

**City of Rainier
Parks, Recreation and Education Committee Meeting
October 24, 2022
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall**

Vice Chair Gary Rice called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Tiffany Hatley, Randall Johnstun, Sharon Jump, Tess Pote and Gary Rice

Committee Members Absent: Kristi Cole, Terry Deaton, Levi Richardson and Rosemary Scandale

City Staff Present: W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Sue Lawrence, Public Works Director

Flag Salute

Visitor Comments: There were no visitor comments at this time.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the September 26, 2022 Parks, Recreation and Education Committee Meeting Minutes—Sharon Jump moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Tess Pote and adopted unanimously.

Old Business

a. Park Master Plan Update—Rob Lamb from Juncus Studios said the second phase of the master plan process is almost done. Next comes the visioning, inventory and implementation phases. The study area has been identified and consists of city limits and the urban growth area. He asked about the large watershed property on the city's south side. City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said that property is used for sustained yield timber harvests and is off-limits to the public for liability reasons. He reported that he met with Rainier School District Superintendent Joseph Hattrick to confirm that the district's property is widely used for recreational purposes. It is over 250 acres and has multiple athletic fields and trails. Lamb said that will be identified in the master plan. Rice asked about the urban growth area. Jorgensen said it's the area where the city's future growth is expected to occur. But he's working on doing a land swap and removing a few hundred acres of undevelopable properties to move the future growth area west towards the school district property. Committee members agreed by consensus to have the watershed property removed from the study area. Lamb said the inventory has identified three developed park facilities. They are the current park, riverfront trail and A Street Plaza. Jorgensen explained that the plaza was part of the A Street project. Downtown business

owners were worried about losing parking spots, so it was added as a concession to alleviate those concerns. Lamb said that population forecasts show Rainier as being stable.

New Business

a. Level of Service Analysis—Lamb said the national average of acres of recreation per thousand residents is 10.6. The recommended number in Oregon is between 6.25 and 12.5 Rainier has around 9. Lamb reviewed the different park classifications, including pocket, neighborhood, nature and special use parks, and where Rainier's existing and potential parks fit under those categories. Jorgensen said that connected trails are part of the vision, including some along Nice and Fox creeks and with the riverfront trail continuing west. Lamb said the city's current main park satisfies the recommendations for the community park classification. The riverfront trail meets half of the recommended service level of trails. Developing parks at the Nice and Fox creek and city water plant areas would fill the level of service gaps, and if the city expands its future growth west, it may want to do park property acquisitions in that direction.

b. Student Park Use Survey—Rice suggested eliminating the fourth question on the draft survey that was included in the packet. Committee members agreed by consensus. Jorgensen said he can get the survey to Hattrick. It was agreed by consensus that the surveys should be given to middle and high school students and returned to the city by November 18. The committee's next meeting will be November 28 to discuss the survey results and Juncus Studios will present again at the January meeting.

Rice adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Levi Richardson, Chair

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

DRAFT

RAINIER

PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

JANUARY 2023



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Jerry Cole
Council President, Mike Kreger
Councilor Connie Budge
Councilor Scott Cooper
Councilor Robert duPlessis
Councilor Jeremy Howell
Councilor Levi Richardson
Councilor Denise Watson

PARK, RECREATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Levi Richardson, Chair
Gary Rice
Kristi Cole
Scott Cooper
Terry Deaton
Tiffany Hatley
Randall Johnstun
Sharon Jump
Rosemary Scandale
Tess Poat

CITY STAFF

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator
Sue Lawrence, Public Works Director

CONSULTANT TEAM



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Introduction

- ◇ *Plan Overview*
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- ◇ *Relationship to Other Plans*
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Plan Overview

The City of Rainier has long desired to craft a community focused Parks and Recreation System Master Plan (PRSMP) to improve recreational access for its residents and visitors alike. This plan responds to that desire by providing a 20-year framework to guide future improvements to public parks, trails, and open space. It strives to strike a balance between community needs and available resources to create a sustainable, diverse, and inclusive community parks system.

Planning Process

The Park and Recreation System Master Plan (PRSMP) presents both a vision and a roadmap for the development of an integrated community park system. It contains both short-term and long-term initiatives that are prioritized by community needs, desires, and potential funding resources.

The PRSMP was developed following a systems approach to planning as suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). The approach provides the required foundation for the development of a responsive PRSMP and includes the following five phases:

Phase 1 Inventory and Analysis

This phase involves identification of existing park and recreation facilities, their condition and distribution within the study area.

Phase 2 Needs Assessment

Assessing community needs is critically necessary for developing a responsive and sustainable PRSMP. This phase includes community engagement, understanding of local demographics, growth projections, recreational trends, and current gaps in recreational opportunities and access.

Phase 3 Community Vision and Recommendations

This phase of the planning process is where the community develops a vision for their desired park system. The vision is captured by creating a mission statement, defining system goals, and developing actionable strategies necessary for implementation. Included in this process is the development of the Parks Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that identifies acquisitions and development projects for the planning period and prioritizes specific projects for the first five years of the plan.

Phase 4 Implementation

Following the visioning phase, an implementation strategy is prepared, and desired acquisitions, projects, and planned improvements are matched with potential funding sources.

Phase 5 PRSMP Refinement and Implementation

This phase incorporates feedback from elected officials, city staff, and the parks advisory committee members based on initial review of the Draft PRSMP. Once approved by the City Council, work can begin on implementing the highest priority projects by securing funding, engaging community partners, and identifying required regulatory approvals.



Relationship to Other Plans

Other long-range community planning documents have been referenced and integrated into the PRSMP. These include the Columbia County Comprehensive Plan (1984; 2003), Rainier Comprehensive Plan (2003), the Transportation System Plan (1997), Rainier Park Master Plan (2002), and the Riverfront Trail Study (2004).

