



HERMISTON

PARKS, RECREATION
AND OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN

AUGUST 2020



Where Life is Sweet

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Executive Summary

- ▶ *BACKGROUND*
- ▶ *PROS SYSTEM*
- ▶ *NEEDS ASSESSMENT*
- ▶ *VISION*
- ▶ *RECOMMENDATIONS*
- ▶ *IMPLEMENTATION*

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) is a guiding vision for the parks and recreation system and provides direction for both short and long range planning. The Plan documents the research, analysis, and public involvement process specifically designed to identify system assets and comment on needs; and, to form resulting goals, policies, recommendations, and implementation measures that guide strategic direction and development of the parks system over the next 20 years. The Plan was prepared in collaboration with City of Hermiston staff, the Hermiston Park and Recreation Committee, and community residents.

The PROS Plan guides future development and management of the parks and recreation system over the next 20 years. Specifically, the Plan includes:

- Inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities owned and operated by the City and the School District, including an assessment of general condition and needed maintenance or improvements;
- Assessment of community needs through identification of key indicators from demographic data, recreation trends, population projections, and community input;
- Long-range planning framework, including a vision, goals, and recommendations;
- 20-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for the PROS system that enables the City to achieve its goals;
- Implementation actions and strategies, including project prioritization and the identification of potential sources and methods for acquiring funding for development, maintenance, operations, and general improvements.

The Executive Summary summarizes highlights from the inventory, needs assessment, vision and goals, recommendations, and implementation components of the Plan.

BACKGROUND

Hermiston is now recognized as the largest City in Eastern Oregon. In the last 20 years, Hermiston has improved its position as a regional center for goods and services. While agriculture continues to be a significant economic activity, data centers, and distribution of goods have become large economic contributors.

The Hermiston School District has responded to the steady population growth by adding new facilities and by joining the Washington State Athletic Interscholastic Association. The pressures of a growing community are shared by the City with increasing demand for housing, parks, trail, and recreation facilities.

Prior to the year 2000, Hermiston did not have a Parks and Recreation Department. In the late 1990's, City Council committed to building a new outdoor aquatic center which required the installation of a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in 1998. Soon after, Hermiston hired its first Parks and Recreation Director and a Recreation Manager.

Since this time, the Parks and Recreation programming has expanded to offer year-round opportunities with thousands of participants annually in a broad range of programs centered out of the Hermiston Community Center.

Historically, Hermiston has acquired park land through donated land and volunteer park development. As a result, there has been a disproportionate amount of park land available on the west side of HW 395. Approximately 80% of Hermiston's park lands are on the west side of the City.

TABLE ES.1. CITY FACILITY INVENTORY SUMMARY

EXISTING PARKS	ACRES
Mini Parks	0.11
Greenwood Park	0.11
Neighborhood Parks	21.38
Belt Park	3.15
Harrison Park	2.50
Highland Park	3.00
Hodge Park	1.80
McKenzie Park	2.25
Newport Park	2.70
Sunset Park	0.82
Victory Square Park	5.16
Community Parks	74.87
Butte Park	44.72
Riverfront Park	16.36
Theater Sports Park	13.79
Special Use Parks	44.19
Disc Golf Course	42.09
Community Center	2.10
Linear Parks	0.93
Highway 395 Park	0.93
TOTAL EXISTING PARK ACREAGE	141.48
EXISTING TRAILS	MILES
East Hermiston Loop Trail	3.84
West Hermiston Loop Trail	6.78
TOTAL TRAIL MILES	10.62
UNDEVELOPED	ACRES
Taxlot 4N2809DA05002	0.27
Taxlot 4N2814DA00100	3.66
Taxlot 4N2814DA00102	0.33
Steelhead Park	7.32
Taxlot 4N2811CC02300 (Teen Adventure Park)	0.50
TOTAL UNDEVELOPED ACREAGE	12.08

PROS SYSTEM

Parks, recreation, and open space system planning requires identification and assessment of existing park and recreation facilities and amenities through an inventory process. The inventory process highlights system-wide strengths, needs, opportunities and constraints, and reveals underserved areas and services. The inventory includes all facilities owned by the City, information about other recreation facilities owned by the School District, and other private recreation facilities that are available to residents.

The City owns or maintains fifteen park and recreation facilities, which comprise 141.48 acres of developed parks, and

TABLE ES.2. SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITY INVENTORY SUMMARY

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES	ACRES
Developed School Facilities	
Hermiston High School	53.14
Armand Larive Middle School	42.73
Sandstone Middle School	67.17
Desert View Elementary School	14.26
Highland Hills Elementary School	5.77
Rocky Heights Elementary School	21.12
Sunset Elementary School	14.82
West Park Elementary School	13.38
TOTAL DEVELOPED SCHOOL ACREAGE	232.39
Other Developed School Facilities	
Field of Dreams	*
Undeveloped School Facilities	
Property at E Theater Lane and NE 10th Street	19.10
Property South of Armand Larive Middle School	11.06
TOTAL UNDEVELOPED SCHOOL ACREAGE	30.16

two trail facilities, which comprise 10.62 miles of trail. In addition, the City owns five undeveloped facilities, which comprise 12.08 acres of undeveloped parkland. Table ES.1. City Facility Inventory Summary contains a list of developed and undeveloped facilities and their associated classifications and size within the PROS system.

Hermiston School District is the largest district in Eastern Oregon, exceeding 5,600 students, and continues to experience steady enrollment growth. The School District owns eight developed school facilities that comprise over 232 acres. The School District owns sufficient property for near-term expansion; however, in the long-term additional property will be required assuming enrollment growth continues as projected. Table ES.2. School District Facility Inventory Summary includes a list of all developed and undeveloped School District facilities and their associated size.

Table ES.3. Inventory Summary provides a summary of City and School District owned lands, both developed and undeveloped, currently and, for comparison purposes, in 2007 when the last PROS Plan update was completed. Both the City and School District have increased their holdings significantly since 2007.

Hermiston can expect continued population growth during the next 20 years. This growth prompts the need to consider how the existing levels of service benchmarks measured both as the ratio of residents per park, and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents, can continue to at least be maintained at their current level, if not improved. Maintaining the current level of service at 4.60 acres of park land per 1,000 residents for a projected 2040 population of 26,045 residents will require that the City acquire and develop 22.52 acres of park land. The City currently has 12.08 acres of undeveloped land that has the potential to be developed as park land.

TABLE ES.3. INVENTORY SUMMARY

OWNERSHIP	SIZE (ACRES) (2020)	SIZE (ACRES) (2007)
City Facilities	153.46	112
School District Facilities	263.75	194

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The needs assessment is comprised of a community profile, national and state recreation trends analysis, and findings from community outreach and involvement activities, which included stakeholder interviews, targeted conversations, pop-up events, and an online community survey. Together, this data provides a view of community needs and the facilities, programs, and services that should be prioritized in the plan.

The needs assessment included the collection of feedback from public and stakeholders through a community outreach and involvement process. Feedback from parks and recreation users focuses on how the City can better serve residents and visitors in the future. Findings from these processes helps identify and prioritize future capital projects.

Recreation Needs

- Park and recreation program options for low-income residents
- Swimming programs targeted to Hispanic/Latinx residents
- Year-round recreation opportunities
- Year-round swimming
- Youth after-school programs
- Increase multilingual communication in parks and recreation facilities



- Expansion of youth organized sports programs
- Programming for parents with children (Programs accompanied with childcare)
- All abilities/Disability inclusive programs

Facility Needs

- Indoor Aquatic and Athletic Facility, Wellness Center
- Universally accessible facilities
- Expanded trail facilities (walking, bicycling)
- Parks in Northeast, specifically, and east generally
- More athletic fields, specifically soccer or multipurpose fields.
- Areas for large group gatherings for extended periods of time
- Restrooms

- Water access
- Skate Park

VISION

The PROS Plan framework includes a vision, goals, and actions established through the planning process. The vision is intended to represent community needs and desires.

Goals represent the general end toward which organizational efforts are directed. Actions are specific steps needed to achieve stated goals. Recommendations are the specific steps needed to achieve the Plan goals and implement the vision.

Vision Statement

Hermiston actively provides inviting parks, trails, and programs for all walks of life. We celebrate our unique abilities, values and cultures. Parks and Recreation facilities and programs are the heart of our physical and emotional well-being.

Goals

Accessibility and Distribution

Provide an equitable distribution of park facilities and improve physical access to the PROS system.

Community Health

Increase park and recreation opportunities in order to improve physical and mental health across the community.

Natural Resource Restoration and Conservation

Restore and conserve natural resources in Hermiston in order to sustain and enhance environmental assets.

Diversity

Promote a welcoming atmosphere for all residents and identify and meet the needs of a diverse population.

Maintenance and Facility Upgrades

Operate, maintain, and update park facilities and amenities to provide a safe and accessible environment for all Hermiston residents.

Local and Regional Character

Reinforce continuity across the PROS system to create a recognizable identity that reflects the Hermiston residents and honors the surrounding landscape.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This plan proposes to target additional properties on the east side of the City to balance the total park distribution over time.

Other recommendations include system improvements to guide future development and operation of the PROS system. The recommendations result from a thorough analysis of Hermiston's recreation needs based on broad community input, provide a path for strengthening the system,

and are aimed at building community capacity while accommodating future growth and adapting to changing needs. Recommendations are organized into categories.

- Recreation facility development recommendations include an Indoor Aquatic and Wellness Center and renovation of the Arc Building
- Park facility improvement recommendations include improvements to a new Funland playground, a new Teen Adventure Park, and Highland Park Phase 2.
- Park facility development recommendations include a new Regional Sports Complex, expansion and renovation of Butte Park, redevelopment of Riverfront Park, the development of a new neighborhood park (Gettman Park), and the development of two new linear parks (Steelhead Park and Field of Dreams Park).
- Natural area facility development recommendation focuses on the development of the City's first natural area park (Baker's Pond Natural Area).
- Park acquisition and development recommendations focus on acquiring land and developing two new neighborhood parks to serve northeast and southeast residential areas.
- Trail development recommendations include an Oxbow Trail Spur connecting to Riverfront Trail, a loop trail surrounding central Hermiston, and a trail from Baker's Pond Park to Theater Sports Park.
- Additional recommendations address recreation programs and operations and maintenance.



IMPLEMENTATION

Planned Projects

Proposed projects included in the PROS Plan and the 2021-2040 Capital Improvement Plan were identified and selected based on information from:

- Quantitative results from the 2020 PROS Plan Needs Assessment;
- Qualitative findings from community input;
- City Council Goal setting;
- Parks and Recreation Committee input;
- City staff input;
- Geospatial analysis;
- 2008-2022 Park Master Plan Report;
- Other relevant plans and policies.

Proposed project funding responds to an ongoing assessment of capital assets, as well as assessments of current and future service delivery needs.

Prioritization

Projects included in the plan were evaluated based on consideration of the following information sources to determine a prioritization schedule:

- Planning documents and tools
- Level of Service (LOS)
- Geographic Distribution
- Parks and Recreation Committee prioritization
- Maintaining existing facilities
- SDC fees
- Grants

Each project is prioritized based on a High, Medium, and Low prioritization schedule.

- High priority projects are planned for the first 7-year planning period, through 2027;
- Medium priority projects are planned for the second 7-year planning period, through 2034;

- Low priority projects are planned for the third 6-year planning period, which begins in 2035 and extends to 2040.

Project Costs

Detailed cost estimates were developed for each project. Additional detail is provided in the 2021-2040 Capital Improvements Plan. The operations and maintenance

TABLE ES.4. PLANNED PROJECTS & PRIORITIZATION SCHEDULE

FACILITY ID	PROJECT TITLE	HIGH FY 2021-2027	MEDIUM FY 2028-2034	LOW FY 2035-2040
R1	Health, Wellness, and Aquatic Center	\$35,000,000	\$-	\$-
R2	Hermiston Family Aquatic Center	\$40,000	\$-	\$-
R3	Arc Building Renovation	\$800,000	\$-	\$-
P1	Funland Playground	\$1,500,000	\$-	\$-
P2	Teen Adventure Park	\$1,088,000	\$-	\$-
P3	Highland Park	\$-	\$-	\$285,000
P4	Regional Sports Complex	\$5,083,800	\$3,877,300	\$2,170,000
P5	Butte Park	\$982,200	\$455,500	\$-
P6	Riverfront Park	\$1,076,800	\$-	\$-
P7	Steelhead Park	\$-	\$739,500	\$-
P8	Gettman Park	\$-	\$-	\$1,129,700
P9	Field of Dreams Park	\$-	\$-	\$2,443,600
P10	Victory Square Park	\$89,000	\$-	\$-
P11	Dorran Park	\$-	\$135,800	\$-
O1	Baker's Pond Natural Area	\$-	\$1,154,600	\$-
A1	Future NE Neighborhood Park	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$500,000
A2	Future E Neighborhood Park	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$500,000
A3	Future SW Neighborhood Park	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$500,000
A4	Future Cimarron Park	\$-	\$750,000	\$500,000
A5	Future Monte Vista Park	\$300,000	\$-	\$-
T1	Belt Trail	\$-	\$739,200	\$-
T2	Hermiston Loop Trail	\$-	\$-	\$500,000
T3	Maxwell Canal Trail	\$-	\$1,201,200	\$-
T4	Baker's Pond Trail	\$-	\$-	\$1,386,000
	TOTAL	\$47,459,800	\$11,303,100	\$9,914,300

section includes estimated costs for the operation and maintenance of additional parkland as it is added to the system.

The PROS system will increase in acreage over the planning period. In order to maintain the current level of service and number of facilities per resident benchmarks the City will need to acquire and develop approximately four new park facilities and 23 acres of parkland by 2040.

Table ES.4. presents a summary of the proposed projects categorized by site and priority level. Total costs for planned projects are estimated to be approximately \$68,677,300. The plan includes:

- \$47,459,800 in funding for High Priority projects (2021-2027)
- \$11,303,100 in funding for Medium Priority projects (2028-2034)
- \$9,914,300 in funding for Low Priority projects (2035-2040)

Funding

Park system improvement actions have been historically funded from General Fund and Special Fund expenditures. These funds consist of revenue from SDCs, recreation programs, and parks services. The Plan discusses anticipated funding sources as well as associated recommendations for leveraging resources, including:

- System Development Charges
- Grants
- Local Improvement Districts
- General Obligation Bonds
- Partnerships
- Relationships
- Performance Measures

Conclusion

The 2020 Hermiston PROS Plan is an aspirational document based on a community vision for maintaining and improving the quality of life for Hermiston residents through parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. The PROS Plan is a synthesis of guiding vision, actions, recommendations, and specific projects designed to be implemented over a 20+ year planning period.

The City recognizes that parks and recreation facilities and programs are integral to the physical and mental health of Hermiston residents and the PROS system is the heart of a healthy community. The planning framework ensures that the future PROS system will provide accessible and welcoming facilities and programs that support the needs of an increasingly diverse and expanding community.

Proposed Park System

MAP ES.1

LEGEND

Urban Growth Boundary

City Limits

EXISTING FACILITIES

Bureau of Reclamation

Bureau of Land Management

School District Facility

Park and Recreation Facility

Private Facility

Trail

PROPOSED FACILITIES

Recreation Facility

Park Facility

Park Acquisition and Development Area

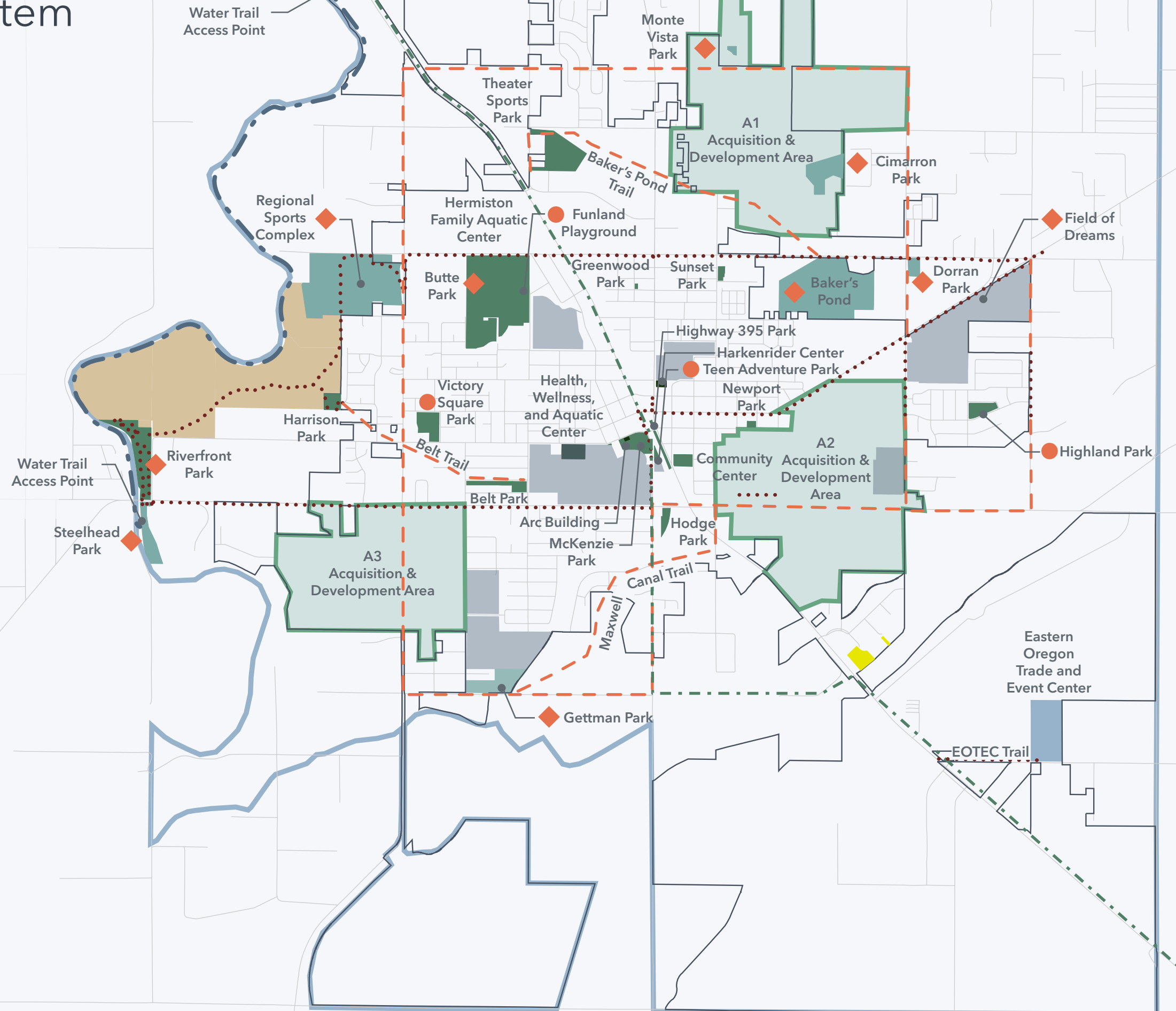
Trail Development

Umatilla Regional Trail

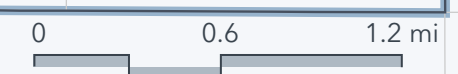
Water Trail

Park Facility Improvement

Park Facility Development



HERMISTON PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



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Introduction

- ▶ *PLANNING PROCESS*
- ▶ *RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS*
- ▶ *PLAN ORGANIZATION*

Planning Process

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) is a guiding vision for the parks and recreation system and provides direction for both short and long range planning. The Plan documents the research, analysis, and public involvement process specifically designed to identify system assets and comment on needs; and, to form resulting goals, policies, recommendations, and implementation measures that guide strategic direction and development of the parks system over the next 20 years. The Plan was prepared in collaboration with City of Hermiston staff, the Hermiston Park and Recreation Committee, and community residents.

