



ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MOLALLA, OREGON ADOPTING THE 2025 PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS SYSTEM PLAN AND ASSOCIATED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS.

WHEREAS, the existing Parks Master Plan, adopted in 2007 and updated in 2014, is outdated and no longer adequately reflects the current and projected needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of Molalla per the Comprehensive Plan, to review the condition, quantity, and service levels of existing parks and recreation facilities by updating the Parks Master Plan;

WHEREAS, new opportunities for parkland acquisition and development have emerged, requiring updated strategies for land acquisition and preservation; and

WHEREAS, all notice requirements for adoption of an ordinance amending the comprehensive plan have been met; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments align with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan, specifically Goal 5: Natural and Historic Resources, Goal 8: Recreational Needs, Goal 9: Economic Development, and Goal 11: Public Facilities and Services; and

WHEREAS, public input has been gathered through community surveys, regular meetings of a community based project advisory committee, attendance and engagement at local events, a town-hall style meeting at the public library, and multiple public hearings at Planning Commission and City Council meetings, all of which has informed the development of this updated Parks Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, this updated Parks Master Plan incorporates best practices in park planning and design, ensuring the creation of accessible and all-inclusive parks and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this ordinance amending the Comprehensive Plan and adopting the updated Parks Master Plan will serve the best interests of the community by providing a clear framework for the development and management of parks and recreation resources for years to come.

Now, Therefore, the City of Molalla ordains:

Section 1. Volume III of the 2014 Molalla Comprehensive Plan is hereby amended to reflect removal of the 2014 Update of the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Masterplan and addition of the 2025 Parks, Recreation, and Trail System Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2: Volume I of the 2014 Molalla Comprehensive Plan is hereby amended in accordance with Exhibit B attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after enactment.

The First Reading was held on February 12, 2025, and moved to a Second Reading by 6 - 0 vote of the City Council. The Second Reading was held on February 12, 2025 and adopted by the City Council on February 12, 2025.

Signed this 12th day of February 2025.



Scott Keyser, Mayor

ATTEST:



Christie Teets, CMC
City Recorder



Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan

City of Molalla

Adopted by Molalla City Council
February 12, 2025

Acknowledgments

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Ivor Davies Park

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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

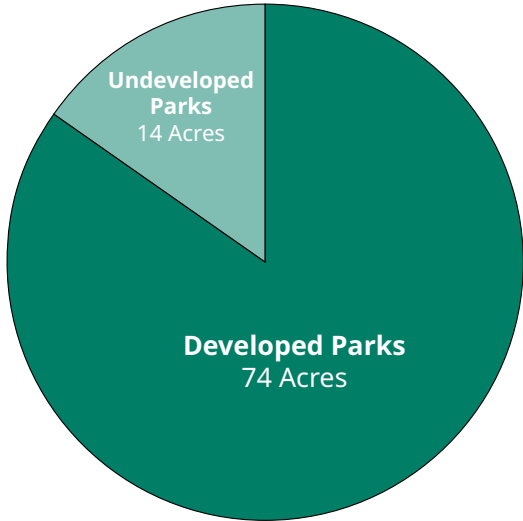
DEVELOPED FACILITIES	
PARKS	ACRES
Mini Parks	
Odd Fellows Park	0.14
Rotary Park	0.44
Neighborhood Park	
Fox Park	1.96
Long Park	1.09
Strawberry Park	0.25
Community Park	
Clark Park	9.67
Special Use Park	
Molalla Skate Park	0.34
Sheets Field & Molalla BMX Track	3.39
Bohlander Field	14.01
Natural Area 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



Strawberry Park

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



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

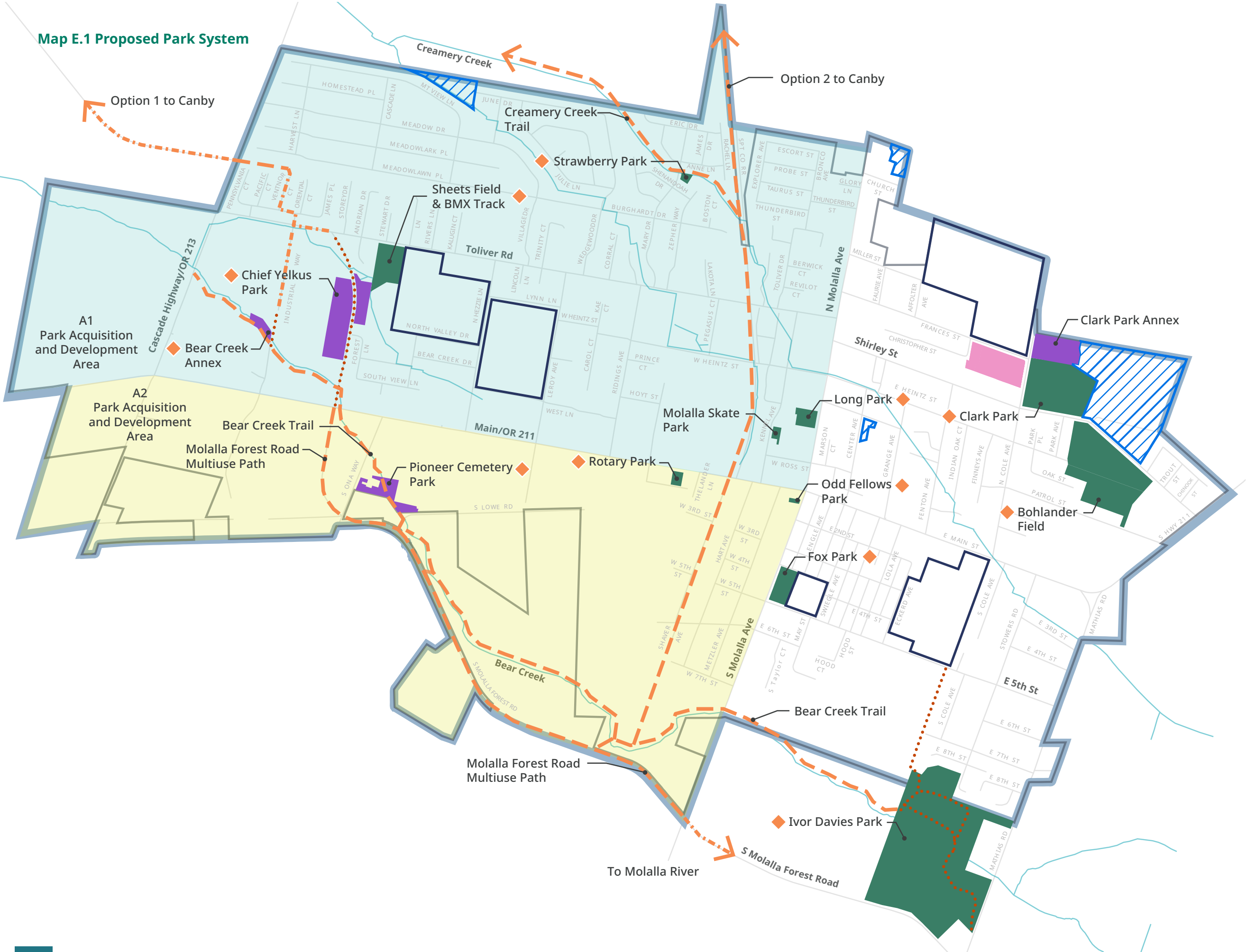
Table E.3 Planned Projects & Prioritization Schedule

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



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



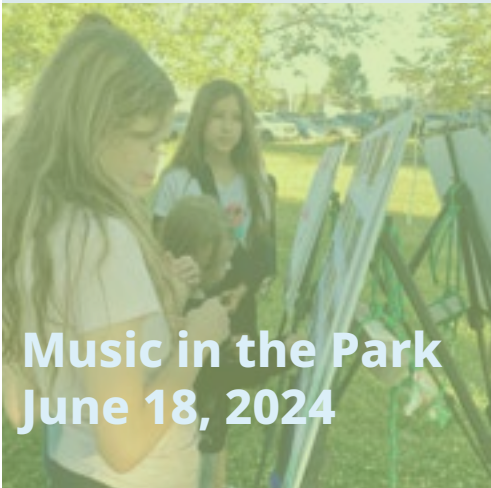
Molalla Farmers Market
May 30, 2024

**6 Interviews**

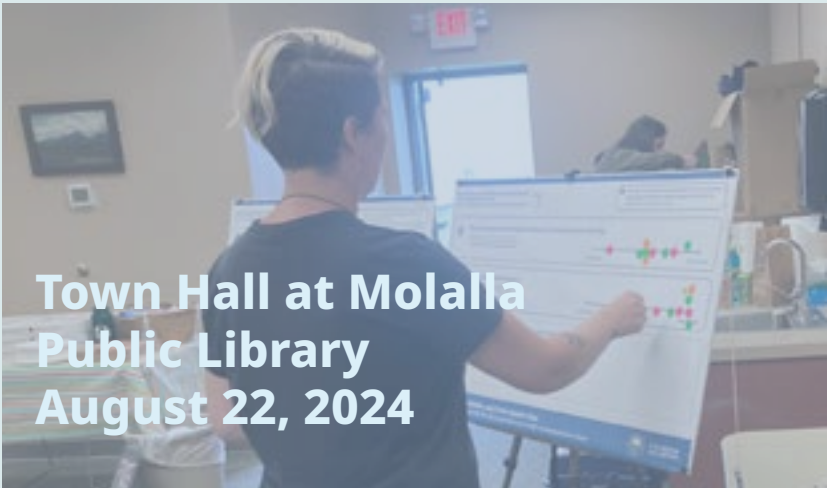
**1 Focus Group**

**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

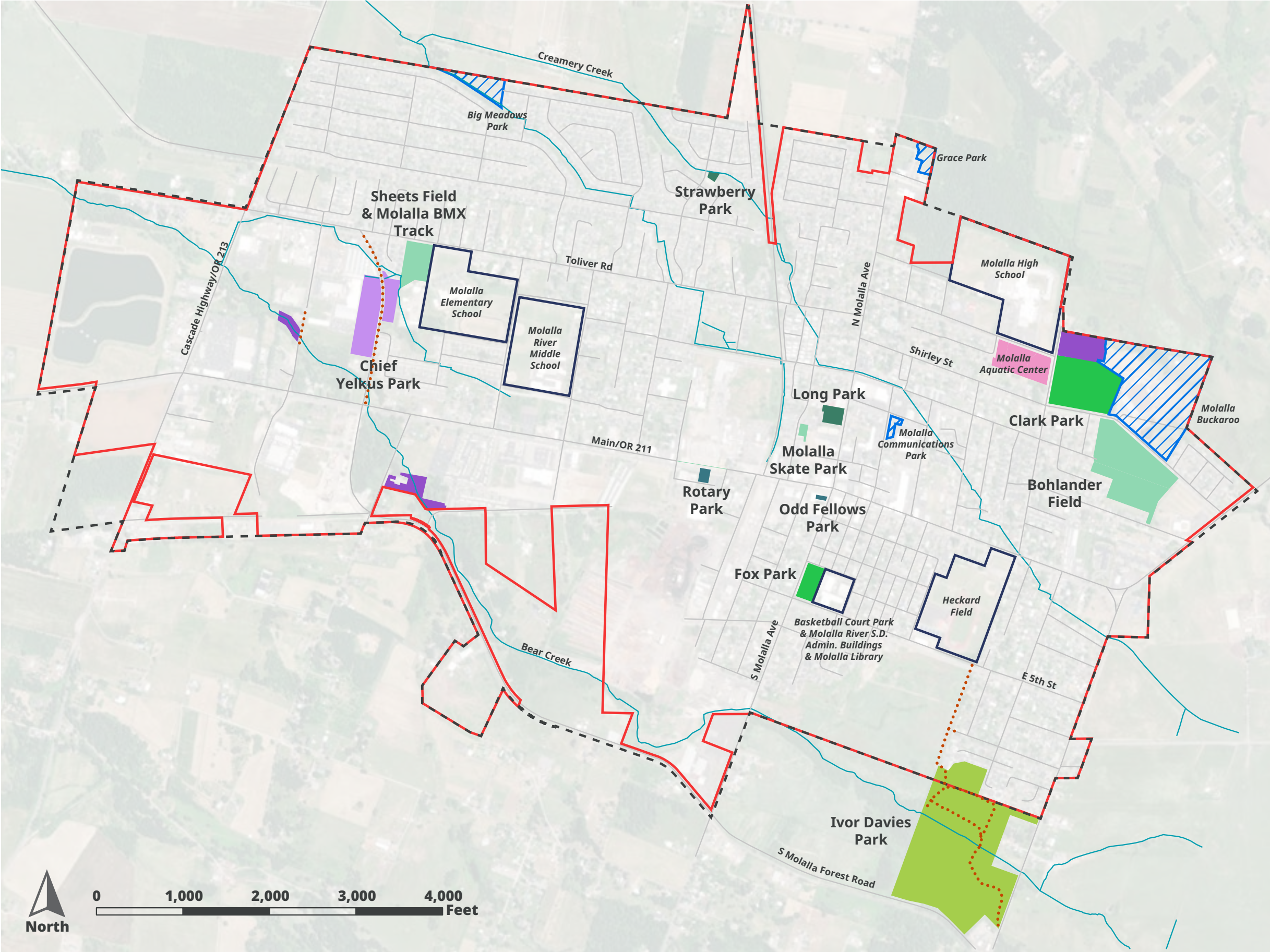
Table 2.2 Park System Undeveloped Facilities

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



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.

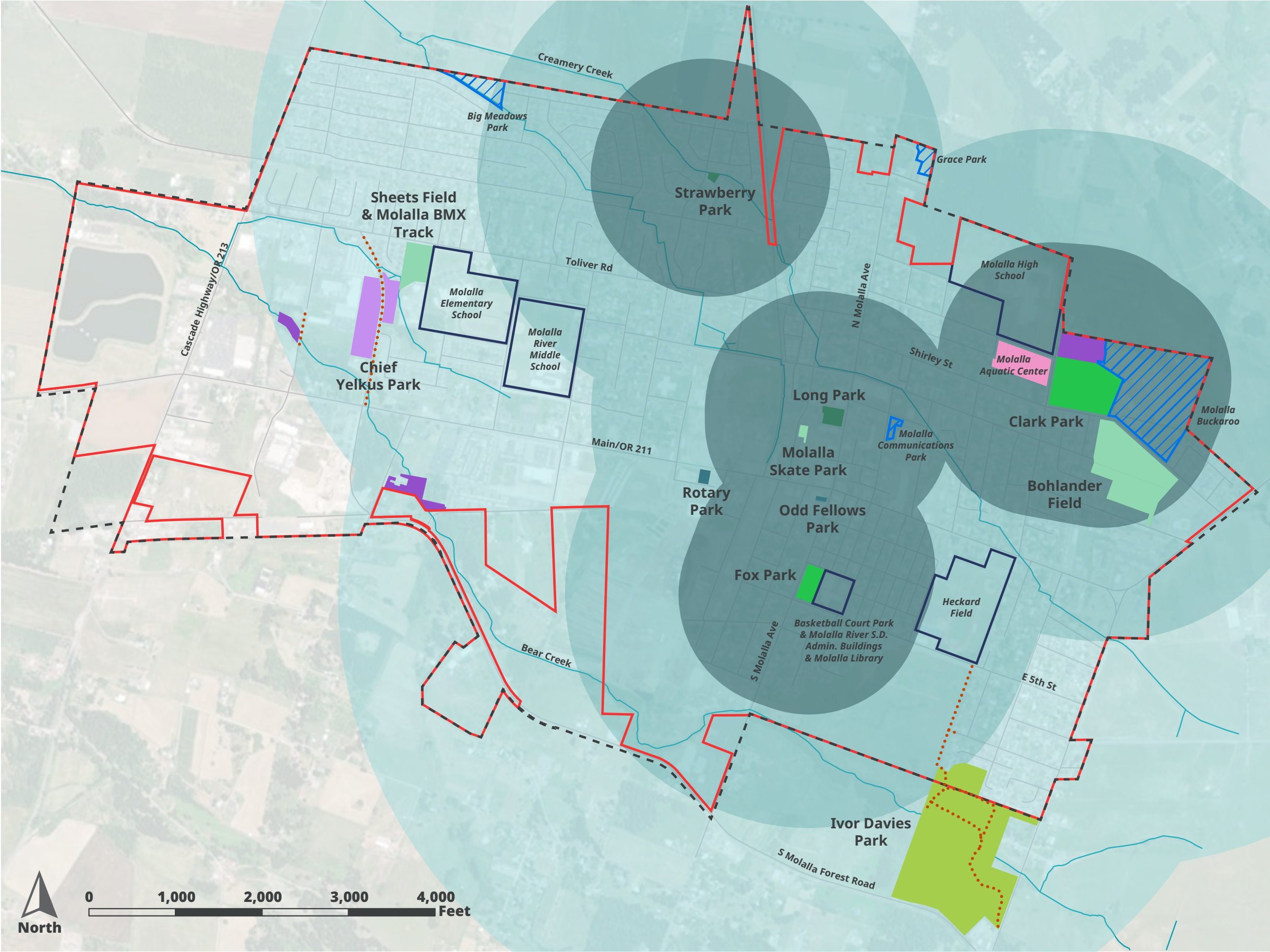
Table 2.4 Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents

	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

System

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.

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	Unsited	Conduct feasibility study for developing sports field at City-owned and/or -leased property (e.g. Clark Park Annex, Molalla Aquatic District land).
S10	Unsited	Conduct feasibility study for siting and developing covered amphitheater on existing City park property (e.g. Clark Park).
S11.1	Unsited	Conduct feasibility study for siting and developing skate park with basic site furnishings (signage, waste bins, benches, bike racks).
S11.2	Unsitedt	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

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.

Special Use Park Facility Development

- Sheets Field and BMX Track
- Bohlander Field

Natural Area Park Facility Development

- Ivor Davies Park

Undeveloped Park Facility Development

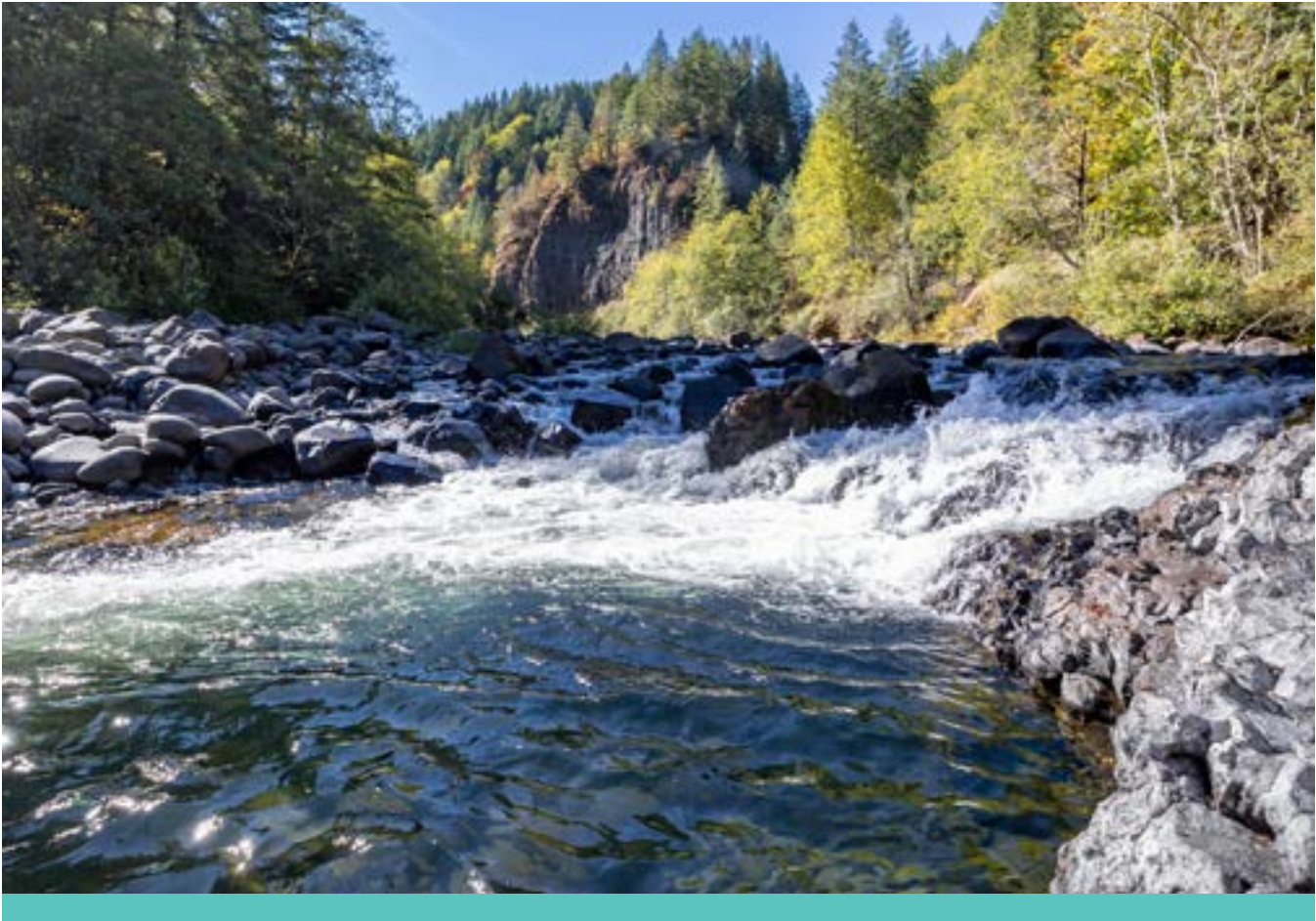
- Pioneer Cemetery
- Chief Yelkus Park
- Bear Creek

New Facility Development

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

Table 4.3 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.

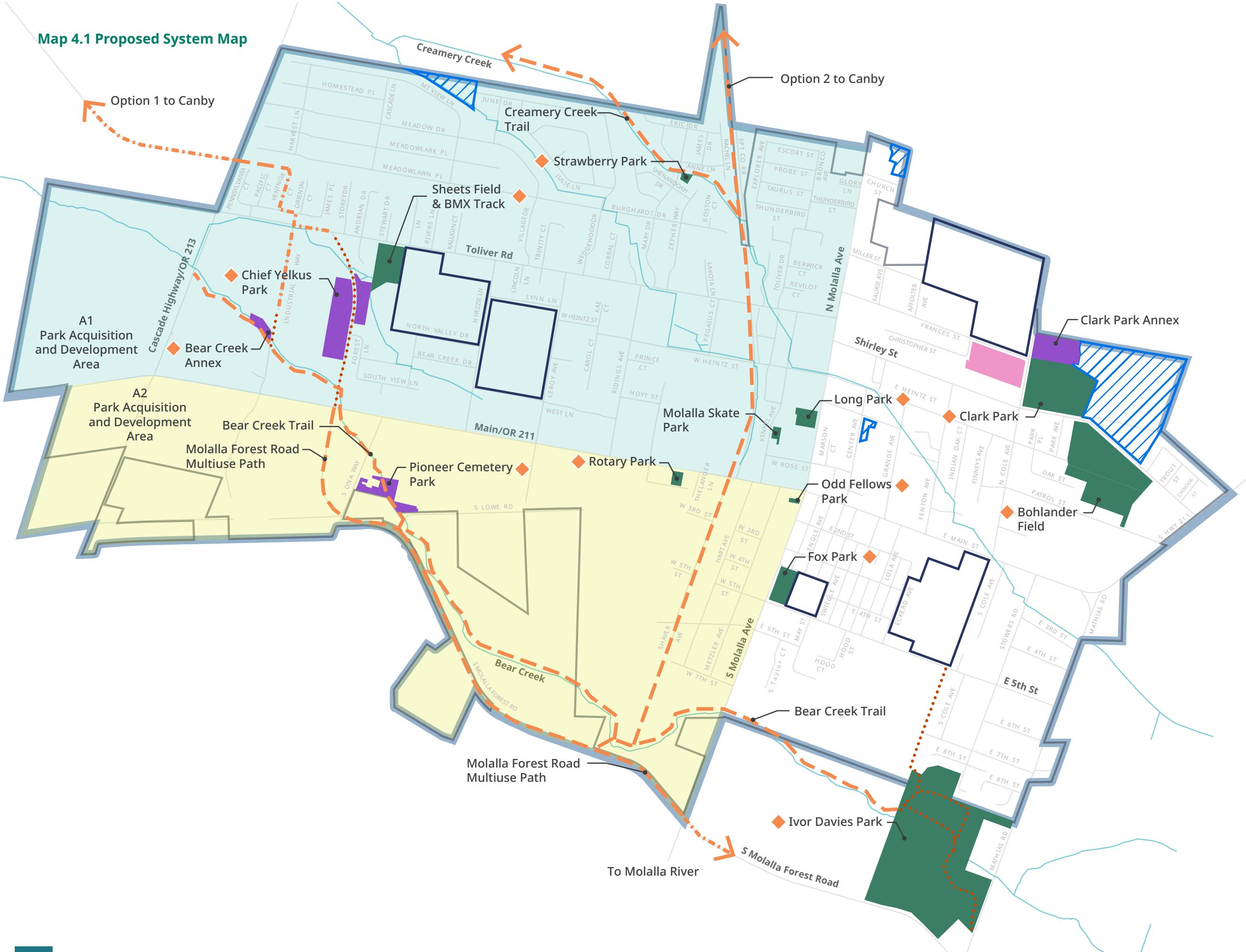
Examples of such standards include ensuring playground equipment and surrounding play areas meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards; ensuring park facilities and circulation are accessible for all, structurally sound facilities with no

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

Map 4.1 Proposed System Map



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

*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

Parks in Practice

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.	-	\$26,900.00	-

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 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 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



Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan

City of Molalla

Appendices

DRAFT
December 26, 2024

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Picnic Tables at Clark Park

A Existing City Plans and Policies Analysis

MEMORANDUM

City of Molalla

Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan

To: City PM Team (City of Molalla)

From: Colin McArthur, AICP; Alli Langley; and Claire Dosen (Cameron McCarthy)

Date: October 19, 2023

Subject: Existing City Plans and Policies Analysis

OVERVIEW

This memo summarizes the goals and policies of five plans applicable to the development of Molalla's new Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan. The plans summarized include the previous Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan (2014), Molalla's Comprehensive Plan (2014), the Downtown Molalla Development Plan (2007), the Molalla Area Vision and Action Plan (2020-2030), and the Transportation System Plan (2018).

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan (2014)

With the 2014 parks plan, the City aimed to promote recreation as the city grew to provide adequate recreational opportunities to all residents and visitors. While the City has made progress, the goals of this plan have not been attained and could be carried forward or adapted in the new plan. They are to:

- Provide neighborhood and community parks to serve all residents and provide sports and recreational facilities and programs for city residents of all ages/abilities.
- Develop and maintain a city-wide system of multi-modal trails to encourage safe alternate modes of transportation consistent with community priorities.
- Preserve open space throughout the city.
- Provide adequate funds to develop, improve, maintain, and operate park and recreation facilities consistent with city goals, policies, and standards.

The following were recommended to help meet the plan goals:

- Acquire land near new housing developments, preferably before development occurs.
- Develop a neighborhood park on one of the school sites on the west side of town.
- Develop one new 10- to 15-acre community park in the western part of town and a similarly sized park when new land is brought into the city limits. These parks should have [sports] playfields. The city should partner with local sports groups to develop and maintain these facilities.
- Construct a community center based on more specific community recreation needs [needs not specified]. Recommended to build on Aquatic Center land [owned by aquatic district].

- *Update the City's systems development charge [SDC] methodology, rate, and fees to reflect the needs identified. Source grants, land dedications, voluntary donations, and SDCs to cover the costs of needed facilities. Use bond measures if necessary.*
- *Analyze operations and maintenance funding. Ensure there is adequate funding to meet stated goals.*

The plan recommends 10 acres of park space per 1,000 people, consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, and prioritizes having neighborhood parks within ¼ mile of residents.

The plan also outlines a trail network of on-street and off-street facilities made up of "backbone" trails and a ring trail network to link major recreational and other attractions. The plan uses a map to show locations and design types for the proposed trail system. The plan assumes major trails will be developed over time by Molalla property owners when new developments are put in or the city will need to acquire land. No system appeared to be in place or recommended to ensure property owners develop trails according to the plan.

Comprehensive Plan (2014)

The stated vision informing the comprehensive plan is that Molalla is "a recreationally oriented and family-friendly community with a vibrant downtown and livable neighborhoods". Many of the 14 stated goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan are directly tied to parks and recreation.

The plan directly supports the protection of natural resources within Molalla's UGB by seeking to protect riparian corridors and their associated open space, fish and wildlife habitat, and riparian vegetation. Priority is given to contiguous parts of the riparian corridors within the plan. The plan also supports historic and cultural resource preservation to maintain Molalla's character and quality and notes historic sites should be incorporated into the City's parks and recreation planning to highlight their importance.

The plan states that public facilities like parks and schools should be developed and maintained to ensure an adequate level of service (LOS) and should meet the community's economic, social, cultural, health, and education needs. The plan's goal parkland ratio is 10 acres per 1,000 people. The plan also identifies the northwest portion of the city as particularly underserved by park facilities. The plan's primary goal pertaining to parks and recreation is "to develop, acquire, and maintain a balance of recreation opportunities and open spaces in order to improve the livability within the urban growth boundary".

The plan provides the following policies to be considered when making park development decisions:

- *The City of Molalla's Comprehensive Plan recommends an overall standard of 10 acres of parks and open space per 1,000 people, including approximately 10 acres of developed park land and 2.5 acres of open space. This Plan assumes this overall standard for all planning alternatives.*
 - *Developers shall meet the City standard ratio*
 - *Developers shall be required to provide park space or a fee in lieu of to ensure parks are available to citizens and/or funds for improvements of existing parks are available. Donation of parkland is encouraged to meet the needs of Molalla citizens.*
- *The City shall provide for a safe park system by providing the following:*
 - *Fences or other safety features in areas near highways or other hazardous areas and parkland away from said hazards when possible.*

- *Safe and convenient access to facilities.*
- *Natural settings*
- *Development buffers between residential land use and parkland uses.*
- *Preservation of trees where feasible when designing parks.*
- *The Molalla park system should enhance the livability in Molalla by:*
 - *Providing quality sites for passive and active recreation on private and public parklands.*
 - *Establishing a trail system.*
 - *Coordinating the development of parks with school sites to serve the expanding population.*
 - *Promoting and encouraging a physically fit and healthy community.*
- *The City should develop parkland where land is least suitable for intensive development.*
- *The City should develop trails along stream corridors and power line easements.*
- *The City should consider acquiring land early to protect them from development and reduce the public cost of acquiring land.*
- *The City shall develop a capital improvements program for parks and recreation facilities with adequate funding shared by new development and the community.*
- *The City shall coordinate with the private sector for use of certain lands, other than forest or agricultural lands, that are currently undeveloped and which would be better left in their natural state.*
- *New concepts of mixing public recreational activities with revenue-generating commercial uses, such as recreation equipment rentals or concession activities should be explored to help finance recreation programming, park acquisition, and maintenance.*

The Community Development and Livability section addresses parks and recreation planning by attributing Molalla's livability in part to the protection of natural and historic resources and good urban design. The plan seeks to provide an attractive and safe place to live to draw in small businesses to the community. The 12-block Central Business District (CBD) can accommodate shops like bike and sports stores that cater to the city's "recreational community" vision. To protect and enhance the CBD, pedestrian access should be maintained and improved, along with bicycle access.