The Rainier Comprehensive Plan includes foundational goals and actionable policies that provide guidance to the planning framework outlined in this PRSMP. These include:

Goal 5: Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural Resources

Policy 2: The City shall work to maintain the streams and associated riparian areas within the Rainier UGB for water quality, scenic, open space, and wildlife habitat values. The intent of this policy is to preserve the multiple values of Nice Creek, Beaver Creek, Owl Creek, and Fox Creek.

Policy 3: Open space uses will be encouraged along these streams. This is necessary because the separation of Rainier's sanitary and storm sewer systems may significantly alter the volume of flow through these drainage ways during times of heavy rain.

Policy 4: The City shall make efforts to maintain public access to the streams in Rainier through the acquisition of pedestrian easements whenever possible. The Design Review Board will pay special attention to any development adjacent to the streams and establish conditions to minimize the impacts of development.

Policy 5: The City will work with relevant agencies, including Columbia County,

the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Transportation, and the Division of State Lands to preserve open space and recreational uses of Red Mill Beach. In addition, Rainier will cooperate with the efforts to maintain the open space and recreational uses of Dibblee Point.

Policy 6: The City will work with commercial and industrial developers to ensure public access to the Columbia River whenever practical. This may be accomplished, in part, through Design Review Board approval of development adjacent to the river. If the City develops a more specific Waterfront Development (Urban Renewal) Plan, that plan shall provide standards and guidance for appropriate public access to the Columbia River.

Policy 7: The City shall identify and promote the preservation and protection of historically and culturally significant structures, sites, objects, and districts within Rainier.

Goal 8: Recreation Needs

Policy 1: The City will create a Parks Plan for the urban growth area. The plan will consider options such as the establishment of a system of pedestrian and bicycle trails and the need for parks in different areas of the City.

Policy 2: The City will encourage the establishment of parks owned and maintained by neighborhood associations in conjunction with the development of major residential subdivisions. The City will also work to establish a system of neighborhood parks.

Policy 3: Regional Park facilities are beyond the scope of the City to create or maintain; however, the City will work with Columbia County and other agencies to encourage the development of regional park facilities in the Rainier vicinity.

- Policy 4:** The City will coordinate with Columbia County to determine if improvement of Red Mill Beach is possible or desirable.
- Policy 5:** The City will cooperate with state agencies and Columbia County to plan for future recreational uses at Dibblee Point.
- Policy 6:** The City shall encourage a mixture of marine recreation and commercial use adjacent to the Columbia River. The Waterfront Development (Urban Renewal) Plan will provide more detailed guidance for appropriate locations for recreation uses and public access.
- Policy 7:** The City will work with and support any local, state, or federal agency which seeks to develop recreational facilities in the Rainier area.



Plan Organization

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Provides an overview of the PRSMP process and relationship to other long-range Rainier planning documents.

Chapter 2 - Parks, Recreation and Open Space System

Provides summary information on the regional context of the planning area, planning area boundaries, inventory of existing facilities, park classifications, and structure of park maintenance and operations.

Chapter 3 - Needs Assessment

Provides information on Rainier population, growth projections, community input and survey information, level of service statistics, and recreational trends.

Chapter 4 - Community Vision and Recommendations

Provides a framework for PRSMP vision, goals, and strategies to achieve them. The CIP will identify long and short-term priorities of PRSMP.

Chapter 5 - Implementation

Provides a road map for implementation and achieving community park priorities identified in Chapter 4-Community Vision and Recommendations.

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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

- ◇ *Regional Context and Planning Area*
- ◇ *City Facilities*
- ◇ *Park Classifications*
- ◇ *Level of Service (LOS)*

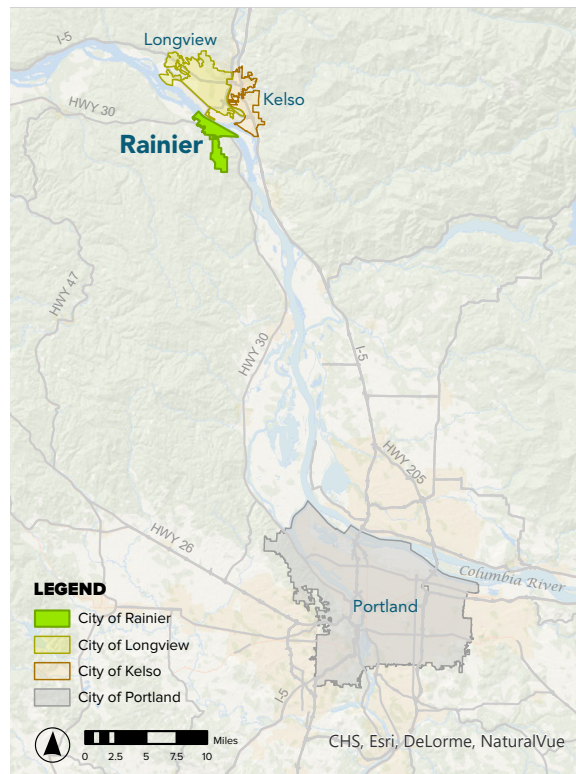


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Regional Context and Planning Area

Situated in northwest Oregon, the City of Rainier sits on the bank of the Columbia River, fifty miles north of Portland and across the river from the Longview-Kelso Washington metropolitan area (Map 2.1).

Map 2.1. Regional Map



The PRSMP study area is defined by the City of Rainier city limits including the Urban Growth Area (UGA) but excludes properties that are zoned for watershed protection (WS). The total study area is approximately 1,978 acres.

City Facilities

The City of Rainier owns and operates four recreational facilities which comprise a total of 20.44 acres and include Riverfront Park, the Marina, First Street Plaza, and Riverfront Trail (See Table 2.1). Additionally, the city has identified three undeveloped

city owned properties targeted for future park development. They are the City Water Plant, Fox Creek, and Nice Creek. Combined these undeveloped park properties total 17.93 acres (See Table 2.1 and Map 2.2).

Parks

Riverfront Park (19.21 acres) is the main recreational park within the study area. Park amenities include restrooms, off-street parking, a boat launch, baseball and softball facilities, tennis courts, basketball court, a frisbee golf course, volleyball, skatepark, and picnic areas.