The PROS Plan follows a systems approach for the planning process, as recommended by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). A systems approach places local values and needs first and provides a framework for creating a parks system that physically meets those values and needs. The planning process is organized in five phases:

Phase 1 Inventory & Analysis:

This phase involves an inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities owned and operated by the City and the School District. Facilities are identified and assessed for general conditions, existing improvements, and needed maintenance or improvements.



Phase 2 Needs Assessment:

This phase involves an assessment of community needs through identification of key indicators from demographic data, recreation trends, and community input. Population growth, demographic characteristics, and



recreation participation trends help identify facilities needed by current and future residents. Population projections are used to determine the current and future level of service provided by the PROS system. Level of service is typically expressed as a ratio of developed parks, trails, and open space per 1,000 residents.

Phase 3 Vision and Recommendations:

This phase involves the development of a planning framework for plan, including a vision, policies, and recommended actions. Actions are captured in plans for operations and maintenance, programming, capital improvements, and land acquisition. The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) identifies capital improvement projects for 2020-2039 and prioritizes projects for the first five years of the plan. The CIP is based upon current needs. The land acquisition plan looks at the longer 20-year planning term to determine parkland needs to serve a growing population.



Phase 4 Implementation and Funding Strategies:

This phase includes the identification of potential sources and methods for acquiring funding for development, maintenance, operations, and general improvements.



Phase 5 Plan Refinement and Adoption:

This phase incorporates feedback and refinement from city staff and the Parks and Recreation Committee based on a review of the Draft Plan, which is used to prepare the Final Plan for adoption by the City Council. Components of this Plan are intended be adopted to in order update the Comprehensive Plans of the City of Hermiston and Umatilla County.



Relationship to Other Plans

The PROS Plan is one of numerous documents that comprise the City of Hermiston's long-range planning and policy framework, including documents such as, but not limited to, the transportation system plan, land use and development code, and municipal code. The following documents were reviewed during Plan development and contain specific elements that have bearing on the planning process and inform the goals, policies, and recommendations within this plan.

HERMISTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (1984; amended 2006)

Amended in 2006, The Hermiston Comprehensive Plan includes a two policies addressing recreation needs:

Policy 16 Parks, Recreation and Open Space

The city of Hermiston will acquire and develop additional parks and recreational facilities throughout the community and preserve as open space city-owned land which possesses recreational, scenic, and other environmental qualities or is subject to natural hazards.

Policy 33: Alternative Transportation

The city of Hermiston will encourage and facilitate the provision of alternative transportation modes and facilities to reduce congestion and air pollution and improve recreational opportunities. Provision of transportation to the handicapped and elderly is a high priority.

CITY OF HERMISTON TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN UPDATE (1999; 2014)

The City of Hermiston Transportation System Plan (TSP) was adopted in 1999 and updated in 2014. Improvements identified include proposed off-street pathway improvements, sidewalk improvements on urban arterials and collectors, on-street bike lanes, shoulder bikeways, on-street bike routes. The plan includes a list of recommended pedestrian and bicycle projects, planning-level cost estimates, potential funding sources, and project prioritization. The Hermiston Loop Trail and the Oxbow Trail are identified as recommended improvements in the 2014 update. The PROS plan update considers these goals and priorities regarding bicycle and pedestrian facilities projects to further foster connectivity within the distributed network of parks, open space, and natural areas.

CITY OF HERMISTON PARK MASTER PLAN REPORT (2007)

The 2007 park master plan summarizes existing park, open space and recreation facilities, facility use, recreation demand, funding strategies and planned projects. Hermiston's population has grown at a higher rate than forecasted. The plan advocates for additional parks, recreation, trails, and open space in response to deficits in existing levels of service, to meet planned levels of service in new development areas and to address the increase in level of service standards.

In a 2006 survey, the community prioritized the following new facilities:

1. Walking, Jogging, Bicycle Trails
2. Teen Center
3. Amphitheater
4. Open Space/Natural Area
5. Soccer/Baseball/Softball Field
6. Additional Parks

The proposed trails plan identifies the 2.1-mile riverfront trail corridor (north of Riverfront Park) as a top priority project. Bike lanes or a trail to connect Theater Lane and Elm Street is also a high priority project due to the need to access recreation opportunities in West Hermiston to neighborhoods in East Hermiston. The plan notes that future trail corridors may potentially include irrigation district land and rail corridors.

UMATILLA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (1983; revised 2018)

The Umatilla Comprehensive Plan provides findings and policies supporting recreational needs. In Chapter 11 of the comprehensive plan and Section G of the technical report, the plan notes that Umatilla County is experiencing rapid population growth and there is a need for new facilities in order to serve growing demand. Section G of the technical report outlines the recreational needs, lists high priorities recreation needs, and documents current and potential recreation sites. Some of the highest-cited needs for the county include boat launch lanes, hiking trails, bike trails, multi-use trails, ballfields, and access to streams and rivers. The PROS plan update seeks to align acquisition and development recommendations with identified county-wide needs.

UMATILLA COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (2018)

The Umatilla County Community Health Assessment (CHA) collected health and wellness data from residents in Umatilla County to identify key health needs. The needs fall under several categories including behavioral health, health equity, chronic disease, and service access. The CHA is a relevant tool in parks planning as physical surroundings are one of the greatest environmental factors influencing community health. Physical activity plays a key role in reducing illness and disease.

The CHA reports higher levels of obesity in adults and children in Umatilla County compared to adults and children across Oregon. Hispanic and Latino adults and children were often at a higher risk for diseases like obesity, diabetes compared to the general population in Umatilla County and Oregon. Community health data and trends support planning for current and future parks and recreation opportunities.

Plan Organization

This Plan is organized into six chapters and eight appendices, described as follows:

Chapter 1 Introduction:

Provides an overview of the project purpose and planning process, as well as this plan's relationship to other plans.

Chapter 2 Park, Recreation and Open Space System:

Provides information on the regional context, an inventory and classifications of the park system, and operations and maintenance.

Chapter 3 Needs Assessment:

Provides information about the community demographics, growth, and includes a summary of recreation trends.

Chapter 4 Vision:

Presents the vision, goals, and objectives designed to meet community needs, as identified in Chapter 3.

Chapter 5 Recommendations:

Includes recommendations for park specific projects, land acquisition, trail and pathway development, and maintenance and operations.

Chapter 6 Implementation:

Includes implementation strategies, budget information, identified funding needs, and funding recommendations.

Appendix A Community Profile:

Includes an overview of the regional and planning context, including demographic, economic and community health analysis.

Appendix B Recreation Trends:

Includes an overview of recreation participation and local, state and national recreation trends.

Appendix C City Inventory:

Includes an inventory and conditions assessment of each park and recreation facility in the PROS system.

Appendix D School District Inventory:

Includes an inventory and conditions assessment of facilities owned by School District that provide recreation opportunities.

Appendix E Focus Groups:

Summarizes comments and findings from targeted conversations conducted with representative community focus groups.

Appendix F Stakeholder Interviews:

Provides summaries of stakeholder interviews conducted as part of the public outreach process.

Appendix G Pop-Up Events Summary:

Provide summaries of comments and findings from three pop-up events conducted as part of the public outreach process.

Appendix H Wayfinding Signage System:

Includes the recently designed wayfinding signage system.

Capital Improvements Plan

A separate document provides a detailed 20-year strategy for how the city of can implement the identified capital improvements.

Community Survey Results

A separate document includes the raw data from the community survey.





2

PROS System

- ▶ *REGIONAL CONTEXT & PLANNING AREA*
- ▶ *FACILITY INVENTORY*
- ▶ *LEVEL OF SERVICE*



This chapter provides information on regional context, the planning area, and public facilities in order to understand how park and recreation facilities and services function in the community. This exploration of parks and recreation functions helps identify gaps in service delivery and areas of needed improvement and expansion for future generations of parks and recreation users.

Regional Context and Planning Area

Hermiston is located within Umatilla County approximately seven miles south of the Columbia River. Umatilla County sits in the southern end of the Columbia Plateau, which the Umatilla Tribe inhabited prior to

surrendering their land and relocating to a reservation in 1855. Umatilla County was organized in the territorial government in 1862 and Hermiston was incorporated as a City in 1907. Cold Springs Reservoir was constructed east of Hermiston for storage of Umatilla River water in 1908, which led to the advent of irrigated farming on a regional scale. Agriculture was Hermiston's primary industry until the Umatilla Army Depot was constructed following World War II. In 1947, McNary Dam was constructed on the Columbia River north of Hermiston providing hydroelectric power to the region.

From modest beginnings, Hermiston has grown into the largest City in Umatilla County and the largest City in Eastern Oregon with an estimated 2019 population of 18,415 residents¹ and a forecasted 2019 population of 21,185 residents² within the City, and 27,790 total residents within the surrounding urban area. Hermiston is regional center for

agricultural commodities and other goods and services by virtue of its geographic position near the interchange of Interstate Highways 82 (I-82), which extends from Hermiston to Ellensburg WA, and 84 (I-84), which extends from Portland to I-80 in Utah, as well as proximity to the Columbia River and McNary Dam.

Within the City, Hermiston Butte and the Umatilla River are the most prominent local landmarks. Hermiston Butte is a small butte rising above the west side of the City with hiking trails leading to expansive views of the city. The Umatilla River is an 89-mile tributary of the Columbia River that forms the City's western boundary. Hermiston is located nine river miles from the mouth of the Umatilla River, which joins the Columbia at Lake Umatilla, a reservoir formed by the John Day Dam on the Columbia River.

The planning area for the PROS Plan is consistent with the prior Parks Master Plan (2008-202) and is defined as the area within Hermiston's urbanizable area or Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) including both city and unincorporated lands, as defined on adopted land use and zoning maps. The planning area includes 5,187 acres within the city and 3,788 acres within unincorporated areas, for a total of 8,975 acres.

Facility Inventory

Parks, recreation, and open space system planning requires identification and assessment of existing park and recreation facilities and amenities through an inventory process. The inventory process highlights system-wide strengths, needs, opportunities and constraints, and reveals underserved

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Taxlot 4N2814DA00102	0.33
Steelhead Park	7.32
Taxlot 4N2811CC02300 (Teen Adventure Park)	0.50
TOTAL UNDEVELOPED ACREAGE	12.08

¹ Annual Population Report Tables. Portland State University Population Research Center Annual Population Estimates and Reports. 2019

² Umatilla County Final Forecast Tables. Portland State University Population Research Center Oregon Population Forecast Program (OPFP). 2019

areas and services. Knowledge of the activities that occur in each park and the condition of facilities and amenities helps guide recommendations and capital improvement programming efforts. The inventory includes all facilities owned by the City, information about other recreation facilities owned by the School District, and other private recreation facilities that are available to residents. Detailed inventory and conditions assessments of each park and recreation facility owned by the City and owned by the School District are included as Appendix C City Inventory and Appendix D School District Inventory, respectively.

CITY FACILITIES

The City owns or maintains fifteen park and recreation facilities, which comprise 141.48 acres of developed parks, and two trail facilities, which comprise

10.62 miles of trail. In addition, the City owns five undeveloped facilities, which comprise 12.08 acres of undeveloped parkland. Table 2.1. City Facility Inventory Summary contains a list of developed and undeveloped facilities and their associated classifications and size within the PROS system.

RECREATION EASEMENTS

In recent years, the City has found it mutually beneficial to partner with private property owners in the establishment of Recreation Easements or use agreements. Generally, where properties are not developed and have public recreation value, and the owners desire to be released from maintenance costs associated with properties, and agreement can be established to accomplish these interests.

While there are several in existence, the Oxbow Trail utilizes easements with three property owners, the Hermiston Irrigation District, the Bureau of Reclamation, and

TABLE 2.2. SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITY INVENTORY SUMMARY

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES	ACRES
Developed School Facilities	
Hermiston High School	53.14
Armand Larive Middle School	42.73
Sandstone Middle School	67.17
Desert View Elementary School	14.26
Highland Hills Elementary School	5.77
Rocky Heights Elementary School	21.12
Sunset Elementary School	14.82
West Park Elementary School	13.38
TOTAL DEVELOPED SCHOOL ACREAGE	232.39
Other Developed School Facilities	
Field of Dreams	*
Undeveloped School Facilities	
Property South of Sunset Elementary School	1.20
Property at E Theater Lane and NE 10th Street	19.10
Property South of Armand Larive Middle School	11.06
TOTAL UNDEVELOPED SCHOOL ACREAGE	31.36

* Field of Dreams acreage included in Sandstone Middle School acreage.

the Good Shephard Hospital. Recreation easements have become a very effective method of expanding recreational facilities in Hermiston. This trend will likely continue.

SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

Hermiston School District is the largest district in Eastern Oregon, exceeding 5,600 students, and continues to experience steady enrollment growth. The School District owns eight developed school facilities that comprise over 232 acres. The School District owns sufficient

property for near-term expansion; however, in the long-term additional property will be required assuming enrollment growth continues as projected. Hermiston School Bond Measure 30-130 approved by voters in 2019 included funds for the purchase of a future site for an additional secondary school of approximately 50-75 acres and a future elementary school site of approximately 15-20 acres. Table 2.2. School District Facility Inventory Summary includes a list of all developed and undeveloped School District facilities and their associated size.

FEDERAL FACILITIES

The inventory includes two other federally owned facilities for the purposes of assessing recreation opportunities in the planning area. The Bureau of Land Management owns seven acres at the summit of Hermiston Butte. The Bureau of Reclamation owns 222 acres located north and northeast of Riverfront Park that includes frontage on the Umatilla River.

IRRIGATION DISTRICT FACILITIES

The Hermiston Irrigation District (HIR) is one of four irrigation districts that comprise the Umatilla Project, which was initiated by the construction of the Cold Springs Reservoir and designed to supply water through a network of canals and pipelines to nearly 25,000 acres. Within the planning area, HID owns approximately 63 acres of land associated with pipelines, drainages, ditches, and access roads. Open drainage channels and access roads,

TABLE 2.3. INVENTORY SUMMARY

OWNERSHIP	SIZE (ACRES) (2020)	SIZE (ACRES) (2007)
City Facilities	153.46	112
School District Facilities	263.75	194

³ National Recreation and Parks Association Parks Classification and Parks Definitions. National Recreation and Parks Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, Mertes, James D. and Hall, James R. Park, Recreation, and Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. 1996.

in particular, have the potential to provide recreation opportunities to Hermiston residents assuming that any conflicts between water use and recreation use and resolved.

SUMMARY

Table 2.3. Inventory Summary provides a summary of City and School District owned lands, both developed and undeveloped, currently and, for comparison purposes, in 2007 when the last PROS Plan update was completed. Both the City and School District have increased their holdings significantly since 2007.

CLASSIFICATION

The inventory process includes consideration and assignment of park classifications. Review of current and future park system needs by park classification type ensures a balanced parks system capable of efficient service to the community. Prior versions of the City's PROS Plan use National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) classifications as a basis for the establishment of a classification system specific to the needs, resources, and facilities in Hermiston.³ Park classification determination considers individual park benefits, functions, size, service area, and amenities. The park classifications selected for Hermiston as summarized in the following categories:

Parks

- Mini-Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Parks

Natural Areas

- Linear Parks
- Open Space

Trails

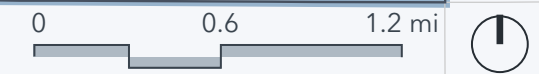
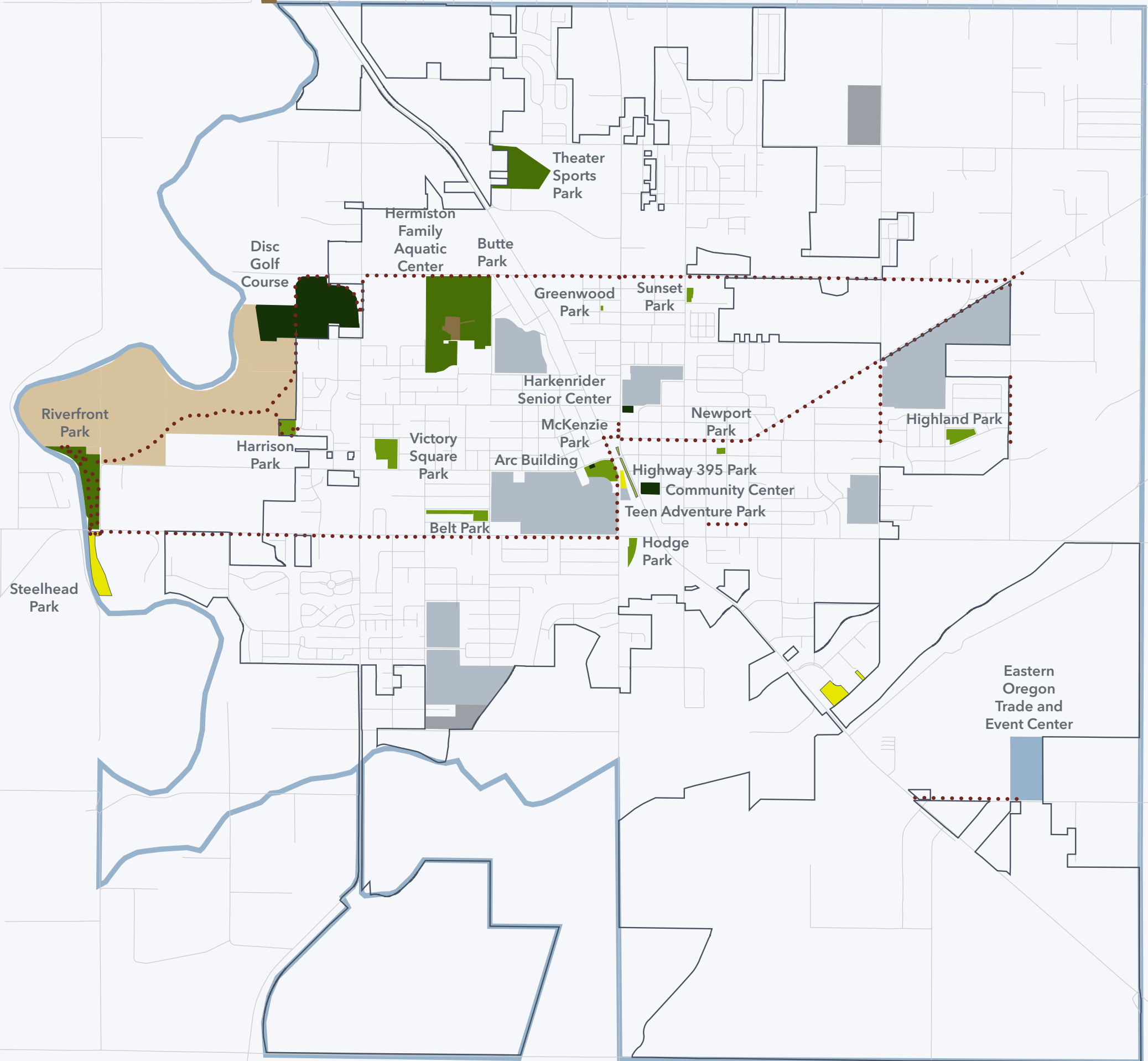
Undeveloped Parkland

Existing Park System

MAP 2.1

LEGEND

- Urban Growth Boundary
- City Limits
- Special Use Park
- Regional Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Linear Park
- Mini Park
- Undeveloped Land
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Land Management
- School District Facility
- Vacant School District Facility
- Private Facility
- Existing Trail



The City of Hermiston operates one linear park, eight neighborhood parks, three community park, two special use parks, two trails, and holds five undeveloped areas. More detailed information about individual park facilities and amenities can be found in Appendix C. The application of parks classification is further discussed in the following section as it relates to level of service.