The Residential Livability section's goals pertaining to parks include: to establish residential areas close to schools, services, parks, and natural areas; to require private and public developers to landscape developments with a "park-like nature;" to protect identified natural features; and to establish park locations near housing to encourage recreational uses.

Applicable Transportation section goals are to provide a safe and convenient transportation system throughout the city and to promote alternative modes of transportation. The plan states that the city should develop streets to include a network of bikeways, sidewalks, and crosswalks that provide adequate linkages between land uses and in coordination with the Parks Master Plan. It also encourages coordination with the Southern Pacific Railroad to construct a future multiuse trail or path along the rail corridor located in Molalla.

Downtown Molalla Development and OR 211 Streetscape Plan (2007)

The Downtown Development Plan provides a comprehensive vision for land use, urban design, and transportation for the 403-acre downtown area and state highway 211 also known as Main Street. The plan identifies the downtown area as a vital retail core for Molalla that needs to be protected and enhanced. This includes using design standards to increase pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle connectivity and to improve downtown streets and

parking based on existing and future needs. The plan has implementation measures relating to code amendments, investments, and standard updates.

The downtown vision includes supporting businesses, commerce, freight transportation, and Molalla as “a tourist destination, based on the area’s natural resources and recreational opportunities.”

Guiding principles include more parks in the downtown area; providing pedestrian-oriented connections across town to improve walking and biking conditions; and establishing a clear identity that preserves the natural and historic resources and supports a good quality of life.

The plan’s preferred land use and transportation concept is to create a large, clear, walkable downtown core with higher-density housing while preserving and enhancing the current historic buildings and character. The former mill site in southwest downtown will be rezoned for medium-density housing, and the former mill site and downtown core will be connected to larger open spaces through a trail system that connects to Bear Creek and a larger planned trail along the creek corridor. The plan also reroutes truck traffic from OR 211 to Molalla Forest Road.

The portion of OR 211 outside the downtown core but within city limits is recommended to be designated as a Special Transportation Area. This allows for more design flexibility to support local mobility and access. This would change intersection operations and lower the access spacing standard from 350 feet to as short as half the existing city block spacing, allowing for more local movement. Other improvements would be redesigning the streetscape and creating clear and safe intersections with pedestrian crossings.

Molalla Area Vision and Action Plan 2020-2030

The Vision Plan engaged the community in planning for Molalla’s future. Participants were asked about ways to improve quality of life, and respondents listed grocery stores, restaurants, traffic and pedestrian improvements, parks and recreation, more businesses and retail establishments and events and activities, especially for children. People value the small-town friendly feel of the community, as well as the natural beauty of the landscape. Molalla was also described as boring, growing, and as a bedroom community.

Molalla wants to work towards becoming a welcoming, friendly small town that celebrates its history and cultural significance, while being economically sound, able to serve its population, and provide connections to the area’s unique natural features.

In relation to parks and recreation, Molalla wants to improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure, improve and maintain existing parks and recreation facilities, and add a community park with features like a dog park, serenity park, tree park, or nature park. Molalla also wants to engage with the community by holding community-building activities to engage all cultures and ethnic groups and host community cleanup events at local parks and other community areas.

Transportation System Plan (2018)

Key destinations in Molalla are the library, city hall, post office, Long Park, health clinics, trailheads, and places of worship. The transportation plan focuses on addressing the transportation needs of pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists, and transit users. Major deficiencies in the transportation network are lacking sidewalks and safe street

crossings, especially to key destinations; the lack of use, awareness, and availability of the local bus service run by South Clackamas Transit District; little bike infrastructure and lack of interconnectedness; and streets are sometimes unsafe, disconnected, with freight traffic routes through downtown.

Overall goals of the plan relating to parks and recreation are to increase mobility and reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles and state highways by expanding and connecting streets and to increase access to key destinations through a multimodal system (bus, trail network, bike lanes, and sidewalks). The city also wants to encourage less reliance on vehicles to increase community health.

The plan prioritizes projects in four categories: bikes, pedestrians, vehicles, and transit. Pedestrian improvements consist of filling in sidewalk gaps, adding lighting, and enhancing crosswalks. The three proposed shared-use paths listed as potential developments are on Molalla Forest Road (along the old road from Toliver to OR 211 and along the current road) and Molalla Western Railway Spur ROW. Bike improvements consist of adding bike lanes throughout the city, either as an on-street or buffered lane, and enhancing crossings on existing bike lanes. Transit system improvements consist of increasing the frequency of service, increasing service coverage, adding more bus stops and shelters, and other amenities at stops like benches, lighting, and trash cans. The plan also goes into traffic management solutions and street improvements/standards by street type.

The plan’s potential revenue sources section provides a list of federal, state, and local funding sources. Several could be a good fit for funding trail projects recommended by the Parks, Recreation, and Trail System Plan including Connect Oregon, the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and ODOT Safe Routes to School Grants.

B Community Profile and Demographic Trends Analysis

MEMORANDUM Molalla Parks, Recreation & Trails System Plan

To: Project Management Team (City of Molalla)
From: Colin McArthur, AICP; Alli Langley; Claire Dosen (Cameron McCarthy)
Date: July 25, 2024
Subject: Community Profile and Demographic Trends

OVERVIEW

This memo provides a snapshot of the Molalla community profile in 2024 — including the city's geography, history, economy, and park planning context — followed by a summary of the City's demographic characteristics and trends, including population growth, age distribution, racial and ethnic identities, household composition, housing tenure, income and poverty, educational attainment, residential vehicle access, and disability experiences.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Located in eastern Willamette Valley between Portland and Salem, the City of Molalla is west of the Cascades and near Mount Hood National Forest in Clackamas County. Molalla straddles the Woodburn – Estacada Highway OR 211, and the Cascade Highway OR 213 is the western limit of the city. The city encompasses a contiguous area of about 2.53 square miles and is surrounded mostly by agriculture land. The city is 30 miles northeast of Salem and 30 miles south of Portland. Molalla experiences warm summers and colder winters, with a typical yearly temperature range of 36 degrees F to 86 degrees F.

The Molalla people are the original inhabitants and stewards of the land, from time immemorial, that now forms the City of Molalla. The Molalla people originally stewarded most of the land in the Cascade Range in West Central Oregon.¹ In the mid-1800s, Euro-American settlers were attracted to low-cost, fertile land and water they could claim with U.S. government support. Settlers filed the first formal land claims in the 1840s and opened the first post office in 1850.² Over the next decade, the U.S. government dispossessed the Molalla people of their homeland, through largely unfulfilled treaties, and forced them to walk along a portion of the Oregon Trail of Tears to the Grand Ronde Reservation, about 70 miles from the current City of Molalla, among other reservations.³

¹ Merrill, Brent and Hajda, Yvonne. "Chapter 6: The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon". The First Oregonians. 2007.

² City of Molalla Oregon. "City History". <https://www.cityofmolalla.com/page-50>

³ Mansayon, Christopher. "Henry Yelkus (c.1843-1913). Oregon Encyclopedia. https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/chief_henry_yelkus/. Accessed 30 July 2024.

In the late 1850s, Molalla's first schools and general store opened. In 1913, the city was officially incorporated and saw its first steam train, bank, local newspaper, and Molalla Buckaroo.⁴ Molalla became a thriving agricultural and lumber town, as well as an important stop along the Portland to Salem route. In the timber heyday, Molalla had five operational sawmills. Timber was the largest driver of the local economy until the 1980s. While lumber production has fallen, some mills still operate in town today.

Since the 1990s, Molalla has experienced significant residential growth. Its proximity to Oregon City, Portland, and Salem, along with a revitalized natural resources sector and commerce sector can be attributed to the rise in population. Molalla has become recognized for its rural lifestyle, the area's natural environment, recreation opportunities, and tourism. The Molalla Buckaroo, a rodeo hosted each July, is a major tourism draw. Molalla also has a variety of parks, an elk farm, and the Molalla Dibble House Museum.

Today, the City of Molalla has roughly 10,300 residents. Descendants of the Molalla tribe are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Klamath Tribes, and other tribal nations, and other descendants live independently of tribal communities. In recent years, the City of Molalla and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have partnered on efforts of mutual interest.

Students in Molalla are served by the Molalla River School District which includes six schools, including three within city limits and three in other parts of the district. In the 2022-23 school year, the district served 2,500 students and provided free and reduced-price lunch to 36% of students⁵. Hispanic/Latino residents made up 22% of students and 2% of teachers. Non-native English speakers made up 14% of students, and 21 languages were spoken. Students with disabilities made up 17% of the student population. In the district, 80% of students graduated on time, and 57% were regular attenders.

Molalla has eight primary land use zones: Low Density Residential, Medium Density Residential, Medium-High Density Residential, Public and Semi Public, Central Commercial, General Commercial, Light Industrial, and Heavy Industrial.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Trends in population growth, age, housing, race, and ethnicity are all key factors in understanding a community's composition. The following data is from the U.S. Census Bureau, Portland State University's Population Research Center, and Metro, the regional government of the Portland Metropolitan area that includes Clackamas County.

⁴ "History." Lodging and History. Molalla Area Chamber of Commerce. <https://web.archive.org/web/20090330120030/http://www.molallachamber.com/History%20lodging.htm>
⁵ Oregon Department of Education. "Oregon At-A-Glance District Profile Molalla River SD 35 2022-23". www.ode.state.or.us/data/ReportCard/Reports/Index?id=1925. Accessed 30 July 2024.

Population Growth

The population estimate of Molalla in 2023 was 10,335 residents.⁶ Clackamas County's 2023 population estimate was 424,043 residents, and Oregon's population was approximately 4,296,626.

Population growth is anticipated across the city, county, and state. Molalla is projected to grow faster than other jurisdictions in the region. This growth rate in Molalla and neighboring communities highlights the need to plan for accommodating this larger population with parks and recreation facilities and amenities. Table 1.1 summarizes historic and projected future populations.

Table 1.1. City, County, and State Estimated and Forecast Population, 2010 - 2040⁷

Year	2010	2020	2023	2030	2040
Oregon	3,831,074	4,237,256	4,296,626	4,708,389	5,237,510 ⁸
Clackamas County	375,992	421,401	424,043	460,401	505,622
Molalla	8,562	10,295	10,335	12,515	15,141

Age

Parks systems should meet the recreation needs of residents of all ages. Analyzing the population by age group can be used to adjust planning efforts for future age-related trends in recreation.

Chart 1.1 compares the 2020 population age distributions in Molalla, Clackamas County. Molalla's largest age group is 25 to 44 (30%) and smallest age group is 20 to 24 (6%). The second largest group is 5 to 19 (23%). This distribution indicates more families with children in Molalla than in the county and the state. The age distribution also shows an older population in Clackamas County than in Molalla. The age distribution analysis shows a diversity of ages within the system's population and reinforces the need for park planning activities to serve a community of all ages.

⁶ Portland State University (PSU), Population Research Center. "2023 Annual Oregon Population Report Tables". April 2024.
⁷ Sources: 2010 and 2020 population data from the U.S. Decennial Census. 2023 population estimate from the 2023 Annual Oregon Population Report Tables published in 2024 by PSU's Population Research Center. The 2030 and 2040 Population forecasts are from the Current Forecast Summary released by PSU's Population Research Center. The 2030 and 2040 population forecasts were last updated for Clackamas County and Molalla in 2020. The 2030 and 2040 Statewide forecast incorporates data from Oregon Metro.
⁸ Statewide forecast data is for 2045 instead of 2040. 2045 data was used to incorporate the most recent Metro forecast data published in 2021. More information is available at: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/2045-distributed-forecast>.

Chart 1.1. Age Distribution as Percent of Total Population in 2020⁹

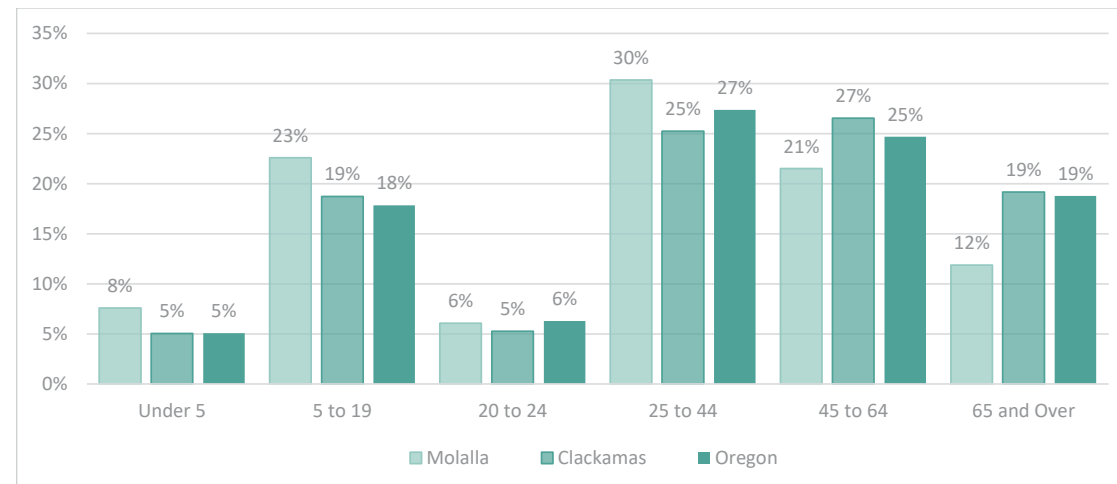
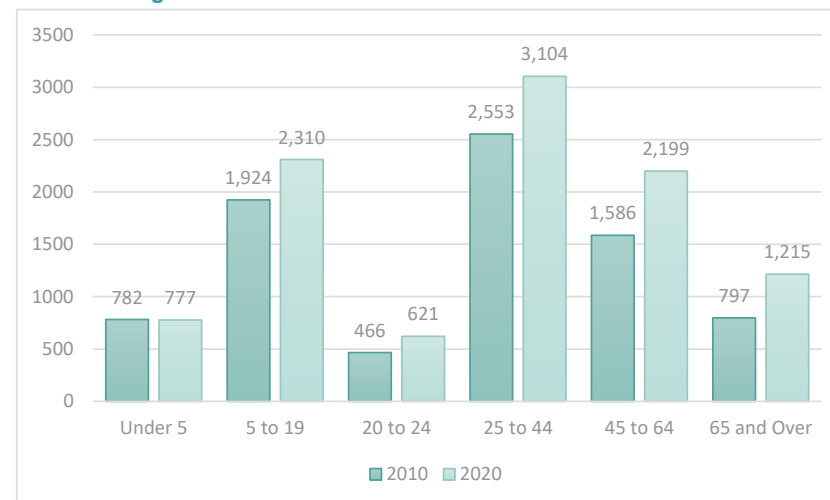


Chart 1.2 shows the estimated number of Molalla residents, in contrast to the percentage of population, in 2010 and 2020. Comparing the two age distributions shows how the population growth between 2010 and 2020 was distributed across age ranges, with Molalla seeing growth in most age groups.

Chart 1.2. Age Distribution of Molalla in 2010 and 2020¹⁰



⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2020.

¹⁰ Source: United States Census Bureau, 2020.

Race & Ethnicity

In 2020, the largest percentage of Molalla residents (79.8%) were white, and Latinos made up the largest minority ethnic group (15.9%). The racial composition of Molalla has become more diverse in recent years, as shown in Tables 1.2 and 1.3.

Table 1.2 shows the percentage of people identifying as two or more races more than tripled between 2010 and 2020. It also shows that in 2020, African American, American Indian, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander residents made up about 3% of the population of Molalla.

Table 1.2. Racial Composition of Molalla, 2010-2020¹¹

	White	American Indian	Asian	Black	Native Hawaiian	Some Other Race	Two or More
2010	86.9%	1.1%	0.8%	0.6%	0.3%	7.5%	2.9%
2020	79.8%	0.9%	1.0%	0.5%	0.3%	8.0%	9.6%

Table 1.3 shows that the percentage of residents identifying as Hispanic or Latino also grew between 2010 and 2020.

Table 1.3. Hispanic or Latino Identity, 2010-2020¹²

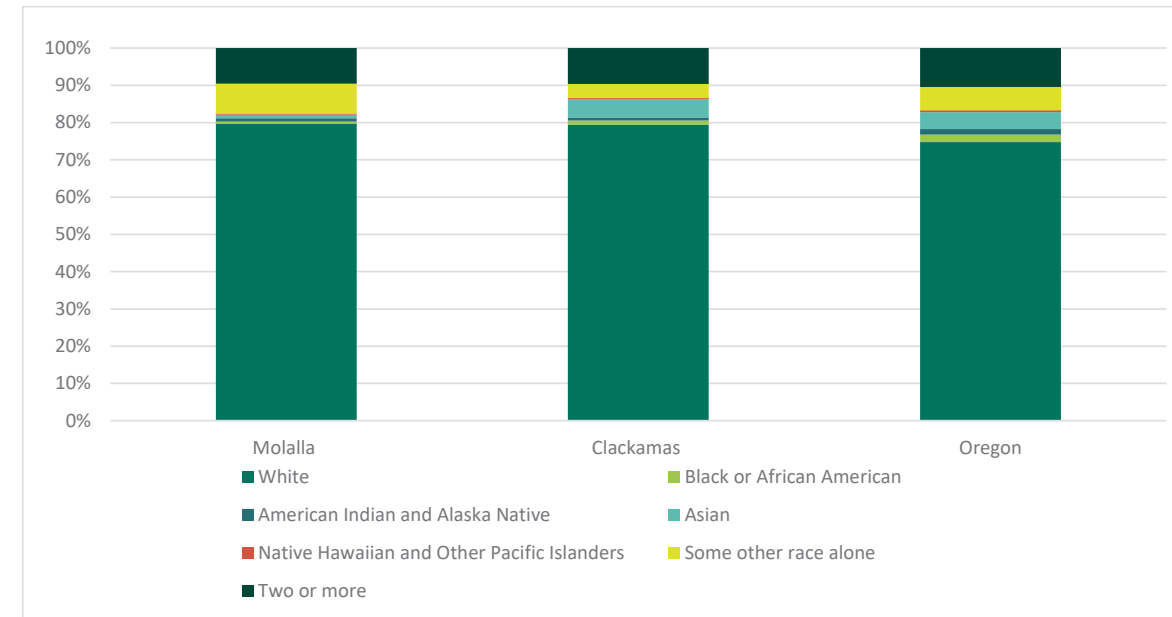
	Hispanic / Latino	Non-Hispanic / Latino
2010	14%	86%
2020	16%	84%

Molalla's racial and ethnic distribution is similar to the state of Oregon as a whole while Clackamas County has a smaller Hispanic / Latino population. As shown in Chart 1.3, Molalla's multiracial population in 2020 represents 10.0% of the total population, similar to 9.6% in the county and 10.5% in the state. Molalla is expected to see an increasingly racially diverse population who will need to be included in park planning activities to ensure that these facilities serve current and future community members.

¹¹ Source: United State Census Bureau, 2020.

¹² Source: United States Census Bureau, 2020.

Chart 1.3. Racial Composition by City, County, and State, 2020¹³

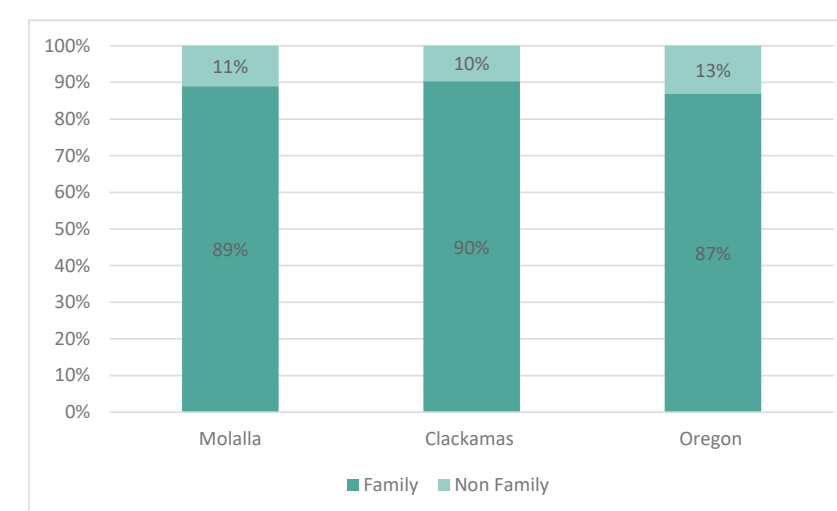


Household Makeup

Review of household type, housing tenure, and recent housing construction provides critical information for meeting park and recreation needs. This data assists with planning for the development of new parks and identifying potential funding sources, such as System Development Charges (SDCs). In addition, housing trends provide a snapshot of the type of housing being added to a community, where it is being added, and the type of homes that are being constructed.

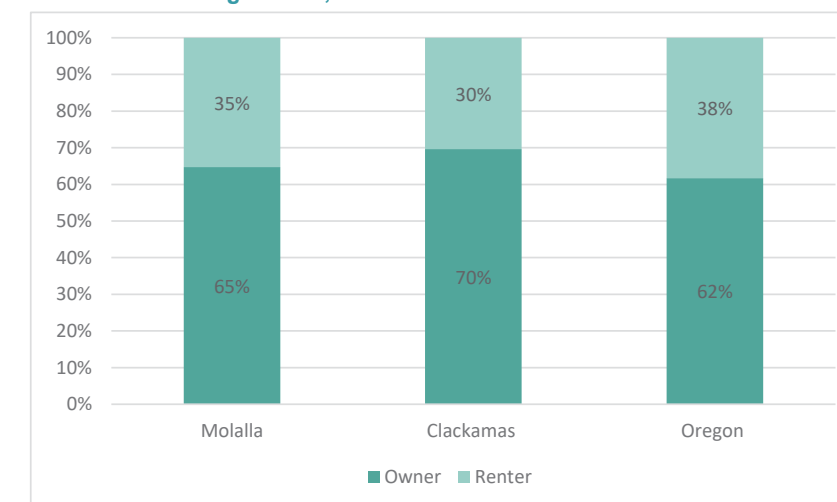
In 2021, 89% of Molalla households were families (individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption) while 11% were non-family households (individuals living alone or with non-relatives). Of this 11% non-family households, 69% live alone. This percentage of non-family households who live alone highlights opportunities for the city to meet the needs of non-family households, some of which are older residents living alone. The high percentage of families also highlights the need to provide activities and opportunities across a wide age spectrum. As shown in Chart 1.4, Molalla has a similar portion of family households (89%) as the county (90%) and a slightly higher portion than Oregon (87%).

Chart 1.4. Household Makeup, 2021¹⁴



In 2021, Molalla had 3,578 occupied housing units within city limits. Roughly 65% of residents own their homes while 34% rent. As shown in Figure 1.5, Molalla had a lower percentage of homeowners compared to Clackamas County (70%) and a higher percentage compared to the state (62%).

Chart 1.5. Housing Tenure; 2021¹⁵



¹⁴ Source: United States Census Bureau, 2021.

¹⁵ Source: United States Census Bureau, 2021.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

A community's support of, desire for, and willingness to pay for park and recreation services are directly related to the strength of its economic base. Understanding the economic characteristics of Molalla is a critical step in determining priorities for park and recreation services. This understanding will also aid the City in preparing grants and applying for alternate funding sources to help pay for park projects.

Income and Poverty

In 2021, Molalla's median household income (\$74,718), median family income (\$93,548), and per capita income (\$31,626) were lower than that of Clackamas County. Molalla has a slightly higher percentage of families living below the poverty level (6.3%) than Clackamas County (5.0%) and lower than Oregon (7.5%). The percentage of adults below the poverty level is greater in Molalla (9.6%) than in Clackamas County (7.6%) and slightly lower than in Oregon (10.5%).

Table 1.4. Income and Poverty; Molalla, Clackamas County, and Oregon, 2021¹⁶

	Molalla	Clackamas County	Oregon
Median Household Income	\$74,718	\$97,416	\$70,084
Median Family Income	\$93,548	\$106,288	\$93,384
Per Capita Income	\$31,626	\$45,140	\$37,816
Percent of Families Below Poverty Level	6%	5%	8%
Percent of Adults Below Poverty Level	10%	8%	11%

Poverty and income are important considerations in the parks planning process, as they influence residents' willingness and ability to pay for higher levels of service and new facilities.

Education Attainment

A community's economic base is also influenced by the educational attainment of its residents. Table 1.5 shows educational attainment for Molalla, Clackamas County, and Oregon in 2021 for people 25 years of age or older. In 2021, 94% in Molalla had a high school diploma or higher, and 16% had a bachelor's degree or higher, the latter of which is lower than in both Clackamas County and Oregon. High school diploma attainment in Molalla was similar in Molalla to Clackamas County and slightly higher than the state.

¹⁶ Source: United States Census Bureau, 2021.

Table 1.5. Educational Attainment; Molalla, Clackamas County, and Oregon, 2021¹⁷

Educational Attainment	Molalla	Clackamas County	Oregon
High School Diploma or Higher	94%	94%	92%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	16%	39%	35%

Educational attainment and subsequent earning potential is an important consideration in the parks planning process, as they influence residents' ability to pay for higher levels of service and new park facilities.

TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS

Commuting

Understanding access to public parks via public or personal transportation is a critical step in determining priorities for accessibility to parks and recreational services. This understanding also will aid the City in preparing grants and applying for alternate funding sources to help pay for park projects. Table 1.6 presents commuting characteristics for Molalla, Clackamas County, and Oregon in 2021.

When comparing city, county, and state, 32% of residents in Molalla 16 years and over live in households with access to three or more vehicles, which is higher than in the county (29%) and state (24%). The portion of Molalla residents without access to a vehicle (10%) is also higher than in the county and state. While most residents have private vehicle access, it is important to recognize the need for accessible parks and green spaces within walking distance for the more than 1,000 Molalla residents, based on the current population estimate, who cannot afford or choose not to use this means of transportation.

Table 1.6. Commuting Characteristics: Molalla, Clackamas County, and Oregon, 2021¹⁸

Vehicles Available	Molalla	Clackamas County	Oregon
None	10%	5%	7%
1	20%	26%	31%
2	38%	40%	38%
3 or More	32%	29%	24%

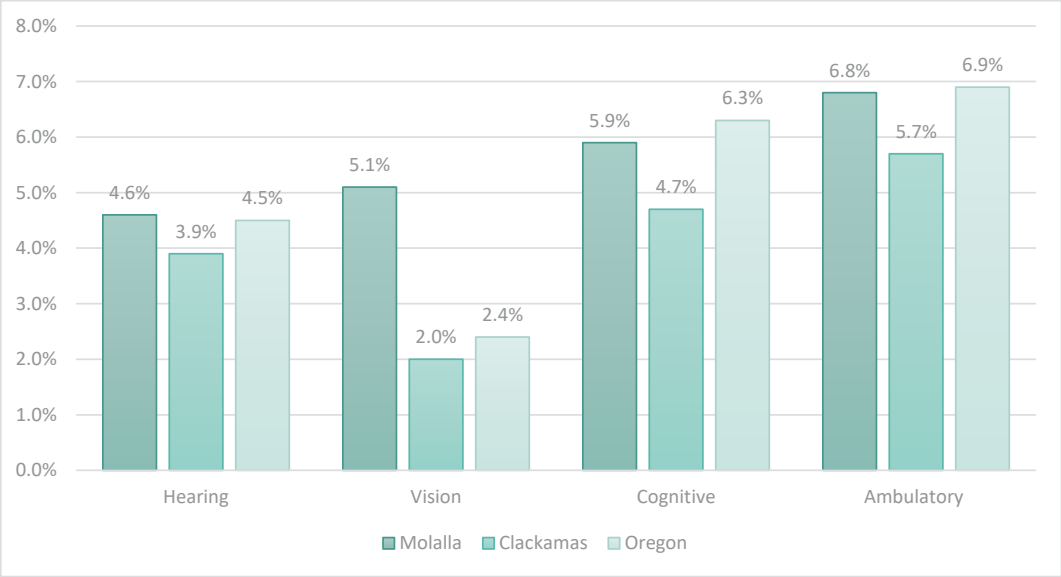
¹⁷ Source: United States Census Bureau, 2021.

¹⁸ Source: United States Census Bureau, 2021.

Disabilities

Understanding the status of disability in Molalla compared to Clackamas County and Oregon is analyzed to best accommodate and provide adequate and accessible outdoor spaces. This understanding can also aid the City in preparing grants and applying for alternate funding sources to help pay for more accessible amenities. For this analysis, four disability categories were examined — ambulatory, hearing, vision, and cognitive — to understand the need for more inclusive design and planning efforts. Chart 1.6 shows 2021 disability characteristics for Molalla, Clackamas County, and Oregon.

Chart 1.6. Disability Statistics; 2021¹⁹



In Molalla, the portion of residents with a disability in at least one of the categories ranges from roughly 5% to 7%. Ambulatory disability, defined as difficulty walking or climbing stairs, is the most common, followed by cognitive, and then vision and hearing.²⁰ Molalla has a higher portion of residents with a disability across the four categories than the county and fewer with cognitive and ambulatory disabilities than the state. Ambulatory disability is Overall, the need for accessible amenities is a critical focus for the City of Molalla.

¹⁹ Source: United States Census Bureau, 2021.

²⁰ Source: United States Census Bureau, 2021.

C Existing System Inventory and Conditions Report

MEMORANDUM

Molalla Parks, Recreation & Trails System Plan

To: Project Management Team (City of Molalla)
From: Colin McArthur, AICP, Alli Langley, Claire Dosen (Cameron McCarthy)
Date: May 12, 2024
Subject: Inventory and Conditions Report

PURPOSE

Comprehensive parks system planning requires identifying and assessing existing park facilities and amenities. This inventory process highlights system-wide strengths, needs, opportunities, and constraints and reveals underserved 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. This helps guide recommendations and capital improvement program efforts.

CLASSIFICATIONS

The existing conditions analysis uses National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) classifications to categorize Molalla's park resources and NRPA Park Metrics to evaluate the system.¹ Park classification considers individual park benefits, functions, size, service area, and amenities. For Molalla, the classifications are:

- Parks
 - Mini Park
 - Neighborhood Park
 - Community Park
 - Special Use Park
 - Natural Area Park
 - Undeveloped Parkland
- Trails

Mini Parks

Molalla operates two mini parks: Oddfellows Pocket Park and Rotary Park. Mini parks are small outdoor spaces, usually no more than one acre, most often in an urban area surrounded by commercial buildings or houses on small lots. These parks support small group gatherings, relaxation or respite from the sun, or access to enjoy the

¹ NRPA Park Metrics are benchmark data that assist in the management and planning of park and recreation systems. They will be discussed in the Park System Benchmarks and Metrics Analysis Memorandum along with an assessment of the park system's performance relative to applicable benchmarks. <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/ParkMetrics/>

outdoors. Mini parks may include amenities such as flexible paved space, small play equipment, waysides with seating, and lawn areas. Successful mini parks are accessible, allow people to engage in daily activities, are comfortable spaces to sit, and are sociable places (e.g., where people meet for social interaction).

