Electricity, Water
Parking	

Design Standards for Open Space and Natural Areas

Open space and natural areas are primarily intended to conserve places with ecological sensitivity or natural landscape value. Most natural areas have some space where low-impact recreational uses can be accommodated without reducing the environmental integrity of the land or water resource. Since the open space can range from wetlands and riparian corridors to fields and forests, design standards are not applied uniformly across the site. Each natural landscape is treated according to its level of sensitivity, need for conservation/restoration and tolerance for outdoor recreational use. However, where passive recreation opportunities can be provided, the standardized designs for park benches, picnic tables, signs, and other site amenities should be applied.

Design Standards for Special Use Facilities

Consideration should be given in the design and renovation of any special use facility as to how and how much the site and its amenities should be identifiable within the park system through the application of standardized park signage and site furnishings. For example, a future sport field complex could accommodate some of the standardized park benches, picnic tables and signage, but it would also require its own specialized features, such as bleachers, backstops, field lighting, score boards and other equipment, that are unique to the facility. Each master plan design for new facilities should give careful consideration as to how a unique sense of place and identity is conveyed while still communicating that the facility is part of a system of outdoor recreation accommodation provided by the City of Redmond.

Design Standards for Trails

A successful trail system is integrated with other transportation alternatives to include a range of trail, sidewalk, bike path and connection opportunities designed to the human scale. The typical recreational trail hierarchy is aligned from regional shared-use trails to local neighborhood paths and park trails. Trail systems can also incorporate specially designated trails for single track mountain biking, primitive hiking and equestrian uses.

Designing the actual physical trail starts with overall purpose of the trail, connecting travelers from one location to another (point A to point B) or through a particular environment (loop trail through a park). With a clear purpose for the trail, an appropriate alignment can then be determined to help provide the desired outdoor recreation experience or transportation value. For example, regional multi-use shared trails should be designed to a minimum width of 10 feet. In expanding urban centers, providing a 16-foot trail width can help accommodate significant bike and pedestrian use as the community grows and linkages to public transit enable increased trail usage. The most heavily used urban trails benefit from the installation of permanent pavement to withstand heavy traffic in a variety of weather conditions.

It should be noted that changes in transportation engineering and trail construction methods may warrant the need to update any trail design standards over time. Trail widths and surfacing types will vary across the trail hierarchy. Site furnishings along the trail are one method for standardizing trails as part of the outdoor recreation system provided by Redmond. The same benches, picnic tables, bollards and other site furnishings used throughout Redmond's park system could be installed along its trails to help unify the sense of place, reduce procurement costs and simplify maintenance.

The unifying standard for Redmond's trail system can be visually expressed through a designed wayfinding plan. Linked with the graphic character for Dry Canyon and park system wayfinding, the trail signage should provide identification, direction, destination, travel information and safety messaging, while clearly reinforcing Redmond's sense of place.

Trails should be constructed according to City specifications. It is recommended that trail layout and surfacing materials be approved by the City and meet the following general requirements:

- Trail width should be a minimum of 8 feet wide
- Surfacing should be appropriate to the location; paved asphalt or concrete is recommended for upland areas, and wood chip, crusher waste or boardwalks are appropriate in lowland, wet or sensitive areas (City codes shall apply)
- Hard-surfaced trails should comply with ADAAG guidelines for slope and cross-slope; soft-surfaced trails should include properly placed and designed water bars or other surface water management techniques to minimize run-off and erosion.
- Entry signage should be provided at trailheads or access points, and boundary signage should be placed, as appropriate, to demarcate sensitive edges or private property boundaries.
- Trash receptacles should be provided at trailheads

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

The inventory assessment highlighted an opportunity to consider incorporating crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles to enhance park and trail safety and facilitate the monitoring of park uses and behaviors. CPTED applies four principles that are used to deter criminal behavior in outdoor environments:

- Natural surveillance
- Natural access control
- Territorial reinforcement
- Maintenance

CPTED natural surveillance (“see and be seen”) asserts that sight lines for better visibility can deter undesirable behavior and increase the perceptions of safety and comfort by park patrons. Lowering understory vegetation or raising lower tree branches through intentional vegetation management can provide more clear lines of sight in and around trails and other areas of use. Providing clear visibility and reducing blind corners can also improve safety by limiting conflicts between different users (e.g. runners, cyclists, dog walkers), where unanticipated encounters may result in crashes or entanglements.

