



Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan

City of Molalla

ADOPTED
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Ivor Davies Park

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	6
Introduction	18
Understanding the Existing Park System	24
Identifying Park System Needs.....	32
Envisioning the Future of the Park System	34
Implementation.....	50

Maps and Tables

Table E.1 Park System Developed Facilities	8
Table E.2 Park System Undeveloped Facilities	8
Table E.3 Planned Projects & Prioritization Schedule	12
Map E.1 Proposed Park System	16
Table 2.1 Park System Developed Facilities	25
Table 2.2 Park System Undeveloped Facilities	25
Map 2.1 Existing Park System	26
Table 2.3 Residents per Park	28
Table 2.4 Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents	29
Map 2.2 Existing Level of Service	30
Table 4.1 Systemwide Recommendations.....	38
Table 4.2 Mini-Park Recommendations.....	40
Table 4.3 Neighborhood Park Recommendations	41
Table 4.4 Community Park Recommendations	42
Table 4.5 Special Use Park Recommendations	42
Table 4.6 Natural Area Park Recommendations	43
Table 4.7 Undeveloped Park Recommendations.....	43
Table 4.8 Park Acquisition and Development Recommendations	44
Table 4.9 Trail Development Recommendations.....	45
Map 4.1 Proposed System Map	48
Table 5.1 Planned Projects	51
Table 5.2 Project Prioritization.....	56



ES Executive Summary

Introduction

The Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan is a guiding vision for parks, recreation, and trails in Molalla developed to inform both short and long-term planning. The plan documents the research, analysis, and public involvement process used to understand the existing park system and envision its future. This process resulted in a series of goals, actions, recommendations, and planned projects to guide the parks, recreation, and trails system for the next 20 years. The plan was developed in collaboration with staff from the City of Molalla, a project advisory committee, and community residents.

The plan guides the future development and management of parks and recreation system over the next 20 years. The plan includes:

- Inventory of conditions of existing parks, recreation, and trail facilities (Chapter 2)
- Assessment of community needs developed from the analysis of demographic data, recreation trends, population projections, and community input (Chapter 3)
- Long-range planning framework, including vision, goals, and recommendations (Chapter 4)
- Implementation tools including a list of planned projects, project cost estimates, and prioritization of planned projects (Chapter 5)

The executive summary includes highlights from the inventory, needs assessment, vision and goals, recommendations, and implementation components of the plan.

Existing Park System

Comprehensive parks, recreation, and trail system planning requires identifying and assessing existing facilities and amenities. This inventory process highlights system-wide strengths, needs, opportunities, and constraints and reveals under-served areas within the planning area, defined as Molalla's existing urban growth boundary (UGB). The inventory process includes considering park classifications, which helps ensure a balanced parks system that meets current and future community needs, as well as understanding activities occurring in each park and the condition of facilities and amenities.

The City currently owns and maintains 10 developed park facilities, which comprise 73.76 acres of parkland, and four undeveloped parkland areas, which comprise 13.46 acres (Table E.1 and E.2). The City also manages 1.43 linear miles of trails.

Molalla School District operates three schools and two independent recreational facilities that total approximately 84 acres. School district facilities provide active recreation opportunities to students when school is in session and may provide recreation opportunities to residents and visitors through shared use or facility rental agreements.

Molalla Aquatic District provides and manages an eight-lane, 25-yard indoor pool with programming as well as event space available for rent. The pool is located within the boundaries of the school district

Private organizations operate four recreation facilities comprising approximately 28 acres.

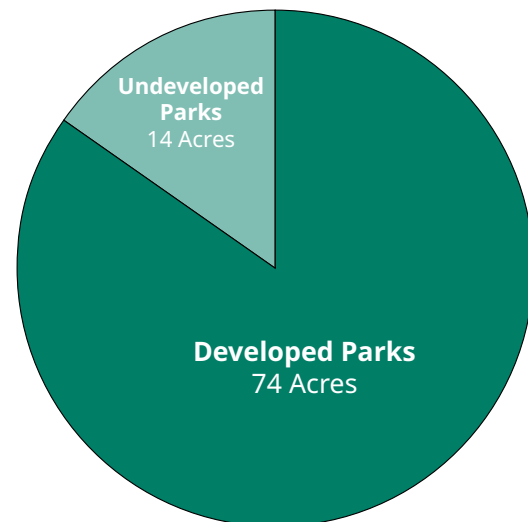
Nearby recreation facilities outside of the planning area include Feyrer Park managed by Clackamas County, and Molalla River Recreation Area managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

**Table E.1 Park System
Developed Facilities**

DEVELOPED FACILITIES	
PARKS	ACRES
Mini Parks	
Odd Fellows Park	0.14
Rotary Park	0.44
Neighborhood Park	
Fox Park	1.96
Long Park	1.09
Strawberry Park	0.25
Community Park	
Clark Park	9.67
Special Use Park	
Molalla Skate Park	0.34
Sheets Field & Molalla BMX Track	3.39
Bohlander Field	14.01
Natural Area Parks	
Ivor Davies Park	42.46
TOTAL DEVELOPED PARK ACRES	73.76
TRAILS	MILES
Ivor Davies Walking Path	0.96
Bear Creek Byway	0.08
S Molalla Forest Road Trail	0.39
TOTAL TRAIL MILES	1.43

**Table E.2 Park System
Undeveloped Facilities**

UNDEVELOPED FACILITIES	
PARKS	ACRES
Bear Creek Annex	0.91
Clark Park Annex	3.33
Chief Yelkus Park	6.85
Pioneer Cemetery	2.37
TOTAL UNDEVELOPED PARK ACRES	13.46



Strawberry Park

Park System Needs

The needs assessment synthesizes an analysis of recreation demand at the local, national, and state levels; a level of service analysis; and input gathered through community engagement methods, which included interviews, a focus group, events, and an online survey. Together, this data provides a view of community needs and the facilities, programs, and services that should be prioritized in the plan.

Enhance Existing Parks

Enhance existing parks through improved or new park facilities. Playgrounds and nature-based play are high priorities for the community. Water access is also desired to allow for more opportunities to fish and view wildlife. New and updated sports facilities were also identified as a priority to address the demand for facilities for soccer, softball, baseball, volleyball, and skateboarding.

Prioritize Access

Prioritize and increase access to park facilities for current and future residents of Molalla. To increase physical access, add new paved paths and unpaved trails to connect residents to park facilities, and follow accessibility best practices when updating and developing new facilities. To increase access for residents of all ages provide multi-generation facilities like picnic areas, outdoor exercise equipment, and sports facilities. To increase access for Spanish-speaking residents provide bilingual signs and communications across the park system.

Increase Maintenance

Increase the maintenance of park facilities. Keep restrooms clean and open. Fix and replace broken and outdated facilities, and increase maintenance staffing and funding.

Develop Park Facilities in Western Molalla

Add parks facilities to western Molalla. Western Molalla was identified as currently lacking in park facilities when compared to the rest of the city. Future parkland acquisition and park development is needed for this portion of the city.

Expand Parks System Resources

Expand park system development and funding resources. Require new development of sufficient size to dedicate parkland and fund development. Update park system development charge rate methodology periodically as the city's population grows.



Engagement at Molalla Farmers Market

Envisioning the Future of the Park System

Vision Statement

The City of Molalla provides a range of park and recreation facilities that welcome and serve residents and visitors. Park experiences are accessible to all ages and abilities, highlight local history and natural features, build relationships, promote health, and contribute to Molalla's flourishing community.

Goals

1. Improve existing and develop new facilities
2. Increase service and connectivity to improve access and inclusion
3. Leverage parks to promote a vibrant and resilient community
4. Conserve natural resources and increase environmental stewardship
5. Expand available resources for improvements

Implementation Tools

Planned Projects

Proposed projects included were identified and selected based on the needs assessment, which synthesized findings from:

- Inventory of existing facilities
- Demographic and recreation trends
- Community input
- City staff input
- Geospatial analysis
- The 2014 Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan
- Other relevant plans and policies

Prioritization

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

- Planning documents and tools
- Geographic distribution
- Project Advisory Committee and City staff feedback
- Maintaining existing facilities

Each project is prioritized based on a high, medium, and low prioritization schedule.

- High-priority projects are planned for the first five-year planning period, through 2030;
- Medium-priority projects are planned for the second five-year planning period, through 2035;
- Low-priority projects are planned for the third planning period, through 2045.

Project Costs

Detailed cost estimates were developed for each project. Additional detail is provided in the 2025-2045 Capital Improvement Plan included in the appendices. The operations and maintenance section includes estimated costs for the operation and maintenance of additional parkland as it is added to the system.

The parks, recreation, and trails system will increase in acreage over the planning period. To maintain the current level of service and number of facilities per resident benchmarks the City will need to acquire and develop approximately 44 acres of parkland by 2045. Table E.3 presents a summary of the proposed projects categorized by site and priority level. Total costs for planned projects are estimated to be approximately \$14,683,600. The plan includes:

- \$4,584,300 in funding for high priority projects (2025-2030)
- \$7,642,800 in funding for medium priority projects (2030-2035)
- \$2,456,500 in funding for low priority projects (2035-2045)

Funding

Park system improvement actions have been historically funded by the General Fund, which relies on property tax revenue, and the Parks SDC Fund. The plan discusses anticipated funding sources as well as recommendations for leveraging resources, including:

- System development charge updates
- Land dedication
- Grants
- General obligation bonds
- Local option levy (or serial levy)
- User fees
- Partnerships and relationships

Conclusion

The City recognizes that park facilities are essential to Molalla residents' physical and mental health. Recreational tourism and social connections that grow from recreating and gathering in parks are also key for supporting the local economy and promoting a sense of community.

The 2024 Molalla Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan is a guiding document to achieve the community's future park system vision. The plan's goals, recommendations, projects, and priorities aim to improve quality of life for Molalla's existing residents and its growing and diversifying population.