Neighborhood Parks

Molalla operates three neighborhood parks: Fox Park, Long Park, and Strawberry Park. Neighborhood parks are small parks within biking and walking distance to surrounding neighborhoods. They provide access to basic recreation and social opportunities such as ball fields, basketball courts, exercise stations, pickleball/tennis courts, playgrounds, walking paths, picnic pavilions, and benches. With specific park amenities, neighborhood parks can enhance neighborhood identity and preserve neighborhood natural areas and open space. Their service area radius is ideally ¼ to ½ mile in a residential setting. Neighborhood parks may range in size from 1 to 10 acres.

Community Parks

Molalla operates one community park: Clark Park. Community parks provide a variety of structured, active, passive, and informal recreation opportunities for all age groups. Community parks are generally larger in size and serve a wide base of residents. They typically include facilities that attract people from the entire community, such as sports fields, pavilions, picnic shelters, and water features, and require supporting facilities, such as parking and restrooms. These parks may also include natural areas, unique landscapes, and trails. Community parks may range in size from 1 to 50 acres.

Special Use Parks

Molalla operates three special use parks: Molalla Skate Park, the park land known as Sheets Field and Molalla BMX Track, and Bohlander Field. Special use parks are recreation sites or parkland with specialized facilities designed to serve specific functions. Facilities typically included are community centers, community gardens, skate parks, aquatic centers, memorials, public art, amphitheaters, and sports field complexes.

Undeveloped Parkland

Molalla owns four undeveloped parkland properties: Bear Creek Annex, Chief Yelkus Park, Clark Park Annex, and Pioneer Cemetery. The City is currently in the design phase of developing Chief Yelkus Park. Undeveloped parkland is City-owned or potentially owned by the city and could become developed parkland. This can occur through adding facilities or amenities or developing the land for park and recreation use.

Natural Area Parks

Molalla currently operates one natural area, Ivor Davies Park. Natural area parks are lightly developed or left primarily in their natural state to provide limited recreation opportunities, as appropriate. Natural area parks include areas protected or preserved through conservation easements, acquisition, or dedication.

Trails

Trails refer to multipurpose trails within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas that primarily provide recreational value and natural resource access but may include other connectors that serve as public access routes. Molalla currently has 1.43 miles of trails.

INVENTORY

City Facilities

The parks inventory includes all City owned parkland and trails as well as Molalla School District No. 35 facilities (Table 1.5), Molalla Aquatic District (MAD) facilities, and privately owned parks and open space that contribute to park and recreation opportunities to Molalla residents and visitors (Table 1.3).

The City currently owns and maintains 10 developed park facilities, which comprise 73.76 acres of developed parkland, and four undeveloped properties, comprising 13.46 acres, of land that is currently undeveloped and could be developed as parkland (Table 1.1). The existing City-owned park and recreation system is shown on **Map 1. Park System**. The Molalla parks system contains 0.71 linear miles of trails (Table 1.2).

The existing parks system provides a range of park types and recreation opportunities. Different types of parks serve distinct functions and needs in the community. For this plan, park facilities are assessed based on amenities, size, service area, and function. The following is a summary of the City of Molalla park classifications and acreages.² See Appendix A for more detailed information on each facility.

² Acreage and mile totals are preliminary, based on Geographical Information System (GIS) data, and subject to change.

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Table 1.1. Parks

PARKS	ACRES
Mini Parks	
Odd Fellows Park	0.14
Rotary Park	0.44
Neighborhood Parks	
Fox Park	1.96
Long Park	1.09
Strawberry Park	0.25
Community Parks	
Clark Park	9.67
Special Use Parks	
Bohlander Field	14.01
Molalla Skate Park	0.34
Sheets Field & Molalla BMX Track	3.39
Natural Area Parks	
Ivor Davies Park	42.46
TOTAL DEVELOPED PARKLAND	73.76
Undeveloped Parkland	
Bear Creek Annex	0.91
Chief Yelkus Park	6.85
Clark Park Annex	3.33
Pioneer Cemetery	2.37
TOTAL UNDEVELOPED PARKLAND	13.46

Table 1.2. Trails

TRAILS	MILES
Ivor Davies Walking Path	0.96
Bear Creek Byway	0.08
S Molalla Forest Road Trail	0.39
TOTAL	1.43

Additional Public Facilities

In addition to those on City-owned land, other public park and recreation facilities are available to Molalla residents (Table 1.3).

Molalla School District operates three schools and two other recreational facilities in the planning area. These 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 other facility rental agreements.

Molalla Aquatic District shares boundaries with the school district and provides an eight-lane, 25-year indoor pool with programming as well as event space available for rent. A [acreage] portion of the district property is undeveloped.

Table 1.3. Additional Public Facilities

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC FACILITIES	ACRES
Molalla Elementary School (school district)	19.47
Molalla River Middle School (school district)	17.90
Molalla High School (school district)	28.66
Heckard Field (school district)	18.45
Molalla River School District Administration Buildings, Molalla Library & Basketball Court Park (school district)	3.64
Molalla Aquatic Center (Molalla Aquatic District)	4.71
TOTAL	92.82

Two public recreation facilities are outside the planning area but nearby. Feyrer Park is a 17-acre Clackamas County park about 1.5 miles east along the Molalla River with a campground, picnic shelters, picnic tables, boat ramp, playground, horseshoes, volleyball, and restrooms. Molalla River Recreation Area is Bureau of Land Management land about 7 miles southeast with river access, picnic facilities, restrooms, campgrounds, and access to a hiking, biking, and equestrian trail system.

Private Facilities

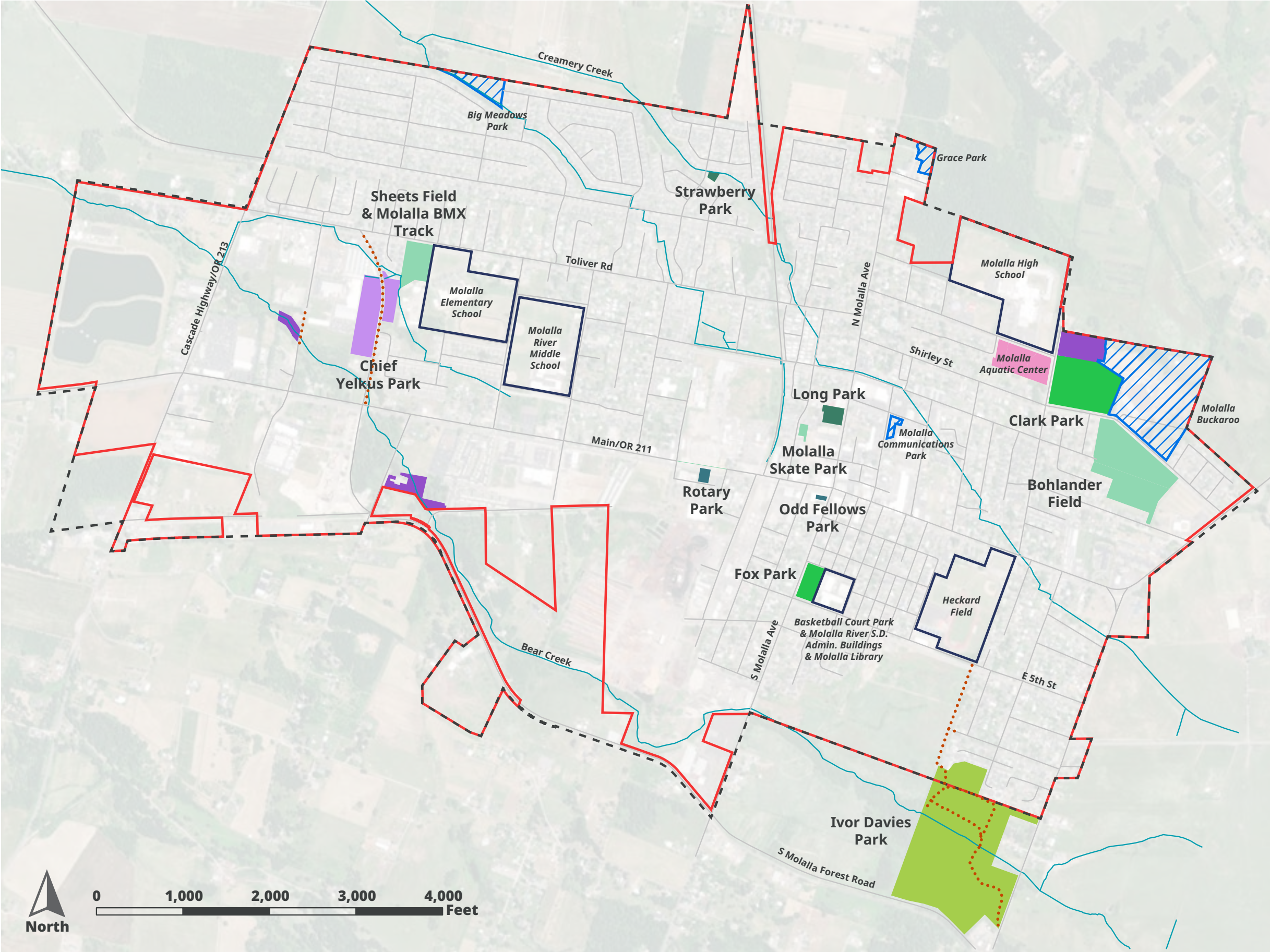
Molalla also has four privately owned park facilities within the planning area (Table 1.4). Private facilities may be open and welcoming to some community members but should not be relied on for meeting the broader community’s park and recreation needs.

Table 1.4. Private Parks and Open Space

PRIVATE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE	ACRES
Big Meadows Park (<i>playground, lawn, basketball court, open space</i>)	2.61
Grace Park (<i>baseball field</i>)	1.27
Molalla Buckaroo Grounds (<i>rodeo facilities</i>)	24.13
Molalla Communications Park (<i>paved plaza, tables, chairs, plantings</i>)	0.47
TOTAL	28.48

Other privately owned recreation facilities include the Dibble House Museum, operated by the Molalla Area Historical Society, as well as a few fitness centers. A handful of businesses just outside the planning area also offer recreation activities to the public including Rosse Posse Acres (an elk farm and wildlife petting zoo), Molalla Train Park, and Skydive Oregon.

Map 1 Park System



Parks

Odd Fellows Park

The park in downtown Molalla is between a bar and grill and a barber shop.

- **Size:** 0.14 Acres
- **Park Classification:** Mini Park
- **Status:** Developed
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Bench (1)
 - Picnic table (1)
 - Tree canopy (large)
 - Portable restroom (1)
 - Mural (on adjacent commercial property)
 - Memorial rock
 - Signage
 - Trash receptacle (1)
 - Dog bag dispenser
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - City art installation
 - Community garden space
 - Formalize picnic space
 - Small covered structure
 - Add bike rack



Rotary Park

Rotary Park is on Highway 211 in front of the Bi-Mart parking lot and between an auto parts store and car wash.

- **Size:** 0.44 Acres
- **Park Classification:** Mini Park
- **Status:** Developed
- **Site Visit Notes:**
 - Loud due to highway proximity
 - Rarely used
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Benches (4)
 - Ornamental plantings
 - Art installation and interpretive signage
 - Park signs (2)
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Stormwater management
 - Electric and water hookups for food cart/vendor pod
 - Consider property sale, use change



Fox Park

Sited next to the library, this highly used community park named for Sally Fox is close to downtown on S Molalla Avenue. The park amenities offer a range of uses to the community including a popular splash pad. Some of the equipment has been newly replaced while some equipment is roped off for safety reasons. The City built this park on the site of the high school after it was destroyed in the “Spring Break Quake” of 1992.

- **Size:** 1.96 acres
- **Park Classification:** Neighborhood Park
- **Status:** Developed
- **Site Visit Notes:**
 - Replacement of the play equipment for young children is planned.
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Splash pad
 - Play structures (2)
 - One in older condition with equipment for younger children
 - One in newer condition with equipment for older children
 - Both with bark mulch surfacing
 - Swing sets (2)
 - Covered gazebo/picnic area
 - Picnic tables (6, includes 4 that are ADA-accessible)
 - Benches (14)
 - Lawn
 - Veterans memorial with a flagpole
 - Restrooms
 - Historic art/signage
 - Art installation at corner of S Molalla Ave and E 5th St.
 - Signage
 - Small pedestrian bridge (over drainage way)
 - Large shade trees
 - Ornamental plantings
 - Trash bins (5)
 - Dog bag dispensers
 - Car parking (shared with the library)
 - Bus stop
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Create ADA-accessible path to picnic shelter
 - Replace plant beds at picnic shelter with lawn
 - Add bike racks
 - Upgrade bathrooms
 - Upgrade older play equipment



Long Park

Leonard Long Park is downtown along Molalla Avenue adjacent to the Molalla Civic Center and a fire station. The City added a pickleball facility in 2023 with funding from Molalla Communications Cooperative as well as a rain garden at the southern edge near the pickleball courts. The park's street frontage was also improved recently, adding some interpretive art to the park.

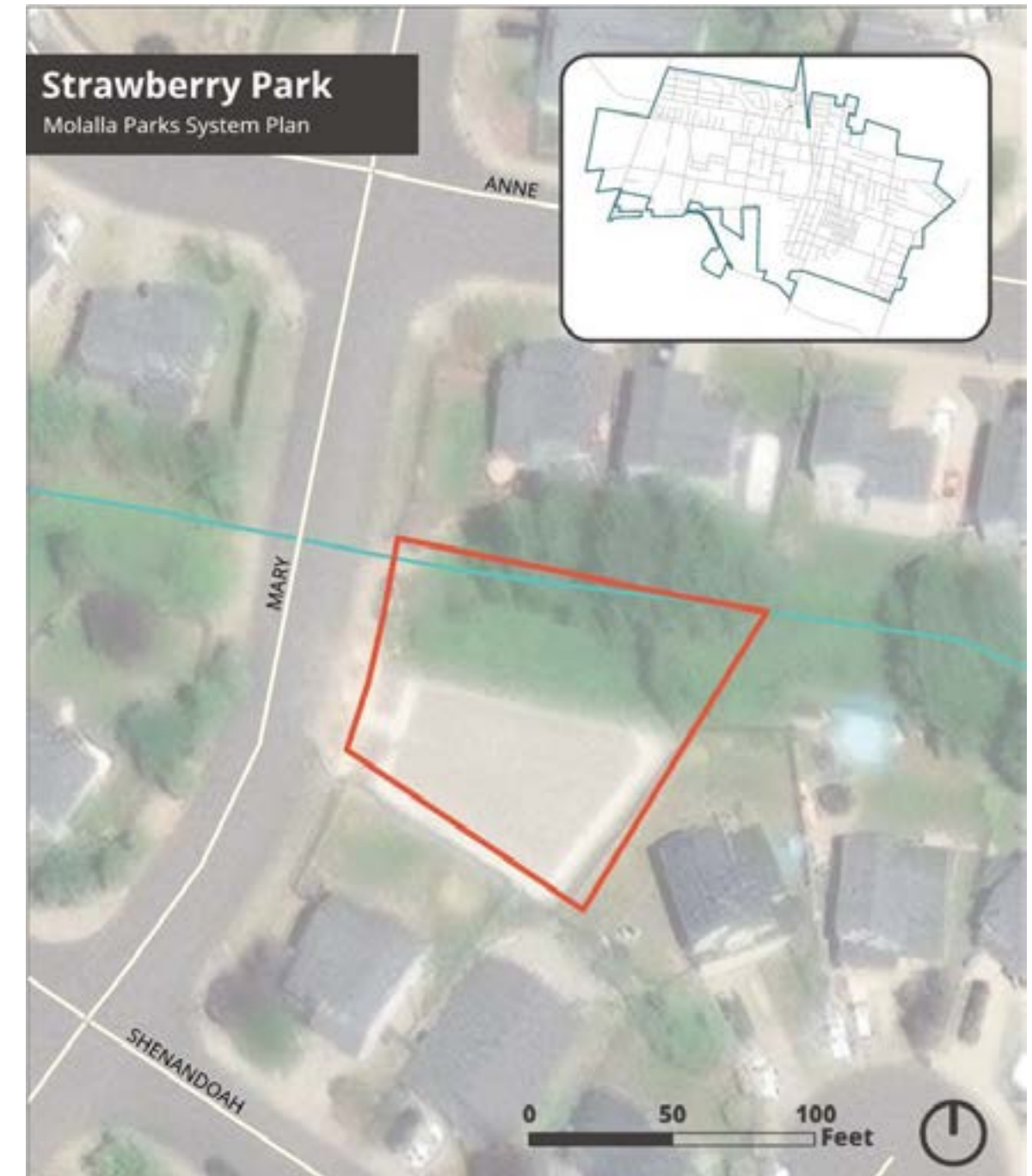
- **Size:** 1.09 Acres
- **Park Classification:** Neighborhood Park
- **Status:** Developed
- **Site Visit Notes:**
 - The stage had a covered gazebo that was recently removed.
 - A swing set is planned.
 - Exploring community garden run by local nonprofit in front of Civic Center [this acreage is not included in the inventory].
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Restroom
 - Play structure (1)
 - Swing set (1)
 - Pickleball courts (3)
 - Picnic tables (7, includes 4 that are ADA-accessible)
 - Benches (4, includes 1 swinging bench)
 - Art installations (3, includes 2 related to the Molalla tribe origin story and 1 log sculpture)
 - Small stage (raised concrete platform, not ADA-compliant)
 - Lawn
 - Large shade trees
 - Tree stumps
 - Ornamental plantings
 - Site lighting
 - Kiosk with informational signage and art
 - Wayfinding sign
 - Memorials (2)
 - ADA-compliant path
 - Bike rack (1)
 - Bike pump and repair station
 - Water station and fountain
 - Trash cans (5)
 - Dog bag dispenser
 - Park sign
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Remove large tree stumps or incorporate as a play element
 - Unify site furnishings and create a set of furnishing standards
 - Replace stage cover and add ramp for ADA-accessibility
 - Formalize picnic areas
 - Update play equipment and include ADA-accessibility



Strawberry Park

Strawberry Park is the city's newest park and is in a northern subdivision of Molalla. This neighborhood park is fully fenced, ADA-accessible, and popular with families with small children. It was built in 2022 next to houses and a creek with funding from Molalla Communications Cooperative.

- **Size:** 0.25 Acres
- **Park Classification:** Neighborhood Park
- **Status:** Developed
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Play structures (3), with ADA-accessibility including sensory (noisemaking) play equipment
 - Swing set (1) with 1 belt seat, 1 accessible seat
 - Poured in place rubber play surfacing
 - Picnic tables (2), ADA-accessible
 - Benches (4)
 - Trash bin (1)
 - Signage
 - Fence (4' tall) with latching gate
- **Opportunities (preliminary)**
 - Improve stormwater management
 - Improve creekside habitat and add information signage
 - Add shade
 - Add bike racks



Clark Park

Located between the Molalla Buckeroo and the Molalla Aquatic Center, Clark Park is a developed park with sports fields on the west side and a large oak tree grove on the east side with a playground, paved paths, and picnic tables often used for picnicking. The park has an ADA-accessible parking lot along Shirley Street and a gravel parking lot by the bathrooms off Frarces Street. The Frarces Street extension provides vehicle access to the gravel lot and the Molalla Buckeroo property back gate. The street frontages at Shirley and N Cole Avenue have recently been improved.

- **Size:** 9.67 acres
- **Park Classification:** Community Park
- **Status:** Developed
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Baseball diamond (1)
 - Soccer fields (4)
 - Bathrooms
 - Horseshoes (2)
 - Play structure (1), small with equipment for younger children
 - Swing set (1)
 - Picnic shelter/gazebo, damaged
 - Picnic tables (17, includes 9 with ADA-accessibility)
 - Benches (2)
 - Tree canopy (large)
 - Paved ADA-accessible path through oak grove
 - Art installation at corner of N Cole Ave. and Shirley St.
 - Signage
 - Drinking fountain
 - Trash receptacles (2)
 - Dog bag dispenser (1)
 - Paved parking with 1 ADA spot
 - Gravel parking lot
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Replace play equipment. Ideal location for nature play due to the existing playground in the center of the oak tree grove.
 - Upgrade gravel parking lot
 - Add bike racks and repair station



Molalla Skate Park

The Molalla Skate Park is located on the Civic Center property, along Kennel Avenue, near Long Park. The skate park does not have any designated parking, but parking is available next door at the civic center. A local nonprofit formed to fundraise for park improvements.

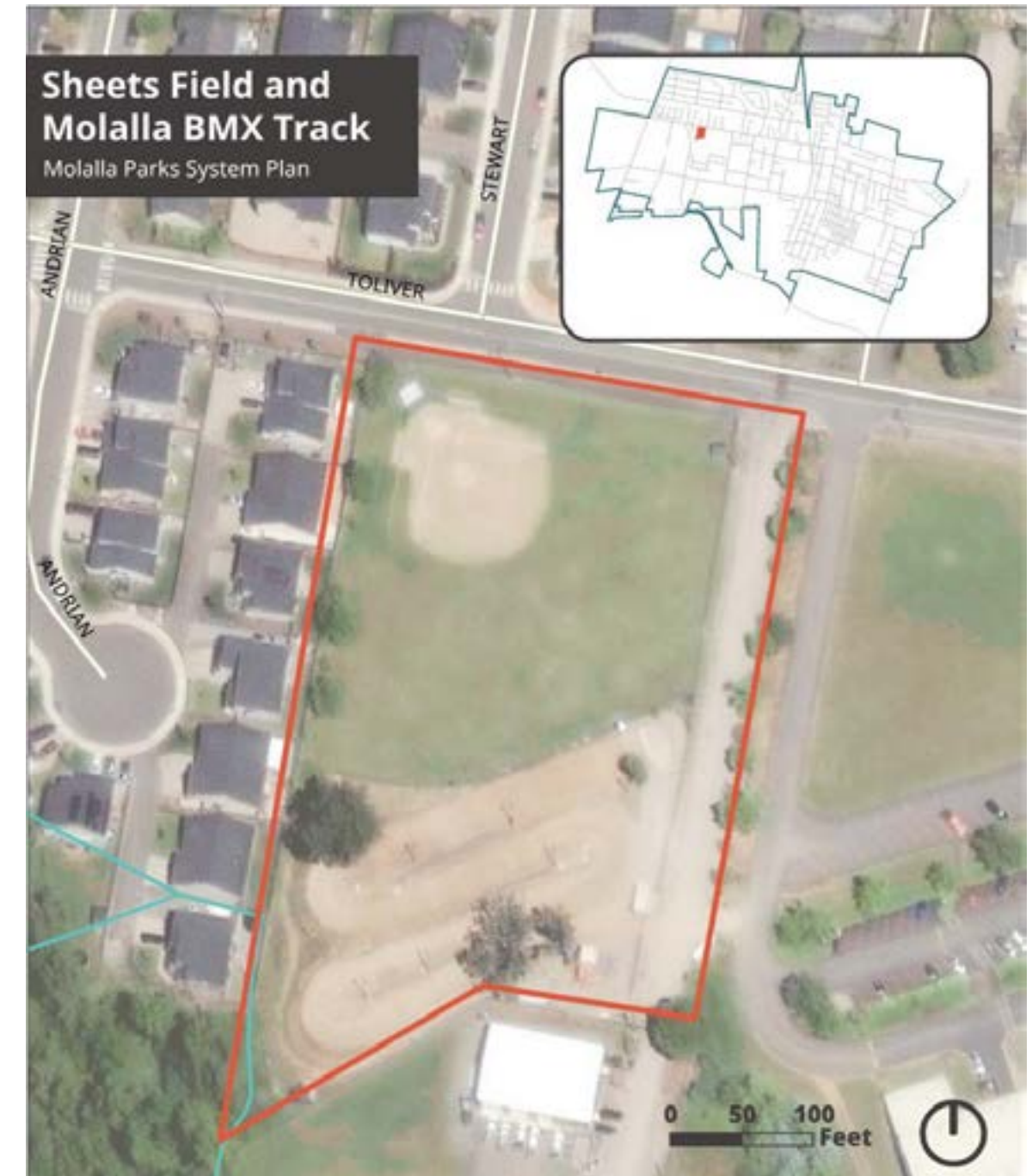
- **Size:** 0.34 acres
- **Park Classification:** Special Purpose Park
- **Status:** Developed
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Skate area with ramps
 - Signage
 - Trash bin (1)
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Upgrade and expand the skate park (e.g. replace ramps, add bowls)



Sheets Fields and Molalla BMX Track

Sheets Fields is a softball field named after Billy Sheets, a local pitcher who was drafted by the Yankees and killed in a logging accident before he could play professionally. The Molalla BMX Track is south of the field. This parkland is adjacent to Molalla Elementary School. While the city owns the land, Molalla BMX Association operates and maintains the BMX track. The track area is fenced, and operators close it to the public when it is too wet for riding.

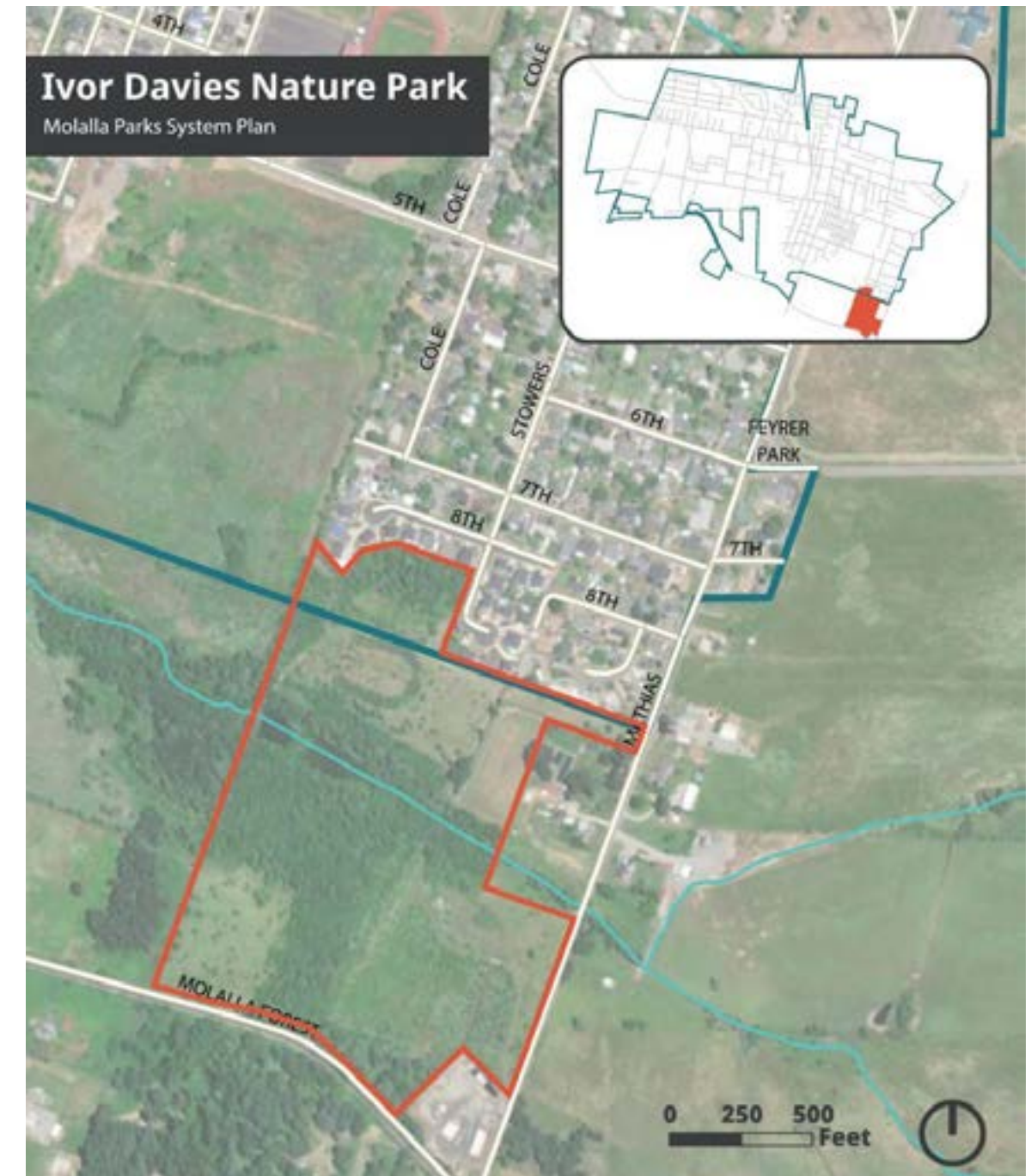
- **Size:** 3.39 Acres
- **Park Classification:** Special Use Park
- **Status:** Developed
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Softball field
 - BMX course (sometimes locked)
 - Bleachers (2)
 - Picnic tables (8, including one that is ADA-accessible)
 - Restroom (sometimes locked)
 - Signage
 - Vehicle parking spots (4)
 - Some trees along the east property line
 - Concessions stand
 - Waste bins (7)
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Path connections to Chief Yelkus Park
 - Add bike racks



Ivor Davies Park

Ivor Davies Park is a partially developed park at the southeast corner of the city. Ivor Davies is the only City park that extends beyond the planning area. The park has a walking path, open space, and a disc golf course around a tree stand planted in a horseshoe shape.

- **Size:** 42.46 Acres
- **Park Classification:** Natural Area Park
- **Status:** Developed
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Paved multi-use path
 - Disc golf course (9 holes)
 - Shorty's Pond overlook
 - Picnic shelter (no tables)
 - Benches (4)
 - Tree stand in the shape of a horseshoe
 - Unpaved walking paths
 - Signage
 - Trash bins (2)
 - Dog bag dispenser
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Restore Shorty's Pond
 - Add vehicle parking lot
 - Expand path system
 - Add restroom
 - Add picnic tables
 - Add bike racks



Bear Creek Annex

The City recently acquired a parcel of land along Bear Creek for potential open space.