The City Marina facility (1.19 acres) is located on the Columbia River, and offers transient tie-up space for visiting boaters, and permanent boat moorage leased to private vessels through the city. Additionally, this facility also has shoreline access and accommodates hand-launching of small non-motorized boats.

'A' Street Plaza (0.04 acres) is situated along the Riverfront Trail at the terminus of East First Street. Site improvements include enhanced paving, fixed seating, landscaping, and views of the Columbia River and the Lewis & Clark Bridge.

Trails

Riverfront Trail (0.80 miles) is a multi-use paved trail that borders the Columbia River and connects the Marina Facility and Riverfront Park. The trail currently continues west of the boat launch where it terminates at the edge of an undeveloped private parcel.

Fox Creek Trail is a rustic soft-surfaced trail that is located at the undeveloped Fox Creek Property. The trail was constructed and is maintained by the Friends of Fox Creek. A volunteer organization that has worked tirelessly in the community and region restoring watersheds and improving

habitat. Although it may be improved in the future, the trail doesn't currently meet minimum accessibility standards and therefore is not included in the following Park Classification section.

Table 2.1. Facility Inventory Table

INVENTORY SUMMARY

EXISTING PARKS	ACRES
Riverfront Park	19.21
Marina	1.19
East First Street Plaza	0.04
TOTAL EXISTING PARK ACREAGE	20.44
UNDEVELOPED PARKS	ACRES
Fox Creek	7.39
Nice Creek	7.54
Water Plant ²	3.00
TOTAL UNDEVELOPED PARK ACREAGE	17.93
EXISTING TRAILS	MILES
Riverfront Trail	0.80
TOTAL EXISTING TRAIL MILEAGE	0.80



Park Classifications

Park classifications are used to differentiate or categorize recreational assets based on their attributes such as size, proximity to target users (service area), typical amenities, and primary functions. Classifications that establish a hierarchy of recreational facilities and service objectives help communities plan for a cohesive and responsive park system. Complete descriptions of the classifications can be found in Appendix B.

The following park classifications recommended for Rainier are:

Parks

- Community Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Urban Plazas
- Pocket Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Nature Parks
- Linear Parks

Trails, Pathways, and Bikeways

- Multi-use Trails

Riverfront Park (Community Park)



City Marina (Special Use Park)



'A' Street Plaza (Urban Plaza)



Riverfront Trail (Multi-Use Trail)



Level of Service (LOS)

Evaluating a parks system can include an analysis of many factors, but two common metrics are:

- Acres of park land per 1,000 residents
- Number of residents per park

These two ratios can be compared to other communities for what is commonly referred to as benchmarking. Although there is no one standard LOS that can be applied across all communities the comparison can be a useful exercise.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) publishes an annual report that summarizes these and other metrics from a wide range of communities nationwide to help facilitate this effort. The information provided by various recreational agencies is broken into categories from the lower quartile (lowest 25 percent) to the upper quartile (highest 25 percent). The data provides insights into where Rainier's park system compares to that of typical (i.e. those at the median values) agencies.

It's important to note when calculating LOS not all park facilities or classifications are included. Special Use parks for example usually do not offer a range of services for all residents and are excluded from the calculation. Also, if a facility is not of sufficient size to accommodate a reasonable number of users or is located within or is integral to another recreational facility it wouldn't be included in the calculation. 'A' Street Urban Plaza for example is both quite small and is integral to the Riverfront Trail, and therefore excluded in the following LOS analysis.

Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents

Rainier has 19.21 acres of developed park land (Riverfront Park). By dividing this by the current estimated population of 2,396 residents we find that there are 8.02 acres per 1,000 residents, which is lower than the national median of 10.4 acres (Table 2.2).

Table 2.2. Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents

ACRES OF PARK LAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS ³		
Population	Ratio (acres of park land/1,000 resident)	Comparison
Rainier	8.02	---
Lower Quartile	5.1	2.92
Median	10.4	-2.38
Upper Quartile	18.2	-10.18

3 - 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review

Number of Residents per Park

As Riverfront Park is the only developed park meeting the criteria to be included in the current LOS analysis, we find that Rainier has 2,396 residents per park, which is approximately equivalent to the national median of 2332 residents per park (Table 2.3).

Table 2.3. Residents per Park


RESIDENTS PER PARK (RIVERFRONT PARK, MARINA ONLY) ³		
Population	Ratio of Residents per park	Comparison
Rainier	2,396	---
Lower Quartile	1,301	1,095
Median	2,332	64
Upper Quartile	4,566	-2,170


3 - 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review


Trails, Pathways, and Bikeways


Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (ORPD) recommends that communities have a minimum LOS of 0.5 – 1.5 miles of multi-use trails per 1,000 residents. Riverfront trail is approximately 0.8 miles in length which results in a LOS of 0.33 miles per 1,000 residents, lower than the OPRD recommended mileage range.