Natural access control in park design is often very subtle. Controlling where vehicles enter and exit park facilities through designed barriers, bollards, boulders, and post and cable fencing can protect park users and minimize park property damage from misguided vehicular traffic. Walkways, lighting, fencing and landscaping provide explicit direction for park users. The flow of users through a park will help decrease the opportunity for crime and improve clarity for the intended park behaviors.

Territorial reinforcement comes through clear demarcation of boundaries. For public parks, those boundaries between public and private lands, safe and unsafe areas, and special use, limited access or reserved sites can be delineated with the appropriate placement of fencing, signs, landscaping or other physical or visual design techniques.

Finally, clearly visible, high-quality maintenance is an important element of CPTED, as well as general public safety. CPTED recognizes the “broken window” theory where neglected and poorly maintained amenities are more attractive targets for vandalism or other criminal activity. Deferred maintenance can also result in park amenities that put users at risk. Broken pavement, worn decking, uneven playing fields and missing play safety surfacing can create injuries. Overall attention to CPTED principles can help ensure safer public park environments.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS STANDARDS

General Standards

Grounds

- Grounds are mowed and trimmed.
- Park is free of litter, debris and hazards.

Walkways & Paths

- Walkways have a uniform surface and are level with the ground and free of trip hazards.
- Walkways are free of litter and debris.
- Walkways have unobstructed accessibility, i.e. free from low and protruding limbs, guide wires, etc.
- Walkways are neatly edged.
- Walkways are clear of weeds and grass growth in cracks and expansion joints.

Signage

- Park identification signs are secure and properly installed in a noticeable location.
- Handicap parking signs (as applicable) are secure, visible and to city code.
- Signs are clean, painted and free of protrusions.

Ornamental Plants & Landscaping

- Plants are healthy.
- Plant beds are free of litter, debris, and weeds.
- Plant selection is appropriate for season and area usage.

Playgrounds

Play Equipment

- Play equipment and surrounding play areas meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.
- Play equipment and hardware is intact.
- Play equipment is free of graffiti.
- Age appropriateness for the play equipment is noted with proper signage.
- Shade structure is secure and free from tears, if applicable.

Surfacing

- Fall surface is clean, level and free of litter and debris.
- Fall surface meets ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.
- Fall surface is well drained.
- Rubber cushion surfaces are free of holes and tears.
- Rubber cushion surfaces are secure to the base material and curbing.

Borders

- Playground borders are well defined and intact.
- Playground borders meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.

Decks

- Planks are intact, smooth, structurally sound, free of splinters and have no cracks greater than ¼ inch.
- Nails, bolts or screws are flush with the surface.
- Planks are level with no excessive warping.

Fixtures

Benches

- Slats are smooth and structurally sound.
- Hardware is intact and structurally sound.
- Nails, bolts or screws are flush with the surface.
- Seats and backing are smooth with no protrusions and have no exposed sharp edges or pointed corners.

Tables

- Tables are clean, free of rust, mildew and graffiti.
- Table hardware is intact.
- Table frames are intact and slats are properly secured.
- Table seats and tops are smooth with no protrusions and have no exposed sharp edges or pointed corners.

Trash Receptacles

- Receptacles are clean; Area around trash receptacles is clean and free of trash and debris.
- Wood receptacles are painted and free of damage or missing parts; hardware for wood receptacles is intact.
- Concrete receptacles are intact and free of cracks or damage.

Sport Courts

Surfacing

- Surface is smooth, level and well drained with no standing water.
- Surface is free of large cracks, holes and trip hazards.
- Surface is painted and striped as per court specifications.
- Worn painted surfaces do not exceed 20% of total court surface.
- Surface is free of litter, debris, gravel and graffiti.