Level of Service

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) publishes an annual report that summarizes key findings generated by the NRPA Park Metrics, a benchmarking tool that evaluates an agency's performance. Two benchmarks analyzed in the 2018 NRPA Performance Review report are the ratio of residents per park, and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents as a means of gauging appropriate level of service. These benchmarks are the foundation of exploring potential service gaps in the PROS system.

Hermiston has a forecasted 2019 population of 21,185 residents. Since the PROS Plan Update is meant to guide the City for the next 20 years, all population projections provide service analysis extrapolated out to 2040. This analysis seeks to identify current service needs, as well as the potential needs for a changing future population.

TABLE 2.4. RESIDENTS PER PARK

Population	Number of Residents	Ratio of Residents per Park	Comparison
Hermiston	21,185	1,412 residents/park	--
Median	--	1,881	-468
Lower Quartile	--	1,233	+179
Upper Quartile	--	2,874	-1,462

⁴ The Hermiston Family Aquatic Center is included as a separate facility in the Level of Service Analysis. The facility is within Butte Park.

RESIDENTS PER PARK

The ratio of residents per park is calculated based on the current population forecasted estimate (21,185 people) and the number of existing park properties (15 park properties).⁴ Based on this equation, the ratio of residents per park in Hermiston is 1,412 residents per park. For this benchmark, a lower ratio of resident per park (lower quartile ratio) is preferred, meaning that parks are less crowded. The higher the ratio (upper quartile), the more crowded the existing parks. In Table 2.4, this ratio is compared to national ratios for jurisdictions surveyed with populations ranging from 20,000 to 49,999 residents to be a viable comparison to Hermiston. The national ratios are presented as the median ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, lower quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, and upper quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed.

As shown in Table 2.4, the ratio of residents per park is marginally higher than the national lower quartile ratio, and significantly lower than the national median ratio.

TABLE 2.5. RESIDENTS PER PARK PROJECTION

	Population	Ratio (residents/park)	# of Additional Parks Needed to Maintain Current Ratio	Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2019	21,185	1,412	--	1,881	1,233	2,874
2020	21,395	1,426	0.15	1,881	1,233	2,874
2025	22,414	1,494	0.87	1,881	1,233	2,874
2030	23,540	1,569	1.67	1,881	1,233	2,874
2035	24,784	1,652	2.55	1,881	1,233	2,874
2040	26,045	1,736	3.44	1,881	1,233	2,874

Gauging the ratio of residents per park in the future is also beneficial to ensure the provision of an appropriate level of service over time. Using data from the Population Research Center at Portland State University, Hermiston is projected to increase in population over the next 20 years. In order to accommodate this growth, the number of parks owned by the City of Hermiston will need to increase in

order to continue to provide a quality level of service. The number of parks needed to at least maintain the current level of service over the next 20 years with the forecasted population increases are calculated below.

As shown in Table 2.5, the ratio of residents per park is a proportional relationship: the ratio will increase as the population increases. Therefore, Hermiston will need to increase the number of parks in city ownership over time to maintain the current level of service ratio. This

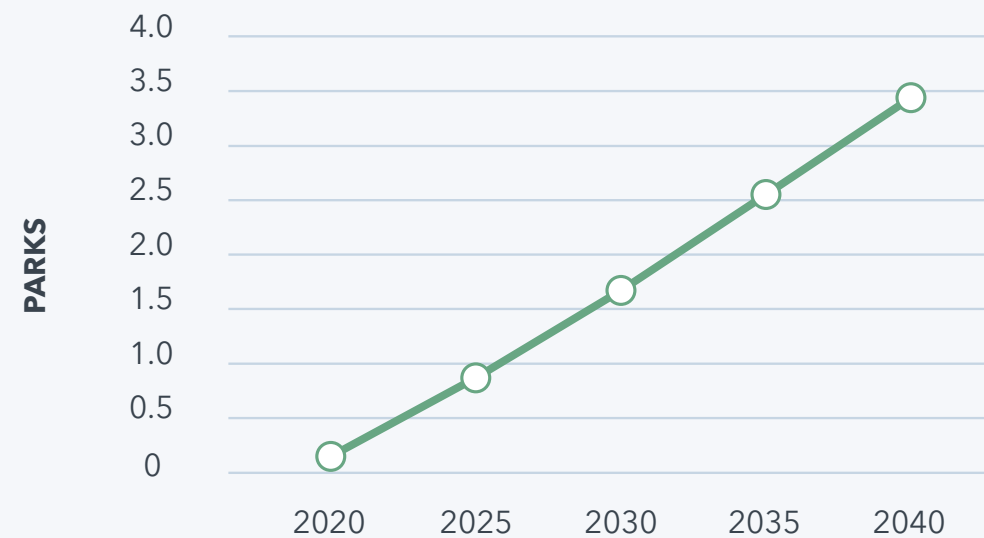


CHART 2.1. NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PARKS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN CURRENT RESIDENTS PER PARK RATIO

TABLE 2.6. ACRES OF PARK LAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

Population	Number of Residents	Ratio (acres of park land/1,000 residents)	Comparison
Hermiston	21,185	4.60 acres/1,000 resident	--
Median	--	9.6	-5.00
Lower Quartile	--	5.5	-0.90
Upper Quartile	--	15.9	-11.30

TABLE 2.7. ACRES OF PARK LAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS PROJECTION

Population	Ratio (acres of park land/1,000 residents)	# of Additional Acreage Needed to Maintain Current Ratio	Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile	
2019	21,185	4.60	--	9.6	5.5	15.9
2020	21,395	4.54	1.13	9.6	5.5	15.9
2025	22,414	4.34	5.81	9.6	5.5	15.9
2030	23,540	4.13	11.00	9.6	5.5	15.9
2035	24,784	3.93	16.72	9.6	5.5	15.9
2040	26,045	3.74	22.52	9.6	5.5	15.9

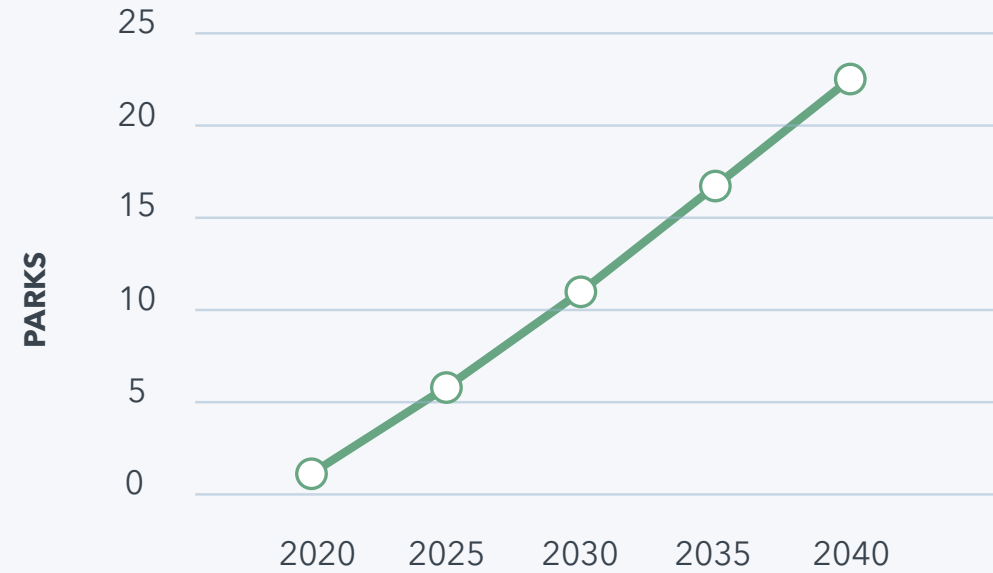
population increase can be addressed by the acquisition of approximately 0.82 parks every five years. Assuming no additional park acquisition over the next 20 years, Hermiston would not surpass the median level of service, although the ratio would remain above the lower quartile level of service.

ACRES OF PARK LAND PER RESIDENT

The ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is calculated based on the current developed acreage of park land (97.29 acres) and the current population estimate divided by 1,000 (21.19). Developed park land includes parks classified as mini, neighborhood,

or community parks. Special use parks, linear parks, and natural areas excluded because these facilities generally provide a range of services for all residents. Based on this equation, the acres of park land per 1,000 residents in Hermiston is 4.60 acres per 1,000 residents. For this benchmark, a higher ratio of acres per resident (upper quartile ratio) is preferred, meaning that parks are less crowded. The lower the ratio (lower quartile), the more crowded the existing parks. In the table below, this ratio is compared to national ratios for jurisdictions surveyed with populations between 20,000-49,999 residents. The national ratios are presented as the median ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, lower quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, and upper quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed.

CHART 2.2. NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PARKS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN CURRENT ACRES OF PARK LAND/1,000 RESIDENTS RATIO



As shown in Table 2.6, the ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is slightly lower than the national lower quartile ratio and lower than the national median ratio. Hermiston is also significantly lower than the national upper quartile ratio.

Gauging the ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents in the future is also beneficial to ensure the provision of an appropriate level of service over time. Using data from the Population Research Center at Portland State University, Hermiston is supposed to increase in population over the next 20 years. In order to accommodate this growth, the acreage of parks owned by the city will need to increase in order to continue to provide a quality level of service. The amount of

additional park acreage needed to at least maintain the current level of service over the next 20 years with the forecasted population increases are calculated in Table 2.7.

As shown in Table 2.7., the ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is an inversely proportional relationship: the ratio will decrease as the population increases. Therefore, the City of Hermiston will need to increase the amount of park acreage in the city's ownership over time to maintain the current level of service ratio. This population increase can be addressed by the acquisition of approximately 5.35 acres every five years. Assuming no additional acreage acquisition over the next 20 years, Hermiston would be continuously below the median value.

CONCLUSION

Hermiston can expect continued population growth during the next 20 years. This growth prompts the need to consider how the existing levels of service benchmarks measured both as the ratio of residents per park, and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents, can continue to at least be maintained at their current level, if not improved.

The NRPA Park Metrics describe the ratio of residents per park as a proportional relationship (the more residents, the greater the ratio), and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents as an inversely proportional relationship (the more residents, the lesser the ratio). Given the need to have a low ratio of residents per park, and high ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents, Hermiston should consider acquiring and developing additional parks/acreage for residents during the next 20 years in order to maintain current levels.

Maintaining the current level of service at 4.60 acres of park land per 1,000 residents for a projected 2040 population of 26,045 residents will require that the City acquire and develop 22.52 acres of park land. The City currently has 12.08 acres of undeveloped land that has the potential to be developed as park land.

Map 2.2. Level of Service Map displays existing park and recreation facilities and their associated service area, as defined by the NRPA classification system, and a walkability factor of a ¼-mile radius, which is the typical distance a user is willing to walk to access a facility assuming no barriers to access. This analysis informs the recommendations and implementation measures described in Chapters 5 and 6.

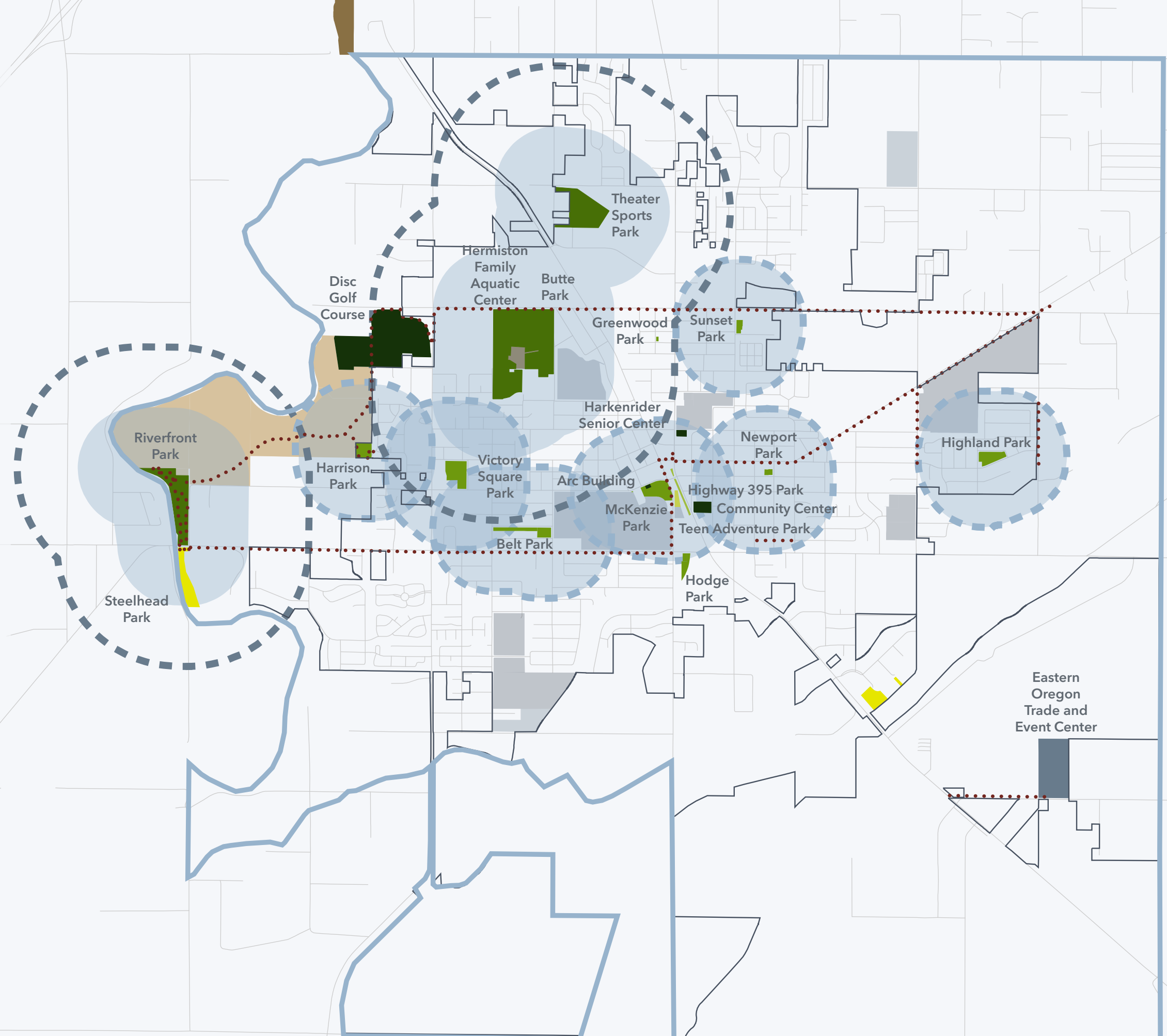
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Level of Service

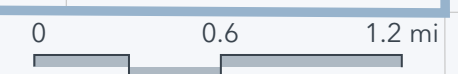
MAP 2.2

LEGEND

- Urban Growth Boundary
- City Limits
- Special Use Park
- Regional Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Linear Park
- Mini Park
- Undeveloped Land
- 1/4 mile Walkability
- NRPA 1/2 mile Service Area
- NRPA 1/4 mile Service Area
- Existing Trail
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Land Management
- School District Facility
- Vacant School District Facility



HERMISTON PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN





3

Needs Assessment

- ▶ *COMMUNITY PROFILE*
- ▶ *RECREATION TRENDS ANALYSIS*
- ▶ *COMMUNITY OUTREACH & INVOLVEMENT*
- ▶ *RECREATION NEEDS*
- ▶ *FACILITY NEEDS*

The needs assessment is comprised of a community profile, national and state recreation trends analysis, and findings from community outreach and involvement activities, which included stakeholder interviews, targeted conversations, pop-up events, and an online community survey. Together, this data provides a view of community needs and the facilities, programs, and services that should be prioritized in the plan. The documents that comprise the needs assessment are summarized herein and detailed in the appendices.

Community Profile

A critical step in the PROS planning process is understanding the composition of the community and evaluating how the community is served by its parks system. Reviewing the local demographic composition and Hermiston's regional context clarify opportunities and constraints influential to parks planning.

With a population of 21,185 (2019), Hermiston is the largest city in Eastern Oregon, and its population is growing steadily. In the last ten years, the City has experienced 27.8% population growth and Hermiston's population is expected to increase by 27.4% over the next 25 years.

Umatilla County is the largest county in Eastern Oregon and Umatilla County's population is

expected to increase by 31% over the next 25 years. It is important to note Hermiston is growing at a significant rate compared to other jurisdictions in the region, which suggests a need to accommodate this growth with increased provision of parks and recreation facilities and amenities.

In 2017, the largest percentage of Hermiston residents (28%) was between the ages of 25 and 44. An additional 24% were between the ages of 5 to 19, 12% were between the ages of 55 to 64, and 11% were age 65 or over. This shows a large, diversified population where a variety of parks and recreation opportunities are needed to serve the entire community.