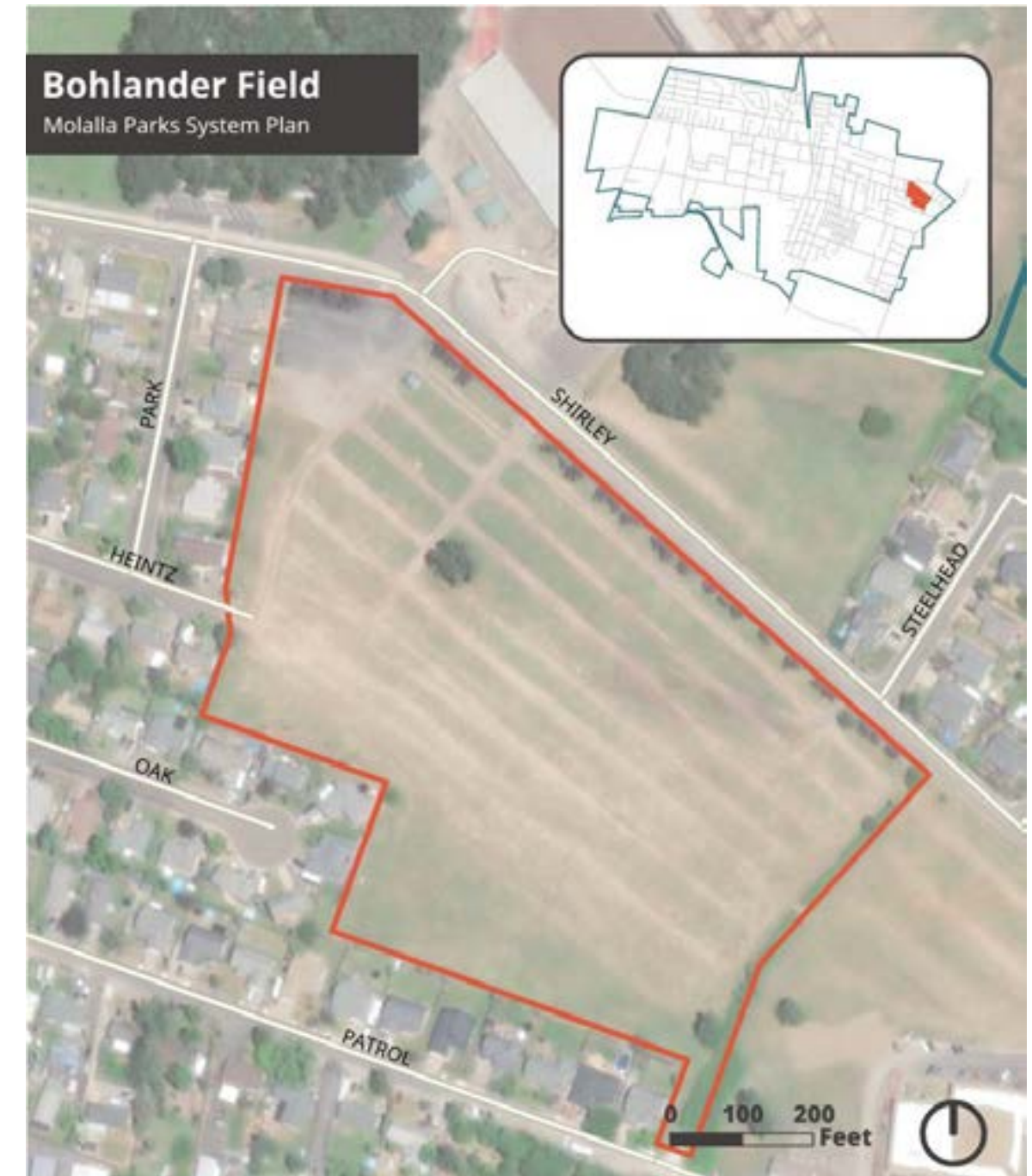
- **Size:** 0.91 Acres
- **Park Classification:** TBD
- **Status:** Undeveloped
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - None
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Develop creek access
 - Add path



Bohlander Field

Bohlander Field is City-owned land used for parking during the annual Molalla Buckeroo that takes place over the July 4th holiday. The land is across the street from Clark Park and the Molalla Buckeroo property.

- **Size:** 14.01 Acres
- **Park Classification:** Special Use
- **Status:** Undeveloped
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - 1 tree
 - Grass field
 - Signage
 - Small shed structure
 - Asphalt paving and gate
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Add more park facilities (e.g. sports fields, dog park)

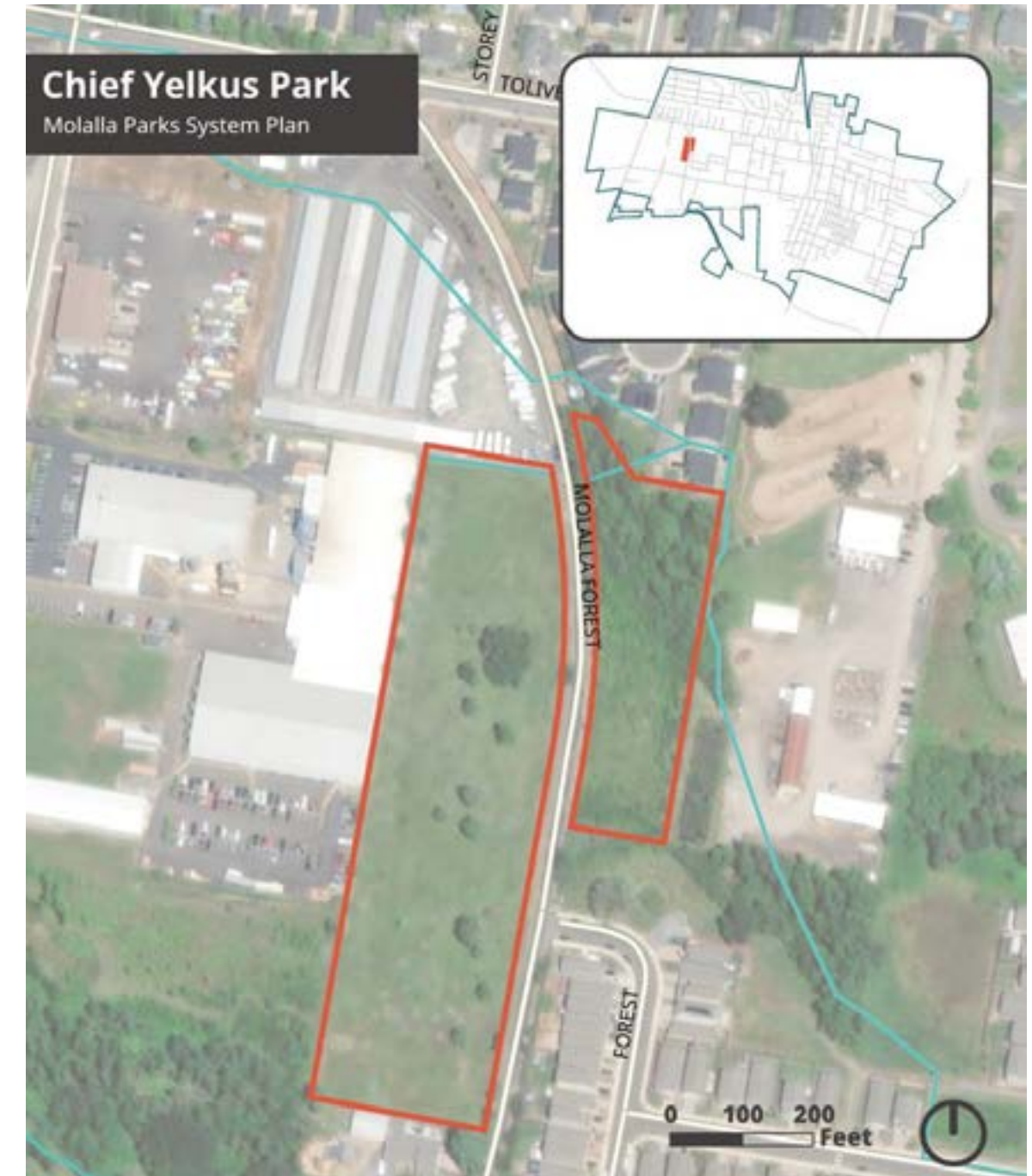


Chief Yelkus Park

The City is currently developing a master plan for the Chief Yelkus property. The park was named in 2021 in remembrance of Henry Yelkus, a member of the Molalla Tribe.³ The park is bordered by residential land to the north and south, industrial land to the west, and Sheets Field and the Molalla BMX Track to the east as well as the City public works facility.

- **Size:** 6.85 Acres
- **Park Classification:** TBD
- **Status:** Undeveloped
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Tree canopy
 - Wetlands
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Trail connection to Bear Creek and Toliver Walking/Biking Path
 - Trails/accessible paths
 - Benches
 - Signs / interpretative features
 - Bike racks
 - Vehicle parking

³ Mansayon, Christopher. "Henry Yelkus (c. 1843–1913)." *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Portland State University and the Oregon Historical Society, 3 Nov. 2022, https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/chief_henry_yelkus/.



Clark Park Annex

The City owns this 3-acre property north of the Clark Park parking lot and west of the Buckeroo property. This undeveloped property is also near the high school and aquatic center.

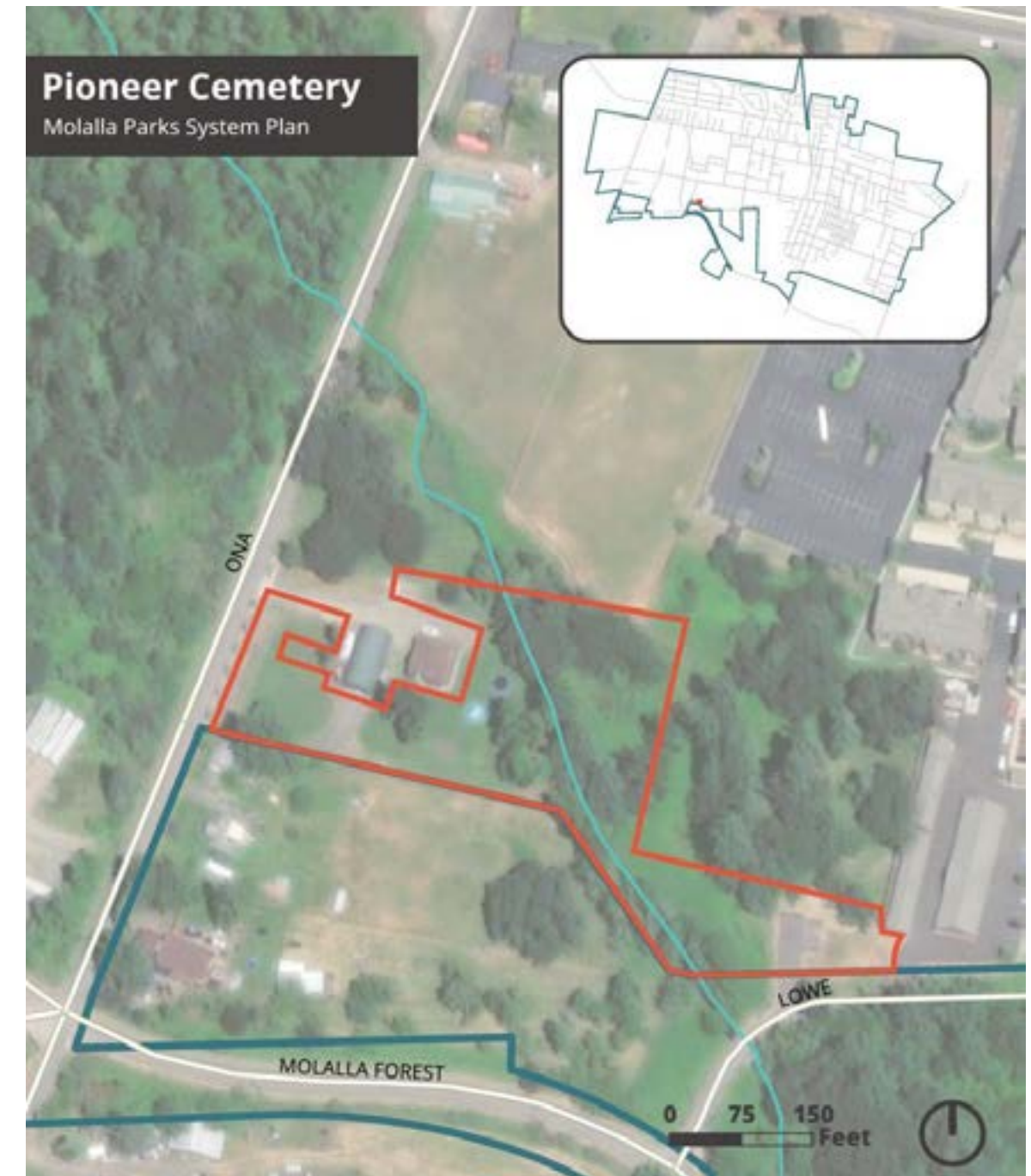
- **Size:** 3.33 acres
- **Park Classification:** TBD
- **Status:** Undeveloped
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - None
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Develop additional recreation facilities.



Pioneer Cemetery

The City owns property near Pioneer Cemetery. While not an officially designated park, nearby residents have used the space as a de facto dog park. The property extends to the northwest along the creek.

- **Size:** 2.37 Acres
- **Park Classification:** TBD
- **Status:** Partially Developed
- **Amenities:**
 - Vehicle parking lot
 - Cemetery
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Develop creek access
 - Add path



Trails

Ivor Davies Path

The Ivor Davies path is a paved asphalt path that runs from E 5th Street on an easement into the nature park and then onto S Mathius Road. A few benches line the trail.

- **Distance:** 0.71 Miles
- **Trail Classification:** Trail
- **Status:** Developed

SSD No. 32 (Molalla River School District) Facilities

Molalla Elementary School

Molalla Elementary School is on Toliver Road. The campus includes a parking lot, the school building, a track, grass playing fields, and a playground.

- **Size:** 19.47 Acres
- **Status:** Developed
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Track and field
 - Grass fields
 - Playground
 - Parking lot

Molalla River Middle School

Molalla River Middle School is at on Leroy Avenue next to the elementary school. They share a play field. The campus includes baseball and softball fields.

- **Size:** 17.90 Acres
- **Status:** Developed
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - 2 softball fields
 - 1 baseball diamond
 - Grass play fields
 - Blacktop play area

Molalla High School

Molalla High School is on Frances Street across from the Aquatic Center near Clark Park. The 28.66-acre site includes the school and some sports fields.

- **Size:** 28.66 Acres
- **Status:** Developed
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Parking lot
 - Baseball diamond
 - Softball field
 - Soccer field with stadium lights

Heckard Field

Heckard Field is the athletic complex for the school district. Located on Eckerd Avenue, the property also houses Burghardt Stadium for football.

- **Size:** 18.45 Acres
- **Status:** Developed
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Parking lot
 - 5 tennis courts
 - Track and field facility with football field in the center
 - Bleachers
 - Baseball diamond
 - Softball field

School District Administration Building, Basketball Court Park, and Molalla Library

This park on school district property housing administrative services provides a basketball court next to the Molalla Public Library.

- **Size:** 3.64 Acres
- **Status:** Developed
- **Existing Amenities:**
 - Basketball court
 - Benches (2)
- **Opportunities (preliminary):**
 - Mural

Molalla Aquatic District Facilities

The Molalla Aquatic District (MAD) is a special district that manages 4.71 acres on the northeast side of Molalla across from the high school. The Aquatic Center is on about a third of the land while about two-thirds of the land is undeveloped.

- **Size:** 4.71 Acres
- **Status:** Developed
- **Facilities** (description below)
 - Indoor community pool
 - Event space

D Level of Service

MEMORANDUM City of Molalla Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan

To: City of Molalla PM Team
From: Colin McArthur, AICP; Alli Langley; Claire Dosen (Cameron McCarthy)
Date: October 2, 2024
Subject: Park System Level of Service and Benchmarks Report

OVERVIEW

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) publishes an annual report summarizing key findings on benchmarks that evaluate an agency's performance, including park system level of service. Three benchmarks measure level of service: **residents per park**, **acres of park land per 1,000 residents**, and **miles of trail**. Together, these benchmarks provide multiple lenses for viewing the current level of service and exploring potential service gaps in the City of Molalla's parks, recreation, and trails system.

LEVEL OF SERVICE METHODOLOGY

The City owns 10 developed parks, totaling 73.76 acres of land, and 1.43 miles of trails. In addition, the City owns four undeveloped sites with potential for park and recreation use, totaling 13.46 acres. One undeveloped property is currently in the design phase to become a neighborhood park. When evaluating the system level of service, developed parks are included, and currently undeveloped parks or potential park properties are not.

The analysis compares Molalla's parks system level of service metrics to those of park agencies nationwide surveyed by NRPA in the same population category (fewer than 20,000 residents). The 2023 population estimate for Molalla is 10,335.¹ Since the plan is intended to guide the City's parks system planning for the next 20 years, this analysis uses population projections to extrapolate the existing level of service to 2045. This analysis identifies current service needs, as well as the potential needs for a changing future population.

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.

¹ 2023 Certified Population Estimates, Portland State University (PSU) Population Research Center, 2023.

For this benchmark, a smaller ratio (close to the lower quartile) is preferred, meaning there are fewer residents per park compared to in similarly sized jurisdictions. As shown in Table A, the 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 A. Residents Per Park²

	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

Projecting and evaluating this ratio into the future helps ensure the ability to maintain an appropriate level of service over time. Census data shows Molalla’s population grew 26% between 2010 and 2020.³ Between 2023 and 2045, the population is expected to grow 59%, or 3.5% per year on average. To accommodate this growth, Molalla will need to expand the number of developed parks it owns and operates. Table B shows the number of parks needed to maintain the current level of service over the next 20 years with forecasted population increases.

² 2023 population estimate from the 2023 Annual Oregon Population Report Tables published in 2024 by PSU's Population Research Center. Median, upper, and lower ratio data from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review, published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024.
³ U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census.

Table B. Residents Per Park Projection⁴

Year	Population	Ratio of Residents per Park Without Additional Parks	Additional Parks Needed to Maintain Current Ratio	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
2023	10,335	1,034	-	659	1,172	1,944
2025	11,290	1,129	0.92	659	1,172	1,944
2030	12,515	1,252	2.11	659	1,172	1,944
2035	13,814	1,381	3.37	659	1,172	1,944
2040	15,141	1,514	4.65	659	1,172	1,944
2045	16,472	1,647	5.94	659	1,172	1,944

Table B shows the ratio of residents per park will increase as the population increases if no additional parks are added to the park system. **To maintain the ratio of residents per park as Molalla's population grows, the City will need to develop six new parks in the next 20 years.**

ACRES OF PARK LAND 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 C 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.

⁴ Sources: 2023 population estimate from the 2023 Annual Oregon Population Report Tables published in 2024 by PSU's Population Research Center. The 2025-2045 population forecasts are from the Current Forecast Summary released by PSU's Population Research Center. Median, upper, and lower quartile data are from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024.

Table C. Acres of Park Land Per 1,000 Residents⁵

	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

Assessing the ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents into the future helps ensure an appropriate level of service over time. Without adding developed park land to the system, the ratio of acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents will decrease as the population increases. To accommodate Molalla's population growth, the acreage of City parks will need to increase to maintain the existing level of service. Table D shows the amount of additional park acreage needed to maintain the current level of service over the next 20 years with forecasted population increases.

Table D. Acres of Park Land Per 1,000 Residents Projection⁶

Year	Population	Ratio of Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents	Additional Acres Needed to Maintain Current Ratio	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
2023	10,335	7.14	-	6.0	12.6	20.9
2025	11,290	6.53	6.82	6.0	12.6	20.9
2030	12,515	5.89	15.56	6.0	12.6	20.9
2035	13,814	5.34	24.83	6.0	12.6	20.9
2040	15,141	4.87	34.30	6.0	12.6	20.9
2045	16,472	4.48	43.80	6.0	12.6	20.9

The forecasted population growth can be addressed by developing about 44 acres of additional park land by 2045, or roughly 8.76 acres every five years, to maintain the current level of service. Assuming no additional development, Molalla will fall below the lower quartile ratio by 2030.

MILES OF TRAIL PER PARK SYSTEM POPULATION

NRPA also provides benchmarks for walking, running, hiking, and/or biking trails. Most park agencies provide trails as part of their park system, and cities usually provide fewer miles of trail than counties. This benchmark uses simply miles of trail to compare with similarly sized jurisdictions and does not account for more specific

⁵ 2023 population estimate from the 2023 Annual Oregon Population Report Tables published in 2024 by PSU's Population Research Center. Quartile data are from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024.

⁶ 2023 population estimate from the 2023 Annual Oregon Population Report Tables published in 2024 by PSU's Population Research Center. The 2025-2024 population forecasts are from the Current Forecast Summary released by PSU's Population Research Center. Quartile data are from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024.

population data. Molalla's developed trail mileage is in the lower quartile, meaning it provides a relatively lower level of service. The City would need to develop additional trail miles to increase its level of service.

Table E. Miles of Trail Per Park System Population⁷

	Miles of Trail	Comparison
Molalla		
	1.43	-
NRPA Review of Similarly Sized Agencies		
Lower Quartile	2.0	-0.57
Median	4.5	-3.07
Upper Quartile	9.2	-7.77

FINDINGS

With Molalla's current level of service and expected population growth, anticipating the impacts on level of service benchmarks is important to understand. The analysis shows that ratio acres of parkland per 1,000 residents can be enhanced to the median LOS for similarly sized jurisdiction through the development of undeveloped park sites and by acquiring land for development.

To maintain the current ratio of residents per park, Molalla will need to acquire and develop approximately 6 parks in the next 20 years. If Molalla would like to target a median level of service for residents per park, only 4 parks are required to be added by 2045.

To maintain the current level of service at 7.14 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, the City will need to acquire and develop approximately 44 acres of park land by 2045, or roughly nine acres every five years. If the City wishes to target the current lower quartile average for similarly sized jurisdictions, roughly 25 additional acres would need to be developed by 2045, which would be twice the acreage of undeveloped property the City currently owns for potential park and recreation uses.

Expanding the trail system would also improve the City's level of service. The City would need to develop 3 miles of trail to meet the current median level of service among jurisdictions with fewer than 20,000 residents.

⁷ Quartile data are from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024.

E Operations and Maintenance Analysis

MEMORANDUM
City of Molalla
Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan

To: Project Management Team (City of Molalla)
From: Colin McArthur, AICP; Alli Langley; Claire Dosen (Cameron McCarthy)
Date: Sept. 26, 2024
Subject: **Operations and Maintenance Analysis**

OVERVIEW

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) publishes an annual report summarizing key performance metrics for park and recreation agencies nationwide, including parks system staffing and budget trends. The staffing metrics evaluate the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in relation to a jurisdiction's population. The budget metrics evaluate annual operating expenditures. Together, these metrics provide a useful lens through which to evaluate the City of Molalla's current parks budget and identify potential gaps in operations and maintenance funding.

The City owns six developed parks, one natural area park, and three special use facilities, totaling approximately 73.76 acres of land and 1.43 miles of trails. In addition, the City owns four undeveloped sites with potential for park uses. One of these undeveloped properties is currently in the design phase to become a neighborhood park. The 2023 population estimate for Molalla is 10,335¹.

STAFFING

Full-time employees (FTEs) contribute to the overall success of a park and recreation agency. More FTEs improve an agency's capacity to support and maintain parks and create safe and inclusive spaces. Typically, the number of FTEs increases with the jurisdiction's population. Based on NPRA's report, agencies that serve fewer than 20,000 people on average have 14 FTEs, or 10.5 FTEs for every 10,000 residents.

The City of Molalla's 2024-2025 Adopted Annual Budget includes 1.05 FTE for parks personnel. Tables A and B compare Molalla's FTE projections to the median, lower quartile, and upper quartile metrics for other jurisdictions serving fewer than 20,000 residents, indicating that the City's FTE ratio is lower than the national average. In other words, **Molalla has fewer full-time park and recreation employees than similarly sized jurisdictions.** The City should increase its FTEs to keep up with the increasing population.

¹ 2023 Certified Population Estimates, Portland State University (PSU) Population Research Center, 2023.

Table A. Park and Recreation Agency Staffing: Total Full-Time Employees (FTE)²

	Number of Residents	Park Agency FTEs	Comparison (Molalla FTE minus Other Agency FTE)
City of Molalla	10,335	1.05	-
NRPA Review of Similarly Sized Agencies			
Lower Quartile	< 20,000	6.1	-5.05
Median	< 20,000	14	-12.95
Upper Quartile	< 20,000	30	-28.95

Table B. Park and Recreation Agency Staffing: Full-Time Employees per 10,000 Residents³

	Number of Residents	FTEs per 10,000 Residents	Comparison (Molalla FTE minus Other Agency FTE)
City of Molalla	10,335	0.98	-
NRPA Review of Similarly Sized Agencies			
Lower Quartile	< 20,000	6.9	-5.85
Median	< 20,000	13.7	-12.65
Upper Quartile	< 20,000	25.3	-24.25

BUDGET

Park and recreation operating expenditures should balance the needs of the community with the fiscal capabilities of the agency. Comparing Molalla’s budget metrics to those of similarly sized agencies (less than 20,000 people) can help to identify gaps in spending. The following tables present operating expenditure data in multiple ways to offer more accurate and comprehensive comparisons with other agencies.

The first metric is total annual operating expenditures, which includes personnel services, commodities and supplies, and capital outlay. Typically, a park agency’s annual operating expenditures increase with population served. As shown in Table C, Molalla’s overall parks budget is generally consistent with similarly sized jurisdictions. However, a more detailed analysis of spending reveals that most of Molalla’s spending is diverted to capital improvement projects (see Table G).

² Data for agencies serving fewer than 20,000 residents from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024. 2023 Certified Population Estimates, Portland State University (PSU) Population Research Center, 2023.

³ Data for agencies serving fewer than 20,000 residents from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024. 2023 Certified Population Estimates, Portland State University (PSU) Population Research Center, 2023.

Table C. Annual Operating Expenditures⁴

	Population	Annual Operating Expenditures	Comparison (Molalla \$ minus Other Agency \$)
City of Molalla	10,335	\$1,363,864	-
NRPA Review of Similarly Sized Agencies			
Lower Quartile	< 20,000	\$707,145	\$656,719
Median	< 20,000	\$1,451,763	-\$87,899
Upper Quartile	< 20,000	\$3,004,473	-\$1,640,609

Operating expenditures per capita is calculated by dividing the overall budget by the jurisdiction’s population. This metric shows how much of the park’s budget is serving each resident. Operating expenditures per capita typically decrease as the population increases. As shown in Table D, Molalla’s per capita spending is generally consistent with similarly sized jurisdictions.

Table D. Operating Expenditures Per Capita⁵

	Population	Operating Expenditures Per Capita	Comparison (Molalla \$ minus Other Agency \$)
City of Molalla	10,335	\$131.97	-
NRPA Review of Similarly Sized Agencies			
Lower Quartile	< 20,000	\$74.22	\$57.75
Median	< 20,000	\$135.53	-\$3.56
Upper Quartile	< 20,000	\$263.21	-\$131.24

Additional metrics look at the operating expenditures per acre of parkland (expenditures divided by total park acreage). The City of Molalla maintains 73.76 acres of parkland, including mini parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, special use parks, and natural area parks. Typically, the larger the population served, the lower operating expenditures are per acre. The Level of Service (LOS) analysis (separate memo) revealed Molalla has less park acreage than similarly sized agencies, which may be why the spending per acre is higher than the median and lower quartile.

⁴ Data for agencies serving fewer than 20,000 residents from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024. 2023 Certified Population Estimates, Portland State University (PSU) Population Research Center, 2023. Molalla expenditure data from the 2024-2024 Adopted Annual Budget, published by the City of Molalla, 2024.

⁵ Data for agencies serving fewer than 20,000 residents from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024. 2023 Certified Population Estimates, Portland State University (PSU) Population Research Center, 2023. Molalla expenditure data from the 2024-2024 Adopted Annual Budget, published by the City of Molalla, 2024.

Table E. Operating Expenditures Per Acre of Park and Non-Park Sites⁶

	Acres of Park and Non-Park Sites	Operating Expenditures per Acre of Park and Non-Park Sites	Comparison (Molalla \$ minus Other Agency \$)
City of Molalla			
	73.76	\$18,490	-
NRPA Review of Similarly Sized Agencies			
Lower Quartile	< 20,000	\$3,856	\$14,634
Median	< 20,000	\$9,777	\$8,713
Upper Quartile	< 20,000	\$27,711	-\$9,221

The budget for full-time equivalent (FTE) employees is calculated by dividing expenditures for FTEs by the number of FTEs employed by the jurisdiction. For 2024-25, Molalla allocated \$124,267 for FTEs and will employ 1.05 FTEs. As shown in Table A, most similarly sized jurisdictions employ between 6-30 FTEs and designate a larger percentage of their budget to FTEs, as shown in Table G. However, Molalla's expected expenditure per FTE is generally consistent with similarly sized jurisdictions.

Table F. Operating Expenditures Per FTE⁷

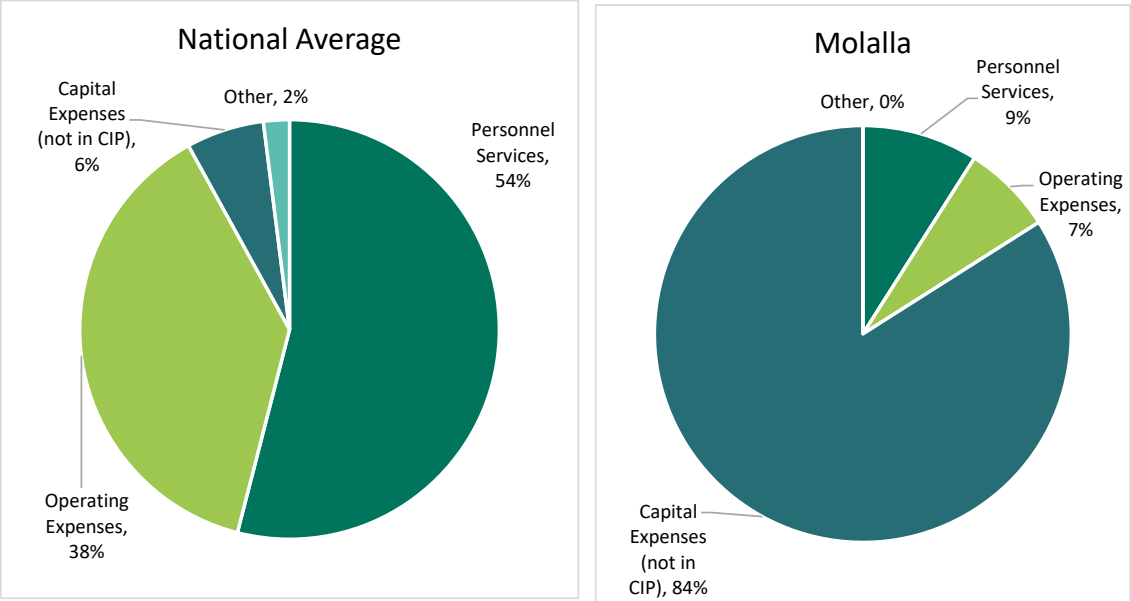
	Number of FTE	Operating Expenditures per FTE	Comparison (Molalla \$ minus Other Agency \$)
City of Molalla			
	1.05	\$118,350	-
NRPA Review of Similarly Sized Agencies			
Lower Quartile	< 20,000	\$73,418	\$44,932
Median	< 20,000	\$101,304	\$17,046
Upper Quartile	< 20,000	\$146,913	-\$28,563

Table G shows the typical expenditure breakdown by category for the average park and recreation agency (not necessarily of the same size). Typically, most of the agency's budget is spent on personnel and operating expenses. In comparison, Molalla has extremely low personnel and operating expenditures, in part because it employs fewer FTEs and has less park acreage than similarly sized jurisdictions.