Public art at Long Park

Table E.3 Planned Projects & Prioritization Schedule

ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
P1	Odd Fellows Park			
Phase 1	Install paved path through the site.	\$122,600	-	-
Phase 2	Install additional site furnishings, including picnic tables, benches, trash/recycling collection, and bike racks.	-	\$32,300	-
Phase 3	Install irrigation and landscape improvements.	-	-	\$36,200
P2	Rotary Park			
Phase 1	Install water fountain/spigot.	-	-	\$29,500
P3	Long Park			
Phase 1	Replace stage cover and add accessible ramp and electrical outlet. Install additional site furnishings, include benches and trash/recycling bins.	\$541,000	-	-
Phase 2	Replace existing playground.	-	\$298,900	-
Phase 3	Remove dying trees and replace with additional trees, shade structures, and/or park features.	-	-	\$17,600
P4	Strawberry Park			
Phase 1	Install a shade structure.	\$24,700	-	-
Phase 2	Install water fountain and bike racks.	-	\$26,900.00	-
P5	Clark Park			
Phase 1	Upgrade declining facilities, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and field facilities.	\$1,252,700	-	-
Phase 2	Pave the north parking lot, add lighting, include ADA accessible spots and install bike racks.	-	\$418,800	-
Phase 3	Install additional benches and picnic tables.	-	-	\$29,200

Table E.3 Planned Projects & Prioritization Schedule

ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
P6	Fox Park			
Phase 1	Pursue extended lease or purchase or purchase of park land. Replace toddler play structure.	\$151,400	-	-
Phase 2	Replace bathroom and increase ADA accessibility in the park by paving paths between the parking lot, bathroom, picnic shelter and playgrounds.	-	\$507,900	-
Phase 3	Install additional site furnishings, including benches, picnic tables, trash/recycling collection, and bike racks.	-	-	\$31,500
P7	BMX Track and Sheets Field			
Phase 1	Increase parking and create a path connection to Chief Yelkus Park.	\$82,200	-	-
Phase 2	Improve field drainage by replacing grass and subgrade profile, adding a sub-grade drainage system. Install bike racks.	-	\$284,400	-
Phase 3	Conduct public outreach to identify needs for bike park improvements.	-	-	\$25,000
P8	Bohlander Field			
Phase 1	Conduct concept plan process, including community engagement and planning-level cost estimate, to identify future park amenities and/or programming.	-	\$40,000	-
P9	Ivor Davies Park			
Phase 1	Repair paths and install wayfinding and educational signage and waste bins. Install parking lot and lighting.	\$357,700	-	-
Phase 2	Add benches and lighting along path and install picnic tables.	-	\$785,200	-
Phase 3	Add loop path around Shorty's Pond. Conduct feasibility study to rehabilitate pond for all-season use.	-	-	\$140,300

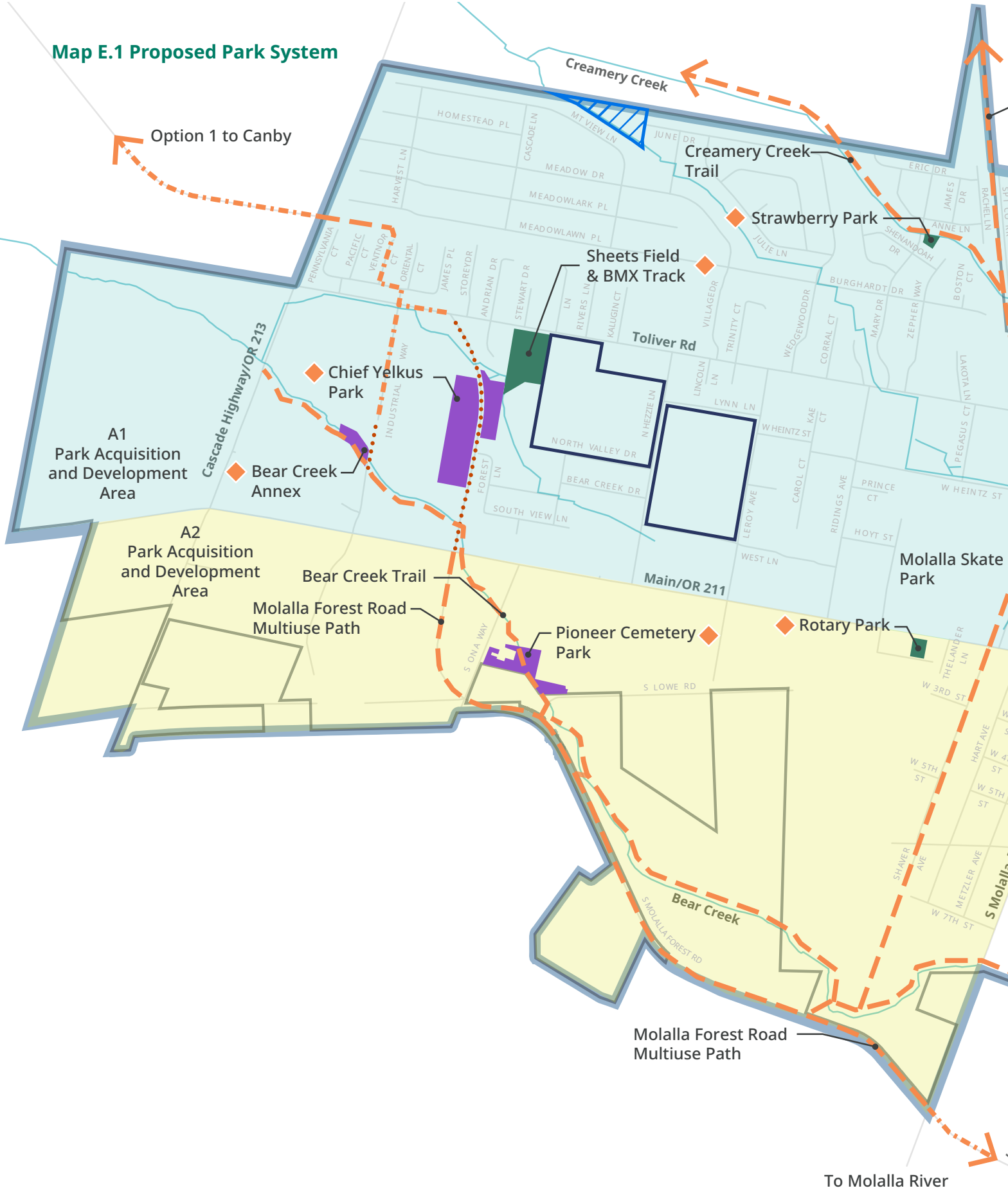
Table E.3 Planned Projects & Prioritization Schedule

ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
P10	Pioneer Cemetery			
Phase 1	Install educational/wayfinding signage and a dog waste bag dispenser.	\$55,700	-	-
Phase 2	Restore and improve creek habitats, allowing for water access.	-	\$46,800	-
Phase 3	Upgrade parking lot, adding ADA parking spots, and install a walking path system.	-	-	\$96,000
P11	Chief Yelkus Park			
Phase 2	Construct boardwalk and concrete paths. Install site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, signage). Construct wetland enhancements. Construct path continuation to connect P8.3 to P11.1 path work.	\$982,300	-	-
Phase 3	Develop remainder of east portion of site.	-	-	\$1,193,400
P12	Bear Creek			
Phase 1	Design and install water access and wildlife viewing areas.	-	\$48,400	-
A1	Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition (west)			
Phase 1	Acquire land for a 1-to-5-acre park.	\$500,000	-	-
Phase 2	Conduct concept plan process, including community engagement and planning-level cost estimate.	\$75,000		
A2	Future Community Park Acquisition (west)			
Phase 1	Acquire land for a 10-to-15-acre park.	-	\$1,500,000	-
Phase 2	Conduct concept plan process, including community engagement and planning-level cost estimate.	-	\$150,000	-
T1	Bear Creek Trail			
Phase 1	Construct trail along Bear Creek.	\$292,600	-	-
T2	Creamery Creek Trail			
Phase 1	Construct trail along Creamery Creek.	\$76,400	-	-
T3	Molalla Forest Road Connection			
Phase 1	Construct trail along S. Molalla Forest Road.	-	\$1,372,400	-

Table E.3 Planned Projects & Prioritization Schedule

ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
T4	Molalla Rail Trail			
Phase 1	Construct multi-use path along former railroad.	-	\$2,060,800	-
T5	Molalla-to-Canby Connection			
Phase 1	Partner to construct cycling trail connection to Feyrer Park, east.	-	-	ND
S4	Signage and Site Furnishing Standards Plan			
Phase 1	Develop a systemwide guiding document for standardized parks signage and site furnishings.	\$40,000	-	-
S9	Sports Fields Feasibility Study			
Phase 1	Conduct feasibility study for developing sports field at City-owned and/or -leased property (e.g. Clark Park Annex, Molalla Aquatic District land).	\$30,000	-	-
S10	Amphitheater Feasibility Study			
Phase 1	Conduct feasibility study for developing covered amphitheater on park property.	-	\$40,000	-
S11	Skate Park Feasibility Study			
Phase 1	Conduct feasibility study for developing skate park with furnishings (signage, receptacles, benches, bike racks).	-	\$30,000	-
Phase 2	Develop skate park with furnishings (signage, receptacles, benches, bike racks).	-	-	\$857,800
TOTAL		\$4,584,300	\$7,642,800	\$2,456,500

Map E.1 Proposed Park System



Option 2 to Canby



LEGEND

- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Streets
- Streams

Existing Facilities

- City Park Facility
- Aquatic District
- School District
- Private Land
- Trail

Proposed Facilities

- Proposed Parkland
- Park Acquisition and Development Area 1
- Park Acquisition and Development Area 2
- Park Facility Development
- Trail / Path Development
- On-Street Connection



01 Introduction

VISION STATEMENT

- *The City of Molalla provides a range of park and recreation facilities that welcome and serve residents and visitors. Park experiences are accessible to all ages and abilities, highlight local history and natural features, build relationships, promote health, and contribute to Molalla’s flourishing community.*

Background

Molalla is in the eastern Willamette Valley between Portland and Salem. Since the 1990s, Molalla has experienced significant residential growth. The increase can be largely attributed to Molalla’s proximity to Oregon City, Portland, and Salem along with revitalized natural resources and commerce sectors. Molalla has become recognized for its rural lifestyle, the area’s natural environment, recreation opportunities, and tourism.

Some examples of these improvements include new playground equipment at Strawberry Park and Fox Park, three new pickleball courts at Long Park, a new disc golf course at Ivor Davies Park, and ADA paths in Clark Park.

Planning for the future, the City has also completed pre-design studies and a concept design for Chief Yelkus Park, a future 6.85-acre park on the west side of the City. The City has also begun negotiations to acquire the abandoned railroad right-of-way, running north to south through the center of the City, for use as a multi-use path.

City Achievements

Since the last Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan, the City has made significant improvements across the current parks system.



Chief Yelkus Park property

Planning Process

The Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan was developed in collaboration with City staff and local residents. The plan and its appendices document the research, public involvement process, and analysis that supported the planning process and the resulting needs and recommendations. The process follows the approach and standards set by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). The plan provides a framework to guide the park and recreation system over the next 20 years by illustrating the system's needs and providing recommendations to meet those needs.

Phase 1 Inventory and Analysis:

This phase involves an inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities owned and operated by the City, the school district, and private operators. 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 the 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 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 the 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 2025-2045 and prioritizes projects for the first five years of the plan. The CIP is based on 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 Project Advisory Committee based on a review of the draft plan, which is used to prepare the final plan for adoption by City Council.