Goals and Backboards

- Goals and backboards are level with hardware intact and painted as appropriate.
- Nylon nets are properly hung and are not torn or tattered.
- Support poles are secure in the ground and straight.

Restrooms

- Restrooms are clean, sanitary and properly stocked with paper products.
- Lights and ventilation systems are operational.
- Toilets, water faucets, stall doors and hand air dryers are operational.
- Restrooms are free of graffiti.
- Restroom doors are properly marked according to gender.
- Restrooms have clean trash receptacles.
- Restroom doors and locks are operational.
- Restrooms are in compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Appendix J:

Dry Canyon Master Plan Considerations

The project team reviewed the Dry Canyon Master Plan (DCMP) to understand its intent and purpose for “zoning” the future uses and development of the canyon and the City’s Development Code to see how the actual zoning designations and related development regulations may or may not support the DCMP. These two sources only partially apply the same language related to uses within the canyon; however, neither the DCMP nor the Code expressly protect or preserve the native habitat areas that are noted as an important characteristic of the canyon.

The dry, high desert landscape of Western Juniper habitat is not tolerant of much disturbance and is difficult to get established. Protection is much more effective (and economical) than restoration. None of the existing documents address stewardship and/or protection of this unique landscape type. Staff recognizes the risk of disturbance of existing native habitat and the challenges of restoration.

Historically, the Dry Canyon has been subjected to various levels of disturbance from agricultural land uses to earth moving to development. Past disturbed areas where access into the canyon was easier have been (and should be) the target locations of more intense park development. If the intent in the DCMP is to “preserve” the natural western juniper habitat, then a more proactive approach will be necessary going forward. These native habitat areas are under constant pressure from:

- overuse with rogue trail development,
- encroachment of non-native plant species from adjacent gardens and landscapes,
- patchworks that reduce its size, thereby limiting the natural processes of new growth and regeneration (seed sources for sustainable propagation),
- plant collecting and human damage, and the
- lack of buffer from other vegetation types and management areas that could impact habitat value.

While the Dry Canyon Master Plan offers the intention of “native enhancement”, it does not specify “preservation” or determine what stewardship practices are needed to conserve the ecological integrity of what remains as a (mostly) natural environment. The land use policy in the Master Plan proposes:

1. The majority of the canyon shall be preserved as natural open space. Land within the canyon shall be identified as “Enhancement Area” or “Preservation Area”.
2. “Preservation Areas” shall provide for the preservation and management of natural features and resources, including views and vistas, canyon walls, native juniper stands, lava tubes and exposed rock outcroppings.

The Dry Canyon Master Plan’s mapped “zones” for conceptual development do not completely align with the actual comprehensive zoning designations that regulate development. An initial first step in tightening the “preservation” approach is to better define the actual areas that merit protection and map them.

Limiting disturbance, rogue trails, and inappropriate uses can then be considered and justified by having specific designations for protected habitat. The higher valued ecological areas should have stronger protections, including that no trails penetrate their interior. “Passive” uses, such as trails, could be an “allowable use” in some of the less-critical habitat that should be targeted for restoration efforts or as “augmented” open space (as Richard Lance has suggested).

Updated Habitat Mapping

As a first step, the City should refine the master plan designations based on updated mapping of the quality of existing natural/native semi-arid high desert landscape conditions. Once mapped and clearly designated, these public park areas are no longer subject to the decision-making matrix for future park development. They are subject to a (future) stewardship and management plan for the native Dry Canyon landscape.

1. Engage a qualified naturalist to map the current Master Plan areas designated for “passive land use/native enhancement” and identify the quality of the habitat. Ranking the values (and susceptibilities) of the existing natural landscapes can then be the basis for proposed levels of preservation, protection, conservation and future restoration/management efforts.
2. Build on this mapping to create a management plan for stewarding these habitats, so they will be less vulnerable to degradation from their proximity to urban populations, intense park uses, etc. Likely, three designations for these “preservation” areas:
 - a. Strong protection (i.e., do not disturb),
 - b. Conservation with some restoration, and
 - c. Complete restoration effort.
3. Train and fund specialized staff who can practice the necessary techniques needed for implementing the stewardship/management plan for the Dry Canyon’s unique habitat.