⁶ Data for agencies serving fewer than 20,000 residents from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024. Molalla expenditure data from the 2024-2024 Adopted Annual Budget, published by the City of Molalla, 2024.

⁷ Data for agencies serving fewer than 20,000 residents from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024. Molalla expenditure and FTE data from the 2024-2024 Adopted Annual Budget, published by the City of Molalla, 2024.

Table G. Distribution of Operating Expenditures⁸



FINDINGS

Molalla's overall park expenditures are comparable to similarly sized jurisdictions, but more detailed breakdowns reveal that the City is underspending on personnel and operating expenses, as most of the parks budget is allocated for capital expenses. Understaffed agencies generally result in fewer programs and activity offerings, poorly maintained or managed facilities, and decreased community involvement in parks overall. Both staffing and facility maintenance contribute to a sense of safety and community in parks and should receive higher prioritization in annual operating expenditures moving forward.

⁸ Data for agencies from the 2021-2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 2024. Molalla expenditure from the 2024-2024 Adopted Annual Budget, published by the City of Molalla, 2024.

F Public Involvement Summaries

*Stakeholder Interview
Plaza Los Robles Focus Group
Pop-Up Event 1
Pop-Up Event 2
Pop-Up Event 3*

MEMORANDUM Molalla Parks, Recreation & Trails System Plan

To: Project Management Team (City of Molalla)
From: Colin McArthur, AICP; Alli Langley; Claire Dosen (Cameron McCarthy)
Date: July 31, 2024
Subject: Stakeholder Interview Memorandum

INTRODUCTION

As part of community involvement for the Molalla Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan, Cameron McCarthy used stakeholder interviews, as well as other methods, to gather input. The purpose of these interviews was to gather more specific perspectives from community members and organizations about park system needs, desired improvements, and resources they might have to offer. A list of stakeholders developed by Cameron McCarthy and City staff is included below. These interviews, conducted by phone, documented the interviewees' backgrounds and park-system-related feedback. Stakeholders shared which aspects of the park system they use and provided suggestions for current and future park needs.

STAKEHOLDER LIST

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Asako Yamamuro	Molalla River Watch
Bianca Delgado Mendoza	Hacienda CDC
Denise Salinas	Ant Farm
Tim Anderson	Molalla Buckaroo Association
Rebecca Hendrickson	Molalla Youth Sports
Ryan Powell	Molalla River BMX

KEY THEMES

The following list summarizes park system needs that stakeholders identified. The needs include park improvements, an increased number of parks, maintenance, accessibility, and the City's communication and relationship with the local community.

Needs

The list that follows is a summary of park system needs that were identified by the stakeholders. The needs include park improvements, an increased number of parks, maintenance, accessibility, and the City's communication and relationship with the local community.

- Acquire more parkland.
- Pursue a regional trail network to connect Molalla with Canby.
- Pursue development of local trail network.
- Improve park connectivity.
- Create multiple uses and activities in parks. Each park should cater to multiple users and age groups.
- Create year-round recreation opportunities by providing covered play and/or a community center.
- Develop Bohlander Field as a formal park.
- Add an event stage and associated programming.
- Develop programming for preteens and teens to increase park use.
- Pave or cover local BMX track to facilitate year-round use.
- Pursue the development of a sports complex.
- Address the lack of sports fields.
- Improve local skatepark.
- Create walking paths in parks.
- Upgrade and expand play structures.
- Add a dog park.
- Create wildlife habitat, and habitat features to facilitate wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Increase the use of native plantings with plant ID signage.
- Improve and establish educational signage and kiosks.

Accessibility and Safety

- Improve accessibility to parks (safe walking and biking paths).
- Provide walking/biking path connections between parks and downtown.
- Implement wayfinding signage for parks and trails.
- Increase accessible off-street parking at parks to ensure people can safely load and unload children, equipment, etc.
- Add parking capacity at high-use parks.
- Improve lighting levels at parks.
- Deter loitering, camping, drug use, and littering in parks to increase the perception of safety in parks.
- Keep park amenities open during operation hours (restrooms, BMX track).
- Improve distribution and integration of park amenities.

Maintenance

- Upgrade play structures.
- Maintain park amenities.
- Replace or fix damaged equipment in a timely manner.
- Increase trash clean up at Ivor Davies.
- Address field drainage and grading issues.

Communication

- Revamp the city's park websites to include more useful information.

Park district tax / grant opportunities

- Pursue tourism grants.
- Look into OWEB restoration grants for parkland.
- Require developer land or funding donations.
- Increase permitting fees for new development.
- Create a local park fund/tax.

APPENDIX A

Stakeholder Interview Notes

Name: Asako Yamamuro

Organization/Role: Executive Director with Molalla River Watch

Date of Interview: 02/09/2024

1. How long have you lived in Molalla?

Since September 2019.

2. Do you have any other roles, affiliations, interests, or identities that contribute to your perspective on Molalla's parks system?

I am interested in trails; I use the Molalla Recreation Trail Corridor a lot for hiking and to access rivers. The corridor is on BLM land. The River Watch helps with trail maintenance there. Also interested in restoration and invasive species removal, particularly at Shorty's Pond, since we did a restoration project there a long time ago, but it is now under Pudding River Watershed Council's jurisdiction.

3. What's your current relationship like with the parks and recreation system [individually and/or through your organization]?

Currently, we do not have a relationship with the parks department and most of the organizations' work is outside their jurisdiction. Personally, I use the parks for recreation.

a. Why do you visit parks and recreation facilities? What do you like to do?

I walk my dog around, maybe have a picnic at a scenic place to eat. I like wildlife viewing at Shorty's Pond. At Shorty's Pond, the council did an amphibian egg mass survey, this was a partnership with ODFW. The water level at Shorty's Pond varies. At Clark Park, I like the oak trees, they have a lot of acorn woodpeckers there, and I've never seen them anywhere else in town. I attend Celebrate Molalla at Clark Park, and sometimes go to the picnic shelter at Fox Park.

b. About how often do you visit?

Once a month or less for city parks.

c. How do you get to the park/recreation facility/facilities/activity/ies?

I drive to park facilities.

4. What do you love or appreciate most about Molalla's parks system?

I like the green space, and that I can be away from built environment.

5. Are you satisfied with the current level of maintenance at parks, trails, and recreation facilities? (e.g., equipment, landscaping, grounds, etc.)

The park maintenance is fine and I haven't felt unsafe using the parks. I don't typically use the restrooms so can't speak to the maintenance of some facilities.

6. Are there any features, services, or activities you want added to parks and recreation facilities in Molalla?

From a watershed perspective, I like educational kiosks and signage especially for stand out features like at Clark Park for the woodpeckers, or history of the oak trees. Ivor Davies pond could be a better feature. They did a pond turtle survey there as well. There was one turtle. They got a basking platform for them at the time. The basking platform is a small floating dock that goes up and down with the water level. She does not know if that feature is still there. More natural features that appeal to habitat would be cool, along with habitat restoration at Ivor Davies. I like the art at Long Park and the art at the corner at Clark Park. Would be cool if they had more native plants and they were identified and why they are important. The council could help the City with some plant ID signage. The historical signage stuff could be done by the local Historical society.

Personally, she thinks a dog park would be great to have locally. It would draw a whole different population who may not currently use parks. She would like to give input on dog park designs if they move forward with this.

She likes the idea of a park trail network. They were working with Canby, and their city was looking into expanding bike and ped trails, and they were helping with their committee on path options. Molalla Forest road could connect Molalla to Candy, that has been talked about and rejected in the past. Along highway 211, she noted that the City were trying to upgrade sidewalk to get to Safeway, and they did it but the asphalt is too hot for dogs most of the time and not many people ended up using it because it is so hot.

7. Do you see any barriers to access that prevent residents from using the parks as much as they would like to?

No, not really, she hasn't experienced this. She thinks lack of parking could be a deterrent but notes there is often lots of street parking. At Fox park, library parking is shared. There is street parking as overflow though. Clark Park, the parking is pretty good but spread out. Long Park has no designated parking, but other areas downtown like the public lots are close by.

a. Does the distribution of parks meet community needs or are any communities or neighborhoods underserved by parks?

She is not sure. The more green space available the better and multi-use is good too, serving more needs is better. Ok number of parks, ideally there would be more large multi-use areas in the city. Molalla is growing but is still a smaller town. People are choosing to live in Molalla because they don't want to live in a bigger city. To keep some of the less city feel, the more parks the better, and more naturally oriented parks would be better. There is a little park off of Toliver that has a wetland that locals visit. This would be a local convenient area. People do not know about the Molalla Recreation Corridor. This spot has a lot of bullfrogs and some birds. May be good for wildlife viewing.

b. Are there any environmental or infrastructural issues causing access issues, for example, unsafe streets or sidewalks?

Not that she is aware of. Clark Park used to have no concrete paths and used to have frisbee golf. There was also a creek channel, this may be gone or if it is still a part of the park, may be worth checking out. Frisbee golf was moved to Ivor Davies, these are good amenities. She likes playing disc golf but has never been to Ivor Davies to play.

8. Given limited funding, how would you like to see the City allocate money? What would be your top priority/ies?

Get more land and create more parks. More green space is always good. She thinks they are well-serviced and maintained as is. There could be more parks in the west and all over. She thinks the City should focus on acquiring land and then develop them later. Another thing they could do as the watershed council is to do some native planting in city parks. Might be important for parks people to understand that native plants are very important for habitat. And they need less maintenance than horticulture variety or non-native. This could become an educational opportunity. Native plants also create wildlife and pollinator habitat opportunities. The City could also have small-scale demonstration sites to show people what they could do on their property. If the City is interested in those services, they can reach out to the River Alliance. They would be willing to help them find resources and provide guidance.

9. Do you have any suggestions for new sources of funding or resources for park improvements, operations, and maintenance?

The City could look at Mount Hood Territory tourism grants, depending on project type, they may qualify. The City of Molalla has the Buckaroo, could get something for this at Clark Park because it is next to buckaroo grounds. There are some restoration grants available through OWEB, small grants up to \$15,000 for restoration, must be applied through a watershed council. This could cover some native plantings, wildlife habitat, and water quality improvements. They could work with the City on these smaller grants.

c. Would you be open to the City requiring subdivision developers to donate land or funding for the park system?

Yes, 100%.

d. Would you be open to increasing permitting fees paid for new development projects to support park and recreation funding? (Molalla already has System Development Charges [SDCs], which help offset some of the cost of increasing/upgrading/maintaining community infrastructure including parks, water, and sewer services, and could increase the fee rate.)

She thinks the increase in permitting cost could make sense because right now there is so much new development going on but some of the city's basic needs are not being met, this includes wastewater treatment plants. And the same with drinking water. Molalla pulls its drinking water out of the Molalla River. When the river gets really low, they have implemented voluntary water restrictions in the city to keep river water levels higher. Asako said they had people on different blocks alternating their irrigation watering days. These things happened before the increase in development, so she assumes it will get worse with the development influx. She thinks the fee could help address additional pressures on natural resources that are not measured. FYI, the City of Canby draws water from the Molalla River as well. Canby has also been converting a lot of farmland to residential development. They are looking at adding or switching to an intake off of the Willamette because they can't draw enough from the Molalla River anymore. The year the river was low, the Molalla City manager went to the intake site.

The remedy for water shortages was to submerge the intake pipe more and increase water tank capacity but this doesn't address lower water level and limited supply. She said Canby has taste and smell issues relating to algae bloom in later summers every year. This happens every summer. Canby ended up handing out Brita filets to residents so the drinking water would taste better. There are water limitations in the area, and more development will make this worse.

10. Would you or your organization want to work with the City (more) on park system improvements in the future? Would you suggest collaborating with or leveraging the help of other groups or individuals?

Any sort of habitat, native or restoration, and water quality things they would be able to work with the City or advise on those sorts of projects. Native plants cost less in the long run and provide habitat. See some of the comments above. Education signage or events, things like that they could help with as well. May or may not be able to help with funding, kind of project-based. Open to talking, but they are small and have other commitments. Ecosystem uplift, resiliency, and education are projects they would be interested in. She notes the Pudding watershed council are also slammed, have overlap with Shorty's Pond. Molalla historical society is also mentioned above. She said it would be good for us to get community input. Good to get input from Latino community as well because they are a large demographic. Her boyfriend works at Ant Farm, and works at the Sandy location. He is the saw program manager, teaching youth forest service/arborist skills. Ant Farm does some great stuff, they provide wood for people who can't buy/collect wood for their heating. Molalla use to have warming shelters, so Ant Farm has been trying to connect houseless people to warming centers, or hotels, and provides a transportation chain.

11. How do you learn about activities, programs, and events in Molalla?

Through Facebook; the city has a text notifications through Molalla Current. Through her organization, Facebook won't let her join groups as an organization page, so she has to use her personal account to post things for their own events and she sees things through doing that.

a. Do you have any suggestions for how the City of Molalla could improve communication around parks and recreation?

She thinks their website, city site in general, is not user friendly and not the best resource, it could be improved upon.

12. Are there any ways you'd like to be more involved with this planning process or resources you could offer to help? For example, you could:

a. Help distribute information about the online survey and upcoming events with flyers or in your organization's newsletter.

She thinks so, but she needs to run this by the board.

b. Partner with us on an engagement event/activity (let us table/interact with folks at an event you're doing).

Potentially, they have river clean ups, and in the past they have had other people table their events. But these events are weather dependent, they have 40-70 participants typically. Celebrate Molalla is a good one, along with Molalla River Brewing. They had farmers market there in the past. They had some local event, concerts in the park maybe? This was last summer, check with the city on this.

13. Is there anything else you'd like to say about parks and recreation in Molalla? Anything I haven't asked that I should've? Is there anyone else we should talk with or any groups we should be sure to engage with to get specific feedback about parks?

The buckaroo has a volunteer committee that helps run the events. Apparently, there is some internal drama at the Buckaroo, but she suggests still reaching out to them. Another group to talk to is Molalla Chamber of Commerce, the watershed council are members of chamber of commerce, and a lot of local businesses are members, could be a fruitful way to get out info. They do have announcement blasts for meetings or gatherings or new business in town.

Name: Bianca Delgado Mendoza

Organization/Role: Hacienda CDC Program Coordinator

Date of Interview: 03/04/2024

1. How long have you lived in Molalla?

Moved to Hubbard in 2017. All siblings and family lives there.

2. Do you have any other roles, affiliations, interests, or identities that contribute to your perspective on Molalla's parks system?

The programs that she helps with are for youth with families from kindergarten to 12th grade. Hacienda provides housing for low-income migrant farmworkers, and there is a community room where everyone gathers. Currently, there is a small playground. Usually, they go to their closest park (Long Park). The park recently became smaller because they removed the swings and added a pickleball court. The playground has not been renovated. The older kids play pickleball. The parks are all too small, and the playgrounds are too small.

3. What's your current relationship like with the parks and recreation system [individually and/or through your organization]?

The relationship would be through the city and the city council. The city currently hosts events in their community center. The event is scheduled for March 14th in the afternoon.

a. Why do you visit parks and recreation facilities? What do you like to do?

As an organization, they utilize recreational spaces for youth, and on an individual level, she takes her kids and nephews. The middle school has a grassy area where kids play soccer, as long as it's not recreational soccer season. People are welcome on school property, but the goals are tied up.

b. About how often do you visit/[do that activity]?

As an organization, they use their nearby park (Long Park) 3-4 times a week to facilitate programmed activities for homework and arts and crafts. There's a covered area where kids could bring crafts and play with chalk. Having a public indoor community center or a large, covered area with ample tables and seating would enable year-long use. They also support a youth soccer team and utilize multiple public space facilities around the city.

c. How do you get to the park/recreation facility/facilities/activity/ies?

Walking for the organization and driving for personal use.

4. What do you love or appreciate most about Molalla's parks system?

Really keep the parks clean, there used to be a lot more trash. They keep the maintenance clean. Fox Park got re-done recently with a splash pad. There should be more access to splash pads, especially for kids and Latino youth. They're currently adding lots of new apartments.

5. **Are you satisfied with the current level of maintenance at parks, trails, and recreation facilities? (e.g., equipment, landscaping, grounds, etc.)**
Yes, maintenance is important. The trails upstream are accessible, but they aren't very accessible to the public. Equipment is also available.
6. **Are there any features, services, or activities you want added to parks and recreation facilities in Molalla?**
There's a lack of access to basketball courts. Three of the major parks are located centrally on the same street. Additionally, all the new apartments being built have their own amenities.
7. **Do you see any barriers to access that prevent residents from using the parks as much as they would like to?**
The sizing of playgrounds.
8. **What do you see as the biggest challenges in Molalla's parks system?**
Sizing.
9. **What would your ideal citywide park system be like?**
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. However, they don't have a covered space.
10. **Given limited funding, how would you like to see the City allocate money? What would be your top priority/ies?**
I would prioritize expanding play structures first, followed by providing a formal covered area.
11. **Do you have any suggestions for new sources of funding or resources for park improvements, operations, and maintenance?**
No.
a. **Would you be open to increasing permitting fees paid for new development projects to support park and recreation funding? (Molalla already has System Development Charges [SDCs], which help offset some of the cost of increasing/upgrading/maintaining community infrastructure including parks, water, and sewer services, and could increase the fee rate.)**
Yes.
12. **Would you or your organization want to work with the City (more) on park system improvements in the future? Would you suggest collaborating with or leveraging the help of other groups or individuals?**
The city is already doing so.

Name: Denise Salinas
Organization/Role: Youth Service Coordinator at Ant Farm
Date of Interview: 01/25/2024

1. **How long have you been the Youth Service Coordinator at Ant Farm?**
Youth services coordinator, she supports staff that work directly with youth. They are a nonprofit for youth (14-24) and families (mostly Latino). For youth, they work on life skills, workforce experience, academic support, and helping them build character and self-esteem. They can also assist with looking for jobs, job prep, and support. Help with drug and alcohol abuse and finding housing. They have local facilities for youth to hang out in after school or when they are on school breaks. They also have family programs for the Latino community. Resources for language information and interpretation. They will teach families about credit, and tobacco

- prevention, and offer parenting classes. Nuvo futuro – new future in the name of the family program. She has worked there for 8 months.
2. **How long have you lived in Molalla?**
Live in Woodburn, and works in Molalla.
3. **Do you have any other roles, affiliations, interests, or identities that contribute to your perspective on Molalla's parks system?**
No, just the youth perspective through her work as the youth coordinator. She sometimes hear that there are not enough parks in Molalla, they don't have the best facilities or their youth don't feel safe there. (Although they do take the youth to the parks – it sounds like they wouldn't choose to go alone).
4. **What's your current relationship like with the parks and recreation system [individually and/or through your organization]?**
Her relationship with the parks in Molalla is all through the ant farm organization. They use parks for events, take youth to parks, and do field days sometimes. They sometimes do trash pickups with youth at parks.
a. **About how often do you visit/[do that activity]?**
Not much in winter, in warmer months, they try and go twice a month through the organization. See above for what they do there and why. Trash clean-up and park visits are less frequent currently. They do trash pick up a lot more when their kids are on breaks, and sometimes after school when the days are longer and they can do it in daylight.
b. **How do you get to the park/recreation facility/facilities/activity/ies?**
Depends on park, their facility is located on Molalla Ave, so they can walk to Fox Park and fire department park (fox park) and skate park. They sometimes take them in their company vehicle to Clark Park and for trash pickups that are further away. Through ant farm outdoors, they did a lot of camp cleanup for the homeless. This is a city partnership they have with the city. They have done two city-coordinated clean-ups at Ivor Davies park.
5. **How would your organization like to be involved with relating to parks and rec in Molalla?**
She thinks their current involvement is ok. They have a good relationship with the parks department but takes some coordination to get things planned. She thinks it's good her program can support park cleanup efforts, but also thinks the city should do their own cleanup and keep the parks cleaner. But they can support and she thinks it's good program they offer.
6. **What do you love or appreciate most about Molalla's parks system?**
They have a nice variety with different things to offer. Clark Park is nice for picnicking, fox park is good for smaller kids, and the skate park is good for skaters, and the fire department park is nice for youth but also has some offerings for older age groups. Overall, thinks they have a good variety.
10. **Are you satisfied with the current level of maintenance at parks, trails, and recreation facilities? (e.g., equipment, landscaping, grounds, etc.)**
Ivor Davies can be hard to keep clean. Has a wetland, can be hard to manage and gets muddy, not nice to hang out there when it gets water logged.
11. **Are there any features, services, or activities you want added to parks and recreation facilities in Molalla?**

The restroom at Fox Park is sometimes not open. It was not open during their park event that they had submitted a park request/permit for. Keeping restrooms open during park hours would be good.

12. Do you see any barriers to access that prevent residents from using the parks as much as they would like to?

Clark park is not super accessible on the fields, but they do have some other paths that are.

a. Does the distribution of parks meet community needs or are any communities or neighborhoods underserved by parks?

No. She thinks community needs are met.

b. Are there any environmental or infrastructural issues causing access issues, for example, unsafe streets or sidewalks?

No. Ivor Davies, one of their clients lives behind the park, sometime homeless go into their yard. Entrance to that park is not clear and there is no parking. The rest of the parks have ok parking.

c. What do you think could help Molalla's park facilities better serve people of all ages, abilities, and demographic groups?

She doesn't have any ideas, but wants them to keep up with maintenance. Some ideas came up in the next few questions.

13. What do you see as the biggest challenges in Molalla's parks system?

Change perspective of parks, like skate park has a negative connotation with drug use, sometimes needles are left there. It takes a while to make families feel comfortable sending kids to certain parks because of perceptions, real or not, after news gets out about things like public drug use or encampments.

14. What would your ideal citywide park system be like?

Have more lighting in parks. There are some that are very dark in Molalla. A safe place, is it close to dangerous road? That could be a safety issue. But should also somewhere people are so you don't feel alone, should have a restroom and lighting. A nice place to spend some time in and feel safe, a maintained park. Equipment should be safe and maintained. She said these are things she'd look for at a park if she was deciding to go there or take her nephew out to a park. I asked her if she goes to parks in Woodburn. She likes going to parks in Woodburn, centennial parks specifically because it has variety of options, gated dog park, there is a soccer field, basketball court, baseball and softball court, playground, and long walking path for cardio/walking and running. She says you could easily do a mile on the path. It's a paved trail – not dirt so it's accessible. They have some fitness stations along the path too. They have a little bit of everything which she likes. She goes by herself and feels safe, it's next to a middle school. The only thing she doesn't like is the restroom because it's gross. Landscaping is nice and the park is kept clean. She says people either try and keep it clean or they have a good maintenance team. She said Ivor Davies is big, so they could do something like that there, like an all in one for different age groups. Good for parents. She would walk there if they had something like that. She thinks they are missing a park like this that serves a variety of age groups and thinks it would be good for parents because they can do different things but still be with their kids in the same space.

15. Given limited funding, how would you like to see the City allocate money? What would be your top priority/ies?

Lighting and upping park maintenance.

16. Do you have any suggestions for new sources of funding or resources for park improvements, operations, and maintenance?

No not really, grant or fundraisers maybe.

a. Would you be open to the City requiring subdivision developers to donate land or funding for the park system?

She thinks some monetary funding would be good. She's seen so much development lately. When they develop, they don't think about the school system and how much pressure it puts on the schools, and she wants them to give back to the community. They don't think about increasing class sizes, she's seen teachers get stretched thin. Lots of new kids are coming in, they need to fill the gaps. Not a lot of teachers are interested in low pay or being stressed by increasing class sizes. Schools need to grow with population.

b. Would you be open to increasing permitting fees paid for new development projects to support park and recreation funding? (Molalla already has System Development Charges [SDCs], which help offset some of the cost of increasing/upgrading/maintaining community infrastructure including parks, water, and sewer services, and could increase the fee rate.)

She's not sure. It doesn't affect her organizations, so she says yes if it helps park and the families Ant Farm serves.

17. Would you or your organization want to work with the City (more) on park system improvements in the future? Would you suggest collaborating with or leveraging the help of other groups or individuals?

She would be interested to see what options there are but does not want to commit to something right now. She wants to make sure the youth they serve have somewhere nice to go when they are not open. She said she would be willing to work with the city to survey more people on the parks system because she thinks a lot of the families they work with would have a lot to say because they use the parks a lot and she wants to make sure they get included, so would help in that regard, but didn't seem interested in partnering with the city on more trash pickup per say.

18. How do you learn about activities, programs, and events in Molalla?

She's part of the chamber of commerce, she gets info there, and the Molalla now page. She signs up for newsletters with businesses, the library, and schools. The library shares lots of city events and updates.

19. Are there any ways you'd like to be more involved with this planning process or resources you could offer to help? For example, you could:

a. Help distribute information about the online survey and upcoming events with flyers or in your organization's newsletter.

Yes, she could share flyers, and share survey. She's willing to handout survey's and to Spanish community. They go to parks and have lots of feedback. She would meet with us again to discuss survey results. Survey should be in English and Spanish. They have computers at their facility so she can help facilitate getting people to take it online or via hardcopy and scan us results. She'd have to check with the communication about the newsletter because newsletters are focused on their three sites so it may be hard. The survey they will help on and post printed flyers on site. Newsletters are for all three locations, not Molalla specific.

b. Partner with us on an engagement event/activity (let us table/interact with folks at an event you're doing).

She is not open to this. She would have to check with a supervisor. She thinks participation with outsiders would be hard, but if Ant Farm helps administer the survey, responses will be better she thinks, as opposed to us going onsite.

20. Is there anyone else we should talk with or any groups we should be sure to engage with to get specific feedback about parks?

Plaza Los Robles, this is the community they work with, maybe reach out Hacienda CDC (who was the developer), they have lots of complexes and one in Molalla. She thinks they will have good feedback, a lot of families there use the parks. She said Santa Avila may be a good person to contact – she only speaks Spanish. <https://www.haciendacdc.org/>

Name: Rebecca Hendrickson

Organization/Role: Office Manager and Softball Coach at Molalla Youth Sports

Date of Interview: 02/12/2024

1. How long have you been involved with Molalla Youth Sports?

She is currently the office manager, softball coach and coordinator, and volunteer. Has been working there for 2 years, and volunteering for 5-6 years as a coach, with soccer, basketball, softball.

2. How long have you lived in Molalla?

12 years.

3. Do you have any other roles, affiliations, interests, or identities that contribute to your perspective on Molalla's parks system?

Was/am part of Molalla Parks committee. Can't get to all the meetings, but goes when she can. She is also a parent to children who are involved in sports.

4. What's your current relationship like with the parks and recreation system [individually and/or through your organization]?

Good relationship, wish there were more resources for parks in the community. She mentioned there is no parks and rec fund, so there isn't money for community growth. There are no areas where people can gather and where kids can play sports. She sees there is a lot of community expansion, but no expansion for sports in the local parks system.

a. Why do you visit parks and recreation facilities? What do you like to do?

Her kids love the playgrounds, and they spend a lot of time at the parks for sports. They go walking Ivor Davies Park. They will try to use the pickle ball courts but have not gotten around to this yet.

b. About how often do you visit/[do that activity]?

It depends on time of year, spring they go every day to use softball fields. In the off season, they go once a week or every couple of weeks to the playgrounds.

c. How do you get to the park/recreation facility/facilities/activity/ies?

Sometimes they walk and sometimes drive, depending on distance. She says they walk about ½ mile tops usually to get to the parks. If it is further, they will drive.

5. What do you love or appreciate most about Molalla's parks system?

She appreciates they don't charge for reserving fields, this is nice, and helps with Molalla Youth Sports funding. They keep parks clean, are putting efforts into improvements and new parks, which she said wasn't happening very much in the past.

6. Are you satisfied with the current level of maintenance at parks, trails, and recreation facilities? (e.g., equipment, landscaping, grounds, etc.).

Yes, and no, she thinks it is improving. Lots of things were unmaintained but in the last year and a half, there has been improvement. Improvements take a lot of time. Play equipment and broken features were chained off for years at a time. There is still some chained off equipment at Clark Park. The pavilion at Clark Park that was damaged is still half standing. She wished the parks department would address this stuff faster, but attributes it to a lack of funding.

7. Are there any features, services, or activities you want added to parks and recreation facilities in Molalla?

Sports fields! The community does not have much, only 2 ball fields for youths in city owned parks, baseball has some stuff on school property, but softball must share the park fields and sometimes they get kicked off and have to compete with other programs. More facilities and ball fields would be good. She wants a sports complex. It would bring in money and benefit youth of the community. The middle schools and elementary schools in Molalla do not offer sports, which is my Molalla Youth Sports exists - they do k-8 sports. They are able to use the school district facilities (although school district only has facilities for certain sports) but school district still gets priority over their own property, and Molalla Youth Sports must pay them a fee to use the fields. Schools have lots of baseball fields, and MYS is working with the District to make school fields multi use. City has 2 softball fields, which is all the softball program can use. MYS do their own maintenance, the city maintains the grass but nothing else. MYS maintains fencing, dugouts, and infields, this is volunteer and donation funded. They must coordinate with other sports for the fields, they can easily coordinate in house to balance with the other in season sports they offer, but harder to coordinate with outside organizations. The main one is a homeschool soccer program for the area.

8. Do you see any barriers to access that prevent residents from using the parks as much as they would like to?

Not really.

a. Does the distribution of parks meet community needs or are any communities or neighborhoods underserved by parks?

The youth athletes are underserved, but she thinks the park distribution is not an issue, just what each park offers.

b. Are there any environmental or infrastructural issues causing access issues, for example, unsafe streets or sidewalks?

Yes, outfield at Billy Sheets field has a drainage issue. This is one of the two locations they can use for the ball programs. That field becomes a swamp and takes weeks to dry out. She has talked to Huff and others about this issue but hasn't heard much. They have younger kids play softball here because they can't hit the ball very far into the outfield, but they would like this to be repaired so they can use the field.

c. What do you think could help Molalla's park facilities better serve people of all ages, abilities, and demographic groups?

More sports fields for youth, she thinks walking paths are good. They have no dog park, somewhere for people with pets to utilize would be good.

9. What do you see as the biggest challenges in Molalla's parks system?

The fact that they have no parks and rec fund, this is a big issue and prevents them for doing as much as they should. They have no rec center and lack sports fields; they hear the issue is

mostly a funding issue. A parks and rec fund makes it so they can fund things that need addressing.

10. What would your ideal citywide park system be like?

The ideal situation is turning Bolander Field into a sports complex plus parking for Buckaroo. Then Clark Park can become a hub for soccer and football, with other sports across the street at Bohlander. She says turn the undeveloped and gravel lot area north of Clark Park into a dog park and formalized parking. She thinks most other service areas are covered but not sports (like playgrounds, picnicking, and walking paths). Hosting tournaments is something they can't do currently and she thinks this would bring in money for city as well if they has a space for it. At Clark Park (actually no park has a stage), they lack a stage for events, they don't have area for this. Like a stage for summer concerts or events. Maybe movies in the parks. 95% of the year the Bolander field sits empty. This is a sticking point for the Buckaroo as they use it for parking, but this could be worked around with a calendar for the space. It was donated by the Bolander family, and they are not happy with the use, it wasn't intended to just be used for Buckaroo parking. They have contacts for the family.