Playground at Clark Park

Community Outreach and Engagement

Between April and August of 2024, the project team engaged with the local community and stakeholders in Molalla through a community outreach plan. Engagement was conducted via interviews, a focus group, community events, and an online survey. Detailed summaries of community outreach events are included in the appendices.

Interviews

The City of Molalla and the project advisory committee developed a list of key stakeholders who were interviewed by phone. Interviewees were asked about their relationship to and perspective on parks and recreation in Molalla. Interviewees also shared feedback and visions for the future of the parks, recreation, and trails system. Representatives from the following organizations were interviewed:

- Ant Farm
- Hacienda CDC
- Molalla Buckeroo Association
- Molalla River BMX
- Molalla River Watch
- Molalla Youth Sports

Focus Group

One focus group was held with residents of the Plaza Los Robles housing community on April 10, 2024. The focus group was conducted in Spanish and designed to gather perspectives from local demographic groups often underrepresented in public input, including Hispanic/Latino residents, English as a Second Language speakers, and low-income households. The focus group included 15 participants, most of whom were women.

Community Events

Community input was gathered between April and June 2024 at three events: the Molalla High School Career Fair, Molalla Farmers Market, and a Music in the Park event at Fox Park. Participants voted on their five favorite amenities and top budget priority and provided general comments on parks and recreation facilities. More than 280 people provided input through these events.

In August, events at the Molalla Public Library and Plaza Los Robles gathered more feedback on needs assessment findings, draft goals, and geographic priorities for acquisition and development.

Online Survey

A survey was shared via the city's engagement website, The Molalla Current, from April to June 2024. The survey received more than 430 responses and asked for feedback on the current parks, recreation, and trails system; suggestions for facility improvements; and priorities for future investment.



There should be a combined area for wayfinding where people can easily locate amenities. Among all the parks, there should be a variety of facilities available.

Answer to question "What would your ideal park system be like?" by Hacienda CDC representative

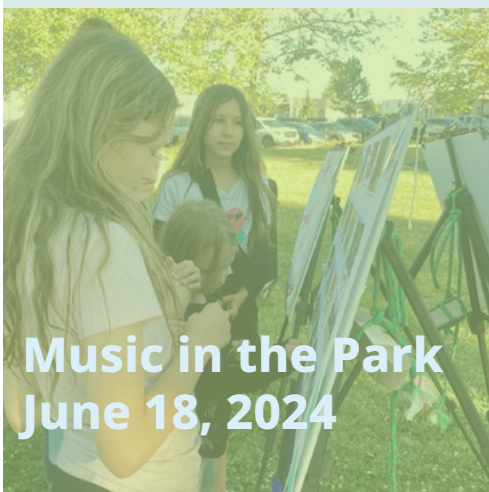


**Molalla High School
Career Fair
April 10, 2024**

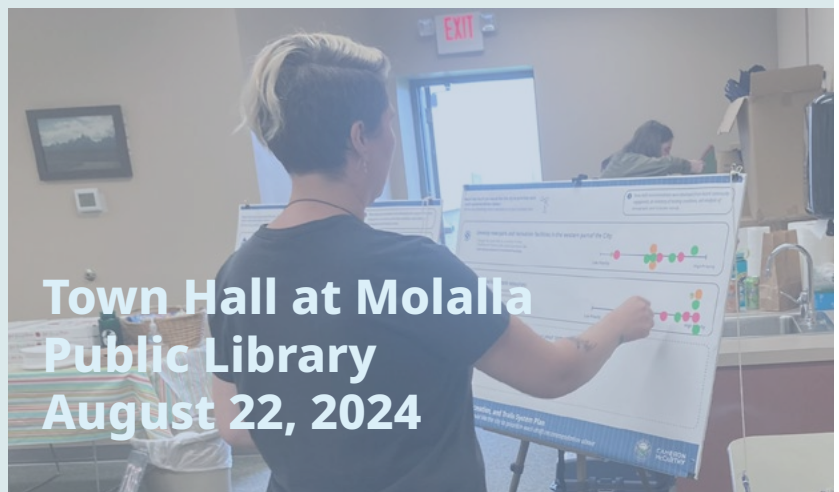


**Molalla Farmers Market
May 30, 2024**

-  **6 Interviews**
-  **1 Focus Group**
-  **1 Survey**
-  **5 Public Events**



**Music in the Park
June 18, 2024**



**Town Hall at Molalla
Public Library
August 22, 2024**



02 Understanding the Existing Park System

City Facilities

Park system planning requires the identification and assessment of existing park and recreation facilities and amenities through an inventory process. System strengths, opportunities, and needs, including under-served areas, are documented during the process.

The inventory focuses on facilities owned or operated by the City but also documents other public or private recreation facilities in the area. The full inventory is available in the appendices.

The City currently owns ten developed parks and three developed trails, totaling approximately 73.76 acres of land and approximately 1.43 miles of trails (Table 2.1). In addition, the City owns four undeveloped sites with potential for park uses (Table 2.2). These undeveloped sites total approximately 13.46 acres. The existing park and recreation system is shown on Map 2.1 Existing Park System.

An additional 89 acres of public facilities are provided by Molalla School District, Molalla Aquatic District, and Clackamas County.

Table 2.1 Park System Developed Facilities

DEVELOPED FACILITIES	
PARKS	ACRES
Mini Parks	
Odd Fellows Park	0.14
Rotary Park	0.44
Neighborhood Park	
Fox Park	1.96
Long Park	1.09
Strawberry Park	0.25

DEVELOPED FACILITIES	
Community Park	
Clark Park	9.67
Special Use Park	
Molalla Skate Park	0.34
Sheets Field & Molalla BMX Track	3.39
Bohlander Field	14.01
Natural Area Parks	
Ivor Davies Park	42.46
TOTAL PARK ACRES	73.76
TRAILS	MILES
Ivor Davies Walking Path	0.71
Bear Creek Byway	0.08
S Molalla Forest Road Trail	0.39
TOTAL TRAIL MILES	1.43

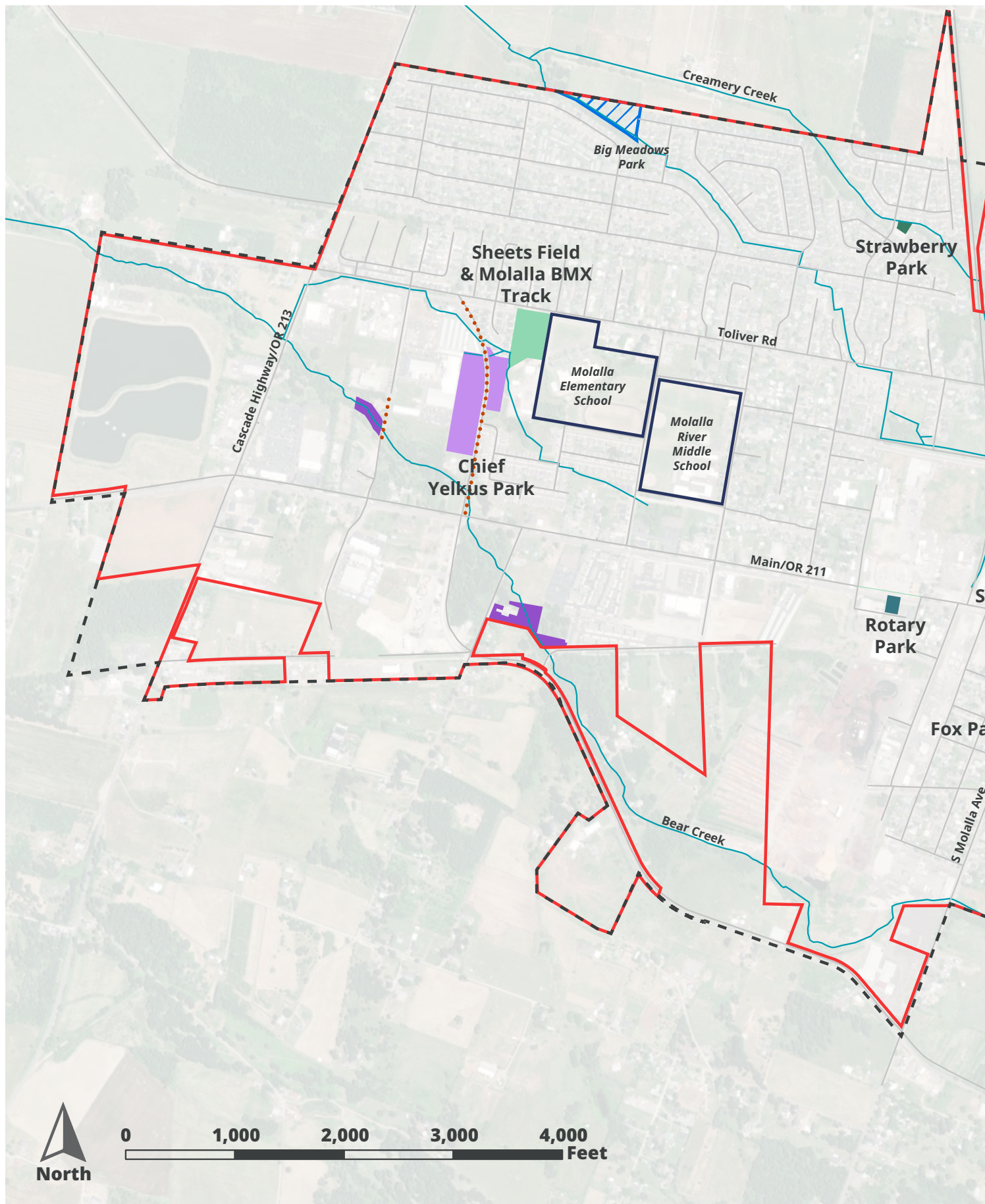
Table 2.2 Park System Undeveloped Facilities