Existing Facility Map


-  Study Area


 City Limit


 Other Recreational Facilities


 Trails


 Rainier School District
- City-Owned Parcels


 E 1st St Plaza

 Fox Creek

 Marina

 Nice Creek

 Riverfront Park

 Water Plant Area
- Highways

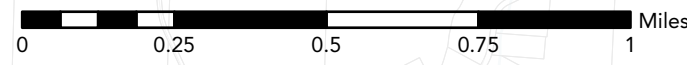
Railroad

Roads

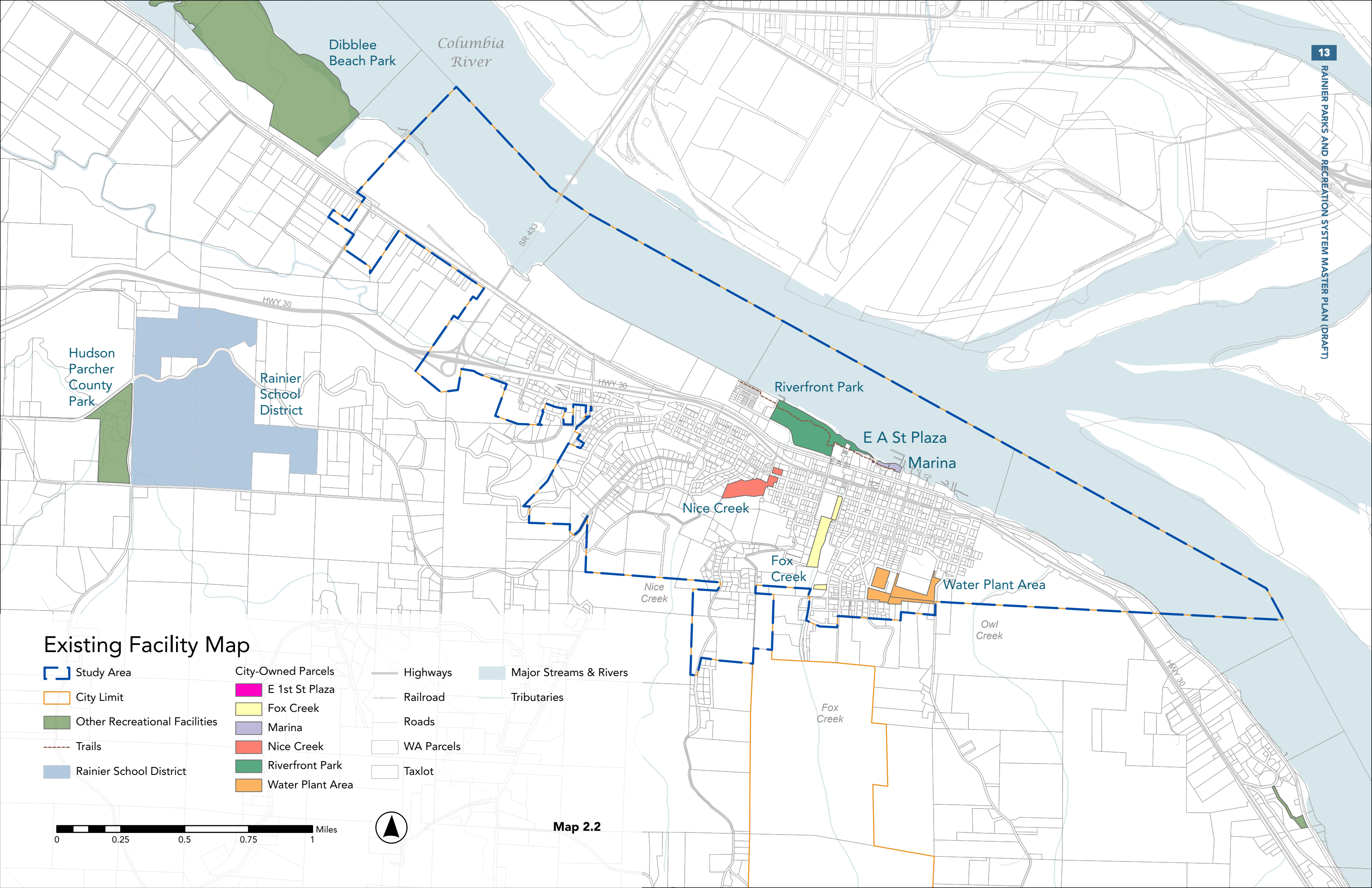
WA Parcels

Taxlot
- Major Streams & Rivers

Tributaries



Map 2.2





3

Needs Assessment

- ◇ *Community Snapshot*
- ◇ *Community Outreach & Involvement*
- ◇ *State and Countywide Recreation Needs*
- ◇ *Public Survey for Improving City of Rainier Parks*

Community Snapshot

Developing an effective and responsive PRSMP requires an understanding of the community’s demographic composition to determine how well that population is currently served by its park system.

Population

In 2020, Rainier had a population of 2,378 and has experienced relatively stable growth over the last two decades. Projected growth is anticipated to be relatively modest when compared to forecasts for the state and other regional population centers such as St Helens and Scappoose (Table 3.1).

When considering the local population in relation to recreational access, it is important to note that the existing park system is frequently used by residents of communities outside of the study area. Although this use is generally welcomed by the community as benefits include increased economic activity at local shops and restaurants, the increased demand on the park system must be recognized and anticipated to ensure the recreational needs of the local population are met.

Demographics

The largest segment of the population was between 20 and 44 years of age (31%). The second largest were between 45 and 64 (24%), followed by those between 5-19 (20%), and over 65 (19%). Those 5 years and younger represented 6 percent of the population. This age distribution is representative of a diverse population where a variety of recreational opportunities are needed to adequately serve the entire community (Chart 3.1).

The racial makeup of Rainier’s population is becoming increasingly diverse and will require continuing outreach efforts to all community members, especially those of diverse backgrounds, to better understand

how these unique groups use recreational services to ensure that their needs are being met (Chart 3.2).

Income

The 2020 Census reported that the average for Rainier households was \$51,750, well below that of Columbia County (\$68,170) and Oregon (\$65,667). Additionally, the percentage of population living below the poverty line (17.9%) is higher than that of Columbia County (6.6%) and the State of Oregon (12.4%).

Further analysis shows that, when adjusted for inflation, household incomes for Rainer residents have declined since 2000, and inversely the percentage of population living below the poverty line has increased. Household income and poverty levels can be important metrics for park system planning as they influence the community’s ability and willingness to pay for additional recreational facilities.

Community Health

Community health is another important metric to understand the makeup of the local population. Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization (CPCCO) in coordination with multiple heath agencies compiled a health assessment titled: Regional Health Assessment & Regional Health Improvement Plan 2019 that included Columbia County. The assessment and improvement plan identified several key findings that should be considered as part of the PRSMP. These include:

14% of Columbia County residents between the age 18 and 64, and 42% of residents 65 and over live with a disability.

Approximately 30% of Columbia County’s adult population were found to be overweight or obese. A 2017 study by Oregon State University found that Columbia County childhood rates of

obesity were higher than the national average at 34.5%.