11. Given limited funding, how would you like to see the City allocate money? What would be your top priority/ies?

Would love to see one other ball field and multi-use field created. She would love to see Sheets Field drainage fixed. It would be great to have a snack shack at Sheets Field if they have tournaments. She said the city parks are pretty good as it is, so they should focus on working toward bigger goals. They can get by with what they have but they can't build out programs anymore because they don't have facilities to house them. Their enrollment numbers have been increasing, last year their numbers doubled. More apartments and development means more kids are entering their programs, and soon they will run into issues with not having enough room. She thinks the city services need to keep up and expand at the pace of the increase in housing.

12. Do you have any suggestions for new sources of funding or resources for park improvements, operations, and maintenance?

Creating a park fund. She said, this community is cheap so they do not like fees, but doing a couple bucks a month on the water bill may be feasible. Maybe some fundraisers but not consistent revenue, so she is wary of becoming reliant on them. She thinks the best thing the City can do is to have a plan, to make it public, to show what the results will be, and to follow through by showing people where their money is going. Gain trust with the community and create trust in the city government. She says it is hard to get "old timers" to agree to pay for things. Try and change attitudes around funding for parks a rec would be major in getting to community to "put their money where their mouth is".

a. Would you be open to the City requiring subdivision developers to donate land or funding for the park system?

Absolutely.

b. Would you be open to increasing permitting fees paid for new development projects to support park and recreation funding? (Molalla already has System Development Charges [SDCs], which help offset some of the cost of increasing/upgrading/maintaining community infrastructure including parks, water, and sewer services, and could increase the fee rate.)

Yes, she would be in support of this.

13. Would you or your organization want to work with the City (more) on park system improvements in the future? Would you suggest collaborating with or leveraging the help of other groups or individuals?

Yes, they would be open to this. They have been doing maintenance on the fields because the city won't do it. They are ok doing this because the city does not charge them for the field use, so this arrangement works well for them, and she says it is not negative.

14. How do you learn about activities, programs, and events in Molalla?

Facebook, local events are posted there.

a. Do you have any suggestions for how the City of Molalla could improve communication around parks and recreation?

No, she thinks it's pretty good as is. The city has booths at public events, which she likes. Maybe a newsletter on the water bill to inform people of specific things or projects would be a good way to reach lots of people.

15. Are there any ways you'd like to be more involved with this planning process or resources you could offer to help? For example, you could:

a. Help distribute information about the online survey and upcoming events with flyers or in your organization's newsletter.

They would be able to help with this. They have an email news blast and a Facebook page as well.

b. Partner with us on an engagement event/activity (let us table/interact with folks at an event you're doing).

They don't do a lot of events themselves but in March they have a springs sports opening day, where people get or donate gear, so we could maybe tag along. Does not bring in a lot, but maybe close to 100 people. The event is on March 16.

16. Is there anything else you'd like to say about parks and recreation in Molalla? Anything I haven't asked that I should've?

A rec center is something they don't have but has heard about the need for a rec center a lot. Somewhere indoors people can go on rainy days. This would be nice, she has heard lots of people talking about this.

Name: Ryan Powell

Organization/Role: Track Operator for Molalla BMX

Date of Interview: 01/19/2024

1. How long have you been the Track Operator at Molalla BMX?

7 years as TO. Ryan has been involved with Molalla BMX since he was 12 but didn't grow up in the area. Molalla BMX is a nonprofit, and he runs the organization. He and his volunteers open the park (weather permitting), and run events, it is open to the public other days. He is mostly there when running the events. Track was started in 1992, established for racing in 1996.

2. How long have you lived in Molalla?

Past 7 years.

3. Do you have any other roles, affiliations, interests, or identities that contribute to your perspective on Molalla's parks system?

His wife is on board at MRA - Prairie school. His kids like to play at the parks, so he has an interest in the parks as a parent as well as the track operator.

4. **What's your current relationship like with the parks and recreation system [individually and/or through your organization]?**

He likes the city workers and they are helpful, they take care of property for free, have good relationships, but they would like some more help.

a. **Why do you visit parks and recreation facilities? What do you like to do?**

They like other parks because they are clean despite the current homeless that have been more common in Molalla. He thinks they are doing a good job, and liked that there was a designated place for the homeless to hang out (Odd Fellows Park). His kids are bored with some parks, not enough equipment, only good for under 9 years old, and not much for older kids. He also notes do far the parks have overall been good for this family. His kids range from 2-10 and he feels like only the kids under 9 have lots of fun going to the parks but that his older ones don't seem interested in the play equipment as it is gauged towards younger children.

b. **About how often do you visit/[do that activity]?**

His track obligations keep him very busy, especially in the summer. In the summer he is at the track on Fridays, Sundays, and Wednesdays, but he brings his kids with him. He would take them more to other parks if he had time, but they average once a month in spring/summer (track season), and he tries to take them 2 times a month in the track off-season. When the weather is nice he also has track maintenance obligations.

c. **How do you get to the park/recreation facility/facilities/activity/ies?**

They drive, they live just outside of town. Not many sidewalks along their route and Molalla Ave is sketchy for biking and walking (no designated infrastructure). He says they would walk or ride bikes if they live in town, he knows people that live in town and ride around to get to the parks.

5. **What do you love or appreciate most about Molalla's parks system?**

Cleanliness, relationship with parks people. They are good at their jobs, and the crew is consistent. He notices the older staff are very good and they are training the younger generation of parks workers. He hopes the same level of service continues when the older generation ages out.

6. **Are you satisfied with the current level of maintenance at parks, trails, and recreation facilities? (e.g., equipment, landscaping, grounds, etc.)**

No, it's not because of staff performance, it's just that there needs to be more amenities. More bike and walking paths, more established routes connecting around city, vs having to cut across dangerous routes. He thinks there would be more walkers and bikers if there was safe park access. Road bikers go through town and kids are always trying to get to the track, people would come to Molalla more if they had better ped/bike infrastructure. There are some paths but they're not fully connected. Should be accessible. *He seems satisfied with level of maintenance but thinks amenities are lacking. This answer should be applied to question 3.*

7. **Are there any features, services, or activities you want added to parks and recreation facilities in Molalla?**

Bike and walking path, see above. One new park would be good. Example of something is like what Bend BMX has at Big Sky Park (*he told me to look this up*), they went after grants for some funding. Molalla BMX is thinking about doing this, but he does not have time to peruse this himself as he is a stay-at-home dad with 5(?) kids. With bend BMX, they have a paved pump track, a playground and soccer, baseball fields and more. The park brings in lots of

people because everything is central. He travels around the state for BMX race events and was very impressed with the Big Sky Park facilities. Things are kind of down with the economy in town due to global events and the pandemic, but before covid, The BMX track bought in \$55,000, and profited \$25,000 (*not sure where the money goes*). Bend brings in more money and they can ride year-round because they have a tennis court like tack surfacing. Molalla must close the track for weather. They could bring in more money if they had better facilities and a bigger park with more amenities, it could serve more people and skateboarders. He likes that in Bend, his kids can play in the park while he is participating in events, this is helpful for parents. They can all be in the same area with different interests. There is a workout station in the park behind the elementary school. He sees people using the workout station in nice weather and people walking on elementary school grounds. He ultimately wants one big park with multiple new/updated amenities.

8. **Do you see any barriers to access that prevent residents from using the parks as much as they would like to?**

Accessibility (parks are not safely accessible unless you drive). Lack of easy parking. He likes safe unloading parking areas. With his kids he does not like street parking and mentioned with the Library at Fox Park sharing the parking lot, he often must park on the street.

a. **Does the distribution of parks meet community needs or are any communities or neighborhoods underserved by parks?**

He feels no communities are underserved currently, but predicts that if the city grows at all this will change. They will have a hard time with growing community but now it is fine. He thinks they will see more kids in parks this summer than ever before.

b. **Are there any environmental or infrastructural issues causing access issues, for example, unsafe streets or sidewalks?**

Not structural-wise, but need more parking, mentioned access earlier. (*He did talk about unsafe park access for bikes and pedestrians a lot though, thinks they need infrastructure that connects the parks and neighborhoods and attractions in the town*)

c. **What do you think could help Molalla's park facilities better serve people of all ages, abilities, and demographic groups?**

More variety, play for kids over 9, or older, some kids just want a place to hang out with lots of things to do, but may not be interested in play. (*Did not mention any other groups, he said he is mostly concerned about meeting youth needs*).

9. **What do you see as the biggest challenges in Molalla's parks system?**

He thinks the parks staff is overwhelmed with the amount of work they have to do. They need more staff to manage the parks. He notes that this is just his perception interfacing with them and that it could be wrong.

10. **What would your ideal citywide park system be like?**

Having a big park like big sky, with parking, and connected trail system connecting to the park and other amenities around town. Indoor facilities would be nice for all weather, even if it's just a covering like a covered play so people to use it in rain. Would help people get out of the house in the winter. He mentioned it rains a lot and he thinks this should be more common. His kids still want to go out and play when it is cold/rainy but he also wants them to be safe and stay dry. BMX under a canopy would be good because there is still a demand for it in winter and would keep the track open more.

11. Given limited funding, how would you like to see the City allocate money? What would be your top priority/ies?

If they can't do a big park, he would like to see a new playground that is covered and serves more ages. Useable all year round. Indoor outdoor facility.

12. Do you have any suggestions for new sources of funding or resources for park improvements, operations, and maintenance?

No not really, they work on donations at the BMX track, they could look into grants, but he doesn't have a lot of time for this. He thinks they could get grant funding if they tried.

a. Would you be open to the City requiring subdivision developers to donate land or funding for the park system?

He thinks this is a great idea. He would want it to be donated to a larger park though and not just be an exclusive subdevelopment park. He doesn't think parks need to be spread out, he is envisioning a mega park instead of a neighborhood park. If the city was bigger, he says it would make sense to have more dispersed parks, but the city is small, and it is hard for the parks teams to manage all the different locations across town. He thinks one major park would cut down on maintenance strain and appeal to more people.

b. Would you be open to increasing permitting fees paid for new development projects to support park and recreation funding? (Molalla already has System Development Charges [SDCs], which help offset some of the cost of increasing/upgrading/maintaining community infrastructure including parks, water, and sewer services, and could increase the fee rate.)

Yes, he would be open to this.

13. Would you or your organization want to work with the City (more) on park system improvements in the future? Would you suggest collaborating with or leveraging the help of other groups or individuals?

Yes, he would.

14. How do you learn about activities, programs, and events in Molalla?

Through Molalla now and city's Facebook page.

a. Do you have any suggestions for how the City of Molalla could improve communication around parks and recreation?

They seem to have a decent system, unless they want a big billboard or something he thinks they are doing good. You have to want to be involved to find things out.

15. Are there any ways you'd like to be more involved with this planning process or resources you could offer to help? For example, you could:

a. Help distribute information about the online survey and upcoming events with flyers or in your organization's newsletter.

He would be open to this.

b. Partner with us on an engagement event/activity (let us table/interact with folks at an event you're doing)

He said he and the organization is willing to help, they don't have paid staff, but he will help as much as they can. Once a year they have a state race, with 300- 400 people, Will be on July 20th Could be opportunity for outreach, and was receptive to the idea of holding some outreach at the same time. He said anything they can do to get their name out in the community is also helpful for their organization.

16. Is there anything else you'd like to say about parks and recreation in Molalla? Anything I haven't asked that I should've?

They like the pickle ball courts with the lights, he hopes they get more use in the summer.

17. Is there anyone else we should talk with or any groups we should be sure to engage with to get specific feedback about parks?

No, he doesn't know of many other community groups. He's mostly concerned about youth access.

Name: Tim Anderson

Organization/Role: President of the Molalla Buckaroo Association

Date of Interview: 04/02/2024

1. How long have you been in your role as President of the Buckaroo Association?

Been involved and in the position for multiple years now.

2. How long have you lived in Molalla?

He lives in Colton but spends time in Molala outside of work.

3. Do you have any other roles, affiliations, interests, or identities that contribute to your perspective on Molalla's parks system?

Youth sports activities. He has kids that do youth sports in Molalla.

4. What's your current relationship like with the parks and recreation system [individually and/or through your organization]?

Good relationship, everything seems good.

a. Why do you visit parks and recreation facilities?

He uses Clark park a lot, for recreation and for rodeo. Buckaroo uses Bohlander filed constantly, a lot during summer especially. Has taken family fishing at Ivor Davies, they play baseball at Clark park and sheets filed, and soccer at those as well. In past has used Clark park for the carnival for 4th of July, no longer do carnival but they reserve the park for week of the 4th to control access to parking so that it doesn't get over loaded for city use. They rent it out so no conflicts of events.

b. About how often do you visit/[do that activity]?

Clark Park, at least once a month, Ivor Davies once or twice in summer, and sporting events as needed.

c. How do you get to the park/recreation facility/facilities/activity/ies?

Drive. His kids walk to Clark Park when he is working, buckaroo is next door to the park.

5. What do you love or appreciate most about Molalla's parks system?

They maintain them pretty well, and have good partnership with organizations like his own. Easy for organizations to use and reverse parks, feels like that is a good relationship/relationship builder.

6. Are you satisfied with the current level of maintenance at parks, trails, and recreation facilities? (e.g., equipment, landscaping, grounds, etc.)

Yeah, for the most part.

7. Are there any features, services, or activities you want added to parks and recreation facilities in Molalla?

There is some maintenance stuff like Clark park fencing and boarder upkeep with the Buckaroo. Good variety of things for people to do overall. Lots of playground and ball fields.

8. **Do you see any barriers to access that prevent residents from using the parks as much as they would like to?**
Sometimes there is a lack of safety especially at the park by the fire department because of homeless. It may turn people off from bringing kids/family to parks, sometimes happens at Clark park too.
- a. **Does the distribution of parks meet community needs or are any communities or neighborhoods underserved by parks?**
He says no, distribution is fine.
 - b. **Are there any environmental or infrastructural issues causing access issues, for example, unsafe streets or sidewalks?**
Not that he knows of.
 - c. **What do you think could help Molalla's park facilities better serve people of all ages, abilities, and demographic groups?**
They do pretty good job, has seen them adapt over the years and needs.
9. **What do you see as the biggest challenges in Molalla's parks system?**
Litter, vagrants, and unscrupulous characters, says the City's hands are tied on what they can and cannot do with characters hanging out at parks. When he took kids to Ivor Davies pond there were people living at the back side of the pond. He says the issue is convoluted by the fact that some of that is private land, so city can only do so much to keep people out of that area.
10. **What would your ideal citywide park system be like?**
He thinks it's done well with what is available, he says he hears people say there could be more parks but to him, it seems that the current ones are underutilized, so not much point in adding more. Sees Bohlander field being used as a dog park.
11. **Given limited funding, how would you like to see the City allocate money? What would be your top priority/ies?**
Maintenance, clean up and controlling, and patrolling parks.
12. **Do you have any suggestions for new sources of funding or resources for park improvements, operations, and maintenance?**
No. There is always talk about garnering funding, but most sources are limited/small/one time.
- a. **Would you be open to the City requiring subdivision developers to donate land or funding for the park system?**
Yes, absolutely.
 - b. **Would you be open to increasing permitting fees paid for new development projects to support park and recreation funding? (Molalla already has System Development Charges [SDCs], which help offset some of the cost of increasing/upgrading/maintaining community infrastructure including parks, water, and sewer services, and could increase the fee rate.)**
Yes, he would. For every x amount of houses they built, they should be required to build certain amount of park space.
13. **Would you or your organization want to work with the City (more) on park system improvements in the future? Would you suggest collaborating with or leveraging the help of other groups or individuals?**
They would be interested, and they already work with city on park system input. Most other groups that could be involved have disbanded, he says.

14. **How do you learn about activities, programs, and events in Molalla?**
Mostly by word of mouth. Speaks with city a lot. Molalla Current.
- a. **Do you have any suggestions for how the City of Molalla could improve communication around parks and recreation?**
He thinks maybe a reader board like MCC or utilize ones that are in town. It's adaptable and changeable, not like making a new banner for each event.
15. **Are there any ways you'd like to be more involved with this planning process or resources you could offer to help? For example, you could:**
- a. **Help distribute information about the online survey and upcoming events with flyers or in your organization's newsletter.**
Yes, but they are season specific, June, July, August is when they are active. They would be willing to post on social media and post on ticket office.
 - b. **Partner with us on an engagement event/activity (let us table/interact with folks at an event you're doing).**
They have the junior rodeos, they have vendors that comes to events, they did some field days related to the rodeos. Junior rodeo is late July. Weekend before July first is kickoff party. With rodeo happening week of July 4th. They have 3-5 Latin festivals and rodeos in the summer and a tractor pull. The buckaroo stays busy in the summer. We could attend one of these events, could be worked out. They put a lot of people through the doors, something like a info or fundraiser booth or a dunk tank they've had stuff like that. They get a lot of out of town but also a TON of locals maybe 50-60% is local.
16. **Is there anything else you'd like to say about parks and recreation in Molalla? Anything I haven't asked that I should've?**
No, he's been president in rodeo for a long time. People's attitudes change, very important to look at long term picture of park and rec and usage, it's always adapting and changing. Example he gave is that some people are really into soccer and say they want 5 new soccer fields put in but then the desire fades and you are left with infrastructure that is underutilized. He says it is a balancing game and that things come and go in cycles. Parks need to be functional forever and should remain flexible.

City of Molalla
Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan

To: Project Management Team (City of Molalla)
From: Colin McArthur, Alli Langley, Victor García-Ruano, McClean Gonzalez (Cameron McCarthy)
Date: April 15, 2024
Subject: Plaza Los Robles Focus Group Summary

Overview
This memo summarizes key takeaways from the focus group for the City of Molalla’s Park, Recreation, and Trails System Plan with residents of the Plaza Los Robles housing community. This engagement was conducted April 10, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Spanish and designed to gather perspectives from local demographic groups underrepresented in public input, including Hispanic/Latino residents, English as a Second Language speakers, and low-income households.

Key Takeaways
Project staff engaged with 15 participants, who were mostly women of different ages. Participants were most supportive of adding amenities like play areas, sand volleyball, restrooms, and sports fields especially for soccer. Covered picnic areas and multi-use paths were also popular. Participants wanted the city to prioritize upgrades and additions at Clark Park and Bohlander Field, at Molalla River Middle School and Elementary School (in partnership with the school district), and at or near Long Park. Participants would also like to see more park and recreation facilities on the west side of the city. More broadly, participants thought that more facilities are needed because, more bilingual communication in partnerships with other agencies would be helpful, and parks with diverse amenities for people of all ages.

Activities and Approach
Staff engaged the group with project background and informal discussion questions to encourage participants to share their experiences, needs, and desires for park and recreation facilities in Molalla. Participants used a display with 16 park and recreation amenity photos labeled in English and Spanish, as well as room for other ideas, to indicate the top five amenities they would like to see improved or added. Participants also used sticky dots to show where on a map of Molalla’s existing parks, recreation, and trail system they desired improvements or additional amenities, and staff followed up with clarifying questions.

Participants were provided with snacks and drinks during the focus group and encouraged verbally and with fliers at the end of the session to take and share the online survey for the project once it launched in Spanish with a raffle incentive later that week.

Detailed Results
The following provides a more detailed summary of input from focus group participants.

- Informal Discussion Notes
- More parks and recreation facilities are needed because the community is growing fast.
 - Some parks are better known (Clark, Fox), and many don’t know about other parks.
 - More bilingual information, signs, maps, and communication through the schools would be helpful.
 - The park facility rental process has been working ok.
 - Participants need a park with more features for different ages.
 - Participants would like additions or improvements to picnic shelters and tables, bathrooms, bike paths, playgrounds, skate park, volleyball, facilities and activities for older kids, and parking spaces.
 - Clark Park needs a new shelter.
 - Long Park needs playground improvements such as monkey bars.
 - The McMinnville Discovery Meadows Community Park is a good example with a splash pad, playground, sand play, skate park, and picnic facilities.

Park Amenity Preferences
Participants were asked to mark the five amenities they would most like added or improved.

Play areas were the most desired, followed by sand volleyball, restrooms, multiuse fields, covered picnic area, and multiuse path. The amenities with the least amount of interest were educational or interpretive Elements, off-leash dog areas, and open space.

Amenity	Votes
Play areas	9
Sand volleyball	8
Restrooms	7
Covered picnic area	6
Multiuse field	6
Multiuse path	5
Outdoor fitness area	4
Pedestrian trail	4
Water access	4
Event space	3
Skate park	3
Multiuse court	3
Nature play	2
Educational or interpretive elements	0
Off-leash dog area	0
Open space	0

Desired Improvement Locations
Participants wanted the city to prioritize upgrades and additions at Clark Park and Bohlander Field, at Molalla River Middle School and Elementary School (in partnership with the school

district), and at or near Long Park, and at Ivor Davies Park. Adding soccer fields, bathrooms, and picnic areas was desired across multiple locations, and other amenities like volleyball, bike facilities, basketball, outdoor exercise equipment, and trails were desired at specific locations. Full results are provided below:

- Clark Park and Bohlander Field Area (5 votes)
 - Activities for teens
 - Soccer fields
 - Bike park and path
 - Skate park
 - Bathrooms
 - Splash pad
 - Picnic tables
 - Volleyball
- Molalla River Middle School and Elementary School Area (School District) (5 votes)
 - Activities for kids
 - New park in this area
 - Children's games/playground
 - Bathrooms
 - Soccer field
- Long Park and/or area between Long Park and south of Toliver Road (4 votes)
- Ivor Davies Park (3 votes)
 - Activities for adults
 - Basketball
 - Trails
 - Nature play
 - Picnic area
 - Bathrooms
 - Walking trails
 - Fitness area
- Area near Rotary Park to west (Main Street and Dixon Ave intersection) and east (3 votes)
 - Soccer field
- South of Main St. and Commercial Pkwy Intersection (3 votes)
- Bear Creek Annex Area (2 votes)
 - Bathrooms
 - Picnic area
 - Volleyball
- Fox Park and Library Area (2 votes)
- Southeast of Cascade Hwy 213 and Tolliver Rd Intersection (1 vote)

City of Molalla
Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan Update

To: City PM Team (City of Molalla)
From: Colin McArthur, Alli Langley, Claire Dosen, and McClean Gonzalez (Cameron McCarthy)
Date: April 15, 2024
Subject: Pop-Up Event 1 Engagement Summary

OVERVIEW
This memo summarizes public engagement results for the City of Molalla's Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan Update at the Molalla High School career fair on April 10, 2024. This engagement was designed to gather perspectives from demographics underrepresented in the project's broader public engagement efforts, including youth, Hispanic/Latino residents, and low-income residents.

KEY TAKEAWAYS
Staff engaged roughly 150 students in 8th through 12th grade during the three-hour event, plus a handful of school staff members.

Students' most desired amenities were sand volleyball courts, water access, pedestrian trails, and sports fields and courts. Playgrounds, with nature play receiving more support, and off-leash dog area and restrooms also were popular. Participants also expressed desire for parks closer to their homes as well as more universally accessible playgrounds and park features.

ACTIVITIES AND APPROACH
Staff engaged students with three displays, interactive activities, and informal conversation. Students engaged primarily with the amenity activity, where they used sticky dots to mark their top park and recreation amenities on a display showing 16 amenity images labeled in English and Spanish as well as room for adding other ideas.

Students also added comments to a poster that asked what they liked and didn't like about the existing parks, recreation, and trail system as well as what their ideal park would include. Some students used the existing system map for reference when sharing their ideas.

Participants were given raffle prize tickets after engaging with staff and encouraged to take home sunflower seeds and stickers.

RESULTS
Detailed results from the voting and comment activities are provided below.



Amenity Preferences

Sand volleyball was the most desired, followed by water access, pedestrian trail, multiuse field, off-leash dog area, and nature play. The amenities with the least amount of interest were covered picnic area, educational or interpretive elements, and event space.

- Sand volleyball (76 votes)
- Water access (creek, pond, fishing) (64 votes)
- Pedestrian trail (58 votes)
- Multiuse field (56 votes)
- Off-leash dog area (40 votes)
- Nature play (35 votes)
- Multiuse court (34 votes)
- Play area (30 votes)
- Restroom (28 votes)
- Open space (21 votes)
- Outdoor fitness area (20 votes)
- Multiuse path (20 votes)
- Skate park (18 votes)
- Covered picnic area (17 votes)
- Educational or interpretive elements (13 votes)
- Event space (8 votes)
- Other:
 - Horse friendly trail/area (6 votes)
 - Accessible playground (5 votes)

Existing System Strengths and Assets

Participants liked local trails with soft surfaces for track practice, dog walking, and riding horses. They also liked covered picnic areas.

Comments:

- “like walking around, doing track practice on local trails”
- “walk on trails take horse out and dogs”
- “Trails soft surface trails for track practice”
- “parks close to my house”
- “zipline”
- “Cute picnic tables that are covered and swing”
- “I like Covered picnic tables”

Existing System Weaknesses

Participants were concerned about equipment and field conditions as well as the presence of people who made them feel unsafe in park spaces.

- “no tweakers at park”
- “broken swings, unsafe”
- “Homeless taking over”
- “better youth sports fields not best conditions”

System Needs and Opportunities

Participants noted that their ideal park would include walking paths, court sport facilities, bathrooms, fishing opportunities, more accessible sidewalks and play areas, and waste bins.

- Paths/trails and play areas
 - “Walking paths and trails”
 - “paths, trails, swings, sand”
 - “More soft surface running paths for track/cross country practice.”
 - “They should add more play area and nature play.”
- Increased accessibility
 - “more accessible sidewalks”
 - “Accessible playground w/ swings”
- Fishing
 - “Fishing”
 - “Ivor Davies stocked pond”
- Sports facilities
 - “Basketball courts with lights”
 - “outdoor volleyball court”
- Bathrooms and waste bins
 - “Want access to bathrooms”
 - “more basketball courts, more restrooms”
 - “More trash cans and accessible areas for recycling of waste”

Other Comments

In the other ideas section, participants again noted the need for parks near their homes and increased accessibility within parks. A participant noted desire for an accessible playground like one at a Salem park as well as features from Pinney Park in Washington. One participant also suggested adding a public garden, an amenity not identified in the preference activity. Another suggested that Clark Park could have better multiuse fields for soccer, tennis, football, and baseball.

- “More parks within walking distance”
- “Can’t go because parents are busy and can’t take me (proximity)”
- “more accessibility, more diff[erent] types of play areas and dif[ferent] picnic places”
- “accessible playground like one in Salem Pinney park in WA”
- “I think we should put a better multiuse field at Clark Park soccer, tennis, football, baseball”
- “Make a public garden (vegetables, flower, any kind)”
- “Public improvement and maintenance, lots of illicit activity in Pioneer Cemetery”

City of Molalla
Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan Update

To: City PM Team (City of Molalla)
From: Colin McArthur, Alli Langley, Claire Dosen, and McClean Gonzalez (Cameron McCarthy)
Date: June 28, 2024
Subject: Pop-Up Event 2 Engagement Summary

OVERVIEW

This memo summarizes the public engagement results for the City of Molalla’s Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan Update at the Molalla Farmers Market on May 30, 2024, from 3-7 p.m. This engagement was designed to engage with a wide range of residents of different ages.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Staff engaged roughly 70 people across a diversity of age ranges during the event. Participant’s most desired amenities were pedestrian trails, water access, nature play, and playgrounds. Off-leash dog areas, outdoor fitness areas, multi-use paths, and restrooms were also popular. Increasing access to parks and adding new parks and recreation facilities were participant’s highest parks-related budget priorities.

ACTIVITIES AND APPROACH

Staff engaged farmers market visitors with three displays, interactive activities, and informal conversation. Participants engaged primarily with the amenity activity, where they marked their top five park and recreation amenities on a display showing 16 amenity images labeled in English and Spanish. The amenity board also included room to add other ideas.

Participants also chose their top park and recreation related budget priority for the city to focus on over the next 10 years, and some added comments to the existing system map. Participants were encouraged to take the online survey for the project and offered sunflower seeds and stickers.


RESULTS

Detailed results from the voting and comment activities are provided below.

Amenity Preferences

Pedestrian trails were the most desired, followed by water access, nature play, playgrounds, off-leash dog areas, and outdoor fitness areas. The amenities with the least amount of interest were covered picnic areas, sand volleyball, and multi-use courts.

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www.cameronmccarthy.com



City of Molalla
Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan
Molalla Farmers Market Pop-Up Engagement Summary

- Pedestrian trail (24 votes)
- Water access (21 votes)
- Nature play (21 votes)
- Playground (16 votes)
- Off-leash dog area (14 votes)
- Outdoor fitness area (13 votes)
- Multiuse path (13 votes)
- Restroom (11 votes)
- Open space (10 votes)
- Skate park (9 votes)
- Multiuse field (8 votes)
- Educational or interpretive elements (8 votes)
- Multiuse court (7 votes)
- Sand volleyball (6 votes)
- Covered picnic area (6 votes)
- Event space (6 votes)
- Other:
 - Water feature / splash pad (2 votes)
 - Food carts (1 votes)
 - Trout fishing (1 votes)

Budget Priorities

The budget priorities that received the most votes were for improving access and adding new park and recreation facilities.

- **Improve access** (for walking, biking driving, and using mobility devices) (7 votes)
- **Add new** parks and recreation facilities (6 votes)
- **Upgrade existing** facilities and equipment (5 votes)
- **Maintain existing** facilities and equipment (4 votes)

Location-Specific Comments

Participants who left comments on the existing system map noted the need for Fox Park and Long Park playground upgrades, more bathrooms at Fox Park and the south end of Clark Park, and a rails-to-trails conversion to connect Molalla and Canby. One participant suggested more “themed parks” like the old wagon and train design at Fox Park.

- “Activate old railroad to be a bike trail connecting to Canby” (received a +1)
- “South end of Clark Park could use bathrooms”
- “Better playground at park near fire station [Long Park]”
- “Replace playground at Fox Park”
- “Liked sliding pole and wagon and train design at Fox Park. More themed parks.
- “More bathrooms at Fox Park”
- “Fox Park playground needs upgrading”
- “Have a designated spot for carnival to come back to during the rodeo.”

City of Molalla
Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan Update

To: City PM Team (City of Molalla)
From: Colin McArthur, Alli Langley, and Claire Dosen (Cameron McCarthy)
Date: July 1, 2024
Subject: Pop-Up Event 3 Engagement Summary

OVERVIEW

This memo summarizes public engagement results for the City of Molalla’s Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan held at the Molalla Music in the Park event on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. This engagement was designed to engage with a wide range of residents of different ages.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Staff engaged roughly 61 people across age ranges. About half of the participants were children.

Participants’ most desired amenities were nature play, play areas, off-leash dog area, and pedestrian trails. Skate park, outdoor fitness areas, sand volleyball, water access, open space/natural areas, and paved paths were also popular. Participants’ highest parks-related budget priorities were maintaining and upgrading existing facilities and equipment. Written comments indicated a need for larger playgrounds with well maintained equipment and features for older children, more paths and trails including for mountain biking, and indoor recreation opportunities.

ACTIVITIES AND APPROACH

Staff engaged visitors with four displays, interactive activities, and informal conversation. Participants engaged primarily with the amenity activity, where they marked their top five park and recreation amenities on a display showing 16 images labeled in English and Spanish. The amenity board also included room to add other ideas.