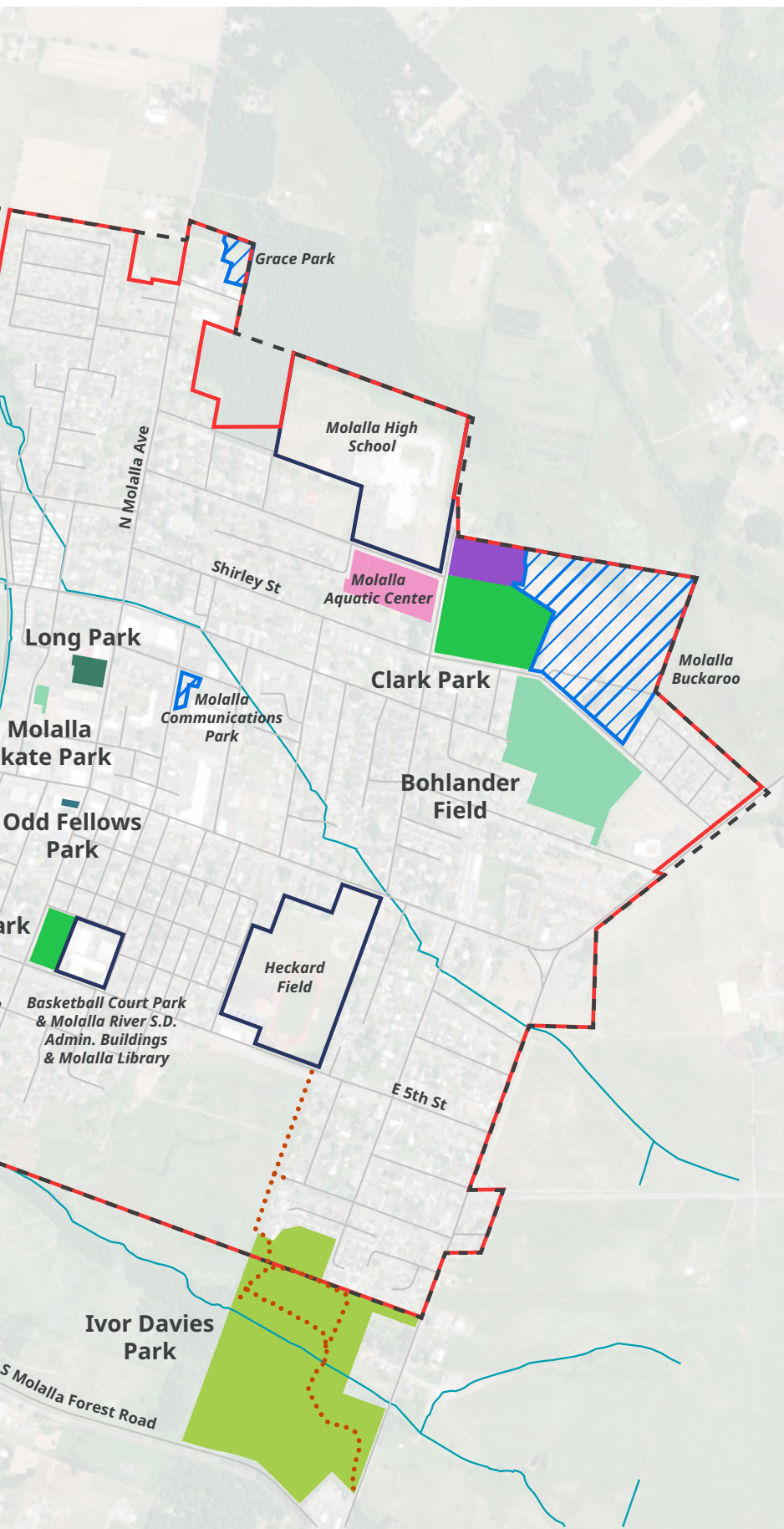
UNDEVELOPED FACILITIES	
PARKS	ACRES
Bear Creek Annex	0.91
Clark Park Annex	3.33
Chief Yelkus Park	6.85
Pioneer Cemetery	2.37
TOTAL PARK ACRES	13.46

We'd love to see more biking routes throughout and around town.





Comment from town hall event attendee

Map 2.1 Existing Park System








LEGEND / LEYENDA

-  City Limits / *Límites de la ciudad*
-  Urban Growth Boundary / *Límite de crecimiento urbano*
-  Streets / *Calles*
-  Streams / *Arroyo*

CITY PARKS / PARQUES DE LA CIUDAD

-  Mini Park / *Miniparque*
-  Neighborhood Park / *Parque del barrio*
-  Community Park / *Parque comunitario*
-  Special Use Park / *Parque de uso especial*
-  Natural Area Parks / *Parques de áreas naturales*
-  Undeveloped Parkland / *Parques no desarrollado*
-  Potential Parkland / *Parque potencial*
-  Trail / *Camino*

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES / INSTALACIONES ADICIONALES

-  Aquatic District/ *Distrito acuático*
-  School District/ *Distrito escolar*
-  Private Land / *Terreno privado*

Level of Service

Industry best practices set by NRPA are used to determine the level of service the existing park system provides. Two benchmarks are applicable measures for level of service: residents per park and acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

Residents per Park

The ratio of residents per park is calculated based on the current population estimate (10,335 people) and the number of existing developed parks (10 parks). Based on this equation, the ratio of residents per park in Molalla is 1,034 residents per park.

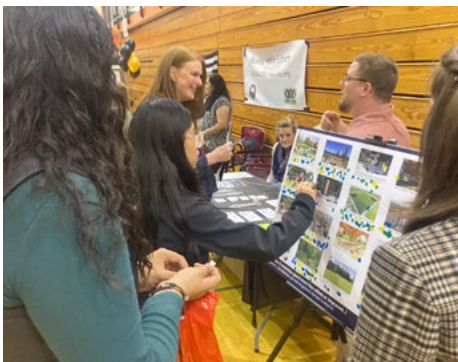
For this benchmark, a smaller ratio (close to the lower quartile) is preferred, meaning there are fewer residents per park compared to similarly sized jurisdictions.

In Table 2.3, Molalla’s ratio is compared to national ratios for jurisdictions surveyed with populations having less than 20,000 residents to provide a viable comparison.

As shown in Table 2.3, Molalla’s ratio of residents per park is lower than the median. The residents per park ratio shows that Molalla currently provides an adequate number of parks, and residents have more parks to visit than the average similarly sized jurisdiction.

Table 2.3 Residents per Park

	Number of Residents	Residents Per Park	Comparison
Molalla			
	10,335	1,034	-
NRPA Review of Similarly Sized Agencies			
Lower Quartile	-	659	+375
Median	-	1,172	-139
Upper Quartile	-	1,944	-911



Engagement at high school career fair on April 10, 2024

Sports fields! The community does not have many, only two ball fields for youth in city-owned parks...

Answer to question: Are there any features, services, or activities you want added to parks and recreation facilities in Molalla? by representative from Molalla Youth Sports

Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents

The ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is calculated based on the acreage of developed park land (73.76 acres) and the current population estimate (10,335) divided by 1,000. Based on this equation, the acres of park land per 1,000 residents in Molalla is 7.14 acres per 1,000 residents.

For this benchmark, a higher ratio (close to the upper quartile) is preferred, meaning there are more acres per resident than in the average similarly sized jurisdiction.

Table 2.4 shows Molalla’s ratio is lower than the national median for similarly sized jurisdictions and close to the lower quartile average.

This means Molalla’s level of service could be improved by adding developed park acreage. Molalla would need 56.46 more acres of developed parkland to meet the current median level of service for this metric. Detailed level of service analysis is found in the appendices.

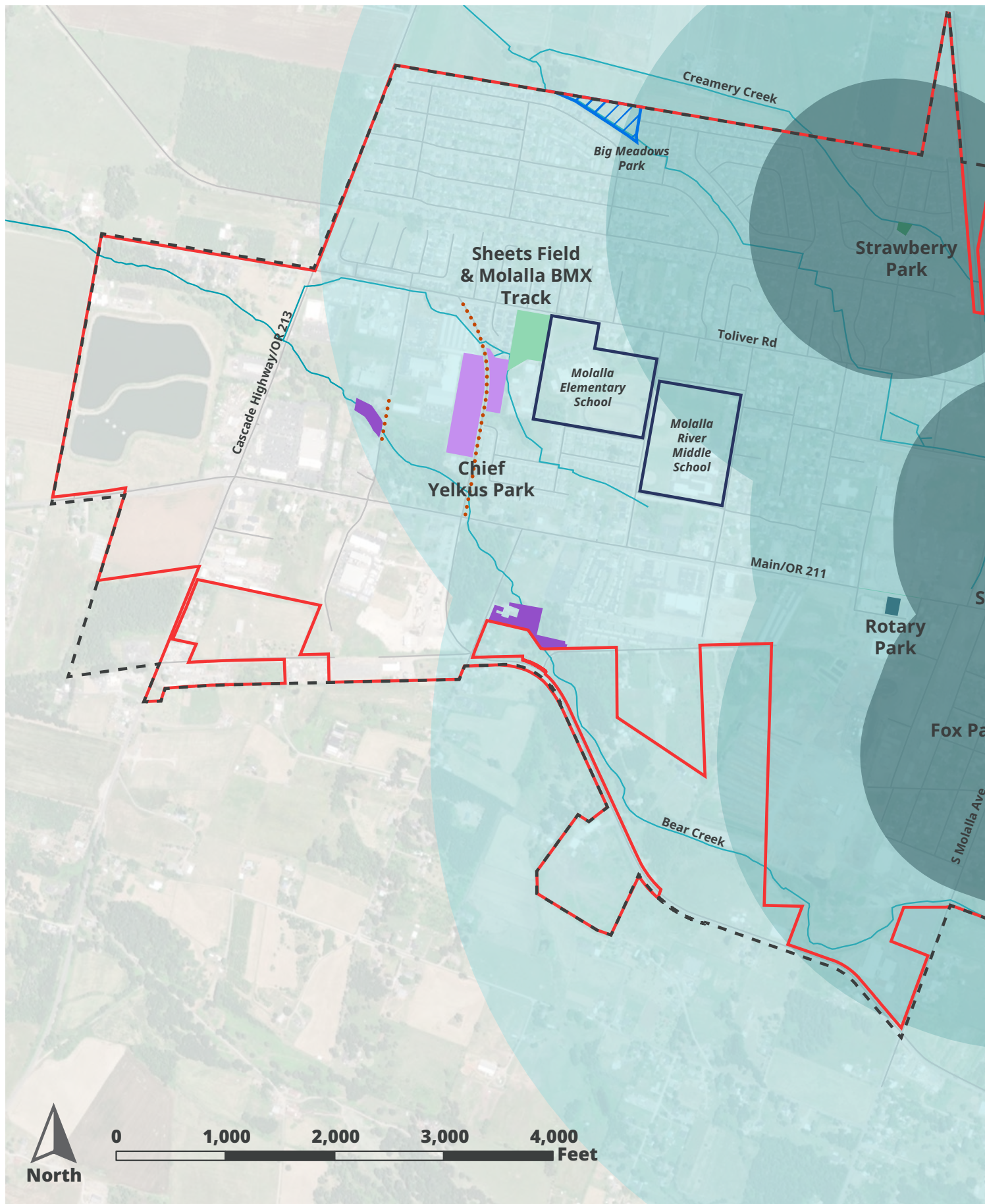
Table 2.4 Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents

