

**City of Rainier  
Parks, Recreation and Education Committee Meeting  
September 26, 2022  
6 p.m.  
Rainier City Hall**

Chair Levi Richardson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Kristi Cole, Terry Deaton, Sharon Jump, Tess Pote, Gary Rice, Levi Richardson and Rosemary Scandale

**Committee Members Absent:** Tiffany Hatley and Randall Johnstun

**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 May 23, 2022 Parks, Recreation and Education Committee Meeting Minutes—Rosemary Scandale moved to approve the consent agenda. That motion was seconded by Vice Chair Gary Rice and adopted unanimously, with Terry Deaton abstaining.

**New Business**

- a. Park Master Plan Update Presentation—Dave Elkin and Rob Lamb from Juncus Studio introduced themselves. Elkin said he took a tour of the city's various properties that could be used for new parks. Lamb said that a park master plan update has five phases, and the final is the 20-year vision. The first phase is an inventory and analysis of existing facilities and their conditions. It also includes other local resources, such as properties owned by entities other than the city. Phase two is a needs assessment, which will be conducted in October and November. That will require community input on where the gaps are between what is offered and what is desired by residents. The third phase is vision and recommendations for improvements and is set for November. Next is implementation and funding strategies. That is set for December through January. The fifth and final phase is the refinement and eventual adoption by the city council, which should take place in February or March. The study area should be the city and its urban growth area. City limits is 3281 acres and the urban growth area is 1066, for a total of 4347 acres. There are 17.93 undeveloped park acres and that includes the areas around Fox and Nice creeks and property

around the city's water plant facility. City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said that the committee's direction from council was to look at having more parks spread throughout the community. Lamb said the city has a stable population. There was a discussion about how previous population estimates have been inaccurate and projected more growth than has actually occurred. An analysis also needs to include the use of facilities in Longview, such as the park area around Lake Sacajawea. There was another discussion about doing additional outreach. Committee members agreed by consensus that an effort should be made to engage students. Jorgensen said he could reach out to Superintendent Joseph Hattrick to facilitate its distribution. The contents of the student survey will be discussed at the committee's next meeting. Jorgensen will also talk to Hattrick about whether or not local residents use school district facilities to recreate. Lamb and Elkin will complete the inventory and analysis and present on park service levels for the next meeting, which will be October 24.

- b. Proposed Disc Golf Course Improvements—Jorgensen said residents had complained to him that the course was missing multiple baskets. He did a walk through of it and found that the layout needs to be improved. It should be easy to find the next hole and that isn't always the case with the city's current course. He put together some suggested improvements. Chair Levi Richardson said he likes the proposed changes. Public Works Director Sue Lawrence said that making the changes would take a lot of limited staff time for her department. Committee members suggested getting a quote to have a contractor do the work or have it done by a volunteer organization. Jorgensen said he can take a look at other city properties to see if any of them would be suitable for a disc golf course.

Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

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Levi Richardson, Chair

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W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

# Oregon Parkland Classification System

## 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.

Examples of pocket parks in Oregon include Hillside Park - Grants Pass, Piccolo Park - Portland, and Thorp Park - Beaverton.

## Urban Plaza Parks

Urban plaza parks are public gathering spaces in urban spaces that foster community interaction and civic pride. They are small in size (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.

Examples of urban plaza parks in Oregon include Pioneer Courthouse Square - Portland, Park Blocks - Eugene, Peace Plaza - Salem, and Lovejoy Plaza - Portland.

## 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.

Neighborhood parks can, when practical, be located next to elementary schools in order to provide more efficient use of public resources.

Examples of neighborhood parks in Oregon include Tyson Park - Springfield, Bush's Pasture Park - Salem, Grant Park - Portland, and Forest Hills Park - Beaverton.

## 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.

Examples of community parks in Oregon include Willamette Park – Portland, Riverfront Park – Salem, Bethel Community Park – Eugene, and Hawthorne Park – Medford.

### Regional Parks

Regional parks are large parks that provide access to unique natural or cultural features and regional-scale recreation facilities. Typically, 100 acres or more in size, regional parks serve areas within a 45-minute driving time. These parks often include significant green space to preserve unique natural areas, riverfront corridors, wetlands, and agricultural or forested areas. Regional parks also may accommodate large group activities and often have infrastructure to support sporting events, festivals, and other revenue-generating events to enhance the City’s economic vitality and identity. Activities available in regional parks may include picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, trail use, etc. Regional parks include supporting facilities, such as restrooms and parking

Examples of regional parks in Oregon include Alton Baker Park – Eugene, Lithia Park – Ashland, Shevlin Park – Bend, and Oxbow Regional Park – Troutdale.