Participants could also choose one budget priority the city should focus on over the next 10 years and could add written comments to share their likes and dislikes about the existing park system, their vision for their ideal park, and location-specific desires. Participants were encouraged to take the online survey for the project and offered sunflower seeds, stickers, and survey flyers after engaging with staff.

RESULTS

Detailed results from the voting and comment activities are provided below.

City of Molalla
Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan
Music in the Park Pop-Up Engagement Summary

Amenity Preferences

Nature play was the most desired followed by play areas, off-leash dog areas, pedestrian trails, skate parks, and outdoor fitness areas. The amenities with the least amount of interest were restrooms, covered picnic areas, and educational or interpretive elements.

- Nature play (21 votes)
- Play area (20 votes)
- Off-leash dog area (19 votes)
- Pedestrian trails (15 votes)
- Skate park (14 votes)
- Outdoor fitness area (12 votes)
- Sand volleyball (11 votes)
- Water access (11 votes)
- Open space/natural area (9 votes)
- Multiuse path (8 votes)
- Multiuse field (7 votes)
- Event space (7 votes)
- Educational or interpretive elements (6 votes)
- Multiuse court (6 votes)
- Covered picnic area (3 votes)
- Restrooms (3 votes)
- Other:
 - Accessible playground (5 votes)
 - [Hidden Creek West Park in Hillsboro, OR](#) was provided as inspiration
 - Event space at Clark Park (1 vote)
 - Dog park behind Clark Park on the undeveloped city-owned land (1 vote)
 - Bike trail (1 vote)
 - Large play equipment / tall monkey bars (1 vote)

Budget Priorities

The budget priorities that received the most votes were for maintaining existing facilities and equipment and upgrading existing facilities and equipment. Improving access and adding new park and recreation facilities equipment received fewer votes.

- **Maintain existing** facilities and equipment (5 votes)
 - One person commented: “i.e. remove plywood from slide at Fox Park, and [fix] some other [equipment] at Clark Park”
- **Upgrade existing** facilities and equipment (3 votes)
- **Improve access** (for walking, biking driving, and using mobility devices) (1 vote)
- **Add new** parks and recreation facilities (1 vote)

Written Comments on System Needs

Comments included appreciation for Strawberry Park and desire for larger playgrounds with features for older children, more outdoor and indoor recreation facilities, and more paths and trails providing safer access and connecting parks with key destinations especially downtown and commercial areas in western Molalla. Participants also noted desire for a spatial buffer

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Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan
Music in the Park Pop-Up Engagement Summary

between activity at Chief Yelkus Park and adjacent residential property. Comments are provided below:

- **Now: I like...**
 - "The new Strawberry toddler Park 😊 "
 - "I like the trails" (x2)
 - "I like the play structures"
 - "Big playgrounds"
 - "I like big playgrounds"
- **Now: I don't like...**
 - "The broken existing park equipment"
 - "[That there is] "no big kids park"
 - "I don't like how Clark Park's playground [is] so small" (x2)
 - "Homeless tents"
- **In the future: My ideal park would have...**
 - "A walking path with fishing opportunities available" (x2)
 - "Dog park"
 - "Walking path, rock wall, more parks with a splash pad"
 - "Music in the park, bike path, more slides and swings"
 - "have a trail around it"
- **In the future: Other ideas...**
 - "Field and a playground"
 - "Trails for mountain bikes, BMX track, and pet stores"
 - "A mall, indoor park, movie theater" (x2)
 - "Formalized trail system – work to transform routes people already use"
 - "zipline"
- **Location-specific (map comments):**
 - "[Create a] trail from Safeway to Farmers Market along Bear Creek, use/expand upon existing bridge [at Bear Creek]"
 - "Trails connecting existing parks & downtown"
 - "[At Chief Yelkus] don't develop too close to fence lines & residential properties"
 - Participants specifically mentioned not placing walking trails up against property lines.
 - "Be able to walk from Farmers Market to downtown [safely], more bike trails"
 - "Upgrade Molalla Forest Road for walking and biking from Pioneer Cemetery to Ivor Davies"

G Needs Assessment

MEMORANDUM
Molalla Parks Master Plan
Needs Assessment Memo

To: Project Management Team (City of Molalla)

From: Colin McArthur, AICP; Alli Langley; Claire Dosen (Cameron McCarthy)

Date: August 28, 2024

Subject: **Needs Assessment Memo**

OVERVIEW

Assessing park system needs involves a comprehensive evaluation of existing facilities, current level of service, demographics, population projections, community outreach findings, and current trends and demands for parks and recreation. This assessment allows park providers to plan for facilities and services that meet and exceed user expectations. This memo includes an analysis of recreation demand at the local, national, and state levels; a summary of the level of service analysis; and summaries of input gathered through community engagement methods.

RECREATION DEMAND

Data on current facilities were collected from the city, and park site visits. State and national park and recreation user trends were informed by data from National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), National Federation of State High School Associations, Sport and Fitness Industry Association, and the Oregon Park and Recreation Department's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Existing Facilities

Molalla currently operates 10 parks and has 1.48 miles of trails. Park types include mini parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, special use parks, and natural areas.

Throughout its park facilities, Molalla offers the following amenities: playgrounds, a tot lot, splash pad, covered and uncovered picnic areas, rectangular sports fields, diamond sport fields, bathrooms, benches, skatepark, disc golf, BMX track, and pickleball. Comparable U.S. park and recreation agencies with fewer than 20,000 residents also provide a tennis court, dog park, community garden, and basketball court.¹ At the same time, Molalla

¹ National Recreation and Parks Association. "2024 Agency Performance Review." 2024.
https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/f6baf1e9c3354aeca52dc548251bc4f4/2024agencyperformancereview_final.pdf

provides some amenities that the typical agency in its size category does not including a skatepark, pickleball courts, a splash pad, BMX track, and a disc golf course.

Molalla does not offer programs to park users aside from themed special events (Celebrate Molalla, National Night Out, music in the park) and yoga in the park. Similar sized park agencies offer a variety of programs, in particular, summer camps (65%), specific senior programs (63%), and specific teen programs (50%).² The city does not offer indoor recreation opportunities, and independent organizations offer youth sports. Nationally, 86% of agencies offer team sports, 62% of park agencies have a recreation center, and 59% have a community center.³

National Recreation Participation

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) conducts an annual survey to gain better insight into public park usage among individuals across the county.

NRPA's 2023 Engagement with Parks Report highlights that 7 in 10 residents in the U.S. can walk to at least one park or recreation facility, and residents who view parks as inclusive are twice as likely to use them regularly.⁴ Two-thirds of survey respondents reported their top activity or destinations are local parks, a playground, a dog park, or any open space. Nearly half (47%) of participants favor hiking, biking and walking trails. About one-third (30%) choose to play basketball, golf, tennis or another sport with family or friends. Visiting an indoor facility, like an aquatic, recreation, or senior center, had similar popularity, with 28% of respondents favoring those activities.⁵

Participation in Youth Team Sports

In 2022, the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) reported team sports saw an increase in 2021 to 68.3 million participants, but participation is still lower than the 70.8 million youth participating in sports in 2019. Sports participation increased for youth ages 6 to 12, which may indicate long-term involvement in sports and recreation activities. The most popular sport for 6-year-old youth is soccer. The youth team sport with the most participation in the U.S. is basketball. Team sports that saw the greatest increase in participation are fast-pitch softball, gymnastics, court volleyball, and swimming.⁶

Participation in Highschool Sports

Nationally, boys' sports programs with the greatest number of participants are football, track and field, basketball, baseball, and soccer. Sports programs for girls with the highest participation are track and field – outdoor,

² National Parks and Recreation Association. "2024 Agency Performance Review." 2024.
³ National Parks and Recreation Association. "2024 Agency Performance Review." 2024.
⁴ National Parks and Recreation Association. "2023 Engagement with Parks Report." 2023. <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/Engagement/>
⁵ National Parks and Recreation Association. "2023 Engagement with Parks Report." 2023.
⁶ Sports & Fitness Industry Association. "SFIA's Trends in Team Sports Report Shows Positive Trends in Participation and Highest Number Of 6-To-12-Year-Old Participants in Five Years." 2022 December 22. <https://sfia.org/resources/sfias-trends-in-team-sports-report-shows-positive-trends-in-participation-and-highest-number-of-6-to-12-year-old-participants-in-five-years/>

volleyball, soccer, basketball, and softball - fast pitch.⁷ In the 2022-2023 academic year, Oregon ranked 32nd in high school athletic participation. The state had 98,059 students involving 54,954 boys and 43,105 girls.⁸ Below is the breakdown of sports and participation numbers:

Boys' participation:

- Football: 10,713
- Track and Field (Outdoor): 9,830
- Basketball: 7,614
- Soccer: 6,826
- Baseball: 5,752
- Cross Country: 3,423
- Wrestling: 2,965
- Tennis: 2,188
- Swimming and Diving: 1,905
- Golf: 1,790

Girls' participation:

- Volleyball: 7,648
- Track and Field (Outdoor): 6,988
- Basketball: 5,487
- Soccer: 5,398
- Softball (fast pitch): 4,260
- Tennis: 3,161
- Competitive Spirit: 2,617
- Cross Country: 2,300
- Swimming and Diving: 2,171
- Golf: 1,054
- Wrestling, 88

State and Regional Participation

To better understand recreation needs, the Oregon Park and Recreation Department (OPRD) publishes the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years. The SCORP currently identifies the key issues for local governments and park providers to consider when making planning and policy decisions.

Table 1.1. Top ten activities for Oregon residents⁹

⁷ National Federation of State High School Associations. "High School Athletics Participation Survey 2022-2023". 2023. https://members.nfhs.org/participation_statistics
⁸ National Federation of State High School Associations. "High School Athletics Participation Survey 2022-2023".
⁹ Source: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. (n.d.). (rep.). 2019-2023 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (pp. 27).

No.	Activity	Activity Category	Percent
1	Walking on local streets / sidewalks	Walking	83%
2	Walking on local trails / paths	Nature activities	74%
3	Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	Sightseeing	59%
4	Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	Nature activities	59%
5	Beach activities - ocean	Nature activities	57%
6	Walking / day hiking on local trails / paths	Nature activities	55%
7	Attending outdoor concerts, fairs, festivals	Leisure activities at a park	50%
8	Visiting historic sites / history-themed parks	Sightseeing	49%
9	Picnicking	Leisure activities at a park	49%
10	Beach activities – lakes, reservoirs, rivers	Sightseeing	40%

Shifting Demographics
Both state and national surveys indicated the importance of planning for a more diverse participant base. Across the U.S. a significantly higher percentage of seniors are participating in outdoor recreation than in the past.¹⁰ Nationally, new and young outdoor participants were also more racially diverse than overall outdoor recreation demographics and then the U.S population.¹¹ Oregon’s population is also becoming older and more diverse. In Oregon, the population 65 years and over is expected to see a 45% increase by 2040, and the two fastest-growing minority groups are expected to make up a larger portion of Oregon’s population. By 2030, the Hispanic and Asian populations are projected to make up 26.7% and 5.5% of Oregon’s population, respectively.¹²

As Oregon’s population grows and diversifies, it is vital to understand how the entire population participates in recreation activities and to anticipate and better serve those needs.

- Recommendations to address changing demographics include:
- Create new and diverse opportunities

¹⁰ Outdoor Industry Association. “2023 Outdoor Participation Trends Report.” 2023. <https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2023-outdoor-participation-trends-report/>
¹¹ Outdoor Industry Association. “2023 Outdoor Participation Trends Report.” 2023.
¹² Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. 2019-2023 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Pg. 73

- Provide Accommodations for the active senior population including safe walking areas (free of fall risk), benches/places to sit, public transportation to parks, affordable swimming opportunities, and allowing electric mobility devices on trails.
- Provide more walking trails and improved walking routes to parks.
- Provide more senior activity centers, and classes tailored to specific health concerns.
- Provide more free-of-charge recreation opportunities

Lack of Youth Participation
Youth in Oregon are experiencing a decline in outdoor recreation activities. Several factors contribute to this trend, such as increased urbanization, reduced free time, more single-parent households, and a growing emphasis on electronic activities.¹³ This decline in outdoor engagement among young people could have long-term health consequences, as it makes them less likely to participate in outdoor activities as adults. This, in turn, may lead to an increase in obesity and other health-related issues.

- Recommendations for supporting youth outdoor activity:
- Provide a variety of activities for youth
 - Provide more access to parks and open spaces
 - Support programs for youth

Underserved Low-Income Populations
The Oregon median household income closely aligns with the U.S. median, and significant segments of the population live in poverty. In 2016, 16% of Oregonians were living with household incomes below the poverty threshold. This has jumped from 12% in 2000. More than 1 in 5 people living in poverty are children. Minorities are also more affected by poverty than whites. Poverty rates are between 26% and 33% for African Americans, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, Hispanics or Latinos, and American Indians and Alaska Natives while only 13% of whites experience poverty.¹⁴ Lower-income individuals are less likely to participate in outdoor recreation activities and exercise, mainly for cost barriers and safety concerns. The health of communities is improved when parks are easily accessible, adequately distributed, provide physical activities, and are well-maintained.

- Top priorities to serve low-income populations are to:
- Locate and build facilities in proximity to underserved populations
 - Provide free activities and/or waived fees
 - Keep parks well-maintained to promote inclusion and safety.

Heath Benefits of Physical Activity
Lack of physical activity and poor diet are known as two high-risk factors for mortality, and 17% of Oregon adults are not physically active outside of work. When evaluated on federal guidelines for aerobic and muscle strength, 60% of Oregon adults met aerobic activity standards, and 30% met the muscle strength standards. Only 23% of

¹³ Source: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. (n.d.). (rep.). 2019-2023 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (pp. 1–236).
¹⁴ Oregon Park and Recreation Department. “Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023.” 2023.

Oregon adults met both standards. Residents’ physical activity and health are most impacted by the social, economic, and physical conditions of their environment.¹⁵ Parks and recreation facilities effectively prompt new behaviors and habits, which can improve physical health over time, and the amount invested in parks and recreational services correlates with the health benefits people receive.

State Recreation Needs

Additionally, the SCORP conducts a county-based recreational needs assessment using two distinct methods. The first method surveys Oregon’s public recreation providers. The second method surveys residents statewide. Residents are asked to rank a list of priority activities. Relevant results from this assessment are detailed in the following tables.¹⁶

Table 1.2. Comparison of Regional and State Needs¹⁷

	Clackamas County Need Public Rec. Provider		Statewide Need Rec. Providers		Statewide Suburban Needs Oregon Resident	
Close to Home Priorities	Trails connecting adjacent communities	4.86	Community trail system	3.98	Soft surface walking paths/trails	3.78
	Community trail system	4.71	More restrooms	3.74	More restrooms	3.61
	Trail connected to public lands	4.71	Children’s nature play areas	3.70	Children’s nature play areas	3.52
	-	-	Picnic areas and shelters for small groups	3.48	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.52
	-	-	Trails connected to public lands	3.45	Public access to waterways	3.46
	-	-	Picnicking/day use facilities	3.45	-	-

Table 1.3. Comparison of Senior Needs¹⁸

	Young Old (60-74) Suburban Need Oregon Resident		Middle Old (75-84) Suburban Need Oregon Resident	
Close to Home Priorities	More restrooms	3.81	More restrooms	3.54
	Soft surface walking paths/trails	3.71	Picnic areas and shelters for small groups	3.41

¹⁵ Oregon Park and Recreation Department. “Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023.” 2023.
¹⁶ Oregon Park and Recreation Department. “Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023.” 2023.
¹⁷ Source: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. (n.d.). (rep.). 2019-2023 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (pp. 27).
¹⁸ Source: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. (n.d.). (rep.). 2019-2023 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (pp. 27).

	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.58	More places and benches to observe nature and others	3.41
	Security cameras in key places	3.54	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.37
	Public access to waterways	3.50	Security cameras in key places	3.30

Table 1.3. Comparison of Demographic Group Needs¹⁹

	Latino Suburban Need Oregon Resident		Families with Children Suburban Need Oregon Resident		Low Income Suburban Need Oregon Resident	
Close to Home Priorities	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.95	Children’s nature play areas	3.92	More restrooms	3.94
	Children’s nature play areas	3.85	Soft surface walking paths/trails	3.78	Soft surface walking paths/trails	3.80
	More restrooms	3.82	Children’s playgrounds	3.69	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.77
	More places and benches to observe nature and others	3.79	More restrooms	3.64	Security cameras in key places	3.74
	Security cameras in key places	3.77	Picnic areas and shelters for small groups	3.57	Children’s nature play areas	3.71

POPULATION GROWTH AND LEVEL OF SERVICE

Molalla’s current level of service is comparable to similarly sized jurisdictions in the lower quartile. Molalla has more parks per capita, but fewer park acres per capita, and fewer miles of trails than the median jurisdiction with 20,000 or fewer residents, so by these measures the current Molalla population is underserved by the parks system.

Population growth impacts the level of service and influences community needs. As Molalla’s population is expected to increase 59% between 2023 and 2045, Molalla would need to add six parks, develop roughly 44 acres of park land (or 8.76 acres annually), and add about 0.57 miles of trails to maintain its current level of service. Molalla can also consider increasing its number of parks, acreage of park land, and miles of trail to provide a level of service on par with the median similarly sized jurisdiction.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Between January and June 2024, project staff engaged with residents through a community outreach and engagement process. These efforts consisted of interviews, a focus group, engagement at three events, and an online survey.

¹⁹ Source: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. (n.d.). (rep.). 2019-2023 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (pp. 27).

Interviews

Project staff interviewed five community members from the following organizations:

- Ant Farm
- Hacienda Community Development Corporation (CDC)
- Molalla BMX
- Molalla Buckaroo Association
- Molalla Youth Sports

Interview Findings

- Park maintenance was unsatisfactory with interviewees citing bathroom closures, degradation and closure of play equipment, field maintenance issues, and lack of urgency regarding facility maintenance.
- Some perceived a lack of safety in parks due to the presence of houseless people in parks.
- Support was widespread for increasing permitting fees for developers and requiring developers to donate land or funding for the parks system.
- Increased connectivity between parks and safe walking/biking routes are needed. Some identified this as a barrier to access.
- Many desired more covered outdoor spaces and a community center to increase park facility use in winter months. A covered play area, covered picnic area, and covered BMX track were suggested.
- Parks are not currently meeting the needs of local youth. The city relies on other organizations to offer youth activities and sports. Providers struggle with the lack of variety and condition of current facilities, making them unable to support a robust youth sports network.
- The lack of quality sports and play facilities that can accommodate multiple age groups makes it difficult for families and organizations serving different age children to recreate in local parks. Park amenities need more variety so that one park can cater to multiple age groups. Some said teens and older children are underserved.
- Interviewees mostly supported adding additional parks and a dog park.

Focus Group

One focus group was held with residents of the Plaza Los Robles housing community. Engagement was done in Spanish and designed to gather perspectives from underrepresented local demographic groups, including Hispanic/Latino residents, English as a Second Language speakers, and low-income households.

Focus Group Findings

- Participants supported adding amenities like play areas, sand volleyball, restrooms, and multiuse fields for activities like soccer and baseball. Covered picnic areas and multi-use paths were also popular.
- More parks and recreation facilities are needed because the community is growing fast.
- Some parks are better known (Clark, Fox), and many participants didn't know about other parks.
- More bilingual information, signs, and maps as well as communication through the schools would help.
- The park facility rental process has been working.
- Participants need a park with more features for different ages.
- Participants would like additions or improvements to picnic shelters and tables, bathrooms, bike paths, playgrounds, skate park, volleyball, facilities and activities for older kids, and parking spaces.
- Clark Park needs a new shelter.
- Long Park needs playground improvements.

Community Events

Project staff gathered community input at the Molalla High School Career Fair, Molalla Farmers Market, and a Music in the Park event. People were asked to vote on their top five favorite amenities and their top budget priority and provide general comments on Molalla facilities. Feedback and turnout varied by event. Over 280 people were engaged.

Community Events Findings

- Top amenities were pedestrian trails, water access, sand volleyball (popular among teens), nature play, playgrounds, off leash dog area, and multiuse fields.
- The top budget priority was maintaining existing facilities and equipment.
- People expressed a desire for parks closer to their homes.
- When asked about existing system weaknesses, people noted feeling unsafe due to homelessness and drug use in parks, maintenance and prevalence of broken and outdated equipment, the quality of sports facilities, bathroom conditions, and .
- People also expressed the need for walking/biking paths around town, connecting to parks.

Survey

The survey was available through the Molalla Current from April to June 2024 and received more than 430 responses. The survey asked for feedback on the current system, desired improvements, and priorities for the future.

Survey Findings

- The top reasons people do not use parks are due to feeling unsafe or unwelcome, lack of facilities, or condition of facilities.
- Many people expressed frustration that the toddler play structure in Fox Park was boarded up.
- Over half of respondents indicated Molalla needs more parks, particularly in the northwest and southwest region.
- The most important amenities for future investment were children's playgrounds, natural areas/green space, nature-based play, paved trails, covered play areas, wildlife viewing areas, water access, and a dog park. Many also noted a need for a local multiuse trail network.
- People felt the most underserved populations were teens and seniors. Adding teen-specific programing and making parks more accessible by providing ADA walking paths and resting places were suggested for increasing service for and use by those groups.
- Most people agreed the city's main budget priority should be upgrading existing facilities and equipment.
- Most people supported requiring subdivision developers to donate land or funding to the parks system.

FINDINGS

Top Needs and Priorities

- Increase park maintenance
 - Keep restrooms clean and open
 - Deter loitering and unwanted behaviors
 - Increase maintenance staff

- Increase operating budget
- Upgrade existing facilities
 - Replace broken and outdated equipment
 - Fix field drainage issues
 - When adding facilities to existing parks, consider which age group is currently underserved
 - Upgrade skatepark
- Add non-weather dependent facilities
 - Picnic shelters / covered gathering spaces
 - Covered play area
 - Covered BMX track
- Increase accessibility
 - Develop more paths and trails
 - Incorporate best practices for accessibility when adding or upgrading facilities
 - Add more benches and tables
- Add and improve facilities community members indicated were most important:
 - Playgrounds, nature-based play areas, covered play areas
 - Paved paths and unpaved trails
 - Open spaces, natural areas, and wildlife viewing areas
 - Water access
 - Restore Shorty's Pond for fishing
 - Dog park
 - Covered picnic area and BBQ/cooking areas
 - Outdoor volleyball
 - Basketball court
 - Sports fields: especially for soccer, softball, and baseball
 - Bathrooms
 - Outdoor exercise equipment
 - Skate park
- Improve service for underserved groups, especially teens, seniors, and Hispanic/Latino residents. This could include:
 - Teen- and senior-specific events and programs
 - Add ADA-accessible benches, tables, paths, and bathrooms
 - Multigenerational and group facilities such as outdoor exercise equipment, picnic areas, and sports facilities
 - More bilingual signs, maps, and communications
- Develop park and recreation facilities in the western part of the City that currently lacks these amenities. Target this area for future park land acquisition.
- Increase parks system resources by requiring new subdivision developments to donate land or funds to the parks system and increase new development permitting fees to offset parks system costs.

H Capital Improvement Plan

Table 1.1 Park System Capital Improvement Plan Priorities

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

ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
P1	Odd Fellows Park			
1.1	Install paved path through park.	\$122,600	-	-
1.2	Install site furnishings (picnic tables, benches, receptacles, bike racks).	-	\$32,300	-
1.3	Install landscaping (shrubs & perennials) improvements and update irrigation.	-	-	\$36,200
P2	Rotary Park			
2.1	Install drinking fountain.	-	-	\$29,500
P3	Long Park			
3.1	Replace gazebo/stage cover and add accessible ramp and outlet.	\$487,800	-	-
3.2	Install additional site furnishings (benches and receptacles).	\$53,200	-	-
3.3	Replace existing playground.	-	\$298,900	-
3.4	Remove dying trees and replace with additional trees, shade structures, and park features.	-	-	\$17,600
P4	Strawberry Park			
4.1	Install shade structure.	\$24,700	-	-
4.2	Install drinking fountain and bike racks.	-	\$26,900	-
P5	Clark Park			
5.1	Replace playground equipment and surfacing.	\$226,300	-	-
5.2	Replace picnic shelter and install picnic tables.	\$281,600	-	-
5.3	Improve ball fields and install subgrade drainage.	\$744,800	-	-
5.4	Pave north parking lot, add lighting, and install bike racks.	-	\$418,800	
5.5	Install site furnishings (benches).	-	-	\$29,200

Table 1.1 Park System Capital Improvement Plan Priorities


ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
P6	Fox Park			
6.1	Extended lease or complete acquisition.	-	-	-
6.2	Replace existing toddler play equipment and surfacing.	\$151,400	-	-
6.3	Replace restroom.	-	\$491,100	-
6.4	Install accessible path between restroom, playground, and picnic shelter.	-	\$16,800	-
6.5	Install additional site furnishings, including benches, picnic tables, trash/recycling collection, and bike racks.	-	-	\$31,500
P7	BMX Track and Sheets Field			
7.1	Increase parking and install path to Chief Yelkus Park.	\$82,200	-	-
7.2	Improve field drainage.	-	\$280,500	-
7.3	Install bike racks.	-	\$3,900	-
7.4	Conduct public outreach to identify needs for bike park improvements.	-	-	\$25,000
P8	Bohlander Field			
8.1	Conduct concept plan and community engagement process to identify future site amenities.	-	\$40,000	-
P9	Ivor Davies Park			
9.1	Repair paths.	\$39,100	-	-
9.2	Install wayfinding and educational signage and receptacles.	\$65,000	-	-
9.3	Install parking lot and lighting (~16 stalls).	\$253,600	-	-
9.4	Install path lighting.	-	\$643,500	-
9.5	Install site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, bike racks).	-	\$141,700	-
9.6	Install loop path at Shorty's Pond.	-	-	\$110,300
9.7	Conduct feasibility study to rehabilitate pond for all-season use.	-	-	\$30,000


Table 1.1 Park System Capital Improvement Plan Priorities


ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
P10	Pioneer Cemetery			
10.1	Install wayfinding and educational signage.	\$54,600	-	-
10.2	Install pet waste station.	\$1,100	-	-
10.3	Enhance creek habitat with plant rehabilitation and install water access points.	-	\$46,800	-
10.4	Install walking path loop.	-	-	\$77,800
10.5	Remodel parking lot surfacing.	-	-	\$18,200
P11	Chief Yelkus Park			
11.1	Construct boardwalk and concrete paths.	\$817,900	-	-
11.2	Install site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, and signage).	\$44,600	-	-
11.3	Construct wetland enhancements.	\$58,900	-	-
11.4	Continue path connecting BMX park to boardwalk path (See P8.3).	\$60,900	-	-
11.5	Develop remainder of east portion of site.	-	-	\$1,193,400
P12	Bear Creek			
12.1	Install water access and viewing areas.	-	\$48,400	-
A1	Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition (west)			
1.1	Acquire 1-5 acres of land for park development.	\$500,000	-	-
1.2	Conduct Park Conceptual Plan and community engagement process.	\$75,000	-	-
A2	Future Community Park Acquisition (west)			
2.1	Acquire 5-15 acres of land for park development.	-	\$1,500,000	-
2.2	Conduct Park Conceptual Plan and community engagement process.	-	\$150,000	-


Table 1.1 Park System Capital Improvement Plan Priorities


ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
T1	Bear Creek Trail			
T1	Construct trail along Bear Creek.	\$292,600	-	-
T2	Creamery Creek Trail			
T2	Construct trail along Creamery Creek.	\$76,400	-	-
T3	Molalla Forest Road Connection			
T3	Construct trail along S. Molalla Forest Road.		\$1,372,400	-
T4	Molalla Rail Trail			
T4	Construct multi-use path along former railroad.		\$2,060,800	-
T5	Molalla-to-Canby Connection			
T5	Partner to construct cycling trail connection to Feyrer Park, east.	-	-	ND
S	Systemwide Recommendations			
S4	Develop a systemwide guiding document for standardized parks signage and site furnishings.	\$40,000	-	-
S9	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	Conduct feasibility study for developing covered amphitheater on park property.	-	\$40,000	-
S11.1	Conduct feasibility study for developing covered skate park with furnishings (signage, receptacles, benches, bike racks).	-	\$30,000	
S11.2	Develop skate park with furnishings (signage, receptacles, benches, bike racks).	-	-	\$857,800
	TOTAL	\$4,584,300	\$7,642,800	\$2,456,500


Project ID:	P1	
Project Title:	Odd Fellows Park	
Project Type:	Mini Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	0.14 ac	
Location:	Odd Fellows Park is on S Molalla Avenue south of Main Street near the center of Molalla.	
Description:	Develop paved path through the site. Install site furnishings (picnic tables, benches, waste receptacles, bike racks). Install landscaping (shrubs & perennials) improvements and update irrigation.	
Scope:	Planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:	Consider pedestrian connections and potential for future development of adjacent and nearby downtown properties.	


Project ID:	P2	
Project Title:	Rotary Park	
Project Type:	Mini Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	0.44 ac	
Location:	Rotary Park is on Main Street between Dixon Avenue and Thelander Lane.	
Description:	Install drinking fountain.	
Scope:	Permitting, construction.	
Considerations:	Consider future development or redevelopment potential of adjacent and nearby properties.	


Project ID:	P3	
Project Title:	Long Park	
Project Type:	Neighborhood Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	1.09 ac	
Location:	Long Park is on N Molalla Avenue between Robbins Street and Ross Street.	
Description:	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.	
Scope:	Planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:	Consider how removed trees could be reused as site furnishings or in habitat restoration efforts elsewhere in the parks system.	


Project ID:	P4	
Project Title:	Strawberry Park	
Project Type:	Neighborhood Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	0.25 ac	
Location:	Strawberry Park is on Mary Drive between Anne Lane and Shenandoah Drive.	
Description:	Install shade structure. Install drinking fountain and bicycle racks.	
Scope:	Planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:	Consider pedestrian connection to future Creamery Creek Trail.	


Project ID:	P5	
Project Title:	Clark Park	
Project Type:	Community Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	9.67 ac	
Location:	Clark Park is on the east side of Cole Avenue between Frances Street and Shirley Street.	
Description:	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).	
Scope:	Planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:	Consider moving the playground west to an open location to better serve families and groups with children using the play equipment and sports fields.	