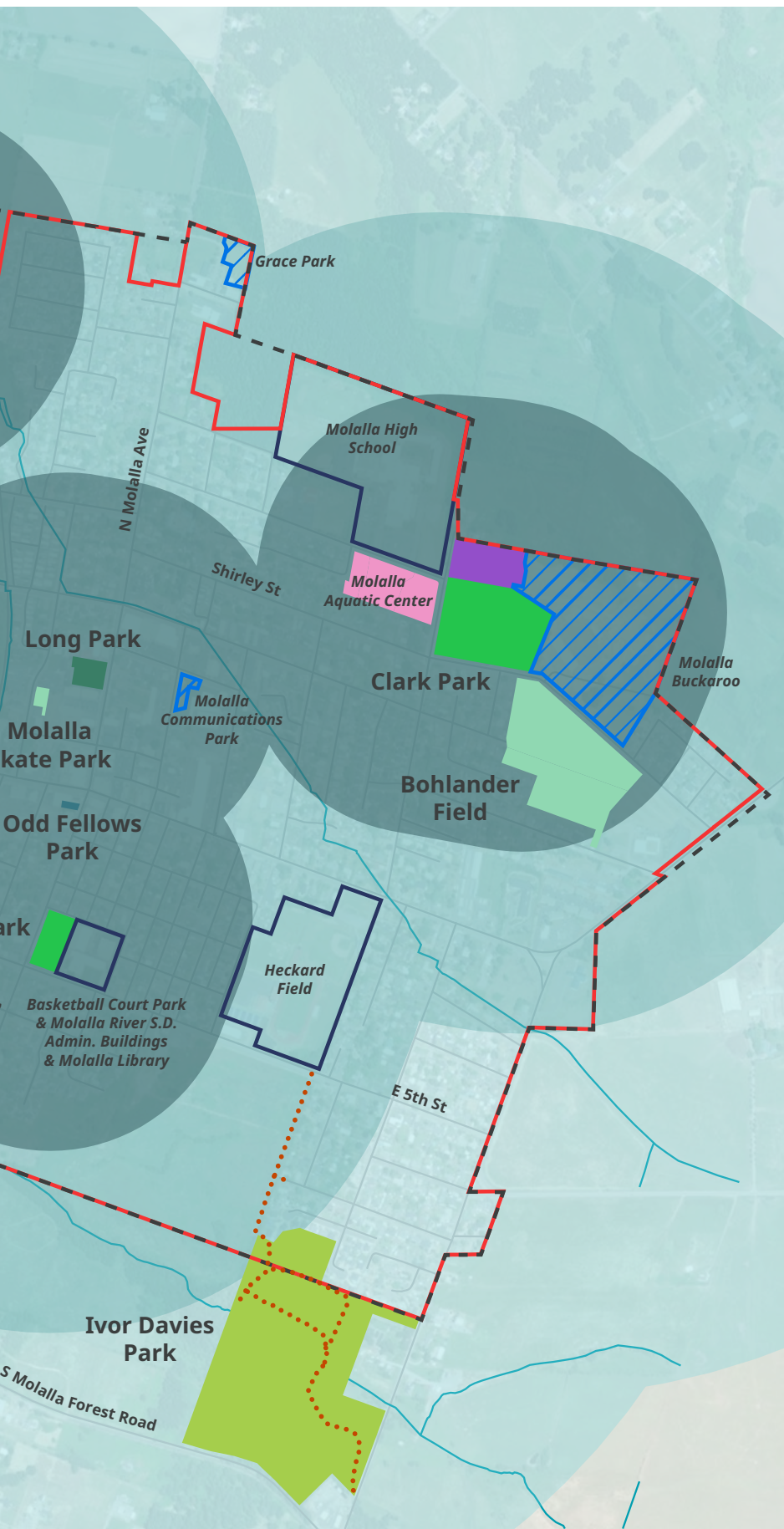
	Population	Ratio (Acres of Park Land / 1,000 Residents)	Comparison	Acres Needed to Meet Ratio
Molalla				
	10,335	7.14	-	-
NRPA Review of Similarly Sized Agencies				
Lower Quartile	-	6.0	+1.1	-11.75
Median	-	12.6	-5.5	56.46
Upper Quartile	-	20.9	-13.8	142.24



Clark Park

Map 2.2 Existing Level of Service








LEGEND / LEYENDA

-  City Limits / *Límites de la ciudad*
-  Urban Growth Boundary / *Límite de crecimiento urbano*
-  Streets / *Calles*
-  Streams / *Arroyo*
-  1/4 mile Direct Access / *1/4 de milla*
-  1/2 mile Walkable Access / *1/2 milla*
-  1 mile Neighborhood Access / *1 milla*

CITY PARKS / PARQUES DE LA CIUDAD

-  Mini Park / *Miniparque*
-  Neighborhood Park / *Parque del barrio*
-  Community Park / *Parque comunitario*
-  Special Use Park / *Parque de uso especial*
-  Natural Area Parks / *Parques de áreas naturales*
-  Undeveloped Parkland / *Parques no desarrollado*
-  Potential Parkland / *Parque potencial*
-  Trail / *Camino*

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES / INSTALACIONES ADICIONALES

-  Aquatic District / *Distrito acuático*
-  School District / *Distrito escolar*
-  Private Land / *Terreno privado*



03 Identifying Park System Needs

Top Needs and Priorities

Parks, recreation, and trails system needs are determined through a detailed evaluation of park inventory, level of service, demographics, projected population growth, public involvement findings, and recreation trends. A summary of these needs and priorities is included below. The detailed profile of Molalla’s community demographics and summaries of the public involvement methods and findings are included in the appendices.

Enhance Existing Parks

Enhance existing parks through improved or new park facilities. Playgrounds and nature based play are high priorities for the community. Water access is also desired to allow for more opportunities to fish and view wildlife. New and updated sports facilities were also identified as a priority to address the demand for facilities for soccer, softball, baseball, volleyball, and skateboarding.

Prioritize Access

Prioritize and increase access to park facilities for current and future residents of Molalla. To increase physical access, add new paved paths and unpaved trails to connect residents to park facilities, and follow accessibility best practices when updating and developing new facilities. To increase access for residents of all ages provide multi-generation facilities like picnic areas, outdoor exercise equipment, and sports facilities. To increase access for Spanish-speaking residents provide bilingual signs and communications across the park system.

Increase Maintenance

Increase the maintenance of park facilities. Keep restrooms clean and open. Fix and replace broken and outdated facilities, and increase maintenance staffing and funding.

Develop Park Facilities in Western Molalla

Add parks facilities to western Molalla. Western Molalla was identified as currently lacking in park facilities when compared to the rest of the city. Future parkland acquisition and park development is needed for this portion of the city.

Expand Parks System Resources

Expand park system development and funding resources. Require new development of sufficient size to dedicate parkland and fund development. Update park system development charge rate methodology periodically as the city’s population grows.



Ivor Davies Park



04 Envisioning the Future of the Park System

Goals and actions guide implementation efforts and policy decisions toward achieving the plan’s vision and recommendations. Goals are broad areas of achievement, and actions are specific steps needed to achieve stated goals. Recommendations are specific projects needed to achieve the plan goals and implement the vision.

Goals and Actions

1. Improve Existing and Develop New Facilities

- 1.1 Improve existing and develop more playground facilities.
- 1.2 Provide amenities that encourage outdoor activity and enhance the wellbeing of community members, including multiuse paths, trails, exercise equipment, sports facilities, benches, shade, and restrooms.
- 1.3 Provide spaces for social gatherings, including picnic areas, shelters, benches, sports facilities, and open spaces.
- 1.4 Offer water-based recreation opportunities including water play, creek access, and fishing.
- 1.5 Preserve and enhance open space and natural areas.
- 1.6 Regularly upgrade or replace facilities and equipment in poor condition.
- 1.7 Provide amenities to support park safety and cleanliness (including night lighting and receptacles for trash, recycling, and pet waste).

2. Increase Service and Connectivity to Improve Access and Inclusion

- 2.1 Develop new parks in underserved residential neighborhoods.
- 2.2 Ensure future residential areas have walkable access to public parkland.
- 2.3 Expand the network of paths and trails for walking and cycling between parks and other community destinations, including schools, government facilities, health facilities, commercial centers, and residential neighborhoods.
- 2.4 Improve accessibility of play areas, gathering spaces, and paths within parks for users of all ages and abilities.
- 2.5 Improve service for underserved groups by providing a variety of recreation options in park facilities to serve a broad range of users, supporting partner organizations in providing programming for youth and older adults (65+), and incorporating bilingual signage and communications.
- 2.6 Conduct focused engagement with underrepresented user groups prior to future park improvement projects. These groups include youth, low-income residents, people with disabilities, and Hispanic/Latino residents.

3. Leverage Parks to Promote a Vibrant and Resilient Community

- 3.1 Increase communication about park destinations and recreation opportunities for community members and visitors (including park locations, amenities, events, and available or suggested recreation activities).
- 3.2 Publicize and support park uses for public events.
- 3.3 Identify and promote opportunities for facility rentals while maintaining a low barrier of entry for small organizations and community groups.
- 3.4 Develop and install additional wayfinding signs, educational and interpretative elements, and public art that explores local culture, history, and ecology.
- 3.5 Identify underutilized parkland and promote uses that address community needs.

4. Conserve Natural Resources and Increase Environmental Stewardship

- 4.1 Incorporate water conservation and water quality treatment practices in park facility maintenance, operations, and development.
- 4.2 Promote native or climate-adaptive plant species in park and recreation facility landscaping.
- 4.3 Plan for resiliency to drought, fire, extreme heat, and other natural hazards when developing new park and recreation facilities. Use existing guidelines and programs where applicable.
- 4.4 Pursue opportunities to restore ecological functions and wildlife habitat and to maintain or increase biodiversity, where appropriate.

5. Expand Available Resources for Improvements

- 5.1 Regularly evaluate and pursue public and private funding opportunities such as state, federal, tribal, and foundation grants for park system additions and upgrades.
- 5.2 Consider development policy updates to ensure new projects contribute adequate funding for public park development and maintenance.
- 5.3 Build and strengthen relationships with potential partners who may be interested in contributing to park and recreation efforts including Clackamas County, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, state and federal agencies, nonprofits, businesses, informal community organizations, and individual residents.



Ivor Davies Park

Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the needs assessment, which distilled needs from the existing park system inventory, local relevant plans analysis, demographic and recreation trends analyses, level of service analysis, community engagement findings, and input from City staff, the Project Advisory Committee, and elected and appointed officials. Park system plan recommendations are aspirational in nature while helping to provide the means to realize projects over the next 20 years.