Approximately 70% of 11th graders do not meet daily physical activity recommendations.

Table 3.1. Historical and Future Population Forecast

STATE OF OREGON¹

Year	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Population	4,252,100	4,516,200	4,768,000	4,995,200	5,203,000	5,398,800
AAGR						0.96%

COLUMBIA COUNTY¹

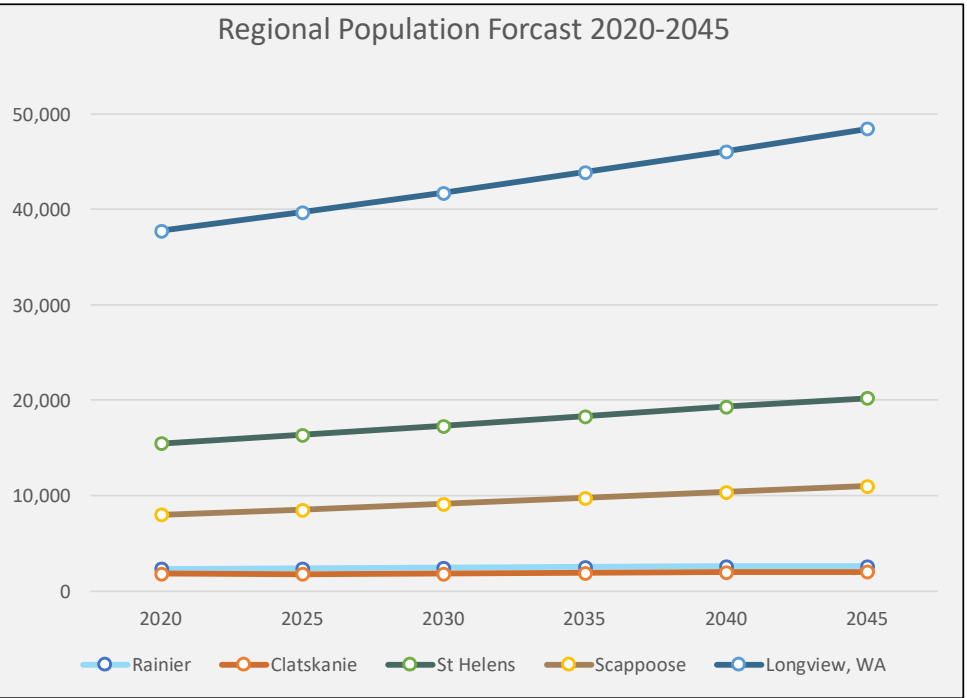
Year	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Population	51,623	52,981	54,701	56,476	58,204	59,786
AAGR						0.59%

CITY OF RAINIER (UGA)¹

Year	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Population	2,378	2,414	2,448	2,526	2,579	2,620
AAGR						0.39%

REGIONAL POPULATION FORECAST^{1, 2}

Location	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	AAGR
Rainier	2,378	2,414	2,448	2,526	2,579	2,620	0.39%
Clatskanie	1,822	1,817	1,875	1,934	1,993	2,044	0.46%
St Helens	15,503	16,338	17,327	18,354	19,347	20,246	1.07%
Scappoose	8,025	8,511	9,146	9,758	10,406	11,009	1.27%
Longview, WA	37,780	39,707	41,733	43,861	46,099	48,450	1.00%



AAGR = Average Annual Growth Rate
1 - Source: Portland State University (PSU), Population Research Center
2 - Longview Comprehensive Plan, December 2015



43%
Renters



3
Average Household
Size of
Renter-occupied Units



57%
Home Owners



2
Average Household
Size of
Owner-occupied Units

These community characteristics are not dissimilar to those found by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's (OPRD) 2019-2023 Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), entitled Outdoor Recreation in Oregon: Responding to Demographic and Societal Change. It identifies five important demographic and societal challenges facing outdoor recreation providers including: An aging population; An increasingly diverse population; lack of youth engagement in outdoor recreation; An underserved low-income population; and the health benefits of physical activity.

Community Outreach & Involvement

This PRSMP integrated several strategies to facilitate a thorough community outreach and engagement effort.

First, a ten-member citizen's advisory committee was assembled to guide the PRSMP effort. The committee met over the period of XX months to provide guidance and oversight of the PRSMP development.

Second, the advisory committee compiled and facilitated a resident recreational survey soliciting input on the existing park system and desired future condition of a reimagined Rainier Park System. Results of this survey are summarized below, and documented in Appendix C. A second survey was also compiled to solicit input from Rainier's school aged population; however, the survey could not be completed in time for inclusion into this PRSMP.

Third, previously published public recreational survey results compiled by OPRD during the SCORP update were reviewed to better understand statewide and countywide recreational trends.

Chart 3.1. Age Distribution Comparison between Rainier, Columbia County, and Oregon