UMATILLA COUNTY 2045 POPULATION ESTIMATE

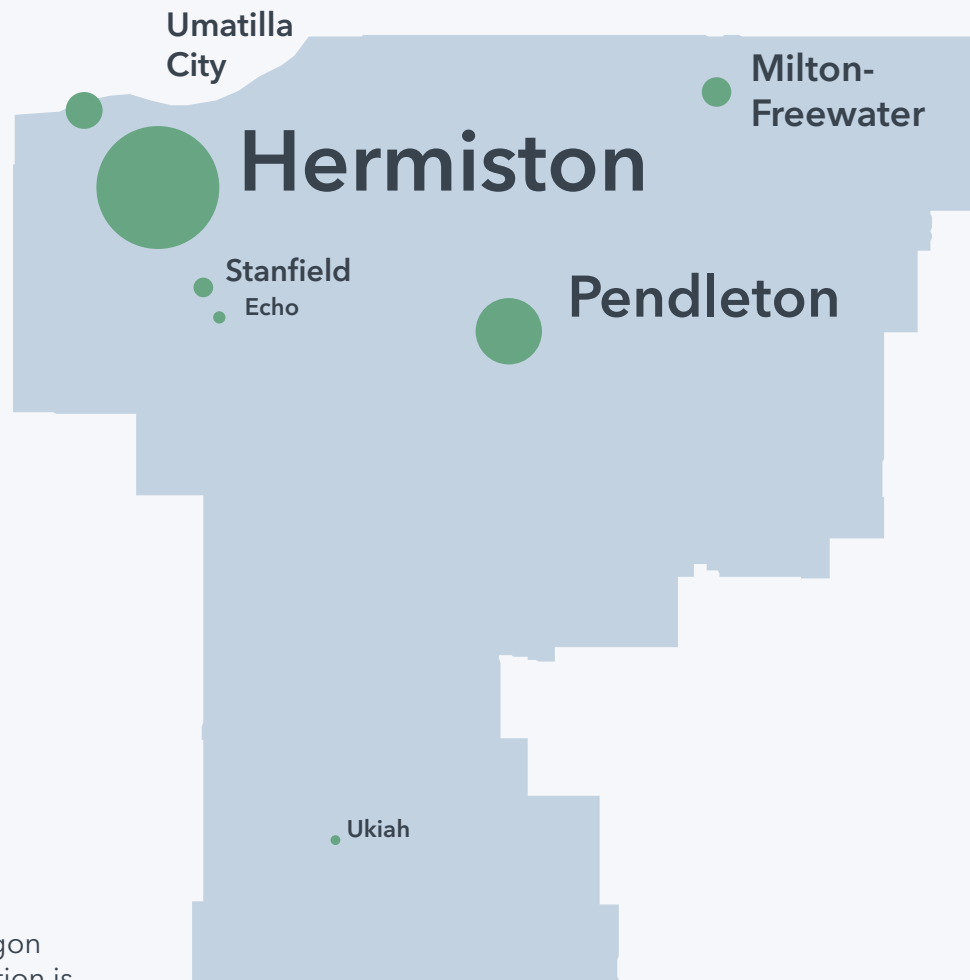
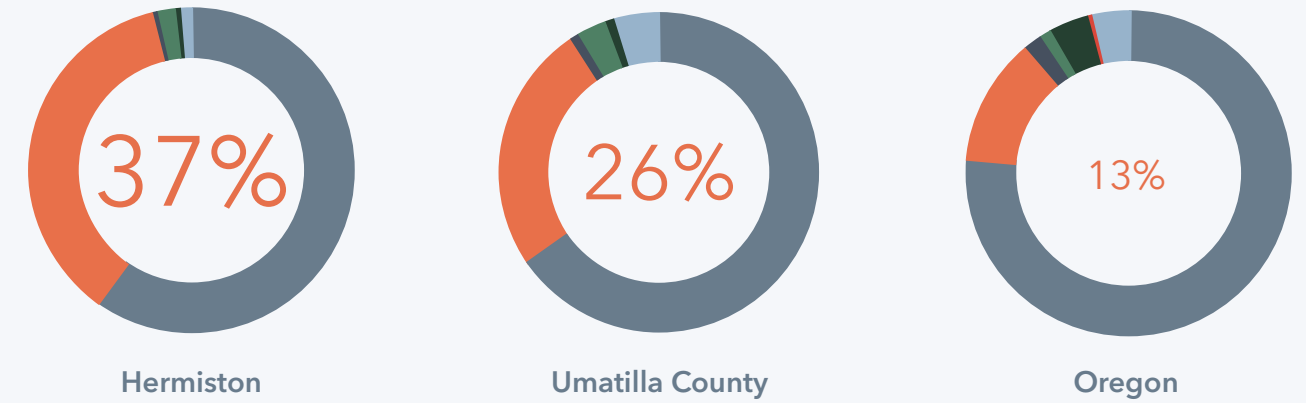


CHART 3.1. HERMISTON DIVERSITY VS. UMATILLA COUNTY & OREGON¹



Hermiston's racial composition is shifting. The Hispanic and Latinx population represents 37% of the total population, compared to 26% in the county, and 13% in the state. Hermiston will need to adapt its park and recreation facilities to meet the needs of residents from diverse backgrounds. This diversification has implications for staffing, maintenance, and marketing of park and recreation facilities and programs. The City will need to better understand the unique ways in which different groups use services in order to meet their needs.

More than 1 in 3 Hermiston residents identify as Hispanic/Latinx



TABLE 3.1. REGIONAL POPULATION TRENDS, 2000-2045²

County/City	2000 Census Population	2010 Census Population	2018 Population Estimate	2020 Population Forecast	2030 Population Forecast	2040 Population Forecast	2045 Population Forecast
Umatilla County	70,680	76,000	78,383	83,359	93,673	103,809	108,860
Hermiston	13,154	16,745	21,185	21,395	23,540	26,045	27,257
Stanfield	1,979	1,979	2,199	2,224	2,384	2,526	2,582
Umatilla City	4,978	6,906	8,104	8,205	9,300	10,340	10,824
Pendleton	16,354	16,612	17,209	17,230	18,254	18,718	18,879
Milton-Freewater	6,486	7,050	7,278	7,285	7,633	8,032	8,218

69%
Family Households

31%
Non-Family Households

77%
Non-family Households Live Alone

44%
Renters

56%
Home Owners

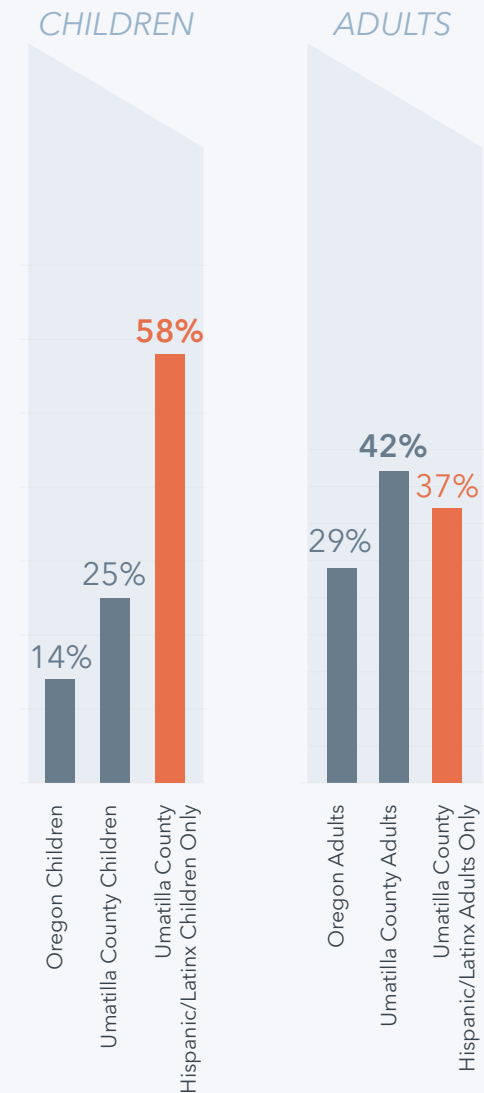
Trends in income and education are also vital in understanding a community's composition. In 2017, Hermiston's median family income (\$58,852) and per capita income (\$21,010) were lower than both Umatilla County and Oregon. Hermiston and Umatilla County also had a significantly higher percentage of families living below the poverty level (15%) than in Oregon as a whole (9.8%). However, the percentage of individuals living below the poverty level in Hermiston (32.8%) and Umatilla County (31.1%) is only slightly higher than the state (28.1%). Poverty and income are important considerations as they influence residents' willingness and ability to pay for higher levels of service and new park facilities.

Similarly, educational attainment and subsequent earning potential also influence residents' ability to pay for park system improvements. In 2017, 74.5% of Hermiston adult residents had a high school diploma, and 14.5% had a bachelor's degree or higher, both values are lower than Oregon.

Physical surroundings are one of the greatest environmental factors influencing community health. In 2018, Umatilla County completed a Community Health Assessment. The assessment reflects the current state of community health in the county, including data on the rates of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and mental health issues.

In 2016, 59% of the population in Umatilla County had adequate access to locations for physical activity compared to 77% in Oregon and 83% in the United States. The assessment found 42% of adults in Umatilla County were obese which is notably higher than the rate of adults across Oregon (29%) and the United States (32%). The rates of obesity among Hispanics and Latinx adults was 37%. In addition, 70% of Umatilla County adults were either overweight or obese, and 71% of Hispanic/Latinx adults were overweight or obese.

CHART 3.2. OBESITY RATES IN UMATILLA COUNTY & OREGON³



In 2017, 25% of children were obese in Umatilla County in 2018 compared to 14% of children in Oregon. However, 58% of Hispanic/Latinx children were obese. There is a sizable health disparity between the rate of Hispanic/Latinx children with obesity compared to children in the overall population of Umatilla County.

Understanding community health trends and health disparities is valuable when planning for current and future parks as well as recreation programming. Research suggests health disparities can be alleviated with access to parks and

nature and that physical activity and time spent in nature can reduce the risk of certain illnesses and help manage health disorders.

Recreation Trends Analysis

Comparing existing sports and active recreation opportunities in Hermiston to current state and national trends in park and recreation activities is important in order to provide services that meet current and future user demands. The parks and recreation department currently provides youth sports and activities, adult sports and activities, and senior activities.

Youth Sports include basketball, gymnastics, soccer, youth bowling, flag football, volleyball, swim team, golf, and a triathlon event. Available youth activities include swimming and water play, toddler active play, dance, community theater, photography, art, and wilderness survival.

Adult sports include basketball, volleyball, flag football, softball. Adult activities include swimming and archery.

The Harkenrider Senior Center provides senior activities and events on a daily and weekly basis including weekday meals, morning coffee and conversation, tai chi, resistance training, pinochle, cooking, arts & crafts, gardening, quilting, and games.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON THE RISE

- Walking for pleasure
- Family gatherings outdoors
- Gardening or landscaping
- Viewing/photographing natural scenery,
- Visiting outdoor nature centers,
- Attending outdoor sports events



NATIONAL RECREATION TRENDS

The Outdoor Recreation Trends and Futures assessment presents a national study of outdoor recreation trends. Nature-based recreation stands out as one national category of activity that showed substantial growth in the first decade of the millennium. Generally, all outdoor recreation activities are projected to grow in number of participants through 2060.

The assessment also notes that while Hispanic/Latinx populations have many of the same recreation needs as other groups, there are several key differences that should be considered. Of those surveyed, many Latinx workers report having only one day off from work a week and are primarily day-use visitors to parks and campgrounds. In addition, outdoor activities are closely tied to inter-generational family bonding time in larger groups for longer periods of time, which suggests the need for amenities that accommodate more people for most of the day, such as larger picnic tables, group day-use areas, on-site cooking amenities, and adjacent play areas. Removing cultural and language barriers will also support greater parks and recreation accessibility for Hispanic/Latinx residents. Efforts to increase accessibility can include providing signage, park information, and promotional materials in Spanish.

STATE RECREATION TRENDS

The 2019-2023 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is the State's five-year plan for outdoor recreation. The plan also provides guidance to local governments and the private sector to make policy and planning decisions. The SCORP identifies the following key issues, which should inform parks planning and policy decisions:

A Rapidly Aging Population:

By 2030, more than 27% of Oregonians over the age of 60. Participation in recreation activities usually tends to decrease in older age groups, however the aging Boomer generation is unique as their recreation habits tend to remain steady even as they age.

Lack of Youth Engagement in Outdoor Recreation:

Although Oregon has abundant outdoor opportunities, Oregon's youth are participating less in outdoor recreation. Research has shown people who do not participate in outdoor recreation in their youth are less likely to participate as adults. There are also serious long-term health implications resulting from a disconnect from nature.

An Increasingly Diverse Population:

By the year 2030, Hispanics and Asians, will represent over 32% of the state's population. Minorities are less likely to participate in outdoor recreation. As Oregon's population changes, it is critical to understand the constraints that limit different ethnic and racial groups from participating in outdoor recreation activities, and how to overcome these barriers.

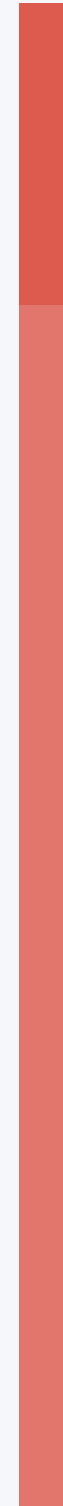
Low Income and Outdoor Recreation:

In 2016, 15.7% of Oregonians were living with household incomes below the poverty threshold. Minorities are more affected by poverty than whites. Poverty rates are between 26.1%-32.5% for African Americans, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, Hispanics or Latinx, and American Indian and Alaska Native while only 13% of whites experience poverty. Individuals with lower incomes are less likely to participate in outdoor recreation. Top priorities to serve low-income populations are to provide free activities and well-maintained parks to promote inclusion and safety.

In addition, the SCORP includes a county-based recreational needs assessment. Restrooms, picnic areas, water access, trails, and opportunities to observe nature and wildlife are common priorities among all population groups surveyed. Unique priorities include benches for young old and middle old residents, and more shade and picnic areas for large groups for Hispanic/Latinx residents.

26.1%-32.5%

African Americans, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, Hispanics or Latinx, American Indian and Alaska Native



13%

Whites

POVERTY DISPARITY IN OREGON

Community Outreach & Involvement

The needs assessment included the collection of feedback from the public and stakeholders through a community outreach and involvement process. Feedback from parks and recreation users focuses on how the City can better serve residents and visitors in the future. Findings from these processes help identify and prioritize future capital projects. Summaries of key findings from the outreach processes are provided as follows.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

The City of Hermiston developed a list of 12 stakeholders to interview as part of the PROS update process and all stakeholders responded to the interview request. Interviews were conducted by phone and documented, which included information on the background of each stakeholder, their feedback on existing parks and recreation facilities, amenities, level of maintenance and accessibility, and suggestions for future parks and recreation needs. A list of organizations represented in the interviewees is included in Appendix D.

Key Findings

- The city needs additional athletic fields to meet current and future demand
- ADA play equipment and park accessibility improvements are needed city-wide
- The east side of Hermiston is underserved by parks

- The city needs more bilingual communication about parks and recreation
- Communication on existing media channels is working well
- There is an overall positive view of parks system and park maintenance in general
- The city needs additional land for parks, especially in underserved areas
- The city should identify potential funding sources and locations for an indoor aquatic facility

TARGETED CONVERSATIONS

Targeted conversations, also known as focus groups, were conducted with three interest groups: the Chamber of Commerce, representing business interests; the Hispanic Advisory Committee, representing Hispanic/Latinx interests; and, Hermiston High School students, representing youth interests. All conversations were conducted during the months of September and October, 2019. Following are key findings from each of the conversations.

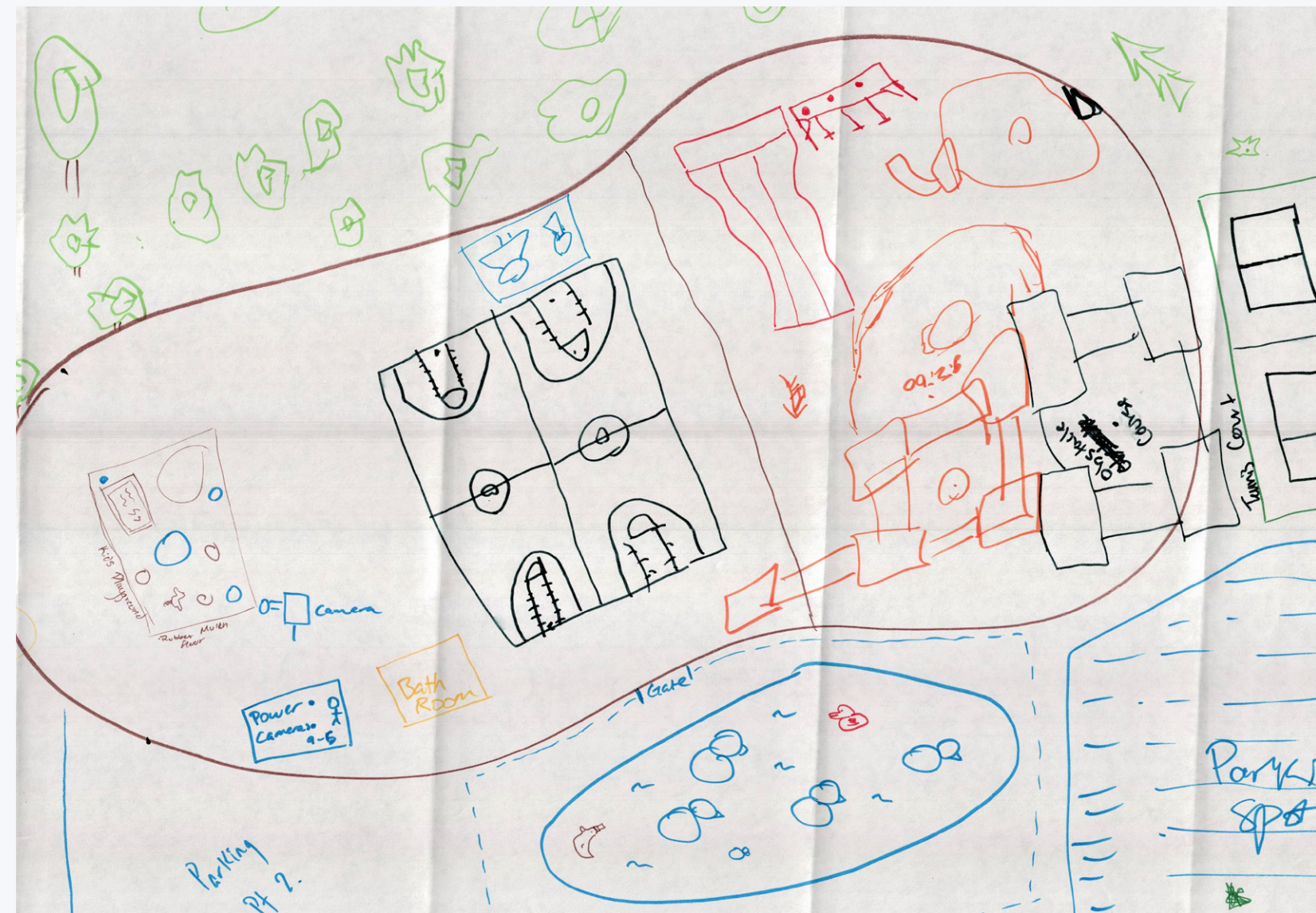
Business Group Key Findings

- The PROS system is well-maintained, and the department offers excellent programs.
- The Northeast area is underserved by parks; additional parks are needed on the east side.
- Expansion of the trail system is a priority along with improved connections to existing trails.
- Additional athletic facilities (such as baseball, softball, tennis, pickleball, basketball) are desired to avoid overuse and to host tournaments which bring in revenue.