System

Level of Service

Currently, the park system ratio of park acreage per 1,000 residents is slightly higher than the lower quartile for similarly sized jurisdictions. To maintain this existing level of service as the population grows, the plan recommends the adoption of a level of service target of 7 park acres per 1,000 residents. With a forecasted population of 16,472 residents in 2045, the City will need to develop approximately 44 acres of parkland over the next 20 years to maintain its existing level of service.

The City has 6.85 acres of undeveloped property along South Molalla Forest Road near Sheets Field that will soon be developed as Chief Yelkus Park. After this park development, an additional 37 acres would be needed by 2045 to achieve the target of 7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and maintain the current level of service.

Table 4.1 Systemwide Recommendations

ID	Site	Description
S1	System	Adopt a level of service target of 7 acres of park land per 1,000 residents to maintain the existing level of service as the City's population grows.
S2	System	Amend the Molalla Development Code to include parkland dedication or parkland development standards for subdivisions and master planned development approvals.
S3	System	Increase parks staffing to six full-time equivalents (FTEs).
S4	System	Implement, design, and maintain consistency with features such as basic site furnishings (lighting, benches, water fountains, trash and recycling collection bins, dog waste bag dispensers, bike racks, etc.) and wayfinding and educational signage.
S5	System	Partner with local organizations and interested individuals to identify additional public art installations.

ID	Site	Description
S6	System	Stay up-to-date on and implement best practices in water, energy, wildlife habitat, and other natural resource conservation efforts in park facility operations and maintenance.
S7	System	Prioritize native plants that are drought-tolerant and climate change resistant and that enhance local biodiversity in landscaping improvements.
S8	System	Engage and collaborate with local and regional organizations, community leaders, and interested community members to seek funding, enhance communication and marketing efforts, organize events and activities, and protect and enhance cultural and ecological connections in parks and recreation facilities.
S9	Unsitd	Conduct feasibility study for developing sports field at City-owned and/or -leased property (e.g. Clark Park Annex, Molalla Aquatic District land).
S10	Unsitd	Conduct feasibility study for siting and developing covered amphitheater on existing City park property (e.g. Clark Park).
S11.1	Unsitd	Conduct feasibility study for siting and developing skate park with basic site furnishings (signage, waste bins, benches, bike racks).
S11.2	Unsitd	Develop skate park with basic site furnishings (signage, waste bins, benches, bike racks).



Fox Park

Park Facility Development

Park facility development recommendations are outlined in Tables 4.2 to 4.8.

Recommendations include development of existing mini, neighborhood, community, special use, and natural area parks as well as undeveloped parks, new parks, and park acquisitions and development.

Mini-Park Facility Development

- Odd Fellows Park
- Rotary Park

Neighborhood Park Facility Development

- Long Park
- Strawberry Park

Community Park Facility Development

- Clark Park
- Fox Park

Special Use Park Facility Development

- Sheets Field and BMX Track
- Bohlander Field

Natural Area Park Facility Development

- Ivor Davies Park

Undeveloped Park Facility Development

- Pioneer Cemetery
- Chief Yelkus Park
- Bear Creek

New Facility Development

- Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition 1 (West)
- Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition 2 (West)

Table 4.2 Mini-Park Recommendations

ID	Site	Description
P1.2	Odd Fellows Park	Develop paved path through the site.
P1.2	Odd Fellows Park	Install site furnishings (picnic tables, benches, waste receptacles, bike racks).
P1.3	Odd Fellows Park	Install landscaping (shrubs & perennials) improvements and update irrigation.
P2.1	Rotary Park	Install drinking fountain.

Table 4.3 Neighborhood Park Recommendations

ID	Site	Description
P3.1	Long Park	Replace gazebo/stage cover and install ADA-accessible ramp and additional electrical outlet.
P3.2	Long Park	Install shade structure to west of the pickleball courts and additional site furnishings (benches, waste receptacles) and replace concrete pads under four picnic tables.
P3.3	Long Park	Replace existing playground.
P3.4	Long Park	Remove dying trees and replace with additional trees, shade structures, and/or park features.
P4.1	Strawberry Park	Install shade structure.
P4.2	Strawberry Park	Install drinking fountain and bicycle racks.



Molalla River Recreation Area, Greg Shine, BLM

Table 4.4 Community Park Recommendations

ID	Site	Description
P5.1	Clark Park	Replace playground equipment and surfacing.
P5.2	Clark Park	Replace picnic shelter and install additional picnic tables.
P5.3	Clark Park	Improve ball fields and install subgrade drainage.
P5.4	Clark Park	Pave north parking lot, add lighting to the parking lots, and install bike racks for increased accessibility.
P5.5	Clark Park	Install site furnishings (benches).
P6.1	Fox Park	Pursue extended lease or acquisition of all or a portion of the property prior to future investment
P6.2	Fox Park	Replace existing toddler play equipment and surfacing.
P6.3	Fox Park	Replace restroom with a facility with two stalls that reduces maintenance costs (e.g. Portland Loo).
P6.4	Fox Park	Install accessible path between restroom, playground, and picnic shelter.
P6.5	Fox Park	Install site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, waste receptacles, bike racks).

Table 4.5 Special Use Park Recommendations

ID	Site	Description
P7.1	BMX Track and Sheets Field	Install accessible path connection to Chief Yelkus Park (See P12.4).
P7.2	BMX Track and Sheets Field	Improve ball field and install subgrade drainage.
P7.3	BMX Track and Sheets Field	Install bike racks.
P7.4	BMX Track and Sheets Field	Conduct community engagement process to identify needs for additional amenities and bike park improvements.
P8.1	Bohlander Field	Conduct concept plan and community engagement process to identify future site amenities.

Ivor Davies Park improvements focus on increasing accessibility, addressing safety concerns, providing standard park furnishings, and enhancing recreation opportunities around Shorty's Pond. As a first step, the entire park should be included within the City's UGB and annexed within City limits. The City also should plan to increase operations and maintenance at this park to improve visibility with vegetation management.

Table 4.6 Natural Area Park Recommendations

ID	Site	Description
P9.1	Ivor Davies Park	Repair paths and install waste bins throughout the park.
P9.2	Ivor Davies Park	Install wayfinding and educational signage.
P9.3	Ivor Davies Park	Install parking lot and lighting (~16 stalls).
P9.4	Ivor Davies Park	Install lighting in high traffic areas such as the parking lot, path, and picnic shelter.
P9.5	Ivor Davies Park	Install additional site furnishings, including benches along path, picnic tables under and around the existing shelter, and bike racks at main entry points.
P9.6	Ivor Davies Park	Install loop path at Shorty's Pond.
P9.7	Ivor Davies Park	Conduct feasibility study to rehabilitate pond for all-season use.

Improvements to **undeveloped park land** include paths, water viewing and access points, and habitat enhancements. This plan refers to a City-owned property adjacent to Pioneer Cemetery, which is owned by a church to the north, as Pioneer Cemetery Park. However, this City property along with recently acquired parkland along Bear Creek have not been formally named, so the City should name these parks in addition to site improvements.

Table 4.7 Undeveloped Park Recommendations

ID	Site	Description
P10.1	Pioneer Cemetery	Install wayfinding and educational signage.
P10.2	Pioneer Cemetery	Install pet waste station.
P10.3	Pioneer Cemetery	Enhance creek habitat with plant rehabilitation and install water access points.
P10.4	Pioneer Cemetery	Install walking path loop.
P10.5	Pioneer Cemetery	Remodel parking lot surfacing.
P11.1	Chief Yelkus Park	Construct boardwalk and concrete paths.
P11.2	Chief Yelkus Park	Install site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, and signage).
P11.3	Chief Yelkus Park	Construct wetland enhancements.
P11.4	Chief Yelkus Park	Continue path connecting BMX park to boardwalk path (See P8.3).
P11.5	Chief Yelkus Park	Develop remainder of east portion of site.
P12.1	Bear Creek	Install water access and viewing areas.

Western Molalla lacks sufficient parks and would be better served by developing park and recreation facilities with amenities identified as most needed. These include playgrounds (accessible partially covered or shaded for multiple ages), walking paths, covered seating, covered picnic areas and BBQs, outdoor volleyball, court sports, and sports fields for soccer, softball, and baseball. The City should prioritize acquiring additional park land in western Molalla locations that are least suitable for intensive development and accessible to residential development. Concept planning, which includes public engagement and planning-level cost estimates, would then help the City access funding for developing the new parks.

Table 4.8 Park Acquisition and Development Recommendations

ID	Site	Description
A1.1	Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition 1 (West)	Acquire 1-5 acres of land for park development.
A1.2	Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition 1 (West)	Conduct concept plan process, which includes community engagement and planning-level cost estimate.
A2.1	Future Community Park Acquisition 2 (West)	Acquire 5-15 acres of land for park development.
A2.2	Future Community Park Acquisition 2 (West)	Conduct concept plan process, which includes community engagement and planning-level cost estimate.



Fox Park splash pad

Trail Development

Recommendations for trail development are summarized in Table 4.9

New Facility Development

- Bear Creek Trail
- Creamery Creek Trail
- Molalla Forest Road Connection
- Molalla Rail Trail
- Molalla-to-Canby Connection

Table 4.9 Trail Development Recommendations

ID	Site	Description
T1	Bear Creek Trail	Acquire land and additional funding to create a trail along Bear Creek, connecting Bear Creek to Chief Yelkus, Pioneer Cemetery, and Ivor Davies Park.
T2	Creamery Creek Trail	Acquire land and additional funding to create a trail along Creamery Creek, connecting to Strawberry Park, the rails-to-trail multiuse path conversion, and potential UGB land expansion to the north.
T3	Molalla Forest Road Connection	Acquire land and develop a multiuse path along S. Molalla Forest Road.
T4	Molalla Rail Trail	Acquire and develop land to convert the former railroad in Molalla to a multiuse recreation path.
T5	Molalla-to-Canby Connection	Partner with local and regional agencies and organizations such as the City of Canby, Clackamas County, and Mt. Hood Territory (the county destination marketing organization) for developing a city-to-city cycling connection between Canby and Molalla as well as a connection between Molalla and Feyrer Park to the east. Add on-street path connections to the Transportation System Plan (TSP).



Bear Creek pedestrian bridge

Operations and Maintenance

The City will need to adjust its staffing and funding levels to adequately support park operations and maintenance as the City experiences population growth and the park system expands. Standards for maintenance and consistency in products can also improve efficiency.

Examples of such standards include ensuring playground equipment and surrounding play areas meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards; ensuring park facilities and circulation are accessible for all, structurally sound facilities with no

compromised materials, park spaces are free of debris or graffiti, and restrooms are open consistently, clean, sanitary, and supplied with necessary facility products.