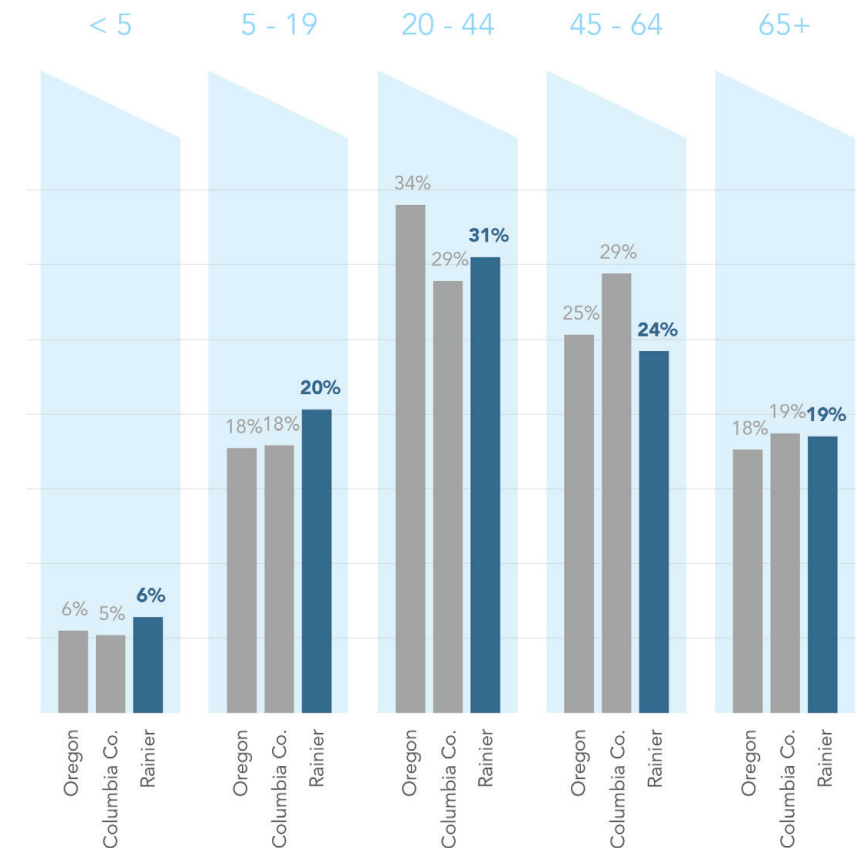
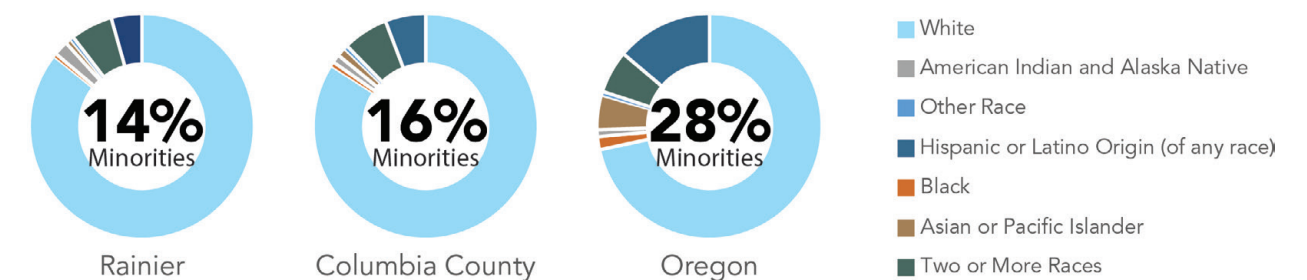


Chart 3.2. Race and Ethnicity Comparison between Rainier, Columbia County, and Oregon



State and Countywide Recreation Needs

OPRD conducted a recreation survey in 2017 as part of SCORP update. It found that 95 percent of surveyed Oregonians participated in some form of outdoor recreation. The survey sampling was broad, representing a wide spectrum of residents living in urban, suburban, and rural areas across the state. Additionally, the sampling included representatives from diverse ages, ethnicities, and other socio-economic categories. Specific findings included a strong desire for:

- Close-to-home and free-of-charge activities where participation can occur easily with limited travel times are highly desired. Most popular activities included, walking, dog walking, bicycling, and jogging on local streets / sidewalks, and off-street paths and trails.
- Access to general play at neighborhood parks and playgrounds. The survey noted a preference and priority for play areas made of natural materials such as logs, water, sand, and boulders but recognized a need for playgrounds that also include manufactured equipment like swings, climbing nets, and slides.
- Access to waterways (ocean, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands) to facilitate participation in many of the top-rated outdoor activities such as beach activities, boating, relaxing, picnicking, trail-based activities, and wildlife viewing.

Another statewide survey included outreach to recreational providers throughout the

state. Survey respondents were asked to rank the relative importance of county-level funding for a variety of recreational projects in their jurisdictions for the coming five years. Statewide results and those from Columbia County are included here for reference.

Statewide Recreational Need

Close-to-Home Priorities

- Community Trail System
- Restrooms
- Children's Playgrounds
- Picnic Areas and shelters for small groups
- Trails connected to public lands
- Picnicking and day-use facilities

Dispersed-Area-Priorities

- Restrooms
- RV/trailer campgrounds
- Day-use hiking trails
- Connecting trails into larger trail systems
- Interpretive displays

Columbia County

Close-to-Home Priorities

- Land acquisition for access to waterways
- Community trail system
- Trails connecting adjacent communities

Dispersed-Area-Priorities

- Connecting trails into larger trail systems
- Mountain biking (single track) trails/ areas
- Cabins and yurts for visitors

Public Survey for Improving City of Rainier Parks

In the fall of 2021, the PRSMP citizen's advisory committee facilitated a public survey to solicit input on improving Rainier's park system from community members. This survey was made available to all residents within the Rainier Public School District boundaries, which includes, but is significantly larger than the defined PRSMP boundary.

The survey contained questions about:

- **RESIDENCY:** Where the community member resided
- **RIVERFRONT PARK:** How often they visited Riverfront Park, what features they use most, what enhancements they'd like to see, and finally what type of community events they would likely attend if offered.
- **FUTURE PARKS:** What types of park features are most desirable? In what undeveloped park location should these new improvements be installed?
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Asked if there was interest in volunteer opportunities to help facilitate the improvements needed to the Rainier's park system.

The survey was available electronically, as well as paper format. A total of 284 surveys were completed (201 electronic, 83 paper). Most of the returns (65.8%) identified themselves as residing within the City of Rainier. The following summarizes survey results:

RIVERFRONT PARK

The survey confirmed several perceptions regarding Riverfront Park. First, it is heavily used by residents where nearly 60% of respondents reported visiting the park on a weekly or more frequent basis.

Nearly 90% come for the specific purpose of walking on the network of trails, and nearly 60% for access to the beach and the Columbia River.

Almost 50% of the respondents identified the youth playground as the most desirable feature and almost as many (44%) identified the picnic areas as the amenity most used.

Most desirable future improvements included improving beach access (64%), Improving the restrooms, and refuse collection (60%), adding more gazebos and benches (48%), and making accessibility improvements to the children's play equipment.