- Existing recreation programming should be maintained.
- The city should consider future improvements including a golf course, dog park, splash pad, skate park, indoor aquatics/fitness, and additional safe bicycle paths/trails.
- The city should consider water access program with day-use rental shops for water sports.
- The city should develop an indoor facility with after-school programs, weight room, gym.

Youth Group Key Findings

- The city should continue to support youth athletics including baseball/softball, soccer and aquatic center.
- There is a need to include basketball courts, volleyball courts, tennis courts, a skate park, an obstacle course, and a rock wall.
- The city needs an indoor facility with an exercise area, gym, restrooms and space for local businesses like restaurants, arcade, and/or theater.
- There is a desire for bike paths with lighting, trails, shade trees, hills, and nature reserve areas.
- The city should improve playgrounds for small children.



Hispanic Group Key Findings

- The city should create non-reservable picnic shelters to provide first-come, first-serve options. The Hispanic community needs flexibility and quick, easy access that is currently not an option. Also, consider providing trainings for reserving amenities online and providing a reservation process in Spanish.
- The city should conduct workshops for adult and child swim lessons in Spanish and advertise to low-income families program in order increase accessibility and improve the perceptions of the aquatic center and swimming in the Hispanic community.
- Transportation for children/families to and from the aquatic center is difficult during the harvest season. Year-round access to aquatic center has the potential to increase Hispanic participation.
- The city should develop additional soccer fields and continue the indoor soccer program.
- There is a desire for more neighborhood parks on the east side, and near future housing developments.
- The city should expand trail system and promote safe bicycling opportunities for youth.



- Look for opportunities to decrease language barriers in parks as they deter Spanish-speaking children and families. Provide additional activities in Spanish in the parks to be more welcoming to Hispanic families and children in the park spaces. Include park signage in Spanish.
- Increase and improve communication with the Hispanic community.
- There is a need for an indoor facility with pool, basketball, rental space for large events, and after-school activities.
- Consider opportunities to enhance Hispanic identity in Hermiston. There is a desire for a Hispanic art fair, Cinco de Mayo celebration, community murals, and naming public parks/places that reference Hispanic culture or public figures.

POP-UP EVENTS

The process included staffing a booth at Hermiston Spud Fest on July 13, 2019 with an existing system map, three image boards, comment cards, and a photobooth. All materials were labeled in English and Spanish. The public was able to provide input through image preference boards, comment cards, and a photobooth.

Key Findings

- Desire for indoor pool
- Desire for river trails
- Desire for public art
- Interest in rock climbing features, a dog park, and covered play areas

The process included staffing a booth at the Umatilla County Fair on August 9, 2019 with an existing system map, three image boards, comment cards and a photobooth. All materials were labeled in English and Spanish. The public was able to provide

input through image boards and comment cards. The Umatilla County Fair attracted many individuals representing a diverse age group, as well as families.

Key Findings

- Desire for indoor pool
- Desire for water slide
- Desire for river trails
- Desire for dog park
- Interest in bicycle pump track, wading pool, rock climbing feature, hot tub, open swim, spray pad, trails, and playground equipment.

The process included staffing a booth at the Hermiston Community Center for the Trail Blazer's Rip City Rally event on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 with four image boards and comment cards. All materials were labeled in English and Spanish. The public had opportunities to share input through image boards and comment cards. The Blazer event attracted primarily families with young children and teens.

Key Findings

- Desire for indoor pool
- Desire for supporting aquatics amenities (water slide, wading pool, swimming lessons and open swim)
- Desire for gymnasiums as well as basketball courts
- Interest in rock climbing feature, public art, spray pad, and skate park

PARTICIPATION FINDINGS

Overall, six different community outreach and involvement methods were employed during the PROS plan update process. Of these, several notable findings were repeated across participants' age, gender, and ethnic identities:



- Need for indoor pool and recreation facility for year-round recreation.
- Desire for additional athletic fields and facilities to support current and future demand.
- Develop new parks on the east side of Hermiston.
- Increase the accessibility of parks for the Hispanic community by incorporating Spanish communications and pursuing new methods of developing an atmosphere that welcomes the Hispanic community in parks and recreation programs.
- Expand trail network with new trails, and connections to existing trails.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The process included an online community survey that was designed to gather community perspectives about the city's parks and recreation facilities. The survey provided parks users with the opportunity to comment on the current state of park facilities and suggest improvements. Gathering preferences and opinions of community residents helps inform the responsiveness of the PROS plan. The input collected through the survey also helps to ensure that the issues and recommendations outlined in the plan are relevant to current conditions.

Methodology

The survey instrument was a digital survey administered through Qualtrics. The survey included 33 questions, provided in English and Spanish. The City distributed

the survey by posting the survey on the project website, social media, sharing the survey with the school district, and word of mouth at tabling events. The survey remained open for responses from the end of September 2019 through the end of January 2019.

The survey received 704 responses, although not all respondents completed all questions to the survey. Since the survey was not administered using a random sample, the responses should not be considered directly representative of the views of Hermiston residents. However, the results do provide valuable insight into the preferences of residents who use the park system (97% of respondents indicated they had visited a Hermiston park or recreation facility in the past year).

Key Findings

Existing Conditions

The majority evaluation of each park by survey respondents was generally some level of neutrality to satisfaction. Raw data shows varying numbers of respondents per each park, which is likely indicative of respondents only evaluating facilities with which they are familiar. Of note, 86% of respondents reported that they were at least "Somewhat Satisfied" with Riverfront Park, if not "Satisfied." The highest dissatisfaction rates ("Somewhat Dissatisfied" and "Dissatisfied") reported were among several parks: Hermiston Family Aquatic Center (27%), Newport Park (21%), McKenzie Park (19%), and Hodge Park (18%). Reported satisfaction with maintenance was generally similar to these data trends. The only major deviation was a fairly low dissatisfaction rate with the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center as it pertains to maintenance.

Respondents also reported that parks are currently used most for exercise (23%), followed by play (22%), and organized sports (14%).

Facility Improvements

Over 67% of respondents reported thinking the City needs additional parks or recreational facilities, and of those 67%, the majority indicated the northeast and southwest quadrants of Hermiston on a city map as the most desired locations for new park acquisition.

When asked which populations are underserved by the City's parks and facilities, 20% of respondents indicated teenagers, followed by adults ages 20-64 (15%) and people with disabilities (13%). Many write-in responses for this question also suggested pet-owners are another underserved group. Suggestions to serve these groups included an indoor play area, strategic programming, retrofitting existing play equipment to meet ADA standards, and developing dog parks.

The survey also asked respondents to consider a list of potential general park features, and then features that could be provided indoors, and features that could be provided outdoors. The most popular general potential park features were restrooms (81%), children's play areas (64%), and walking/hiking trails (61%). Other high priorities were park amenities (tables, benches, etc.) (61%) and vehicle parking (57%).

The most popular potential outdoor features were paved trails (53%), covered/shaded play areas (50%), and natural areas/green space (49%). Other high priorities were playground equipment, and nature play areas.

The most popular potential future indoor park facilities were swimming/aquatics (78%), community/youth center (62%), and a gym (fitness equipment and studio space) (53%). Other high priorities were a running or walking track (43%) and indoor basketball court (32%).

Priorities for the Future

After collecting all of the above data, the survey asked respondents to hone in on what course of action the city should prioritize in the next ten years. Sixty percent of respondents selected “indoor aquatics/swimming” as the number one priority on which they would like the City of Hermiston to focus.

FINDINGS

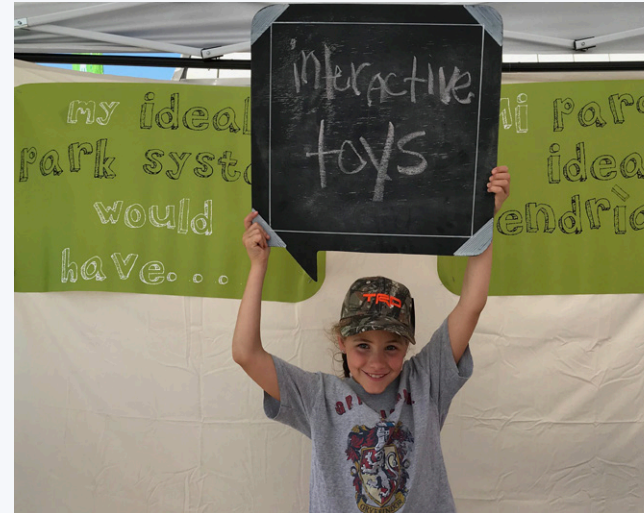
This chapter describes Hermiston’s physical and social context, which forms the needs assessment for the PROS system. The needs assessment takes into account Hermiston’s environmental, demographic, and socioeconomic conditions; the current condition of the parks system; and the park and recreation desires of the community for Hermiston’s parks system. Following is a summary of key factors the plan considers in planning for a parks system that meets the current and future needs of Hermiston residents.

- From 2010 to 2015, Hermiston experienced a 4.6% population increase, and the number of residential permits has fluctuated but overall has trended upward in the last seven years. These trends indicate an increase in population and families in Hermiston and the heightened need for additional parks and recreation services in the coming years.
- Based on coordinated population projections, Hermiston’s population is expected to increase by 27.4% over the next 25 years. Hermiston is projected to be the second fastest growing city in Umatilla County. With population growth, there will be an increase in demand for new park facilities.
- In 2017, the largest percentage of Hermiston residents (28%) was between the ages of 25 and 44. An additional 24% are between the ages of 5 to 19, and 12% were

between the ages of 55 to 64. Eleven percent were 65 or older. This age distribution suggests it will be important to represent all age groups in meeting recreational needs.

- Between 2010 and 2017, Hispanic/Latinx residents represented the fastest growing ethnic group in Hermiston, with a population increase of two percent. The Hispanic/Latino population in Hermiston represents 37% of the total population, compared to 26% in the county, and 12.7% in the state. The needs of Hispanic/Latino residents should be considered in parks planning.
- Because of Hermiston’s high percentage of single-family dwellings (69.1%), there is an increasing demand for park facilities and open space to serve the large population of families in the area. There is also a need to serve residents who do not have access to private outdoor spaces.
- In 2017, Hermiston’s median household income (\$50,694), median family income (\$58,852) and per capita income (\$21,010) were similar to Umatilla County and lower than Oregon. This data suggests that the City should explore ways to target parks and recreation services, and their benefits, toward medium to lower-income residents.

These conditions, when considered in parks planning, are influential factors in the future of Hermiston’s parks system. This chapter concludes with a list of recreational needs and facility needs based on aggregating data from the needs assessment.



Recreation Needs

- Park and recreation program options for low-income residents
- Swimming programs targeted to Hispanic/Latinx residents
- Year-round recreation opportunities
- Year-round swimming
- Youth after-school programs
- Decrease language barriers in parks and recreation facilities
- Expansion of youth organized sports programs
- Programming for parents with children (Programs accompanied with child care)
- All abilities/Disability inclusive programs

Facility Needs

- Indoor Aquatic and Athletic Facility, Wellness Center
- Universally accessible facilities
- Expanded trail facilities (walking, bicycling)
- Parks in Northeast, specifically, and east generally
- More athletic fields, specifically soccer or multipurpose fields.
- Areas for large group gatherings for extended periods of time
- Restrooms
- Water access
- Skate Park



4

Vision

- ▶ *VISION STATEMENT*
- ▶ *ELEMENTS OF THE VISION*
- ▶ *GOALS & ACTIONS*

This chapter describes the vision, goals, and actions established through the planning process. The vision is intended to represent community needs and desires. Goals represent the general end toward which organizational efforts are directed. Actions are specific steps needed to achieve stated goals. Recommendations, as detailed in Chapter 5, are the specific steps needed to achieve the Plan goals and implement the vision.

Vision Statement

A vision statement is based on the strengths, needs, characteristics and values of a community. The purpose of a vision statement is to provide direction in both long-term and short-term planning decisions and prioritize parks and recreation improvements. The goals and recommendations outlined in the PROS Plan support and align with the vision statement.

VISION STATEMENT

Hermiston actively provides inviting parks, trails, and programs for all walks of life. We celebrate our unique abilities, values and cultures.

Parks and Recreation facilities and programs are the heart of our physical and emotional wellbeing.

DECLARACIÓN DE LA VISIÓN

Hermiston se compromete a proveer parques, senderos y programas atractivos para todo tipo de personas. Celebramos nuestras habilidades únicas, valores y culturas. Instalaciones y programas de Departamento de Parques y Recreación son el corazón de nuestro bienestar físico y emocional.

Elements of the Vision

▶ ACCESSIBILITY AND DISTRIBUTION

The parks system is an integral element of the local transportation system and a foundation for connectivity. While parks and trails can serve as transportation corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists, a high degree of connection between parks and trails also helps facilitate equity of access for all members of the community. In accordance with guidance from the Trust for Public Land Center for City Park Excellence, all neighborhoods should have a park within a ¼-mile radius of residences. Hermiston's trail system plays a vital role in supplementing local transportation options and providing equitable recreational access to all by strategically acquiring properties that can provide for underserved areas, developing an interconnected system of multi-use trails.

▶ COMMUNITY HEALTH

Physical surroundings are one of the greatest environmental factors influencing community health. Parks and recreation opportunities support physical activity which has an important role in preventing obesity and other chronic illnesses such as heart disease, depression, diabetes and some cancers. Findings from a 2018 Umatilla County Community Health Assessment show extremely high rates of obesity in the region. 58% of Hispanic/Latino children and 25% of children in Umatilla County are obese compared to 14% of children in Oregon. 37% of Hispanic/Latino adults and 42% of adults in Umatilla County are obese compared to 29% of adults in Oregon. The actions of park and recreation providers can influence the physical activity of residents and influence overall community health. Findings from the community outreach and involvement process demonstrate that Hermiston residents are eager for year-round, flexible recreational opportunities that accommodate a variety of lifestyles and schedule constraints.





▶ DIVERSITY

Hermiston is becoming an increasingly diverse community in both age and race as its population grows. SCORP data and feedback collected from Hermiston residents during the community outreach and involvement process reflects that although there are overlaps in recreation needs and demands, each demographic has unique park and recreation needs. Maintaining and growing public participation in parks and recreation activities hinges on the City tailoring park amenities, recreational opportunities, programming and communication approach to serve all ages, races and cultural backgrounds of Hermiston residents.

▶ NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

Situated in a southern ecoregion of the Columbia Plateau, the landscape surrounding Hermiston features a warm and dry climate, native grasses and expansive plains that experienced prehistoric flooding. Traces of this history are visible today in seasonal flooding events, marshes and wetlands. Efforts on behalf of the City to acquire properties with sensitive habitats and protect sensitive habitats in existing park facilities through restoration and conservation preserve the natural history of Hermiston.

▶ LOCAL AND REGIONAL CHARACTER

Hermiston has a unique identity and the ability to weave those characteristics into park and recreation facilities reinforces and expresses a sense of place. Local and regional character encompasses cultural and natural elements of a place and reinforce community pride and local narratives. Expressing local and regional character can be implemented by the City through consistent branding in the parks system. Branding presents a cohesive, clear message that park facilities are for the public therefore reinforcing a welcoming atmosphere to all residents. By communicating that park land is public and encouraging use of the park system the City can help increase the community's sense of ownership and stewardship.

▶ MAINTENANCE AND FACILITY UPGRADES

The City oversees and provides maintenance for a diverse collection of park facilities. During the community outreach and involvement process, Hermiston residents provided favorable feedback on the current level of routine park facility maintenance. Evaluating and addressing opportunities to upgrade and replace aging facilities can help the City continue to provide a robust park system as the community grows and evolves.

Volunteers in the parks are a valuable and welcomed resource. Hermiston has a tradition of ongoing resident involvement in the development and enhancement in parks. One example of this is the annual "I LOVE MY CITY" volunteer event each spring. Hermiston routinely has 500 volunteers organized by over 10 churches participate in this beautification effort. Other examples include the development of Funland Playground and several Eagle Scout projects throughout the park system.

Hermiston has adopted a new wayfinding signage system for the City in 2020. This system includes park signs, trails signs, and signage standards for the City. Implementing the new signs will bring continuity and cohesion to the parks and trails facilities (See Appendix H).

Goals & Actions

ACCESSIBILITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Provide an equitable distribution of park facilities and improve physical access to the PROS system.

- Acquire and develop parks in underserved areas of Hermiston, particularly the east side.
- Update park and recreation facilities to accommodate users of all ages and abilities.
- Improve connectivity throughout the park system by strategically developing new trails, on-street facilities and off-street multi-use paths that connect park facilities.

Increase park and recreation opportunities in order to improve physical and mental health across the community.

- Provide a variety of park and recreation facilities, recreational opportunities, and programs that include equitable access for all ages, income levels, physical and mental abilities, and cultural backgrounds.
- Accommodate flexibility and extended use of park and recreation facilities to serve the diverse lifestyles and work schedules of Hermiston residents.
- Promote healthy and active lifestyles through enhanced communications about parks and recreation opportunities.

Restore and conserve natural resources in Hermiston in order to sustain and enhance environmental assets.

- Seek opportunities to restore areas with significant wildlife habitats, unique plant communities, hydrological events and other natural resources.
- Promote understanding of natural resources, habitats, vegetation and hydrology through interpretive signage and outdoor recreational programs

NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

INCLUSION

Promote a welcoming atmosphere for all residents and identify and meet the needs of a diverse population.

- Provide bilingual communications (English and Spanish) about parks and recreation opportunities in publications and online media.
- Provide informational sessions and trainings for park facility reservations and recreational program registration for Hispanic/Latinx community members, English language learners and low-income residents.
- Provide online/digital and in-person trainings and involve community leaders to promote/communicate opportunities with community.
- Identify local community leaders and suitable outreach methods to foster regular communication with under-represented park and recreation users to better understand their needs and encourage participation in the parks system and recreational opportunities.
- Conduct additional outreach with under-represented park and recreation users to developing or improving parks. These users include low-income residents, the Hispanic/Latino community, seniors, youth and people with disabilities.
- Provide additional recreation programming that reflects the needs of under-represented park users.