### 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, 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.

These sites may contain trails, interpretive displays, viewpoints, and seating areas.

Examples of nature parks in Oregon include Forest Park – Portland, Tualatin Hills Nature Park – Beaverton, Ridgeline Parks – Eugene, and Mount Talbert Nature Park – Clackamas.

### 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.

Examples of special use parks in Oregon include Rudy Rada Skatepark - Pendleton, Veteran's Memorial Park - Klamath Falls, River Play Discovery Village - Eugene, and Swan Island Boat Ramp - Portland.

### Trails, Pathways and Bikeways

Trails, pathways, and bikeways include several 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.

Examples of Trails, Pathways, and Bikeways in Oregon include the Avery Park Trail - Corvallis, Riverfront Park Trail - Salem, Cathedral Tree Trail - Astoria, and the Trillium Trail - Portland.

### Regional Sports Parks

Regional sports parks typically consolidate heavily programmed athletic facilities for activities such as soccer, football, baseball/softball into a few strategically located sites throughout the community. Regional sports parks could also include facilities such as racetracks, shooting ranges and equestrian areas. The location of these facilities is important due to the traffic, lighting, and noise that are often associated with them. They typically require large parking areas and restroom facilities. They also may have other park amenities, such as play areas or picnic facilities that serve non-participant family members and others while events are taking place. Regional sports parks normally require a minimum of 25 acres, with 40-80 acres being optimal.

Examples of regional sports parks in Oregon include Big Sky Luke Damon Sports Complex - Bend, U.S. Cellular Community Park - Medford, Howard M. Terpenning Recreation Complex - Beaverton, and Sheldon Sports Park - Eugene.

### 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. Examples of linear parks in Oregon include the Deschutes River Trail - Bend, Bear Creek Greenway - Medford, Springwater Corridor - Portland, and the Rogue River Greenway - Central Point.

#### Destination Parks

Destination Parks can include the same characteristics as Regional Parks, Natural Area Parks, Special Use Parks, and Linear Parks, but offer such outstanding natural, historic, scenic or recreational attractions that visitors travel more than an hour to several days, by car, to reach them. They are usually well known statewide and even nationally. They can have a wide range of acreage sizes and levels of development, but generally have a moderate to very intensive level of visitation. They can be day-use parks or can offer overnight camping or cabins.

Most of the parks in the Oregon State Park system are Destination Parks. Some county and regional park systems also operate Destination Parks.

Examples of destination parks in Oregon include Silver Falls State Park - Sublimity, Tryon Creek State Park - Portland, Fort Stevens State Park - Hammond, and Smith Rock State Park - Terrebonne.

## Rainier Parks Master Plan

The City of Rainier is working on a new citywide park and recreation plan for you and your community and is interested in hearing directly from you! Your answers to the questions below are important to make sure the plan meets the needs and wants of people of all ages now and into the future.

Please take a few minutes to answer the brief questions below. Thanks for your help!

### Riverfront Park

1. How often do you and your family / friends visit/use Rainier Riverfront Park?
  - Daily
  - Weekly
  - Monthly
  - Rarely
  - Never
  
2. What do you or your family / friends use the most when you visit this park? (Mark all that apply)
  - Walking trails
  - Playgrounds
  - Tennis Courts
  - Basketball Courts
  - Skate Park
  - Beach Area
  - Picnic / Open Lawn Areas
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Which of the following do you think would make Riverfront Park better? (Mark all that apply)
  - More sitting areas
  - Larger frisbee golf course
  - Better skate park
  - Better beach access
  - Improve the sand volleyball court
  - Performance Stage
  - Better restrooms and trash collection area
  - Other suggestions or comments: \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Events: Which of the following events would you and your family / friends likely attend at this park?
  - Live Music
  - Farmers Market
  - Movie Nights
  - Car Shows

- Youth sports game (Ultimate Frisbee, 3 v 3 Basketball, Soccer, Pickleball, etc.)
- Special holiday events like a Riverside Halloween trail, Harvest Festival, or Spring Celebration
- Other possibilities or suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

### **New Parks and Features**

5. What other park features would you like to see within the City of Rainier?

- Dog Park
- Splash Pad
- Workout Stations
- Hiking/Biking Trails
- Bike Pump Track
- Athletic Fields
- Playground
- Other possibilities or comments: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you like to do most at parks?

- Hanging out with friends
- Play sports
- Exercise
- Ride my bike
- Walk
- Other activities you like to do: \_\_\_\_\_