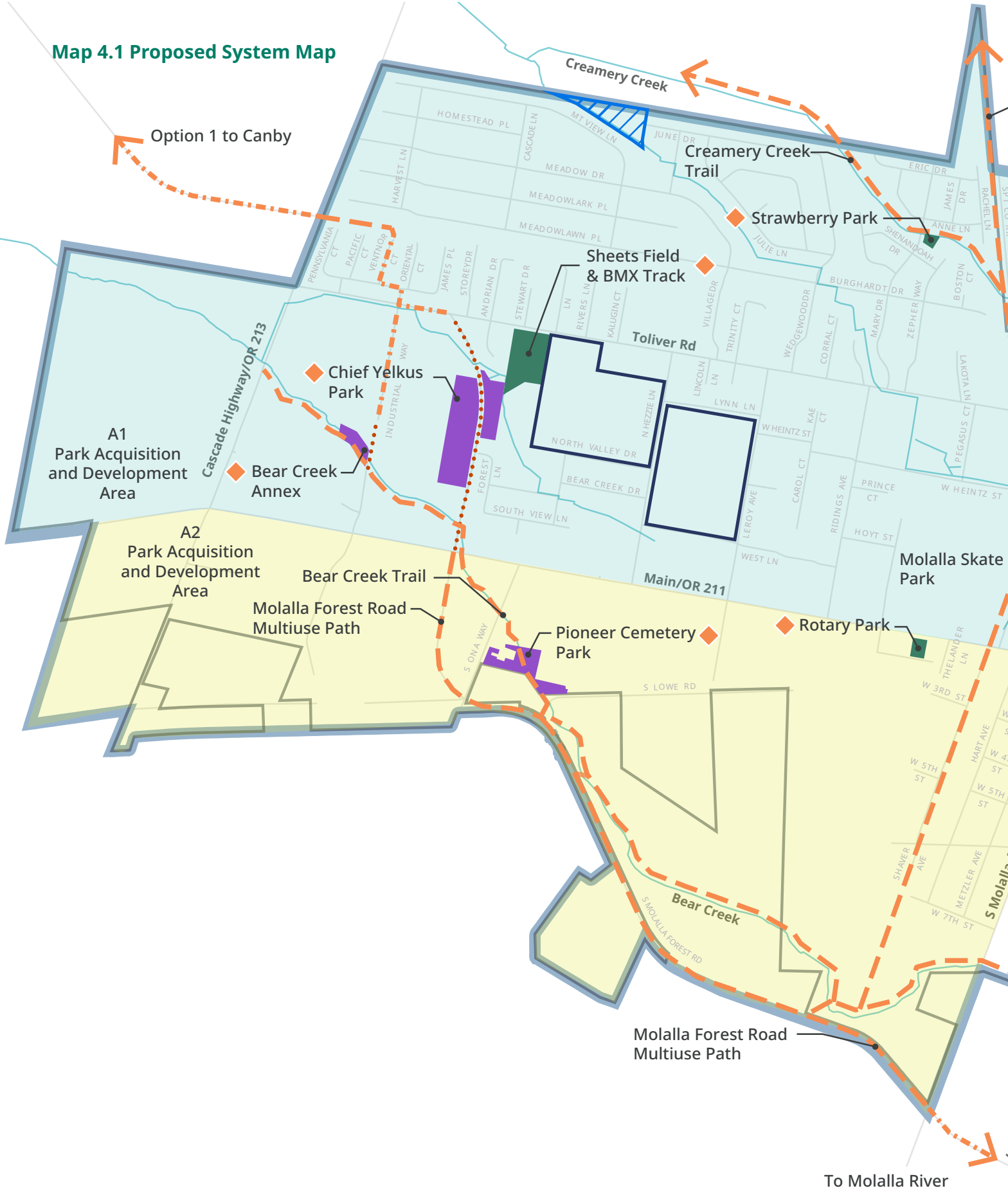


Long Park pickleball court construction



Ivor Davies Park

Map 4.1 Proposed System Map



Option 2 to Canby



LEGEND

- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Streets
- Streams

Existing Facilities

- City Park Facility
- Aquatic District
- School District
- Private Land
- Trail

Proposed Facilities

- Proposed Parkland
- Park Acquisition and Development Area 1
- Park Acquisition and Development Area 2
- Park Facility Development
- Trail / Path Development
- On-Street Connection



05 Implementation

This chapter summarizes the planned projects and system recommendations, the prioritization of projects over the 20-year planning period, and funding strategies the City can utilize for implementation.

Planned Projects

Cost estimates are in 2024 dollars and should be updated as projects are implemented to account for inflation.

Table 5.1 Planned Projects

ID	Project Title	Description	Size	Cost
P1	Odd Fellows Park	Develop paved path through the site. Install site furnishings (picnic tables, benches, waste receptacles, bike racks). Install landscaping (shrubs & perennials) improvements and update irrigation.	0.14 ac	\$191,100
P2	Rotary Park	Install drinking fountain.	0.44 ac	\$29,500
P3	Long Park	Replace gazebo/stage cover and install ADA-accessible ramp and additional electrical outlet. Install shade structure to west of the pickleball courts and additional site furnishings (benches, waste receptacles) and replace concrete pads under four picnic tables. Replace existing playground. Remove dying trees and replace with additional trees, shade structures, and/or park features.	1.09 ac	\$857,500
P4	Strawberry Park	Install shade structure. Install drinking fountain and bicycle racks.	0.25 ac	\$51,600
P5	Clark Park	Replace playground equipment and surfacing. Replace picnic shelter and install additional picnic tables. Improve ball fields and install subgrade drainage. Pave north parking lot, add lighting to the parking lots, and install bike racks for increased accessibility. Install site furnishings (benches).	9.67 ac	\$1,700,700

Parks in Practice

Bench Dedication City of Eugene, OR

Benches are a popular and memorable donation to parks systems. The City of Eugene developed a donation inquiry form and guidelines for standard commemorative benches to ensure equitable donation opportunities for individuals and organizations. The guidelines help maximize community benefit by outlining location, maintenance, and duration or relocation policies of dedicated benches. Placing a plaque on an existing bench in good condition costs \$5,000, and a plaque on a bench that needs replacement costs \$6,500.

Source: City of Eugene Parks and Open Space



Table 5.1 Planned Projects

ID	Project Title	Description	Size	Cost
P6	Fox Park	Pursue extended lease or acquisition of all or a portion of the property prior to future investment. Replace existing toddler play equipment and surfacing. Replace restroom with a facility with two stalls that reduces maintenance costs (e.g. Portland Loo). Install accessible path between restroom, playground, and picnic shelter. Install site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, waste receptacles, bike racks).	1.96 ac	\$690,800
P7	BMX Track and Sheets Field	Install accessible path connection to Chief Yelkus Park (See P12). Improve ball field and install subgrade drainage. Install bike racks. Conduct community engagement process to identify needs for additional amenities and bike park improvements.	3.39 ac	\$391,600
P8	Bohlander Field	Conduct concept plan and community engagement process to identify future site amenities.	14.01 ac	\$40,000

Table 5.1 Planned Projects

ID	Project Title	Description	Size	Cost
P9	Ivor Davies Park	Repair paths and install waste bins throughout the park. Install wayfinding and educational signage. Install parking lot and lighting (~16 stalls). Install lighting in high traffic areas such as the parking lot, path, and picnic shelter. Install additional site furnishings, including benches along path, picnic tables under and around the existing shelter, and bike racks at main entry points. Install loop path at Shorty's Pond. Conduct feasibility study to rehabilitate pond for all-season use.	42.46 ac	\$1,283,200
P10	Pioneer Cemetery	Install wayfinding and educational signage. Install pet waste station. Enhance creek habitat with plant rehabilitation and install water access points. Install walking path loop. Remodel parking lot surfacing.	2.37 ac	\$198,500
P11	Chief Yelkus Park	Construct boardwalk and concrete paths. Install site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, and signage). Construct wetland enhancements. Continue path connecting BMX park to boardwalk path (See P8). Develop remainder of east portion of site.	6.85 ac	\$2,175,700
P12	Bear Creek	Install water access and viewing areas.	0.91 ac	\$48,400



*Responsible Outdoor Lighting
Stacy Park, Olivette, MO*

Outdoor artificial lighting contributes to light pollution, which disrupts human circadian rhythms as well as the migratory and feeding habits of nocturnal species. Dark Sky International (DSI) recommends implementing the following five principles: Responsible outdoor lighting is: 1) useful; 2) targeted; 3) low-level; 4) controlled; and 5) warm-colored. Stacy Park, a designated Urban Night Sky Place, is a 35-acre park outside St. Louis in the City of Olivette with soccer fields, baseball diamonds, and a blacktop walking path, all designed to promote an authentic nighttime experience while ensuring public safety. The city's responsible outdoor lighting standards grew out of its 2018 Parks Plan implementation. The city partners with Missouri Master Naturalists, St. Louis Audubon Society, and the St. Louis Astronomical Society to offer programs at Stacy Park on preserving the night sky and the detrimental effects of light pollution.

Source: Dark Sky International

Table 5.1 Planned Projects

ID	Project Title	Description	Size	Cost
A1	Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition (west)	Acquire 1-5 acres of land for park development. Conduct Park Conceptual Plan and community engagement process.	1 - 5 ac	\$575,000
A2	Future Community Park Acquisition (west)	Acquire 5-15 acres of land for park development. Conduct Park Conceptual Plan and community engagement process.	5 - 15 ac	\$1,650,000
T1	Bear Creek Trail	Construct trail along Bear Creek.	-	\$292,600
T2	Creamery Creek Trail	Construct trail along Creamery Creek.	-	\$76,400
T3	Molalla Forest Road Connection	Construct multi-use path along S. Molalla Forest Road.	-	\$1,372,400
T4	Molalla Rail Trail	Construct multi-use path along former railroad.	-	\$2,060,800
T5	Molalla-to-Canby Connection	Partner to construct cycling connections between Canby and Molalla and between Molalla and Feyrer Park.	-	ND

Parks in Practice

*Row River Trail
Cottage Grove, Oregon*

The Row River Trail is a 15.6-mile multi-use trail that connects historic downtown Cottage Grove to Dorena Lake. The trail is a designated National Historic trail that attracts 100,000 visitors to Cottage Grove and surrounding rural communities. Users enjoy views of Dorena Lake, surrounding farm country, and historic covered bridges. The Bureau of Land Management acquired the first 14 miles in 1993, and the City of Cottage Grove acquired the remaining miles in 1994 to connect the trail into downtown. Volunteer labor and donated materials contributed to development of the trail and amenities including restrooms, benches, and bike racks. The City and BLM partner on ongoing maintenance and development of the 8- to 10-foot-wide paved trail. Promoted as a regional and national attraction, the Row River Trail has helped Cottage Grove transition from a timber-based economy to a diversified economy that includes recreation and tourism.