MAINTENANCE AND FACILITY UPGRADES

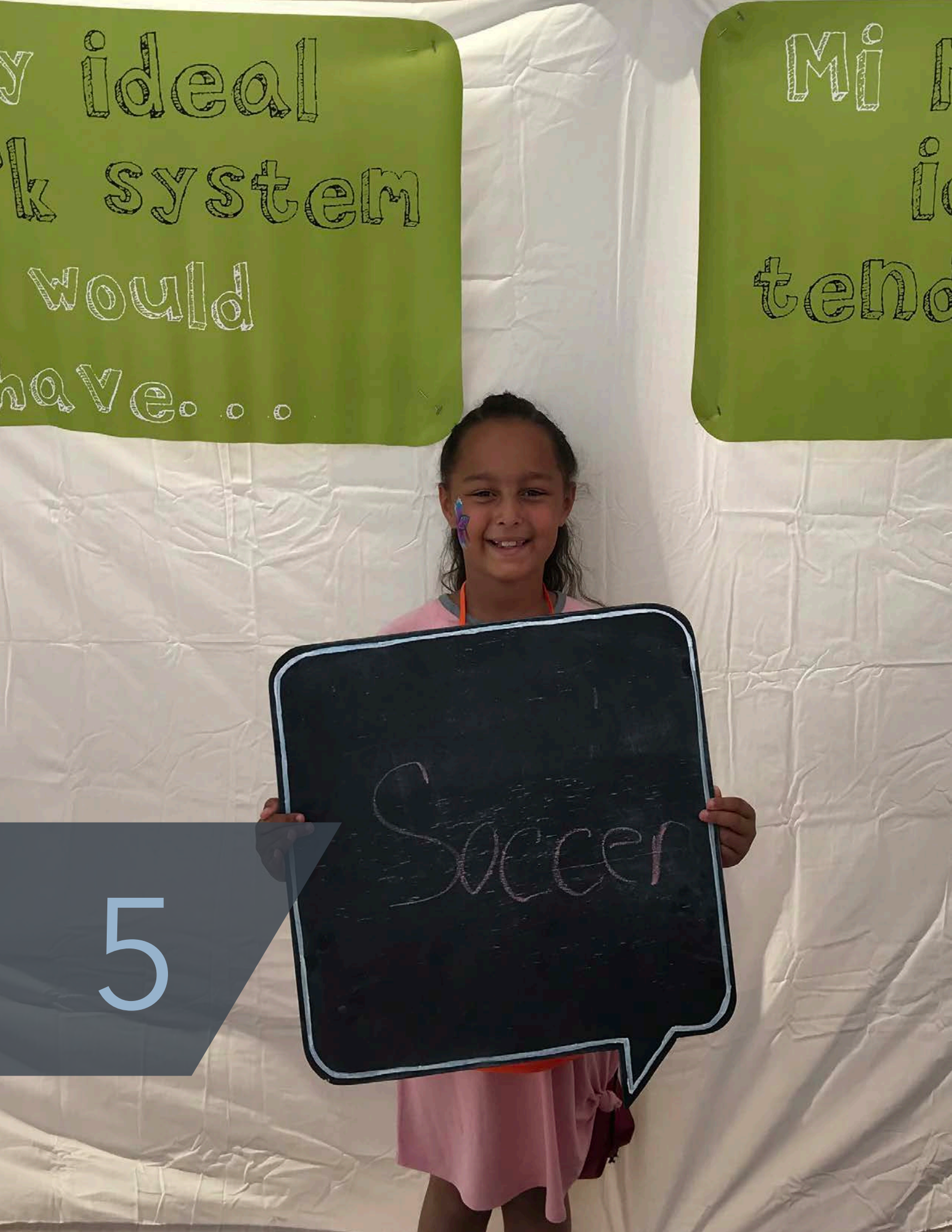
Operate, maintain, and update park facilities and amenities to provide a safe and accessible environment for all Hermiston residents.

- Upgrade facilities in poor condition.
- Address ADA design requirements in all park facilities.
- Develop acquisition and design standards for the planning and design of new parks.

Reinforce continuity across the PROS system to create a recognizable identity that reflects the Hermiston residents and honors the surrounding landscape.

- Implement branding at parks and trail facilities.
- Incorporate a consistent design of park amenities, features, signage, and wayfinding improvements across the PROS system.
- Highlight and preserve natural character in the park system through design elements that complement the landscape and frame scenic views.
- Enhance diverse cultural character through narratives presented in interpretive signage and local art.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL CHARACTER



5

Recommendations

- ▶ RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT
- ▶ PARK FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS
- ▶ PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT
- ▶ NATURAL AREA FACILITY DEVELOPMENT
- ▶ PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT
- ▶ TRAIL DEVELOPMENT
- ▶ RECREATION PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS
- ▶ OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recreation Facility Development

Recreation facility development recommendations in Table 5.1 focus on the development of an indoor aquatic and wellness center, future upgrades to the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center, and renovation of a city-owned building as part of a community center.

INDOOR HEALTH, WELLNESS AND AQUATIC CENTER FACILITY

In 2018, the City commissioned a pre-design report for a new Health, Recreation, and Aquatic Center. The report evaluated a 66,798 square foot center that included an indoor aquatic center, wellness venues, youth/community areas, locker rooms, administration, lobby/entry spaces, other support spaces, and outdoor recreation. The report established an initial \$28M budget for the proposed project. Needs assessment findings indicate strong support for the project, with 60% of respondents selecting “indoor aquatics/swimming” as the top improvement priority.

In 2018, the Hermiston City Council prioritized a “Health, Wellness, and Aquatic Center” as Goal 1 and in 2019 it remained a high priority listed as Goal 4 of 7. The Park and Recreation Committee (PRC) prioritization of future projects identified “indoor pool including fitness and conditioning” as the top priority for future PROS system improvements.

The preferred site for the facility is the north side of the Hermiston High School campus, adjacent to W Orchard Avenue. An alternate site for the facility is within the proposed Regional Sports Facility. Funding for the development of the project is expected to be provided entirely by alternative funding sources. The feasibility of establishing a recreation district to provide funding for development and operation of the facility, as well as alternative funding options, is discussed in Appendix H Parks and Recreation District Feasibility Study.

HERMISTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

The Hermiston Family Aquatic Center features a 50-meter pool, water slide, diving board, concessions, and locker rooms. The facility has experienced approximately 15 years of use and is in need of upgrades to ensure its long-term sustainability. This project involves conducting a facility assessment to identify long-term modernization and maintenance needs and associated costs.

ARC BUILDING RENOVATION

This project involves the renovation of a city-owned building currently used by the Arc of Umatilla County to serve as temporary administrative offices for the park and recreation department and a community center, including new kitchen, restrooms, exterior improvements, and rear porch. The PROS Plan recommends considering future use of the building as art center or community center following renovation if the park and recreation department offices are relocated into the Health, Wellness and Aquatic Center at a later date.

TABLE 5.1 RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (R)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
RECREATION FACILITY PROJECTS		
R1.1	UNSITE	Secure site for Indoor Aquatic and Wellness Center Facility
R1.2	UNSITE	Design and construct Indoor Aquatic and Wellness Center Facility
R2.1	AQUATIC CENTER	Conduct facility assessment to identify modernization and maintenance needs
R3.1	215 W ORCHARD AVE	Renovate building for administrative offices and other interior improvements
R3.2	215 W ORCHARD AVE	Consider long-term use of building as community or art center

TABLE 5.2 PARK FACILITY IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (P)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
COMMUNITY PARK PROJECTS		
P1.1	BUTTE PARK	Replace Funland Playground with a new themed playground
SPECIAL USE PARK PROJECTS		
P2.1	TEEN ADVENTURE PARK	Construct skatepark, including skate and BMX elements and large shelter
P2.2	TEEN ADVENTURE PARK	Construct BMX pump-track
P2.3	TEEN ADVENTURE PARK	Construct rock climbing wall, zip-line, and parkour fitness area
P2.4	TEEN ADVENTURE PARK	Construct basketball court
P2.5	TEEN ADVENTURE PARK	Install restrooms building
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PROJECTS		
P3.1	HIGHLAND PARK	Install large picnic shelter
P3.2	HIGHLAND PARK	Install (3) small picnic shelters
P3.3	HIGHLAND PARK	Install restrooms building
P3.4	HIGHLAND PARK	Construct additional pedestrian walks in the west half of park
P10.1	VICTORY SQUARE PARK	Construct new basketball court (full court)

Park Facility Improvements

Park facility improvement recommendations in Table 5.2 include projects identified in the 2008-2022 Parks Master Plan or subsequent planning studies that have not been completed and new projects that expand existing capacity. The projects include the replacement of Funland Playground, a Teen Adventure Park, and Phase 2 of Highland Park. Park improvement projects which expand capacity are eligible for the use of SDC funds.

Recommendations for Funland include construction of a new themed playground to replace the playground that was damaged by fire including the installation of a new concessions and restrooms. The new teen adventure park is located on an undeveloped site at W Orchard Avenue and S 1st Street and includes a skatepark, a BMX pump-track, restroom, rock climbing wall, basketball, zip-line, parkour fitness and passive areas. Recommendations for Highland Park include Phase 2 neighborhood park improvements consisting of a large picnic shelter, three small picnic shelters, restrooms, and additional walks.

Park Facility Development

Park facility development recommendation listed in Tables 5.3 to 5.7 include the development of three new parks: Regional Sports Complex, Steelhead Park, and Gettman Park; and, the expansion and renovation of three existing parks, Butte Park, Riverfront Park, and Field of Dream. Recommendations focus on development of underutilized assets, capacity expansion, and adding new amenities to support or complement existing uses. Specific facility recommendations were identified through the community outreach involvement process and input from the City and the Parks and Recreation Committee. Following is a narrative description of the proposed projects and a concept plan, which is the basis for the estimates included herein.

REGIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX

The facility and needs assessments identified a need for additional sports fields in the community, specifically for soccer. The City does not have a regional park facility or a sports complex capable of hosting tournaments and large community events. The City owns approximately 45 acres in northeast Hermiston that is the site of a disc golf course and Oxbow Trail Improvements. Good Samaritan Health Services owns an additional approximately 20 acres adjacent to the site and with frontage on NW 11th Street. The project involves coordination between the City, School District, Good Samaritan Health Services, and other partner to develop a regional sports complex. As shown on Map 5.1 Regional Sport Complex Concept Plan, the proposed regional park includes eight multi-purpose soccer/lacrosse fields, bike skills courses, picnic shelters, children's playground, off-street parking, restrooms, and looped walking trails.

TABLE 5.3 REGIONAL PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (P)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
REGIONAL PARK PROJECTS		
P4.1	SPORTS COMPLEX	Construct (4) multi-purpose natural turf soccer fields
P4.2	SPORTS COMPLEX	Construct ~100 space off-street parking lot at W Elm Avenue
P4.3	SPORTS COMPLEX	Install restrooms, large picnic shelter, site furnishings, and park entrance sign
P4.4	SPORTS COMPLEX	Construct children's playground
P4.5	SPORTS COMPLEX	Construct pedestrian pathways
P4.6	SPORTS COMPLEX	Install trees and landscape plantings
P4.7	SPORTS COMPLEX	Install site utilities and irrigation systems
P4.8	SPORTS COMPLEX	Construct (4) additional multi-purpose natural turf soccer fields
P4.9	SPORTS COMPLEX	Construct ~100 space off-street parking lot at W Linda Avenue
P4.10	SPORTS COMPLEX	Construct bike skills course
P4.11	SPORTS COMPLEX	Install covered play and picnic area and additional restrooms
P4.12	SPORTS COMPLEX	Restore riparian corridor along the Umatilla River by removing invasive species, replanting with native species, and providing water access opportunities
P4.13	SPORTS COMPLEX	Install field lighting at (8) multi-purpose fields to extend use



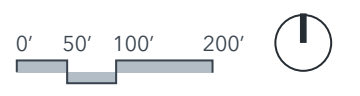
LEGEND

- Property Line
- Site
- 1 Parking
- 2 Existing Gas Station & Market
- 3 Soccer
- 4 Play & Picnic Area
- 5 Restroom
- 6 BMX Pump Track
- 7 Proposed Trail
- 8 Existing Trail
- 9 Playground
- 10 Trailhead & Information Kiosk
- 11 Signage
- 12 Bench
- 13 Restoration Area



Regional Sports Complex

MAP 5.1



BUTTE PARK

According to needs assessment findings, Butte Park is the most popular facility in the PROS system, it includes the most recognizable landmark in the City, Hermiston Butte, and it is the site of the City's major outdoor recreation facility, the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center. As shown on Map 5.2 Butte Park Concept Plan, proposed improvements to Butte Park, an existing community park, include construction of a new trailhead extending from Butte Street, formalizing the trail system leading to the top of the butte, and connections to surrounding residential areas. A new dog park is proposed in the southeast corner of the park. Additional improvements include renovation of the existing soccer fields to improve play, expanded off-site parking, a new picnic shelter, and enhanced pedestrian access across 7th Street.

RIVERFRONT PARK

According to needs assessment findings, Riverfront Park, a community park, is one of the most popular facilities in the PROS system with 86% of survey respondents indicating satisfaction. Riverfront Park is also the only developed City facility with access to the Umatilla River. As shown on Map 5.3 Riverfront Park Concept Plan, proposed improvements are designed to repair the park following flood damage to the facility and to relocate facilities avoid flood damage in the future. Improvements include a new children's playground, off-street parking area, and restroom building.

GETTMAN PARK

Gettman Park is a new neighborhood park located on property currently owned by the School District south of Armand Larive Middle School. The site is within an area shown by the needs assessment and level of service analysis (Map 2.2 Level of Service) to be park land deficient. As shown on Map 5.4 Gettman Park Concept Plan, proposed improvement includes a multi-sport court, children's playground, restrooms, off-street parking, and walking trail. Fulfilment of the project will require a development and management agreement with the School District.



TABLE 5.4 COMMUNITY PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (P)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
COMMUNITY PARK PROJECTS		
P5.1	BUTTE PARK	Construct trailhead access and ~10 space off-street parking lot with connection to NW Butte Road
P5.2	BUTTE PARK	Formalize and reconstruct trail system leading to the top of the Butte; connect trail system to park and surrounding street access points including pedestrian bridge over canal
P5.3	BUTTE PARK	Install informational kiosk, park entrance sign, and trail system signage
P5.4	BUTTE PARK	Construct dog park in SE corner of park including fencing, entrance, and water station
P5.5	BUTTE PARK	Construct ~18 space expanded off-street parking lot at NW 7th Street
P5.6	BUTTE PARK	Construct new NW 7th Street pedestrian crossing
P5.7	BUTTE PARK	Improve fields for playability and multisport use
P5.8	BUTTE PARK	Construct amphitheater on NE side of Butte facing existing recreation fields
P5.9	BUTTE PARK	Renovate and relocate existing restroom building to serve the central portion of the park
P5.10	BUTTE PARK	Construct ~75 space expanded off-street parking lot at W Elm Avenue near Aquatic Center
P6.1	RIVERFRONT PARK	Construct ~30 space replacement off-street parking lot
P6.2	RIVERFRONT PARK	Construct new children's playground
P6.3	RIVERFRONT PARK	Construct extension of Riverfront Trail
P6.4	RIVERFRONT PARK	Install new picnic shelter
P6.5	RIVERFRONT PARK	Install new restrooms building
P6.6	RIVERFRONT PARK	Install new park entrance sign, informational kiosk, and additional site furnishings
P6.7	RIVERFRONT PARK	Install trees, new lawn, and landscape plantings

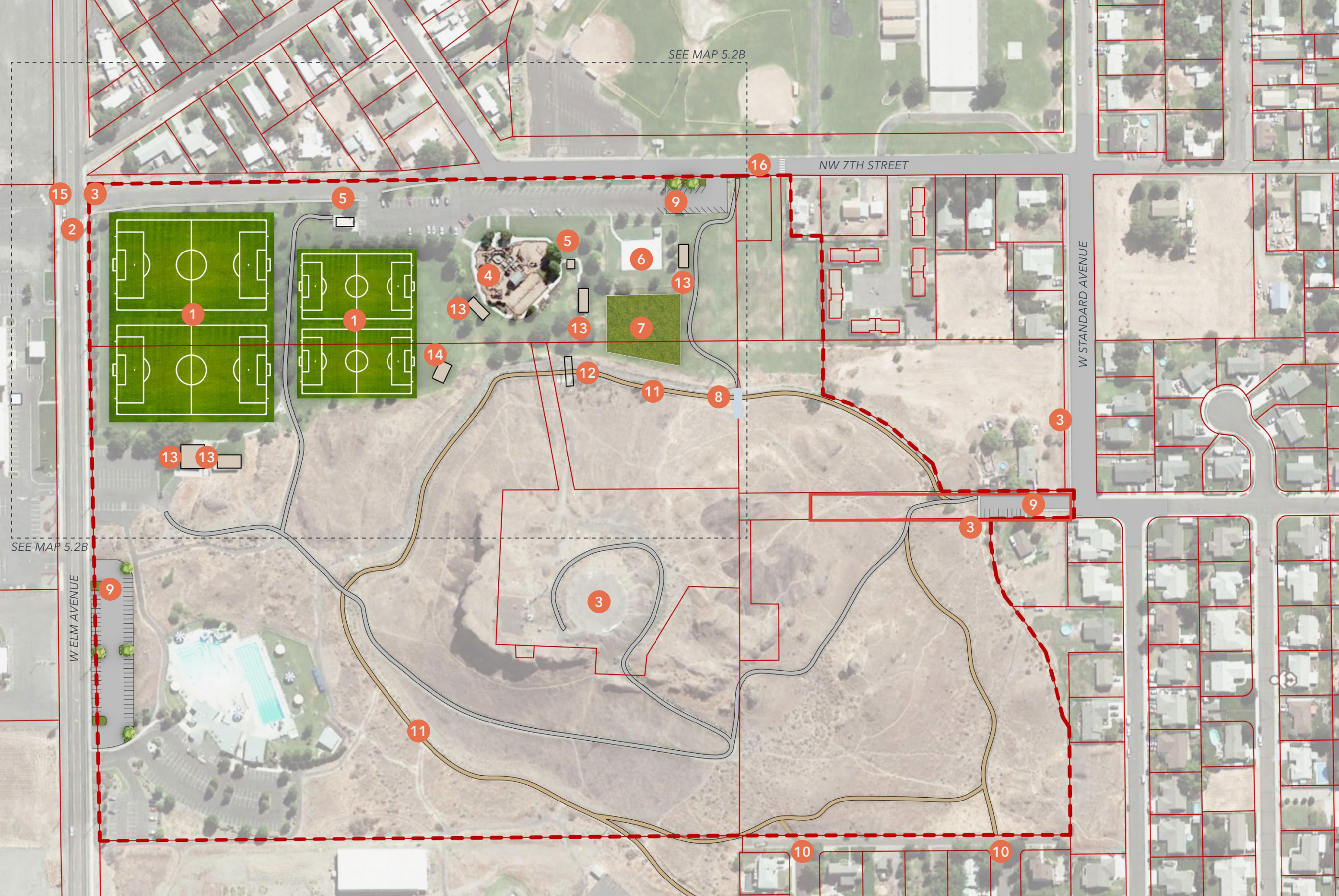
TABLE 5.5 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (P)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PROJECTS		
P8.1	GETTMAN PARK	Construct children's playground
P8.2	GETTMAN PARK	Construct multisport court (pickleball and half-court basketball)
P8.3	GETTMAN PARK	Install restrooms building
P8.4	GETTMAN PARK	Install (2) small picnic shelters
P8.5	GETTMAN PARK	Construct natural turf field for unstructured play
P8.6	GETTMAN PARK	Construct pedestrian pathways around park with connections to surrounding neighborhoods
P8.7	GETTMAN PARK	Construct ~16 space off-street parking to at SW 9th Street
P8.8	GETTMAN PARK	Install park entrance sign and site furnishings
P8.9	GETTMAN PARK	Install irrigation, trees, lawn, and landscape plantings