Project ID:	P6	
Project Title:	Fox Park	
Project Type:	Community Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	1.96 ac	
Location:	Fox Park is on S Molalla Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets.	
Description:	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).	
Scope:	Planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:		

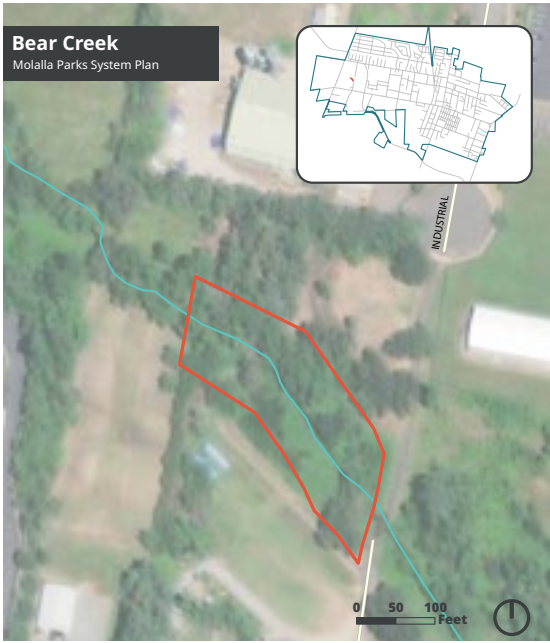
Project ID:	P7	
Project Title:	BMX Track and Sheets Field	
Project Type:	Special Use Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	3.39 ac	
Location:	The BMX Track and Sheets Field are south of Toliver Road between Andrian Drive and Zimmerman Lane.	
Description:	Install accessible path connection to Chief Yelkus Park (See P11). Improve ball field and install subgrade drainage. Install bike racks. Conduct community engagement process to identify needs for additional amenities and bike park improvements.	
Scope:	Planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:		


Project ID:	P8	
Project Title:	Bohlander Field	
Project Type:	Special Use Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	14.01 ac	
Location:	Bohlander Field is on Shirley Street between East Park Avenue and Trout Street.	
Description:	Conduct concept plan and community engagement process to identify future site amenities.	
Scope:	Planning.	
Considerations:		


Project ID:	P9	
Project Title:	Ivor Davies Park	
Project Type:	Natural Area Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	42.46 ac	
Location:	Ivor Davies Park is near the intersection of S Molalla Forest Road and S Mathias Road.	
Description:	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.	
Scope:	Planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:	Consider pedestrian and bicycle connections with future Bear Creek Trail and eastward route toward Feyrer Park and the Molalla River.	


Project ID:	P10	
Project Title:	Pioneer Cemetery	
Project Type:	Undeveloped Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	2.37 ac	
Location:	Pioneer Cemetery is near the interstecion of Ona Way and Molalla Forest Road.	
Description:	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.	
Scope:	Planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:	Connect path to Bear Creek Trail to the northwest and southeast.	


Project ID:	P11	
Project Title:	Chief Yelkus Park	
Project Type:	Undeveloped Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	6.85 ac	
Location:	Chief Yelkus Park is on Molalla Forest Road between Toliver Road and Main Street.	
Description:	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 P7). Develop remainder of east portion of site.	
Scope:	Planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:		


Project ID:	P12	
Project Title:	Bear Creek	
Project Type:	Undeveloped Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	0.91 ac	
Location:	This site is along Bear Creek between Highway 213 and Industrial Way.	
Description:	Install water access and viewing areas.	
Scope:	Planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:	Connect to Bear Creek Trail to east and west.	


Project ID:	A1	
Project Title:	Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition (West)	
Project Type:	Neighborhood Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	1-5 acres	
Location:	West Molalla	
Description:	Acquire 1-5 acres of land for park development. Conduct concept plan process, which includes community engagement and planning-level cost estimate.	
Scope:	Land acquisition, planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:	Consider land least suitable for intensive development. Consider proximity to existing and planned residential land.	


Project ID:	A2	
Project Title:	Future Community Park Acquisition (West)	
Project Type:	Community Park	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	5-15 acres	
Location:	West Molalla	
Description:	Acquire 5-15 acres of land for park development. Conduct concept plan process, which includes community engagement and planning-level cost estimate.	
Scope:	Land acquisition, planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:	Consider land least suitable for intensive development. Consider proximity to existing and planned residential land.	


Project ID:	T1	
Project Title:	Bear Creek Trail	
Project Type:	Trail	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	-	
Location:	Along Bear Creek between Highway 213 and Ivor Davies Park.	
Description:	Create a trail along Bear Creek, connecting Cascade Hwy/213 to parkland along Bear Creek, Chief Yelkus Park, Pioneer Cemetery, and Ivor Davies Park.	
Scope:	Land acquisition, planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:		


Project ID:	T2	
Project Title:	Creamery Creek Trail	
Project Type:	Trail	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	-	
Location:	Creamery Creek Trail is in North Molalla along Creamery Creek between the UGB and the proposed rails-to-trails multiuse path conversion.	
Description:	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.	
Scope:	Land acquisition, planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:		


Project ID:	T3	
Project Title:	Molalla Forest Road Connection	
Project Type:	Trail	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	-	
Location:	Molalla Forest Road Connection is along S Molalla Forest Road.	
Description:	Acquire land and develop a multiuse path along S. Molalla Forest Road.	
Scope:	Land acquisition, planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:		


Project ID:	T4	
Project Title:	Molalla Rail Trail	
Project Type:	Trail	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	-	
Location:	Molalla Rail Trail is along the former north-south rail corridor through the center of Molalla.	
Description:	Acquire and develop land to convert the former railroad in Molalla to a multiuse recreation path.	
Scope:	Land acquisition, planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:		

Project ID:	T5	
Project Title:	Molalla-to-Canby Connection	
Project Type:	Trail	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	-	
Location:	The Molalla-to-Canby Connection is along Molalla Forest Road outside of the Molalla UGB.	
Description:	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).	
Scope:		
Considerations:	Consider possible connections to Bear Creek Trail and/or Molalla Rail Trail.	

Project ID:	S4	
Project Title:	Signage and Site Furnishing Standards	
Project Type:	Systemwide	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	-	
Location:	City parks, recreation, and trails facilities	
Description:	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.	
Scope:	Planning, design, permitting, construction.	
Considerations:		

Project ID:	S9	
Project Title:	Sports Fields Feasibility Study	
Project Type:	Feasibility Study	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	-	
Location:	City-owned or leased properties	
Description:	Conduct feasibility study for developing sports field at City-owned and/or -leased property (e.g. Clark Park Annex, Molalla Aquatic District land).	
Scope:	Planning.	
Considerations:	Proximity to other sports fields increases tournament opportunities and economic development potential.	

Project ID:	S10	
Project Title:	Amphitheater Feasibility Study	
Project Type:	Feasibility Study	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	-	
Location:	City park property.	
Description:	Conduct feasibility study for siting and developing covered amphitheater on existing City park property (e.g. Clark Park).	
Scope:	Planning	
Considerations:	Consider proximity to other event venues, vehicle parking spaces, and pedestrian connections.	

Project ID:	S11	
Project Title:	Skate Park Feasibility Study	
Project Type:	Feasibility Study	
Estimating Stage:	Order of Magnitude	
Park Acreage:	-	
Location:	Within the Molalla UGB.	
Description:	Conduct feasibility study for siting and developing skate park with basic site furnishings (signage, waste bins, benches, bike racks).	
Scope:	Planning.	
Considerations:		

Capital Improvement Projects

Molalla Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Plan

PARK PROJECTS

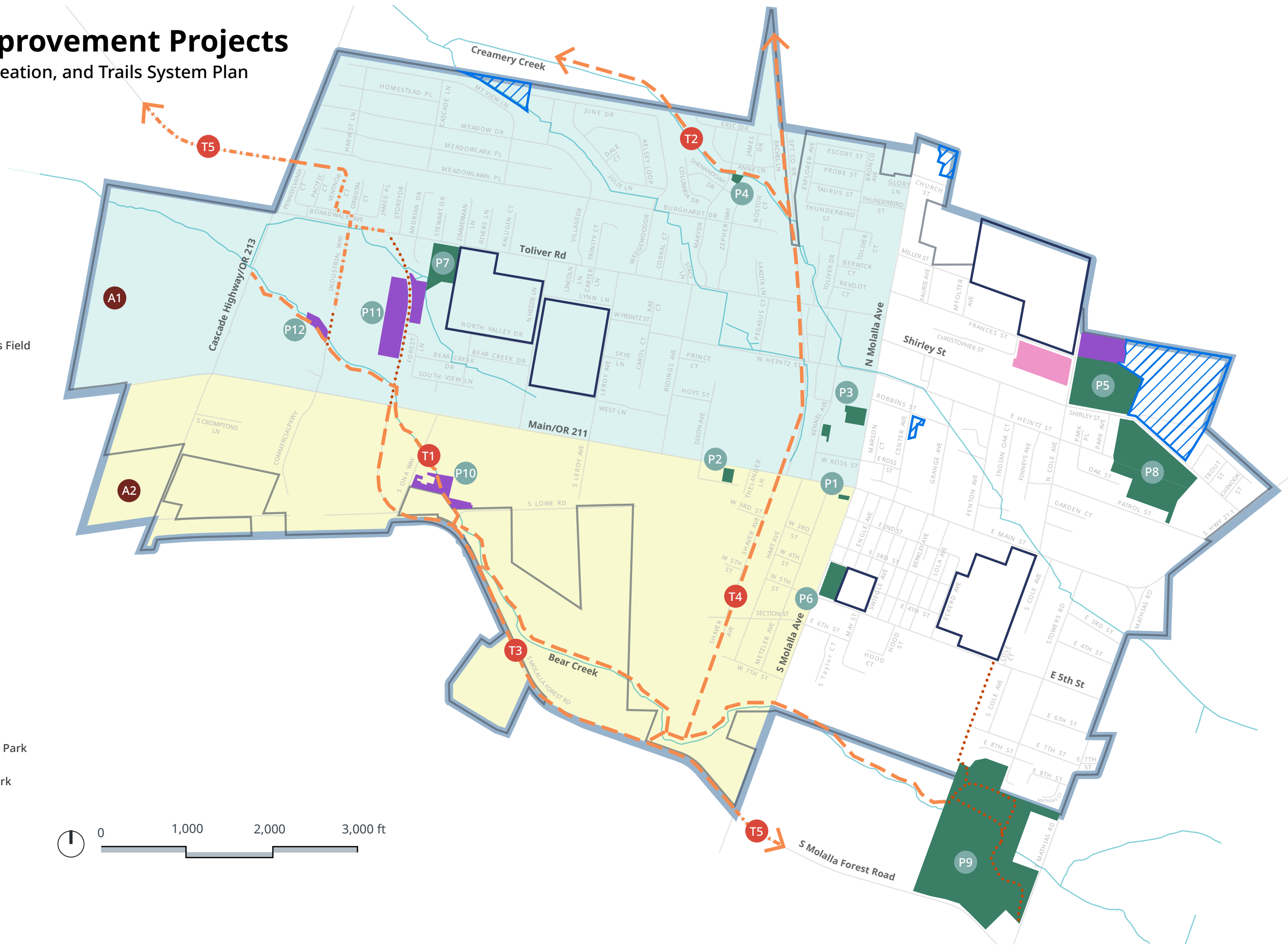
- P1 Odd Fellows Park
- P2 Rotary Park
- P3 Long Park
- P4 Strawberry Park
- P5 Clark Park
- P6 Fox Park
- P7 BMX Track and Sheets Field
- P8 Bohlander Field
- P9 Ivor Davies Park
- P10 Pioneer Cemetery
- P11 Chief Yelkus Park
- P12 Bear Creek Park

PATH / TRAIL PROJECTS

- T1 Bear Creek Trail
- T2 Creamery Creek Trail
- T3 Molalla Forest Road Connection
- T4 Molalla Rail Trail
- T5 Molalla-to-Canby Connection

ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT AREAS

- A1 Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition (West)
- A2 Future Community Park Acquisition (West)



City of Molalla Parks and Recreation System Plan

To: Project Management Team (City of Molalla)
From: Alli Langley, Colin McArthur (Cameron McCarthy)
Date: November 8, 2023
Subject: **Public Involvement Strategy**

OVERVIEW

This memo outlines the public outreach strategy for the City of Molalla's Parks and Recreation System Plan. Public involvement that engages robustly with Molalla's diverse community members is essential for understanding the community's needs and desires for its parks and recreation system and for creating a plan that reflects those priorities.

To engage residents who live in and near the City, public involvement efforts will include a project advisory committee, key stakeholder interviews, an online survey, community events, public comment at Planning Commission and City Council meetings, and communication efforts that promote these engagement opportunities.

GOALS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This project will develop a plan that guides the City's park and recreation decision-making for the next decade or more. Input from diverse perspectives in the Molalla community is critical to understanding community needs, determining funding priorities and strategies, and to successfully implementing projects and the overall community vision that will be laid out in the plan.

Public Involvement Goals

- Gather broad and diverse perspectives within the Molalla community, including from people who don't usually attend public meetings and are not affiliated with organized community groups.
- Thoughtfully consider all input, not just the loudest opinions.
- Understand the needs and desires of different existing and future park and recreation facility users so that the plan reflects those diverse users and prioritizes the needs of underserved communities.
- Use community input to explain the reasoning behind park and recreation decisions.
- Raise awareness about the existing park system and future development opportunities and plans.
- Determine community support for different fundraising strategies.
- Build relationships and encourage collaboration among different community groups and residents.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS & TRIBAL RELATIONSHIPS

Understanding the City's past, present, and likely future demographics helps us plan strategies that engage with Molalla's diverse community members including those who are underserved and underrepresented. The planning process will include a more comprehensive demographic trends analysis in addition to the snapshot of present demographics here:

Characteristics	Quick Stats
Age	Diverse and younger than county and state. Population growing across age groups.
Race & Ethnicity	80% white, 11% other races, 10% multiracial. 16% Hispanic/Latino. Growing more racially and ethnically diverse.
Income & Poverty	Median household income: \$75,000 About 6% of families and 10% of adults live below federal poverty level (higher than county and lower than state)
Housing Tenure & Composition	65% own, 35% rent. 89% families, 8% live alone.
Education	94% have high school diploma, similar to county and state. 16% have bachelor's degree, below county (39%) and state (35%).
Disability	5% have visual disability (double the county and state rate). 5% have hearing disability. 7% have ambulatory (physical movement) disability.
Vehicle Access	10% do not have access to a vehicle (higher than county and state) 32% have access to three or more vehicles (also higher than county and state)

The City of Molalla is also on the traditional homelands of the Molalla indigenous peoples, who managed the land since time immemorial. The U.S. government dispossessed the Molalla of their homeland in the 1850s, and many were forcibly moved to the Grand Ronde Reservation, among other reservations. Today, some Molalla descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Klamath Tribes, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and other tribal nations, and others live independently of tribal communities. The City of Molalla and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have previously partnered on efforts of mutual interest.

EXISTING STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS:

For this plan, project staff are defining the community, resident, stakeholder, and partner as:

Community	Anyone who lives in, works in, or regularly visits the City of Molalla.
Resident	Anyone who lives within Molalla's city limits.

Stakeholder	Current and future Molalla park and recreation system users including organized groups, such as Molalla Youth Sports, and individuals
Partner	Other taxing jurisdictions and organizations that can help with distributing information and/or coordinating public involvement

The following community groups include key stakeholders and partners to engage with directly and to request assistance in engaging the broader community. They are organized by demographics and interests they primarily serve or represent:

Youth, Seniors/Elders, Underrepresented Groups, and Social Services:

- [Molalla River School District](#), three schools in City limits and four outside
- Charter schools, private schools, and homeschools: Country Christian, Renaissance Academy
- [Todos Juntos](#), youth and family services
- [Molalla Ant Farm](#), youth, family, housing, and community services
- [Molalla Adult Community Center](#), senior services provided by a church
- [Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde](#) Youth Council
- [Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Elder Committee](#)

Sports and Recreation:

- [Molalla Youth Sports](#)
- [Molalla River BMX](#)
- [Molalla Buckaroo Association](#)
- [Molalla Aquatic District](#), same boundaries as school district
- Skate park advocacy group

Community Development/Economic Development and Culture:

- [Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde](#)
- [Molalla Area Historical Society](#)
- Beautification & Culture Community Program Committee, meets second Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.
- [Molalla Area Chamber of Commerce](#), 100+ businesses
- [Molalla Communications Cooperative](#) (sponsors local park improvements and events)
- Farmers market

Conservation and Environment:

- [Molalla River Alliance](#), multi-stakeholder coalition
- [Molalla River Watch](#)
- [Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Natural Resources Department](#)

Public Health, Safety, and Access:

- Molalla Fire District
- South Clackamas Transportation District
- Clackamas County

PROJECT WEBPAGES

The project will have webpages on the City's main website and its Molalla Current platform that serve as virtual information hubs. These will hold all project information, documents, and announcements, such as answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) that may arise and details about multiple ways for community members to provide input.

PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This group will represent diverse stakeholder and community perspectives, and members will review data gathered by City staff and the consultant team, provide feedback to advise the planning process, and help facilitate public engagement efforts such as connecting project staff with interviewees and community groups and sharing information about the online survey and community events with their networks. The project team will meet with the committee three times, prepare meeting materials and summaries, and incorporate committee input in the project's process and plan materials.

- City Council – Crystal and Jody
- City staff – Dan Zinder
- Beautification and Culture CPC – Mac to reach out to member
- School district – Dan to start with superintendent, Tony, could suggest finance director, Keith, or facilities manager
- County tourism – Mac to reach out to Aaron
- Foothills Community Church (has youth program and senior center) - Dan to reach out to Dale, identified Sam

KEY STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

The project team will conduct 30- to 45- minute phone or video interviews with community members from key demographic groups, including historically underserved populations, and/or who have particular interest in or knowledge of the parks and recreation system. This is an opportunity to engage with individuals and groups who are more important to engage with early on for more detailed perspective and/or who are less likely to engage with other methods. Interviewees will be selected in partnership with the City to represent the below demographics and interests as much as possible with some interviewees identifying with multiple groups:

- Youth
- Seniors/elders/older adults
- People with disabilities
- Latino community members
- Low-income community members
- Community/economic development organizations (e.g., sports, outdoor recreation, business, arts/culture, public health)
- Environmental conservation advocates
- People/groups who organize (currently or recently) events/activities in local parks or on trails

Proposed individuals and organizations to engage through interviews are in the following table:

Name	Organization or Affiliation	Email	Phone
TBD	Molalla River School District		
Denise Salinas	Ant Farm	denises@antfarmyouthservices.com	503-668-7962
Albert García (Molalla site coordinator)	Todos Juntos	albertg@todos-juntos.net	
David Harrelson (Cultural Resource Dept manager)	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	David.Harrelson@grandronde.org	503.879.1630
Bill Taylor (MRA recreation committee, MRW board) or Asako Yamamuro (MRW executive director, ecologist)	Molalla River Alliance or Molalla River Watch	btaylor@molalla.net ; molallariverwatch@gmail.com	503-644-5835; 503-559-088
Jeremy Joseph (board president & basketball liaison); Rebecca Hendrickson (office manager, softball coach/coordinator)	Molalla Youth Sports	basketball.rep@myssports.com	
Ryan Powell (track operator)	Molalla River BMX	molallariverbmx@msn.com	503-575-0336; 503-592-6600
Tim Anderson (president)	Molalla Buckeroo Association	andersonsponsorship@gmail.com , and CC: mba@molallabuckeroo.com	503-829-8388
TBD, person who works with youth	Plaza Los Robles (apartment complex with social services, engaging with Latino community)		
	Renaissance Academy		

The project team will work with the City to develop interview questions for all interviewees as well as for individuals from specific demographic and interest groups. Interviews could be conducted in Spanish, as needed.

ONLINE SURVEY

The project team will develop and conduct an online survey to better understand the community's desires for improvements and additions to the parks and recreation system. Survey questions will be crafted to obtain information in the following categories:

- Park, recreation, and trail existing conditions (what's working well and not well)
- Park, recreation, and trail needs, interests, and priorities
- Park, recreation, and trail barriers and access
- Park, recreation, and trail maintenance and funding

The online survey will be developed in English and Spanish and available in winter 2023. The City will publicize and advertise the online survey.

POP-UP ENGAGEMENT & TOWN HALL EVENT

The project team will work with the City to host three pop-up engagement activities and one town hall event to gather input on needs and interests as well as feedback on proposed priorities and park developments. These community events will feature visuals, comment cards, and interactive activities or stations where residents can share their ideas and offer direct feedback in English and Spanish. Specific content and activities will be determined later. Possible community event locations:

- Local park
- Molalla Public Library
- Molalla schools (Molalla Elementary, Molalla River Middle, Molalla High)
- Molalla Civic Center
- Local restaurant/cafe

To increase participation and gather more input, community events may be scheduled to coincide with one or more of the below events and the town hall may be scheduled to coincide with

Date	Event	Location	Expected Participants
Year-round: Dates TBD	School events: Sports games, music/arts events, carnivals, festivals, celebrations, fundraisers	TBD: Molalla Elementary, Molalla River Middle, Molalla High	Youth, families
Year-round: Dates TBD	Molalla Youth Sports games	TBD	Youth, families
Year-round: Thursdays and Fridays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.	Story Time	Molalla Public Library	Parents and younger children, Thursday draws 15-20 people and Friday draws 30-40 people
Year-round: 1 st Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.	Lego club	Molalla Public Library	Draws 30-40 people, elementary aged kids and parents

Year-round: 2 nd Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.	STEAM club	Molalla Public Library	Draws 30-40 people, elementary aged kids and parents
Year-round: 3 rd Tuesdays	Teen Scene	Molalla Public Library	Teens
Year-round: 3 rd Wednesdays	Homeschool Huddle	Molalla Public Library	Draws 40-50 students
Second Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. (March 14, April 11, May 9)	Molalla Winter Market	Molalla River Brewing Co. Event Center	Draws 30-40 people
March 23 rd , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Ace Hardware's first BBQ of the year	Ace Hardware	Expecting 100+ people
March TBD	Easter Egg Hunt	Clark Park	Youth, families
Wednesday, April 10	Career Fair	Molalla High School	Youth, businesses
Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., starting May 30 through September	Molalla Farmers Market (summer)	Molalla River Brewing Co. Event Center	Draws 400-500 people
June TBD	Mexican Rodeo	Buckaroo Grounds	Latino community
June 20	Reptile Man	Clark Park	Draws 500-800 people
Tuesdays, June 18, 25, July 9, 16, 23, 30	Music in the Park	Fox Park	Draws 100 people, all ages
July 1-4	Buckaroo and Carnival	Buckaroo Grounds & Clark Park?	
July 20	Molalla BMX state race	Molalla BMX Track	Expecting 300+ people
August TBD	Mexican Rodeo	Buckaroo Grounds	Latino community
August 6	National Night Out	Clark Park	
August TBD	Celebrate Molalla	Clark Park	

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

To market the online survey and community events, the project team will develop promotional materials (text copy and graphic designs suitable for newsletter updates, social media, and posters/flyers) and share with City partners to distribute using the following methods:

Websites and Social Media:

- City website
- City Facebook page and other social media (Instagram, NextDoor, Reddit, etc.)
- Molalla Current
- Molalla schools' website, Facebook page, and/or other social media

News Sources and Newsletters:

- City newsletter
- City monthly water bill insert
- Molalla schools' newsletters
- Pioneer Herald newspaper

Posters/Flyers:

- Molalla parks
- Molalla Civic Center
- Molalla post office bulletin board
- Molalla Public Library
- Molalla schools and daycares
- Food banks/food pantries
- Churches/faith centers
- Businesses
 - Grocery and convenience stores
 - Restaurants and cafes (e.g. Molalla River Brewing Co., The Humble Pig)
 - Gyms (e.g. Molalla Cutting Edge Fitness, CrossFit Molalla)

PUBLIC COMMENT AT MEETINGS

Throughout the project, Planning Commission and City Council meetings will include public comment periods. At these meetings, residents will be able to verbally share questions and comments. The team will note all the comments and demographics generally represented by the speakers and provide a summary.

Proposed Molalla Comprehensive Plan Text Amendments

The 4 font options below indicate how the text is amended:

1. **Insertions**
2. ~~Deletions~~
3. Unchanged
4. Any and all text not represented in the amendments below will remain unchanged

1. Volume I, Part 1, Page 4 is amended as follows:

Master plans for sanitary sewer, parks, water, schools, storm drainage, ~~airport~~, and transportation also support the goals, policies and implementing measures found in the Comprehensive Plan ~~but are not policy documents in themselves~~. The projects, cost estimates, timing and funding sources found in public facilities plans ~~are not intended to~~ **can** function as plan policies ~~if, unless~~ explicitly adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan. ~~Such master plans typically are “accepted” by the City Council, but are not necessarily adopted by the City Council or County board. Public facilities master plans along with their projections for growth and development are expected to change over time as new information and technology becomes available. Therefore, periodic updates to master facilities plans are not considered amendments to the Comprehensive Plan itself and their projections for growth and development are not limited or overriding.~~

2. Volume I, Part 1, Page 5 is amended as follows:

C. *Molalla Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master ~~System~~ Plan* (City of Molalla, updated ~~August 2014~~ **February 2025**)

3. Volume I, Part II, Page 24-25 is amended as follows:

~~As of 2014, the City of Molalla owns 77.5 acres of park land, including eight parks and a variety of public and private recreational sites and facilities, both inside and outside of the existing UGB. In addition, about 37 acres of playing fields owned by the Molalla River School District are available for community use when not in use by the school district.~~ **As of 2025, the City of Molalla owns and maintains 10 developed park facilities, which comprise 73.76 acres of park land, and four undeveloped park land areas, which comprise 13.46 acres. The City also manages 1.43 miles of trails. In addition, Molalla River School District operates three schools and two independent recreational facilities on 84 acres, which includes playgrounds and sports facilities available for community use when not in use by the school district.** The City’s recreational facilities help define the “livability” of the community.

- Clark Park is ~~40.45~~ **9.67** acres in size and lies in the northeastern portion of the City along Cole Avenue and Shirley Street. This park has one softball field ~~and, a large lawn used for rectangle sports and events~~, a grove of trees that contains a play structure as well

as **picnic tables**, benches and ~~barbecue areas~~, restrooms, covered picnic area, and **public art concessions**. This park lies directly west of the Molalla Buckeroo Grounds. The high school uses these fields for school sports during the school year.

- ~~Oddfellows Park is .25 acres in size~~ **Odd Fellows Park is 0.14 acres in size** and lies in the downtown area along S. Molalla Avenue. This small pocket park has a few benches and a mural.
- Ivor Davies Park is ~~38~~ **42.46** acres in size and is located south of 8th Street along Mathias Road. This park is currently outside the urban growth boundary. This park has been modified to include a walking trail, which ties into 5th Street. **The park also has a disc golf course, a horseshoe-shaped tree stand, a picnic shelter, and benches.** The park's natural setting with a large pond lying within it makes this park a nice area for picnics and family gatherings giving the feel of a natural area.
- ~~Molalla Aquatic Center is located directly across the street from the Molalla High School on Frances Street. The aquatic center is owned by the Molalla River School District and leased to the City of Molalla who will operate the facility for the next fifty (50) years.~~
- Fox Park ~~is 2.3 acres~~ **1.96 acres** in size. This park lies next to the Molalla Library on the corner of 5th Street and South Molalla Avenue. The Molalla High School was located at this site until an earthquake destroyed most of the building in the early 1990s. Fox Park contains a massive play structure for kids, ~~a water feature~~ **a splash pad**, a ~~half court~~ basketball court, numerous picnic tables **and benches, a picnic shelter, restrooms,** and a large open grass area. Fox Park is also home to a free- standing timber/logging mural which recalls the City's history. The park is owned by the Molalla River School District and leased to the City of Molalla.
- Long Park is ~~one acre~~ **1.09 acres** in size. Long Park lies in the downtown section of Molalla next to the Molalla Fire Department near North Molalla Avenue and Robbins Street. This park is the City's oldest park. The park's amenities include a gazebo, wired for the use of electronic equipment, a large play structure, picnic tables, wood art and restrooms.
- Molalla Skateboard Park is ~~nearly a quarter acre~~ **0.34 acres** in size and contains a skateboarding facility. This park is located just north of Ross Street on Kennel Avenue.
- Sheets Field and Molalla BMX Track is 3.4 acres in size. This park is located directly north of the City shops along Toliver Street. This park has a highly respected BMX track, ~~which has recently been expanded~~ **with picnic tables, concessions, and restrooms.** Each year this track is heavily used during the spring, summer and fall. There is also a small baseball/softball field located on this property, ideally suited for younger children.
- **Rotary Park is 0.44 acres and is within a commercial corridor near the 500 block of West Main Street in across from Dixon Avenue. The green space was developed in 2014 from a vacant undevelopable parcel deeded to the City. Improvements consist of open lawn, benches, trees, shrubs, art, and meandering walkway.**
- **Strawberry Park is 0.25 acres. This popular park was built in 2022 and is fully**

fenced with an accessible playground, picnic tables, and benches.

- **Bohlander Field – This City property is 14 acres and is used for parking during events at nearby properties. Bohlander is primarily a grass field with some paved parking.**
- Feyrer Park is a Clackamas County park located on the Molalla River approximately two (2) miles from the City outside of the Urban Growth Boundary. Feyrer Park is heavily used during summer months and provides a baseball diamond, horseshoe pitch, covered and uncovered picnic areas, and swimming and camping areas.
- ~~West Main Green Space—This small park is located within a commercial corridor near the 500 block of West Main Street in across from Dixon Avenue. Consisting of .36 acres, this green space was developed in 2014 from a vacant undevelopable parcel of land that was deeded to the City. Improvements consist of open lawn, benches, trees, shrubs and meandering walkway.~~

Molalla Adult Community Center

~~The City owned Adult Center is located at 315 Kennel Avenue, in the rear portion of Long Park. The center provides a wide range of recreational activities for Molalla area seniors.~~

4. Volume 1, Part II, Page 26 is amended as follows:

As seen in the Park and Recreation Policies below, the Molalla Comprehensive Plan provides a standard of ~~1.25~~ **7** acres of park **land** per ~~100 persons~~ **1,000 residents, consistent with the City's existing level of service.** ~~Of this need, 0.25 acres per 100 are intended to be natural areas or trail systems—typically located in unbuildable areas. The remaining 1.0 acres per 100 persons are allocated to developed parks. This 1.0 acres per 100 person ratio determines future park needs on buildable land, however the overall standard remains 1.25 acres per 100 persons.~~

~~Using the Comprehensive Plan's ratio of 10 acres of park per 1,000 population, we can determine future park needs. Molalla currently has 36 acres of developed park land. To serve its existing population, Molalla would need 81 acres, or an additional 40 acres for park lands. The most significant need for developed parks is in the northwest part of the city.~~ **To maintain this level of service as the population grows, the City will need to develop 44 acres of park land over the next 20 years. The City has 6.85 acres of undeveloped property soon to be developed as Chief Yelkus Park. After this park development, another 37 acres would be needed by 2045 to maintain the current level of service for a forecasted population of 16,472 residents. The most significant need for developed parks is in the western part of the city.**

Park and Recreation Policies:

The *Molalla Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master ~~System~~ Plan (2014~~2025~~)* includes policy direction, maps and standards related to the acquisition and development of park and recreational facilities. The following policies also shall be considered when making land use decisions regarding park development.

2. The City shall provide adequate park space in Molalla in order to enhance Molalla's

character as a recreation community as well as keeping the sense of a small town. The City shall maintain a standard providing ~~1.25 acres of park space per one hundred (100) people~~ **7 acres of park land per 1,000 residents**.

- 2.1. Developers shall meet the City standards of ~~1.25 acres of park space per one hundred (100) people~~ **7 acres of park land per 1,000 residents**.