Source: American Trails





*Creative Wayfinding
Busey Woods, Urbana, IL*

Busey Woods is a 59-acre natural area in Urbana used for education programs, hiking, and birdwatching. Visitors also enjoy its spring wildflowers and 1/3-mile elevated boardwalk. The Busey Woods gateway, which includes a tree-shaped welcome sign and sculptural interpretative panel, invites visitors to read, learn, and engage with the site. Interpretive panels along the trail also provide information about the region’s history, illustrate management practices of the nature area, and call attention to the park’s ecology.

Source: Taylor Studios

Table 5.1 Planned Projects

ID	Project Title	Description	Size	Cost
S4	Signage and Site Furnishing Standards Plan	Develop a systemwide guiding document for standardized parks signage and site furnishings.	-	\$40,000
S9	Sports Field Feasibility Study	Conduct feasibility study for developing sports field at City-owned and/or -leased property (e.g. Clark Park Annex, Molalla Aquatic District land).	-	\$30,000
S10	Amphitheater Feasibility Study	Conduct feasibility study for siting and developing covered amphitheater on existing City park property (e.g. Clark Park).	-	\$40,000
S11.1	Skate Park Feasibility Study	Conduct feasibility study for siting and developing skate park with basic site furnishings (signage, waste bins, benches, bike racks).	-	\$30,000
S11.2	Skate Park Development	Develop skate park with basic site furnishings (signage, waste bins, benches, bike racks).	-	\$857,800

Prioritization

As new parkland is developed, the park system will increase in size, acreage, and miles of trails.

Table 5.2 categorizes proposed projects by site and priority level. The total costs for planned projects are estimated to be approximately \$14,683,600. The prioritized projects are divided into three priority levels.

- \$4,584,300 in funding for high priority projects (2025-2030)
- \$7,642,800 in funding for medium priority projects (2030-2035)
- \$2,456,500 in funding for low priority projects (2035-2045)

Table 5.2 Project Prioritization

ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
P1	Odd Fellows Park			
Phase 1	Install paved path through the site.	\$122,600	-	-
Phase 2	Install additional site furnishings, including picnic tables, benches, trash/recycling collection, and bike racks.	-	\$32,300	-
Phase 3	Install irrigation and landscape improvements.	-	-	\$36,200
P2	Rotary Park			
Phase 1	Install water fountain/spigot.	-	-	\$29,500
P3	Long Park			
Phase 1	Replace gazebo/stage cover and install accessible ramp and electrical outlet. Install additional site furnishings, include benches and trash/recycling bins.	\$541,000	-	-
Phase 2	Replace existing playground.	-	\$298,900	-
Phase 3	Remove dying trees and replace with additional trees, shade structures, and/or park features.	-	-	\$17,600
P4	Strawberry Park			
Phase 1	Install a shade structure.	\$24,700	-	-
Phase 2	Install water fountain and bike racks.	-	\$26,900	-

Table 5.2 Project Prioritization

ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
P5	Clark Park			
Phase 1	Upgrade declining facilities, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and field facilities.	\$1,252,700	-	-
Phase 2	Pave the north parking lot, add lighting, include ADA accessible spots, and install bike racks.	-	\$418,800	-
Phase 3	Install additional benches and picnic tables.	-	-	\$29,200
P6	Fox Park			
Phase 1	Pursue extended lease or purchase or purchase of park land. Replace toddler play structure.	\$151,400	-	-
Phase 2	Replace bathroom and increase ADA accessibility in the park by paving paths between the parking lot, bathroom, picnic shelter and playgrounds.	-	\$507,900	-
Phase 3	Install additional site furnishings, including benches, picnic tables, trash/recycling collection, and bike racks.	-	-	\$31,500
P7	BMX Track and Sheets Field			
Phase 1	Increase parking and create a path connection to Chief Yelkus Park.	\$82,200	-	-
Phase 2	Improve field drainage by replacing grass and subgrade profile, adding a sub-grade drainage system. Install bike racks.	-	\$284,400	-
Phase 3	Conduct public outreach to identify needs for bike park improvements.	-	-	\$25,000
P8	Bohlander Field			
Phase 1	Conduct concept plan process, including community engagement and planning-level cost estimate, to identify future park amenities and/or programming.	-	\$40,000	-
P9	Ivor Davies Park			
Phase 1	Repair paths and install wayfinding and educational signage and waste bins. Install parking lot and lighting.	\$357,700	-	-
Phase 2	Add benches and lighting along path and install picnic tables.	-	\$785,200	-
Phase 3	Add loop path around Shorty's Pond. Conduct feasibility study to rehabilitate pond for all-season use.	-	-	\$140,300

Table 5.2 Project Prioritization

ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
P10	Pioneer Cemetery			
Phase 1	Install educational/wayfinding signage and a dog waste bag dispenser.	\$55,700	-	-
Phase 2	Restore and improve creek habitats, allowing for water access.	-	\$46,800	-
Phase 3	Upgrade parking lot, adding ADA parking spots, and install a walking path system.	-	-	\$96,000
P11	Chief Yelkus Park			
Phase 2	Construct boardwalk and concrete paths. Install site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, signage). Construct wetland enhancements. Construct path continuation to connect P7.3 to P11.1 path work.	\$982,300	-	-
Phase 3	Develop remainder of east portion of site.	-	-	\$1,193,400
P12	Bear Creek			
Phase 1	Design and install water access and wildlife viewing areas.	-	\$48,400	-
A1	Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition (west)			
Phase 1	Acquire land for a 1-to-5-acre park.	\$500,000	-	-
Phase 2	Conduct concept plan process, including community engagement and planning-level cost estimate.	\$75,000		
A2	Future Community Park Acquisition (west)			
Phase 1	Acquire land for a 10-to-15-acre park.	-	\$1,500,000	-
Phase 2	Conduct concept plan process, including community engagement and planning-level cost estimate.	-	\$150,000	-
T1	Bear Creek Trail			
Phase 1	Construct trail along Bear Creek.	\$292,600	-	-
T2	Creamery Creek Trail			
Phase 1	Construct trail along Creamery Creek.	\$76,400	-	-
T3	Molalla Forest Road Connection			
Phase 1	Construct trail along S. Molalla Forest Road.	-	\$1,372,400	-

Table 5.2 Project Prioritization

ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
T4	Molalla Rail Trail			
Phase 1	Construct multi-use path along former railroad.	-	\$2,060,800	-
T5	Molalla-to-Canby Connection			
Phase 1	Partner to construct cycling connections between Canby and Molalla and between Molalla and Feyrer Park.	-	-	ND
S4	Signage and Site Furnishing Standards Plan			
Phase 1	Develop a systemwide guiding document for standardized parks signage and site furnishings.	\$40,000	-	-
S9	Sports Fields Feasibility Study			
Phase 1	Conduct feasibility study for developing sports field at City-owned and/or -leased property (e.g. Clark Park Annex, Molalla Aquatic District land).	\$30,000	-	-
S10	Amphitheater Feasibility Study			
Phase 1	Conduct feasibility study for developing covered amphitheater on park property.	-	\$40,000	-
S11	Skate Park Feasibility Study			
Phase 1	Conduct feasibility study for developing skate park with furnishings (signage, receptacles, benches, bike racks).	-	\$30,000	-
Phase 2	Develop skate park with furnishings (signage, receptacles, benches, bike racks).	-	-	\$857,800
TOTAL		\$4,584,300	\$7,642,800	\$2,456,500

Funding Strategies

Park improvements have been historically funded by the General Fund, which relies on property tax revenue, and the Parks SDC Fund. The City has budgeted a total of \$1,371,000 in expenditures for Parks personnel, materials and services, and capital improvements for 2024-2025. The Parks SDC Fund contributed \$700,000 of the total 2024-2025 parks budget while maintaining a \$1,345,000 reserve.

Significantly fewer revenue sources are available for funding operations and maintenance than for capital projects. The following are details on anticipated funding sources for parks system capital improvements and operations and maintenance as well as recommendations for leveraging the funding sources.

System Development Charge (SDC) Update

System Development Charges (SDCs) are fees applied to new development to help offset the impact of development or redevelopment on public infrastructure. The fees are intended to recover a fair share of the costs of existing and planned infrastructure that provides capacity to serve new residential, commercial, or other uses. The City should evaluate and update its parks SDC methodology, rate, and fees to reflect the needs identified in this plan.

Land Dedication

The City should update its development policies to require developers to provide a specific amount of park land, or a fee in lieu of, to ensure parks and/or funds for park system improvements are available. This funding method was broadly supported by the community during the public engagement process.

Grants

The City should pursue state, regional, federal, tribal, and foundation grants for park- and trail-related capital improvements. Many grant organizations throughout the country fund park acquisition and improvements; however, few provide funds for ongoing maintenance. When pursuing grants, the City should weigh the potential application's competitiveness with the required outlays of staff time.

General Obligation Bonds

This type of bond is a tax assessment on real and personal property. This fund can supplement existing revenue and is more widely distributed. Funds can be used for capital projects but cannot be used for the replacement of equipment. The City should evaluate the likelihood of success of a bond measure. Additional taxes lacked support during the park system planning process.

Local Option Levy (or Serial Levy)

This type of levy is established for a given property tax rate or amount for a specific time period, generally from one to five years, and is one of few funding sources for park operations and maintenance. However, voter approval is required. Additional taxes lacked support during the park system planning process.

User Fees

Molalla can generate revenue by expanding rental facilities, charging for maintenance services that primarily benefit specific groups, or charging for other services at highly used parks. However, equity concerns must be considered when raising or creating fees to ensure fair access. Additional user fees lacked support during the park system planning process.

Partnerships and Relationships

The City should further develop partnerships with local recreation service providers, private landowners, land trusts, nonprofits, the school district, and engaged individual residents as well as regional, state, and tribal government agencies. School district partnership is key to public use of athletic facilities, in particular. Relationships with private landowners and land trusts provide an opportunity to expand open space and natural areas within the park system through land donation or privately operated recreation facilities. Partnership with local sports groups can offset the costs of developing and maintaining athletic facilities. Soliciting and developing partnerships that can advance development that supports recreational tourism is a key economic development opportunity for the City. Lastly, Molalla can coordinate or encourage volunteer programs to offset park maintenance costs or support the development of Friends of the Park programs, which are commonly stewarded by nearby residents themselves.

Conclusion

The City recognizes that park facilities are essential to Molalla residents' physical and mental health. Recreational tourism and social connections that grow from recreating and gathering in parks are also key for supporting the local economy and promoting a sense of community.

The 2024 Molalla Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan is a guiding document to achieve the community's future park system vision. The plan's goals, recommendations, projects, and priorities aim to improve quality of life for Molalla's existing residents and its growing and diversifying population.



View of Mount Hood from Table Rock Trail