LEGEND

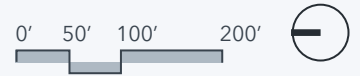
- Property Line
- Site
- Existing Asphalt Trail
- Proposed Gravel Trail
- Easement Area

- Soccer Field
- Existing Sidewalk
- Proposed Sidewalk
- Funland (Existing)
- Restroom
- Updated Splash Pad
- Dog Park
- Pedestrian Crossing
- Future Parking
- Trail Connection
- Proposed Trail
- Existing Pedestrian Bridge
- Existing Shelter
- Amphitheater
- Proposed Crosswalk
- Existing Crosswalk



Butte Park

MAP 5.2A

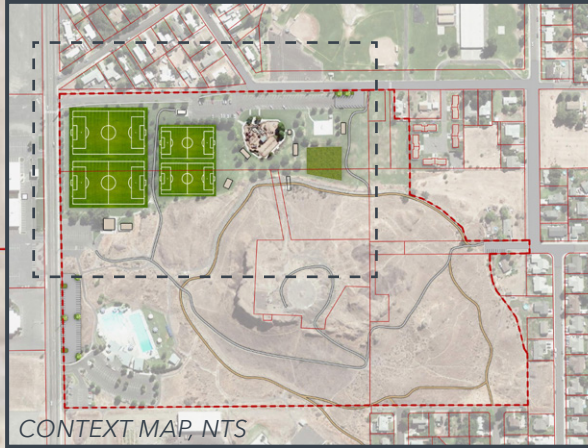


LEGEND

- Property Line
- Site
- Existing Asphalt Trail
- Proposed Gravel Trail
- Easement Area

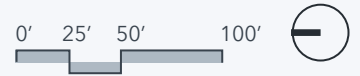
- 1 Soccer Field
- 2 Existing Sidewalk
- 3 Proposed Sidewalk
- 4 Funland (Existing)
- 5 Restroom
- 6 Updated Splash Pad
- 7 Dog Park
- 8 Pedestrian Crossing*
- 9 Future Parking
- 10 Trail Connection
- 11 Proposed Trail
- 12 Existing Pedestrian Bridge
- 13 Existing Shelter
- 14 Amphitheater
- 15 Proposed Crosswalk
- 16 Existing Crosswalk*

*Item not shown. See Map 5.2A



Butte Park

MAP 5.2B



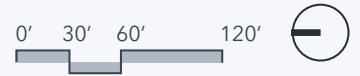
LEGEND

-  Property Line
-  Site
-  1 Connection to Riverfront Trail
-  2 Playground
-  3 Parking
-  4 Picnic Shelter
-  5 Existing Trail
-  6 Proposed Trail
-  7 Restroom
-  8 Trailhead & Information Kiosk
-  9 Signage
-  10 Bench



Riverfront Park

MAP 5.3



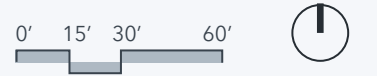
LEGEND

- Property Line
- Site
- 1 Restroom
- 2 Picnic Shelter
- 3 Playground
- 4 Pickleball Courts
- 5 Field
- 6 Proposed Trail
- 7 Parking



Gettman Park

MAP 5.4





STEELHEAD PARK

Steelhead Park is a new linear park located at an undeveloped site recently acquired by the City along the Umatilla River, south of Highland Road/County 1200 Road. The park is planned as an extension of Riverfront Park and Riverfront Trail and a water access opportunity. As shown on Map 5.5 Steelhead Park Concept Plan, proposed improvements include an extension of the Riverfront Trail, a non-motorized boat launch, automobile and trailer parking, trails, and riparian area enhancement. The site is within the floodplain/floodway of the Umatilla River and proposed improvements for the boat launch will require in-water work.

FIELD OF DREAMS PARK

The Field of Dreams complex is an existing baseball facility owned by the School District and operated and maintained by Hermiston Little League. The site includes the baseball complex, the Sandstone Middle School campus, and undeveloped land between Diagonal Road and the North Hermiston drainageway, which is an open waterway. The site is within an area shown by the needs assessment and level of service analysis (Map 2.2 Level of Service) to be park land deficient. As shown on Map 5.6 Field of Dreams Concept Plan, the project involves the development of a new special use park adjacent to the Field of Dreams baseball complex including three lacrosse fields, formalized parking for both the park and the baseball complex, children's playground, and walking trail along the drainage channel. Fulfillment of the project will require a development and management agreement with the School District.

TABLE 5.6 LINEAR PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (P)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
LINEAR PARK PROJECTS		
P7.1	STEELHEAD PARK	Construct ~20 space off-street parking for vehicles and boat trailers
P7.2	STEELHEAD PARK	Construct extension of Riverfront Trail from Highland Road and Riverfront Park
P7.3	STEELHEAD PARK	Construct non-motorized boat launch
P7.4	STEELHEAD PARK	Install (2) small picnic shelters with picnic tables
P7.5	STEELHEAD PARK	Install park entrance sign, informational kiosk, and site furnishings
P7.6	STEELHEAD PARK	Install trees and landscape plantings
P7.7	STEELHEAD PARK	Restore riparian corridor along the Umatilla River by removing invasive species, replanting with native species, and providing water access opportunities
P9.1	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Construct (3) natural turf lacrosse fields
P9.2	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Construct children's playground
P9.3	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Construct ~200 space off-street parking lot (improve current gravel parking lot)
P9.4	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Install park entrance sign, informational kiosk, and site furnishings
P9.5	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Install restrooms building
P9.6	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Construct trail along Hermiston Ditch waterway that connects to the planned Baker's Pond Trail (T4)
P9.7	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Construct pedestrian bridge over Hermiston Ditch waterway to connect the park to Sandstone ES and the surrounding neighborhood
P11.1	DORRAN PARK	Construct trailhead access and ~10 space off-street parking lot with connection to NE 10th Street
P11.2	DORRAN PARK	Install park entrance sign, informational kiosk, and site furnishings
P11.3	DORRAN PARK	Install trees and landscape plantings

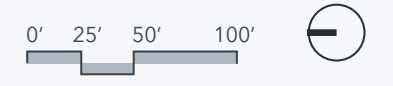
LEGEND

- Property Line
- Site
- 1 Connection to Riverfront Trail
- 2 Connection to Existing Trail
- 3 Trailer Parking
- 4 Car Parking
- 5 Picnic Shelters
- 6 Picnic Tables
- 7 Water Access
- 8 Existing Trees
- 9 New Trees & Benches
- 10 Trailhead & Information Kiosk
- 11 Bench
- 12 Signage
- 13 Existing Trail
- 14 Proposed Trail



Steelhead Park

MAP 5.5



LEGEND

- Property Line
- Site
- 1 Lacrosse Field (3)
- 2 Parking
- 3 Playground
- 4 Pedestrian Bridge
- 5 Existing Ditch
- 6 Proposed Trail
- 7 Existing Fields
- 8 Trailhead & Information Kiosk



Field of Dreams

MAP 5.6

0' 50' 100' 200'



Natural Area Facility Development

The inclusion of open space and natural areas is critical to establishing and maintaining a balanced parks system. Open space and natural areas are undeveloped lands primarily left in their natural state with passive recreation uses as a secondary objective. They are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides, riparian areas, or other types of resources. In addition to open space and natural areas, which are typically acquired or dedicated to the City or other public agencies, conservation buffers can be overlaid on property to preserve open space and natural resources. This PROS Plan includes the acquisition and development of one new natural area park at the Baker's Pond site.

BAKER'S POND NATURAL AREA PARK

The City is in process of acquiring 47.45 acres of property known as Baker's Pond in northeast Hermiston along E Elm Avenue. The PROS system does not currently contain any natural area park facilities. The needs assessment findings indicated a support for walking and hiking trails and natural areas. As shown on Map 5.7 Baker's Pond Natural Area Concept Plan, the project involves the development of a natural area park including a trailhead, trails, boardwalk, habitat enhancement, and wetland enhancement. Restoring ecological function to the ponds will require the removal of material in order to create open water and emergent habitat.

MAP 5.7 NATURAL AREA FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (O)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
NATURAL AREA PARK PROJECTS		
O1.1	BAKER'S POND PARK	Construct ~25 space off-street parking area at E Elm Avenue
O1.2	BAKER'S POND PARK	Install park entrance sign, informational kiosk, and site furnishings
O1.3	BAKER'S POND PARK	Install restrooms building
O1.4	BAKER'S POND PARK	Install trees and landscape plantings
O1.5	BAKER'S POND PARK	Construct trail system around ponds
O1.6	BAKER'S POND PARK	Construct boardwalk across ponds connecting to trail system
O1.7	BAKER'S POND PARK	Conduct wetland restoration of ponds to create deep water and emergent habitat areas, remove invasive species, and replant with native species

Park Acquisition and Development

The PROS Plan is designed to promote the equitable distribution of parkland for all residential neighborhoods in Hermiston. Although parks exist throughout Hermiston, areas of the City are currently underserved or not served at all by developed park facilities. These areas, because of their lack of developed parkland, represent land acquisition and future park development areas. The park acquisition strategy considers the recreational needs of current underserved areas and the anticipated needs of future residential development. Map 5.8 Planned PROS System identifies recommended areas for land acquisition and park development, and the relationship to the existing parks, trails, and open space system. Park acquisition recommendations are based upon community input, data analysis, and other planning documents. There are two main areas proposed for new neighborhood parks in the future, the northeast and the southwest.

FUTURE NE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

The northeast is an area of the city shown by the needs assessment and level of service analysis (Map 2.2 Level of Service) to be park land deficient. This project involves the acquisition and development of a 5-15 acre neighborhood park to serve the northeast area of the city. The Plan further recommends that the City consider acquisition and development opportunities in conjunction with or adjacent to the planned development of a new elementary school at a site owned by the School District on Theater Lane.

FUTURE SW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

The southwest is an area of the city shown by the needs assessment and level of service analysis (Map 2.2 Level of Service) to be park land deficient. This project involves the acquisition and development of a 5-15 acre neighborhood park to serve the southwest area of the city. Much of the land in the southwest portion of the city is outside of city limits and will require annexation prior to residential development.

Trail Development

Multi-use paths and trails improve system-wide connectivity and enhance quality of life in communities by facilitating movement throughout the corridors. Map 5.8 Planned PROS System shows existing and proposed off-street trails. The off-street trail network is designed to complement and supplement the City's existing and planned on-street system as identified in the Transportation System Plan (TSP). Trails provide residents options for traversing the City and accessing park system facilities. As part of the PROS planning process, the community voiced strong support for additional trails and pathways throughout the City. Planned trail development projects include an extension of the Oxbow Trail from Belt Park to Harrison Park, the on-street Hermiston Loop Trail, a trail along the Maxwell Canal, and a trail from proposed Baker's Pond Natural Area Park to Theater Sports Park.

LEGEND

-  Property Line
-  Site
-  1 Trailhead & Information Kiosk
-  2 Bench
-  3 Signage
-  4 Planting Bed
-  5 Parking Lot
-  6 Trail
-  7 Boardwalk
-  8 Wetland Restoration
-  9 Restroom



Baker's Pond

MAP 5.7

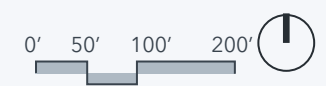


TABLE 5.8 PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (A)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS		
A1.1	FUTURE NE PARK	Acquire ~5-15 acres for the future development of a neighborhood park to serve NE residential areas
A1.2	FUTURE NE PARK	Plan and develop Phase 1 of the park
A1.3	FUTURE NE PARK	Plan and develop Phase 2 of the park
A2.1	FUTURE E PARK	Acquire ~5-15 acres for the future development of a neighborhood park to serve E residential areas
A2.2	FUTURE E PARK	Plan and develop Phase 1 of the park
A2.3	FUTURE E PARK	Plan and develop Phase 2 of the park
A3.1	FUTURE SW PARK	Acquire ~5-15 acres for the future development of a neighborhood park to serve SW residential areas
A3.2	FUTURE SW PARK	Plan and develop Phase 1 of the park
A3.3	FUTURE SW PARK	Plan and develop Phase 2 of the park
A4.1	FUTURE CIMARRON PARK	Plan and develop Phase 1 of the park
A4.2	FUTURE CIMARRON PARK	Plan and develop Phase 2 of the park
A5.1	FUTURE MONTE VISTA PARK	Plan and develop the park

OXBOW TRAIL SPUR

The Oxbow Trail Spur project involves the construction of an 0.8 mile trail from Belt Park to Harrison Park and connecting to the Riverfront trail. The alignment follows an unnamed waterway that extends west to the Umatilla River. The waterway undergirds between W Juniper Avenue and SW 11th Street and for a short portion north of W Orchard Avenue/County 1238 Road. The project should consider alternate routes and daylighting where feasible.

HERMISTON LOOP TRAIL

The Hermiston Loop Trail project involves the construction and dedication of a 10.5 mile looped trail along Hensel Road to the north, W 11th Street to the west, Gettman Road to the south, and E 10th Street to the east. The project includes a spur extending from E 10th Street along E Highland Avenue to S Townsend Road and north to the Field of Dreams Complex.

The project is mostly on-street and the City should construct separated, shared-use path, where feasible.

CANAL TRAIL

The Canal Trail project involves the construction of a 1.3 mile trail from Gettman Park and Gettman Road, to the west along the Maxwell Canal to SE 4th Street, and north to Highland Avenue.

BAKER'S POND TRAIL

The Baker's Pond Trail project involves the construction of a 1.5 mile trail from the planned Baker's Pond trailhead to the east to Theater Sports Park to the west. The planned route extends along the south side of the Hermiston Ditch waterway.

EOTEC TRAIL

The EOTEC Trail project involves construction of a 0.5 mile trail from Highway 395 to EOTEC.

TABLE 5.9 TRAIL DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (T)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS		
T1.1	BELT TRAIL	Construct a 0.8 mile trail from Belt Park to Harrison Park connecting to the Riverfront Trail
T2.1	LOOP TRAIL	Plan and develop a 10.5 mile looped trail along Hensel Road (north), W 11th Street (west), Gettman Road (south), and E 10th Street (east)
T2.2	LOOP TRAIL	Plan and develop a spur extending from E 10th Street along Highland Avenue to S Townsend Road and Field of Dreams Park
T3.1	MAXWELL CANAL TRAIL	Construct a 1.3 mile trail from planned Gettman Park along Maxwell Canal to SE 4th Street and north to Highland Avenue
T4.1	BAKER'S POND TRAIL	Construct a 1.5 mile trail along the Hermiston Ditch waterway from the planned Baker's Pond trailhead to Theater Sports Park

TABLE 5.10 RECREATION PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS (S)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
RECREATION PROGRAMS		
S1.1	PROGRAM	Increase program options and availability for low-income residents
S1.2	PROGRAM	Provide swimming programming specifically for Hispanic/Latinx residents
S1.3	PROGRAM	Decrease language barriers in parks and recreation facilities and programs by providing information in both English and Spanish translations
S1.4	PROGRAM	Support the expansion of youth and organized sports programs
S1.5	PROGRAM	Provide programming for parents with children that includes child care options
S1.6	PROGRAM	Expand programming to be inclusive of all abilities and disabilities

TABLE 5.11 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS (M)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE		
M1.1	SYSTEM	Increase staffing levels for park operations and maintenance as the park system expands.
M1.2	SYSTEM	Increase funding for park operations and maintenance as the park system expands.
M1.3	SYSTEM	Implement maintenance standards for park and recreation facilities

Recreation Programs

Chapter 3 Needs Assessment concludes with a list of recreational program needs based on aggregating data from the community profile, recreation trends analysis, and community outreach and involvement process. These needs are translated into recommendations for additional programs or enhancements to existing programs.

Operations and Maintenance

As the park and recreation system expands to meet identified community needs and growth demands, the City will need to increase staffing levels and funding for parks operations and maintenance. The City can also implement maintenance standards for its parks and facilities. Examples of such standards include: ensuring play equipment and surrounding play areas meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards; shelters are structurally sound with no rotten wood or rusted metal, and with no loose siding or shingles; pavilions are clean, sanitary, and free of graffiti; and restrooms are clean, sanitary, and properly stocked with paper products.

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Implementation

- ▶ *PRIORITIZATION*
- ▶ *PLANNED PROJECTS*
- ▶ *FUNDING*
- ▶ *OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE*
- ▶ *FUNDING REQUIREMENTS & STRATEGIES*
- ▶ *CONCLUSION*

Proposed projects included in the PROS Plan and the 2021-2040 Capital Improvement Plan were identified and selected based on information from:

- Quantitative results from the 2020 PROS Plan Needs Assessment;
- Qualitative findings from community input;
- City Council Goal setting;
- Parks and Recreation Committee input;
- City staff input;
- Geospatial analysis;
- 2008-2022 Park Master Plan Report;
- Other relevant plans and policies.

Proposed project funding responds to an ongoing assessment of capital assets, as well as assessments of current and future service delivery needs.

Prioritization

Projects included in the plan were evaluated based on consideration of the following information sources to determine a prioritization schedule:

PLANNING DOCUMENTS AND TOOLS

The City uses a variety of planning documents and tools to determine service level needs for the development of parks, trails, and recreational facilities. These documents include, but are not limited to the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan (PROS Plan); the City of Hermiston’s Comprehensive Plan, Transportation System Plan, and Urban Growth Boundary expansion planning; and various population and demographic forecasting resources.

LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)

The PROS Plan defines level of service targets for parks and trails that meet current and future community needs. These targets help the City determine how well existing facilities are meeting current park and recreation needs, and what investments are needed in the future to reach or maintain LOS as the population grows.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The PROS Plan and CIP consider the appropriate location for specific parks based on the facility type and their overall geographic distribution throughout the City, as well as the recommended distance of certain types of parks and facilities to residents.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE PRIORITIZATION

In 2019, the Committee conducted a prioritization exercise that set a priority for different categories of projects, for example, trails, neighborhood parks, acquisition, etc.

MAINTAINING EXISTING FACILITIES

The PROS Plan Needs Assessment results place a high priority on maintaining and improving existing facilities prior to developing new facilities.

SDC FEES

The City’s System Development Charge (SDC) fees are a primary CIP funding source. These funds are collected based on a methodology adopted by City Ordinance. The methodology determines the SDC rate that is assessed on new residential development in order to sustain the park and recreation service levels as the population grows.

GRANTS

Grants provide an opportunity to seek alternative funding sources for a project. If the project matches the grant requirements and meets the needs of the City, the project may be moved up in priority to take advantage of the funding opportunity, or to match the grant funding cycle.

Each project is prioritized based on a High, Medium, and Low prioritization schedule.

- High priority projects are planned for the first 7-year planning period, through 2027;

- Medium priority projects are planned for the second 7-year planning period, through 2034;
- Low priority projects are planned for the third 6-year planning period, which begins in 2035 and extends to 2040.

Detailed cost estimates were developed for each project. Additional detail is provided in the 2021-2040 Capital Improvements Plan. The Operations and Maintenance section includes estimated costs for the operation and maintenance of additional parkland as it is added to the system.