Decision-Making Tool

The decision making filter for the Dry Canyon Master Plan that was included in the 2018 Parks Master Plan has been under-utilized by City staff and the Parks Committee. While the intent of the matrix is to guide decisions about amenity improvements or additions into the canyon, many of the matrix criteria are not very specific to the Dry Canyon (other than the first question). Also, the matrix structure is both incomplete and requires the application of user-selected ratings and the use of numerics that suggest a nominal value for each criterion. The scoring system and the weighting system leave open questions about the ranges of values to insert and the resulting range of values used to sum a final weighted score.

Reframing the criteria and structure of the decision-making tool to a decision tree or flow chart may simplify the process and enable more discussion between Park Committee members on the specifics of any proposal under consideration, rather than the use of weighted numbers to ‘validate’ a pending outcome.

Transitioning to a Decision Tree Model

A decision tree method utilizes a series of ‘yes-no’ and ‘if-then’ style arguments to assess the impacts caused by a proposed use/facility. These are sequenced around impacts to natural setting, park usage, quality of experience, maintenance/operations.

Starting the decision tree with criteria focusing on the natural setting emphasizes to the decision makers that the natural habitat is of importance and should be the first impact to consider. In the existing decision matrix, these values appear underweighted or missing, suggesting that the preservation of native habitat is undervalued. The following questions could be developed into a more refined decision-making process by the City for future considerations to project proposals within the Dry Canyon.

Natural Setting

- Will proposed use/amenity disturb the existing footprint of any mapped native habitat?
- Will proposed use/amenity impact an area of native habitat being preserved as high-quality or undergoing restoration that can be modified?
- To what degree can any disturbance be mitigated? (Required mitigation & monitoring should be part of any project that causes disturbance).

Park Usage

- Will the use/facility change the frequency, intensity, duration, or distribution of recreational uses in the canyon?
- Can existing Dry Canyon park infrastructure support and handle that proposed change in use?
- Are nearby, off-site (outside of canyon) options available and can be secured (e.g., lease or agreement) to alleviate additional demands on the canyon from the proposed use/amenity (e.g., off-site parking, etc.)?
- Are there adequate access resources (including parking, trail linkages etc.) to support the new development?

Appropriate Location

- Is the canyon the only available location for the proposed use/facility?
- Are other park locations available to provide the proposed use/facility?
- Are proposed park acquisitions on the long-range CIP that can accommodate the proposed use/facility?

Quality of Experience / Community Benefits

- Does the use/facility enhance or maintain the unique attributes of the canyon?
- Does the use/facility alter, impede, or minimize the unique geographic features of the canyon affecting the users' experience?
- Does the use/facility contribute to the local economy of and tourism to Redmond?
- Does the use/facility contribute to the social character of Redmond's community?
- Have or will the nearby neighbors potentially affected by the use/facility been informed and provided an opportunity for comment?

Operations

- Has maintenance been considered and is there an agreed upon maintenance plan that is viable and sustainable over time?
- Has there been coordination and outreach to other City departments and relevant program/facility partners?

These structured questions can be framed as a decision tree diagram to guide future discussions of potential amenity improvements or additions in the canyon.

Decision Making Filter from the 2018 Plan (for reference)

Criteria from the 2018 Plan

- Is the Canyon the best location? Since there is limited real estate in the Redmond Dry Canyon, is the canyon the best location for this amenity/facility or is there another park location that would serve the purpose.
- Does the amenity/facility enhance/maintain the unique attributes of the canyon?
- Has maintenance been considered and is there an agreed upon maintenance plan that is viable and sustainable over time?
- Are there adequate access resources (including parking, trail linkages etc.) to support the new development?
- Does the amenity/facility benefit the whole community?
- Does the amenity/facility help to prevent crime and anti-social behavior?
- Is the amenity/facility 100% ADA accessible?
- Does the unique geographic features of the canyon enhance the users' experience value?
- Does the amenity/facility contribute to the economic climate and tourism of Redmond?
- Does the amenity/facility contribute to the social character of Redmond's community?
- Is it a amenity/facility that is flexible and can accommodate many different activities?