The hosting of Farmer's Market at Riverfront Park was the most desired community event (89%) followed by Live Music (68%) and special holiday events (61%). Movie nights and car shows were also popular choices (52% and 46% respectively).

FUTURE PARKS AND FEATURES

Hiking and biking trails were identified as the most desirable future park improvements (60%), followed by a splash pad (52%) and dog park (52%). 60% of respondents identified the City Water Plant site as the most desirable site for improvement such as a splash pad, and mountain bike trails. Whereas Nice Creek was identified by 51% of respondents as a desirable site for a dog park.

Pocket Parks were also cited as desirable by the survey respondents, where 53% of respondents indicated they should be a top priority.



CONCLUSIONS

Based on recommended and statistical data from other communities across the country and feedback from residents, Rainier's park system should be improved to better meet the recreational needs of the community.

Although Riverfront Park provides a wide range of recreational services and is frequently visited by a broad cross-section of residents, it cannot be conveniently accessed by most community residents.

The Trust for Public Lands and the National Park Service use the term "walkability" to describe convenient access to recreational facilities, defining that by a distance a person can easily walk in 10-minutes. Using that metric, a large proportion of residents are not within a walkable distance to the community's flagship recreational facility.

The lack of walkable alternatives suggests that distributing additional parks throughout the community would be a significant benefit. Not only would it be more convenient for residents but would also take some visitor pressure off Riverfront Park.

The survey indicated strong support for improved access to neighborhood parks distributed throughout the community. In considering future park improvements survey responses suggested that the following should be considered:

- Walking remains one of the most popular recreational activities across the country. Rainier's survey respondents also identified access to non-motorized trails as the highest recreational improvement priority. This desire was also mirrored at the state and county level suggesting broad regional support for this type of recreational facility investment.
- Water access, improvements to restrooms, and waste collection facilities

were also identified as a high priority for future improvements. Other desirable park improvements included picnic shelters, playgrounds, and splash pads.



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Vision and Recommendations

- ◇ *Vision Statement*
- ◇ *Elements of the Vision*
- ◇ *Goals & Actions*
- ◇ *Recreation Facility Development*
- ◇ *Parks Facility Improvements*
- ◇ *Park Acquisition and Development*
- ◇ *Trail Development*
- ◇ *Operations and Maintenance*



4

Implementation

- ◇ *Prioritization*
- ◇ *Planned Projects*
- ◇ *Funding*
- ◇ *Operations and Maintenance*
- ◇ *Funding Requirements and Strategies*
- ◇ *Conclusion*



Appendices

- ◇ *Appendix A - 2023 Capital Improvement Plan*
- ◇ *Appendix B - Rainier Park Classifications (Source:O-PRD)*
- ◇ *Appendix C - Community Survey and Results*
- ◇ *Appendix D - ORPD Recommended Level of Service (LOS)*

Appendix A - 2023 Capital Improvement Plan

Subheading

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Appendix B - Rainier Park Classifications (Source: OPRD)

Pocket Parks

A pocket park is the smallest park classification. Pocket parks provide basic recreation opportunities on small lots, within residential areas serving an area within approximately 5-10 minutes walking time (approximately ¼ mile). Typically, less than two acres in size (¼ to 2 acres), these parks are designed to serve residents in immediately adjacent neighborhoods. Pocket parks provide limited recreation amenities, such as playgrounds, benches, and picnic tables. Pocket parks do not normally provide off-street parking.

Urban Plaza Parks

Urban plaza parks are public gathering spaces in urban spaces that foster community interaction and civic pride. They are small (¼ to 3 acres) and intensely developed. Visitors will tend to be those who are already in the neighborhood for other purposes, such as shopping, work, dining and/or those who live in or near densely developed urban areas. Urban plaza parks typically include amenities such as drinking fountains, benches, litter receptacles, trees and shrubs, paved walkways, and plazas.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home recreation opportunities primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are located within approximately 5–10-minute walking time (approximately ¼ - ½ mile) without crossing major thoroughfares and/or other structures and easy bicycling distance of residents. They serve up to a one-half-mile radius and are generally 2-20 acres in size (Service area is also influenced by neighborhood

configuration and various geographical and transportation barriers).

Neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as playgrounds, outdoor sports courts, sports fields, picnic tables, pathways, and multi-use open grass areas. They may or may not provide off-street parking.

Community Parks

Community parks are typically larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are typically 15-100 acres, depending on the spatial requirements of the facilities provided and the amount of land dedicated to natural resource protection.

Community parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community serving an area within approximately 15 minutes driving time. While a community park may be proximate to a neighborhood and can provide typical neighborhood park amenities, they are normally designed as a “drive-to sites.” Community parks typically accommodate large numbers of people, and offer a wide variety of facilities, such as group picnic areas and large shelters, sports fields and courts, children’s play areas, swimming pools and splash pads, community gardens, extensive pathway systems, community festival or event space, and green space or natural areas.

Community parks require additional support facilities, such as off-street parking and restrooms and as such can also serve as regional trailheads.

Nature Parks

Nature parks are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual

aesthetics/buffering. They may preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. Nature parks may vary in size from small parcels (less than 10 acres) to large properties of more than 200 acres. Nature parks typically serve a community-wide population and include greenways, natural areas, and preserves. Public access to natural areas may be limited at these sites, which often include wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces. Some nature parks may be managed secondarily to provide passive recreation opportunities.

Linear Parks

Linear parks include natural or built corridors that connect parks and neighborhoods, provide linkages through the city, and preserve open space. Linear parks may include abandoned railroad lines, utility rights-of-way, wildlife corridors, or elongated natural areas defined by drainage features or topographical changes, such as riparian corridors. Linear parks typically support trail-oriented activities, including walking, jogging, biking, skateboarding, and roller skating, which play a major role in health and fitness.

Trails, pathways, and bikeways located in other types of park settings (e.g., neighborhood, community, natural area parks) where the trail is not the primary purpose of the park or along existing streets or roadways may be connected to, but are excluded from this park category.