TABLE 6.1 PLANNED PROJECTS

PROJECT	SITE	PHASE	COST	PRIORITY
RECREATION FACILITY PROJECTS				
R1.1	UNSITE D	Site selection	INC.	HIGH
R1.2	UNSITE D	Design and construction	\$35,000,000	HIGH
R2.1	AQUATIC CENTER	Facility assessment	\$40,000	HIGH
R3.1	215 W ORCHARD AVE	Building renovation	\$800,000	HIGH
R3.2	215 W ORCHARD AVE	Community/art center	INC.	MEDIUM
	TOTAL		\$35,840,000	
COMMUNITY PARK PROJECTS				
P1.1	BUTTE PARK	Funland playground	\$1,500,000	HIGH
	TOTAL		\$1,500,000	
SPECIAL USE PARK PROJECTS				
P2.1	TEEN ADVENTURE PARK	Skatepark	INC.	HIGH
P2.2	TEEN ADVENTURE PARK	BMX pump track	INC.	HIGH
P2.3	TEEN ADVENTURE PARK	Rock climbing and parkour	INC.	HIGH
P2.4	TEEN ADVENTURE PARK	Basketball court	INC.	HIGH
P2.5	TEEN ADVENTURE PARK	Restrooms	INC.	HIGH
	TOTAL		\$1,088,000	
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PROJECTS				
P3.1	HIGHLAND PARK	Large picnic shelter	INC.	LOW
P3.2	HIGHLAND PARK	Small picnic shelters	INC.	LOW
P3.3	HIGHLAND PARK	Restrooms	INC.	LOW
P3.4	HIGHLAND PARK	Pathways	\$285,000	LOW
P10.1	VICTORY SQUARE PARK	Basketball court	\$89,000	HIGH
	TOTAL		\$374,000	

TABLE 6.1 PLANNED PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

REGIONAL PARK PROJECTS				
P4.1	SPORTS COMPLEX	Natural turf soccer fields (4)	\$3,115,000	HIGH
P4.2	SPORTS COMPLEX	Parking improvements (100)	\$448,200	HIGH
P4.3	SPORTS COMPLEX	Restrooms and site furnishings	\$499,900	HIGH
P4.4	SPORTS COMPLEX	Children's playground	\$440,100	HIGH
P4.5	SPORTS COMPLEX	Pathways	\$216,900	HIGH
P4.6	SPORTS COMPLEX	Landscape improvements	\$363,700	HIGH
P4.7	SPORTS COMPLEX	Utilities	\$809,900	HIGH
P4.8	SPORTS COMPLEX	Natural turf soccer fields (4)	\$2,890,300	MEDIUM
P4.9	SPORTS COMPLEX	Parking improvements (100)	\$298,800	MEDIUM
P4.10	SPORTS COMPLEX	Bike skills course	\$62,000	MEDIUM
P4.11	SPORTS COMPLEX	Covered picnic/play area	\$517,700	MEDIUM
P4.12	SPORTS COMPLEX	Riparian restoration	\$108,500	MEDIUM
P4.13	SPORTS COMPLEX	Field lighting	\$2,170,000	LOW
	TOTAL		\$11,941,000	
COMMUNITY PARK PROJECTS				
P5.1	BUTTE PARK	Trailhead access and parking (10)	\$356,000	HIGH
P5.2	BUTTE PARK	Trail system	\$208,400	HIGH
P5.3	BUTTE PARK	Kiosk and site furnishings	\$22,500	HIGH
P5.4	BUTTE PARK	Dog park	\$62,000	HIGH
P5.5	BUTTE PARK	Expanded parking (18)	\$110,900	HIGH
P5.6	BUTTE PARK	NW 7th Street crossing	\$31,000	HIGH
P5.7	BUTTE PARK	Field improvements	\$191,400	HIGH
P5.8	BUTTE PARK	Amphitheater	\$116,300	MEDIUM
P5.9	BUTTE PARK	Renovate and relocate restrooms	\$62,000	MEDIUM
P5.10	BUTTE PARK	Expanded parking (75)	\$277,200	MEDIUM
P6.1	RIVERFRONT PARK	Parking improvements (30)	\$197,700	HIGH
P6.2	RIVERFRONT PARK	Children's playground	\$278,900	HIGH
P6.3	RIVERFRONT PARK	Riverfront trail extension	\$232,500	HIGH
P6.4	RIVERFRONT PARK	Picnic shelter	\$33,900	HIGH
P6.5	RIVERFRONT PARK	Restrooms	\$37,200	HIGH
P6.6	RIVERFRONT PARK	Site furnishings and signage	\$115,900	HIGH
P6.7	RIVERFRONT PARK	Landscape improvements	\$180,600	HIGH
	TOTAL		\$2,514,400	
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PROJECTS				
P8.1	GETTMAN PARK	Children's playground	\$183,400	LOW
P8.2	GETTMAN PARK	Multisport court	\$57,400	LOW
P8.3	GETTMAN PARK	Restrooms	\$232,500	LOW
P8.4	GETTMAN PARK	Picnic shelters (2)	\$37,200	LOW
P8.5	GETTMAN PARK	Natural turf field	\$290,200	LOW

TABLE 6.1 PLANNED PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

P8.6	GETTMAN PARK	Pathways	\$181,500	LOW
P8.7	GETTMAN PARK	Parking improvements (16)	\$34,200	LOW
P8.8	GETTMAN PARK	Site furnishings and signage	\$12,200	LOW
P8.9	GETTMAN PARK	Landscape improvements	\$101,000	LOW
	TOTAL		\$1,129,600	
LINEAR PARK PROJECTS				
P7.1	STEELHEAD PARK	Parking improvements (20)	\$99,700	MEDIUM
P7.2	STEELHEAD PARK	Riverfront trail extension	\$59,600	MEDIUM
P7.3	STEELHEAD PARK	Non-motorized boat launch	\$317,800	MEDIUM
P7.4	STEELHEAD PARK	Picnic shelters (2)	\$37,200	MEDIUM
P7.5	STEELHEAD PARK	Site furnishings and signage	\$52,100	MEDIUM
P7.6	STEELHEAD PARK	Landscape improvements	\$103,500	MEDIUM
P7.7	STEELHEAD PARK	Riparian restoration	\$69,800	MEDIUM
P9.1	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Natural turf lacrosse fields	\$1,220,000	LOW
P9.2	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Children's playground	\$243,700	LOW
P9.3	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Parking improvements (200)	\$556,500	LOW
P9.4	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Site furnishings and signage	\$47,600	LOW
P9.5	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Restrooms	\$232,500	LOW
P9.6	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Hermiston ditch trail	\$87,400	LOW
P9.7	FIELD OF DREAMS PARK	Pedestrian bridge	\$55,800	LOW
P11.1	DORRAN PARK	Trailhead and parking (10)	\$68,000	MEDIUM
P11.2	DORRAN PARK	Site furnishings and signage	\$22,500	MEDIUM
P11.3	DORRAN PARK	Landscape improvements	\$45,300	MEDIUM
	TOTAL		\$3,319,000	
NATURAL AREA PARK PROJECTS				
O1.1	BAKER'S POND PARK	Trailhead and parking (25)	\$129,400	MEDIUM
O1.2	BAKER'S POND PARK	Site furnishings and signage	\$111,100	MEDIUM
O1.3	BAKER'S POND PARK	Restrooms	\$232,500	MEDIUM
O1.4	BAKER'S POND PARK	Landscape improvements	\$56,100	MEDIUM
O1.5	BAKER'S POND PARK	Trail system	\$270,300	MEDIUM
O1.6	BAKER'S POND PARK	Boardwalk	\$262,200	MEDIUM
O1.7	BAKER'S POND PARK	Wetland restoration	\$93,000	MEDIUM
	TOTAL		\$1,154,600	
PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS				
A1.1	FUTURE NE PARK	Land acquisition	\$500,000	HIGH
A1.2	FUTURE NE PARK	Design and construction (Phase 1)	\$750,000	MEDIUM
A1.3	FUTURE NE PARK	Design and construction (Phase 2)	\$500,000	LOW
A2.1	FUTURE E PARK	Land acquisition	\$500,000	HIGH
A2.2	FUTURE E PARK	Design and construction (Phase 1)	\$750,000	MEDIUM
A2.3	FUTURE E PARK	Design and construction (Phase 2)	\$500,000	LOW

TABLE 6.1 PLANNED PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

A3.1	FUTURE SW PARK	Land acquisition	\$500,000	HIGH
A3.2	FUTURE SW PARK	Design and construction (Phase 1)	\$750,000	MEDIUM
A3.3	FUTURE SW PARK	Design and construction (Phase 2)	\$500,000	LOW
A4.1	FUTURE CIMARRON PARK	Design and construction (Phase 1)	\$750,000	MEDIUM
A4.2	FUTURE CIMARRON PARK	Design and construction (Phase 2)	\$500,000	LOW
A5.1	FUTURE MONTE VISTA PARK	Design and construction	\$300,000	HIGH
	TOTAL		\$6,800,000	
TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS				
T1.1	BELT TRAIL	Design and construction	\$739,200	MEDIUM
T2.1	LOOP TRAIL	Design and construction (Phase 1)	\$430,000	LOW
T2.2	LOOP TRAIL	Design and construction (Phase 2)	\$70,000	LOW
T3.1	MAXWELL CANAL TRAIL	Design and construction	\$1,201,200	MEDIUM
T4.1	BAKER'S POND TRAIL	Design and construction	\$1,386,000	LOW
	TOTAL		\$3,826,400	

Planned Projects

Planned projects listed in Table 6.1 include project and site information, which corresponds to the recommendations listed in Chapter 5, project phasing, estimated cost, and priority level based on the prioritization schedule.

Funding

Capital improvement project costs are estimated based on considerations including timing and design, construction, and land acquisition. Improvement costs vary widely based on local conditions, economic factors, environmental constraints, and application of specific funding sources. The following land acquisition and development parameters are used for estimating costs and are based on current market conditions in the City, past projects, and other local information.

- Land acquisition costs are based on a conservative estimate of \$100,000 per acre for undeveloped land within the UGB and \$20,000 per acre for undeveloped land outside the UGB;
- Development costs for new parkland are estimated at \$250,000 per acre for neighborhood parks, \$150,000 per acre for special use parks, and \$50,000 per acre for open space areas;
- Development costs for trails are estimated at \$175 per linear foot of 10-foot wide paved trail, \$500,000 for site development of each trailhead, and \$150,000 for each bridge structure.

- Operational and maintenance costs account for the additional future costs of operating and maintaining each capital project upon its completion.

There are four primary funding sources the City uses for capital improvements:

GENERAL FUND

Property tax revenues from the City's General Fund are the major funding source for the Park and Recreation departments annual operating costs for reserves for future operations. CIP projects not eligible for other funding sources can be funded from this source.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

This type of bond is a tax assessment on real and personal property. The City can levy a general obligation bond with majority voter approval during a general election held on an even year. The fund can supplement SDC revenues and is more widely distributed than the assessment of SDC's. The PROS plan recommends that the City consider the feasibility of a bond measure with a defined development plan as outlined in this plan. The City does not have any current bond obligations.

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

This CIP and the PROS Plan provide the foundation for review and update of the SDC rate methodology in order to raise funds for park improvements, system-wide improvement, land acquisition, and development associated with implementing the goals and recommendations in the PROS Plan. The SDC program charges a fee for residential development within the City limits. SDC funds are used to maintain the current level of park and recreation service and to expand and develop the PROS system to meet future recreational needs and demands as the population increases.



Pursuant to state law, SDC revenues can only be used for acquisition and improvements that add capacity to the PROS system (i.e., capital improvement projects that have been identified in the PROS Plan). SDC revenues cannot be used for rehabilitation or replacement of existing facilities.

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING

- Grants are funds from federal or state governmental agencies or non-profit organizations that support a portion of the capital costs.
- Donations include monies or real property from individuals and/or non-profit organizations.
- Partnerships include financial agreements with non-profit organizations and/or user groups to share in the cost of building facilities.
- Other includes proceeds from the sale of surplus properties and user fees and charges for facilities.

Operations & Maintenance

As the recommendations and implementation measures are realized, the PROS system will increase in size, number of facilities, and diversity. The Parks and Recreation Department will need to obtain additional funds as the park system expands to cover operations and maintenance costs associated with the parks system. Significantly fewer revenue sources are available for funding operations than for capital projects. Following are a variety of options available for funding operations and maintenance as the system expands.

LOCAL OPTION LEVY (OR SERIAL LEVY) FOR PARK OPERATIONS

This type of levy is established for a given rate or amount for a specific period of time, generally from one to five years. However, voter approval is required and is historically less likely to be approved when the levy is earmarked for operations.



GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Grants are typically harder to secure for operations than for capital projects. However, mechanisms such as endowment funds can be set up for park operations or the operation of a specific park facility.

OPERATING EFFICIENCY

Improve operating efficiency by examining possible ways to reduce costs, such as additional outsourcing, additional cost-sharing with other public agencies, avoiding duplication of services, and improving efficiency in specific maintenance tasks.

VOLUNTEERS

Utilize volunteers to offset some maintenance costs, while acknowledging that it takes staff time to coordinate volunteer programs.

TABLE 6.2 PLANNED PROJECTS & PRIORITIZATION SCHEDULE

FACILITY ID	PROJECT TITLE	HIGH FY 2021-2027	MEDIUM FY 2028-2034	LOW FY 2035-2040
R1	Health, Wellness, and Aquatic Center	\$35,000,000	\$-	\$-
R2	Hermiston Family Aquatic Center	\$40,000	\$-	\$-
R3	Arc Building Renovation	\$800,000	\$-	\$-
P1	Funland Playground	\$1,500,000	\$-	\$-
P2	Teen Adventure Park	\$1,088,000	\$-	\$-
P3	Highland Park	\$-	\$-	\$285,000
P4	Regional Sports Complex	\$5,083,800	\$3,877,300	\$2,170,000
P5	Butte Park	\$982,200	\$455,500	\$-
P6	Riverfront Park	\$1,076,800	\$-	\$-
P7	Steelhead Park	\$-	\$739,500	\$-
P8	Gettman Park	\$-	\$-	\$1,129,700
P9	Field of Dreams Park	\$-	\$-	\$2,443,600
P10	Victory Square Park	\$89,000	\$-	\$-
P11	Dorran Park	\$-	\$135,800	\$-
O1	Baker's Pond Natural Area	\$-	\$1,154,600	\$-
A1	Future NE Neighborhood Park	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$500,000
A2	Future E Neighborhood Park	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$500,000
A3	Future SW Neighborhood Park	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$500,000
A4	Future Cimarron Park	\$-	\$750,000	\$500,000
A5	Future Monte Vista Park	\$300,000	\$-	\$-
T1	Belt Trail	\$-	\$739,200	\$-
T2	Hermiston Loop Trail	\$-	\$-	\$500,000
T3	Maxwell Canal Trail	\$-	\$1,201,200	\$-
T4	Baker's Pond Trail	\$-	\$-	\$1,386,000
TOTAL		\$47,459,800	\$11,303,100	\$9,914,300

PROGRAM REVENUE

Increase recreation program revenue in order to fund operations by increasing fees and charges, and expanding program options.

PARK SERVICES REVENUE

Increase park services revenue by expanding rental facilities, charging for maintenance services that benefit specific groups rather than the whole community, and charging for other services at highly used parks. Many of the planned parks have shelters and other amenities that have rental capabilities.

Funding Requirements & Strategies

The PROS system will increase in acreage over the planning period. In order to maintain the current level of service and number of facilities per resident benchmarks discussed in Section 3, the City will need to acquire and develop approximately four new park facilities and 23 acres of parkland by 2040.

Table 6.2 presents a summary of the proposed projects categorized by site and priority level. Total costs for planned projects are estimated to be approximately \$68,677,200. The plan includes:

- \$47,459,800 in funding for High Priority projects (2021-2027)
- \$11,303,100 in funding for Medium Priority projects (2028-2034)
- \$9,914,300 in funding for Low Priority project (2035-2040).

Parks system improvement actions have been historically funded from General Fund and Special Fund expenditures. These funds consist of revenue from SDCs, recreation programs, and parks services. The following are details on anticipated funding sources for parks system improvement actions as well as associated recommendations for leveraging the sources.

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

The 2021-2040 Capital Improvements Plan provides a foundation for a review and increase of the SDC rate to fund park improvements, system-wide improvements, and land acquisition and development associated with implementing the goals and objectives of this Plan. The current SDC rates are not sufficient to allow the City to expand and develop its parks system while meeting its park goals and actions. Additionally, the SDC methodology does not take into account inflation, nor does it take into account acquisition or development costs. The City should update the SDC rate methodology based on the eligible projects identified in PROS Plan. As part of the update, the City should evaluate the effect of an SDC rate increase on the General Fund budget and housing development in Hermiston, particularly affordable housing.

GRANTS

The City should pursue grants, both state and federal, for parks and trail-related capital improvements. The City is actively pursuing a grant for the Teen Adventure Park. Other planned projects are good candidates for future grant funding opportunities including Land and Water Conservation Grants, Federal Transportation Grants, State of Oregon Local Government Grants, Urban Forestry Grants, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Grants. State, regional, and federal grants can provide funding for a variety of park, open space,

and trail projects. The City should balance the potential application's competitiveness with required outlays of staff time when applying for grant funds.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (LID)

Under Oregon Law, communities can create LIDs to partially subsidize capital projects. The creation of a LID is most appropriate for an area that directly benefits from a new development such as a neighborhood park. The City should consider LIDs for specific projects or in combination with other public agency projects.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

This type of bond is a tax assessment on real and personal property. The City can levy this type of bond with majority voter approval during a general election held on an even year. This fund can supplement SDC revenues and is more widely distributed. The City should evaluate the feasibility of a bond measure with a defined development plan as outlined in the PROS Plan.

PARTNERSHIPS

The City should work to develop partnerships with local recreation service providers, specifically the School District, to improve operational efficiencies and leveraging of funds. Land trusts also provide an opportunity for collaborative efforts to contribute to the open space and natural areas of the parks system.

RELATIONSHIPS

The City should cultivate relationships with landowners, developers, and employers who may be interested in donating land or services to the City or allowing purchase at a reduced cost. Private landowners have contributed to the parks system in the past and may continue to do so in the future.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The City should explore measures to reduce acquisition, development, and operational costs: The City should explore ways to reduce operational costs, potentially through cost-efficient design and facilities; to reduce development costs through the use of volunteers and donations; and to reduce land acquisition costs by exploring alternative means of acquiring land.

Conclusion

The 2020 Hermiston PROS Plan is an aspirational document based on a community vision for maintaining and improving the quality of life for Hermiston residents through parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. The PROS Plan is a synthesis of guiding vision, actions, recommendations, and specific projects designed to be implemented over a 20+ year planning period.

The City recognizes that parks and recreation facilities and programs are integral to the physical and mental health of Hermiston residents and the PROS system is the heart of a healthy community. The planning framework ensures that the future PROS system will provide accessible and welcoming facilities and programs that support the needs of an increasingly diverse and expanding community.