Development Code Considerations

In the City Development Code, the OSPR allowable uses should be tightened to recognize the newly mapped habitat zones with stronger considerations proposed to protect them from disturbance and avoid any active recreation development within those designated habitat zones.

Also, a few of the recommended Code changes included in the 2018 Plan (page 116) should continue to be considered for implementation:

- Develop policy regarding hours to accommodate commuters who may use the Canyon Trail during closed hours.
- Consider limiting of further grazing of livestock and production of crops.
- Consider fence requirements for property owners for a consistent, parklike aesthetic.

City Development Code References: (existing code language for reference)

Section 8.020 Definitions of Terms:

Open Space. Land retained as undeveloped land for use as passive or active recreational area; land that is developed with park, landscaping, or other non-structural amenities. See also Usable Open Space.

Passive Recreation. Recreational activities which are commonly unorganized, noncompetitive, dependent on the landscape, and require no developed facilities. See also Active Recreation.

Passive-Style Park. A park designed for passive recreation that is of any configuration, shape, or size and is landscaped without irrigated turf. Examples of passive-style park components include seating elements, shape structures or tree canopies, trails or walkways, habitat areas. See also Active-Style Park.

Public Recreation Facility. A facility that is owned and operated by a public entity primarily for recreational uses. Accessory uses such as art studios, meeting/classrooms, child care, offices, and related commercial uses including food vendors and retail are allowed.

Public Use. A structure or property intended or used for a public property is or may be devoted, and to which all other uses on the premises are accessory.

Recreational Area. Areas (other than village green) that are designed, constructed, designated, or used for recreational activities. Examples include: open space containing a park; landscaped or undisturbed natural areas; landscaped trails where a 10-foot-wide paved trail is in a 20 foot easement and is not a public sidewalk; pavilion areas at least 600 square feet in area; pool; splash pad; play court for racket sports and basketball; clubhouse; community room; art and seated viewing area; community garden; a plaza(s) at least 600 square feet in area.

Turf. Vegetated groundcover, typically a species of grass.

Artificial Turf. Synthetic Fiber surfacing made to mimic the appearance or function of grass or other groundcover without the requirements of real plant material.

Irrigated/Irrigable Turf. Vegetated groundcover, typically grass or sod, requiring active management and inputs to maintain, including but not limited to the installation/use of irrigation infrastructure, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

Native/Natural Turf. Vegetative groundcover consisting of native plants species, needing no management or inputs to maintain.

Usable Open Space. Areas that contain natural or man-made vegetation that are physically accessible year-round for use by the general public, or by specific groups or persons within a defined project boundary or physical area (such as within a Planned Unit Development). Water surfaces such as ponds or canals; canyon walls, and other areas that are not physically accessible year-round to the general public are not to be counted as part of the required “usable open space area”.

Sec. 8.065. – Establishment of Zones and Districts.

OSPR Open Space Park Reserve Zone. To preserve and provide for open space areas of natural, scenic, historical, or geological significance and to provide areas for recreational development and use, both passive and active. The OSPR zone also provides for private development appropriate with the goals and master plan for the canyon and the transfer of development rights to areas suitable for higher density development.

PF Public Facilities Zone. To provide for public facility and other uses such as: wastewater treatment facilities, water storage reservoirs, well sites, public schools, public or private child care facilities, transportation/mobility, libraries, museums, pavilions, public plazas, public safety or emergency services, emergency training and coordination facilities, and Public Works Administration facilities.

Park Zone. To provide for public park uses such as playgrounds, ball fields and open space.