Linear parks typically include amenities such as rest benches, picnic tables, trailhead kiosks, parking at major trailheads, and way finding markers, but may also incorporate smaller-scale neighborhood park amenities such as play areas, picnic areas, and exercise stations. Linear park size is dependent on the corridor length and opportunity.

Special Use Parks

The Special Use classification covers a broad range of park and recreation lands that are specialized or single-purpose in nature. Parks in this category include waterfront or ocean access parks, boat ramps, memorials, historic sites, waysides, swimming areas, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, dog parks, skate parks, display gardens, sites occupied by buildings, or protect some significant geologic or scenic feature. Special use parks that have a community or regional draw may require supporting facilities such as parking or restrooms. Park size is dependent on the special use and can vary from very small to many acres.

Trails, Pathways and Bikeways

Trails, pathways, and bikeways include a number of trail types including multi-use, pedestrian, and soft surface trails to accommodate a variety of activities such as walking, running, biking, dog walking, rollerblading, skateboarding, and horseback riding. Such trails may be located within parks or along existing streets and roadways as part of the citywide transportation system.

Multi-use trails are designed for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, skateboarders, wheelchairs, and other non-motorized vehicle users. These trails are hard surfaced to accommodate bicycles and provide accessibility for people with disabilities. Hard surfaced pedestrian trails are generally found within smaller parks and as secondary trails within larger parks. Soft surfaced trails are composed of soft-surface materials, such as soil, crushed rock, hog fuel, and wood chips. Most soft surfaces do not provide accessibility for people with disabilities but are preferable for some recreation activities, such as running and hiking. Trails, pathways, and bikeways may include amenities such as directional and control signage, gates, benches, overlooks, drinking fountains, lighting, trailhead kiosks, and interpretive signs.

PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION ¹
SUMMARY OF THE OREGON PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND SUGGESTED LOS

Park Classification	Space Requirements	Service Radius	Recommended Oregon LOS Site Guidelines (Acres/1,000 population)	Park Development Features
Pocket Parks	0.25 - 2 acres	5-10 minutes walking (approximately 0.25 mile)	0.25-0.50 acre	Limited amenities - playgrounds, benches, tables and normally no off-street parking
Urban Plazas	0.1 - 0.2 acres	Entire community	0.1-0.2 acres	Intensely developed, benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, trees and shrubs, paved walkways and plazas
Neighborhood Parks	2 - 20 acres	5-10 minutes walking	1.0-2.0 acres	Playgrounds, outdoor sport courts, tables, benches pathways, pathways, open grass areas. May include off-street parking
Community Parks	15 - 100 acres	15 minutes driving	2.0-6.0 acres	Include a wide selection of park amenities such as off-street parking, restrooms, picnic shelters, sports fields, splash pads, etc.
Nature Parks	10 - 200 acres	Entire community	2.0-6.0 acres	Include greenways and preservation areas such as riparian corridors and wetlands. Sites may contain trails, viewpoints and seating areas.
Special Use Parks	Varies	Varies	No guideline recommended	Varies widely, may include ocean access, boat ramps, memorials, historic sites, waysides, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, dog parks, skate parks, significant geologic or scenic feature.
Trails, Pathways and Bikeways	Varies	Entire community	0.5-1.5 miles / 1,000 population	Full spectrum of trail classifications from multi-use paved trails to soft-surfaced rustic trails. Accommodate walking, jogging, hiking, biking, dog walking, skateboarding, horseback riding. Trail amenities may include benches, viewpoints, interpretive / directional signage, lighting and parking at trailhead locations.
Linear Parks	Varies	Entire community	0.5-1.5 acres	Natural or built greenspace corridors that provide non-motorized connections through communities, connecting neighborhoods to community resources.

1 - 2019-2.23Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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Appendix C – Community Survey and Results

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Appendix D -
ORPD Recommended
Level of Service (LOS)

SUGGESTED OREGON LOS FACILITY GUIDE

Facilty Type	Recommended LOS (Facilities/1,000 population)	City of Rainier Existing Facilities	LOS
Baseball fields	0.20	1	0.42
Basketball court	0.20	1	0.42
Sport fields	0.20	0	0.00
Golf courses (holes)	0.60	0	0.00
Equestrian facilities	0.01	0	0.00
Outdoor swimming pools	0.05	0	0.00
Volleyball courts	0.20	2	0.83
Tennis courts	0.35	2	0.83
Picnic shelters	0.30	2	0.83
Playgrounds	0.40	1	0.42
Skateboard parks	0.04	1	0.42
Dog parks	0.04	0	0.00
Disc golf courses	0.02	1	0.42
Boat ramp lanes	0.25	2	0.83
Non-motorized boat launches	0.25	1	0.42
Tent campsites	3.60	0	0.00
RV/trailer campsites	13.30	0	0.00
Community Centers	0.10	0	0.00
Restrooms	0.65	2	0.83

Source: Oregon Parkland Map Application
<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d15b063126e247979d8c78d8a26adca6>

SUGGESTED OREGON SITE GUIDELINE

Park Classification	Recommended LOS (Acres or Miles/1,000 population)	City of Rainier Existing Facilities	LOS
Pocket Parks	0.25 -0.50 acres	0.04	0.02
Urban Plazas	0.1 - 0.2 acres	0	0.00
Neighborhood Parks	1.0 - 2.0 acres	0	0.00
Community Parks	2.0 - 6.0 acres	19.21	8.02
Regional Parks	5.0 - 10.0 acres	0	0.00
Nature Parks	2.0 - 6.0 acres	0	0.00
Special Use Parks	No guidelines	1.19	0.50
Trails, Pathways and Bikeways	0.5- 1.5 miles / 1,000	1.60	0.67
Regional Sports Parks	5.0 - 10.0 acres	0	0.00
Linear Parks	0.5 - 1.5 acres	0	0.00
Destination Parks	20.0 - 30.0 acres	0	0.00
Total Acres	6.25 - 12.5	20.44	8.53

Source: Oregon Parkland Map Application
<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d15b063126e247979d8c78d8a26adca6>

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